

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
For HB 3
Compiled on: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 5:09 PM

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Hearing Date: March 11, 2025 8:00 AM

Gabriela Hawthorne
Self
Northlake, TX

Hello,
My name is Gabriela Hawthorne and I'm a constituent in zip code 76247.
I am reaching out to ask my representative to vote NO on HB3. I want fully funded schools, not welfare for the wealthy!

Stefanie Nelson
Self
Frisco, TX

As a former public school teacher, current mother to three children in public school, and PTA board member, I am very invested and afraid for the future of Texas public schools. I have researched other states that have implemented school choice and/or vouchers, and it does not improve public schools from what the data show. Texas already has school choice in that parents can choose public, private, charter, or home school for their children. As it is, public school teachers, administrators, and support staff are incredibly undervalued. If anything, we should be providing more funding for teacher salary increases, additional support staff, and smaller class sizes. Please do not allow our children's generation of learners to struggle unnecessarily! They deserve happy teachers and well supported schools. If Texas voters can't vote for/against this on a ballot, then you are our voice.

Hollie Hebner
Self
Richardson, TX

I am against this legislation. A 10,000 dollar voucher would only supplement a private school education for my 5-6 year old child. I live in a suburb, so there are lots of school options near me. I checked into tuition for private schools in my area and found no schools with tuition less than 10,000 dollars, except one single religious school. Taking money from public education would be damaging to a system already struggling to keep classrooms filled with high quality and well paid teachers. I am very happy for those who can afford private school tuition, but they should still have to pay public school taxes; in the event they are no longer able to afford private school, their child should be able to attend a fully funded public school. This argument doesn't consider those who live in rural areas where public schools are sometimes the only option for students in that area. These students would suffer from the lack of funding. This bill only helps those who already have the means to help themselves. Not to mention that private and religious schools can deny whoever they like. SAY NO TO VOUCHERS

Lindsey Mohr
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Offering all American children a quality public education is a crucial tenet to a prosperous and democratic society. I believe that tax dollars already give families the choices that they need, more so than in other states like NY, with programs like school choice. I believe that public schools need to be accountable to taxpayers via regular testing. I believe that enacting HB 3 would cause further damage to public schools that are already underfunded. I prefer we choose public school safety over diverting tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to taxpayers.

Christina Larkin
self, President, Memorial HS PTSA
Frisco, TX

As president of Memorial High School PTSA, I see first-hand the impact of the lack of funding to our public schools. In our district, I've seen school budgets slashed and now, vital programs will be cut because, after years of operating on deficit budgets, we now have to prepare for even more greatly reduced funding from the state. All so those funds can be transferred to families already paying for private school. Our district has long been the destination for many looking to move to a city with the best schools. The district is now showing signs of decline, primarily due to the budgeting difficulties of working with an allotment that has not been increased since 2019. Your decisions to support the wants of the wealthy few are coming at the expense of the needs of all Texas students. The public overwhelmingly indicated that they do not want vouchers, based on the many failed attempts to pass them in previous years. Continuing to push for them despite widespread opposition reflects a general lack of concern for the needs of all Texas students. If you truly care about Texas students, consider funding Texas public schools FIRST, with the surplus that has existed for years. Once public schools are fully and properly funded, use any remaining surplus to support savings accounts. Families that can afford private school already do not NEED education savings, but will gladly accept the discounts to their tuition. Families who cannot currently afford private school will likely STILL not be able to afford it after the \$10,000 voucher, so public education needs to be able to support their needs, including the needs of special education students and students with disabilities (students who have no guarantee of support in the private education system). The current budget surplus came from our tax dollars, and as a taxpayer, I want those dollars to go to the services I support, including public education, not subsidizing the wealthy.

Other states that have implemented voucher programs, such as Arizona, currently see budget crises as a result of their poor decision to move to a voucher system. Texas should not strive to follow by their example.

This bill claims to give parents a choice in their student's education, but they can already choose other opportunities, and many choose to move to locations with the best districts (as has been the case in my district). Your plan will reduce the quality of ALL Texas public schools. However, instead of enabling (forcing) parents to pick a better private school, many parents may simply decide that Texas no longer supports their family's best interest and will start looking for other states who will actually lead in supporting their student's education. Businesses will no longer want to move to areas like Austin and North Dallas, because their employees won't want to send their children to inferior schools (or to have to pay for private schooling).

For all of these reasons, please prioritize PUBLIC school funding.

Madeline Morrow
Self, stay-at-home-parent
Leander, TX

I strongly oppose the creation of ESAs in Texas. This concept has had little, if any, success in other states, and all of the predictive data I've seen shows it won't work here either. This bill will hurt our public schools. My kids attend Leander ISD schools, and we are already looking at a major funding shortfall for next school year which will result in the elimination of dozens of teacher and staff positions. Please don't take any more money away from kids like mine. In fact, I urge you to instead make a significant increase in the basic student allotment, and to create a structure for annual increases tied to inflation. ESAs are a waste of time, money, and resources, and the people of Texas DO NOT want them. Thank you.

Haelee Norton
Self, social worker
Addison, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3. I am from Arizona, which utilizes a voucher program. It is no surprise then, that Arizona is one of the worst in our country for education. Vouchers are a thinly veiled segregation attempt that only serve to harm the most vulnerable children. They will lead to lower teacher salaries, higher student to teacher ratios, and less funding to our already underfunded public schools, leading to worse education outcomes. As a resident of Texas, I strongly oppose this.

Madeline Holder
SELF
Rotan, TX

Chairman Buckley, Vice Chairman Bernal, and esteemed members of the Committee,
My name is Madeline Holder and I am a constituent from the 69th House District. I strongly oppose the implementation of HB 3 and Education Savings Accounts in Texas. As a concerned Texan and taxpayer, I am deeply frustrated by the idea that my hard-earned tax dollars would be diverted away from public schools, which are already in crisis, and instead be used to subsidize private education. This is not just bad policy — it is an outright attack on our public education system. It is incredibly disheartening to see that, rather than focusing on the real and pressing issues facing our public schools, certain members of this legislature and committee are focused on welfare for the wealthy. This is not leadership. It is a blatant disregard for the needs of the people who rely on public education and the resources that school districts provide every single day. The decision to push forward with ESAs not only undermines our public schools but also deepens the inequalities that already exist in Texas. Public education is meant to serve every child, regardless of their background. By diverting resources to private institutions, we are further cementing a system that benefits only the wealthy, leaving behind the most vulnerable students who need support the most.

If the legislature truly cares about the future of Texas children, it should prioritize strengthening our public schools and ensuring that every student has access to a quality education. Instead of implementing policies that benefit a select few, we need to invest in schools that serve all Texas students and provide the resources necessary for success.

Let me be clear: ESAs will not help students. They will not make education better for anyone. By pushing this proposal, you are actively making the gap between wealthy and low-income students even wider. You're turning your back on the children who need public schools the most — those who rely on them to escape poverty, those with disabilities who deserve equal opportunities, and those who have no other choice but to trust that their community schools will provide a fair education. Texas deserves strong, well-funded public schools that give every child the opportunity to succeed. ESAs are not the answer. They are a distraction from the real work that needs to be done to improve education for Texas students. It's time for this legislature to pick up their shovels and do the work. I urge you to let this harmful proposal die in committee and focus on adequately funding and supporting our public schools. Take responsibility, listen to the people you represent, and work toward a real solution. Education is a right, not a privilege - and it's your job to guarantee that right for this and future generations. I would like to thank the committee members who have advocated for that right thus far, and encourage the rest to begin immediately. NO to HB 3.

Jillian Bailey
Self retired
Austin, TX

I'm for high quality fully funded equal opportunity public education respecting the separation of church and state. There is no justification for taking funding from public schools and giving out vouchers for private and religious schools. That is against our long held American values.

Kyndra Ballard
SELF
San Antonio, TX

As a deeply concerned mother of two, vehemently opposed to House Bill 3, the education savings account program. This bill is not about choice; it's about dismantling our public education system. My son, who has a disability, relies on vital accommodations within our public school system. These accommodations, already stretched thin, are at serious risk of being diminished, or even eliminated, under this voucher program. We're talking about the very support that allows him to thrive. The reality of our classrooms is obscene my son's pre-K class has 25 three and four-year-olds - One dedicated teacher. That's not education; that's crowd control. It's an impossible burden, and it's a direct result of chronic underfunding. Schools in my district have closed, resources have dwindled, and yet, our teachers continue to pour every ounce of themselves into their students. But they're being asked to do the impossible.

This voucher bill will siphon even more money away from our already starved public schools, further exacerbating these problems. We're talking about taxpayer dollars being diverted to private schools with little to no accountability. This is not about empowering parents; it's about enriching private interests at the expense of our children's future.

Texas consistently ranks near the bottom in national public school rankings roughly 38th in the nation, and our per-student spending trails far behind other similarly populated states. TEXAS has taken a 12.9% decrease in per student funding where the national average increased by 8.9% just over the last year! These are facts you cannot ignore, dispute, or rationalize. We have a serious educational crisis on our hands that we cannot ignore. We need to give all of our teachers the hard, tangible raises they deserve. We need to reduce class sizes and provide the resources our students desperately need. This is not about educational choice. This is about private gain at the cost of our children's future.

I know I am not alone in this opposition. I know that the vast majority of Texans want strong public schools. We are not helpless. We will not be silent. We will fight for our children's right to a quality public education. Thank you.

s a deeply concerned mother of two, vehemently opposed to House Bill 3, the school voucher program. This bill is not about choice; it's about dismantling our public education system, and I refuse to stand by and watch it happen.

My son, who has a disability, relies on vital accommodations within our public school system. These accommodations, already stretched thin, are at serious risk of being diminished, or even eliminated, under this voucher program. We're talking about the very support that allows him to thrive.

Let's talk about the reality of our classrooms. My daughter's pre-K class has 25 three and four-year-olds. One dedicated teacher. That's not education; that's crowd control. It's an impossible burden, and it's a direct result o

Kimmie Fink
Self
Liberty Hill, TX

As a parent whose children have attended both private religious and public schools, I urge you to vote against vouchers. When I placed my children in private school, that was my choice, and I didn't expect anyone else to pay for it. The best way to support low income and special needs students is to FULLY FUND their neighborhood public schools NOT to provide vouchers to private schools that 1)don't have to accept them 2)charge more than the voucher covers 3)are not accountable in any way. Public funds should not subsidize tuition for wealthy families whose children already attend private schools.

Brian Gilbert
Self, Public School Teacher
Wichita Falls, TX

School Vouchers constitute fraud and steals funds from their intended purpose which is to fund public education.

Brittany Heisler Wright

Self: parent

Georgetown, TX

This bill is flawed and dishonest in its representation. It does not set our state up for success and regardless of party affiliation, the people who voted for you are loudly asking you to find a different way to support our children's future. Passing this bill shows laziness on your part because you are not actively solving any current issues with public education and it's funding or support for teachers; this bill wants to sweep accountability under the rug for these new charter schools and provide an education experience lacking opportunities for our future leaders. My family proudly chooses public education for the opportunities it will provide and we appreciate the full transparency and accountability our schools are held to. Please support the teachers, staff, volunteers and families that work hard to preserve public education as a benefit to our children, the future of Texas. I challenge you to find a better way to fund our existing, wonderful Texas public schools and the teachers that dedicate their lives to our future.

Kathy Lane

Self, SAHM

Houston, TX

I'm a parent of students in Spring Branch ISD (SBISD) in Houston. I'm also a product of NEISD in San Antonio. I know how important good public education is to the success of students, and just as important, the communities. Free public education is guaranteed in the Texas Constitution. The authors of the Texas Constitution didn't add the words, "Fully Funded" in front of that guarantee, I'm guessing because it never occurred to them that legislators in Texas would put themselves before the Constitution, before their constituents, and before the students they are underserving. By voting for HB3 you are doing just that - putting your own interests ahead of the interests of the state and its constituents.

Vouchers don't work. Voucher programs in other states have exploded beyond their initial budgets, draining resources from public schools. Worse, vouchers do not improve student achievement and, in many states, lead to a decline in achievement. Furthermore, the reality is that vouchers are not about "parent choice" because the only choice in a voucher program belongs to private schools that can hand-pick their students and are not accountable to taxpayers or the state. Texas parents already have school choice, and vouchers undeniably funnel public tax dollars away from our already-strained public schools.

SBISD has already had to make budget cuts due to lack of funding from the state. This included losing librarians and interventionists, closing three schools, and increasing the student teacher ratio in classrooms. Vouchers will only continue to put a strain on public education dollars. These cuts have affected kids like my daughter who had special pull-out sessions for enrichment. This is where high-achieving or advanced students get an extra push in, for example, math. Here they are encouraged to explore math concepts and are pushed to think more critically and deeper about concepts. Without those interventionists, those kids are not able to reach their full potential. Interventionists also work with kids who need catching up on things. Maybe they need more work on a concept that the rest of the class has mastered. Instead of leaving those kids behind to continue to flounder, the interventionist catches them up. Interventionists are essential to keeping the kids on both ends of the spectrum on track, and to keeping all students focused on learning.

I'm asking you to serve your constituents and the people of Texas and vote NO to HB3. You know that ESAs are the wrong thing for Texas. They are the wrong thing for public schools, which serve the millions of Texas children. There is a reason that vouchers haven't passed for years - it's because no one wants them. Rural communities don't want them, big cities don't want them, I don't want them. You shouldn't want them either. They weaken Texas - they weaken our education system and then they weaken our businesses as public education graduates stay to work here in Texas. Vote NO!

Judith Everett, Ms

self

Bastrop, TX

Having been a teacher for many years but now retired, I support public education in every way possible. Both my daughters are teachers - one in Texas and one in Florida. My daughter in Texas's job will be unduly influenced if the school voucher program is voted into practice. What is fair about private schools getting \$10,000 per students while public schools only get \$6500 per student. What is fair about private schools not having to prove attendance or lose money while public schools diligently keep attendance so they don't lose funding. What is fair about private schools being able to drop students who have problems while Public schools have to make plans for all students with all learning disabilities - emotional or physical. What is fair about rural neighborhoods with limited access to private schools they can afford being given less money and less opportunities within the public school system which will be underfunded. The political influence to get enough votes to pass this legislation when the majority of voters in Texas are against it, just not right or moral. Our legislatures need to start representing the will of the people and not the will of our governor. Please vote no to passing this legislation.

Anita Luna

Self - Retired

Cypress, TX

This feels like something that will benefit upper class families and leave the public schools behind. The fact that Gov. Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick want it so badly makes me think this is not a good solution to our education issues. They have done so many things to hurt Texans in the past. I don't trust Republicans on this and urge you to vote against this bill.

Cassie Matthews

Self

Keller, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cassie Matthews and I am a parent of 4 children in Keller ISD. A lifelong Republican voter, I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical educational programs that serve our students.

The data from the state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend—our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, fine arts programs, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

Our educators and administrators are doing their best with extremely limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with the actual costs of running these programs. This includes:

1. Increasing the Basic Allotment at a minimum of \$1000
- 2 Fully funding special education services and fine arts to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.
- 3 Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.
- 4 Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.
- 5 Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs.

When did public education become disposable? It certainly is a necessity for my children and our community. Public education is the most important investment we can make in the future and I urge you to do right by your constituents, many of whom voted for you and trust you to act in the best interest of our children.

Margaret Doss

Self - concerned parent

Flower Mound, TX

Vouchers are going to ruin our public schools and have been a massive failure both academically and financially in other states. Our state already woefully underfunds our public schools and underpays our teachers. Stop this abuse and properly fund our schools!

Ruth Cooper, Mrs.

Self

League City, TX

Stand with Texas families, not special interests. This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. It comes with a hefty price tag and zero accountability to the state or taxpayers!

Tyler Morrison

Self

Arlington, TX

Our public schools and children need the funding more than they need a private school. I stand to oppose this!

Stacy Henderson

Self

Rockwall, TX

Please oppose HB3. School vouchers will only bankrupt public education and separate the wealthy from the poor. You will cost thousands of kids to receive a worse education than they should be getting. Every teacher in America can tell you that smaller class sizes, more resources, and more funding will improve our educational system. By funding public education, better teachers will continue to teach and come back to the profession. Vouchers and ESAs will not bring the best educators to our schools. They will also not provide TOP QUALITY educational options to our rural families, lower SES families, students with disabilities or special needs. This bill only helps the wealthy. I am currently finishing my 20th year in education and can honestly say that teachers are amazing, caring individuals who want to do what's best for our students and see them succeed. When schools are not funded though and we have secondary classrooms of 30-40+ students, it is incredibly hard to build relationships and make sure every student is successful. Please do not vote in favor of HB3! OPPOSE HB3 and then come back with a plan to FULLY FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Lucia Reyna

Self

San Antonio, TX

As a caregiver who had their child in private school and was shut out by them when my child was diagnosed with a learning disability I know first hand about choice. The choice of the school and the choice of the caregivers. Private schools have the choice to not take children that don't fit their agenda to have 99% of their students graduate with As or 100% graduation rates. They have the choice to shut out good students that need just a little bit more help. They have the choice to subject caregivers to higher tuition should they have financial assistance. Caregivers also have the choice to find the best education provider for their child, but if it's PRIVATE education then use PRIVATE funds not Public funds.

Andrea Leinberger, Landowning, property tax paying home school mom

Self, Greenberg Academy 501(c)(3)

Burke, TX

I support H.B.3. because having an ESA would give all five of my Texas based military children the opportunity to succeed. I pay over \$7k/year in property taxes to support our Texas children willingly, but having some help with my kids would be amazing. For example, we pay \$700 every six weeks for my son's welding classes, while children in local high schools pay little to none. My son was removed from Texas public schools due to physical assault and bullying in Corsicana, TX, and suffers PTSD from this. Now, all my children are homeschooled, seeking the educational environment that will allow them to succeed at their own pace. Thank you for your consideration.

Lauren Young
Mom of 3 public school children
Houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren Young, I am a parent/community member in Spring Branch ISD in Houston and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical education programs that serve our students.

The data from SBISD's state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend -- our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

For example:

Special Education: The state allotment for special education in 2023-24 was \$31.5 million, but actual expenditures reached \$53.5 million, leaving a \$22 million shortfall. This gap is projected to be \$20.3 million in 2024-25. Without adequate funding, students with disabilities may not receive the legally mandated services they need to thrive.

Safety & Security: In 2023-24, the state provided only \$0.9 million, but the actual cost was \$8.9 million, creating an \$8 million deficit. For 2024-25, the gap is projected to grow to \$10 million, putting school safety measures at risk.

Transportation: The 2023-24 state allocation was \$1.5 million, while the cost of maintaining transportation services was \$10.4 million, leading to an \$8.9 million shortfall. In 2024-25, the gap is expected to be \$8.3 million, making it difficult to ensure students have reliable and safe transportation to and from school.

Pre-Kindergarten: This critical early childhood education program faced a \$3.7 million funding gap in 2023-24, with an estimated \$3.2 million shortfall in 2024-25. Underfunding pre-K limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities that set children up for future success.

Our educators and administrators are doing their best with limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with actual costs of running these programs.

These includes:

Increasing the Basic Allotment at a minimum of \$500

Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.

Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.

Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.

Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation for academic success.

I urge you to prioritize our students by closing these funding gaps. Texas schools cannot afford to keep operating with such large deficits, and our children deserve better.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lauren Young

Jennifer Graf

Self

Austin, TX

I want you to know that this Voucher Scam represents a fight between a bi-partisan, pro public education coalition vs. billionaire mega-donors who control Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick. Your constituents love their kids, believe in public school teachers, support our neighborhood schools and want them fully funded. We don't want a Voucher Scam that will eventually defund our local schools. I would like to see these things:

- the Basic allotment tied to inflation indexes so Gov Abbott cannot hold it hostage anymore
- the basic allotment become enrollment-based vs. attendance based
- full funding to make up for 6 years of missing funding

Vote NO on the Voucher Scam. I vote and this matters to me. Thank you.

kelly hanania

Self

Lakeway, TX

Please do not destroy our public schools. The United States was built in a foundation of strong public education. Instead of funding private institutions, use the money to build STRONGER public schools. Do in your heart what you know is best for our kids and our country.

Cynthia Garcia, Ms

Self

San Antonio, TX

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As a proud Texan, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. I believe private school subsidies are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair.

Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Public schools in Texas are underfunded by billions of dollars every year. The Comptroller is projecting a large increase in state revenue over the next two years compared to the past two years, and that money should go to fully funding public education.

Private schools pick and choose which students to admit. Vouchers force taxpayers to subsidize private schools' preferences. And without elected boards or state oversight, vouchers give away tax dollars with no financial or academic accountability.

Public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students, serving all the students in their boundaries. They build the workforce that powers the Texas economy. We can't afford to underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future.

We elect legislators to represent the interests of their communities. Responding to their communities, Texas legislators have rejected private school subsidies time after time.

In the face of increasing pressure from special interests, I pledge that I will stand with my legislators in opposing vouchers. When they vote against private school subsidies, I will make sure all their constituents know they did the right thingThe

Tara Walker Leon, Librarian
Bowie High School
Austin, TX

Our school district has been careful with funds, but with no increase in the Basic Allotment in 6 years and other pressures like inflation and increased needs, we have had to let teachers and other vital staff go, increase class sizes, and discontinue programs that are beneficial to our students. I am angry about this; it will affect my child's school experience. I demand that Gov Abbott stop playing games with my child's future and FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. I also demand that you VOTE NO ON THE VOUCHER SCAM so that our limited money and resources can be put to the best use for our students- and we have full accountability and transparency of that money. This issue matters to me and I vote. Thank you."

Dave Augustus
Myself
Argyle, TX

More government never solves problems. Smaller government means more freedom for families to choose. I say this as a homeschooler of 5 children.

Ben Raviotta
Self
Argyle, TX

No to ESA. Fund public schools immediately to inflationary levels. School choice is a give away to rich people!

Amanda Dickson
Self, educator
Leander, TX

I have worked in education for 15 years and am opposed to any kind of voucher program. I strongly urge you to vote no to any voucher proposal. This will take funds from already under funded public schools. Thank you for your consideration.

Farley Flatt
Self
Clyde, TX

I have exclusively voted conservative, but I am very concerned about the impact this bill could have on rural schools where the districts are the cornerstone of the community and a safe haven for often times socioeconomic challenged students. As a School Board President I have seen the effects of the ever moving "goal post" in the states standardized testing with the state often times not setting the standard until testing is complete, which allows for manipulation of the standard and often makes small/rural districts look like they aren't meeting the standards.

As I have researched this bill it is hard to come to any other conclusion than this is an intentional/unintentional attack on rural public education where charter programs are not locally available and only those with the economic means will prosper and small rural districts will suffer.

In our area I know this is a wildly unpopular bill in a mostly conservative area as people are concerned about the ramifications to our district that provides more than just education for our students.

Please vote no on HB3, go back to the drawing board, and come up with ideas to properly compensate teachers, holds educators and administrators accountable, and properly funds districts using standards that more accurately show public schools value.

Coyt Kennemer
Coyt Kennemer/Logistics
Fate, TX

I am writing my Congressman to vote no on House bill number 3 and to support public education.

Paula Hansen
Self
SUGAR LAND, TX

This bill takes \$1 billion from Texas taxpayers and give it to wealthy families who are already sending their kids to private schools. This will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties (more than 150 Texas counties don't have a private school to send your kid too, even if you could afford the difference between what the voucher pays and what tuition costs!).

It's bad for the Texas taxpayer, bad for public educators, and bad for the kids in our public school classrooms.

Austin Pryor
Self, Instructional Coach
Pflugerville, TX

I am proud to be a third generation Texas educator. Like generations before me, I have dedicated my life to ensuring all students find success in our schools. I also firmly believe that every parent should be able to place their child in the school that best fits their needs. With that in mind, this bill does not provide parents with enough information to make informed decisions about where to send their child.

The means by which we currently measure public schools is through their A-F accountability rating, something that private schools do not have. The only means of measurement presented in this bill is the requirement for a school receiving ESA funds to administer a "nationally norm-referenced assessment" and provide the student's results to the parent. This assessment does not necessarily mean the STAAR test, it could be a number of other assessments, which further complicates the ability of parents to make informed decisions. In addition, the accountability rating for public schools takes into account student growth year-over-year and a comparison with schools of similar composition, two metrics that the state has deemed imperative in assessing the quality of schools.

This bill not only leaves out pertinent data parents deserve, but also ensures that any state agency or official cannot impose other accountability measures in the future. In a time where the federal government is doing it's best to reign in unaccountable government spending, it is astounding that the Texas Legislature would be ok blindly providing billions of dollars in taxpayer money to unaccountable private entities.

It is my hope that you reconsider the contents of this bill to ensure that parents are provided all the necessary information to make an informed and accurate choice on where to send their child.

Lisa Libre
Self, secretary
Lubbock, TX

No ESAs, please. Properly fund public schools!

Mika Damron
Self, principal
Baird, TX

I am completely against the establishment of education savings accounts. This is a scam that will negatively impact millions of children. Release the funds and properly fund public schools!

Renee Noelle
Self
Georgetown, TX

NO vouchers! Fund our public schools!! Stop lying to the public about the money you are NOT giving to teachers and students!

Michelle Flannigan

Self, teacher

Frisco, TX

The people of the great state of Texas has proven year after year that we don't want vouchers. Your job as elected officials is to do the will of the people, not push your own beliefs. We, as Texans, are proud of our public schools. Funding vouchers will take funds from public schools and make struggling districts even worse. As a mother, and a teacher, I urge you to have the courage to vote no on HB 3.

Donna Walker

Self

Cooper, TX

I have always aligned with and voted Republican. However, I will not vote for any candidate that supports school vouchers. This is not school choice. This is taking money from school budgets to support students that are already in private school and does not really help those that can not afford private school. I support Abbott in other issues, but this issue will change my vote next round. I see him as a bully, withholding school funding until he gets vouchers passed. Also, using campaign funds donated by billionaires to unseat candidates that do not support vouchers. I see him as greedy by taking the amounts of money from out of state billionaires that will profit from our state's passing of school vouchers. Again, I will not vote for any candidate, in the future, that votes for vouchers. Even though it will be a separate fund, it will decrease the amount schools receive in for budget. Our tax money is for the good of the public, not private. If you want school choice, all the students to move from one public school to another. Finally, look at other states that have passed school vouchers and their current struggles now. Finally, the parts of public school that are disliked are the required by law controlled by our government (curriculum, and STAAR). Please support our public schools and educators and vote no.

Tiffany Headrick

Self

Hondo, TX

Vouchers are wasting time and money. Public schools need full funding and deserve better than this!

Mark Dominey, Rev.

Self, Evangelical Missionary

Frisco, TX

I grew up in Texas attending public schools, including Robert E. Lee High School, named both to oppose desegregation and to promote White Supremacy. In order to learn music I was forced to play “Dixie” on the trumpet, while a large Confederate flag got paraded at football games. I knew this was systemic racism and so I dropped out of band. I wished that I could go to a different school, where academics were treated as more important than football or one’s skin color.

I learned Russian at UT during the Cold War to serve my country, but after smuggling Bibles into the Soviet Union for the persecuted church, I instead felt called into full-time ministry. I did my training to become a missionary at Dallas Theological Seminary and spent 30 years starting churches in Japan and communist China.

As a missionary family we experienced both public schools in the US and overseas, but also homeschooling our kids in English, but later experienced private schools, including Christian schooling, for which we also served as Board members. Therefore, I feel have more experience than most in the variety of educational options, different education problems, or student needs, not just the challenges all parents face in seeking the best education for their children, but also as immigrants learning in a second language, different school cultures & curricula, and of course the challenge of paying for private school tuition.

We must have done something right, because our daughter graduated UT with honors and chose to become a Texas public school teacher. However, after 7 years serving in her dream job, she resigned, frustrated that Texas schools are underfunded and underperforming, influenced by misguided politics, and obviously failing compared to schools she attended in Japan.

As a Christian family with a global mindset who highly value education for all, who see diversity as a strength that enriches society, and thank God for the freedom and equality our Constitution gives us, including for people of beliefs different from our own. We should not be banning books or virtue signaling. As a pastor who experienced in my own Texas school the ritual honoring of a pro-slavery “Christian” racist who killed Americans as some kind of hero, I know all too well that such people are still around, seeking power, and making things worse with bad ideas. And as an honest pastor with concern for how education has been used to divide us, discriminating against the poor and minorities, I must note that more than a few Christian schools even got their start as “segregation academies.”

The majority of Texans have repeatedly rejected proposed voucher schemes because like me they see this as a way to transfer tax dollars for public schools. to instead help what are usually wealthier families. It is poor people who need more help and public schools should be adequately funded. For the Governor to push this again is obtuse and undemocratic. Stop trying to rob public schools!

Rebecca Hughes

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Save Public Education from this attack orchestrated by powerful, wealthy white men. Our Texas children deserve quality Public Education which is guaranteed in our Texas Constitution.

The Savings Account Program is merely a way to destroy Public Education. It is way to take taxpayers money and give to wealthy elite Texans. School choice vouchers are a scam.

Please Vote against this Savings Account scam. Texas children deserve you to honor our Texas Constitution. Fully fund Public Education. Keep our Public Education safe from wealthy vultures looking for free taxpayers funds at the expense of Public Education. Do not fall into that trap the rich have planned to destroy Public Education. Vote against HB3. No Vouchers. No Education Savings Accounts.

Rebecca Hughes

Fort Worth

Beverly Howe, Mrs.

Self - retired Texas public school teacher

Hockley, TX

I taught 38 years in Texas public schools - thirty-five of them at the same school. Over those decades I observed the evolution of our socioeconomic student body go from middle class/affluent to a 70% economically disadvantaged student population. The timing paralleled the shrinking of our middle class through the failure of Reaganomics to actually trickle down to families. Falling tests scores indicated the failure of our economic system - not teachers or educational philosophy or effort. Federal grants helped us provide training on situational and cultural poverty in an effort to reach these flailing students. And they had serious barriers to overcome resulting from a depressed life in poverty. It also provided funding to hire more staff to help these kids who had no support at home with parents who had to work two and three jobs to provide as stable a home as possible. Targeting these students did help these kids, but these strategies cannot close the achievement gap in just days or weeks. The teachers made their best efforts to do so and even created an innovative new structure for teaching throughout Covid with some kids learning from home and others in person. It was a challenging time for all children and school staff as well. But they prevailed as best they could considering the barriers in their way.

I'm proud of these schools, staff and students for their intense dedication and hard work. I would hate to see funds removed from these schools who have served us well for over half a century. Every American child should have the opportunity for the best education possible and to strive to achieve their personal best - many just hoping to rise out of poverty and join our shrinking middle class. To take funds from these schools who serve the common good and are charged with teaching every child who walks through those doors is an insult to our constitution and our communities and our citizens. We NEED an educated citizenry. Teaching the Christian religion and the Ten Commandments in these public places is just as contrary to what the founders insisted as separation of church and state. Do you even have any idea how many different religions are represented in the Texas school system? Hundreds. This bill is an affront to our Constitution and a disaster waiting to happen in more than half of our communities. The children deserve a shot at public education. We need them to become our responsible educated citizenry. THEY are our future.

Samantha Cruz

Public education

Socorro, TX

As a public school educator, I want to tell you that public school funds belong to the students who need it the most. The ones who come from low income houses whose parents might be divorced, and do not have both parents present in their life. Public school funds belong to the students who need support from our school systems that they might not get anywhere else. Students who are low income and maybe only eat the meals given at school. When public schools are funded properly we can adequately support a majority of the needs of our students and teachers. When funds are removed, public schools are forced to have a smaller staff with larger class sizes where it is nearly impossible to service the students adequately. Each child has unique needs and true school choice means that fully funded public schools are the best choice for all. There are countless cases of non certified teachers at charter schools who do not understand the pedagogy behind teaching, who are unaware of how to work with and rather refuse to work with any student receiving Special educational services. The charter and private school is not built for all nor is it accessible to all, and that's what make it charter and private I suppose, but public funds MY tax dollars belong to public schools, to the students who need it the most with teachers who can truly and state certifiably service every child because that is what our training and years of education allow us to do. We can only do this if funds remain in public education. Let people continue to have a choice. Where any one person wants to take children to receive their education is a choice but one that is not viable for all. Vouchers with public funds that would leave middle class or low income households in debt to charter and private institutions only creates another hurdle low and middle class students would have to get through. There is not way around this vouchers do nothing for our students. Keep public school money in public schools. Sincerely, Samantha Cruz public schools educator

Ana Franco-Martinez

Self

San antonio, TX

Do not destroy our public school systems with a voucher program. We already have free choice to go to different schools but supporters of this bill dont want us to know that!! The only people vouchers will benefit is those already affording private school. With each child that leaves a public school, a less fortunate one will dramatically suffer the consequences. Access to a good education is a right we need to support for all kids, not just those who have the means to travel to and/or pay for better schools. Public schools are held accountable to meet standards, while charter/private can basically do what they want. Not mandating teaching certificates, being allowed to only admit students and deny student based on desired demographics, not having expectations for student performance on standardized testing are just a few reasons I. We love, support and are grateful for our local public school and amazing teachers. If this bill passes, thousands will lose jobs, children will suffer for it, and in the long term our great state will too.

Misty Perrin

Self

Houston, TX

Public schools have been held hostage and our children have suffered trying to pass this bill these last several sessions. The public repeatedly tells you we do not want this, and you continue to ignore us. This bill does nothing to serve the public. The amount allocated in the vouchers is more than allocated per child in public schools. It will mean millions of dollars lost for school districts already depleted. For once care more about educating our children in Texas. We used to be a state to emulate and now we are consistently ranked at the bottom. Where we used to flourish in academics, fine arts, music, and sports....we rely on booster clubs to give our kids the bare minimum.

Invest in our future, invest in our public schools. Don't destroy them.

David Nguyen

Self

Pearland, TX

I am not sure if this will even be read, but I want to try and be heard as a resident of this state. I would not be here today without my public education, and I owe my public school teachers everything. I strongly oppose using my taxpayer dollars to cut essential public school funding just to fund private, for-profit schools.

Many families like mine rely on free public education because we cannot afford expensive private academies or private tutors. Public schools are not just an option for us—they are our only choice. Public education gave me the tools to succeed, and I want future generations to have the same opportunities.

Our teachers are already doing more than their job requires, with limited pay and resources. And yet, despite the challenges, they go above and beyond. They shape students not just academically but as good, responsible members of society. How can we ask them to do more with even less? How is it fair to punish innocent children by taking away their favorite teachers, cutting fine arts programs, or shutting down neighborhood schools—all in the name of “school choice”?

Most middle-class families like mine don't truly have a choice. A small voucher won't cover the full cost of private school tuition, transportation, or additional fees. What happens when that money runs out? The reality is, this plan helps a select few while hurting the majority.

If Texas has a budget surplus, why not invest it in improving our public schools, raising teacher pay, and increasing classroom resources? Why take money away from our schools—the schools that Texas taxpayers already fund? Don't we deserve a say in where our tax dollars go?

The public education system is not perfect. No system is. But dismantling it will not fix it—it will only leave millions of children behind. Strong public schools create strong communities and a strong Texas. I urge you to stop politicizing our children's future for re-election campaigns. They are not political pawns.

If we truly care about children's education, let's fix what's broken, not tear down what's working. Let's invest in real solutions that help all Texas students—not just a privileged few.

Thank you for your time.

Lynne Perry

Self/self employed

Austin, TX

I am with the majority who strongly oppose the school voucher bill. Funds should be applied to the public schools where it is desperately needed to raise teacher salaries and to equip every school with the tools to educate. Private schools are just that-funded by the private individuals who choose private schools. That's the democratic way, not forcing our tax dollars to fund a choice for private schooling. This is an idiotic bill the majority have loudly expressed they're against. The majority wishes the elected representatives vote accordingly to represent the majority.

Jonna McGhee

Self/Austin ISD kindergarten teacher and parent

Austin, TX

Vote NO on school vouchers! Save Texas public schools!

Tiffany McGuffin

My community and children

Arlington, TX

Diverting public school dollars to private institutions weakens our communities and our students. Those that have a choice already are able to make a choice. School choice for all of the state of Texas is a myth. School choice is only available to those that have the financial ability, Geography, private availability, transportation, and parents who are able to make the trip are available to do so. School choice only exists for those who can make a choice. I important you to choose to invest in our public institutions and the communities that they support.

SARA BUCHANAN

Self

Houston, TX

This is only going to redistribute wealth from the poor to the rich. People who can afford private schools do not need discounts. It is ridiculous and to say that this is a program for anyone to participate in is disingenuous. No one who can afford private school needs this voucher program. It is only trying to give yet another concession to the Wilk's and Dunn's of this world. Stop supporting the oligarchs. They are fine and always will be. Support the common person and stop trying to destroy the department of education on the state level. Every single person benefits from being insulated by an educated populace and these vouchers are short sighted. Put the taxpayers' money back into the system and improve it. Don't give billionaires tax money. Make them pay their fair share. Stop being cowards and do what is right here. Texas is disgusting for leading the charge on this terrible program. Every one of the people who support this bill should be ashamed of themselves.

Devon Lafferty

Self- rowing coach/manager/parent of a 3rd grader in AISD public school

Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Devon Lafferty and I am a constituent in zip code 78735. I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 3. I am asking my Representative and this Committee to vote no and to instead fully fund public education. We already have meaningful school choice in Texas - what we need are resources so that our public schools can deliver the education that each child in Texas deserves, and that which has already been mandated, with accountability and due process ensuring that delivery. We do not need resources for privatized schools to thrive with no or little accountability to the public. I don't believe proponents of this bill can point to any examples of similar laws in other states achieving any of the objectives that are the supposed motivation for this bill. To the contrary, voucher systems like this are a failed experiment, and if this bill moves forward, this will predictably harm more families than it helps. Thank you.

Brandi Sellers

Self

Austin, TX

No, nope, ????

Victoria Ursi

Self

Frisco, TX

Public money should not be directed to private schools. You have a constitutional duty to provide all Texas children with a free and efficient education and this bill does not provide for either. These funds could help properly fund public schools now - both the \$1B now and the \$9B this bill would cost in 2030. 97% or more of Texas residents attend public school, and Texas needs to do better by those kids by properly funding their educations and specifically allocating more money to safety.

Amanda Toon
self / campus administrator
Cedar Park, TX

The proposed voucher bill that will siphon money away from our community schools—has no protections for discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, it also explicitly strips disabled students of their rights under the ADA, and there is a lack of accountability and transparency for the private institutions that would be receiving public tax dollars. Please consider the negative impact that this would have on our students and our schools. As a campus administrator and a parent of 3 students who went through Texas public schools, I am begging you to look deeper into the lasting, negative impact it will have.

Andrea Lauterbach
Parents of public school children
Trophy Club, TX

For the 2025 school year, there are 2,163 private schools serving 349,956 students in Texas (there are 9,374 public schools, serving 5,549,672 students). 6% of all K-12 students in Texas attend private schools. Passing an education choice bill to benefit 6% of students and angering the families of 94% of students is absurd. Texas families will vote blue in the next election in revolt. You'll single handedly turn Texas blue if this passes. This is ridiculous.

Joy Kelley
Self
Spring, TX

The children of Texas deserve to have equitable funding across the board for public schooling. Education savings accounts(vouchers) only help those who can already afford private schools. Texas voters have overwhelmingly shown they are against them. Vote NO!

Linda Sharpe
Self
Georgetown, TX

Please Vote NO on HB 3.

School vouchers are not acceptable to the citizens of the State of Texas or any state in America. They will take money away from public schools that are already strapped for funds to educate the children.

Elaine Vogel
Self
McKinney, TX

Vote no on vouchers! Public schools Vouchers benefit the wealthy and will weaken an already stressed Texas public school system. It is wrong to divert tax money to help pay for those who send to private schools or homeschool that is often with curriculum that is harmful. If you are going to support this, then I want a tax Funded account with reimbursement for my school dollars. I haven't had kids in school for years but happy to help support the public schools that educate our young population.

Vote no to vouchers! Support public schools . Texas already has stressed the schools. I taught and had to buy my own supplies! That is wrong and you want to take more tax money from public education. That is wrong! Vouchers only benefit the wealthy and religious who homeschool. It's a choice to send to private schools and the should not get my tax dollars! I have t had kids in school for years but I support public education! By your beliefs I should get a refund for all I've paid in and don't get any benefits. That a wrong way to think! Vote No

Vote no on bouncers!

Leticia Smith

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no to HB3. This bill is widely opposed by your constituents because it will further erode our public school by taking away needed funding.

George Patterson

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

I am a native Texan, and attended public schools, as did my four children. I am strongly opposed to my tax dollars being given to those who choose to attend private I schools, many of which promote religion. This is in direct violation of the First Amendment of our Constitution. Vouchers being considered would only steal from Texas public schools, which are sadly among the poorest in America.

Lelia Beckelman

Self, homemaker

Spicewood, TX

As a Texas resident, I OPPOSE this bill. If it passes, it will do irreparable harm to the Texas Public school system and Texas children. My tax dollars should NOT go to private schools that are not required to provide the same services as public schools! DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!

Jennifer Rys

Self/accountant

Cedar Park, TX

I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts! ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Karol Middleton, Mrs.

self/retired office administrator

Austin, TX

I have had my children in both private and public schools. When I chose to go private, I assumed the responsibility of paying for that privilege. It is not the job of the taxpaying citizens to pay for MY CHOICE to send my children to a school that charges tuition. For a functioning democracy, we need free public education. It is obvious that you want your constituents to be well educated so they will continue to vote for YOU. Please don't undermine our schools. They are inherently necessary to the betterment of all Texans. Thank you.

Kathy Carter

Self

Richardson, TX

I oppose vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Bill France
Self, Managing Director
Plano, TX

To our honorable elected officials: Please Stop this misguided effort to defund our public school system. It is the foundation of our democracy and the greatest equalizer in providing for the children of our great nation. Without a well educated populace we will not be prepared for our future and handing out money to unvetted private institutions operating for profit is open to fraud and corruption. This is outright capitulation to what should be a doubling down on our public education system. Please stop this back door robbery of our strong public school system by self interested special interest lobbyists. Thank you for your service and your vote for ALL the students and teachers in Texas!

Kat Baltzegar
My family
Mckinney, TX

Public education is our most powerful tool to ensure a prosperous future for our cities, state, County. Private schools are a luxury and those interested should attend on their own dime & not ours. Give money back to our students and teachers so our towns can continue to succeed.

Gary Moats
Self
MCALLEN, TX

I support the education savings account program. Students should be able to choose their education path.

Richard Luttrell
Self
Richardson, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 3, and to encourage our legislature to full fund Texas Public Schools. My faith teaches me to care for everyone, and that includes providing quality public education for every child living in Texas.

After my retirement, I have served as an AVID tutor at Berkner High School in Richardson. There I have witnessed firsthand how hard students, teachers and administrators work to prepare these young people for the challenges of being tomorrow's leaders. They deserve your respect and support. Most importantly, they deserve the funding necessary to succeed. Thank you for your consideration.

Shayne Calhoun, Mr.
Self
Leander, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 for the following reasons. HB 3 threatens to divert critical public school funding to private school vouchers, weakening resources for students, and destabilizing the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) by reducing the number of active educators paying into it. Public schools serve all children, and shifting taxpayer dollars to unregulated private institutions undermines their ability to provide quality education. Lawmakers must vote NO on HB 3 to protect public schools, educators, and retirees instead of gambling with Texas' education system.

KC McClain, Maj Gen (Ret) USAF
Self/Retired
Plano, TX

Before joining the USAF, I taught Middle & High school for 4 yrs. Public schools are the foundation of our nation & the key to America's promise that there is a path for everyone to succeed. School vouchers weaken public education & break that promise. I do NOT want my tax \$\$ to be used for private education. Make our schools stronger...when everyone succeeds our nation is stronger.

Tasha Yarbrough

Self

Channing, TX

Vote No to HB 3!! Public Schools are the heart of Rural communities. Fully fund public schools and vote no to using public dollars to fund private schools and the billionaires that have bought votes and politicians.

Javier Ruiz Javier Ruiz

Self

Odessa, TX

HB 2 school funding is a joke and an insult to the millions of Texas students. A pathetic increase of \$220 per student does not address the many needs schools have in today's economy. The basic allotment should be \$1300 to match the rate of inflation. Furthermore, Texas public education has not received any increases since 2019! So in SIX years you figure offering us \$220 will satisfy us? Do better Texas!

Tarah Day

Self

Athens, TX

As a homeschool teacher, I am not in favor of this Bill. I already enjoy the freedom of school choice because of hard fought freedoms won before. I feel any regulation to Texas private (homeschooling) is a step backwards. I would rather my school tax go to other children in need of public then be further regulated.

connie bush

Self

Arlington, TX

I am wholeheartedly AGAINST this bill. Parents should not have to answer to government for the education of their children. Any funds coming from government entities will assuredly have strings attached and regulations imposed that will be detrimental to the freedoms of schooling our children as we see fit.

Amy De Rosa, Mrs

Self—grandparent who pays for and funds grandkids' wducation

Harker Heights, TX

The current ESA budget is only for families who meet certain requirements Give us, the taxpayers who are paying for this , an honest, true and realistic time frame for when every family in Texas will be able to access school choice via ESAs. One year? Three years? Fifteen years?

Georgia Thompson, Ms

Self

McKinney, TX

I do not agree with offering vouchers to private schools or to any sort of non public school situation including homeschool. I feel that public schools need more financial support.

Rebecca Fulenchek

Self

Mckinney, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3. Parents currently have school choice. It does not make sense to give vouchers to families who are choosing to pay for private schools. There are so many counties in Texas who do not have private schools in their community or nearby. Please explain how HB 3 serves these families and children who do not have the private school option. I strongly oppose this bill.

Logan Kimble

Self

Austin, TX

We are adamantly OPPOSED to school vouchers. If you clowns could fund public schools appropriately there would be no need for a program like this. Other countries have figured out they need to make education a priority and so should we. If the government privatizes everything, we don't need a legislature do we?

Michelle Whatley

Self

Allen, TX

I am absolutely against this. I work in public education across the state. We need significant funding to help run our campuses. This ESA fund is not necessary. We need 10,100 per pupil STATE funding. We don't know each year our federal funding sources. Superintendents, teachers, and families DO NOT WANT VOUCHERS! Please listen to the people of Texas! Please listen to the fact that we don't want it! We want proper funding, utilization of funding to be used to do better! Republicans have been in Texas office for 20+years to only cause more problems with education. They have had so much time to fix it. Abbott needs to be ashamed of his work. Fix education and vote him out.

Robert Munoz

La Villa Independent School District

La Villa, TX

As the Superintendent of La Villa Independent School District, I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3 due to its harmful impact on public school funding. Proponents claim that Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) do not divert money away from public education, but this is simply not true. HB 3 redirects \$1 billion in taxpayer funds that could and should be invested in Texas public schools—where over 5 million students are educated.

Public education in Texas is already underfunded, and this significant loss of funding will directly affect the resources available to our students. These diverted funds could be used to support teacher salaries, student intervention programs, special education services, mental health resources, early literacy initiatives, and college and career readiness programs. Instead, HB 3 proposes to shift those dollars to private education providers that do not serve all students and are not subject to the same accountability standards as public schools.

Furthermore, Texas public schools serve every child, regardless of their economic status, learning needs, or geographic location. When public schools lose funding due to policies like HB 3, it exacerbates inequities and disproportionately harms students in rural and lower-income communities—where private school options are extremely limited or nonexistent.

Rather than diverting essential resources, Texas leaders should focus on fully funding our public schools and making targeted investments that have a direct impact on student success. Ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality, well-resourced public education should be the state's top priority.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3 and instead support policies that strengthen, rather than undermine, our Texas public schools. Thank you for your time and your commitment to the future of our students and our communities.

Jennifer Steffenson

Self and all rational texas. Account manager, concerned parent

Buda, TX

As a parent of three young children, I am aggressively against the misuse of our tax dollars to fund private school education under the false guise of "school choice" and education spending accounts. Public tax dollars are for public use, not private for profit education. These schools are not held to the same standards as public schools and set their own rules on who to accept. My deaf child can be denied admission because they don't want to support his additional learning needs.

Additionally, our public schools are chronically underfunded, an issue that will only become worse as the current president tries to dismantle the department of education. Texas has a surplus and yet still refuses to fund our education for the betterment of our future generations. Egregiously, Greg Abbott has held these funds hostage, watching our schools and children suffer, as he tries to benefit himself and the policies that his billionaire donors are backing. The majority of Texans do not benefit from this and many counties don't even have private schools within their county to send their kids to if they did want to. Few things have united Texans against the current Texas government like our collective opposition towards the voucher program/ education savings accounts. I implore all members of the house to vote No to HB 3.

Crystal Lamb

self

Spring, TX

I am writing as a parent of a now young man with disabilities & medical conditions, and as a disability retired Texas teacher of almost 20 years. I served over 18,000 students as a music educator. They were my second family.

Passing a school voucher bill will absolutely reinstate segregation, even in ways you may not expect:

You'll hold public schools to a more burdensome, unequal standard (STAAR, attendance, and a dumping ground for what private, charter & home schools will deem *undesirables*) while not requiring private schools to accept and/or keep poor or disabled students.

Private, charter & home schools will only have to *pinky promise* that they will enact IDEA & FAPE protections for those w disabilities & learning differences (including dyslexia).

Private, religious, and home schools are not accountable to the state.

Studies of similar programs found that voucher money largely goes to students ALREADY in private schools, and away from my 18,000 students.

My son would not be served under your proposed rules. He would be rejected...kicked out...reviled.

No one would hold a private, charter or home school accountable for their actions.

He wouldn't deserve that kind of treatment.

Neither would ~any~ of my 18,000 students.

This isn't who we are.

Please do not pass this Bill.

Carol Wetterauer

self, retired

Katy, TX

12 Years ago my kids chose to buy a house in Katy ISD because of quality schools. They chose despite having to pay extra in property taxes, for the sake of providing an excellent education for their now 6 kids.

5 years ago my husband and I also moved to Katy ISD to be close to our grandkids. We were ok paying extra in property taxes because

again, those taxes meant wonderful schools for our kids.

Today, I'm angry. The promotion of vouchers by our Texas Legislators will lead to even higher taxes, decreased home value, and we will no longer have quality education for our kids.

I know this because the money for vouchers won't come from Texas' \$23 billion surplus, but from money already allotted to our public schools. Because 73% of Texas' schools are already underfunded, it won't take long to see negative results. These would be school buildings in disrepair, fewer buses for the kids, fewer teachers due to low wages, leading to crowded classrooms. These things are already happening in parts of rural Texas, and in voucher states such as Indiana, Florida, and Arizona.

Barbara Hanlon

self, retired IT professional, community volunteer

Austin, TX

Vote NO for HB 3 establishment of education savings account program (ESA), which will defund our already underfunded public schools. ESA program would increase inequality by reducing access to educational opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. ESA program would give private schools the power to choose which students to admit, without being required to serve children with disabilities. Private schools are not required to comply with the state accountability and assessment standards, as are public schools. This accountability is very important for ensuring quality education for all Texas students. Do not take funds away from our public schools, instead put more effort and funding into improving them for all Texas students!!! Vote NO on HB 3!

Barel Alcantara Marte
self, Data Engineer
Round Rock, TX

Dear Representatives,

I strongly oppose education vouchers and advocate for robust public school funding. As a parent of two children thriving in Round Rock public schools, I've seen first-hand the value that public education can provide our society. Both kids have benefited immensely from the Talented and Gifted program offered by our district, and take full advantage of music, sports, and after-school programs – programs vital to a well-rounded education.

Vouchers undermine our public education system by funneling the funds into private schools, that we could be using to expand opportunities in the public system. They worsen inequity, since private schools can be selective and costly - not truly expanding choice for all, especially vulnerable students. Vouchers benefit wealthier students who were already able to afford expensive private schools, effectively turning the funds into welfare for the wealthy. Research on voucher effectiveness is also weak, in part because there isn't as much scrutiny into how the funding is used and how outcomes are affected. Instead, the data that does exist, shows us how school voucher programs often fail. Case in point, it's plain to see what has happened in states like Arizona, Tennessee, Indiana, Georgia, and Louisiana, among others, where budget shortfalls have increased, and test scores for kids in private schools have not improved in comparison to public school students. States with school voucher programs have weakened their public education systems to a point where many districts have had to close schools, stop offering enrichment programs, and freeze any salary increases or layoff teachers.

It is in our best interest, as taxpayers, to invest in public schools. Adequate funding ensures smaller classes, qualified teachers, updated facilities, and essential services. Examples around the world show us how adequate public education funding can dramatically enhance student outcomes and increase quality of life for an educated society. It is a shame that the United States, among the richest countries in the world, routinely underperforms other countries in public education. A country like Finland, for example, spends over \$12k USD on average per student, while in Texas we allocate half this amount. Let's strengthen public education for all children, ensuring equity and opportunity for every student in our community. Reject vouchers; invest in public schools – the foundation of our society.

Sincerely,
Barel Alcantara Marte

Sharon Evans, Ms
.self
Early, TX

This calls for a clear NO vote

Solange Hommel
self, retired educator
Killeen, TX

My name is Solange Hommel and I live in Killeen, 76549. As a former teacher and someone who cares deeply about the futures of all students, I am strongly opposed to HB 3 and all other school voucher bills. School vouchers DO NOT level the playing field between the haves and have-nots when it comes to education. Instead, vouchers siphon public funds from public schools which are already struggling with underfunding. Vouchers largely subsidize already privileged families going to private schools that aren't held to the same levels of accountability in hiring, oversight, curriculum, or special education services. Vouchers leave behind rural communities where no private schools exist. It would be far better for Texas schools, students, and families for available moneys to go toward fully funding public schools - providing competitive salaries, quality supplies and materials for ALL students, building improvements, and more.

VOTE NO on HB 3 and ALL school voucher bills. FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Sheri Yates Gallo

Voter

Boerne, TX

I am adamantly opposed to school vouchers as they will take away from economically disadvantaged and give to the rich. Stop being so greedy. Abbott has made enough off of this issue. Send him back empty handed!

No to vouchers!!

Lara Tietz

self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 for the following reasons:

1. Public schools are where children from dissimilar backgrounds learn to interact. Vouchers lead to increased segregation and fragmented society.
2. A weakened public school system weakens the entire community, negatively impacting property values and overall quality of life.
3. Most importantly, private schools receiving voucher funds have less accountability, and no assurance of quality. This affects our future society.

Melissa Ulrich

My children and myself

Cedar Park, TX

Please vote against the vouchers and FOR public education. Our state has put off funding PUBLIC education for too long. Right this wrong before you try to have us subsidize the private schools.

Shelley Ruprecht

Self

Dallas, TX

Please vote AGAINST school Vouchers. These are nothing more than a way to give financial benefits to wealthy with public money while pillaging our already underfunded public education system. It is shameful. This is not about school choice and will greatly harm the education of our citizens.

Kimberly Gaspar- Wolfe

Self

Leander, TX

I live in Leander Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

NO SCHOOL receiving state funds should have a different set of rules than public schools do. It is deceptive and a misuse of our tax payer money.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Stephen Burrell, Dr
Magnolia Bible Church
Magnolia, TX

Empowering parents to direct the moral and scholastic training for their children is the right thing to do. While the state hold a role in general accountability for the use of funds, parents should feel free to direct the education of their own children. I am in favor of empowering parents.

Carol Hubbard
self
Georgetown, TX

Texan billionaires just want WHITE, CHRISTIAN PRIVATE schools! We do NOT agree and you need to demonstrate courage and commitment to hard-working Texans and say NO!

Bridget Bowden
Self - Supply Chain Manager
Webster, TX

I do not support this proposal as it takes state funds away from public education to funnel them instead to private interests. Studies have shown that vouchers primarily benefit those who already are using private school options. Our Texas public schools deserve support to improve our overall level of education in the state. This will ultimately benefit Texas more than handouts of state money to wealthy Texans.

Dan Koller
Self, writer
Coppell, TX

The majority of Texans do not want vouchers. All they will accomplish is providing a discount to families that already send their kids to private schools.

David Hill, Mr.
Concerned Citizen -Self as a retired 40 year Texas Teacher
Lubbock, TX

It is so obvious as to what the purpose of this bill is and it surely doesn't have a thing to do about improving the quality of our children's education. KEEP PUBLIC SCHOOLS PUBLIC !!
Those parents that can afford private or charter schools can surely afford to but not at taxpayers expense. STOP THIS NONSENSE as reducing the crime rate and establishing more and better gun controls would be better legislative time spent.

Amy Monkman
self
Cedar Park, TX

This bill is not going to do any good for anyone except for those who can already afford private schools.
I have been teaching for 30 years. The money that lawmakers have been debating FOR YEARS is best used for public education. Every large school district in Texas is strapped for money. They are having to increase class sizes to decrease teacher pay, cut programs and come up with inventive ways to balance their budgets. Some districts are going to 4 days to try to save money!! Is this what's best for our children? Absolutely NOT!!
Say no to vouchers or whatever name you are calling them now. Stand up to the billionaire bullies who don't care about children. Stand up to Greg Abbott and show him that TEXANS DON'T WANT TO DEFUND PUBLIC EDUCATION!!

Jeanne Good

Self

Austin, TX

School vouchers are a terrible idea. The public is against it. It doesn't give parents "choice" when their entire county doesn't have a private school. It isn't a choice when there is no transportation provided for students. It isn't choice when the private schools can pick and choose who they admit. It isn't choice when special education and other needs aren't required to be present in private schools. Texas should fully fund public schools instead of trying to push this voucher program down our throats. I understand the goal is to further destroy public education so that the owners of private schools can make money, however this will be disastrous for children and families.

Sara McArthur

Self

Dallas, TX

I am against school vouchers and taking money away from our public schools.

Reagan King, Mrs.

Self

Princeton, TX

I am an a mom of 3 (pregnant with my fourth!) taking a break from teaching in public education to homeschool my young children. My mother is an educator to gifted and talented 2nd graders at a public school (Kimberlin Academy) in Garland, TX where she was awarded teacher of the year this year. My Mammy retired as a beloved public school teacher in Richardson, TX where she served her students for decades. I have been educated by the private school system and the public school system. I earned credits from the Dallas County Community College system but attended two private Christian Universities for my undergraduate and graduate degrees. I am a lifelong learner who is passionate about educating our youth. I'm also a follower of Christ who is passionate about showing others the love of Jesus. Given all of these credentials, I believe I am more than qualified to offer an opinion on this bill.

I am VEHEMENTLY in opposition.

Instead of funding private school options, it is IMPERATIVE that we allocate our resources to our severely underfunded public schools, who already serve millions of students throughout the state. Class sizes are too big, there are too few teachers, there are outdated materials, there are overworked teachers who are wildly underpaid — let's fix those issues and make each PUBLIC school an amazing place for ANY and EVERY student to learn and grow.

VOUCHERS VIOLATE THE CONSCIENCE OF TAXPAYERS.

VOUCHERS THREATEN THE AUTONOMY OF RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED SCHOOLS.

VOUCHERS THREATEN THE CHARACTER OF RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED SCHOOLS.

VOUCHERS DISPROPORTIONATELY DISQUALIFY MARGINALIZED STUDENTS.

Please, please, please: VOTE NO!

Thomas Wynn

Self / Homemaker

Dripping Springs, TX

No to school vouchers! Fund our public schools.

Kaitlyn Loveday

Self

Cibolo, TX

Private schools receiving voucher funds are not always subject to the same accountability standards as public schools. They may not be required to follow state curriculum guidelines, administer standardized tests, or publicly report student performance data. This makes it difficult to ensure that taxpayer money is being used effectively.

Private schools, unlike public schools, can have selective admission policies. They may reject students based on academic ability, disabilities, behavior history, or even religious beliefs. This means that vouchers may not actually give all students equal access to better education options. Private schools are not obligated to accept students and therefore can "cherry pick" students and leave others behind. This does not allow for equal opportunity for all students.

In short, school vouchers can weaken public schools, lack oversight, and fail to ensure better outcomes for students. A stronger focus on improving the public education system would be a more effective way to support all students.

Bryan Waites

Self

Richmond, TX

As a Texas constituent, I strongly oppose Senate Bill 3 (SB3) and school vouchers, as they pose a direct threat to our public education system, rural communities, and taxpayer accountability. School vouchers siphon critical funding away from public schools, funneling taxpayer dollars into private and religious institutions that operate without the same transparency, accountability, or inclusion requirements as public schools.

Diverting Funds from Public Schools

Texas public schools are already underfunded, ranking near the bottom in per-student spending nationwide. Instead of investing in teacher salaries, classroom resources, and infrastructure, SB3 would drain public funds to subsidize private education for a small percentage of families—many of whom already afford private schooling. This worsens inequality by leaving the vast majority of Texas students in underfunded schools with fewer resources.

Lack of Accountability and Oversight

Unlike public schools, private institutions receiving voucher funds do not have to meet state academic standards or follow federal protections for students with disabilities. Texas taxpayers deserve to know how their money is being spent, yet vouchers would allow public funds to flow into schools with no obligation to report outcomes or spending.

Harming Rural Communities

For rural Texans, vouchers offer no benefit. Many communities lack private school options, meaning students and families would be left with underfunded public schools and no real choice. Instead of strengthening the only schools available to rural Texans, SB3 would weaken them, forcing more school closures and consolidations.

Threatening Religious Freedom and Civil Rights

Public funds should not be used to support private schools that discriminate against students based on religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Unlike public schools, which serve all students, private schools can reject applicants for virtually any reason, reinforcing systemic barriers and further excluding marginalized communities.

Texans Want Public School Investment—Not Vouchers

Polls consistently show that Texans prioritize funding public schools, not diverting tax dollars to private institutions. If legislators truly care about school choice, they should focus on improving public education for all students, rather than providing a tax break to wealthier families who already have private options.

SB3 and school vouchers are a betrayal of Texas students, teachers, and taxpayers. I urge our lawmakers to fully fund and support our public schools—the foundation of a strong Texas future.

Connie Gooding

Self

Hutto, TX

I want to register my strong disapproval of ESAs/vouchers. School choice is nothing new nor is underfunding public schools. It's time for Texas elected officials, not monied people from other states, to step up and support Texas students.

richard santos

Self, writer

austin, TX

I oppose vouchers that will remove even more funding from our public schools. At a time when the Dept of Ed is being dismantled Texans should be doubling down on our public schools. This bill does the opposite and the ripple effects will last for generations.

Rachelle Mann

Self

Flower Mound, TX

The introduction of H2B into the educational system poses serious concerns for our children's future. At its core, this policy risks widening the already concerning gap between socio-economic classes by effectively creating an unequal playing field in education.

One of the central issues with H2B is that it shifts the focus from strengthening public schools to offering private school vouchers. While vouchers might seem like a fair solution on the surface, the reality is that they only benefit families who are already relatively affluent. Private school tuition often far exceeds the amount covered by a voucher, leaving lower-income families unable to afford these institutions even with the additional support. This leaves private schools as a privilege reserved for the mega-rich, while public schools face further underfunding and neglect.

Public education has long been a cornerstone of opportunity, providing every child, regardless of their background, with a chance to succeed. Undermining this foundation by prioritizing private institutions will result in a generation where only the wealthiest have access to quality education. This isn't just an educational issue—it's an ethical one. Do we want to live in a society where a child's future is determined solely by their parents' bank account?

Supporting public schools, rather than diverting funds to private school vouchers, is critical for ensuring that every child has access to quality education. Strengthening public education benefits society as a whole, fostering equality and enabling every child to reach their full potential.

William Dower, Dr.

Self, retired educator and researcher.

Austin, TX

I am against HB 3. We need to fund public schools 'adequately' as the Texas constitution requires, but this has not been done for a decade or more.

The experience of a public education is more important now than ever, as our society fragments into splinters that do not talk to each other. Public education is a place where we can meet those who we might not ever see later in life, and understand that we are all Texas, and all People.

Bill Sigsbee

Self/ College professor

Garland, TX

I oppose the establishment of an education savings program as it will negatively affect and undercut the amount of money allocated for public education. At a time when the percentage of students reading on grade level is at an all time low, we cannot afford to decrease funding for public education. The correlation between those who do not read on grade level by third grade and matriculation into Texas Youth Commission facilities due to high rates of juvenile delinquency and subsequent matriculation into the Texas Department of Corrections is all too well known. Furthermore, this bill will further divide our state into a "have" versus "have not" state with increasing polarization along the lines of class and race. As a former Dallas ISD student at the elementary and secondary levels and a proud graduate of Adamson High School, while forced desegregation in 1971 in Dallas ISD was a shock for blacks, whites, and Hispanics who had never attended public school together, the positive benefits, in my opinion, far outweigh the period of turbulent adjustment that we all went through. Sure, there were those who had money and fled to the suburbs, but those who stayed, developed a level of emotional intelligence in interacting with people unlike themselves that has endured for a lifetime. The passing of HB 3 will provide another "flight" from public schools for those who have the resources to add to the promised \$10,000 per child education savings account. It could be argued that only the lower class children will be left in public schools. Then what? Will the private voucher schools attract the better teachers as they will be able to offer higher salaries and more benefits? Will the students who have parents with greater resources leave a void that cannot be filled in the public schools. Isn't going to school with a variety of socioeconomic classes an education in and of itself? Can't we all learn some invaluable lessons from interacting with those who have more or less than we do? I'm afraid we are setting ourselves up to create more sterile environments in our public and private schools than we already have. Variety really is the spice of life and I feel fortunate to have gone to school with so many classmates who came from varied backgrounds and enriched my life while giving me the opportunity to be more cognitively flexible as a result from being exposed to their varied experiences and perceptions. Therefore, I would vote a resounding "no" to HB 3.

Caitlin Corkill

self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and believe that it's the ruin of our public education system. This will hurt small rural schools and is unfair to children and parents in Texas. Sending a small % of children to private schools does nothing for the greater good of TX. Instead I believe we need to focus on improving the means in our public school systems.

Catherine Bigler, Mrs.

Self

Georgetown, TX

I disagree with providing school vouchers. We should be investing money in our public schools and our teachers who are woefully underpaid. PLEASE Do not pass the school voucher bill or HB#3!

Cami Skaggs, STEM Coordinator

Self

Perryton, TX

I oppose HB3 and any bill that supports vouchers in Texas. Instead of diverting funds, fully fund Texas public schools as outlined in the Texas Constitution so that ALL students have the resources they need to learn.

Ralph Weston
self
AUSTIN, TX

Please don't make it less likely that students in public schools will get a good education, with high quality, well trained teachers, just so religious schools can lower their costs. When I was a kid, our church had a Sunday school, supported by the church members. The only government support was exempting the church property from property taxes. There's no reason to change that practice.

Leasa Thomas
Self
Lubbock, TX

School vouchers

Maria Allen
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. I believe it will take badly needed funding away from public schools. Parents who want to send their children to private schools can do so without the State robbing funds from public education, which is what this bill would do.

Karen Amador
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Linda Taylor
Self
Allen, TX

Vote NO to HB3!!
It's not good for public education.

Sebastian Forray
self, designer
Houston, TX

As a Texas resident I strongly urge you to reject the privatization of education and say no to school vouchers and fully fund public education.

Allison Liles, Rev
Self
Dallas, TX

This is a kickback for the wealthy. Public school is essential for our democracy and society as a whole. Rural areas of Texas do not have access to private schools, therefore they will be penalized by HB3. Private schools can deny admission to anyone they choose, so this wouldn't be school choice for parents. It's horrible.

Leslie Greenfield
self
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 3

Jennifer Gilbreath
self, public school educator
Garland, TX

I oppose HB3

Kelly McGuyer
Self - Senior Analyst
Denton, TX

I'm concerned about the impact of charter schools on my local community. They can drain resources from traditional public schools, leading to overcrowding and program cuts that harm all students, especially those with special needs.

Jennifer Padgett
Self
Royse City, TX

I oppose HB3. This bill does not allow a choice for the majority of our citizens. It will harm the students in Texas.

Pamela A Peden
Self
Wylie, TX

Program should be implemented

Leanne Bochenko, Miss
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I vote no! That funding needs to stay in the Public School system. We have school choice. We do NOT want to fund kids going to private schools. If parents can afford private school they need to pay for it.

Lora Shook
Self
Houston, TX

I would like to ask you to vote against sb3 and redirect those funds to public education. Vouchers only support the families that can provide transport to private schools and do not help the economy and growth for Texas. We recently visited Costa Rica and see first hand that privatizing public schools does not help the overall community and widens the gap between the haves and have nots. Please raise the min allocation and vote no on vouchers. Yes to supporting public education.

Alex Klager
Harrison PTA
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3! No to vouchers!

Helen Heuberger

Self/retired

Austin, TX

I am a firm NO on HB3. This bill is not a parental choice bill. Private schools get to choose and exclude students, unlike the public schools. The private schools can also remove the students during the school year for any reason, once again, unlike the public schools.

This bill is also a bonus for the big dollars/donors behind Gov. Abbott and Lt. Gov Patrick's big push for vouchers. They can build, promote and own private schools which will rake in millions of tax dollars. Texas Republicans have underfunded the public school system for years and, now with HB3, want to make the situation even worse. Abbott threw a fit last session when vouchers did not pass and refused to increase funding for public schools. Big money from in state and out of state billionaires rolled in and here we are again.

Save our Texas Public Schools which serve 5 million + students by increasing per pupil funding by, at least, \$1000.00, funding mandates which increase year and

VOTING NO on HB3.

Thank you,

Donna Nell

Myself

Lubbock, TX

School vouchers are in no way beneficial to the students of Texas. I am adamantly opposed to the in any form, including a "Savings Account". As a retired educator, I have seen many cases of poor outcomes when students are homeschooled. Many struggling parents will be tempted to take the money offered for home-schooling and find they are ill-equipped to ensure an appropriate education for their students. Where will the accountability be? Private schools are not in favor of this because of the threat of government interference. To take public tax dollars and give those to private entities goes against the Constitution and the separation of church and state when the school is founded and supported by a church. Please vote your conscience and do what is right for the students of Texas, and avoid voting to favor your political advancement.

Alicia Gutierrez

Self

San antonio, TX

We cannot lose the special education program. Our government should do whatever they can to prevent the removal of this program.

Dana Lynch

self

Eustace, TX

Our children in Texas need a fully funded education, not this. It is a huge "no" to school vouches.

Alexandria Rodgers

Public Schools

Plano, TX

This program will not benefit ALL those looking for an education. It'll only benefit those that can afford it. If I wanted my child in a private school I'd make away for my child to be in a private school without government's help. My tax dollars are for public schools and public education, NOT private schools and private education, where you don't even have to be certified to teach! If we can find away to put homeschooling options inside a public school then I can be behind that, but I do not support a bill that might bankrupt our state and risk the education of our future.

Lori Manning Lori Manning

Self

San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB3. Our public schools need energy penny. Don't make it easier to lane. Make it easier to fix the public schools.

John Hatch, Mr.

Self, educator

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 and its proposed education savings program, which would allocate \$10,000 per student toward private school tuition. While supporters claim this expands school choice, the truth is that Texas has always had school choice. Parents who want private education for their children—including myself—have always had the ability to make that decision. What this bill really does is shift public funds away from our public schools to subsidize private education, which has never been accountable to taxpayers.

HB3 will not help most Texas families. The reality is that this program primarily benefits those already sending their children to private schools. For many working- and middle-class families, \$10,000 does not cover full tuition, especially in urban areas where private school costs often exceed \$20,000 annually. Rural communities, where private school options are limited, gain nothing while their public schools lose funding.

A strong public education system is the foundation of our democracy—in Texas and across the country. Public schools serve all students, regardless of background, income, or ability. Instead of diverting resources to private institutions that can pick and choose their students, we should focus on strengthening our public schools. Texas should prioritize competitive teacher pay, classroom resources, and student support services to ensure the 5.4 million children in our public school system receive the education they deserve.

Public dollars should serve the public good. HB3 is a step in the wrong direction, and I urge lawmakers to reject it and invest in all Texas students.

Katharine Kriegel Barden, teacher

self, teacher

Garden Ridge, TX

I am a third generation public school teacher and a parent of children in public schools, and I oppose school vouchers because they siphon critical funding away from public education, undermining teacher salaries, classroom resources, and the overall quality of instruction. Vouchers benefit private schools with minimal accountability, while leaving public schools—open to all students—struggling with reduced support and larger class sizes. Many families already have options such as magnet programs, public charters, and online public schooling, so taxpayer dollars should not be diverted to private institutions. Public schools are the backbone of our communities, and weakening them through vouchers hurts both educators and students, particularly those who rely most on a strong, fully funded public school system.

Ben Wilbanks

self

El Paso, TX

If the state of Texas can't afford to fund public education with approximately \$56,000,000,000 annually then you should not pass the HB3 voucher bill. The voucher bill creates a 2-tiered system that's a giveaway to families who can already afford private education and leaves families with children in public schools praying that their quality of education doesn't go down and property taxes don't go up.

Private and charter schools have a lower standard in terms of transportation, nutrition, and especially assistance for students with disabilities. Public schools are legally required to provide services to students with disabilities, whereas private schools do not have to adhere to the same federal requirements. Parents may lose legal protections under IDEA when enrolling their child in a private institution. The bill includes a special education notice requirement, but this does not guarantee that private schools will meet the same standards as public institutions.

Vote no on HB3!

Priscilla Molina

Self

San Antonio, TX

Our public education system is severely underfunded and the private school voucher program would take tax payers dollars away from public education. As a product of public education we need to invest in our public schools and provide all students in public school a high quality education. By taking our tax payer dollars and investing in private school you are continuing to discredit the importance and value of the public education system. This bill is discriminating against students with lower socioeconomic status, students with disabilities, and students in rural communities. This bill will not benefit students in public education. It is my belief that this bill should not move forward.

Susan Brents-Sheldon

Self

Arlington, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 school vouchers. It is NOT fiscally conservative and is NOT providing school choice. It is a scam. To support real school choice, the money should go to properly fund and improve public and charter schools, create public magnet schools, etc, and allow students to go to the district of their choice. I am a concerned voter, special needs parent, and retired teacher.

Tracy McLean

Self

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3. It is not in the best interests of all children in Texas and is a huge overreach by the governor.

Mary Groth

Retired teacher

Grapevine, TX

I am writing to ask that you don't pass the voucher bill as this will not be a good idea. It will hurt our public education. It will ONLY benefit the rich. Please listen to your constituents.

Amy Culbertson, Miss

Self

Austin, TX

Texans overwhelmingly oppose school vouchers by any name. Our public schools are the bedrock of our communities, and public education is essential to a successful future for Texas. If vouchers pass, it will be crystal-clear that those who voted for them turned a deaf ear to their constituents and succumbed to the lure of money from a few billionaires -- bought and paid for.

Veronica Garza

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Katie Lynn

Swlf

Frisco, TX

Please stand with Texas families, not special interests. This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. It comes with a hefty price tag and zero accountability to the state or taxpayers! As a family who CAN afford private school, we choose the public education that Texas has always done better than anywhere else. Let's keep it that way. By providing great quality public education to everyone, we are lifting up our entire state for the better. Why stop that for nonsense vouchers?? Say YES to supporting Texas public education and the teachers who serve to create a better future for our children. NO VOUCHERS!!! We are also members of a private country club, where we pay a hefty fee to play golf and enjoy the facilities and community. What's next? Vouchers for people to join private country clubs? It makes no sense.

Ashley Waits-Kees

Self

Richardson, TX

1. Funding Diversion and Budget Shortfalls

Public schools in Texas rely heavily on state funding, which is determined in part by student attendance numbers. When students leave public schools for private institutions through a voucher program, the funding follows them. This means fewer resources for the vast majority of Texas's 5.5 million students who would remain in the public school system.

Given that Texas already underfunds its schools compared to the national average, further reductions would exacerbate the financial struggles districts like RISD are already feeling.

2. Lack of Accountability and Transparency

Public schools are held to rigorous academic and financial accountability standards, reporting on student performance, maintaining accreditation, and adhering to regulations that protect student rights. Private schools, however, operate with far fewer restrictions. Many are not required to administer standardized tests, report academic outcomes, or disclose financial operations.

By funneling taxpayer funds into private institutions with little oversight, voucher programs reduce public accountability and leave students and parents without recourse when needs go unmet.

3. Widening Educational Inequities

One of the most troubling aspects of voucher programs is their potential to deepen educational disparities. Public schools serve all students, including those with disabilities, English language learners, and children from economically disadvantaged households. Private schools, on the other hand, are not obligated to accept all students. They can set selective admissions criteria, deny services to students with special needs, and exclude students based on religious or disciplinary grounds. This selective process risks leaving behind the most vulnerable students while using public funds to support exclusionary institutions.

Further, vouchers don't cover the full cost of most private school tuition. Families that can't afford to pay the remaining balance would still be unable to access private education, effectively making vouchers a subsidy for wealthier families rather than a tool for equitable education access.

Monica Newton

Self

Austin, TX

Public dollars should stay in public schools. Period. This education crisis is entirely manufactured by lawmakers and lawmakers have the power to rectify it. Instead of syphoning off taxpayer dollars to go to unaccountable private schools, reinvest in our public schools. Fully-fund the schools for all 5.5 million Texan children.

Lizette Martinez-Perera
self, Speech-Language Pathologist
Austin, TX

I have worked in elementary schools for over 25 years. We have amazing kids and amazing staff members who work tirelessly to help educate our youngest Texans. There is so much love, but there is weariness as times have become harder. More work, more demands, more behavior issues, more mental health issues, more testing, more safety concerns, more paperwork with less support, less programs, less support staff, and low compensation. Our schools are struggling. Our teachers and staff are struggling. Not because they aren't capable but because our state has continued to strip away programs/support, etc. without building up our education system. As a Christian woman, it's shameful that our state, which has so much excessive money, refuses to invest in our future to provide a strong education for our children. None of us would be where we are today without the guidance, love, and patience from teachers. We know what we need to do to improve our schools!! We need smaller class sizes, an assistant for every teacher, support staff to fill in the gaps for our struggling students and enrichment programs for gifted students, mental health care, etc.! We need to INVEST in our schools, not take money out of our public schools for a few wealthy kids, most of them are not even public-school children. We need to focus on educating our kids! We could have the smartest kids in our nation if we invested in them and our teachers and staff! Governor Abbott set up his task force to see why teachers were leaving after COVID. He knows why, yet he's done nothing to resolve the problem. Teachers do their job with the little they're given and then dig in their own pocket to fill in where needed. How shameful that our wealthy state wants to opt for greed instead of taking care of our own and helping ALL children in Texas. It's time our governor and state legislators do their job and do right by Texas kids, educators and school staff, and their families!! We do not need a voucher scam that only helps the wealthy few when we have a broken system on the brink of collapse for the masses. Not because there's a money shortage, but simply out of pettiness, pouting and greed. It is ridiculous that more than 70% of our school districts are working on budgets in the red and trying to scrimp and save and cut jobs. Texan jobs. And sadly, for no good reason, Texas has the money to fund all our districts. How sad that some of our legislators are willing to sell out our students, teachers, and school staff members for billionaires. Please don't pass this HB 3. Do better, Texas!

Tara Fink
Self/ pharmacist
Fort Worth, TX

No. Vote no. We do not want school vouchers, thereby gutting funding for public schools to subsidize rich kids private school. We are looking to move out of state if this passes and take our two gifted students somewhere they can get a good education.

Candi Tenbush
Self
Hutto, TX

No vouchers!! Do not weaken our public schools for private schools. Public dollars do not belong in private schools. You are not doing this for our students, but for your financial contributors.

Kathryn Clark, Ms.
self
Austin, TX

Public schools struggle to have monies to teach our children adequately now. Teachers always pay for many of their own supplies or use a fund me account so that family and friends may contribute gifts from teaching supplies the teacher has already selected. If you give vouchers to families to send children to a private school, those monies are lost to public education. If someone wants their child to go to private school, arrangements can be made to pay over the school year, schools can give scholarships and many families have no difficulty in paying the cost from their own monies. However, there are other children that will be under served both in cities, but especially in rural areas if vouchers are permitted. I protest strongly the passage of HB 3! Please vote NO to HB 3!!

Perla Cervantes

Self

Lubbock, TX

I do not want to pay for peoples kids to go to private school. The money needs to stay with the public schools

Courtney Easterly

Self/ teacher

De Kalb, TX

I oppose school vouchers. I want public taxpayer money to be used on public education, not on lining the pockets of those that have invested in private schools. If a family wants their child to obtain a private education, then they can pay for that. Public schools should receive full funding and teachers should receive a pay increase. These should not be tied to the passage of the voucher program. The only people benefitting off this are the ones that have paid for Abbott and his cronies. Students and educators are not the ones being considered in this insanity of school vouchers. Nothing about the vouchers is to better the lives of students or educators. Teachers are being used and a promise of increasing salaries is being baited. Pay teachers for their hard work, allow students to receive the assistance they need and deserve to learn best. Stop using the education of a child and the financial status of a teacher to twist the public's view. Vouchers will destroy the education system and anytime the state of Texas says they are jumping in to make a change or a mandate it has never benefitted education. The state mandates the STAAR test in public schools. That test is used to make money for those backing Pearson. The tests have never helped a child succeed. Why would the state believe the ones that mandated such a meaningless test believe they should be given even more authority when it comes to decision making and financial planning. The entire campaign to get school vouchers into our state has been funded by billionaires out of state. We as a state should put our funding back into true education of students, equality, teachers, and bettering our campuses-not into the pockets of these greedy billionaires, including Abbott!

Jodie Morris

All students present, and future

Arlington, TX

Do not pass this bill. You are supposed to work FOR the people, not against. This is as unethical as one can get, as it puts certain people and/or groups above others, when the access to education is supposed to be equal.

JAIME O'NEILL

Self/ mother of 4 and a former teacher

Leander, TX

I am saying NO to VOUCHERS!!! I ask for funding to PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND I ask for \$1,300 Basic Allotment per child.

Jan Seides

Self

Austin, TX

To the members of the committee:

I urge all of you to vote down this voucher scheme because it is against the values of Texas. Look at our constitution for the state. It talks about fully funding our public schools, not giving tax dollars without accountability and transparency, to private schools. Vote this down and end this.

Thank you.

Macye Wade

Self

Lubbock, TX

As a Texas resident I do not support HB 3 or any form of school vouchers. I am a mother of 2 school age children and another child who will be in school in the next few years. While my husband and I attended private schools growing up, that was our parent's choice and financial ability. It is the same for others now. I do not support taking away from the majority in order to provide private school options, etc, for the few. All children should have an opportunity to receive a good education and public schools and educators should receive the support of the Texas government. Do not take away financial resources when they already struggle to have enough financial support.

Kenneth Estes, Dr.

Self/educator

Alvarado, TX

I am in opposition to HB3 and any form of voucher, education savings grant, or tax dollars going to private schools. Texas already funds two separate school systems (public and charters). Giving money to private schools and homeschool students will take needed funds from our public schools that serve most Texas children. Public schools take all kids, regardless of their needs or abilities. We know that private schools are not required to take every child. We all know that school vouchers are taxpayer-funded subsidies given to private schools and vendors without transparency and accountability for results. We would never consider a policy like this for public schools. I have not met anyone who supports HB3, and many wonder why our representatives are not listening to their constituents. We should all want what is best for kids in Texas. Thank you for your time and service.

Stephanie Draper

Self

Justin, TX

My name is Stephanie Draper, and I have been a resident of Justin for over 18 years, serving as a community leader. I am opposed to Bill HB3 and hope you are as well.

This issue is deeply personal to me, as I have three children who attended and graduated from public schools. The idea of future generations not having access to fully funded public schools is unacceptable. My children thrived because of incredible educators like Ms. Little, who helped my son learn to read, and Ms. Green, who taught him the importance of science. I credit these teachers with having a lasting impact on my children's lives, and I know they would not have received the same support in a private school setting.

Diverting funds away from public schools would be a disservice to our children. I urge you to vote against school vouchers and support fully funding our public schools. The future of our kids and the next generation is at stake. Vote to be on the right side of history.

Thank you for your time.

Michelle Picon-Puente, Mrs.

Self, Mother

San Antonio, TX

Dearest Elected Officials,

I urge for you to vote AGAINST School Vouchers. Public school funds must remain in the public school sector to support teachers and students, which is very much underfunded. My children's education at their public school is dependent on YOU to support them. Public schools need more funding! And Per student allotment needs to be increased in AHISD. Vote NO to school vouchers.

I pray you choose to support the greater good. Vote No.

Ana V Castro
Self, Elementary Public School Teacher
Cedar Park, TX

I am a 17-year public school educator in the Leander Independent School District and I oppose HB3. I urge you to stand in strong support of public education by voting AGAINST any school voucher proposals. Let us invest in Public Education by funding them not taking from them and lets value the life and the right to education for all children in this state, not only for the privileged few.

Hilary Pittman
Self
Buda, TX

I urge you to vote NO on HB3 and stand with Texas families, teachers, and communities against school vouchers. This bill would take millions from our already underfunded public schools and funnel it into private school subsidies, with no accountability or transparency.

Here's what's at stake:

?? Defunding Public Schools – Vouchers divert critical taxpayer dollars away from public schools, which serve 90% of Texas children. Rural communities, where private options are scarce, will be hit the hardest.

?? Higher Taxes, Bigger Deficits – Voucher programs in other states have led to massive budget shortfalls and increased local taxes to compensate for lost education funding. Texas can't afford the same mistake.

?? No Accountability, No Standards – Private schools receiving taxpayer money don't have to follow the same academic, financial, or anti-discrimination standards as public schools.

?? Hurting Our Future Workforce – Texas needs strong public schools to prepare students for college and careers. Weakening public education weakens our economy.

HB3 is a bad deal for Texas families. Please vote NO and protect our children's education and our state's future.

As a mother that has 3 children in public school please vote no. Our public schools are underfunded. My kids schools need new equipment and better supplies. It's sad to expect the best from our children when we cant provide them with the best. Vote NO!

D Winbourn
Self
Palo Pinto, TX

I am against vouchers in any form. I am a senior citizen on a fixed income. I desire my tax dollars to stay in my county, Palo Pinto. I support the public school system and Santo ISD. Our family has had four generations go through this school. We did not need vouchers then or now. I graduated valedictorian. My children graduated in the top 3 in each class and have at least a 4 year degree from college. We were poor and were still able to be successful because we strived for the best. Vouchers will take away from the great school system and our students deserve this school system without vouchers.

Jonathan Alexander
Self, teacher
Portland, TX

1. The proposed per pupil funding for an ESA program is greater than the proposed state funding for the basic allotment. Why are they not equal amounts?

2. If private schools accept public tax dollars via an ESA program, can they also deny admittance to certain students, i.e. special needs students? And if so, is that not tantamount to state-sponsored discrimination?

Erin Scarth, Dr.

self - Licensed Clinical Psychologist

AUSTIN, TX

Texas does not need to establish educational savings accounts (vouchers) for students. Texas' citizens should not have to spend public money on private school education. In fact, we should be spending more money on public schools than we presently are. Educational savings accounts will just pull money away from our underfunded school systems that are already running large financial deficits. Further, educational savings accounts will hurt children with disabilities as it did in Arizona. States that have voucher programs have seen class sizes get larger and retention rates drop. School vouchers will destroy small, rural school districts which is the heart of these communities. For these, and many other reasons, I request that HB 3 be able to die in committee and the legislature focus on HB 2 which increases funding to our schools.

Carrie Powell

Wylie ISD teachers

Sachse, TX

As As a teacher in Texas, I have dedicated my career to educating and shaping young minds. Every day, I see firsthand the challenges our public schools face—overcrowded classrooms, underfunded programs, and a lack of resources for students who need them most. The idea of school vouchers, which would funnel public tax dollars into private schools, is not a solution; it's a threat to the very foundation of public education. Vouchers would drain much-needed funding from public schools, reduce accountability, and create greater inequities for students across the state.

Texas should not adopt a school voucher system. As a teacher, I see the real impact of underfunding in public schools, and I know that vouchers would only make things worse. Instead of diverting taxpayer dollars to private institutions with little oversight, the state should invest in strengthening public schools, increasing teacher salaries, and providing resources for all students. If we truly care about the future of education in Texas, we must support the schools that serve the majority of our children—not weaken them.

Kendra Zachrison, Mrs.

Self, RN

Driftwood, TX

As a parent who has children in public schools and as a taxpayer I am strongly opposed to vouchers or ESAs. It is wrong to take public tax dollars to fund private schools that do not have to follow the same rules as public schools do. It is common sense that we should ADEQUATELY fund our public schools first and foremost before claiming that public schools are failing our children or considering any type of voucher program.

It is obvious that wealthy people (in and outside of Texas) are funding this scam by buying politicians. (Tim Dunn, the Wilks brothers and Jeff Yass are a few names that come to mind). If vouchers were a good idea they would have passed years ago! And if Governor Abbott believes they will be so great for Texans then he shouldn't be afraid to let Texans vote on it. It's embarrassing that Texas has the 8th biggest economy in the world, yet we are in the bottom ten states for per pupil funding. It is insulting to our teachers that we continue to ask them to do more and more with less funding.

I have family in states that have vouchers (Ohio and Arizona) and have heard the stories of how bad the public schools became after vouchers were started. Both family members were teachers and they have since left teaching because it got so bad. If money is siphoned away from public schools and funneled to private schools Texans will suffer. Stats show that families already sending kids to private schools are the main beneficiaries of vouchers.

If a voucher program does pass, I would like to see that it ONLY be for families that prove to have a financial need and a failed experience in public schools.

This is the only way a voucher program would make sense. Otherwise, it becomes welfare for the wealthy. Furthermore, other states are examples of how a voucher program can balloon. How can public school families trust that Texas will not funnel more and more money from our public schools in order to fund vouchers.

The partisan nature of this bill is also telling. Not one Democrat is sponsoring HB3. I am tired of Republican House members claiming to support public education, but then author or sponsor bills that do anything but help our schools. I urge all committee members to not support this bill. But if they must, then private schools must be held to the same accountability as public schools. It is only fair.

Michael Bond

Self

Leander, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Bond

Jaime Boswell, Mr.

Self Educator

Andrews, TX

Good morning, I am a 3rd Generation Public Educator and my niece is a 4th Generation Public Educator. I'm reaching out today in opposition to School Vouchers that will negatively affect over 1400 Public Schools including all rural ISD's in Texas. The reality is school choice already exists and parents can choose Public, Home, Charter or Private. Since '95 students from low performing schools can transfer to "better" schools to ensure they get a higher quality education. That has been in play for decades and at no cost to taxpayers. If the proposed school choice were truly for all kids why do private Schools still have the right to refuse admissions? Why do privates still have the right to wave special Ed services? If it's for all kids the voucher program would service all kids in all zip codes regardless of dynamic. Stats clearly show Vouchers are mostly used by those already in Private schools who can already afford that specific American Democratic choice. Studies show other States who have in acted Vouchers strain already underfunded Public Schools. Studies show Vouchers do not raise test scores, specifically Staar. It's truly obvious in Texas, where 93% of Texans choose Public that this dynamic should be a focus of support & strengthening, not dividing and funding 2 separate dynamics. Is Public School perfect? No. Can it be better? Yes! And better through intentional funding that is the best in the nation and not underserved. Pay teachers the best in the nation and not underserved. The Elected leaders tout the economic boom in Texas and other top 10 dynamics, including growth, space exploration, companies, trade, etc etc yet Public Schools are met with negative, divisive & toxic rhetoric to appease the few. If it were truly about the kids in Texas we'd be on top in funding, pay, resources & a vision. Vouchers aren't it and will only cause more division, less inclusiveness and less accountability & oversight. The Governor pushes vouchers yet has not stepped foot onto one of the over 1400 public school campuses to support. The reality is Vouchers should be put on a statewide ballot for Texans to decide so everyone is represented & has a voice. We are conservative republicans & life long Texans who oppose vouchers due to their lack of accountability, oversight and due to the political climate of who "gets one" based on vendors who spend \$\$\$ to back certain politicians. It's truly non-conservative and not Texan for the voting public to not have a say. We encourage you to listen & to hear all sides not just political donors. Again, it's all about the kids right?

Natalie Gray

Self - Educator and independent contractor

Austin, TX

Passage of HB 3 is a poor use of public education dollars. Our state already ranks 46th in the nation for public education spending, and our outcomes reflect that. It is urgent that we increase the basic allotment, yet this bill pulls funding away from public schools to support students attending private schools. I am a parent of three public school students, and I taught in private schools for almost 10 years. What was abundantly clear is that private schools have no regulation whatsoever -- they are not required to meet any outcomes, they are not expected to support all students to be successful, and they can open or close their doors to any family, any time, for any reason. Beyond that, they are pricey. The voucher proposal might supplement a wealthy family as they pursue private school education -- but it will not open those doors to middle or lower class families. These dollars are desperately needed in our public schools and diverting them to private schools is unconscionable. Our state's public schools need safe facilities, support for outstanding teachers and principals, and so much more. Every dollar diverted to a public school voucher is quite literally money thrown into the wind with no accountability or responsibility on the part of private educational institutions. Moreover, these dollars will do absolutely nothing to increase educational opportunities across most of our state given how many schools are located in small communities that lack private or parochial options. Students all over Texas have only ever - and may well always have - just one school to choose from given the communities they are growing up in. This bill will not strengthen their education or opportunities. In short, this is a massive investment of "education dollars" that will be spent with no accountability, be awarded to students who need them the least, and will do nothing to shore up the schools that 94% of Texas children attend. Our state is at the bottom of almost every measure related to education. This isn't because we lack strong school leaders and dedicated teachers. It is because we do not invest in our children, their learning, their safety, and the people we entrust them with every day. While I applaud the intent of this bill, the impact of it will be devastating to our state's public school system while benefitting a very small percentage (less than 6%) of children and their families. We can do better. And we must. It's time to step away from vouchers and do something meaningful for children, families, and the future of our state and nation.

Jennifer Sims, Mrs

self/teacher

Austin, TX

Stop what you're doing right now and get your comments into public record now AGAINST HB3! It doesn't take long. It's for the kids!

NO to VOUCHERS

Funding to PUBLIC SCHOOLS

\$1300 Basic Allotment

Melissa Tullues
self, IT Project Manager
Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, and say a loud NO to HB 3, and instead focus on supporting public schools which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

In addition, ESAs directly hurt students with disabilities who receive Special Education services in Public Schools in the State of Texas. Diverting \$1 Billion of public taxpayer money to private schools who do not even acknowledge IDEA, do not follow IEPs and only provide services when they are negotiated, compromised and then charged back to parents at exorbitant rates well above typical tuition rates it is theft of services and money to the most vulnerable population in Texas.

14% of the 5.4 million public school students in Texas receive special education services. That's 760,000 students at a minimum. These ESAs are completely inaccessible to at least 90% of our disabled students, and that is before they have a chance at any lottery or know if a private school will accept, serve, or retain them. There's no accountability. Not of services, not of the \$1 Billion of public taxpayer money this legislature wants to pour into private schools and not of impact or outcomes of our disabled students.

Even if we say ALL of the ESAs go to disabled kids receiving special education services, that still leaves a minimum of 700,000 students receiving special education services in underfunded understaffed Public Schools that this state put in this situation. This causes direct harm to these students with disabilities, the most vulnerable individuals in society, and it's at the hands of those who are supposed to represent us.

This is unacceptable. I want this legislature to take accountability, listen to the parent voice (and students), and have the courage to do the right thing: say No to ESA/Vouchers and Fund our Public Schools properly. Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of ALL Texas students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Melissa Tullues

Harvey Oaxaca, Mr.
McKinney ISD
McKinney, TX

"I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education."

#trusteetalk

Darby Tobolka

Self / educator

AUSTIN, TX

School choice already exists. We can NOT use public funds to pay for SOME children to get a private education. This is legal SEGREGATION! ALL kids deserve an education. If you want vouchers so bad then have the tax that private school families typically pay to public schools go to private schools instead but MY money.. my choice. And I CHOOSE for my money to go towards the education of ALL students in public schools only. I want our society as a while to Bell will educated so that we can take care of one another in the future.

Dakota Brohammer

Self

Eules, TX

Public education is for the public. Keep it that way

Alvin Lewis

Self/Retired

Glenn Heights, TX

Dear Representative,

As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want an Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) Program. I pay my public tax dollars and, therefore, want my money to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Public school funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had inflation of over 20%. Our children and all the educators, and staff, deserve to have the funding. To be clear, I want to reiterate the following:

? I do NOT want vouchers/ESAs.

? I support an Increase of the Basic Allotment.

? I support Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Again, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.

Sincerely, Alvin Lewis

Tamara Allen Bush, Therapist

Self

Keller, TX

Vote no. JHR 140 will further the divide of racial inequality. The children affected will grow up and remember this and resent their experience and likely not care to be respectful citizens. Who can blame them if others were given a better opportunity. I was one of the first kids in a school that underwent desegregation in the 1970's. That experience was invaluable to me and I am the better for it because I learned in the 2ed grade to see people not color and that all children thrive when given the appropriate opportunity's. Together we are more.

Kelsey Longino

Self- stay at home mom

Belton, TX

I do NOT support HB3. The amount of children and families this will hurt is inhumane, and anti Texan. PLEASE vote no on this bill for the good of our children!

Mary Selby, Ms.

Self, parent volunteer and substitute teacher

Austin, TX

This education savings account or parents school choice is no choice at all.

Teachers, community members, and students have told you what they need to make public education successful. Please increase the basic allotment per student. Please give our extremely hard working teachers the raise they need and deserve. Please vote no on ESAs. The last legislative session said no to ESAs and let us stay the course and continue to keep public dollars out of private vendors hands. True choice on where my tax payer dollars are spent can only happen when that money is spent on public education and not in the hands of private education vendors. Thank you for your time. I am watching how you make decisions that will determine the success of our children and the future of Texas.

Taeyu Hong

Self

Bryan, TX

School voucher programs will destroying the already sorry state of public education in Texas by diverting funds from cash-strapped districts to private schools that already charge money to attend. This would cause the loss of numerous programs that support the enrichment of students' educations, such as art, music, sports, and more; not to mention that educational programs would suffer as well. As a past high school teacher, losing any amount of funding would dramatically decrease availability of supplies and force teachers to take on even more work than they do currently, which is already excessive. Diverting funds from the many to give to the few under the guise of "choice" is not in the interest of the continued growth of Texas, which was once known as having some of the best public schools in the nation. I implore the good representatives of Texas to remove this clause from HB3 and return to funding only the public education with public funds.

Lisa Morales

Self

Nolanville, TX

I oppose SB3 out of concern for our public schools system and the lack of efficacy that this plan will fix the problems Republican lawmakers have created by not funding public schools and capitulating to Gov Abbot's demands. DO THE RIGHT THING and fully fund our public schools to reduce overcrowding; to enhance the special education departments to the degree you say private schools can do. WHICH we know they do not have to do.

In my occupation as a LPC, I provide services to many children whose mental health suffers in response to the poorly staffed classroom; lack of school counselors; violence in the hallways. Teacher friends who give all only to be treated with disregard. This is not a plan for Texas' children.

Thank you forbyour consideration.

Judith Wyble

Self retired educator

Spring, TX

We do NOT want vouchers! It's wasted money for so few kids. There is no accountability and private schools don't have to follow the mandates YOU make public education follow! We WILL vote you out!

Ann Kucharczyk

Self

Fulshear, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any efforts to implement a school voucher program in Texas. Vouchers divert critical taxpayer dollars away from our already underfunded public schools and redirect them to private institutions that are not held to the same transparency, accountability, or accessibility standards.

Public schools serve as the backbone of our communities, providing education to all children regardless of their background, income, or abilities. Texas schools are already facing teacher shortages, outdated resources, and inadequate funding. Instead of funneling public funds into private and religious schools—many of which are not required to serve all students, including those with disabilities or special needs—we should be investing in strengthening our public education system.

Voucher programs also pose a significant threat to rural communities. In many parts of Texas, public schools are the only option for families. By siphoning funds away, vouchers would further strain these schools, leading to staff cuts, reduced programs, and ultimately harming students who rely on them.

Furthermore, Texas voters have repeatedly rejected voucher proposals, recognizing that they do not benefit the majority of students. Public funds should remain in public schools, where they serve all children and ensure every student has access to a quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by opposing any voucher proposals. Instead, let's work together to fully fund and improve our public schools for the benefit of every child in our great state.

Sincerely,

Ann Kucharczyk

Fulshear, Texas

Craig Smith

Self- teacher & Coach

Round Rock, TX

This is so wrong on so many levels. If you ardently believe this is what the people want. Then do the right thing and let us decide. Bullying this bill through shows just how much some want Texas to be an oligarchy, run by the rich. This is not at all how democracy works. This also goes against any conservative values. In the end the rich will be richer. The poor and learning impaired will be further left behind. We were once such a strong state with larger than life individuals. Now we've just become a laughing stock and it breaks my heart. I mourn for the great teachers that constantly have to hear their profession be slandered. Want to improve Texas let's show the world that instead of throwing money to start a new and corrupted system. We'll invest to fix an old and outdated system and make it better than before. The buck stops here.

Cammy Dunford

Self

Frisco, TX

I am a retired Texas public school teacher, having served for 30 years in Pasadena ISD. My father taught for 40 years at Eastfield College in Mesquite, east of Dallas. My son and daughter-in-law currently teach in Frisco ISD, and my grandchildren attend there as well. I believe in Texas public schools.

You've heard all the arguments for and against vouchers, but I am sincerely asking you to look at the LOGIC, or lack of it, with this bill.

1. Public schools must adhere to various subject curricula approved by the state. Private schools will not be verified if they adhere to the same standards in the TEKS.
2. Public schools and their districts are given "report cards," but private schools won't have them.
3. The public elects boards of trustees to select a superintendent, set a budget and create policies that support enforcement of state and federal education laws. Again, will private schools be required to be transparent and will those tax dollars from vouchers be properly accounted for?
4. Public schools are required to take in any student at any point in the school year. Private schools limit enrollment numbers and limit enrollment periods to the semester before the new year starts.
5. Under current law, students with special needs must be supported with personnel and equipment where required. There is no such requirement for private schools. In fact, they can tell the parent that they do not have the ability, nor will they acquire the necessary personnel or equipment to assist a severely handicap child.
6. Many private schools are religious in nature. Because public schools are secular, all students are welcome. Religious private schools can, and have in the past, discriminated against students in admissions because they don't worship or believe the same way.
7. Our nation is a secular republic that does not favor one religion over another. By giving tax dollars to religious schools, we are showing preference and bias. It is the antithesis of what our Founding Fathers created and fought a war over.

Public schools in Texas have not been fully – and adequately- funded since at least 1999. That is when I became a teacher, and I saw shortcomings then. It has not gotten better, because there is no desire by many to actually improve the schools in their communities.

I urge all of you to vote down this voucher scheme because it is against the values of Texas. Look at our constitution for the state. It talks about fully funding our public schools, not giving tax dollars without accountability and transparency, to private schools.

Vote this down and end this.

Catherine Worley, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

I am against HB 3. We should keep our tax dollars in the public school system.

Melissa Gable, Dr.

Self

Crosby, TX

While I am highly opposed to these vouchers (or educational savings accounts as you keep calling them) if they must pass. I feel that if a private or charter school accepts the funds from the state for a student, to maintain equity, the private or charter school must be held to all of the same accountability standards that public schools are held to for the same funds. They should be held to the same accountability standards for teacher certification, student attendance rates, and student assessment standards. If the private or charter institutions don't want to be held to these same standards, they can't accept the state funds. It's only fair and equitable for the state funds and a good compromise.

Also, the governor needs to stop lying in his social media posts. The funds slotted right now will only serve a small fraction of Texas children where his is stating ALL students will have a choice. Someone needs to hold him accountable.

Kimberly Taylor

Retired teachers

Arlington, TX

Please don't support the voucher bill

Wendy Helker, Dr.

myself, Licensed Professional Counselor

Flower Mound, TX

It is imperative that you vote no on HB3. We must fully fund our Texas public schools to give all Texans the resources they deserve to become educated, engaged citizens who will one day be taking care of and leading the state of Texas. These vouchers have been proven to be unsuccessful in other states. It makes no sense to take money out of public education and give it to private schools that do not have the same accountability standards as Texas public schools. Stop trying to dismantle our education system. Your constituents DO NOT WANT a school voucher system. We want fully funded public schools, investment in high quality teachers and resources for all children to grow up with equal opportunity.

Sincerely,

Wendy Helker

Tanya Rhoades

Self

Kingwood, TX

I oppose HB 3. As a public school teacher by trade, and the parent of a public school student, it's extremely important to me that we continue to provide for a free and fair public education. Vouchers will steal from the most vulnerable among us, will continue to undermine the good work our public school educators have already been doing at a disadvantage (given the state's lack of proper funding in the first place), and will push Texas even further away from having the educated populace needed to attract business and commerce to our state.

The young people all across our state deserve better than this voucher scam. Do the right thing.

Diana Galindo

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose HB3 and do not want you to vote for vouchers. Please fund our public schools!

Mimi Lawrence
self, physicist
Austin, TX

As a Texas taxpayer I stand in firm opposition to any attempt to implement private school vouchers in Texas, whether these give-aways are called savings accounts, subsidies or vouchers.

Taxpayer-funded private school voucher bills have failed in Texas because they are bad policy.

Multiple studies show that voucher schemes fail wherever they are implemented. In my own lived experience I recall the numerous whites-only "voucher academies" established in Louisiana in the 60's and early 70's. Many of them were money-making scams. The result was a generation of kids - and this was true across the South - denied a decent education.

I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 3! Please do what you can to prevent funding of a voucher scheme that will starve our neighborhood public schools of needed support.

Thank you,
Mimi Lawrence

Diane Arnold
Myself
Snyder, TX

PLEASE vote against this bill. It does not benefit all Texas children.

Angela Holmes

Self

Houston, TX

Senator Nicholas, a republican said this about the possible private school vouchers and I agree!

For the past decade, I have seen various versions of a proposal to use state tax dollars for private schooling. There have been different names with different components, but ultimately, they each had one common element – public dollars for private education. While the latest proposal for Education Savings Accounts has made an effort to be more inclusive, referring to it as "universal" and making it applicable to a larger group financially, it falls short of that goal and is still taxpayer funds for private education. This bill creates the illusion of choice but does nothing to guarantee that a parent's choice for their child will be fulfilled. It offers a chance, not a choice. Ultimately, the true decision-maker in this system is not the parent, but the private school. If your child has discipline issues or needs accommodations for a learning disability, the school will have the choice to remove them. If you can't afford to transport your child to school, you don't have the choice to send them to private school. If the tuition is more than \$10,000, parents would have to come up with the remaining balance. One school in my district charges over \$13,000 a year. If a family with three children wants to send them there, they would have to come up with an extra \$9,000 a year. And that's just for tuition; paying for school supplies, transportation, and uniforms would cost even more. Over 62% of children currently in public schools come from socioeconomically disadvantaged families and many live paycheck to paycheck. They don't have an extra \$9,000 in their household budget. That's not really a choice.

The practical, geographic, and financial barriers for some students will be insurmountable and prevent them from utilizing the program. Public schools provide transportation. Private schools do not. A low-income family where both parents work and only have one vehicle could not participate. So, those children would be left out. Many of the rural parts of the state do not have private schools within reasonable travel distances. So, those children would be left out. Special education students are offered extra money in the new proposal. But even that slight increase would not cover the costs to educate those children. There are very few private schools in Texas that will take them, even if they can afford to cover the additional costs. So, those children, our most vulnerable, would be left out. If a child has a discipline record or has behavioral issues, that child would be left out. The same goes for children that are low aptitude and poor performers in school. So, those children would be left out. The bill claims to be universal, but clearly is not.

While barriers to access are problematic for Texas families, elements of the bill conflict with long-standing and established ideals in both (truncated)

Lynda Miller

Self

Hutto, TX

Public funds are for public schools not vouchers. The vast majority of Texans oppose vouchers. Please listen to the people and do not give welfare to the rich for private school.

Tracy Bobbitt

Self

Wylie, TX

Please vote No and keep public funding to public education! I am a parent with to 3 daughters and spouse to a public school educator. We have a choice along with every other parent. Fund the public school and teachers!

Courtney Gantt

Self

Keller, TX

Fund our public schools! If vouchers are passed the funding based on enrollment should be eliminated because not all expenses are per child based.

Lubin Garcia, Jr
Teschler
Weslaco, TX

Your our governor you supposed to support everyone not just the rich!!!

Daniel Typaldos
Self, architect
Dallas, TX

Our public schools need all the resources they can get. The state should put money towards our public schools, teachers and students. Allocating money for private school choice will draw funds and students away from public schools. It will create a burden on low income and people of color. It will provide subsidies to wealthy that can already afford private schools. It will also dilute and degrade statewide standards. Please stop this bill!

Matthew Kuester
Self (Education)
Belton, TX

I come from a family of public school educators, and I am deeply concerned by this bill for multiple reasons.

Proponents of this bill tout "school choice", as if parents don't have the right to choose a school. They do. That's not what's at stake with this bill. For several years, the state legislature has neglected public school funding. Public schools are already under strain; they have required fixed costs (in order to meet the needs of their constituents), and this bill will reallocate funds that could be used to better our public schools.

I'm additionally concerned about the economics of this. These EAPs will allow parents to use state funds for private school tuition; however, thier will be no control over tuition at these schools (beyond free market prices.) I fear that flooding the market with state funds will have several unintended consequences for families (mainly - an increase in private school tuition, cutting into the gains that this bill is trying to achieve.)

I ask you to please reconsider this bill and redirect the funding towards strengthening our public schools. That is how we can best create "a pathway to ranking No. 1 in educating our kids", as Gov. Abbott said in his press release on March 11th, 2025.

Wilson Yager
Self, retired
Corinth, TX

I urge each member of the Texas House to vote NO on HB3. The repeated assaults on public education, of which this bill is the latest, need to stop now. HB3 is a giveaway of public funds to private individuals and institutions who for the most part do not need nor deserve them. Public funds should be used for public purposes. HB3, if passed, will divert money from public education to benefit private schools that are unaccountable for their results and not required to meet the same standards of service as public schools. Absolutely no vouchers for private school education.

Alison Schwartz
Self/Speech-Language Pathologist
Lubbock, TX

I fully oppose HB3 and the use of my tax dollars to be spent on funding private education. My tax dollars should be used to adequately and fully fund only Texas public schools.

Amanda Esquivel

Self

Hockley, TX

As a tax paying Texas citizen, former public educator and grandparent of children who attend public schools, I am asking you to do the right thing for all Texas children. We all know and understand that the vouchers will not benefit the children that it should benefit. This is all a scam to further defund public education. The people who are pushing the vouchers do not believe that all children deserve an education. They know that low income families will not be able to pay the difference between the vouchers and the actual tuition. These are the families who really depend on you to do the right thing.

Misty Hammonds

Self

San Antonio, TX

Fully fund public schools. Vote NO to school vouchers and sending any money to private schools!

Judy Douglass

Self

Austin, TX

Cheating public schools of funding is all this will do. It's wrong.

Hope Scott, Mrs

AFT and Retired Teacher

Port Arthur, TX

The proposed voucher system in Texas raises serious concerns about the future of public education and the equitable distribution of resources. Diverting public funds to private schools undermines the foundational purpose of public education, which is to provide equal opportunities for all students, regardless of their socioeconomic background.

Instead of strengthening public schools and addressing the real issues they face, vouchers prioritize private options that may not be accountable to the public or meet the diverse needs of all students.

Furthermore, there is little evidence to suggest that voucher programs lead to better educational outcomes. In fact, these programs could exacerbate the achievement gap, as they disproportionately benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition, leaving lower-income students in underfunded and overcrowded public schools.

We should focus on investing in and improving public education, ensuring that every student has access to quality education, rather than diverting resources to unregulated private institutions. It's critical to prioritize long-term, sustainable solutions that strengthen public schools and support all students, not just a select few.

Public schools face scrutiny that private schools avoid because they don't use public funding. Will they be graded as public schools are? Will they take STATE assessments as public schools do? Will they provide services for even the poorest in areas where transportation is lacking?

And they are funded higher than public schools. This requires a no vote! No scrutiny, no public dollars.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Cubelli-Gomez, Mrs

Self - elementary school teacher AliefISD

Houston, TX

There are serious repercussions that will ensue due to the passing of this bill. Repercussions for the special ed department and their funding, classroom overcrowding due to fewer teachers that will be retained in their positions due to lack of funding. Funding is dependent of attendance and enrollment, fewer enrolled students means fewer funds allotted per school. Teachers will be forced out, or will suffer from burnout due to overcrowding. This will also, in turn, affect our TRS funding. My biggest concern is our most vulnerable students. They do not need lawmakers reducing their funding. This funding covers testing for special needs diagnosis, materials, specialty trained individuals including para-professionals and teachers. Don't do this to the kids or the teachers who dedicate their lives to them.

Jessica Fritsche

Self - marketer and parent

Garland, TX

I oppose the creation of school vouchers. You must fully fund public education instead of putting in measures to destroy it. Our educational systems rank at the lowest end of the spectrum across the nation and you cannot blame that on Washington. You can make public education better and our kids deserve that. My kid deserves that. Vouchers will take away resources that public education desperately needs.

Heather Burke

Self. SAHM, preschool teacher, special needs ADVOCATE

Grapevine, TX

We do NOT want this to pass. We want our public education supported with our tax dollars!! Support the middle class and increase TEACHER PAY!

Alena Keene
Self, educator
Fort Worth, TX

How are you going to ensure that vouchers are not going to go to families that are already enrolled in private school? Please address the statistic that there are only 25,000 unfilled seats in Texas private schools. And please compare the current bill to Oklahoma's situation with the overwhelming majority of school vouchers going to families that could already afford private school tuition. How are you going to prevent that situation in Texas?

How are you going to ensure that there isn't any fraud? What if a student is awarded an ESA, enrolls in a private school, pays their tuition, and then withdraws from the private school a couple months later? Will the private school be required to return the full ESA amount back to the state? How will the state track this and hold them accountable? What if a private school student funded with an ESA has chronic absenteeism? Will the private school be required to return a portion of the ESA back to the state for every day that the student is absent? It is unfair that public school funding is based on attendance but ESS payments won't be based on attendance. If private school ESA funding won't be penalized for absenteeism then public school funding shouldn't be penalized for absenteeism.

What additional costs (in time, effort, money) are private schools going to incur if they accept ESA funds for tuition payments? Labor and time is needed to process paperwork. How intensive will the paperwork and accounting be for private school administrative staff? Will private schools be required to provide the state with evidence that ESA funded students have made academic progress and are regularly attending school? If a private school expels or asks an ESA funded student to unenroll because for whatever reason the school ends up not being a good fit will the private school be required to provide evidence for dismissing the student? Will the private school be required to return the ESA money to the state?

Here's an idea if you are determined to pass a voucher/ESA bill in Texas: Lower the income limit to 600% of the poverty line and then earmark 50% of ESA funds to go to families that make under 200% of the poverty line, 30% of ESA funds earmarked to go to families 200-400% of the poverty line, and 20% of ESAs earmarked to go to families 400-600% of the poverty line. Any unused funds in each income category should be returned to public school funds each year to boost funding for things like universal school lunch, universal Pre-k, and special education.

Jon Klekman
Self
Austin, TX

I am the parent of a Texas public school student. I believe that public funds should stay in public schools. Establishing a voucher system for private education will directly impact the quality of education received in public schools. Private institutions are not held to the same standards as public schools and are not required to meet the needs of all students. Rural school districts without access to private schools are particularly vulnerable if this bill passes. It is shameful that Texas lawmakers who vote yes on this bill are ok with spending more money per private school student than per public school student. This is discriminatory and will only serve to decrease the overall quality of education in this state. It is already at an embarrassingly low national ranking and will only get worse if this bill is passed. Please fully fund public schools and leave our taxpayer money where it benefits ALL Texas students.

Arlena Morrow
Self/ Retired
Dickinson, TX

I oppose HB 3.1

Denise McDonald
self administrative assistant
Nacogdoches, TX

I am the mother of 3 public school graduates and now a grandmother of 5 children that, hopefully, will attend public school (if they are still operating with the Republicans underfunding public schools and transferring public money to private for profit schools) in 2 years. I'm tired of seeing billionaires decide what's best for our children. Tim Dunn and brothers Farris & Dan Wilks along with Jeff Yass have decided they want to funnel public money to religious private schools, one of which Tim Dunn happens to own. Public money needs to be spent on public school. I'm a Christian but I don't believe the Bible has mandated that we use the principalities to force people to believe the way we do. Taking money away from public schools will hurt the poor (the least of these) most of all and don't we want all of our children to have a quality education? After passing a voucher scam bill, Arizona is, the model for voucher programs across the country, has spent so much money paying private schoolers' tuition that it's now facing hundreds of millions in budget cuts to critical state programs and projects. Why would we want to go down this path when we can see that it only leads to ruin and makes politicians richer and more corrupt. Please vote no to HB3.

Amitai Plasse, Mr.
Self, educator (community college) and graphic artist
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3 and any other private school voucher program legislation (also known as "education savings accounts" until there is a significant improvement in the funding of ALL public schools across the state including 1) paying public school teachers a respectable (even living) wage commiserate with their education, experience, and importance to society, and are working in reasonable working conditions 2) classrooms, extracurriculars and special education programs are adequately funded and 3) the private schools receiving voucher money are legally bound and demonstrate in practice that they abide by the same standards of curriculum, admission and support for special needs students as public schools. I am a parent of 3 children who have gone through Texas public schools, I have volunteered in several schools, across the socio-economic spectrum and I know many public school teachers. The state governments underfunding and honestly seeming contempt for the public education system I find shameful. Teachers are woefully underpaid, overworked and often have to fundraise on their own for basic classroom and athletics essentials. Despite having a \$30 billion surplus last year the state has done woefully little to even help teachers and schools to keep pace with the cost of living. Until the state shows an effort to prioritize public school success, these "education savings account" seem to just be a supplement for well-off families, a cash grab for private institutions where frankly the standards of education can be in question, about 3/4 of which are religiously affiliated, and at best seems like willful neglect of a large portion of Texas students and at worst a specific effort to degrade our public education system and the future outcomes of a large percentage of Texas students. Please do not move this bill forward.

Melissa Donham, Dr.
Self, assistant professor.
Conroe, TX

As an educator, I strongly oppose the voucher provisions in HB3. Public dollars should support public schools, which serve all students regardless of background, ability, or socioeconomic status. Vouchers take critical funding away from already under-resourced public schools and divert it to private institutions that are not held to the same accountability and transparency standards. My niece and nephew have special needs, and private schools are not required to provide the services and accommodations they rely on. Instead of weakening our public education system, we should focus on strengthening our schools by investing in teacher pay, classroom resources, and student support services. Our children deserve a high-quality education, not a system that benefits a select few at the expense of many.

Lindsay Martinez
self
Austin, TX

As a parent of two public school children in Texas, I strongly oppose this bill. Public funds belong in public schools.

Mary Terry

Self

Vidor, TX

This bill is seeking to undermine public education in Texas, and I oppose it. If parents want to send their children to private school, that is their business on how to pay for it. As a tax payer it offends me that my property tax dollars would be used to fund this. As a taxpayer I don't ask my legislators to write a bill to communally fund my property taxes. This bill is going to create a class system with haves and the have nots. It's going to give a discount to those who can already afford private school, underfund the local public on their behalf. The hard working parents of Texas even with the voucher will not be able to afford the private school. Private schools do not come with transportation services, and support services for children who may need them. Some school districts are the largest employer in some rural counties. Sinking a local economy by purposely underfunding its largest employer, is not the pro business Texas way of doing things. If we are going to keep the Texas economy robust we need to fully fund Texas public schools. We are funding the future of Texas. If parents want to choose private schools they can do it on their own dime, not mine. Thank you.

Stacy Figueroa

Self

Austin, TX

Vote no for vouchers. I do not agree with reallocating public school funds to support private tuition when public schools are already underfunded in our state. It is unacceptable that our state has the eighth largest economy in the world but ranks 46th out of 50 in school funding. All children deserve a quality education.

Linda Merriott, Ms.

Self, educator

Lubbock, TX

I am an educator who believes school choice will allow all entities to benefit. Competition from private school will cause public school to become better! Students and teachers will benefit! Enacting school choice, if done in the right way will benefit everyone!

Christie John

Self, parent of AISD students

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the proposed education bill for vouchers. Public education funding is already severely limited and this voucher program will further lead to unequal educational standards for students. Furthermore, the program's limited scope and lack of availability in many Texas districts makes it an ineffective solution. Prioritizing robust public school funding is essential for ensuring equitable educational opportunities for all Texans, not just a select few.

Andrew Garcia

Self - Sr Rusk Analyst

McKinney, TX

Proper funding for public schools is critical to having a healthy and functioning society in the future. School vouchers will only further deplete scarce resources and funnel money to private corporations that return a worse return (overall education) in the majority of cases. Stop benefiting the rich who already have too much, and contribute to the overall health and success of the state we ALL live in

Jane Maxvill, Ms

self retired

DALLAS, TX

How are these ESA schools going to be regulated? Is the money taxable, if so, does the parent or the student get taxed. How does one form a school? Will they be required to have the same number of minutes a year that the public schools do? Will they be required to post the 10 Commandments or any other information the legislature demands of public schools? Will they be allowed to recruit students for their sports teams (a la Prime Prep)? Can the school spend the money any way they want? Can a group of homeschoolers band together and call themselves a school and then take the money and go to Colorado to ski because it's a cultural experience? Or can they spend the money on soccer clubs, volleyball clubs or private piano lessons? I understand they don't have to take accountability exams like STAAR. How will we know what they are achieving? Will they get to pass on immunizations? They will be able to cherry-pick students so my great-nephew who is autistic probably won't be accepted. What happens if a school kicks a student out? Do they get to keep the money, or will it be prorated? What kind of credentials will teachers be required to show? Will the facilities be required to be ADA compliant? As you can tell, I think this is a scam of the first order. It is Greg's way of screwing public education and rewarding his donors. There is absolutely no need for this. Just fund the public schools like you should and allow dedicated public schools to do their job safely and without fear. If you want to tell us these schools are for the students, you are comfortable with lying about anything. I don't know how you look at yourself in the mirror. But it's as my good friend says, "They don't care about anyone except themselves getting re-elected and sucking on that government teat as long as they can. Talk about waste, fraud and mismanagement." And she's right. I am a Texas woman and I am second class. My daughters and my granddaughter are also second class citizens. My daughter suffered a miscarriage with complications during COVID. I spent the night in the car in the parking garage as only her husband was allowed to come in. I have never seen so much blood in my front bathroom as I did that night before she passed out and had to go to the hospital by ambulance. If that were to happen today, she would likely die. So you can understand if I hate Greg Abbott and all his little thieves. I can't even hope that it happens to all that voted this way because I would never want you to suffer as women in Texas are suffering. What else do you want from us besides complete obedience because I raised my daughter and grandchildren to be compassionate, caring and objective human beings.

Patricia Everist
Self
League City, TX

I do NOT support the Texas School Voucher Bill. As a teacher for over 20 years this is not what is best for Texas students. Charter schools will not have the same level of expectations and education with no oversight. Student comprehension will suffer and the level of preparedness for high level education will decline. The inequity in the amount of money spent of public school education will only further drive a divide for our most fragile groups of students. Please save Texas from one of its greatest mistakes and Vote NO to school vouchers.

This bill creates the illusion of choice but does nothing to guarantee that a parent's choice for their child will be fulfilled. It offers a chance, not a choice. Ultimately, the true decision-maker in this system is not the parent, but the private school. If your child has discipline issues or needs accommodations for a learning disability, the school will have the choice to remove them. If you can't afford to transport your child to school, you don't have the choice to send them to private school. If the tuition is more than \$10,000, parents would have to come up with the remaining balance. One school in my district charges over \$13,000 a year. If a family with three children wants to send them there, they would have to come up with an extra \$9,000 a year. And that's just for tuition; paying for school supplies, transportation, and uniforms would cost even more. Over 62% of children currently in public schools come from socioeconomically disadvantaged families and many live paycheck to paycheck. They don't have an extra \$9,000 in their household budget.

That's not really a choice.

The practical, geographic, and financial barriers for some students will be insurmountable and prevent them from utilizing the program. Public schools provide transportation. Private schools do not. A low-income family where both parents work and only have one vehicle could not participate. So, those children would be left out. Many of the rural parts of the state do not have private schools within reasonable travel distances. So, those children would be left out. Special education students are offered extra money in the new proposal. But even that slight increase would not cover the costs to educate those children. There are very few private schools in Texas that will take them, even if they can afford to cover the additional costs. So, those children, our most vulnerable, would be left out. If a child has a discipline record or has behavioral issues, that child would be left out. The same goes for children that are low aptitude and poor performers in school. So, those children would be left out. The bill claims to be universal, but clearly is not.

Jennifer Burnside
Self, coordinator
Elgin, TX

This Bill will decimate the already floundering Texas public school system and remove the limited resources available to students with special accommodations. Additionally, this bill will primarily harm lower income families and single household families. Rather than seeking to privatize and monetize Texas public education, our government should be funding and encouraging public education. This bill will leave so many children behind and cause irreparable harm to Texas public schools. Please don't pass this bill.

Patricia Bubb, Mrs.
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I am a strong supporter of this bill supporting School Choice in Texas. I urge its passage!

Michelle Wadle

self

Austin, TX

As one of 11 children, all of us by the same 2 parents, I am extremely grateful and proud to be a product of public education. I taught in public schools for 17 years and I am also a firm believer in the U.S. Constitution which guaranatees the separation of church and state. Therefore, I do NOT believe that tax dollars should be diverted to private religious schools. I stand behind Rep. Talarico who says that "For over four years, Greg Abbott has held school funding hostage despite a record \$33 billion budget surplus". I agree that Texas needs to put more dollars into our public schools, not private school vouchers.

Robyn Carafiol

self - real estate agent

Dallas, TX

Please do not pass HB3. Vouchers that give public taxpayers dollars to families so they can use the money to pay for private schools is a bad idea. There would be little to no accounting from the private schools and home schools for those dollars and for the education those students would receive.

Very importantly, school vouchers would mostly benefit the families who already have children enrolled in private schools. Families who live on an average income or lower would not be able to afford the private school tuition above the amount of the voucher.

School vouchers are segregation, pure and simple. School vouchers would use public taxpayer dollars to benefit the more affluent families, leaving the families of lesser income (mostly people of color) in the public schools which are already underfunded.

School vouchers are wrong. Please do not pass HB3.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Robyn Carafiol

Richard Mullens

Retired teacher

Bronson, TX

This bill will eliminate public education especially in rural areas

Neena Husid

Self - retired voter

Austin, TX

Private school vouchers will hurt further a public school system, that for many, is their only way out of a life of limited opportunities. Bleeding public education creates an ill-informed class of voters who continue to not see the dark agenda of those who disenfranchise them. It's a scam.

Wayne Stalsworth, Mr.

Self

Seguin, TX

Vote no on HB3!!!!

Mary Walker

Self

Driftwood, TX

Please do not pass school vouchers that will definitely negative impact public schools

Elizabeth Lalor

Self

Crosby, TX

No to ESA

Joy McIntosh

Self. Educational Diagnostician

Bonham, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Having been in education since graduation from college in 1971, and earning subsequent degrees or certifications, I thought I had seen the worst. However, I am now convinced that I was wrong, and this is the worst. This is not something designed to improve education for Texas children. If you check with other states who have bought into this bad idea, I don't believe it is "the cow they thought they were buying". I do know this, and I believe former Governor Mark White can attest to the fact, when educators in this great state are opposed to something impacting education, they will rise up. Yes, possibly, you may pass this atrocity; however, you may not be re-elected on your next run for office. When educators have had enough, they can, and will mobilize. Just fodder for thought. Do Not pass this bill. It is wrong for schools, public or otherwise. Do not promise Texans "pie in the sky", because we are fed up with politicians who maneuver and manipulate for their good, and not the good of the people. Vote "NO" to HB3!

Valerie Sandham

Self - Retired

Georgetown, TX

I am very opposed to Vouchers. Our Public Schools have been neglected for 5 years. DO NOT send public money to private schools.

Vouchers hurt rural communities. Vouchers HURT neighborhood schools

Elinor Pisano Anspaugh

Self/parent and pediatrician

Austin, TX

Vouchers are not the solution and are not supported by your voters. Vote NO.

Vicky Le

Self

Wylie, TX

Private schools do not need help. Public schools do. School vouchers are going to hurt millions of students in the public schools system. Public school education is important. Our children deserve better than this. Funding the rich and taking from the poor is not what Texas is about. Let the citizens of this great state vote on this issue. Politicians work for the people. Our voices deserve to be heard!

Michael Helms

Self

Mesquite, TX

Many states are reporting budget deficits due to similar laws enacted for state funding of private schools. It's been proven that this only benefits families already sending their children to private schools. There aren't private schools for all the "regular" families to send their kids to. School vouchers are welfare for the rich. The surplus money earmarked for this program would be much better spent filling the funding gaps created by the legislation's not properly funding schools for years. We all know this was an effort to weaken public schools to help the argument for this program. Even conservatives don't want this program. Please quit playing games with our children's futures and do the right thing!

Ashley Duffy, Mrs.

Self

Cypress, TX

We can't have the school voucher system in Texas. Too many children are at risk to not receive solid education with funds that we, the Texas People, want!! My taxes, your taxes and my neighbor's taxes should go to the public institutions. Withholding funds for the people who have plenty is not just unfair- it's unethical- it's not humanitarian. We the people of Texas should help all Texans to succeed. We should not separate classes even further with haves and have nots. This kind of thinking can affect generations to come and affect Texas as a whole. Say no to HB 3. Keep Texans together! We are stronger together.

Anuva Bonzek

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts in Texas.

Justin Curtis

Self/ Procurement

Grapevine, TX

I don't not support this bill. Vouchers are not what the people of Texas want. This will take money away from the public schools.

Amy Bishop

Self

Fairview, TX

We OPPOSE this bill. Please vote against HB 3.

Carol Saucedo

Self

Austin, TX

I work with SPED kids believe private do not provide programming that meets their needs. A disabled child may be enroll e but there are requirements for Sped in private schools. Pls provide quality and appropriate education for all students. Don't public schools need help too!

Ilene Noonan

Self/Retired

Austin, TX

A program that benefits the few by undercutting a financially struggling public education system will harm, rather than promote, the general welfare. Fully fund public education based on enrollment, tying it to an inflation index. Vouchers for private schools make no sense unless every public program or enterprise is fully funded and there's a still a bunch of cash lying around.

Jamie Bell

Self, teacher and parent

Fort Worth, TX

I am a public elementary school teacher with two high schoolers of my own. My husband and I work very hard to provide for our children and give back to our local church and schools. Being in the classroom with my students brings me so much joy each day. We are fortunate to live in a district that values fine arts, which both of our children participate in. Our district is facing tough decisions regarding staffing and programs because of the financial state of our Texas school system. Although our family has strong Christian values and deep rooted faith, we believe in public education not only for other kids, but also for our own. We choose to send our kids to public school. Our students deserve a great education at our local public schools. Please increase the funding for public schools to \$7,500 per student. Our Texas children deserve better. If we want to compete with the rest of the nation and truly make Texas the best, it begins with quality education for all students. The rising cost of gas, food, materials, school supplies, and electricity to keep the lights on has not been met with an increase in student funding. Cutting expenses through staffing and specials programs hurts our students and teachers. Do what is best for Texas and raise the funding per student to \$7,500. Thank you

Rachel Dunn

Self

Fort Worth, TX

For the sake of the futures of not only our children but for our society as a whole, I urge you to increase funding for our public schools. The proposed voucher program would be a detriment to not only disadvantaged students but to all, as private schools are not held to the same standards as our public schools. Every kid deserves a chance to thrive in public schools, and the current withholding of public school funds is unfair to students, parents, teachers, and taxpayers who pay their tax bills in good faith that the funds will be used to support their local communities. Please vote NO on vouchers and support increased funding for public schools.

Jillian Round, Dr.

Richardson Independent School District

Richardson, TX

Please consider spending this money towards public schools rather than providing for private organizations that are for profit. Public schools are a sacred trust that deserves investment and support. We are spending out of our own pockets to support our students as teachers. It is time we support teachers the same as George W. Bush did. He understood the importance of a free and equitable education. I am a product of Texas Public Education, and couldn't be prouder of my upbringing/ education. Help us! Support us! Support families that deserve better!

Annette Xiques

Taxpayer, Retired Teacher

Temple, TX

I am against school vouchers. The state needs to fund public schools and return the funds that have slowly been taken away from public schools over the last 30 years.

The school districts need to be backed by the state and given the respect and responsibility to local districts to educate all students. The districts cannot do their job without state financing. Paying for vouchers takes even more money away from public scythe the local taxpayers have funded. STOP ROBINHOOD State FINANCING AS WELL.. NO VOUCHERS!. DO NOT TOUCH TEACHERS RETIREMENT FUNDS.

Dr. Rebecca Palacios, Educational Consultant

Palacios Educational Consulting

Corpus Christi, TX

No to vouchers. Absolutely not.

Kathy Pelzel
Self
Rockdale, TX

Honorable Members of the Texas Legislature,

I respectfully oppose House Bill 3, which proposes Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) in Texas. While the bill aims to increase educational choice, it would undermine public schools and exacerbate existing inequities. I urge lawmakers to prioritize strengthening public education over diverting funds to private institutions.

1. **Diverting Funds from Public Schools** - HB 3 would divert vital funding from public schools, which already face financial challenges. Texas public schools educate over 5 million students, many of whom come from low-income families or require special education services. Diverting funds to ESAs would further undercut these schools, making it harder for them to meet student needs and widening the funding gap.
2. **Lack of Accountability** - Public schools are held to strict standards, including curriculum oversight and teacher qualifications. Private schools receiving ESA funds are not required to meet these same standards, putting taxpayer money at risk. This lack of accountability could result in lower-quality education and unequal access for students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
3. **Equity Concerns** - ESAs disproportionately benefit wealthier families who can afford additional costs, such as transportation and fees not covered by the ESA. Low-income families, on the other hand, would have limited choices. This policy would increase educational inequities, leaving disadvantaged students behind. Additionally, students with disabilities may suffer, as private schools are not required to offer the same accommodations as public schools.
4. **Impact on Rural and Low-Income Communities** - Rural and low-income areas would see limited benefits from ESAs. Wealthier families could access private schools, while public schools in these areas could lose more funding and resources. This would harm local communities and further diminish educational opportunities for the students who need them most.
5. **Teacher and Education Quality** - Diverting funds to ESAs would reduce resources for public schools, potentially leading to teacher layoffs, larger class sizes, and program cuts. Texas already faces teacher shortages, and this funding reduction would only worsen the situation, harming both teachers and students.
6. **Increased Segregation** - Private schools can be selective in admissions, potentially leading to greater segregation. Wealthier students could attend private schools, while low-income and minority students remain in public schools, deepening educational inequality.
7. **Better Alternatives** - Rather than diverting funds from public schools, Texas should focus on improving them. Increasing teacher salaries, reducing class sizes, and expanding programs within public schools would provide better educational options without undermining the public system.

While ESAs may appear to offer more choice, HB 3 would ultimately harm public education in Texas. I urge you to oppose HB 3.

Anita Palmer, M. Ed.
Public Education
Humble, TX

I don't want to bill. Abbot is only trying to segregate black and white students. He wants to take us back to the 50s and 60s he is a prejudice races that only wants to do Trump's dirty deeds and eating those who do not need the eight he knows that black kids in brown kids cannot afford to go to private school even if they do get a \$10,000 voucher are they gonna pay the rest also it's no guarantee that the private schools will let them in so that we have our issue we me, Anita Palmer do not want this voucher !!

Veronica Ramirez

Self/teacher

El Paso, TX

Against HB3

Our public schools are already in a huge deficit and passing this bill will hinder our school systems even more. Private schools are for the privileged. They do not serve students with special needs. They are not for ALL students. As tax payers we pay to fund public institutions that serve ALL students. Funding private schools is unconstitutional and I'm afraid more of a business transaction than a civic duty of the governor.

Cheryl Hurst, Literacy acceleration specialist

AFT

Red Oak, TX

I've sent numerous reasons to stop school vouchers from going through. I'm sad to say that I feel like no matter what Texans tell you you are not going to listen public schools offer many opportunities for students to go to other campuses within their district if a school is not making the grade a student may transfer anywhere within that district. It is sad that you think the offering private schools to only 100,000 Texas children is going to offer the opportunity of school choice 100,000 children is only a drop in the bucket. If you allow vouchers to go through, you are only playing right into Greg Abbott plan to ruin public schools. Please vote for Texas children, and not against Texas. Children vote against school vouchers, and help save our public schools.

Texas Cook, Ms.

Self, teacher

Houston, TX

Texans want public school. There is nothing more fundamental to the idea of our children prospering than providing them with a well resourced public education. Vouchers are made to steal money from the hands of our children. It's taking their food, supplies, mentors, everything away from them. Vouchers are a punishment for the poor. Instead of being on equal footing, now anyone born to poor parents will be forced to suffer and have no choice in their lives. This is not school choice. This is welfare for the wealthy and it makes me sick. I am a well educated, compassionate individual who became a teacher because I knew I was needed. If you are a public official, please think about how YOU are needed in this moment. You must vote against vouchers.

Jackie Fleschman, Mrs.

Self

Dallas, TX

No to anything going to private schools and away from public schools, teachers and students.

Marie Troy

Cypress Fairbanks ISD

Barker, TX

I fully am apposed to this bill

Kelly Bezio

Self - teacher

Corpus Christi, TX

Voucher programs in other states have been proven to raise property taxes and lower education attainment. What we need are more funds for our public schools.

Bridget Kirby
Silsbee ISD
Silsbee, TX

In consideration of HB 3, my concerns are as follows:

Zero accountability or intervention requirements despite the utilization of public dollars. Public schools have been hounded by accountability and intervention when they do not perform to established standards. Those established standards require us to stand in front of our community and be transparent about our performance or lack thereof. The school community has clear evidence of tax dollars at work.

The ability of private schools to turn anyone away at the door without cause. School choice is really just the school's choice. We see evidence of that every day in our own community. Kids are turned away at the door because our community's private school does not have the resources or personnel to support certain disabilities or behaviors. Tax payer dollars should ensure equity for ALL students.

No specificity around testing requirements. We spend millions and billions of dollars on low-quality assessments to test public schools and sanction them when they do not perform adequately. That money could be spent on teacher quality and retention. Instead, testing and retesting requirements siphon our funding on a daily basis. Yet, private schools will not have those same requirements?

The fact that public schools already do so much with so little funding. Schools are having to cut critical positions—teachers, librarians, instructional support, paraprofessionals, administrators—and increase class sizes. You know we have had to do that in our school district. Yet, Governor Abbott has held funding hostage over this situation, starving districts of critical positions. Schools all around us have already had to cut the aforementioned positions. We cannot sustain here much longer.

No requirements for teacher certifications. While yes, we are teaching with more uncertified teachers than ever before in public schools (thanks--in large part--to extreme working conditions, larger class sizes, limited pay, and general lack of support of the education profession due to state decisions), we are still required to develop a plan to ensure high-quality educators serve our students.

Fewer dollars per student afforded to public school children. The current bill would afford public school children receive fewer dollars per student. This will never and could never make sense to me. It is a gross misappropriation of taxpayer money, and the inequity is disgusting. If private school education is worth that much, shouldn't public schools be receiving similar funding, if not more, to adequately support the plethora of needs our students have?

The lack of school choice access in small rural, communities. Our students would have to drive approximately 30 miles to reach an accredited private school. Accreditation matters when colleges review transcripts and diplomas. Our community private school is not accredited. Unfortunately, this means geography will define opportunity.

Ana Roberts
Self
Abilene, TX

Why are we providing funding for private education when the state of Texas has been underfunding all our students for the past 13 years Ive had a child in schools. We have school choice but let those who can afford private education continue the status quo.

Ken Damron
Self/Taxpayer
Austin, TX

Voucher programs are flawed policy proposals. Public taxpayer dollars should only go to public schools. Aside from what the Governor says, public school funding (per-pupil spending) in Texas ranks in the **BOTTOM 10** states in the entire country. That is completely unacceptable for a state as prosperous as Texas. Our legislators are expected to do better. Public schools should be the focus and priority of this committee, and the legislature as a whole. The Texas Constitution includes mandates for public school funding - not private. Let's simply abide by that.

Diane Hawley
Self
Fort Worth, TX

This is not what is in the best interest of Texas children. The public school system needs more funding not less funding. This is a scam for the wealthy that can already afford private education. It will do nothing to improve the literacy and education of those that depend on the public education.

Jennifer Smith, Mrs.
Self
Austin, TX

I am against this bill. It will take money away from our public schools which are already suffering because of a lack of funding. If our elected officials are sent to represent the voice of Texans, then this bill should not pass. The majority of this state does not want school vouchers. This is not about choice as there is already a choice for parents who do not want to send their children to public schools—choose to pay and send your children to private. That is their choice and our state government should **NOT** subsidize that choice. Have pride in the students of Texas. Have pride in our teachers. Have pride in our public schools and vote against this bill. Have pride in our public schools and vote to increase per student funding. Vote no on this bill.

Kay Hesketh
Self
Houston, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. Education should never be a political debate, as a well-educated public makes for a better citizenry, and, therefore, a better future for us all. It's why, as someone who chose to homeschool her own children, I continued to support my own property taxes going towards our public schools. So, as a native Texan, a graduate of Cy-Fair ISD, a former public school teacher, a homeschooling mom, and the mother of a future teacher, I urge every one of you to vote **AGAINST** the voucher program. Let's continue to fund public education for all our children and, more importantly, all our future, in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Amy Carter
Self/CFO Hempstead ISD
Huntsville, TX

I stand before you today to express my strong opposition to school vouchers. While the idea of giving parents more choices in their children's education may sound appealing, the reality is that vouchers do far more harm than good. They divert much-needed public funds away from our public schools, lack accountability, and ultimately widen the gap between wealthy and disadvantaged students.

First and foremost, school vouchers take taxpayer dollars out of public schools and funnel them into private institutions—many of which are not held to the same standards of accountability, transparency, or inclusivity. Public schools are the backbone of our communities. They educate the vast majority of our children, regardless of income, background, or ability. When we divert funding to private schools, we weaken the very institutions that serve as a lifeline for millions of students.

Second, vouchers do not guarantee better educational outcomes. Studies in states that have implemented large-scale voucher programs, such as Indiana and Louisiana, show that students using vouchers often perform worse on standardized tests than their peers in public schools. If the goal is to improve education, then draining resources from public schools is not the answer. Instead, we should invest in smaller class sizes, teacher retention, and updated resources that benefit all students.

Third, vouchers create inequities. Many private schools receiving voucher funds have selective admissions policies. They can deny students based on academic performance, disabilities, or even religious beliefs. Public schools, on the other hand, welcome every child—regardless of circumstance. When we subsidize private education with public dollars, we are effectively funding exclusionary practices that leave behind the students who need the most support.

Finally, let's not forget the fundamental purpose of public education: to ensure every child has access to quality schooling, regardless of their zip code. Instead of dismantling our public education system through vouchers, we should be strengthening it. We need more funding for teacher salaries, student resources, and school infrastructure—not policies that siphon away resources in favor of privatization.

I urge our lawmakers and communities to reject school vouchers and focus on real solutions that uplift all students. The future of our children—and our nation—depends on it.

Thank you.

Rigo Garza
Macedonian Christian Academy
Donna, TX

Please house the families that struggle financially just to have there kids in a Christian school. I know this bill will help these families.

Rich Elsasser, Dr.
Self
Georgetown, TX

As a parent that sent his kids to a private school I do not feel HB3 is good for education at all. ESAs have not worked in other states, I do not know why you feel they will work in Texas. Why create more separation in schools and our state?

Courtney Laufer
Self
Carrollton, TX

Keeping public money public is imperative at a time public schools are closing down left and right due to not enough funding. My kids school is being closed- and it's the best academically ranked school in our district. My children now have their education compromised due to underfunded public schools. This is not ok- keep public money public.

Michael Joseph
Self retired educator
KINGWOOD, TX

Rep. Buckley and Cunningham:

I am 100% against the voucher program coming to Texas. I do not have a dog in the hunt but what all of my educational experience(26 years) tells me is that it will not help students from poor backgrounds - rather it will give another financial break to middle-class and above families to help finance their private school education. And, this will further weaken our public schools - which for 200 plus years have been instrumental in helping equalize the playing field for all and making sure the American dream is still alive and well. Vouchers will go a long way towards ending that dream for millions of Texans.

In addition, when did we ever start thinking of giving money to places without any accountability?? That is what vouchers will do - and the charter schools do not have to take anyone they do not want to take. I seriously doubt that students in poor areas are going to be able to take their voucher(it will not come close to covering full tuition) and attend a school outside their neighborhood. The true reality of vouchers is that the rich will get richer and the poor, poorer. And the American dream will be less attainable for a big segment of our population.

Knowing you are busy, I appreciate your time on this.

Sincerely,

Michael Joseph

Carla Elliott
Self
College Station, TX

I am a retired voter and lifetime Texan. I am also a former public school teacher. I urge my representatives to reject this bill supporting school vouchers. We attract quality educators and serve our children the best with a transparent and affordable education system. Furthermore, I do not want my tax dollars going to support such a system.

Thank you,
Carla Elliott

Brad Eblen
self/retired teacher
Snook, TX

Please vote "no" on HB 3 and any other bills related to educational vouchers

Jennifer Lo
Self
Dallas, TX

You are rushing into something without thinking of the ramifications or analyzing data from other states who have implemented similar programs. This will devastate an already burdened system. Measures are not equal between public school and the schools that these vouchers will likely go to. How does this level the playing field or ensure access to quality education? Private schools typically do not offer services for students with learning differences or students with disabilities. Devastating the funds to public schools will only decrease access to an education for these students. Please stop and put safe guards in place and equal the reporting/funding between public and private schools if you insist on rolling out this program. The abuses in funding and the decrease in quality education for a state that is already struggling will have devastating ramifications for the families your office is supposed to represent.

Emmett Whitefield

Self

Tolar, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Instead let's talk about adequately funding public schools.

Rebecca Scoville

Self

Galveston, TX

I oppose HB3. It weekends are public school system, which is already under funded.

AMY SMITH

Self

Austin, TX

Please oppose the school voucher bill. We can afford to send our kids to private school and most likely will for middle and high school so this would benefit us but I think it's so detrimental to public schools. It will make it much harder for us to be able to get into the private school we have chosen for middle and high school. There aren't enough private schools. And we live down the street from our elementary school and it's such a great community that will be hurt and I think our property value will be become not as valuable. There are so many repercussions that are not being thought about.

Joanne Spridco

Self

Mansfield, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Angela Faulkner-Muirhead

Self, Educational Diagnostician

Splendora, TX

Please do not pass this bill! This is not a conservative bill and will funnel billions of dollars into private schools. This will destroy public education!

Nik Machado

Self

Austin, TX

Good Evening, Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nik Machado and I'm a sophomore at St. Edward's majoring in Social Work with minors in Criminal Justice Pre-Law and Political Science. I am here today to strongly oppose HB 3 because I know exactly what it means to attend and GRADUATE from a Texas public school. I graduated from McNeil High School in Round Rock, TX in 2023 and during my time in public education, I spent a large majority of my education in title 1 schools. These schools work tirelessly to serve students, despite being overlooked and underfunded.

And now, instead of fixing the issues public schools are actively facing—overworked and underpaid teachers, outdated resources, overcrowded classrooms, and a teacher shortage—this bill will take more away from the children in public education all for the illusion of a choice.

Let's be clear: ESAs are not about "choice." Private schools can pick and choose their students. They don't have to take kids with disabilities, English learners, or students like me—a former foster youth who heavily relied on free meals, dedicated teachers, social workers, and the support of a public school that believed in me. So, who really benefits from this illusion of choice?

Certainly not the 90% of Texas kids who attend public schools.

But I didn't just fight for my own education—I fought for my brother's too. The issues public schools actively face wear heavily on the education of students. My 17 year old brother was underserved and neglected in a Texas public school because of factors he could not control. Today, while waiting to testify, we exhausted our last option and withdrew my younger brother from 11th grade. Not because he wasn't smart or didn't try, but because our state refuses to fully invest in the schools that are supposed to serve kids like him.

Texas kids deserve better than to be neglected in favor of the illusion of choice. Public money belongs in public schools, where it serves all students, not just a privileged few. If we really care about "school choice," let's start by fully funding the schools that already serve millions of Texas families.

I urge this committee to stand with Texas students and vote NO on HB 3. Thank you.

Eileen Bau

self, project manager

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. Public taxpayer money should not be taken away from public schools that desperately need the funds. Private education systems offer no real transparency on what these funds would be used for and it is all too easy for these funds to be misused, and not go towards benefitting students in need.

Aaron Perk
Self
San Antonio, TX

My name is Aaron Perk, a teacher and parent from San Antonio, and I am opposed to HB 3 and similar voucher proposals.

In my experience as an educator, I have seen the effects of underfunding our state's public schools. My employer, a public school district, has been forced to cut allotments for staff, grow the size of classes, and avoid increasing salaries for employees in the face of staggering inflation. As a parent, I have also seen the effects of underfunding our state's public schools. My son's public school district now offers fewer educational programs, faces greater staff turnover, and next year his neighborhood elementary school will be closed. My family and the students I serve were failed by their state government in 2023 when it refused to increase the basic allotment per student in public education despite a historic budget surplus because representatives rejected vouchers.

Who gained from this abject failure of responsibility? The only beneficiaries I can tell are some of the richest families looking to get a tax break, our governor and several legislators gaining credence with a radical separatist fringe, and immensely powerful and wealthy political donors and private interests seeking to enrich themselves further. Most Texans understand what many of these people do not—public education is a public good and not comparable to services provided by a private business. Everyone in our community stands to benefit from well-funded public schools that are obligated to serve all students regardless of disability, income, religion, or background. Creating a redundant parallel bureaucracy to disperse public money to private institutions that are not accountable to taxpayers nor have to serve their children is not in the public interest. The paltry sum offered for increasing the basic allotment this session demonstrates that the legislature cannot have it both ways and must recognize that every dollar dedicated toward vouchers comes at the expense of our constitutionally-mandated public education system.

I implore you to vote against this bill and all voucher schemes.

Laura Dugey
Self
Austin, TX

I am against the voucher bill. I dont want my state representatives to vote for it because they would not be representing me. I would not vote for it. I would let it die.

Public schools should be enriched and teacher should be paid more and we should invest in our children's education in the public system, and not move towards a private system that benefits a few oligarchs!

Natasha Wallace
Self
Caddo Mills, TX

Opposition of the bill & ESAs

Laura Martinez

self-parent

Austin, TX

My name is Laura Martinez and I am testifying on my own behalf. I am a parent of two kids who have benefited from Texas public schools and I am here today to oppose House Bill 3. We are a military family so our kids have also attended public schools in Virginia, Washington State and Department of Defense (DODEA) schools, while stationed in Germany. I would like to focus on the unique importance of strong public schools for military children. Military families typically move every 6 months to 3 years and strong public schools are essential to these children's successful adaptation, as they PCS (move) over and over again.

Beyond the social importance for military children, public schools have common courses and standards which make it easier for students to change schools and pick up where they left off at their last duty station. For 2 years, our kids attended private schools and while the rigor and creativity of the classes was excellent, the curriculum was different, resulting in learning gaps when our kids re-entered public schools.

HB3 would funnel money out of our public schools and into private schools. Of course military children are not the only students who would be impacted by this bill, but I do believe they would be disproportionately harmed. Back in 2018, there was congressional legislation proposed to create school vouchers for military families (HR 5199 and S 2517). There was strong opposition to these bills from military families and organizations such as the Military Child Education Coalition.

In a few short months, my kids will be high school graduates but I am here today for my future grandchildren, my neighbors, and children all over our state. Please show Texas children that you believe in their future: fully fund our public schools and vote no on any voucher or ESA (educational savings account) bill. Thank you.

Kenneth Harrington

Self

Missouri City, TX

Am strongly against HB 3. Providing funds in the amount of \$10,000 (or any amount for that matter) takes away from resources that can provide services to others that are in need within the state of Texas. The fact that the state currently only provides about \$6380 per student to public schools and would agree to provide \$10,000 for student to attend a private school proves that law makers are willing to dismantle the current system for large metropolitan areas within Texas. It is difficult to understand how someone can think that this makes sense. I have no idea who is funneling money to Abbott to get this done, but someone should be doing some digging. I have heard that the money won't come from the current school funds, but it has to come from somewhere. If you have that much extra money, just give it back to the taxpayers or lower the state sales tax. Providing extra money to people who already have enough money to pay for private school is NOT where I want my tax dollars to go. If it is that important, bring it to a vote to the citizens of Texas.

Steven R. Moore, Mr

Argyle ISD. Argyle Community. Myself and my family. All Texas Taxoayers.

Argyle, TX

As a parent of 4 graduated from public schools. A Board Of Trustee's for 18 yrs. 1999 -2019. I understand state funding. I understand teachers pay. I have a private school 1.8 miles from my home. I've had the privilege of being a part of the best district in Texas. Provided by the students, the staff and the community. Private schools don't and won't educate our public students. Especially the ones the need public education and special programs the most. Private schools don't have the room, the educated staff nor the desire to educate all classes of our population. Private school demand much more monetary demands on parents than the vouchers will ever provide. In turn not inviting or excepting any additional amount of students. Homeschool parents want vouchers so they can supplement their income. I heard a mom of three say what she was gonna do with all that extra money. It wasn't going to be used to education her children it was going to used to spoil herself. HB 3 is setting us up for the worse workforce in 6 yrs and beyond we have ever seen. Boucher students are going to suffer and most of all our public school students will suffer. College requirements will need to be lowered just to except our states own students into our state schools. My republican vote stands with my fellow democrats to defeat this bill and to vote out all who support it. Gov Abbott will be the first to go and all him wealth contributors. Call me and I'll stand talk agai st this injustice. Thanks Steven Moore Argyle Texas and proud of it.

Kerry Jonietz
PTA
San Antonio, TX

Please vote no to HB3. It is not what Texas needs. It does not support 5.5 million public school students. It takes public school funds, whether in the education fund or not, and funnels it to private schools. This is not ok. We don't do this with roads and we shouldn't do it with students!

Kristin Gilbert
Self
SAN ANTONIO, TX

Please do not allow the establishment of an education savings account program. Public money from tax payers and government funds should never go to the private schools since private schools are not held accountable to the taxpayers or government. Private schools do not provide education to all children, therefore they should not receive public funds. Please do not allow this to go through and vote no on hb3.

Kelly Gunn
Self
San Antonio, TX

Parents DO NOT want vouchers. Just fund our public schools.

Julia Albright
self, retired
Coppell, TX

I have multiple concerns about House Bill 3:

1. It will divert funds from already strapped public schools - the basic allotment has not been increased since 2019, any educational bill must fully fund public schools with the 2019 basic allotment in today's dollars
2. Corruption - Why is Jeff Yass the major lobbyist behind this bill? Why did governor Abbott accept millions upon millions in campaign funds from Yass? It is because he is a vendor who will run this program. Why did Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks - who have been outspoken about their Christian Nationalist agenda- fund the opponents of true conservative republicans who voted against vouchers in the last session? Not to mention in the hearing yesterday, Representative Gina Hinojosa referenced on page 28 of the bill that the "Educational Assistance Organization" is allowed to accept bribes. The origins of this bill and the content of the bill are full of corruption.
3. Lack of transparency - It is untrue that this bill will benefit low income and special needs families. The voucher will be used by families whose students are already in private school or who already know they plan to send their child to private school. Two reasons behind this: \$10,000 is not enough to cover the cost of most private schools so a low income family would have to not only transport their child to school but also pay for the balance of the tuition. There are simply not enough private schools to offer capacity for a significant number of students. If the bill is truly for special needs and low income families, add the language to restrict it to them.
4. It is a tenet of the Texas Constitution that the state provide a strong public education to all children. This bill violates this tenet. In closing, we have to do better for Texas, for our children, for our future. Stop bowing to the money, stop putting your own personal wealth above that of your constituents. YOU have to do better!

Vicki Stone

Self

Lindale, TX

I am asking for another vote on school "choice" vouchers in Texas. I am a registered Republican and live in a semi rural school district. I am not supportive of vouchers. In order to be a great state, we need to be ranked much higher in public education. This is not the way to get there. As a military family, we moved all over and depended on public education in each location. We never had time to apply for, much less get on waiting lists, for private schools. We did, however, choose our homes by school district. In addition, we have a child with medical needs. We were always welcomed in public school programs, with no questions. Great schools make great communities! Educated citizens make great community leaders. Please know that this Republican does not support school vouchers/choice.

Karla Harris

Self

Lake Jackson, TX

I stand firmly against HB3. Public money should not be used for private school. According to the Texas constitution the state is supposed to provide a quality education for all students. You have now added testing that is anywhere between two grade levels to five grade levels of what students are

Supposed to be at in order to tell the world we are failing at our jobs. Stop this nonsense. You're above your raisin'

Beth Winstead

Self

Garland, TX

I object to school vouchers being used for private schools. This must not happen in Texas.

Kristan Poirot

Self

College Station, TX

I ask that you vote no to HB3, SB2, or any voucher/ESA bill and instead prioritize fully funding public schools first by enrollment rather than attendance, increase the basic allotment by \$1300 to catch up with inflation, and support strong teacher and staff pay raises. This bill allows people making above \$160,000 to apply such that the richest families may benefit. Our tax dollars should support all students, not just a select few. Please prioritize strong public schools for all Texas children.

Henderson Katy

Self

Montgomery, TX

Public tax money is not intended for private choices. Vouchers have failed everywhere and are fraught with fraud and corruption. You don't work for big dollar donors. You work for Texas citizens. No vouchers. Full stop.

Junida Howard

Self- educational diagnostician

Irving, TX

This bill is fiscally irresponsible and unfair to public schools who are chronically underfunded by unfunded mandates like police officers or armed officers in all campuses. Please rethink this cruelty of giving private schools thousands more per child versus public schools and not requiring same rules and laws such as IDEA.

JENNA MAYNARD

Self

Plano, TX

I strongly opposed HB3. This is not best for students. This is not best for educators and this is not best for parents. We already have choices for our kids and if parents are unhappy with the public schools around Texas, then your job as a legislature is to fund and fix them. End of story.

Julian McMurrey

Self

College Station, TX

Please vote NO on vouchers!

Olga Medelez

Self/ Teacher

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers would be devastating to public schools! No vouchers

Shanda Gary

Self- homeschool mom

Bertram, TX

There are smarter people than me ready to state facts and figures on why HB3 is an awful bill for Texans. But I can tell you that I have a hard time finding any comments from constituents in my area and neighboring precincts that want this bill. I see support from politicians and political donors and an average citizen like me has to ask why?? The last I checked there was a process for passing laws and it starts with the elected officials knowing what their constituents want and then voting according to that knowledge. Apparently, Texas politicians have forgotten that basic citizenship lesson because what I see is politicians ignoring thousands of comments online, emails, and phone calls OPPOSED to HB3. Let the people vote so the majority opinion is known publicly. I am a conservative Texan. I pay attention. This is an absolute outrage to watch in our great state of Texas. Texas is supposed to lead the way on freedoms, conservatism, and just plain ol' common sense. Texas citizens do not get pushed around by aloof politicians. We get loud and push right back.

Again, HB3 IS NOT fiscally conservative, squeezes out parental choice and freedom, does not help public schools, private schools, or homeschool families. In fact, the Home school families I know will want no part of this voucher system. The constituents demand to be heard on this. When the constituents are this vocal about a bill- politicians better listen. Time to get out there and hold some town halls and explain yourselves. Explain the pros and cons and then LISTEN to the constituents. If you have not convinced them- change your vote. If Governor Abbott got you elected specifically to pass this bill- too bad. If the people say NAY- the representative in our precinct- ELLEN TROXCLAIR- better say NAY.

Emily Kaszczuk

Self/parent

Leander, TX

I strongly oppose the creation of ESAs. I am against diverting public dollars from public schools. All recipients of public dollars should be subject to the same state assessments, accountability, and parental rights.

ESAs divert funding from our public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

ESAs directly hurt students with disabilities who receive Special Education services in Public Schools in the State of Texas. These ESAs are inaccessible to the vast majority of our disabled students, and that is before they have a chance at any lottery or know if a private school will accept, serve, or retain them. The students not served by the vouchers will be left receiving special education services in underfunded understaffed Public Schools that this state put in this situation.

This is unacceptable. I want this legislature to take accountability, listen to the parent voice, and have the courage to do the right thing: say No to ESA/Vouchers and Fund our Public Schools properly.

Marlo Rockhold

Teachers

Leander, TX

I have been in education for 32 years. I also have homeschooled my own child while continuing my role as teacher. I appreciated the ability to make such a difficult choice and have no regrets. There was incredible benefit to her receiving one on one attention at a critical brain development timeframe. This is why I feel strongly about school choice and why I feel strongly that taxpayers should not be paying for this choice. I would have never canvassed my neighborhood telling my neighbors that they each must pay me a set amount of money so I could homeschool my child, with this money benefitting only her and not a larger population. This is essentially what you are doing with vouchers. Yes, you did put this "to vote" on the Republican ballot, but this was not put to vote to the state as a whole. You keep saying this is what Texans want. Well, I'm about as Texan as one can get, with my first ancestor coming here just before Texas joined the nation, and I can assure you that I do not support holding school funding hostage - impacting a vast majority of children in our state - while pushing vouchers that will not only impact a small portion but will have negative impacts on education for years. You say that our schools are failing. What you don't ever say is that teachers are working tirelessly to step up where you have not, to fill learning gaps caused by the curriculum YOU created, manage large student loads with diverse needs and levels with little to no extra planning time or support. You say you want to figure out why teachers are leaving in droves but create a task force for this that originally did not include any teachers. You say teachers are indoctrinating students when the vast majority are not. And you continually insult and disrespect the education that is happening in our schools. This voucher plan is going to be a final slap in the face for many, many people. All so you can push your own personal agendas. Whose indoctrinating whom?

Sandra Harbour, Ms

Abilene ISD

Sweetwater, TX

Please vote no on school vouchers. This undermines public schools and isn't a real offer for those students already on the margins financially.

Heather Lemmons

Self - Admin

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill as I believe that if this is enacted it will lead to the demise of public education and lead to further advantages for those who have less need of such assistance. While I do not oppose private education, the majority of the population cannot choose this for many reasons and this will not enable to be more able to do so, but divert much-needed funds away from those who benefit from public education. With the state of the federal government trying to strip down the department of education, our Texas schools need more aid from our taxpayer funds and we should not be seeking to further limit their capacity to aid all students, not just those who already have a financial advantage available for purchase. Thank you.

Stephanie Boydston

Self - 20 year public school educator

Adrian, TX

Please vote AGAINST the voucher program. Everything has already been said that I would say.

Eric Guerra Eric Guerra

Self

Spicewood, TX

I Oppose.

Josh Hall
Self
Joshua, TX

I oppose HB3 for vouchers/ESA's.
We must fully fund public education with at least a \$1500 increase in the basic allotment.

Amalia Runnels
self
Austin, TX

If our tax dollars go to private schools then they must also meet the same federal and state mandates as public schools. Such as the following but not limited to:

1. State mandated TEKS and state mandated curriculum.
2. Private schools must give the STAAR assessments, End of Course Assessments, benchmarks, ...
3. Teachers in private schools must meet the same educational requirements, trainings (including the Reading Academy), and be certified through the State of Texas.
3. Each private school must have the same demographic numbers and public schools in their region. For example, If they have the enrollment as 3A public schools in their region, they must enroll the same percentage of special education students (including intellectually challenged and behaviorally challenged), 504, Dyslexic, Deaf, Blind, Dyslexic, ...
4. They must participate in the state school ranking system with the same actions depending on their scores that are based on state assessment scores.
5. They must abide by the same UIL rules and guidelines for academic and sports.

Plus equal funding per pupil

Jan Stone
Citizen
Austin, TX

Vote No

Lisa Sniggs
Self
Pinehurst, TX

As a public school teacher that hasn't gotten a raise in three years and public school parent, I think it is absolutely absurd that you would put forth a bill that discriminates against the less fortunate instead of releasing the funds to schools!! Every single state in the country that has enacted a bill like this has seen significant gaps in achievement, pay, funding, and scores - the rich got richer and smarter and the poor got poorer and couldn't advance. Why on Earth would Texas want to join the ranks of other states in the bottom 15 of the country in reading and math skills?!

If you are insistent on being corrupt enough to give yourself a \$10K tax break, then at least put requirements on the money!! Any private school, charter, or homeschool parent that accepts the voucher accepts under the same funding laws that public schools abide by - they only get the money based off of attendance!! Also, they should be held to the same achievement standards as public schools - follow the TEKS and be graded on scores from standardized testing in all required subjects. ONLY IF they agree to these stipulations with the funding would I be comfortable.

In a world free of corruption in politics, the money from Robin Hood (recapture) would have been released during COVID to help all public schools and retain high quality teachers. Instead, we have districts laying off teachers because they cannot pay their salaries or districts like mine that haven't given a raise in three years because the funds aren't available.

Please have common sense and listen to the millions of people on social media and thousands that have come to the capitol or sent feedback against school choice and ESAs. Don't make us look stupid like we did with Robin Hood (recapture) in the early 2000s. We should have learned from those mistakes!!

Ted Hsieh
Self
Houston, TX

Please vote against this. Keep funds in public schools!

Lesley Forte
Self
Anna, TX

Please note I do NOT support this voucher bill. However you refer to it, voucher or education savings account, it's a coupon for the wealthy. Please properly fund and care for our public schools. There are other ways to meet the needs of families that do not include hand outs to the wealthy. If this were really about students, congress would help public schools emulate private school strengths, such as decreasing class sizes, increasing teacher pay, offering greater parent involvement, offering better curriculum, particularly curriculum that teachers know is effective, etc.

Jillian Griffin
Self
Austin, TX

I am the parent of two public school students in Texas, one of which has an IEP. I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed voucher program. I do not want to see tax payer funds allocated to private education. This voucher program will do irreparable harm to students in public education, particularly those like mine, who rely on the public education system to receive special education supports.

I live in a major city, and even here, there are only two private schools that serve autistic children such as my own and the cost of both of those schools is 2-3 times the amount of the proposed voucher amount. Neither school offer transportation, so they are not only cost prohibitive WITH a voucher, they are not feasible for my child to attend. If this is true for someone living in an urban area, with many school choice opportunities (private, public, charter), then it goes without saying that this program cuts out many families who live in counties smaller than my own.

Further, I've been following the news of outcomes for voucher programs in other states across the nation. Academic outcomes have not improved in Florida and Arizona, and the programs have been financially burdensome on those states. Programs in Nebraska and Illinois have ended do to their failure. I would hope our legislatures would have the foresight to see that this program is no different and will fail Texas children as it has children elsewhere.

I respectfully request that you end these attempts at a voucher program in Texas and increase the per student allotment for our public schools.

Thanks,
Jillian Griffin

Leslie Wright, Teacher
Retired teachers of Tx
Friona, TX

We as teachers are against it. It is not what is best for the students. We need a choice. Let us vote what is best for our kids.

Kimberly Parker
Self
Round Rock, TX

An education savings account will pull essential funding from public schools. Please vote against this bill which will impact essential funding for public school and continue to cause a gap in services for those who are most vulnerable.

Brittney Womack

Self

Grapevine, TX

No to HB3. Public education should be fully funded. My children are just beginning their education journey and the damage you would do to their very loved and amazing schools will have the greatest impact on them. I will forever fight for my kids to have the education they deserve as well as kids in areas where this bill will have an even more devastating impact. Our representatives may be able to be bought out by billionaires but moms fighting for the well being of their children's safety and education will not!

Katherine Ortiz

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Katherine

Janita Watson

Self

Austin, TX

I do not support vouchers or other financial aid that takes students out of public education in Texas! I received a great education through public schools in Dallas and San Antonio. My children had fine educations in Austin. Please support public education

Nancy J Rodriguez Rodriguez

Self

New Braunfels, TX

AGAINST HB3. Public money SHOULD be used to FULLY FUND PUBLIC SCHOOL! VOTE NO TO VOUCHERS!

Freddie Paredes

Self

Mckinney, TX

We Texas residents and tax payers have already voted against vouchers, but for some reason our representatives continue to push it as an important part of legislation. We need better funded public schools, not money to private schools. We should not have to pay for people to send kids to private school. Just like you all were against paying for college loans. Let's drop this and improve our public schools.

Audrae Burton

Self

Bluff Dale, TX

I am asking ALL to vote NO to HB 3 and HB2!

Jennifer Thomas

My public school children

Austin, TX

This bill should not be passed. Public dollars belong in PUBLIC schools. "Education savings accounts" i.e. vouchers would rob Texas public schools of money for private schools. And it will not benefit the middle class. This bill would help a minority of people only. It would only further the division between the haves and the have-nots in Texas as well as increase bigotry and discrimination, and we do not need any of that. I am proud of my public school education in Texas. I have a high school degree from public high school in Austin, TX as well as two degrees from a public university, the University of Texas at Austin. I have two children currently attending public schools in Texas. I can see they are getting a great education and that the teachers and administrators are qualified and dedicated. Texans do not need "education savings accounts" i.e. vouchers - they need the Texas Legislature to support the current public school system. Vote no on this bill.

Brett Holder, Mr

Public Transportation Director/Self

Shallowater, TX

How bout we take care of Public Schools! I do not want my tax money spent on private education period. I believe that y'all taking my money for this is nothing short of stealing.

Benita G Zepeda

Retired educator

Lyford, TX

o aid Texas residents in electronically submitting public comments to House Please aid committees on measures or matters included on public hearing. notices.

Jean Whitehead

Self Teacher

Amarillo, TX

Oppose vouchers for private school tuition. The public schools are already underfunded. Turning our tax dollars o er to private school millionaire owners is unconscionable!

Michele Gortney, LPC-S

Self

Alvarado, TX

Private school vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. These vouchers would destroy the public school system that educates the majority of Texas children. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Mary Winkler

Self

Allen, TX

I DO NOT SUPPORT this bill. Texas already does not fund our public schools appropriately, and families already have school choice. There is not one state that has been successful with school choice vouchers. Please DO NOT pass this bill. I am a public school teacher in my 23rd year of teaching in the north Texas area. Texas students deserve better. Fund public schools and don't give away our tax dollars to families that already send their kids to private or charter schools. They can already afford this! Release the funding to our public schools that has been held from them. Every single day on the news we hear of districts having to make tough decisions to make the budget work, closing schools, reducing staff, cutting programs. All of these things hurt our students experiences and are a direct result of not being funded appropriately. Fund our schools based on enrollment and raise the daily allotment to match inflation.

Kara Broeker

Self stay at home mom

Flower Mound, TX

As a parent of four children who have gone through the public school system, I am vehemently against this bill. Taxpayer money should be directed to the public school system of Texas for all of our students. Those choosing to send their children to private schools have always had that choice and will continue to do so on their own dime. Why are billionaires from other states buying our governor and funneling millions to him? Why would those from other states have an interest in the education of Texans? Governor Abbott and every elected official in Texas need to listen to their constituents and say no!! This, along with the dismantling of the Department of Education will completely stop the growth of our system and hurt those who need it most!!

Lorena Higuera, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

Education is not better in Texas. In 2022, my son was in a class of 43 students in 4th grade due to the lack of teachers and funding for public schools. HB 3 will further exacerbate public school resources in Texas, and lead to larger class sizes, fewer teachers, and less access to services like special education and extracurricular activities. The bill disproportionately harms marginalized communities, deepens educational inequities, and widens the gap between the rich and the poor in Texas. HB3 threatens to undermine public education by diverting critical funds away from public schools to private institutions, which lack accountability and oversight. Private schools are not required to serve all students, particularly those with special needs or students from disadvantaged backgrounds. However, public schools are required to serve all students.

I am a proud graduate of public education in Texas and I currently have two children in public education in Texas. I hope and pray the quality of education in Texas improves with an increase allotment from Texas. Please keep public tax dollars in public school and fund our public schools.

Ericka Castleberg

Self

Flower Mound, TX

I please fully fund public schools and keep tax dollars in public schools where they belong.

Cori Pratt
Self
Dallas, TX

I oppose vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Janet Kilgore, Retired teacher
TRS
Honey Grove, TX

Governor Abbott is to be informed that Texss voters are definitely against vouchers for private schools the upteenth time, but Abbott is deliberately going against the wishes of the majority of Texas voters. "Hear it in the back" We want no vouchers. Please fund public school fully and give teachers a decent living wage.

Kelly Moore
Self
Tomball, TX

As a parent and educator,I opposed publicly funded vouchers for private schools.

Linda Filgo
Self and children of tTexas
Waco, TX

No vouchers. The future of our state and vast majority of its citizens depends on strong public school funding. We rank low enough as it is; dont need further defunding.

Aubrey Thomas
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am a parent of 3 elementary school aged children and resident in San Antonio. I oppose HB 3 because I support our public schools. My family moved to Texas about 3 years ago for my job. We bought our home in NEISD because of the amazing public schools. Our children receive an amazing education. Vouchers will divert funding from our public schools and will not provide any public benefit. It is a wasteful use of taxpayer dollars. I was born and raised in Arizona; I have seen how vouchers impact the state budget and harm schools. I don't want that for our schools. Please do not pass this bill. We can do better for our children.

Carmen Lucero
Amarillo Christian Academy
Amarillo, TX

As an educator, mother, and founder of a microschool in Texas, I strongly support HB3 and the creation of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). This bill will empower parents, expand educational opportunities, and ensure that every child has access to the best learning environment suited to their needs.

As a mother, I understand the challenge of finding the right educational fit. Every child is unique, yet many families are limited to a one-size-fits-all system that may not serve their needs. ESAs give parents the ability to choose the best educational setting—whether it be a public, private, charter, homeschool, or microschool—by allowing education funding to follow the student. This ensures that families, not bureaucracies, determine the best path for their child’s success.

As an educator, I have seen students struggle in traditional settings due to learning differences, social concerns, or lack of resources. HB3 would allow families to seek individualized instruction and innovative learning environments where students can thrive. Education is about more than test scores—it’s about fostering critical thinking, confidence, and a lifelong love of learning. With ESAs, families gain access to the tools, resources, and programs that make this possible.

As the founder of a microschool, I witness the growing demand for personalized learning. Many families seek small, values-based environments that prioritize their child’s academic and character development. However, financial constraints often prevent them from accessing these options. HB3 would remove barriers, making high-quality education available to more children regardless of socioeconomic background.

Beyond individual families, HB3 benefits Texas as a whole. When students find environments where they can excel, academic outcomes improve, communities strengthen, and our workforce becomes more competitive. Expanding educational choice fosters innovation, encouraging all schools—public and private—to improve and adapt. A well-educated population strengthens our state’s economy and future.

Critics argue that ESAs divert funds from public schools, but this is a misconception. Funding follows the child, ensuring that resources are used where they best serve students. Public schools remain a vital part of our system and will continue to receive funding while benefiting from increased educational competition and innovation.

HB3 is about empowering families and ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has access to an excellent education. I urge Texas lawmakers to pass this bill and make ESAs a reality for Texas families. Our children’s futures depend on it!

Leslie Currens
self software developer
Austin, TX

Public dollars belong in Public schools. There are so many things wrong with this voucher scam it's hard to know where to begin. Taxpayer money should not go to parents who already are paying for private schools. Vouchers will not be enough to cover tuition at private schools for needy kids. Private schools have no accountability. Private schools can pick their students and reject or eject any student they want for any reason at any time. Parents already have a choice - many already send their kids to private schools, but they also have the choice to go to their public school. Private schools do not cover transportation for students, meals, books, supplies, etc. Public schools are not doing as well as they can because the Texas Legislature has not funded public schools adequately. If you want to improve public schools, don't take money away from them with a voucher scam. Instead, increase the per-pupil funding, and base it on enrollment, not average attendance. Schools still have to pay the teachers and facilities even if a student is out sick. Pay teachers more. Increase Public School funding. Do not bankrupt our state by sending public dollars to rich parents who don't need the money. Vote NO on the Private School Voucher scam.

Jacquelyn Muennink

Myself

Hondo, TX

As a Republican voter, the child of a public school teacher, and a parent of a public school student, I am writing to strongly oppose the push for school vouchers in Texas. While school choice has always existed for those with the means, I have been privileged with that ability and have continuously CHOSEN public schools. Our state should be making the same choice—to fully support and strengthen our public education system, rather than diverting taxpayer dollars to private institutions with little accountability.

Parents have always had the ability to make the best educational choice for their children, whether that be public, private, charter, or homeschooling. That choice remains, but it should not come at the expense of public education. The state has an obligation to provide a strong public school system, and if parents decide that an alternative option better suits their needs, that is their right—but it should be funded by personal choice, not by taxpayer dollars intended for public schools.

Public schools serve the vast majority of Texas students, including those with special needs, those from low-income families, and those in rural areas where private school options are either limited or nonexistent. Vouchers do not “create” school choice—they simply subsidize private schools at the expense of the public school system, which is already underfunded and struggling to retain quality educators. Rather than diverting resources, we should be investing in better teacher pay, smaller class sizes, and improved educational opportunities for all Texas children.

Public education is a cornerstone of our state’s success, and as someone who has directly benefited from and continues to support it, I urge you to stand against school vouchers. Texans deserve a state government that prioritizes strengthening public schools—not undermining them.

Thank you.

Connie Gooding

Self

Hutto, TX

Strongly opposed to HB3, essentially I see it as a supplemental income for families who have the financial means to select private schools for their children. There all ready exist school choice so this bill should not deceive people by pretending to provide something that is in place now.

Kelly Osang, No on HB3

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose passage of HB3. This bill is NOT what a majority of Texans want. I . want public schools to be adequately funded. Parents currently have a choice. Parents can send their children to public schools, private schools and they can home school. We do not need legislation to allow these choices. Most private schools already offer scholarships to those in need.

Erin Sutka
self
McKinney, TX

1. HB3 harms public schools and students already crippled by underfunding.
Texas public schools, which serve over 5.4 million children, have not received a meaningful funding increase since 2019. Districts statewide are cutting critical programs, from pre-K and special education to arts and STEM electives, while teacher vacancies soar and classrooms overflow. Rural and underserved communities bear the brunt of this neglect. Now, HB3 seeks to drain billions more from public schools through vouchers, holding taxpayer dollars hostage to fund unaccountable private institutions. This will deepen the crisis, leaving students with fewer resources, fewer opportunities, and fewer pathways to success.
 2. Vouchers lack accountability and exacerbate inequity.
Private schools are not required to adhere to state academic standards, serve students with disabilities, or disclose how they use public funds. They can cherry-pick students, discriminate based on religion or identity, and operate without oversight. Meanwhile, public schools, which welcome every child, are legally obligated to meet strict accountability measures. Diverting funds to unregulated voucher programs subsidizes privilege for a few while robbing the majority of Texas children of the support they are owed.
 3. HB3 ignores real solutions to Texas' education crisis.
Instead of addressing the state's 4 billion shortfall in public school funding or raising teacher pay, \$7,500 below the national average, this bill prioritizes privatization. Vouchers do not improve outcomes: studies show they worsen achievement gaps and fail to help most low-income families, who still cannot afford private tuition even with vouchers. Meanwhile, billions in taxpayer dollars remain held hostage in surplus state coffers while classrooms crumble.
 4. Public education is a Texas value and a public good.
Our schools unite communities, drive economic growth, and prepare future generations. HB3 fractures this foundation, pitting families against one another and abandoning the 94% of Texas students who rely on public education. Rural districts, already at risk of closure, cannot survive further cuts.
- Call to Action:
Reject HB3. Unlock the billions owed to public schools, pass equitable funding reforms, and invest in proven strategies: competitive teacher salaries, classroom resources, and early childhood education. Do not sacrifice Texas children to a voucher scheme that benefits the wealthy and gambles with our state's future.

Emy Lou Sawyer
Self
Austin, TX

I am urgently opposed to the voucher program and steadfastly stand behind a fully funded and high quality public education for all our children. I had this for myself and for my children and now want it for my grandchildren. Please open your eyes to reality.

Gina Arefi
Self
The Colony, TX

Taxpayers want fairness. We don't care where a kid goes to school, but if you're going to fund \$10,000 of MY hard earned TEACHER salary for kids to choose private or homeschool, then you need your fund EVERY public school student \$10,000. Of STATE money- not federal.
You are not playing fair and you are sacrificing students' education, teachers' salaries, and TRS. We can barely get by now working 2 jobs. Please. Be reasonable. Stand up to Abbott and everyone who's in his pocket. Do what's right for Texas citizens. All of them- not just the wealthy ones.

Claudia Ciunciusky Ciunciusky, Mrs
Self
Southlake, TX

We need to have the right to decide where I invest the money for my kids education. Yes to the voucher

Norma Laird
Self
Spicewood, TX

Once again I write to ask the legislature to stand by public schools and say no to vouchers. While vouchers are touted as “school choice” which I am favor of, in reality vouchers are a way to bankroll the rich friends in politics circles to give other rich folks another hand out on the back of a poorly funded public school system. Public schools serve all children, teach to every child’s level, teach ethics/character traits, offer opportunities for leadership, teach the harms of bullying, safe guard against aggressors, work with parents and communities, maintain emails and websites for all to stay current, evaluate, challenge, remediate and maintain ongoing assessments and teach curriculum! Teacher identify the abused, encouraging those who have lost hope, and celebrate every child’s success. There are not assistance helping out and most teacher’s classrooms are bursting at the seams. As a retired teacher, school volunteer and grandmother to elementary age grandchildren, I can speak to the width and breath of the demands on public schools. Vouchers will allow students a partial tuition to a private school which most public school children cannot make up the difference; vouchers will allow private schools to pick and choose who is accepted, leaving the most challenging student to the poorly funded public schools; vouchers will syphon off needed funds from public schools and give to private schools. School choice is a nice slogan, but that is not the reality of what the voucher system will do. It creates a weakened public school system, allows the rich to get yet another unwarranted break and leaves the children of Texas without the funds and schools they need to be successful. If you study the data on vouchers, you will find they are a colossal failure in every instance. Stand up for Texas children and say no to vouchers.

Phyllis Hendersom, Mrs
Self
Orange, TX

Stop the voucher payments. Support public school systems.

Christine Burns
Self - Banker
Frisco, TX

I believe that the passing of this legislation will financially undermine our public schools and not serve the children who need it the most. It will ultimately be used by parents who already send their children to private schools and not benefit ALL children. It would be extremely difficult for lower income parents to drive their children across town to a school that does not provide bus service and the vouchers would not cover the full costs of attending private schools. This is why I oppose this bill and believe that it is private school funding for the rich. Please vote against this bill for the good of all children and not just the wealthy ones. Please fight for our public schools and not against them.

Karen Laney Jones
Self
Denton, TX

Education savings accounts are giving public dollars to specific people in the guise of education. There are not enough open seats or available private schools for this to even be feasible. Public schools should be fully funded to allow the schools to provide the education and services students and families need.

Caitlin Corkill
self
Austin, TX

This bill will not help TX families who need the help, but rather continue to help those who don't. I strongly oppose this bill for TX

Leslie Ragland, Dr.

Self Veterinarian

Austin, TX

This bill will do nothing to help our public schools in Texas. It will just go to the families with the resources to already send their children to private schools. There are many rural counties where the choice of private schools is nothing or next to nothing so the schools in these counties will be robbed of needed funds and no children will be helped. It's time our Texas elected officials listened to the people of Texas and not the billionaires. We don't want this!!!

Celia Zamadics

Self

AUSTIN, TX

Why not put more money into public schools and make them better? Public schools do a great job and could do better with more money. Look at Finland.

On the other hand, vouchers do not improve student academic outcomes. Vouchers are more expensive than public schools.

Vouchers are a subsidy for students who already attend private schools. Do the research. Vouchers are a bad idea for our children.

Jodie Warren

Self- working as an EMT. Former school teacher

Leander, TX

I am a former public school teacher who had children in both private school and public schools. I believe it is critical that tax dollars stay in the public schools. There are many ways to attend schools of our choice and the voucher system does not facilitate lower income families attending private schools effectively. Statistics show that vouchers will severely hinder the ability for strong education for the vast majority of our students who want to be in the public schools. They can also attend charter schools or request to attend a higher rated school in their district.

I urge you to vote NO on school vouchers.

Robbie Ausley

self/retired office manager

Austin, TX

I have four children and ten grandchildren who have received excellent education and graduated from Texas public schools. Two of my daughters and one granddaughter now teach in Texas public schools. They and their students have suffered from lack of proper funding of public schools for the last few years. Please do not further erode Texas schools with public school vouchers by using public dollars for private education which will be further drain support of our public schools.

Noelle Mcaden

San Angelo Tax Payers

San Angelo, TX

San Angelo ISD has wreaked havoc with our tax dollars, I would absolutely prefer my tax dollars to go to a private school. My family is lower income, and my entire paycheck goes to pay for my two children to attend private school instead of have to drown in SAISD.

Debra Decker, Mrs

Teacher

San Angelo, TX

Public schools and teachers need more support. 33 years in the classroom and I will never see the incentive moneys claiming to help teachers. Education should be a team effort. Please don't make teachers jump through more hoops than we already have to.

Jorge Vázquez

Self and any reasonable person

Humble, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. This bill is wrong and it needs to be defeated. Our public school students will suffer because of this. The people of Texas do not want to subsidize rich people's private school for their kids. I'm voting NO!!

Harold Munoz

Self

San Angelo, TX

I'm against this bill. This will be terrible for our school system

Margaret Schuessler

"Self" I'm a teacher

Fort Worth, TX

To the Texas House Public Education Committee,

As a public school Dual Credit Instructor of the Federal and Texas Government, I urge you to protect and invest in Texas public education. House Bill 3 (HB 3) and similar voucher proposals threaten our schools by diverting critical public funds.

Public Education Drives Texas' Economy

The North Texas Chamber of Commerce and other business leaders stress that a strong public education system is vital for a skilled workforce and economic growth. Underfunding schools risks a talent shortage that could drive businesses elsewhere.

Vouchers Harm Public Schools

HB 3 would redirect billions from public schools to private institutions, weakening education, increasing public assistance reliance, and hurting businesses.

Texas Already Has School Choice

Parents can choose private schools, homeschooling, or online public options—without siphoning public funds. Vouchers only subsidize private education while public schools continue serving the majority, including high-needs students.

Private Schools Lack Accountability and Accessibility

Unlike public schools, private institutions can deny students based on disability, academics, or discipline. Most low-income families still cannot afford private education, even with vouchers.

Investing in Public Education Secures Texas' Future

Public education reduces crime, strengthens the workforce, and supports economic growth. Texas must:

Increase per-student funding

Raise teacher salaries

Expand special education and low-income student support

Reduce class sizes and improve facilities

Public schools serve the vast majority of Texas students and are key to economic and educational equity. Fully funding them is essential to keeping Texas strong and competitive.

Very Respectfully,

Margaret Schuessler

Rachel Dark

Self

Austin, TX

I'm a constituent in Austin, Texas. I have 3 children in the public school system. Our community does not want vouchers. We want our public school system FULLY FUNDED. We want our TEACHERS to be PAID; they need raises, health insurance, and strong benefits. Expand our libraries and support our public education system.

Maria Quiroz

Self/retired

San Angelo, TX

This is a scam. It will make public schools be underfunded, more than they already are.

Candace Moran, Mrs

Self, Wife, Mother of 7, Home Educator

Cleburne, TX

To whom this may concern,

As a private citizen I oppose this bill for many reasons. My primary reason for opposing HB3 is because my husband and I do not parent with the government. Our covenant outweighs whatever government nonsense politicians are trying to force through in order to line pockets, create new governing bodies, and raise taxes.

Texas has been a haven for families who choose personal freedom over financial handouts. I urge you not to vote in favor HB3, or any other school choice scheme. This is government overreach into the private homes of free Texans. In Texas we already have school choice and do not require help from the government in any way.

Should you vote this into law, I will no longer support you or anyone else who votes in favor of this nonsense. I will back the candidates who have homeschooling families in mind. You were placed there by us, the citizens of the districts you are supposed to represent. Currently, as I see the situation, you are in breach of your obligations to the citizenry.

Larry Glazer

self

plano, TX

I fully support the public schools of Texas that need all the financial help they can get from the state. Private schools should provide their own funding and if the support is not sufficient they should not be open. Should there be any state support of private education it should be means tested focused on helping our the lowest 25% fellow citizens.

Rebecca Rodgers

Self

Arlington, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB3 and asking that you vote against this bill. Texans don't want this. The bill does not match the 2022 & 2024 proposition language on the ballot, nor does it match the language that was told to voters by now-elected representatives on the campaign trail. It has been edited and perverted into an unrecognizable monstrosity that is being debated today.

We continue to create new programs in an attempt to correct a failing system, instead of holding those in the failing system accountable. Education Saving Accounts and School Vouchers aren't the solution to the failing school system in Texas. When administrators and teachers are held fully accountable for actually teaching, then the education system will turn around. We continue to throw more and more money into education and testing and it never gets better, it gets worse. Why? Because teaching critical thinking is frowned upon. Instead, cookie-cutter education is promoted and it is creating a dumb society of people who don't critically think. So if you really want to see change, stop encouraging cookie-cutter education, and start encouraging students to critically think.

Instead of creating new programs, we need to repeal bad laws that are hurting our schools and redirect funding from programs that are causing a drain on the system and hurting our kids.

According to the TEA website, the total statewide recaptured revenue from 2014 to 2025 increased 174 percent. Going from 1.12 billion in 2014 to 3.07 billion in 2025. These numbers reflect inflation. The cost to educate each student has gone up between 3 to 5 fold (depending on which source you look at), standardized testing scores have done nothing but gone down, and drop-out rates have increased. Billions of dollars have been given to the system with no true accountability of those who continue to seek taxpayer's money. With ESA/Vouchers, if no other changes occur in funding, we will see an increase exponentially each year. It is estimated that by 2030, it will cost taxpayers close to 30 billion dollars and the continued broken education system that we have now will only continue, but simply under a new name, because no real changes to repeal bad legislation or to truly educate the child will have taken place.

This does nothing to help the children in Texas, quite possibly, it does more harm than the current system we have in place, due to the language of this bill.

Over and over, people have reached out to their Representatives, including all those who are sitting on the House Committee of Public Education to oppose this horrible bill, and you all respond with a deaf ear to the constituents of this great state. This is a horrid bill and we are asking you as a committee to stop this bill from going forward.

Document Resource from TEA's website: <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/government-relations-and-legal/government-relations/public-education-state-funding-transparency-may-2024.pdf>

Kelly Walker

self / marketing

Frisco, TX

Vouchers are not right for Texas. Vouchers undermine the public school finance system. Vouchers disadvantage rural and marginalized students. We do NOT want them, even under the guise of school choice.

Sonia Merubia

self

Austin, TX

I am against House Bill 3 because the state should not support private schools. Instead all that money should support public education.

Allison Kociuruba

self

Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts in Texas.

William Smith Jr

"self"

Houston, TX

As a constituent, I find it appalling that this deeply unnecessary and unpopular bill is not yet dead in committee. The need for vouchers for children to go to private schools at a rate woefully over the rate per student provided by the state now is also galling. If the state can afford this amount of funding per student for voucher, use those funds to INCREASE the amount per student for ALL public schools. Since the state's coffers are so full, why not increase the funding for public education by 50 or 100% per student. This would allow the INDEPENDENT school districts to hire more teachers, renovate schools, and provide for ALL students.

Renee Hester

Self - Data entry clerk for Mckinney independent school district

Mckinney, TX

Do not pass HB3 out of committee. Please focus on making our public schools whole instead. Fully fund them, so all Texans can benefit from a state of the art public education system. Funding should be tied to inflation, based upon enrollment, and any mandates should be fully funded in addition to basic allotment. Working for MISD . They just let job PE aides, library aides, instruction specialist, intervention specialist, paraprofessionals that schedule IEP meeting for campuses, closing program like Gifted and Talented because of transportation cost, closing campuses and turning them into other making SEC class size larger. It has to STOP. Please fund our schools or good staff are losing there jobs, and the schools are losing programs that make them great!

Allison Dearman

Aledo ISD/self/teacher

Aledo, TX

Please consider supporting public education in Texas. Vouchers take funding from already underfunded public schools. As a 3rd grade teacher, and parent to two girls in public education, I see the effects of the lack of funding daily. Programs have been cut, teachers have been let go, class sizes have increased, teachers haven't adequately been compensated for the rising cost of living, and so much more. Please consider the harmful effects that removing funding from public education will cause. Public education is educating our future. Please support the teachers and students in Texas and vote against vouchers!

Kelly Darby

Self, Public Affairs/Comms

Round Rock, TX

I oppose school vouchers/ESAs. My kids are in 9th and 6th grade, have grown up in Round Rock ISD. This bill could redirect as much \$19 million away from our district and that is money we desperately need to fund our community schools. Please vote no and let's focus all this energy on building the best public schools in the nation. Sincerely, Kelly Darby

Christy Almond

N/a

Boerne, TX

I have two children in public schools in Boerne, Texas. My children are already in overcrowded classrooms and have lost countless amazing teachers, counselors, and administrators due to lack of funding for salaries and training. Vouchers will take even more money way away from our public schools and will not benefit the poorest citizens, but will be a coupon for parents already paying for private education. Not one person I know who lives in Texas wants this!! Look at the other states like Arizona and Ohio who have implemented vouchers - it's a mess and it doesn't work. We need to fully fund public schools now!! If Abbott thinks vouchers are such a great thing, why won't he let us vote on them? Put them on the ballot? He can't because he's been bought and paid for by billionaires and now he has to ram vouchers down Texans throats. Our tax money should not be funding private school education. Period.

Christy Almond

Edna Hernandez

Public educational leader

Brownsville, TX

We have been limited with funds to help get the right resources and support to ensure we provide a high quality instructional setting for ALL of our students. This bill will set back students even more than the pandemic. Our low socio economic students will suffer and we need to prepare them to be productive future citizens. This bill will hinder that.

Lana Rollans

Self

Norton, TX

I'm asking you to vote no to the voucher scam and fully fund our public schools.

Sara Barrera, Mrs

Self

Weslaco, TX

I strongly oppose this bill! As a Texas resident and retired educator, I know that this would be a misuse of my tax dollars. I do not want my tax dollars to go to private or parochial schools that are not held to the same standards as public schools. If people don't want their children going to public schools, then the burden of paying for their children's education is on them. Plenty of tax payers pay into the system that don't have children at all, so why should these parents think they are entitled to those tax dollars for their children's education? And why should they get more money than is even allotted for public school attendees? That's ludicrous! TRS has warned that this bill will render the teachers retirement system insolvent within a very short time. You have denied Texas teachers the right to participate in Social Security and now you are also planning to endanger our retirement with TRS too? That is not only irresponsible, it borders on criminal. Texas ranks almost last amongst the 50 states when it comes to teacher retirement benefits already. Now you think it's a good idea to make it worse? And it won't even help the wealthy people that much. Studies prove that in states that have voucher programs, the private schools simply increased their tuition by about the same amount that the voucher recipients received. This makes private schools even more unaffordable for the middle class families you claim this bill is meant to benefit. It's all a scam!

Richard Dye

Walnut Springs ISD

Walnut Springs, TX

No one in Bosque County wants vouchers. It will kill our smaller school districts. The problem isn't the vouchers themselves. It's the discrepancy between the \$10000 for the voucher and the \$6000 for the student who attends public school.

Sarah Hodgkinson

Self, doula

Richardson, TX

The worst thing we can do to our youth and this country is not lean into public education support. This is the opposite of that and will further ruin education in Texas. I wholeheartedly ask that you support public education.

Kenneth Shier, Mr.

Responsible parents

Corinth, TX

Dear Representatives,

You were elected to represent your constituents, Esther they're Republican or Democrat. The people of Texas do not want this to pass. If you're not sure about that, put it on a ballot and let us vote. Don't be swayed by the Austin mafia and the Texas oil barons that are throwing millions of dollars to get their way. Our schools haven't had an increase in per student spending since 2019.

Please tell me something that still costs the same as it did 6 years ago? And please give teachers a raise. Our students, the future of Texas and the USA deserve the best education from the best instructors. Let's ensure that they have this. Let's be the leader in education not an also ran.

Thank you for your time.

Kenny Shier

Elizabeth Vanderkolk

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose school vouchers in Texas argue because they divert public funds from already under-resourced public schools, potentially weakening the public education system. Vouchers may not truly expand educational opportunities for low-income families and might exacerbate inequities, and that private schools accepting voucher students may lack adequate accountability and transparency. Additionally, I have concerns about potential constitutional issues, like the separation of church and state, if vouchers support religious private schools.

Sarah Sublett

Self, homeschool parent

Midlothian, TX

Hello, my name is Sarah Sublett. I am sending this email regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." This bill provides fake school choice and allows the government too much control over parents rights to educate their children how they see appropriate. I would like to ask Representative Buckley to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB
Thank you!

Deana Lawson

Self

CHINA SPRING, TX

While I believe this savings account sounds great, especially for families like mine who struggle with being able to afford to homeschool, I do not think it is a beneficial bill in terms of government reach. If this bill passes, what kind of stipulations or requirements are going to be put in place to be able to have one of these accounts? Homeschooling in Texas has allowed parents to teach the way they see fit without big brother looking over our shoulders. We have some of the most lax rules for homeschooling and it makes it so much easier on parents struggling to find the proper curriculum to teach. I feel like this bill will come with more rules that will allow the governor say what we can and cannot teach or how we teach, limiting what freedoms parents have currently.

I've homeschooled for some time now and I feel like it's been a great experience but if this bill passes, it will turn homeschooling into nothing more than a public school education, at home. Please do not allow a bill to pass that will enable the gov5more reach into how we, The Parents, teach our children. I do not support that. I understand that you cannot just give money away but there has to be a better way of supporting school choice and the homeschool communities.

Thank you,

Deana Lawson

Homeschool teacher

Rachel Moss

Self

Duncanville, TX

Hello, my name is Rachel Moss and I am a homeschool parent, public school parent, and public school teacher. I am submitting this comment regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday, March 11. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." As a public school parent I value enabling each child to obtain the best education possible and do not believe taking money away from public schools is the way to accomplish this. As a public school teacher I am incredibly worried about the impact the passage of this bill will have on ISDs across the state that are already financially hurting from the effects of inflation. I would like to you to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers, public schoolers, and educators in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3. Thank you!

James Martin

Self

Benbrook, TX

This is an utterly terrible idea. The people pushing this are clueless about the damage they and the current President are doing to public education in both the short and long term. Not only will Texas strip away funding, but the loss of the DoE will further strip funds from needed schools. The Governor is so clueless, he even took time to post about how this bill will not hurt football, as if that is even close to the primary concern.

Jamie Dion, Mrs

Self

El Paso, TX

Homeschooling parents do not want any changes made to the freedoms we currently have. Texas is the best state for schooling freedom. We don't want any monetary or tax benefits either. Thank you.

TerrANCE Romano

TR Marketing

HOUSTON, TX

HB 2, HB 3 and the parental rights bills complement one another and foster a cooperative education system. When the government supports parents in making the best decisions for their children, all students benefit.

Emmanuel Perez

Self, Retail

Temple, TX

These proposed funds should be used to fund public schools instead. Vouchers would reduce funding as public schools are funded by student attendance. Public schools are also held accountable by TEA; private schools have no such agency for accountability. If you truly value education and the future of this state do not support this proposition. Public schools are the way forward.

Judy Kamen-McMillan, Mrs.

Self: Substitute Teacher

San Antonio, TX

Our esteemed President is doing away with the Department of Education and you, the governor and legislature of Texas have been refusing to properly fund ISDs. You claim the pot that will pay for vouchers (please call them what they are) is separate from the one that funds schools and pays teachers in one breath, and in the next you admit public schools may have to suffer a bit because that's not the case, but hey! parents will have choices, and won't everyone be happy then?! The fact is, states that have implemented voucher programs, like Arizona, are melting down their budgets, and in the case of AZ resulted in 2024 in a \$1.4 billion budget shortfall, so it's nonsense that you won't be taking from Peter to pay Paul, and it could very well cause Texas to go broke, a situation that will be exacerbated when Trump's Education Department goes away and you are left holding the bag to implement special programs rather than the feds, who won't fund them any more.

Furthermore, this does NOT create school choice for anyone but the rich folks who are already sending their kids to private schools and who will be grateful to pay less thanks to your handout. Private schools don't need and usually don't accept children with special needs, behavioral, or academic/learning issues. They accept only the easiest kids to teach and work with, which will leave the former population stuck in severely underfunded public schools. Rural districts don't even have private schools as an option, which will take dollars away from their only schools and send them to the rich folks in urban areas. That's not "choice" for the vast majority of public school students.

Right now there are teaching positions that are vacant in our local public schools because they can't find dollars to pay certified people and subs are being asked to shoulder the load. Right now our local ISD (NEISD) is having to shut down neighborhood campuses and bus kids further away because of the budget shortfall, and this will only get worse.

Your alternative to vouchers is to look at the improvements you'd like to see in public schools and fund them! Create more magnet programs that will really give families choice. Create campuses for special needs and interests that will allow public dollars to stay in the hands of local ISDs and create REAL choice.

I say NO NO NO! to vouchers, and I know I'm in the majority. Do NOT pass this bill!

Zachariah Flores

Self

Houston, TX

It's a scam. It only benefits the rich. Don't defund public schools.

Bryan Freeman, Mr.

Self (Public School Teacher)

Mansfield, TX

I speak for myself, other public educators, students and parents across the Great State of Texas when I say we are firmly AGAINST this bill and any bill promoting the formation of ESAs or Vouchers using our taxpayer dollars. Public education is and has been severely underfunded on a per pupil basis for decades now and this bill would only further deteriorate the conditions inside our public schools. This bill allows the wealthy parents a way to get a discount on their CHOICE to attend private education while kids with disabilities or from certain backgrounds can still be denied from the school of their choosing. Not to mention the countless 1A and 2A schools in our rural areas where kids may have no private school within 50 miles of them...how does this in any way help them out. The \$200 increase per pupil is a joke compared to inflation and a slap in the face when put alongside the \$10000 coupon that will be given out for students to attend private school. And I ask you, what stops these private schools from blanketly increasing tuition to offset these vouchers?

I implore you to vote NO on this ludicrous bill and get back to serving the millions of kids in our public schools and paying teachers more to encourage them to stay in the classrooms

Anna Baker

Self

Houston, TX

We should always look to our past when going forward. We should be looking at how vouchers in states like Arizona and Florida have had a negative effect on students, public schools, and state budgets. Public dollars should stay in public schools and should not be used to subsidize private schools and vendors. Any voucher should have the same guidelines, oversight, and accountability that is required in public schools. Students are left vulnerable when the requirements are not the same for educational institutions. With students in mind, I oppose the vouchers being established in Texas.

Shelly Swafford

Self

Denton, TX

My name is Shelly Swafford, and I have devoted 25 years of service to public education in the state of Texas. In that time, I have witnessed firsthand the deep challenges faced by our schools, particularly in the areas of funding and equity. I am reaching out today to urge you to take action in prioritizing the distribution of public education funding and saying no to private education savings accounts. In short, the Texas Constitution does not guarantee funding for private schools. It does, specifically Article VII, focus on the establishment and maintenance of a system of free public schools. It places the responsibility on the state to provide adequate funding and support for public education, not private institutions.

I would like to remind you of key principles established in the Texas Constitution (Article VII, Sections 1-3):

-Free Public Education: All children in Texas are entitled to a free public education.

-State Responsibility: The state has the responsibility to ensure that an efficient system of education is established and maintained.

-Adequate Funding: The Texas Legislature must adequately fund public education to ensure that all students have access to quality schooling.

I implore you, please uphold the tenets of our Texas Constitution and do not allow our public education dollars to go to privatized education savings programs.

Jim Sewell

Self

Salado, TX

Oppose to this bill. It will hurt our school and not help intercity schools. When Abbott has to smear solid Republicans such as Rep. Shine to get his way, you know it is not good for Republican Party or Texas.

Please change your mind and let HB3 die. Thank you, Jim Sewell

Kresta Atkin

Self

Seguin, TX

ESAs hurt public education. They take tax payer money and give it to private, wealthy, campaign donors and private schools. Public schools are already competing all special education evaluations and IEP meetings for private schools without increased funding (federal proportionate share money cannot be used for evals/IEPs, only services). ESAs take even more money away from public education, which harms our most vulnerable populations as well as Texas in general. Parents already have "school choice" and do not need additional funds from tax payers.

The Republicans funded by Yass are hurting Texans and hurting the reputation of the GOP. Public education has not been adequately funded at all during the years of Abbott's reign. Because of the deficits and barriers the lack of funding created, he is now claiming public education does not work.

Fully fund ALL aspects of public schools and then determine if it works or not. Provide enough funding for adequate staff numbers, quality staff in all positions, adequate supplies and technology. Fund programs to help ensure students are safe, healthy, and ready to learn. Fully fund programs designed to provide early intervention. Create laws that limit frivolous lawsuits from parents and advocates.

Listen to Texans. We don't want vouchers. We don't want ESAs. We want Republicans that protect the middle class, not millionaires. We want Republicans that spend our tax dollars to improve our communities and state, not to improve the bank balance of their out of state donors.

Megan Vargas

Self, public school children

Waxahachie, TX

It is evident in the results of other states that a "voucher system" does not do what the bill writers claim it will do. Essentially we are giving money back to the rich. I've seen this described in so many ways, and as a public school teacher, I'd rather NOT get a raise if it is attached to such heinous claims and actions like this bill. The governor has been withholding money due to the students in this state for selfish reasons because of who donates to his and many other campaigns and politicians. We all know this. We all also know it's morally wrong. So do what is morally right, and vote against this affront to public education. Vote against keeping money from the students, from children. Texas ranks so embarrassingly low in the US, but it's not for a lack of good teachers, it's a lack of resources and enough teachers. Texas politicians have been destroying the public ed system for YEARS, with this purpose. Give us the funding without strings attached. Those funds belong to public education. I wonder why this is even a fight we have to fight. If you vote for this bill, you are denying millions of children a right they should have. I am born and raised Texan and have been proud of it my whole life until about 10 years ago. Our government is broken with personal agendas, outdated views, and immoral actions. Help us change this. VOTE NO. Please.

Christine Robinson

Self

West, TX

If you are going to give \$10k of tax- payers money for students to attend private school, then you need to match that for students going to public schools. No student should be worth more to the State of Texas than another based on where they attend school.

Lori Jill Riggs

Self

Lufkin, TX

I strongly oppose the inclusion of vouchers in HB3. Public tax dollars should remain in public schools, which serve all students regardless of background, ability, or financial status. Vouchers divert critical funding from already underfunded public schools, benefiting private institutions that are not held to the same standards of accountability and inclusivity.

Rather than subsidizing private education, Texas should focus on strengthening public schools by investing in teachers, resources, and support for students with diverse needs. I urge legislators to prioritize the vast majority of Texas students by rejecting vouchers and keeping public funds in public schools.

Karen Lee

Self

Georgetown, TX

Funding the voucher system would essentially defund public education in Texas. Public education needs to be strengthened at the state level especially since the department of education is in such chaos on a national level with the Department of Education expected to be defined. The future is in your hands. A well educated citizenry will improve the lives of all Texans.

Lindsey Cummings

Public Schools

Austin, TX

I beg you to vote against vouchers in Texas. As a mother of two small children, one with special needs, who cannot afford private school even with vouchers, I value our public schools and NEED our public schools to be fully funded. Vouchers will it help the children or teachers. They will only serve to help the wealthy of this state and leave everyone else behind. Please vote AGAINST school vouchers.

Mandi LeBlanc

Self

Austin, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Jermeshia Roney

Self

Arlington, TX

I oppose education savings account/vouchers & support our neighborhood public schools through public

Schemya Andrews

Self

Mansfield, TX

I oppose education savings account/vouchers & support our neighborhood public schools through public

Madeline Kilburn

Self

austin, TX

This is an irresponsible misallocation of education funds. Moving funding away from public schools that already struggle to function with the minimal funding the state allots to schools that can legally discriminate the students they accept is a brain-drain misstep. A state's merit can be calculated by the way it provides for its children and by that measure, Texas's merit is draining rapidly.

Carie Hajek, Mrs

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers only help families who are already using private education while our public schools are underfunded. The Texas Constitution provides for all citizens of Texas that means education opportunities for all socioeconomic classes. It's fair and good for all students to have funding. The voucher program is welfare for the wealthy and we won't have it! Vote against this bill!

Jacqueline Ayala, Mrs.

Los Fresnos CISD / Teacher

Los Fresnos, TX

"My name is Jacqueline Ayala, and I am a teacher in Los Fresnos ISD. I am extremely concerned about any version of a voucher program, and I am asking you to oppose HB 3 or any other voucher legislation."

Lindsay Patterson

Self

Terrell, TX

This is a terrible idea and does not support Texans education. Vote No on this. It only benefits the wealthy and takes from the public education system .

Judy Douglass

Self

Austin, TX

This bill will harm public schools by sending funding to private schools. If a person wants to send their child to a private school, they need to pay for it.

Laura Vasquez

Self/mother

Pasadena, TX

I am a homeschool mother and I do not support this bill. One of my reasons for educating my own children is because I don't want government involvement in any way, including financial.

Paul Nash

N/A

Lubbock, TX

Do not pass this bill. It robs Texas public schools of funds that were intended for them, not private schools. Every child has the choice to attend public schools. It is unconstitutional for these public funds to be spent on private schools who will not be held accountable for how they will be spent. Those who vote for this bill will not be reelected because they did not listen to the will of the Texas public.

Ana Newble

Families all over Texas.

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Under no circumstances is this good for ALL Texas children. This is undermining the public school education system. This will benefit only the wealthy and does nothing for the other 90% of Texas children. It's disgusting I even need to make this comment. No no no! The people of Texas don't want this.

William Whitmire

Self, professor

Conroe, TX

This prospect will undoubtedly hurt public schools in Texas and add to the already-disregarded lack of education in Texas.

Anne McClellan

Self

Coppell, TX

An education savings account program goes against the purpose of public education. Public education gives access to school and community to every child in the state of Texas. The education savings program is for a limited number of students and the schools that accept vouchers do not ensure a free and appropriate education for each child applying to their schools. They deny children and exclude children. Public schools need funding to meet the needs of their students better and public schools do not discriminate on who can come to school all are welcome and have a right to a free and appropriate education. If the state of Texas truly valued teachers and their service and impact, the education savings program would be a non issue. The state of Texas would be about the business of building up public schools and securing funding to meet the needs of students if they valued teachers and education.

Barbara Hankinson

Self

Plano, TX

I learned for the first time today that only 100,000 students will receive these vouchers. This represents roughly 2% of the number of students in Texas public schools, at the cost to the state of \$1B. At the same time, simply being eligible does not guarantee admission to the private school of the parents' choosing- further, a majority of the elite private schools have tuitions that are far higher than \$10,000. Although proponents of vouchers say that economically disadvantaged will be emphasized in the selection process, a large number of these individual families will not be able to come up with the remainder of the costs to allow their student to attend private school.

Many rural districts have no private schools; attendance would be limited to those schools near enough to the student's home to not require an unreasonable lost travel time daily. Many lower income families depend on school buses to get their student to class, whereas a large number of private schools either have no bus system or service would still be unavailable to a rural student due to bus routes not covering homes at increased distance from the school.

These are numerous reasons why HB 3 is not feasible nor advantageous for the school aged children of Texas.

Please vote "no" on HB 3.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Barbara Hankinson

Kimberly Hawkins

Self

Port Neches, TX

I am a product of public school education in Texas and I am currently on year 25 of being a public school educator. I am a parent of two children. One who graduated from a public school and is currently set to graduate this year with a degree in music education where she hopes to obtain a job teaching music in public school. My other child is a junior in a public school. Passing this voucher bill will ultimately hurt our public school system and the students and teachers who walk the halls daily. Public school teachers spend countless hours working unpaid, and spend hundreds or thousands of their own money on their students to provide a great education for their students. The state only continues putting more demands on teachers with less support and funding to adequately support teachers to meet these demands. Funneling more money to private schools will leave teachers and students even more spread thin and more frustrated all while trying to still be successful. Programs like fine arts will be the first to be taken away when funds become less. For many children, my own included, these music, theater, and art programs are the only things that keep them alive and thriving in schools. Properly fund public schools, support public school students, and give teachers a living wage. This is how you will see ALL public schools thrive and succeed. This bill is a joke and a slap in the face to all public school students and staff. To attach a pay raise to a bill that will destroy the very thing I do for a living is wrong and shameful! I beg you to think about the thousands or millions of children who will be hurt from this bill. If I was given \$10,000 toward my child's private school tuition, I like many millions of other Texas families, still could not afford to send my child to private school. A vote for this bill is a vote against teachers, a vote against children, and a vote crushing the future of our state.

Betty Milburn

Self/retired

Cedar Park, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

Dear Education committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Betty Milburn

P.S. Did you know that private schools can exclude students with disabilities? Or throw them out if they don't want to provide special education services??!

Rosa York
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this farce of a bill. Vouchers have never worked and will never work for our great state!

Amanda Cuellar, Dr
Self, engineer
Austin, TX

This bill will only exacerbate inequities in education in our state and gut our public schools. Do not pass this bill.

Thomas McCracken
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please do not support this legislation as I only want my tax dollars supporting public schools that are available to all. I have had two children graduate from public high school and my third (and final) school-age child is in a private school. I would not accept HB 3 funds on a moral basis, though my wife and I work extra jobs to support our private school choice. Yes, our choice—Texas already has school choice without HB 3. Again, please do not support this bill.

Shruti Patkar
self
Austin, TX

Please dont take MONEY away from already underfunded public schools. Not everyone can afford private schools and if you want Texas students to be competitive in the country and around the world, you cannot be taking funding away from public schools. Public schools is where most kids go to school in Texas and the impact of this bill will be across the state.

Debbie Gillespie
self
Frisco, TX

I am a conservative republican and former public school board trustee. I oppose HB3, vouchers & ESA's. The cost of the proposed programs accelerate very quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6 spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Fund public schools first! Vouchers are not conservative. Thank you for your time.

Karen Stokes
Self
Houston, TX

100% against HB3. Public education for the public. Put the money into public education. No vouchers.

Linda Prem
Self
Keller, TX

I do not support a school voucher program. We must increase spending on public education in texas for every child regardless of where they live Religion or race. This is the future of our country.

Sarah Bay

Ingram Elementary School and Ingram ISD
Fredericksburg, TX

Parents already have school choice. This bill is to provide for the parents that already send their students to private schools. Meanwhile, you will take money away from the public system. Texas already ranks in the bottom 10 in per-student public education funding. Lawmakers should focus on improving the funding disparities in our current system before implementing a new, private system. If a voucher is passed, our district will lose \$532,915, meaning we would have to cut nine teachers, raising the student teacher ratio by almost 6%. The private schools are NOT teaching the standards that you are wanting. Students come to the public school extremely FAR behind. This is because the private schools have chosen to do this. They have plenty of funding. Our staff members meet students where they are and work hard to grow everyone. We have already lost staff members because funds have been withheld from the public setting. What a shame for kids?! Please do not vote for the voucher.

Andrea Moss

Self

Spring, TX

Please vote no for Texas school vouchers. I am writing to express my concerns regarding Senate Bill 2 and its proposed expansion of the education savings account (ESA) program. While I recognize the desire to improve educational opportunities for all Texas students, I firmly believe that vouchers are not the solution to the challenges our education system faces. Vouchers will not address the root issues in our schools; instead, they will divert much-needed resources away from public education and exacerbate existing inequalities. Public schools serve the majority of Texas students, including those with diverse needs, abilities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. By redirecting funds to private institutions, we risk creating a system that prioritizes a select few while leaving the majority with fewer resources.

Alicia Sands

Self-Educator

Houston, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a Texan, 4th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

David Villegas

Self

N Richlnd Hls, TX

I pay taxes for many things in Texas. My taxes should go to help the public schools.
Good schools help promote good neighborhoods.
No Vouchers.

Chad Dunlap

self

Murphy, TX

Please vote no to school vouchers. This bill will not properly address education in Texas. Private schools will be incentivized to raise rates and public schools will suffer much needed funding, which has been static since 2019. For the good of the future generations in Texas, please VOTE NO to this law that will harm our state's children and schools.

Paige Rios

Self

Argyle, TX

Please vote NO on HB3 I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy!

Jeri Saper, mrs
Self - Business Owner
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because it provides funding to a minority of families at the expense of those who cannot afford or do not have the opportunity to have their children in private schools. Public schools are already severely underfunded, and any additional K-12 education funds should go to public schools. Private schools are comparatively unregulated and are not subject to the same testing and standards required of public schools. Neighborhood public schools accept all students, but private schools can deny admission or educational services to any student, including students with disabilities, among others. Use of tax dollars should come with standards and not allow cherry picking of the easiest students to teach. Doing so would leave only the most challenging students in public schools, at a reduction of funding for the public schools (as the daily census would fall if students moved into private schools).

Adrian Wilson, Mrs
Self - social worker
Flower Mound, TX

As a parent of 2 children in the public schools I oppose HB 3. Public Schools need more funding not parents with kids who already attend private school.

Katie Howell
Self
Houston, TX

I homeschool and I am opposed to this bill.

Amy Williamson
Self/stay at home mother
Austin, TX

I firmly oppose this bill. Our public schools aren't failing, they're underfunded and teachers are underpaid. School vouchers will primarily benefit the wealthy. Keep the funding in Texas public schools where it belongs!

Megan Eunson
self
Houston, TX

This is another attempt to take funds for public schools and funnel them to rich donors This is not what Texans want for our children. Please vote against this measure for the betterment of our children.

Brandon Waits
Self-engineer
Willow Park, TX

Please do not let this bill pass. I plan on sending my children to public schools and need the funds to go into those schools!
Taxpayers should not have to fund the wealthiest members of our community.

Jean Treider
Self
Houston, TX

A public hearing at the Texas Capitol is happening on the school voucher bill (HB 3). Use the link below to ensure your opposition is on record. Not a drill.

Here's what I said:

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I am a native Texan and a product of public education. I am a retired public school special ed teacher and educational diagnostician. I ask you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future. Texas has an opportunity and moral imperative to provide rich, quality education to all our children.

John Oliverio, Mr.
Self
Pearland, TX

School vouchers simply don't work. They have been used in other states and the results show lower student achievement and often misuse of funds. The area most affected is math.

Vouchers also have a devastating affect on rural areas and take away more resources for schools in rural areas. Transportation is another area that is affected.

Research in Louisiana and Indiana have shown that the voucher programs do more harm than good.

Also private schools have no accountability and use the money on for the wealthy and hurt the poor and children with disabilities.

Now is the time to help public schools and invest in all children, not just the rich kids.

Vanessa Goldman
Self
Austin, TX

Public education is accessible to everyone! Vouchers will not serve our community or help our teachers!

Sarah Finley
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly OPPOSE Hb3 because it will reduce funding from vital public schools in Texas- many rural Texas counties with limited resources will be hit the hardest by this bill- and will go into the pockets of wealthy families who were already planning to send their kids to private schools and have more than enough resources to pay for that. This bill is anti-choice because it limits options, reduces the quality of education for Texas children, and only benefits wealthy families. We will all feel the negative impact of this bill for multiple generations if we let it pass.

I personally don't have children, and have been paying property taxes in affluent central Austin zip codes for almost 20 years. I'm happy to do this because it's in my personal best interest to live in a community where every child is given the opportunity to thrive and become valuable, contributing members to our society. Quality public education for everyone is a critical ingredient of a healthy, functioning society.

Honey Gray

Self - retired educator, parent, grandparent

Allen, TX

Please consider tax breaks for parents who want to send their children to private schools rather than voting on this unfair voucher scam! Not all children would be eligible for vouchers and public schools and communities will most likely see detrimental impacts! No yo vouchers!!

Mandie Sanchez

Self

Round Rock, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a Texan, 4th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Callie Strickland

Self, school psychology intern Del Valle ISD

Austin, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill. Pulling money from public schools will have devastating impacts on Texas children. Texas needs to be pouring funds into public schools to support teachers, staff, students, and families.

Jill Kersh

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Public funds belong in public schools. Public funds should not go to private schools that have zero accountability and can choose the students they admit. I do not support education savings accounts or school vouchers in any form. Parents already have the choice of how they would like to educate their children.

Public funds should not be funneled into private schools in any way.

I vote for strong public schools!

Michael Henson

Self - Power Generation executive

HOUSTON, TX

I am opposed to this bill for school vouchers. It will rob our already-underfunded public school system from resources it needs to educate the future leaders of our state. Public schools are a bedrock of communities across the state - providing education, enrichment, employment, and civic pride.

Stephanie Kouba

Self - parent of a children enrolled in Grapevine - Colleyville

Grapevine, TX

Please do not take away the already limited resources in our public schools. We need good, accessible education in order for our state to thrive! Vouchers will take away this money and give it to schools most of the Texas population ca not afford anyway. This will be a disaster. And voters will remember who did this when public schools fall in quality and housing prices fall as a result.

Angela Liss

Self

Howe, TX

I IMPLORE you to vote NO to HB3 and the establishment of vouchers/ESA program. It does not represent the best for the overwhelming majority of our state's students. I am a public school educator of 31 years and fine arts lead in our district and the far reaching effects of this bill will have detrimental effects on the full well-rounded education of our students. VOTE NO TO VOUCHERS!

Jessica Champion

Self

Buda, TX

I oppose vouchers. Public school is the backbone of Texas. We cannot move forward with this private school scam!

Angela Jones

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Sending kids to private school is a personal CHOICE that shouldn't burden Texas' taxpayers. I wouldn't want someone else to pay for any of my personal choices so why should we have to pay for theirs?

Christine Hargrove-Carter

A Concerend Texas citizen

Manchaca, TX

Please vote against a voucher system for Texas schools. They are biased and will only help wealthy Texans who can already afford private schools if they want. We need to properly fund our public schools to make the system fair for ALL Texans. Vouchers will only lower our educational standards for the state.

Debra Self

Self

San Antonio, TX

There are very limited, private schools and charter schools in low income places. Transportation would be a problem, coming up with the extra money would be a problem. This is only a tax break for the rich and does not help those in marginalized communities and they should be your top priority

Suzanne Beaulieu

Self. Education Professional

Spring, TX

This bill, while seeking to give opportunities to some students, leaves many out. As a legislators you must vote NO on HB3. We can do better for ALL students and not just some.

Karla Mcginniss

Self

The Woodlands, TX

Please reconsider the school voucher bill. This will only benefit a small number of people and hurt our public schools. Nobody wants this!

Victoria Limon

Self / Teacher

Buda, TX

This would cripple our public school system and the students they serve

Tanarosa Vasquez, Mrs.

Self/Educator

Lubbock, TX

As an educator in a Texas school, I just don't want anything taken away from my pay. We don't get paid enough as it is. If people want to send their children to a private school they should pay for it.

Shelby Whitfield

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Fund public schools fully. Redistributing public funds to parents for private school reduces school choice. My family has attended both public and private schools and our society depends on excellent public schools. Any ESA/voucher program will destroy the public education system and, in the long term, destroy the Texas economy through brain drain.

Teresa Baumann

Self

Flower mound, TX

I am against this bill and any bill that takes funds away from our public schools

Tina Fairweather

Self

Leander, TX

I am a product of Texas public schools, have taught in a Texas public school, and have two children who currently attend Texas public schools. I am strongly opposed to the establishment of an education savings account program for many reasons. Both of my children receive 504 accommodations, and I am deeply concerned about the lack of provisions for students receiving special education services should we move forward with the education savings program, which will effectively steal money from poorer students in order to give wealthier families a discount on their private school education because the amount allotted will not be enough for poor students to afford private school tuition. As funding is pulled from public schools, our most vulnerable students will lose funding for much-needed services and resources. I'm also concerned about our tax dollars funding private religious schools. I oppose giving government funding to schools that aren't held accountable to the same standards public schools must uphold. Students who live in rural areas may not even have access to private schools within a reasonable distance from their homes. Public schools serve all students who choose to use them, but private schools are able to pick and choose students, which would effectively discriminate against vulnerable students who have higher support needs. Public school, like many services provided for with tax money, serve the good of our entire community, regardless of whether individual people and families utilize public schools. Public schools that are struggling need more funding, not less; the withholding of available funds by our Texas state politicians is unethical in the face of inflation. It seems our politicians want to withhold and even pull funding from public schools and then turn around and say that they are failing when they themselves have contributed to the problem. Everyone benefits from an educated populace, whether or not they personally attend public schools. If we move forward with the education savings account program, funding will be taken from public schools, and our most vulnerable students and families will suffer most, followed by everyone else in our society that benefits from a well-educated population.

Sarah B Flisowski

Self

Brenham, TX

Money for public education should stay in public education. Pay teachers more and help our schools.

camila villarreal
self and healthcare
Denton, TX

i oppose school vouchers. I ask this bill not be supported.

Greg Cox
Self - insurance
Lorena, TX

I oppose public funds going to private and home schools.

Julie Jensen
Self
Katy, TX

I oppose HB3. Public funding should stay in public schools, not go to Private schools. Use the money to fix the public education system where it is lacking in special education services or any place deemed necessary. Diverting the funds to “private schools” is not going to offer a true fix to the problem where public schools are lacking. It is a bandaid. Focus where this state has, on public schools. ESAs/Vouchers currently do not have a cap on \$ amount a family earns to be eligible for the program, only tiers. If this bill was for the financially disadvantaged, as has been mentioned multiple times during the hearing, there would be a cap so only those that financially need the money receive it. This bill assumes parents of Special education children know all of their rights for their child and as a parent. That is a huge assumption. By giving the parent the choice, the current bill does not protect the child needing special education with the same laws they are afforded in public education. I do not support vouchers or ESAs or any program like it for the state of Texas.

Jennifer Oliverio
Self - Real Estate Development & Construction
PEARLAND, TX

I am adamantly opposed to this bill because it is state funded privatization of education in Texas. I’m a native Texan and have voted on both sides of the partisan spectrum over the years. This is a bipartisan issue. My daughter is dyslexic and even testified on behalf of publicly funded dyslexia education a few years ago. You may remember speaking to her. Private schools don’t provide the type of specific instruction that was required to bring her from a struggling reader who couldn’t name her letters in First Grade to a straight A student in the most difficult classes offered at her Junior High. She is the perfect case study for everything public education can be. Taking our community’s tax dollars and reallocating to private schools means less funding for public schools. This means students like my daughter will continue to struggle. They won’t have the opportunity for the academic success she has had. It’s heartbreaking that all students wouldn’t have that opportunity.

Who benefits from this legislation?

80% of adults in prison are dyslexic. With fewer resources for students, we will have more students who disengage from school, becoming discouraged and eventually underemployed. While those who financially benefit from an increase in our state’s prison population may relish this bill, it’s a long-term mistake for our state and its citizens.

Well-funded, quality public education lifts us all. It provides the opportunity for people to become the architects, builders, service professionals, and public servants that are the fabric of our communities. This bill robs our local areas of tax dollars, defunds our public schools, and causes long term damage to our community fabric.

Texas continues to fall in national education rankings. We claim to have such a wonderful, wealthy state, but we are slipping to lower and lower levels of academic success compared to nearly every other state. We know that in states where programs have been implemented fall further behind in academics - especially in Math. Robbing from the poor to give discounts to the wealthy will only have us slipping further behind. It’s not sustainable economically and it’s wrong morally. Please vote no on this bill.

Signed,
A Texan mom

Elizabeth Stearns

Self

Lakeway, TX

To our elected representatives it may concern, please, please, please do not vote in support of HB 3. Public dollars should stay in our severely underfunded public schools. Parents have the choice to send their children to private schools, but they should pay for that privilege after doing their civic duty and fully funding public schools for the betterment of our local school communities and the world at large into which those kids will graduate. I do not want my tax dollars going to support an educational business whether for profit or non-profit, for that is what all the private schools ultimately are. Many have little regulatory oversight and can discriminate against special education students. Public tax dollars should also not fund private religious institutions to the financial detriment of public schools where students of all faiths are welcome and accepted. Most Texans see HB 3 as a gift for educational vendors who will capitalize on harvesting tax dollars to fund their private educational product. Public schools should not be regarded as something competing with a profit generating business, but rather as a public service designed to give our students a future that will benefit all of Texas.

Erin Demse

Self

Austin, TX

We should not be taking public money and subsidizing private school tuition for those who can already afford it. This is a blatant transfer of wealth from the poor to the wealthy as a due paid by Gov Abbott to his even more wealthy donors. It is a shame that he doesn't value public education and chooses the donor class over Texas children and the future of the state budget.

Melissa Fisseler

AISD

Austin, TX

My name is Melissa Fisseler and I am a parent and a teacher in the Austin Independent School District. I am extremely concerned about any version of a voucher program, and I am asking you to oppose HB 3 or any other voucher legislation. I have 2 children in AISD schools. I only became a teacher because the school could not compensate teachers enough to hire and fill positions. I fear I will need to uproot my family and leave Texas for better school systems. I was born and raised in Texas and my children are 6th generation Texans. I do not want to see Texas fail so many future generations. Education needs to be public and needs to be the best it can be.

Maria Aguilar

self

Hidalgo, TX

I oppose HB! Patents ready have the freedom of school choice. A voucher would mostly benefit parents that already send their students to private school. It would also take away much needed funding for public schools.

Kenneth Fiduk

Self (Software Engineer)

Austin, TX

School vouchers do not work. They have not worked in other states, they will not work for Texas. They lower performance of schoolchildren across the board - public, private, charter - and do nothing but further funnel public money to the oligarchs running rampant in our state and federal governments.

It hurts all Texan children and enriches Abbott's buddies. It is vile, abhorrent, and immoral no matter your beliefs.

Jennifer Dickison

Self, public school educator

Hockley, TX

I do not agree with school choice and vouchers because it will hurt public schools. We are already lacking in funding as is.

Ashley Fryer
Self, publicist
Austin, TX

This is wrong for TX public schools. As a Mom of 2 kids in public school, which is already grossly underfunded, to take more money away from schools and teachers throughout the state to hand more money to private schools is unethical and disastrous for the future of our state. Vouchers will only cause private schools to raise tuition so that the same families trying to gain access to private schools will once again be shut out. There is no upside to this for any student, of a private or public school.

Amy Pool
Self
Austin, TX

Our public schools need more and not less. This will strip much needed funds for public schools that majority of Texans need. We need to improve school system and teacher support not remove money from the system. Research shows that if you take money away from schools there will be a decrease in quality. This will only open the door for abuse. Capitalism doesn't belong in the school system. Governments providing quality public education should be a bedrock for all of our kids no matter their parents ability to pay for a different school. It is not just about saying these kids can choose somewhere else. These kids will have to find transportation which is not easy for all families which will mean these kids will have lower quality schools because money has been stripped to fun savings account. Use our resources to be more thoughtful on improving schooling for all Texan children and not swinging the pendulum further from those who need it most. I'm speaking as a parent who can afford sending my kids to private schools but do not. I support narrowing the gap between what public schools offer children based on their neighborhoods. I do not support the savings account program.

Hannah Guidry
self
Austin, TX

I am pro the voucher program. I think it could be a great opportunity for the education system to reevaluate how it currently operates as well as bring about more options for alternative choices. I have 4 children all who have attended private, charter and public schools and done homeschool at different times. I have also had to hire private tutors to educate my kids in subjects using a scientifically based method of learning that isn't offered in the public school. I think vouchers can bring some healthy competition to the table and with it a start to fixing some things that have long needed to be addressed. I think the current reaction and fears of this possible change is the evidence of an indoctrinated people too afraid to do exactly what education is meant to do, create life long lovers of learning who are able to think outside the box.

Marida Salinas, School counselor
Self
San Antonio, TX

As a 22-year veteran public school educator, I have seen the positive impact that public schools have on the lives of our students, and the positive impacts of public schools in their communities. Neighborhood schools are essential because they are open to everyone regardless of socio-economic status, disability, or familial support system. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. This program will siphon off funds from already underfunded schools Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.”

Jessica Jenkins
Self & household
Georgetown, TX

Please vote NO on establishing school vouchers! This will not be a benefit for the most needy citizens of Texas. Prioritize funding our public schools and special Ed programs

Dewi Smith, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

Spending public dollars normally involves more transparency and accountability than the TBD use of vouchers provide. How will the performance of these schools be tracked and shared? I am commenting against this bill.

Erika Vela

Banquete ISD

Odem, TX

I oppose HB3

Dawn Lawrence

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3 because I think it will leave th most vulnerable children in our state out. Private schools will not be required to accept certain students, which will most certainly leave some children behind. The bill also does not impose any admission or enrollment requirements on the private schools that choose to participate in the program, so they wouldn't face any state pressure to adjust their costs and ensure more diversity or accept students from different faith traditions. Additionally, this bill hurts rural districts that don't have access to private schools and I believe it would continue to leave low-income children behind. I strongly believe we should be building up and putting funding into making our Public Schools better.

Joshua Green

Self

Terrell, TX

Taking money away from schools to reward the wealthy while ensuring that the poor receive even worse education is unconscionable and cruel. Vote no on school vouchers.

Amy Lott

Myself -teacher 33 yrs!!

Austin, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a schoolteacher for 33 years, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Holly Scarbrough

Self

Prosper, TX

Vote against HB3. Public school educators, like myself, do NOT support this bill and will rise up and vote against any who vote for it.

Matt Cannon

Self, business owner

Austin, TX

I am adamantly against school vouchers. Private schools are not required to accept kids with any type of disabilities, including ADHD or Autism spectrum disorders. These kids require a robust and well-funded public school system that will support them, not private schools funded with taxpayer money that may reject them. This is a personal issue for my family, and I will forever oppose any of my state political representatives that support this bill.

Jeremy Mendoza
Macedonian Christian Academy
Mission, TX

Our education system needs to reflect one that is competitive on the global scale as well as efficient and the best way to do that is to allow parents to support the school of their choice where their voice can be heard and their input felt. Our current system has let us down even after all the money that has been poured into it, nothing has changed. It's time to change and make a difference!!

Edith Rogat
Self
Austin, TX

State money should be going to build the best public schools possible. This bill destroys public education — for what, a give away to rich people in private schools. I can't fathom spending more money per child on vouchers with no accountability than public schools.

Cindy Burlin
Sslg
Fort Worth, TX

The goal of public education is to ensure that all of our children have the knowledge and skills they will need to vote, maintain, lead and better our society when they reach maturity. This bill hurts us as a society by widening the gap between those who can afford and those who cannot. We all see it. Those who can afford will continue to have more opportunities as we take away opportunities from those who cannot. Public funds belong in public schools so that all benefit. This is wrong and will eventually hurt all of us.

Stephanie Vyborny
self
Austin, TX

A vote for vouchers is a vote against young Texans. Public funds should be used to fund public schools, NOT private schools. The majority of small, rural communities don't have a private school option. They need their public schools fully funded! Further, similar programs in other states have been proven to lead to failure for public education in those states. Let's learn from their examples and not make the same mistakes. This will prove disastrous for young Texans. Please help our kids - no vouchers!

Amanda Goodrich
Self - Epidemiologist
Austin, TX

School vouchers are taxpayer-funded subsidies given to private schools and vendors without transparency and accountability for results. Private schools are not required to accept all students nor assess alignment to state curriculum to track student progress. Private schools do not have reporting or accountability for the use of taxpayer funds or student performance. Private schools do not have to provide special education services for students with learning differences or disabilities.

For these reasons, I oppose this bill.

Sharron Mckelvey, Ms.

Self retired

Houston, TX

I am interested in the poor (low-income students as well as the mid-level students getting advantage of the school voucher programs. I think well off parents should not get the advantage of school voucher programs because many of them already utilize and can afford private school programs. I am very much against ignoring poverty level students and think students should possibly be served from the poverty level upwards toward middle class to ensure everyone can be included and yet all the poor kids are covered 100%. I think people should not milk the system but only as far as education. Needs or unmet needs should be provided, but I don't think a poor family just enlists the use of ALL government programs. I've seen chip members buying such high priced grocery items with snap, food stamps before pulling out their cell phone getting into a Lexus and driving off. Some use any and every program without caring if they need it or not while others seem to be penniless and qualify for nothing. Maybe if receipts were recorded, there'd be less fraud!

Janae Wittner

Self

Industry, TX

No to vouchers! This will not help private schools or public schools. It is not in the best interest of the children of Texas. We already have school choice. Private school, public school, charter school, or home school. Texas should not give more per student for students in private schools than the students that attend public schools. This sends the message that Texas cares more about private school students than public school students. Do what is right not what is republican or democrat but what is truly BEST for the children of Texas. Forget the people bribing you and do the RIGHT thing for the students of Texas.

Jillian DeLaTorre Copeland

Self, Mother of 4 children in Austin ISD

Austin, TX

We ***DO NOT*** want your voucher program in Texas! This does not help anyone but those who can already pay for private schools - it's not school choice, it's the school's choice! NO to HB3

Jessica Erby

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Public schools are the bedrock of our communities, providing essential services like busing, special education, and meals for hungry children. They already struggle to meet the complex needs of all students, especially those with extensive special needs. Diverting more funds per child to non-public schools, while allowing them to cherry-pick students, is a deliberate attack on public education. It stretches our schools to the breaking point, defunds teacher retirement, and ultimately robs all children of the quality education they deserve.

Vivian Wright, Ms.

I am representing myself. I am a retired Educational Diagnostician/Special Educator.

Burleson, TX

Please vote against the school voucher program. Private schools do not routinely meet the needs of students with disabilities. They are not required to accept special needs children or follow a child's IEP or 504 accommodations. Public schools are required by Federal law to educate special needs children. All children in Texas should have access to the best education possible. School vouchers do not accomplish this. Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion.

Miranda Hernandez

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

As a parent of a student who attends public school, school vouchers will only continue to hurt the public school system. With the lack of funding that the state already provides the public school districts and to continue to take tax payers money and give it to private schools, who make more than most of these public schools get annually from the state, is a disgrace to the free public school system. We should be putting tax payer money back into our school communities that help build members of society rather than taking from the middle class and once again giving it to the upper class who do not need any extra support from tax payers. We need to support public schools in order to support the future of our state.

Karen Olsson

self, writer

Austin, TX

Vouchers will cost a ton without doing anything for the bulk of Texas's 5.5 million public school students -- the future of this state. Texas public schools are inadequately funded and have been for a while. Districts are squeezed and many teachers can't afford to live in the cities where they teach. This is going to have a huge negative impact on our economy and on our future quality of life. Please raise the basic allotment to fund schools in line with the national average. Don't fund vouchers, help our public schools and the people who work in them.

Molly Roy

Self

Austin, TX

As a voter, an educator, and a parent of a student in Texas public school, I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB3

John Rodriquez

Self- High school student

Brenham, TX

Please say NO to the vouchers. I am a high school student with plans to become a high school biology teacher after college. These vouchers are making me reconsider this decision and making me question the future of public education. I come from a long line of educators in my family so this is very important to me. Instead, please advocate for higher student allotment and teacher raises!

Bob Bentley

Self CEO Insurance Agency

Amarillo, TX

I believe it will cripple our public school system — totally believe very misplaced idea that Governor Abbott & Lt. Governor Patrick are promoting

Mark Strauss, Mr

Self

Brenham, TX

It looks like Govenor Abbott has done all he can to pass the school vouchers. I wish he had put as much energy and time into promoting public education as he has in trying to make it look bad. I went to a private school. I loved my school, but it was a choice my parents made and, as a result, they chose to pay tuition. They had the same opportunity to send me for a free education—it was their choice and they knew they would pay. It makes me sick to think Govenor Abbott spent much of his time campaigning against other Republicans who chose to fight for public schools and vote against school vouchers. I am hoping the House and Senate will do the right thing for Texas and vote against vouchers and for public education.

Miranda Royal

Self

Rosenberg, TX

“Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 8th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.”

rachael hull

Self

Liberty hill, TX

Please support and fully fund public schools. Keep my tax dollars for public education.

Patti Edelman

Self

Austin, TX

I do NOT support the use of any public going to private schools in the form of vouchers or saving accounts. We have not funded public schools adequately for many years and it makes no sense to give any private or for profit schools a nickel. If a parent decides to enroll a child outside the public school system, it should be their choice and their dollars. To rob the public schools of funding in order to work towards privatizing all schools is unpatriotic. Lastly, private schools are not required to enroll all students, thereby creating a two tier for educating Texas students. I have been on record as being against this bad idea since the earliest attempt to privatize public schools and I am even more against it now. Our students, parents, employers, educators and the state deserve better.

Abraham Niman

Self

Dallas, TX

Please support school choice!!

Amanda Padilla

Self - Occupation: Performance Management

Austin, TX

I am firmly opposed to school vouchers. They will subsidize wealthy and urban parents unfairly and will siphon much needed funding away from public schools. Furthermore Texas will have less ability to manage private school resources such as special needs programs and the quality of such may drop significantly. I want my tax dollars to go toward supporting students in disadvantaged areas, and paying teachers appropriate salaries. I do not want my tax dollars going toward private schools, or the companies running them. I am concerned if this bill passes, we will see an increase in predatory private schools designed solely to benefit financially from the voucher programs without regard to student welfare. Texas already HAS a choice on where to send their children to school. Please do not pass HB 3 - A concerned parent and citizen.

Tziporah Pam
Self/Agudah
dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Patricia Plowman
Self
Lubbock, TX

As a retired Texas public school teacher and a grandparent to children currently attending our state's public schools, I am deeply concerned about any efforts to implement a school voucher program. I strongly urge you to oppose any policies that divert public education funding to private institutions at the expense of our public schools.

For decades, I dedicated my career to educating Texas children, and I have seen firsthand how vital public schools are to our communities. Public schools welcome all students—regardless of income, ability, or background—while private schools can pick and choose whom they accept. Vouchers would take much-needed taxpayer dollars away from public schools, further straining resources for students who rely on them the most, especially in rural and low-income areas.

Texas public schools are already facing challenges, including teacher shortages, outdated materials, and inadequate funding. Instead of funneling public money into private schools that are not held to the same standards of accountability, we should be investing in our teachers, classrooms, and students. My grandchildren, and millions of other Texas children, deserve a well-funded, high-quality education system that provides them with the tools they need to succeed.

I have dedicated my life to education, and I cannot stand by while policies threaten the future of public schools. I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by opposing school voucher programs and instead advocating for stronger investments in our public education system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amanda Alberson
Self
La Porte, TX

School vouchers will hurt already under funded public schools. A large majority of the children will not have the option or the ability to attend a private school. Children with learning disabilities or behavior difficulties will not be able to partake in "school choice" as the schools can and will choose not to admit them. Children living in small rural areas will not be able to choose a school because there will not be one within their area.

This should be a public vote, not a insistence shoved into place by Gov. Abbott.

Thank you for your time.

Rhonda Zaiontz
Self / Secular Houston
Houston, TX

I urge you to vote against this bill. Vouchers will not be beneficial for school children in Harris county. This is a scam and I do not want my public tax money used to fund private schools, especially those religiously-affiliated. I would also like DEI and CRT teachings, which are simply about understanding, acceptance and kindness for others, to stay in the curriculum.

Shannyn Allan Block
Self, mom of 3
San Antonio, TX

Hello, I'm a mom of 3 and a wife of a Texas first responder. We rely on public schools, as millions of other families do- and will not benefit from a voucher program or educational savings program. We have run our budget several times- we simply cannot afford the cost of living, saving for our retirement, our kid's college education AND paying for k-12. This push towards privatization will leave millions of us behind. We simply cannot afford private schools and they do not have to accommodate to kids with special needs, which our daughter has. Our rural friends will also not benefit from private schools, to which there are NONE in driving distance. This is NOT helping working and middle class families with larger families, who don't have the budget to send to private schools even with "help." Public schools are all we can afford.

Clea Mattingly, Mrs.
Self and my children
Dallas, TX

I VEHEMENTLY oppose HB3!!!!

Lorna Torrado, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

As an educator with over 25 years of teaching and leading I OPPOSE this bill. Depleting even more our public system of resources will have devastating effects for decades to come. Quality education for every child should be a top priority for our state.

Carol Sue Marshall, Dr
Self retired Working with UnitedMethodist of Faith
colleyville, TX

I am a retired educator with many years in the Public Schools and 13 years as a professor/administrator in the College of Education at UTA. I was awarded an Emeritus position for my efforts to prepare effective teachers and improve Public Schools. I taught my classes in the schools, where my students and I worked with the administrators, teachers and students. That process allowed each of us to learn and grow from each other. I KNOW public schools and I know the quality of the administrators from the Supt to the local schools. I also know the students in urban schools (DallasISD) as well as in more rural areas (WacoISD) I created the degree that requires students to complete 2 yrs in Child Development at a community college and 2 yr in Early Childhood at a 4 yr College of Education. I have worked directly with TEA, SBEC, and Gov Bush's office to create appropriate policy for public schools and Colleges of Education. I have also worked with Private Schools.

**I KNOW PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS and
I BELIEVE YOU KNOW HB3 WILL POTENTIALLY HARM BOTH!**

I ask you to:

Fund Public Schools - at least to the level of the average National Public School funding
Understand Bills like HB3 and SB2 return us to Segregation

Remember that you are charged by the TX Constitution caring for our Public Schools

Hold public forums! That is the way to learn that YOUR CONSTITUENTS DO NOT WANT HB3 mandated on them.
Have the courage to stand against Gov Abbott and do what is right for TX students, parents, and the economy,

Susan Mounce

Retired public school teacher

Hewitt, TX

Please do not give public dollars to private schools!

Daley Hilton

Self - mom of 3 public school educated children and prior public school teacher

Dallas, TX

I am a product of Texas public schools, I was a teacher for 9 years in Texas public schools, and now I have 3 children in the Texas public school system. As a Texas homeowner, I want to see ANY and ALL educational spending of taxpayer money to go towards public schools. Public schools are here to serve every Texan that wants to attend and that is where we need to put our money - to build up public education. Private schools are not required to serve every Texan child, they are not held to educational standards by the state, and they are only accessible to a small percentage of students - there is no reason that taxpayer money should be allocated for private schools. I will be unbelievably disappointed if our representatives ignore the will of the people on this, and I will not vote for any representative in the future who supports HB3

Emily McBride

Self

Austin, TX

Public funds should not be used for private schools. The charter school system has already hurt our public schools. This would take away even more funding and only harm the public school system. We need more funding for the public schools. I do believe that all of the lawmakers know this. It is not ok to move forward with a bill that will take our public education in a bad direction.

Tania Tasneem

Self | Public School Educator

Austin, TX

Thank You Chairman Buckley and Members of the Committee,

Hi Everybody! I am Tania Tasneem. Texan born, Pakistani raised, with a little twist of El Paso. I had the privilege of giving invited testimony in 2022 to the joint committees on Public Education and Higher Education so it is nice to see some familiar faces and some new ones. I have been a dedicated educator in Texas public schools for 18 years and I just recently earned my principal certification in January. In those years of teaching, I've had the privilege of learning and growing from many students. But no student has challenged me—or taught me—quite like Skye.

For a year and a half, we navigated an incredibly difficult relationship. There were moments of deep frustration, but also small victories. And then, one day, she looked at me and said, "I guess I'm really sorry for verbally abusing you all these years." It was unexpected. It was raw. It was real.

She is a student with special education needs and significant emotional challenges. She spent time in an alternative learning center, where I visited her every week. Those visits filled my cup. No matter how much she resisted, she always ended with, "Ms. Tasneem please Give me a hug."

Then, everything changed. Guardianship shifted. She was moved to another city. Later, I learned she had returned to our district and enrolled in high school. When I went to visit her to give her 8th grade certificate of completion, she was already gone. The last I heard, she was in foster care. I carry her 8th-grade certificate of completion with me as—a reminder of how far she had come.

Skye is exactly the kind of student who won't have access to an Educational Savings Account (ESA). Foster youth with disabilities don't have the luxury of school choice. They rely on the wraparound services our public schools provide—mental health support, special education interventions, transportation, meals, and a team of educators fighting for their success. Diverting public funds through ESAs weakens the very system that held her up.

I share her story because she is not the only one. She represents thousands of vulnerable students who depend on a fully funded public education. When we take money out of our schools, we take away their safety net. We take away their stability. We take away their future.

She deserved better. And so do all the students like her.

As a proud product of public schools, I think we might have lost sight of the mission of public free schools. So I leave with you something I learned in 7th grade in 1993 in my Texas History class in El Paso ISD The Texas State Constitution Article 7, Section 1

SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM OF PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS. A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.

William Urban

self

Austin, TX

This bill for vouchers should not pass. Texas needs to put this debate behind us once and for all so we can support our local schools with all of our might instead of this wasted energy spent on vouchers. Vouchers will not help our children. Vouchers will not support parents. Vouchers will aid in destroying rural education. This is not Texas values. Thank you for voting against this bill.

Allen Bartell

Self

Willis, TX

I am a parent of two elementary age, children and a substitute teacher at our local schools. I'm also a retired educator of 35 years.

Over the years districts and seen the struggles from within. I've seen teachers buying paper and using their own printers because they have exceeded their number of copies for the month.

Greg Abbott himself has admitted that the voucher plan is likely to take funds away from local schools. Public tax dollars belong in public schools. Public schools cannot deny kids, private schools can.

Money being sent to private schools without accountability is a slap in the face to teachers and parents who face the STAAR test each and every year.

In every state that is an active vouchers, the majority of the students were already in private schools. This essentially amounts to a tax rebate to families who are already doing well enough to pay their kids private school tuition.

In addition, private schools do not have to accept all applicants. They're going to be many families. We're gonna have a difficult time finding a school to fit their child's needs. And finally, there are entire regions of Texas with zero private school options. So this Bill offers people in those areas nothing.

I am strongly opposed to this, Bill, as an educator, as a parent, and as a taxpayer.

Lacy Eckert

Self, public school educator

Burton, TX

I oppose HB 3 and all other names for an educational savings account for many reasons. This scam will clearly take away much deserved funding for our public schools (obviously decreasing attendance takes away monies), Texas Public Schools deserve a basic student allotment increase that reflects inflation. Private schools and homeschooled students are not held to the same accountability standards as public education students. Private school educators are not held to the certification standards. Private schools CHOOSE who can and cannot attend their schools. This is welfare for the wealthy. This is unfair. This is a slap in the face. This is NOT what your constituents want. I am so disappointed this is even on the table. Please consider how this decision will deeply impact our public schools. Heartbroken, Lacy Eckert

Jill Anderson

TRTA

Aubrey, TX

Please vote NO on school vouchers.

Billy McCurley

Self

Austin, TX

I urge you to vote against this school voucher bill. As a concerned constituent and advocate for a strong public education system, I firmly believe that this legislation will harm Texas students, teachers, and taxpayers. Rather than solving the challenges facing our public schools, HB3 diverts essential funds away from the very institutions that serve the majority of our children.

The Texas Constitution mandates that the state provide a "suitable" and "efficient" system of public free schools. A voucher program directly undermines this mandate by diverting resources toward private entities, many of which lack the capacity, willingness, or obligation to serve all students equitably. Public tax dollars should remain in public schools, benefiting the greatest number of students rather than a select few.

Unlike public schools, which must meet rigorous state standards, adhere to curriculum requirements, and undergo public financial audits, private schools receiving vouchers operate with minimal oversight. This lack of accountability means taxpayer dollars could fund schools that fail to meet basic educational standards. Many private schools are not subject to the same financial transparency laws as public schools. This opens the door for potential fraud, mismanagement, and misuse of funds—something we have seen in other states that have implemented similar voucher programs. Without stringent accountability measures, Texas risks wasting public money on schools that may not provide a high-quality education.

Proponents of HB3 argue that school vouchers expand parental choice. However, in reality, vouchers often benefit only a small segment of students—primarily those who are already attending private schools. Many private schools charge tuition rates that far exceed the value of the voucher, leaving low- and middle-income families unable to cover the remaining costs. Additionally, private schools can selectively admit students based on entrance exams, religious affiliation, and other criteria, excluding many children who would benefit from school choice the most.

If lawmakers truly want to improve education in Texas, they should focus on increasing funding for public schools, raising teacher salaries, reducing classroom sizes, and expanding access to advanced coursework and vocational training. Redirecting public funds to private schools through a voucher system does not address the root causes of educational inequities—it only exacerbates them.

Public education is a public good that benefits all Texans. When we invest in our public schools, we invest in the future of our state by ensuring that all children, regardless of their zip code, receive a quality education. HB3 moves Texas in the wrong direction by prioritizing privatization over public investment, harming our students and communities in the process.

Amy Degner, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

No on HB 3. Public dollars for public schools.

Angela O'Leary

Self, Educator

Canton, TX

Here is the easiest way to have our voices heard about vouchers. Simply copy the message, click on the link, paste it in the comments after filling in a few required fields, and submit.

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Jessica Toliver

Self

Brenham, TX

HB 3 is an insult to public school teachers and students. This bill will do nothing besides provide a discount to parents who already pay for private school for their children. This bill will not help children but it will continue to grow the teacher shortage.

Nichols Joey

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am in full opposition to using tax dollars to fund tuition to private schools. I am a both a fiscal and social conservative but the Republican Party leadership has sold out to in state and out of state billionaires. There was a time when legislators voted their district. Now, too many are using the excuse that it's going to pass anyway, so they are going to vote for it. Which is ridiculous when there is such a narrow margin of support in the House.

Angela B Garza, Ms.

SANA NA East Austin/Co Chair EMLK Combined Contact Team

Austin, TX

(Part 2 Story Continued)

First thing we did when we arrived in Round Rock TX is that we had a meeting with the principal, Joshua's teacher, Joshua in his own meeting, and his Mama. We all agreed to collaborative game plan with myself becoming Joshua's disability correction teacher at home. It was a ton of work and there was a definite difference in the quality of education. Lo and behold all our efforts led to Joshua leaping 4 grade levels with humble confidence. I had no idea that Title 1 Public schools in Austin are severely strained per student cost. Our son would have been severely left behind had we not sacrificed the risk on his behalf. He is a Latino young boy who already stepped into an almost predictable path of possible jail. After the one year we returned back to Austin to do the responsible thing and care take our grandparents who fell ill for ten years while taking care of other responsibilities. Joshua and Joseph began to attend Peace Elementary School (Public AISD School). Then we progressed both Joshua and Joseph to O Henry Middle School in West Austin for better quality education. We didn't want to take them backwards. So mom sacrificed daily and drive both our cubs across the city for quality education. Then they separated out to McCallum High School and Austin High School with their respective peers. My husband and worked the plan for their success around demanding work and caretaking schedules. Our cubs calendared 14 hour days. And were both well rounded leaders in their high schools. Academically, Athletically, Photo Leader Yearbook, and More. We as parents received a ton of resistance from their family because they did not understand what we were doing for our sons. Once again proving there is a higher quality of education in West Austin versus East Austin simply because there was no winning successful system in place at the time in East Austin and not enough money per student for quality education.

Results: Joshua and Joseph G Cardenas.

They have become the very first generation college graduates in many of our families. Two, not just one Latino young men. Joshua's speech impediment is no longer there. Only a small glimpse from time to time. Joshua reads at an incredible level today. He is thinking of writing his first Memoir. Joshua just made it back by God's Grace from Israel, where he completed his Master's degree during one of the most incredible wars in the Middle East. He is the first Male Masters of our families. And if he decides to pursue his PHD, he will be the very first in all our families. Joseph is very successful in Business and as an Investor. A BA college graduate. These are our cubs.

In conclusion, there is a proven system in the community public schools that is working for current students. The finding per student schools must be increased per student to read of more of these successes that we are all proud of in Texas when we invest wisely and consciously into our future. Thank You Kindly.

James Knuffke

Self

Irving, TX

We are strongly in favor of this bill, along with many other families here in Irving and across Texas.

Court Jackel

Self

Abilene, TX

WE DONT WANT VOUCHERS!! You're essentially killing our public education in rural areas and counties that don't even have any private schools and leaving the public schools vastly underfunded.

Deborah Duval

Self retired

Austin, TX

I oppose school vouchers

Elizabeth Bartell

Self

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

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This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public .

Carlie Fullam, Mrs

Self

Hutto, TX

Vote No! We the people do not support this bill!!

Joan Hicks

Self

Argyle, TX

I am Against HB 3! I am Against school vouchers and I want Public Schools FULLY FUNDED! Stop withholding money from Public School Districts and holding Public School Districts hostage until you get your school voucher agenda passed! The state of Texas has the money! FULLY FUND our public schools Now!

Richard Thomas, Retired

Self

Rosharon, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Elizabeth Kumbalek

Self, retired

Blanco, TX

I vehemently oppose vouchers, "school choice", educational savings accounts, or any of the other euphemisms that describe redirecting my tax dollars to private schools away from public schools. School choice already exists, and has existed for as long as there have been private schools. My choice is to support and strengthen our public schools and not weaken them further by supporting someone else's choice of a religious, or other private education that can discriminate against children deemed unworthy, due special needs or demographics. We who live in rural Texas don't have access private schools and will suffer if public school funds are diverted to any type of private school, whatever you call it (vouchers, school choice, parental empowerment.)

Robert Baumgardner

self, retired geologist

Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB3. I am a proud product of Texas public schools from first grade through graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin. I have found out that Brownfield ISD, where I grew up, stands to lose \$680,000 if HB3 passes. That would mean a potential loss of 12 teachers, nearly 10% of the total. There is no private school in Brownfield or in most small towns around the state. Where are parents in these towns supposed to take their ESA money?

We all know that you usually get what you pay for. Texas ranks 38th among states in per pupil spending. At least we're ahead of Oklahoma, but we're still in the bottom half of states ranked by quality of education. How is draining money from public schools supposed to improve that sorry statistic? I am opposed to any effort to take my tax money and give it to people who can already afford to pay private school tuition.

Christine Taylor

Self

Arlington, TX

Public tax dollars should not pay for private education. The constitution gives right to a free and public education, not a private one. In the state of Texas you as the body of elected officials have decided to not fully fund our public education system. Thus, students and teachers are in crowded classrooms and schools without the materials and services they need. You spend ridiculous amounts of money on state testing instead of fully funding necessary services like SPED. Yes I realize that is funded by the Department of Education but you all made decisions to limit our access to those funds. Now you want to remove even more money from public education and give it to schools that you will not require to meet the same standards as your public schools and that disgusts me. I realize now how little our kids mean to my elected representatives. A parent does have a right to decide where their child attends school no doubt. However, you do not have the right to damage another child's opportunities or determine where my tax dollars are spent. The excuse that it will help students who are at "at risk" schools is a lie. They do not have the money to make up the difference in tuition nor do most of those families have the transportation to get the students to the private schools. This is nothing but a way to subsidize rich families and take money and opportunities from our students who need them the most.

Logan Rivard

Self, NEISD Teacher

San Antonio, TX

We currently have school choice, and it's important to separate church vs state in education. As prices go up and salaries don't match, vouchers only assist the wealthy. In addition, schools that are already Title 1 schools will continue to have less funding due to low enrollment when vouchers get passed. We need to provide more money to these public schools so they have the resources and teachers to give ALL students the education level "they would get at private schools". However, if the voucher system were to be passed, if teachers would get a \$20,000 raise for public school educators, I would be fine with that. So, if you pass vouchers and teachers (all teachers) get a \$20,000 raise, respectively, I will keep my mouth shut.

Beatrice Sipes

Self

Cypress, TX

Please be advised that I am fundamentally opposed to all attempts to divert funds from our public schools regardless of where or how those funds are being diverted. We must educate

Holly Todd
Self, Parent
Cedar Park, TX

I am writing to you today as a parent of four children in the Leander School District outside of Austin, Texas. My children are in 12th, 11th, 10th, and 1st grade. As with every other parent, I had a choice on where to send my children to school. I could send them to a private school if I so chose. I could send them to a charter school. I could have them attend online school, or I could home school them. This choice was available to me 13 years ago when my oldest started Kindergarten and it is still available today. Private school was not the right choice for my family for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, the majority of private schools are religious institutions and do not align with our values. Second, private schools are expensive and a "discount" doesn't change that. Next choice, charter schools are tuition free and not religious based, but like private schools lack resources such as transportation and special education services. Next choice online or home school have the same limitation as each other, they require me to be the educator when I work full time.

The best choice for me and my family was the public school system. I chose a home in a good school district with strong test scores and school ratings, because I enjoy the privilege to do so. My children have thrived because of the support and programs they have participated in, in public schools. My oldest is neurodivergent and has a learning disability. Because of the support of the special ed program, she has been accepted to every college she applied to and has recently been nominated for a Heller Award for Young Artists. My 11th grader is also neurodivergent and because of an incredible science program in LISD, he has participated in two science fairs at the regional level most recently earning the Ricoh Sustainable Development Award and plans to obtain a PhD. My 10th grader has overcome an incredible amount of health challenges that caused hospitalization for nearly the entirety of 8th grade. Because of the educational support she received from her public school, as a freshman and sophomore, she has been on the honor roll every six week period. Finally, my first grader showed early signs of dyslexia and due to the early intervention programs at his school, he is being evaluated and supported to be able to thrive.

Texas law makers need to honor their promise to their constituents by continuing to fund public schools as promised. There are nearly 3000 students at my kids' high school. There are a small handful of private schools that can support a few hundred kids each in my area. What is left for everyone else? Public school. The "school choice" voucher system benefits no one but wealthy families who can afford to send their kids to private schools because they already are. If private schools want to attract more diverse students, then they can foot the bill via scholarships. We will all remember how you vote on this bill and then we will vote accordingly. Thank you.

Maria Hettler
Self
Helotes, TX

Dear Members of the House Committee,
I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas School Voucher Bill (HB3). This proposed education savings program diverts taxpayer dollars away from our public schools and primarily benefits wealthy families who already send their children to private schools. It does so at the expense of public education, particularly in rural and remote counties where approximately 150 counties lack a private school option altogether.

Even if families in these areas could afford the difference between the voucher amount and private school tuition, the reality is that they have no viable choice. Instead of improving education for all Texas students, this bill weakens our public school system by redirecting much-needed resources.

I urge you to oppose HB3, as it is a disservice to Texas taxpayers, detrimental to public educators, and ultimately harmful to the students who rely on our public schools. Please stand with the vast majority of Texans who support strong, well-funded public education.

Sincerely,
Maria Hettler

Rebecca Moyer DeFelice

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am a parent of a TX public school student and I absolutely oppose the creation of a voucher system. Our public schools serve over 5 million Texas kids, and parents have ample opportunity to be involved in their children's education. Parents and students also already have school choice within Texas public schools - my child attends a public magnet school outside our home district, an opportunity that exists for any student who chooses to apply.

Our current public school system needs to be fully funded before the state diverts tax dollars to private schools.

The state constitution clearly mandates that every child in Texas have access to a free, quality public education, and I urge the committee to prioritize legislation that will help fulfill that promise to Texas children.

Meghan Rygg

Self

FRISCO, TX

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to oppose any school voucher program that diverts taxpayer dollars away from public schools. Texas families need fully funded, high-quality public education—not a system that redirects public funds to private institutions with little oversight or accountability.

Instead of vouchers, I ask that you prioritize investments in our public schools, ensuring that every child, regardless of zip code, has access to the resources and support they need to succeed. Please stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting school vouchers.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Meghan Rygg

Chaim Stitzer

self, cybersecurity

Plano, TX

I'm asking that you please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities, and this should not be reliant on income or what side of the street you live on.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike as it will ensure efficient allocation of resources to where it's actually needed, instead of where a map or financial status dictate they go. Allowing parents to spend their own tax dollars where they want to will also create accountability and thus put a spotlight on any potential waste.

Nearly half of the US has a school choice program without gutting their public school systems — it's very doable, and it's time for Texas to join them!

Lara Medrano

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Stop vouchers! Stop stealing from public schools

Clifton Butt, Mr.

Self - Public School Teacher

Amarillo, TX

HB 3 will be a boondoggle for Texas public schools, especially rural public schools. With 80+% of this bills funds projected to go towards students who are already enrolled in private schools, this is not about school choice. This bill is a giveaway to wealthy families who already have more choice than anyone. This bill is a clear waste of taxpayer funds. On top of that, this waste of funds will lead to negative effects for public schools and their funding. Please oppose this bill.

Christine Lund

Self-- self employed

Fort Worth, TX

I am 100% opposed to the school voucher program. Our public schools are woefully funded as it is and need all of the help they can get. Taking money out to help subsidize a private school education is not the job of the state, no more so then I expect the State to pay for my new driveway or an overhaul of my yard. Please take care of the neediest among us before helping those that can help themselves.

Page Schreck

Self retired engineer

Allen, TX

The state should fully fund the public schools rather than make moves that will only take more money away. State funding has been reduced year after year and the state has an overage. Our kids should not be paying the price. Every district is having to cut valuable services.
Enough!!!

Crystal Bayley

Self

McKinney, TX

Schools need their FULL funding, and it should be NOW! Please release the money to help the students, staff, and communities of Texas. Our future depends on the money. Our students deserve the very BEST education.

Reno Reed

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose the bill. I do not want school vouchers

Donna Jenschke

IISD

Kerrville, TX

Parents already have school choice. This bill is to provide for the parents that already send their students to private schools. Meanwhile, you will take money away from the public system. Texas already ranks in the bottom 10 in per-student public education funding. Lawmakers should focus on improving the funding disparities in our current system before implementing a new, private system. If a voucher is passed, our district will lose \$532,915, meaning we would have to cut nine teachers raising the student teacher ratio by almost 6%. As a 40 year Texas administrator/educator, I have watched students leave the public school system for private settings and, in most cases, returned to the public system farther behind. Our church currently has a private school in the church facility. The rigor and expectations of that school are minimal. Many times, I witness students napping on couches through the day in that setting. State standards are not being taught. One particular student's mother said they were returning to public schools because they only focused on RLA in the private setting. Recently, I tested a very young student for GT that came to us from the private setting. His parents stated that the move was to get him in a more challenging setting. He scored an 8 or 9 on every subtest of the CogAT and IOWA! The schools I have had the privilege of leading have been very successful and all have been Title 1. Our staff members meet students where they are and work hard to grow everyone. We have already lost staff members because funds have been withheld from the public setting. What a shame for kids?! Please do not vote for the voucher.

Kaci Sohrt

Self

Austin, TX

I am a product of public schools, child of a public school teacher, and parent of two public school children. I oppose vouchers, cleverly disguised as "school choice." The people of Texas see this for what it is. A transfer of money to the already wealthy while siphoning even more money to political donors. Our public schools have for decades been asked to do more with less because Texas "didn't have the money" to support them. And step up they have done. If it appears Texas has a spare \$1 billion a year, why not spend it on public schools, which have not been adequately funded for decades. I do not support this bill nor any of the people who do.

Louise Liller

Self -parent

Austin, TX

I support public schools and am against the voucher program. As a parent, I believe in public education and this bill will further take away much needed funds from public schools.

Andrew Ward

Self

Galveston, TX

This is incredibly unpopular within the state of Texas. You all are aware of this fact, and it's not lost on your constituents, Texans, and the children of Texas. Don't do more to cripple low-income children from the start - give them a chance. Vote No to HB.3

Leslie Allison

Self

Dallas, TX

As an educator of 31 years in the Texas Public Education System, I adamantly oppose this bill. It will cripple Public Education and school districts by diverting funds away from public schools and into the hands of private entities. This is simply a way of giving monies to people who have already chosen private education for their children. It has been shown time and time again that this system fails public educators and students. This is being brought on because of an out of state donor, Jeff Yass, who is trying to push his private school voucher scam by donating \$12 million dollars to Abbott and others campaigns so that they will do his bidding. This is criminal and it should not be left up to legislators, but put it to a public vote and you will see it is not wanted by the majority of voters in Texas. This include homeschool parents, public school parents, and even private school parents, as they don't want to have to be subjected to state law. Parents already have school choice, don't try and cover up this scam by saying that. Abbott is a liar and pushing self agendas. If he felt like it would be well received then he would have gone into public schools instead of private ones for his photo ops. Texas legislators need to wake up and listen to their constituents.

Jennifer Hallam

Self- teacher/SAHM

Marble Falls, TX

So no to vouchers! This bill is just welfare for the wealthy. Support public schools.

Michael Martin

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Blaine Palmer

Self/Missionary

Cleburne, TX

All of the debates and disagreements I have heard this far seems to focus on public schools being negatively impacted by this bill. I would like to state that I only attended public schools and was a 504 student. Why is there so much focus on the public school system when it has subpar for as long as I have been school age? My mom was told when I was in the third grade that I would never graduate and if it wasn't for my aunt who has been a teacher or a counselor since the 1980's I would have never got the accommodations needed. My sister has a master's in special education and still to this day the public school systems fails all special needs children. Why is not time to help the private school and home school organizations? At the moment my daughters will never go to public schools even though I pay my fair share of taxes for a system that benefits my family none. I disagree with kids going to public school because of the city or town they live in. We build insane buildings and sports complex's over actually giving kids an education.

Heather Jones

Self, concerned parent

Round Rock, TX

Please vote NO on HB3 to protect our public school childrens' futures! I have two kids in a great Texas public elementary school and they deserve a fully funded education along with their peers. Please don't siphon money from already underfunded public education to support these voucher schemes. We Texas parents are counting on you to make the right choice and support public education!

Maria Del Carmen Harrison-Riojas

Mothers for Democracy

Dripping Springs, TX

Today they

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Mary Howell

Self

Mount Calm, TX

I am totally against school vouchers. It will destroy rural schools. In our small town, the school is the only employer. The kids have no way to get to a private school. If there are additional costs they can't afford it. The more money that goes to private schools the less public schools will get.

Tamara Derouselle

Self

Plano, TX

I am highly concerned about the efforts to essentially dismantle the public school system. Vouchers will not universally help underserved communities that cannot afford private schools or differently able students who may be discriminated against for entry. As a parent of a private school child, I believe it is a duty & privilege to pay into the public school system to benefit the community as a whole. A more educated electorate is better for everyone. As a voter, a parent, and concerned citizen, I ask that you vote against vouchers in HB3.

Jennifer Lidington

self, school counselors and LPC

McKinney, TX

I implore you to please OPPOSE any education savings account or voucher program in Texas. As a school counselor, LPC and former teacher, I see the real needs in public school. It is to give funds to public schools, raise salaries for teachers, school counselors, librarians AND fund mental and behavioral health programs in public schools. The increase of outcries, threats to harm self and struggles with mental health is what we NEED in public schools, NOT vouchers.

Leslie Gutierrez
Self
SAN ANTONIO, TX

VOTE NO ON HB 3!!! Our public school children deserve better!

Tatum Owens
Progress Texas
College Station, TX

My name is Tatum Owens and I'm a recent graduate living in Bryan/College Station, Texas. My entire education is built on Texas' public schools and teachers, and I cannot imagine if schools like Garner Middle School and Douglas Macarthur High School in San Antonio weren't available, especially for the children that would have no option if they were priced out of an education—many such cases would occur. Privatizing our education system is a mistake that will kill any bright minds left here, a tragedy for a state with such wealth and opportunity to provide for its children. I grew up around tons of private schools and charter schools in San Antonio and we all know it's true that the divisions between our private and public schools are socially segregated by race and class. This wouldn't change with a meager 10K that doesn't begin to cover costs, and that doesn't address the issue of public, equitable education for all anyway. Rural Texans like my cousins who depended on their only public school in the area know this. I would venture to say my lawmakers know this too, as the makeup of our legislature changed a lot last election because of viewpoints on this crucial issue of how we build up young minds and reform our education system. Vouchers are not the solution to education reform in Texas. No matter how they rebrand (voucher, education savings accounts, etc.) the law would provide families with my taxpayer money to pay for private schooling. I object, this isn't what I paid for. Barriers like location, fixed tuition, and institutionalized racism ensure that private schools will remain exclusive, and I don't want the money I've paid in to be wasted on something that's proven to waste government funds. Texans like me want our neighborhood schools to continue providing equal access, standardized measures of success, and community impact—and that depends on funding them and not a new scam that would further devastate our public school system.

Sarah Killingsworth
Self
Conroe, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. This bill will only help 100,000 children out of the over 5 million children in Texas at a steep cost. Most of these families can already afford private school. This bill does not help the rural counties who do not have private education in their area. This bill should serve all children's interests. Public dollars should stay in public education. We have one of the largest economies in the world, we should be at the top of the list in funding public education, instead we are almost at the bottom. Do the right thing and don't move forward with this bill. Serve the people, not billionaires.

Carol Davis, Mrs.

Self

Schertz, TX

Where is the accountability for the money? Public schools are held to standards based on test scores, private schools are not. Private schools can tell a student they are not accepted; public schools cannot do that. Public schools have standards for teacher certifications, private schools do not.

Texas public school children are given \$6100 per student unless they meet other standards such as SPED/504, CTE, and other special programs. Not every public school children gets the phantom \$15k being waved around.

If the goal is accountability and transparency, which I like from President Trump, how will I be given the same with these ESA accounts? Private institutions are not required to share the budgets.

How will my tax dollars be monitored? Who will uphold the IDEA/504/SPED laws in homeschooling and private institutions? Public schools are accountable for not only educational audits by TEA, but their budgets as well.

Why has my elected Congressman, Schoolcraft, and Senator, Campbell, refused to answer direct questions concerning this issue?

Why not actually fund public education and allow the professional teachers to do their jobs. Politicians have changed the rules so often that teachers feel like ping pong balls; but they adapt and keep going.

Politicians are expecting teachers to do everything for the child and not having any expectations of the family for that child. Children no longer come to school with a basic understanding of reading and numbers because all they have experienced is a phone or tablet in their face and not books or physical toys. Let teachers get back to the basics of reading, writing, math, and science. Let the professionals do their jobs.

James Nowell, Mr

Self

Allen, TX

Vote against school vouchers. It only helps the upper middle class and siphons funds from public schools. Private schools are selective (able and privileged students) and do not accept all students.

Rhea Pollock

Self mail carrier

Fort Worth, TX

Fund Texas public schools.

Robin Rieck

self

Cedar Creek, TX

Public schools are the backbone of rural communities. You harm our public schools and you harm all of us. I am opposed to any spending of my tax dollars for private schools who are not held to the exact same set of rules imposed on our public schools. This bill hands taxpayer dollars to entities run for profit. Profit is their first priority. The first priority of our public schools is the education of the students. My first priority in this matter is the education of students. Not a select few handpicked students but ALL students. If I wanted a specialty license plate for my car I would have to pay for that myself. Let those who want education outside our public schools pay for that themselves. This bill provides less funding per public school student than for a private school student. That is grossly unfair and must not be allowed. This bill sets no rules to ensure quality education in private schools. Our public schools are held to a set of standards. This is a reckless and irresponsible expenditure of taxpayer dollars. This bill does not require private schools to enroll students with disabilities or students from marginalized communities. Taxpayer dollars must not be handed to private schools who have a license to discriminate in their enrollment policies. Our legislature is tasked with funding a public school system. If our elected legislators had fulfilled their duty to do that we wouldn't even be considering a voucher system. Bring adequate funding back to our public schools by increasing the per student allocation to make up for the shortage created by the Texas Legislature over the last decade. Send the profiteers packing.

Mary Vance
Self/Psychologist
Austin, TX

I strongly encourage Texas lawmakers to reject HB3, the school voucher bill. This bill concerns me greatly, give the ramifications for education in Texas for all children, and the forced consequences for taxpayers. Gov. Abbott and Republicans are trying to take \$1 billion from Texas taxpayers and give it to wealthy families who are already sending their kids to private schools. This will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties. More than 150 Texas counties don't have a private school to send children to, even if someone could afford the difference between what the voucher pays and what tuition costs.

Jennifer Tu
Self, graphic designer
Pflugerville, TX

Please do not pass the voucher scam. Public education is so important for our children and community. Please fully fund public education. My property taxes are not for welfare for the already wealthy

Elaine Stotts
Self
Austin, TX

I don't think my taxes should go to private schools when public school education is available.

Macee Balka
Self
Lubbock, TX

Voucher do not solve the issue. NO VOUCHERS! I will personally vote against any representative in my area that supports them. Use your brain and come to the table with a better solution. We elect you to do so.

Megan Pedersen
Self - homeschool mom
Cypress, TX

My name is Megan Pedersend, and I oppose HB 3. As a homeschool mother of 8 children, I highly value the freedoms Texas currently gives to homeschool parents to educate their children in the best way they see fit for each child and their family as a whole. HB 3 sounds appealing with the promise of funds to go toward curriculum each year, especially for a large family like mine, but in reality, few homeschoolers spend that much money per child per year on educational materials thanks to purchasing pre-loved books and most curricula not costing anywhere near \$2k.

Additionally, I do not agree with the promise of such funds still giving me 100% autonomy in making the best educational choices for my children based on their individual needs and our personal and religious convictions. History and current homeschool bills and laws in other states have shown that when the government gets involved with financial incentives for homeschool families, the freedoms of the people suffer. I do not believe it would take very long for the government to start telling me how I should educate my children and what curricula I should use if this bill were to pass. Again, I oppose HB3 and encourage you to do the same.

Jennifer Cathrow

self

San Antonio, TX

I am a parent of a child with disabilities. I have experienced first hand the detrimental impact of underfunding our schools, especially special education. Vouchers will hurt those students who need the most assistance, including special education and low income families. Give teachers the raises and support they deserve as an investment in our collective future and health as a state. Vouchers will end up in the denial of services and protections for students that require supports, which are guaranteed under federal law. This short-sighted politician "win" for the governor will inflict lasting harm on generations of Texas children, who all deserve better.

Catherine Tornow

Self

Dallas, TX

Please keep as much funding as humanly possible going to our public schools. These teachers are heroes and we need to give them every resource possible. No to private school vouchers

Darlene Alleman, Mrs

Self ; self employed

The Colony, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Megan Mason

Self

College station, TX

I can say with full confidence that this bill will hurt our students and schools by taking critical funding away from already underfunded schools. Parents have always had a choice for sending their kids to schools with magnet schools, private schools, charter schools, and homeschooling. Taking public funding away from public schools and sending to private schools is not the answer to the problem you propose this bill to correct. To not hold private schools to the same standards of curriculum and educator certification and propose sending unequal funding doesn't make logical sense. This bill is not about one political party over another. This bill is about a redistribution of wealth that will disproportionately benefit the wealthy who can already afford to send their children to private schools. The public overwhelmingly voted against this agenda the first time it came around, and we see through the farce of it now. HB3 will not help the people you claim it is most for. There are better ways to help students most in need of better educational opportunities. Properly funding our schools, all special programs, and educator salaries to recruit and retain high quality teachers is the first step. Sending public dollars to private schools who are not held to the same standards is not the common sense solution.

Sarah Ensley
Parent:teachers
El Paso, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Brandi Dooley
Self
Mansfield, TX

I am strongly strongly against the establishment of a savings account program from HB 3 if it takes away ANY funding at all from public schools. They need MORE funding, not less.

Amy Filbin
self
Austin, TX

Honored members of the committee,

I am the mother of two Texas schoolchildren.

Please know that I am deeply opposed to HB 3, the voucher scheme. Mostly I object to using public funds to subsidize wealthier families, sending their children to private schools, when that money should support our starved Texas public schools.

Rural communities are well aware that public schools are struggling for lack of funding, and that private options are rarely available— and when they are, they don't provide transportation, eating facilities, special education, or even teachers comparable to those at public schools.

As a result, communities across Texas have again and again rejected similar voucher schemes. That rejection, spans, partisans of every stripe.

Instead, I urge you to raise the per-student funding to a level above \$1300 in order to make up for the shortfall, our schools have suffered as a result of the Texas legislature's neglect since 2019.

Thank you for your time, and I know you'll do the right thing.

Missy DeMoss
Self
Trophy Club, TX

I strongly oppose the voucher system. I am a conservative voter and feel that giving tax dollars to a private institution is not a solution to public education. I also teach in public education and the restrictions for how we spend money is highly constricting. Private schools will not face this. I hope you consider taking this to the ballots and voting against it. I do not think this is a solution to the problem. It will do further damage.

Angela Henderson

Self

Lufkin, TX

As a mother of special needs children and a teacher I feel that this bill will underfund public schools and will result in many, including my children, not getting the services they need. This is not a good idea and will hurt more people than it will help. Please consider voting no on this bill. It will only benefit those who can afford to send their kids to private schools in the first place. Children who have 504 plans and IEPs will not only not have their needs met at a private school but will be helped ineffectively at an underfunded public school. In addition, rural schools like mine will hurt the worst. We will lose funding and we are already struggling. Please vote no on HB 3 and support public education. Private schools are not the answer. Properly funding public schools is.

Amanda Eskridge-Johnson

Self

Austin, TX

I do not support vouchers for private schools. It will take money away from public schools, which are already severely underfunded. You know how hard it is for schools to get paid for the students they serve? The state doesn't even pay for a child being out sick. Teacher is still working, lights are still on, buses still run, but schools are expected to take a pay cut every time a student is sick.

My son recently had flu. It was clearly flu, it's a virus, there is nothing medically to be done to treat it as long as he is staying hydrated. Yet I found myself taking him to the doctor, spending \$100 of my money towards my deductible, all so I could get him a doctor's note to excuse his absence. So the state would not stiff his school for him being out sick.

Please fund our public schools and step away from distractions that only help people who are already affording private school on their own.

Lawrence Helberg, Grandfather

Self/Concerned Grandparent

Kyle, TX

I am concerned that our public education is underfunded. I believe the Money allocated for this bill should be used to fund public education.

Debbie Brooks

Self

El Paso, TX

I am against vouchers. It would tank public schools. Please vote against HB3

Lindsay Lewis

Self teacher

Lubbock, TX

My name is Lindsay Lewis, and I am a dedicated fifth-grade teacher and a recently single mother. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to House Bill 3. As someone who is passionate about education and committed to supporting my family, I am disheartened by the potential impact this bill could have on educators like me and the students we serve.

Teaching is more than just a profession—it's a calling. I work tirelessly to ensure my students receive the quality education, but House Bill 3 threatens to undermine the stability and livelihood of teachers across Texas. As a single mother, I am already struggling to make ends meet on a teacher's salary. This bill not only fails to address the financial challenges we face but also risks exacerbating them by limiting resources and support for educators.

Texas teachers deserve fair compensation and adequate resources to do their jobs effectively. House Bill 3 fails to recognize the essential role that educators play in shaping the future of our state. Instead of uplifting teachers and valuing our contributions, this bill could force many of us out of the profession we love, leaving classrooms understaffed and students underserved.

Moreover, as a single parent, I am acutely aware of how financial insecurity affects families. Reducing support for teachers directly impacts our ability to provide for our children. Texas should be investing in its educators, not diminishing our ability to support our families and contribute positively to our communities.

I urge you to consider the real-world implications of House Bill 3 and to stand with Texas teachers and families by opposing this legislation. Please prioritize the well-being of educators and students alike by advocating for policies that support fair wages, professional respect, and adequate classroom resources.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I am hopeful that you will stand with teachers and families to protect the future of education in Texas.

Jennifer Ontiveros

Self. Nurse Practitioner

Round Rock, TX

I urge members of the House to reconsider and deny this bill that will further weaken the already tenuous state of education in Texas. One only has to look at where Texas currently stands in national metrics to know that the situation is dire. At this point we are headed the way of Mississippi. Vouchers or whatever jazzed up terminology you're hiding behind will only hurt ALL Texans, school-aged and beyond. The brain drain that is already happening due to other laws damaging healthcare access, coverage, and general safety will further speed up and you are going to see economic consequences both short and long term. I have given up appealing to your sense of doing what is right for all and not just some, so at least consider the economics of it all.

Jennifer10 Felty

Retired Texas Educator, self

Seguin, TX

I am a retired Texas educator. I retired in 2010 & you underfunded education way back then. Vote no on school vouchers AKA education savings accounts AKA parent choice. These programs defund public schools, reduce funding for special needs, & especially hurt at risk & rural populations.

Aron Warren

Self and Family

Magnolia, TX

My wife and I homeschool and I strongly oppose the wording of this bill. This bill is not in the best interests of those who homeschool their kids.

Jeremy Wright

SELF

Plainview, TX

I have several concerns in relation to school choice.

1. What form of accountability is there when private/charter schools are not required to take the STAAR exam, as Public Schools are.
2. How is giving Private/Charter schools \$10,000/student EQUAL to the \$6,600 given to Public Education.
3. In relation to certification of educators, how is allowing individuals who are not certified in education to be teachers in private/charter schools effective when compared to those public education teachers, who have spent the time to study and achieve accreditation.

Emily Kaszczuk

Self/parent

Leander, TX

I am writing with a question for Chairman Buckley. He has stated that the ESA bill will not cause students to leave public schools and will not lead to teaching professionals exiting the profession. If that is the assumption, then the bill is completely unnecessary, because parents will not be making NEW choices for their children. By virtue of already having made the choice, the parents do not need an ESA to remove barriers. If, on the other hand, he does expect new families to move from public schools to private schools or homeschooling, it is reasonable to discuss the scope of those migrations and the consequences to both public schools and TRS. Chairman Buckley, which outcome do you anticipate? Will the ESA dollars go to students NEW to homeschooling or private school or Will the funds go primarily towards children already in private schools or homeschooling? What data is being used to determine the projected impact?

Joseph Mancuso

Self

Conroe, TX

I hope my comment finds you well. My name is Joseph, I am a veteran who has served this state, holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics, and supports the websites of small businesses in our communities. I am concerned that the public push for private education is not in the best interests of Texans.

I believe this bill lays the foundation for less effective educators, a poorly educated workforce, and disincentivizes healthy competition between private educators. As we inherently move money away from public education, I am fearful that this will result in a generation of less educated Texans, unable to perform in the highly skilled workforce this age demands. Public school remains our most accessible means of investing in our youth and transforming them into productive members of society. This bill comes at a time that public education desperately needs more resources, higher standards, and a curriculum that reflects the state of the labor market. Additionally, I object to the use of any public funds to subsidize private institutions.

If the goal is to "level the playing field" to allow private institutions to win over customers/students from public educators, I would consider supporting a bill that exempts homeowners with students enrolled in private school from paying School District Property Tax, as this would scale up or down depending on locale and a household's needs. However, this version of the bill limits which families and schools could use the program and funnels State money into private institutions without objective oversight or standards of education to qualify them.

I hope you will turn your attention to matters that actually impact our communities, and will more judiciously reinvest our tax dollars. Thank you.

Lisa Miller
Self
Fort Worth, TX

As your constituent, I am writing to oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. Public schools in Texas are underfunded every year, yet public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students. They serve all students in their boundaries, they do not pick and choose whom to educate. Texas families and educators deserve a well funded, high quality public education system. I request that you reject private school vouchers again and properly fund Texas public schools.

Private schools select which students to admit. They do not hold elected boards or state oversight, private schools offer no financial or academic accountability. Why would you divert publicly collected funds to entities without oversight?
Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely

Lisa Miller

Corrina Jacobs
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly believe that vouchers will erode our public education system, taking essential resources away from already underfunded public schools and giving those resources to institutions that are not accountable to taxpayers. Access to quality public education should be a right for all Americans and vouchers will directly undermine that right. Texas is already in the bottom 10 states in the country for per student funding, and our 5.5 million students across Texas can't afford to see their schools' budgets shrunk any further.

Vote no on HB3!

Priscilla Edwards
Homeschool
Callisburg, TX

As a homeschool mother I, Priscilla Williams, strongly oppose and reject this bill. Homeschool teachers/parents have had the right to school choice since the 90's and it's been wonderful! This new bill would strip us of some of our basic homeschool rights. This household is not in favor of the school choice bill. Most public school officials/faculty/teachers also oppose this bill. Please consider the voice of the people.

Tiffani Nair
Self, business execution
Frisco, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, parent of two public school children, and product of the public education system in Texas, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Cynthia Holsclaw
Denton High PTSA
Argyle, TX

?I am against HB 3 as written as it would tremendously impact public schools and the 5.5 million kids that attend these schools. Public education should be fully funded BEFORE tax payer dollars are used for vouchers or ESAs. We dont use taxpayer dollars for people that want to join a country club, why would tax payer dollars be used to help people go to private school? It makes zero sense. Not only are the private schools around me charging 25k plus, they are not held to the same standards as public schools are not right and you would be doing a disservice to all of the children with 504 or IEP plans. The fact that you have so many people opposing this bill yet you continue to try to pass it is a huge RED FLAG. You are not representing your constituents at all. Let the state decide and put it to a statewide vote.

Susan Sloan Simmons, Mrs.
Self
Kingwood, TX

Hello, my name is Sloan Simmons, and I'm a constituent in Rep. Cunningham's district living in zip code 77339.

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the school voucher bill, SB 2, and ask them to vote against it.

Local schools in Humble ISD stand to lose as much as \$19,906,419 under SB 2, which would be a devastating loss for our community.

Public funds should stay in our public schools, not be divvied up to unaccountable private schools.

Thank you,
S.Sloan Simmons

Shilpa Aramada
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I am adamantly opposed to the passing of the school voucher bill HB3. I am in favor of protecting public schools and believe that the funds should go to public schools instead of to people sending their children to private schools.

Denise Chapa
Self/Interventionist
Corpus Christi, TX

As a registered Texas voter & Texas educator, I want to point out that we have been BEGGING for more funding for years. Our governor has been holding our funding hostage to wager his voucher program. You're willing to further deplete an already depleted system just to push this program that research supports no educational gains or benefits for those who participate in it. Why not water the grass where you're at and grow in the roots that are already seeded? We have catered to every change brought to us by TEA and have dedicated years of blood, sweat, and tears-ALL literal! The state of Texas has spoken and struck this down already. We know it is not what is best for our young citizens yet you continue to dig your heels in for whatever reason. Our students DO have school choice. The fact that you're saying that this is what HB 3 is about is a ploy to gain votes from uninformed/uneducated voters. The irony. Or maybe that's the point-keep the level of knowledge low in order to obtain obedience. This just screams dystopian.

Our tax dollars should not go back into the pockets of people who are already able to afford tuition. If you're wanting it to be about opportunity for ALL, then give it to the ones who truly don't have that opportunity. The privileged are going to be privileged-vouchers or not. Our governor has too many back door donors who are controlling him like a puppet. How unTexan of you, Greg.

De'Metrius Gray
Self- USPS Employee
Sunnyvale, TX

Texas House Bill 3 is a direct attack on public schools and will have devastating consequences for our education system. By pushing for school vouchers, this bill takes critical funding away from public schools, which are already underfunded and struggling to meet the needs of all students. Vouchers are not the answer — they divert resources away from the schools that serve the majority of Texas children and give tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

It's clear that Governor Greg Abbott is forcing this harmful agenda on the people of Texas, despite bipartisan opposition. A growing number of Texans, including both Democrats and Republicans, have voiced their concern and opposition to vouchers. Abbott's attempt to ignore the will of the public is a blatant disregard for what's best for our children, our teachers, and our communities. Public schools need more support, not less. If this bill passes, it will only widen the gap in educational equity and further harm the students who need it most.

We need to focus on strengthening our public schools, increasing funding, and ensuring every child has access to a quality education, not undermining the very system that serves the majority of Texas families.

Patricia Reed
Fwisd
Fort worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools

Harrison Manuel
Self- Dallas Firefighter
Rowlett, TX

Texas House Bill 3 is a direct attack on public schools and will have devastating consequences for our education system. By pushing for school vouchers, this bill takes critical funding away from public schools, which are already underfunded and struggling to meet the needs of all students. Vouchers are not the answer — they divert resources away from the schools that serve the majority of Texas children and give tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

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We need to focus on strengthening our public schools, increasing funding, and ensuring every child has access to a quality education, not undermining the very system that serves the majority of Texas families.

Julie Anderson
Myself
Mckinney, TX

I vote and I encourage you to oppose HB3 and also oppose anything to do with vouchers. I urge your to support a free and safe education publicly and pay our teachers and aides with respectful wages and retirement

Patricio Medrano
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools

Sandra Hodge
Self
Weatherford, TX

The State should not have the right to use my hard earned taxpayer money to fund vouchers for children to go to private schools. This is just the start of ruining our public school system in Texas. Spend the money on teacher salaries and upgrading public school systems.

Krisleigh Hoermann
Self
Sachse, TX

I strongly oppose any legislation that diverts public funds away from Texas public schools to pay for private school tuition and related costs. Our tax dollars should support the public school system, which serves the vast majority of Texas students, rather than subsidizing private education with little to no public oversight.

Vouchers fail to ensure accountability because private schools do not have the same transparency requirements as public schools. They are not obligated to meet state educational standards or report on student performance. Taxpayers deserve to know that their money is being used effectively, and voucher programs do not provide that assurance.

Additionally, vouchers are a step backward for students with disabilities. Public schools are legally required to provide special education services, while private schools are not. Diverting public funds to private institutions puts students with disabilities at risk of losing access to the resources and support they need to succeed.

School vouchers also violate the separation of church and state. Public tax dollars should not be used to fund religious education, as this contradicts constitutional principles. At the same time, if religious schools accept public funding, they could be subject to government oversight, raising concerns about religious autonomy.

Despite claims of increasing school choice, vouchers only provide choice for some, not all. Many private schools selectively admit students based on academic achievement, special needs status, or financial ability to cover costs beyond the voucher amount. Families in rural areas have limited access to private schools, meaning vouchers disproportionately benefit students in urban areas while leaving rural students behind. Furthermore, vouchers do not cover essential services that low-income students rely on, such as transportation, meal programs, or additional academic support.

Finally, vouchers drain critical resources from public schools. Texas public schools are already underfunded, and diverting even more money will only make it harder to provide a quality education to the majority of students. Public education should be strengthened, not undermined, by ensuring all state education funds remain in the public school system where they can benefit every child.

For these reasons, I urge legislators to reject any form of school voucher program, including Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and Tax Credit Scholarships. Public funds should be invested in strengthening Texas public schools—not subsidizing private education.

Amy Hall
Teacher/ self
Brownwood, TX

I am ashamed at the representatives we elected to represent us. They are doing the opposite. I will no longer vote for anyone that takes high dollar donations and lines their pockets and steps on the people in their communities that voted for them and teacher all students:the poor, special needs, disabled, etc.

Michael Hermes

self

Sachse, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS & NO TO SB3 BECAUSE VOUCHERS WILL NOT HELP MY CHILDREN WITH 504 PLANS, AND BECAUSE PRIVATE SCHOOLS CAN EXCLUDE MY CHILDREN SOLELY ON THEIR ACADEMIC NEEDS.

Tonya Cole

Self

Manvel, TX

These vouchers will hurt our educational system.

Emily Castillo

Self

Van Alstyne, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers. This is not what the constituents want; this is not what I want. Public school funding should be left as is, independent from private school funding or homeschool funding. Texas school choice is a choice now. I live in a rural area and this voucher bill only seeks to take away valuable funding from the public school system (that does very well). Please vote against school vouchers.

Bill Betzen

Dallas ISD Retiree representing self

Dallas, TX

I'm a life long Texan from a farm northwest of Hereford. Public schools are the backbone of our communities across Texas. They must be strengthened to help lessen the painful income gap Texas suffers under. Public schools will be weakened with HB3. The costly to Texas income gap will grow! Please do not support HB3! - Bill Betzen Volunteer Postmaster for StudentMotivation.org Project, a free-to-use, Pk-12, volunteer driven, student motivation project

Brenda Aguilar

Self

Fort worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Kelly Hicks

Self

Dayton, TX

No to vouchers

Charlie Ussery

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools

Jeanette Pearson, Ms

Myself

Houston, TX

Say no to HB 3. If there are people who want to send their kids to private schools, then let them. But I don't want my taxes to be used to fund them. SAY NO TO HB3!!!

Sara Pollard, LMSW

Therapist

Fort Worth, TX

Legislature,

I strongly oppose HB3, which would implement a school voucher program in Texas. This legislation threatens to divert critical funds from public schools, increase state spending, and worsen educational inequities.

Financial Impact

The Legislative Budget Board estimates this program could cost \$1 billion in 2026-27, escalating to \$7 billion by 2028-29 (Beaumont Enterprise). Texas already spends \$5,000 less per student than the national average, and teachers earn \$9,000 less than their national peers. Redirecting public dollars to private schools will further deplete resources for Texas students.

Harm to Public Schools

Vouchers disproportionately benefit families who can already afford private schools, leaving low-income students in underfunded public schools. The income threshold of \$156,000 to qualify as "low-income" distorts the program's intent (Houston Chronicle).

Lack of Accountability

Private schools receiving vouchers are not required to follow state curriculum, accept all students, or ensure transparency in spending. This lack of oversight jeopardizes educational quality and equity.

Failed Models from Other States

Arizona's voucher program led to state budget shortfalls and underfunded public schools (Houston Chronicle). In North Carolina, taxpayer-funded vouchers supported private schools that maintain exclusionary policies (Teen Vogue).

Conclusion

Texas should invest in public education, not weaken it. I urge you to reject this costly, inequitable voucher scheme and focus on fully funding our public schools to ensure all Texas students receive a quality education. We already have school of choice that leaves disadvantaged children without transportation behind, this is an additional opportunity to leave marginalized children in poverty rather than lifting all our children out of poverty.

Lucille Landusky, M.S. C.C.C./S.L.P.

Self

Lubbock, TX

As a former employee of public schools and the parent of two children who attended Lubbock Public Schools, I am extremely opposed to the voucher system! I urge you to continue support to children with special needs that may include the supervision of an Individual Educational Plan.

I implore you to vote NO on the proposed voucher plan! Vote NO on the education savings account program!

Everett Foster, Blank

Self; Accounting

Dallas, TX

Public schools are currently underfunded. My daughter has to rely on donations to support various school-related initiatives. The voucher program will only increase the financial challenges for public schools. Also afraid that a voucher program will further shift the higher achieving kids from public schools to private schools, thus decreasing student competition and readiness for the future of the kids that remain in the public schools. We live in an area that includes many private schools, and starting in grades 7-8 and continuing through grades 9 & 10, we see the migration from public schools to private schools. I fear this migration will only increase with if a voucher program is enacted.

Julie Xia, Ms

Texas PTA

San Antonio, TX

There is no need to take away public school funding to support parent choice! I've been a parent with 4 kids enrolled in Texas public schools since 2010 and have been blown away by the quality of education they have received. Even my special needs son has had every opportunity to be the best version of himself as a student. We wholeheartedly support public schools!! SAY NO TO VOUCHERS

Rhonda Stratton

Self, Administrative Assistant with an education degree

Crowley, TX

- More Texas public students are taking Career and Technical Education classes than ever before, with nearly 60% enrollment in 2019-20, up from about 21% in 2009.
- Nearly 40,000 Texas public high school students graduated with an approved industry-based certification in 2018-19, meaning they were qualified for everything from construction to health sciences.
- Across the state, 1,118 campuses offer dual-language immersion programs that give students the opportunity to be bilingual and bicultural.
- School districts across the state are offering innovative courses in more than 150 disciplines, including maritime sciences, sports medicine, pipefitting, engineering design, and aviation, giving students the opportunity to learn real-world skills while earning their diploma.

Summary

School choice is well established within Texas public school districts and growing yearly as locally elected school boards respond to the unique needs of their students and families. Arguments for vouchers miss the essential fact that public schools have always been the leaders in school choice and a source of innovation in designing new programs that respond to what their communities need, what their families want, and what children deserve.

In fact, the opportunities available within public schools today are very much the result of engaged parents, who have been advocating for innovative options and programs with their elected school trustees — whether in school board meetings, the grocery store, or via email. Diverting public tax dollars into a voucher scheme that doesn't follow the rules of open government will certainly diminish the voices of parents in favor of subsidizing corporations and private entities.

Let's keep public tax dollars where they can benefit the public good. Texas families don't need vouchers to get the best education for their students — they already have that choice among the 1,026 public school districts in the state.

From the ACLU:

In addition to doing little to improve student performance and being vastly unpopular, vouchers undermine the separation of church and state. Voucher schemes shift millions of taxpayer dollars from public schools—which are open to all, regardless of faith—to private schools, the vast majority of which are religious. In turn, taxpayer funds directly support religious instruction—and not just in theology class, but in biology class, history class, and even math class. What's more, these schools are often not required to comply with many academic standards and can discriminate, for example by excluding students on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, or disability.

The principles of religious liberty undoubtedly mean that parents may choose to send their children to private religious schools. They should not, however, allow for religious education to be provided at taxpayers' expense.

Emily Long

Self- nanny

Austin, TX

Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Emily Long

Cristina Everett

Self, education

Austin, TX

I am against the idea of vouchers. I am concerned about the impact to public schools, particularly the rural schools in Texas.

Christina Rigby

WHS PTSA

Wylie, TX

I am a conservative republican who votes in the primary and general elections. If school choice passes I will have no choice but to vote in the next election against all the candidates I have supported in the past. I passionately believe that public funds should only go to public schools. If school choice happens than all private schools need to be required to allow all applicants no matter their disability, sexual orientation, religion or race because the public will be funding those schools. Public schools are for all and all inclusive. We are already not funding public school education to its fullest. Texas is behind the nation in funding. Also private schools should be required to use the same testing as public schools. Please vote no to school choice and do the right thing for all children in the state of Texas! We believe Texas to be great and be free and we want for all our children to succeed.

Darcy Christ
Self
DALLAS, TX

I am vehemently against school vouchers. It's time to give up this take from the poor and give to the rich plan that republicans have been trying to push through for decades to benefit private school businesses while taking money from public education and the millions of Texas children it serves. VOTE NO

Leta Cherie Phillips
self/parent of public school children/owner of Sign Gypsies Wylie/Rowlett
Murphy, TX

NO to Public vouchers!

Lana Sather
Self
Kennedale, TX

Say NO to HB3. Public taxes do not belong in private schools.

Kelley Wiginton
Self
Cypress, TX

Put school vouchers to a vote. Texans do not want school vouchers and defunding public schools.

Andrea Troncoso
self
Austin, TX

As a public school parent and wife of a public school teacher I BEG OF YOU, please do not pass HB 3. We need every cent that we can poured into public schools.. NOT PRIVATE. Private schools have their place but if you want to better education, POUR THE MONEY into our public schools.

Thanks for your consideration.

Lisa Pepperell
Self
Leander, TX

Quit trying to steal money from public schools. Vote No to school choice. This theft that Abbott is trying to force is wrong. Release the money for the public schools and Quit trying to make them fail. Theft! It's theft. Y'all are not doing what is best for Texas.

Cay Granger
Self
Beaumont, TX

I am 100% opposed to an "education savings account" I will vote against any one supporting a voucher. I have always voted Republican but will vote against Greg Abbott and any representative from my area that supports vouchers

Rebecca Spell
self, SAHM
Murphy, TX

No vouchers! These vouchers only benefit people who can already afford private education, and take away from students who are publicly educated.

Dawn Minix
Self
Ovilla, TX

I would like to register my position AGAINST HB3, the education savings account program.

I homeschooled four children from the late 1980's through the late 90's (on one income) and now have twelve homeschooled grandchildren (all from one income families). While I did homeschool my own children for many years, my children also attended both public and private schools as well.

I believe my experience with all types of schooling affords me a unique perspective on the school choice situation, and I can confidently say that this program WILL do harm to both public and private education systems (which includes homeschoolers as they are considered private schools in our state). The unique advantages that each system provides students and parents will be irreparably harmed by this government attempt at leveling the playing field.

As a mother who experienced the intense battle for the right to homeschool in Texas in the late 80's and early 90's, then went on to send my children to various public and private schools, I can confidently and proudly say that school choice absolutely already exists and that this bill seeks to fix a problem that does not exist.

I am OPPOSED TO HB3. Please vote no.

Bonnie Fontana
Self/Full-time parent
Fort Worth, TX

As a parent in Texas, I want my children to have the brightest future possible. I believe that can best be achieved by giving ALL children in Texas the best education we can give them. That is what public schools are designed to do. I want my kids graduating with peers who are smart and well-equipped to handle challenges of the future. I want all of our kids to work well together to create a strong society for the generations ahead.

The future I envision cannot be achieved with a 2-tier education system. Further diminishing the resources of public schools will not only harm those children who are already disadvantaged. A generation that is unable to live up to its potential will be harmful to all of society.

Stacy Ramírez

Self

Kerrville, TX

I submitted this: I strongly oppose SB2 and HB3, which would divert public funds to private schools through education savings accounts. These bills threaten to undermine Texas' already underfunded public schools, taking away critical resources from the majority of students who rely on them.

Taxpayer dollars should be used to strengthen our public education system, ensuring every child has access to quality teachers, well-funded classrooms, and necessary support services, not subsidizing private institutions that lack accountability and can selectively admit students.

Rather than funneling money into a program that benefits a select few, Texas should focus on increasing teacher pay, improving school infrastructure, and expanding educational opportunities within public schools. Our priority should be to invest in the success of all Texas students, not just those who can afford private tuition.

I urge lawmakers to reject these voucher programs and instead commit to fully funding public education for every child in our state.

Evelyn Ramey

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Please vote no for vouchers!!! I am a retired public school teacher in Texas, and we have great schools! Public schools happily teach all students, we don't pick and choose which ones get to attend. If you want your child to go to private school, go ahead, but please don't punish public schools! We also have so many more state guidelines, and teachers have to be certified to teach. Please stand up for our students!

Adrean Springer
Self
San Antonio, TX

Dear Texas Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3, the proposed school voucher bill. This legislation would divert critical public funds away from our public schools, weakening the very institutions that serve the vast majority of Texas students. While school choice is an important discussion, HB 3 would harm public education in the following ways:

1. **Defunding Public Schools**– Texas public schools are already underfunded, struggling with teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, and outdated resources. Diverting taxpayer dollars to private and charter schools through vouchers would exacerbate these challenges, leaving our public schools with even fewer resources.
2. **Lack of Accountability**– Unlike public schools, private and charter schools that receive voucher funds are not held to the same academic, financial, and transparency standards. Public funds should come with public accountability, ensuring that every student receives a high-quality education.
3. **Limited Benefit for Rural Communities**– In many rural areas of Texas, private school options are scarce or nonexistent. Vouchers would do little to expand education choices in these communities, while still stripping funding from the local public schools that serve as a lifeline for students.
4. **Potential for Discrimination** – Private schools are not required to accept all students, and many have selective admission policies. This means that students with disabilities, behavioral challenges, or lower academic performance may be denied access, creating an inequitable system that benefits only a select few.
5. **Public Dollars Should Stay in Public Schools**– Texas has a duty to ensure that every child, regardless of background or income, has access to a strong public education. Instead of funneling money into unregulated private institutions, we should be investing in teacher pay, school infrastructure, and student support programs.

I urge you to vote against HB 3 and stand up for the 5.4 million students who rely on Texas public schools. Our focus should be on strengthening public education for all, not redirecting funds to benefit a select few.

Sincerely,
A. Springer

Waleska Rivera
Self - school bookkeeper
San Antonio, TX

Public schools are already struggling with lack of funds. Cost of living has significantly increased and the funds provided to schools per student doesn't reflect this increase. Public schools serve ALL students, doesn't matter the social and economical background, ethnicity, religion or disabilities. By creating these vouchers, you are taking funds away from public education and the majority of the students just to assist the few. Private schools aren't required to provide services to the students in special education. Meaning you are already marginalizing a group. If a family wants to attend public schools, that's a personal decision and shouldn't be using tax lawyers money for that. What about creating policies and laws to regulate the outrageous private school tuitions and college tuitions? Education is a right and should be affordable to everyone interested in perusing it. By regulating tuitions, this option would be more tangible for everyone. Don't use taxpayer's money to fund a for profit organization like private schools and penalize the public education system that is accessible to all. If you still want to create vouchers that will only benefit the few , don't take away money from pubic education that serves all.

Vanessa Cyprien
Self - retired teacher
Friendswood, TX

I am against the establishment of an education savings account program. Parents already have a choice. If they choose to send their children to a private, religious, or homeschool, they should pay for it and not use public tax dollars.

Jeff Miller
Myself
Iowa Park, TX

Please vote no to the ESA.

Jacob Borgeson
Myself
Manor, TX

I don't want my tax dollars subsidizing people who can already afford private school. Period. I want my taxes going to public schools, energy infrastructure, PUBLIC roads, maintaining adequate and healthy water supplies, higher education, and public health services. Quit giving my taxes to people who don't need it.

Lisa Valencia
Self
Big Spring, TX

I've worked for a school district for 22 years in public education and I am totally against vouchers as it is not fair and equal to all. This is always a common theme where the rich always exceed due to the fact that some simply can't afford private lessons or private schools. Make it make sense...please. Especially in rural areas where private schools are not an option. It's the rich taking away from the poor.

Valerie Rone, Dr
Self
San Antonio, TX

We must support education for all children. Please do not support school vouchers. It will ruin the public school system.

Mary Wood
Self
Georgetown, TX

Schools vouchers hurt children. What is being proposed is a form of child neglect. Something that parents are charged with when they do it.

Taxpayer money should not be used for private schools.

A bill with this high amount of financial impact needs to be left to the voters to decide. Just like the changes to property tax and increases in state pensions.

I can't trust my representative to vote for what's best for all children with the intimidation tactics the Governor and Lt. Governor have done with the backing of the Texas billionaires who are pushing this bill.

Angelaca Maldonado

Self

Wilson, TX

I strongly oppose student vouchers for the following reasons:

1. No Proven Academic Benefit & Harm to Public Schools – Vouchers divert taxpayer dollars away from public schools, which serve the majority of students, to fund private institutions that do not consistently provide better educational outcomes. Studies show that students using vouchers often perform the same or worse than their public school peers. This funding loss weakens public schools, leading to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and diminished support services for the students who remain.
2. Lack of Accountability and Oversight – Public schools are subject to strict academic standards, financial transparency, and accountability measures. Private schools receiving voucher funds are not held to the same requirements, leading to potential misuse of public money.
3. Discrimination and Exclusion – Private schools can reject students based on religion, disability status, academic history, or other factors. Public funds should not support institutions that do not serve all students equitably.
4. Weakens Rural and Underserved Communities – In rural areas, private school options are limited or nonexistent. Vouchers disproportionately benefit wealthier families who can afford to cover remaining tuition costs, leaving low-income and rural students with fewer educational opportunities.
5. No Real Cost Savings – While proponents argue that vouchers save money, they often create additional administrative costs and do not reduce the overall financial burden on the state or local governments.
6. Potential for Fraud and Waste – Other states with voucher programs have experienced widespread fraud, where public funds are used for unapproved expenses or schools that provide subpar education.
7. Undermines Public Education as a Public Good – Public schools serve as a cornerstone of democracy by ensuring all children receive an education. Weakening public schools through vouchers erodes this foundational principle.

For these reasons, I urge lawmakers to oppose student vouchers and instead invest in strengthening public schools for all Texas students.

Anita Sylvia Garcia

American Association of University Women

Austin, TX

I cement oppose school vouchers. first, it is too expensive. Second, there is little accountability. Third, it would destroy many small town school districts and communities. Lastly, it is very apparent some people are trying to get our public school money in order to make a profit.

Texas leaders need to stand up in favor of public education. Let rich people pay for their own children's education.

James Klein, Dr.

Del Mar College

Corpus Christi, TX

I urge you to vote against HB3. School vouchers will pull additional funding from public education and will benefit a few fly-by-night schools (and their investors) at the expense of all Texas tax payers.

Brandon Frosch

Wylie ISD

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3. No to vouchers!

Cynthia Sarpalius, Mrs.

Self

Arlington, TX

It is important to me as a taxpayer and a retired teacher that public schools are fully funded. Using public money to fund private schools is a waste of my tax dollars. Please use any money available to fully fund public schools.

Annemarie Johnson
Patton Elementary PTA
Austin, TX

As a PTA Treasurer, parent of AISD students and a resident of Texas I am strongly against vouchers. Public dollars belong in public schools and you need to fund those. We have not increased per student spend since 2019 and it is far below the national average. Teacher pay needs to be increased so teachers can live where they teach. I say no to vouchers!

Mistie Ford
Self
Brookston, TX

Please vote NO for Vouchers. Public Education is being tossed to the side and will suffer because of it. Vouchers is not the answer. Public education deserves the time and money to be spent on fixing what is broke and making it better. Too many wasted resources spent on testing and large companies driving education instead of listening to the ones working in education everyday. The voucher plan is just a means for the lobbyist to get what they want and Governor Abbott has surely failed by bowing down to all of these things. Vote NO and save Public Education!

Elisabeth Owen
Self
ELGIN, TX

Please stand with Texas families, not special interests. This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. It comes with a hefty price tag and zero accountability to the state or taxpayers!

Janice Clark
Self
Bryan, TX

Vouchers are not the answer to improving schools. There is already a choice and the voucher will not give more people a choice, it will just give a break to those who can already afford a choice. A state should be improving the schools system for all not "fixing it" for a few. I say no to vouchers!

Jacque Krejci
Self - Attorney
North Richland Hills, TX

I do not support the establishment of an education savings account, or the establishment of vouchers by any other name. I think tax money should be used to support our public schools fully.

Annie Dueck
Self-parent & teacher
Granbury, TX

Fully fund public education, fix the problems we have (these are easy, common sense and you know it), then see how "terrible" public schools are.

I am a Christian, conservative and pretty far right.

The intentions of the billionaires controlling you on this issue are sinister. You are making an unholy alliance. You don't need them to do what is right and good for public education. God has the wisdom and guidance you/I need.

Our public education system in Texas is not too far gone to save.

Together we can make it so it images God and blesses all children, families, our communities and state.

Pray to God. Obey Him. (Not misguided billionaires. \$ does not equal wisdom).

Donna Stevens

Self

N Richlnd Hls, TX

I am absolutely opposed to school choice, educational savings account or vouchers by any other name. The 1 billion plus needs to be given to the public schools. You are literally starving public schools at this point. Any private school program can be replicated in the public schools. Taxpayer monies need to stay in public schools. There are not enough special needs private schools that could handle children with disabilities. My own daughter who was in a wheelchair and had a trach and vent would NEVER have been accepted in a private school but she was in a public school and was treated very well! Her educational needs were met. If you want to see how receptive the state would be to using taxpayer monies, put it to a vote like you did retired teacher COLAs. It will FAIL at the polls! All you are doing is giving wealthy scammers the ability to scam more money off of the public! Say no to vouchers!

Dian Wright, MS

Self / Retired

Quinlan, TX

NO on vouchers

Laura Hermes

self

Sachse, TX

I OPPOSE HB3 - PLEASE VOTE NO - THIS DOES NOT HELP MY CHILDREN WITH 504 PLANS - PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN MY AREA COST \$30K PLUS A YEAR, NO ONE IN OUR AREA CAN AFFORD THIS OR BUS OUR CHILDREN TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS - THIS IS WRONG!

Sue Magie

Self

FW, TX

My priority as a citizen of Texas is quality education for ALL children. Our state has not been supportive of public education for many years and cannot afford to take funds away now. It serves all of us to highly support public education to be the best in the US.

Daniel Dean

Self, Data Manager

Leander, TX

I am deeply opposed to this offensive bill, as well as Texas' ongoing failure to properly fund its public schools while attempting to divert funds to private interests. My district alone is expect to cut 200 positions in an already understaffed system thanks to the failure of the state government to responsibly support our public school students and staff.

Find your morals. Reject this bill.

Randi Wheeler

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Fully fund public education! Let's make Texas great again by pouring all our resources in public schools. Every Texan deserves to have a well funded public school. Say NO to vouchers!

Anne Wynne
Self lawyer
Austin, TX
Against

Jennifer Torres
Wylie ISD PTA
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Dawn Lucas, Ms
Self
Floresville, TX

This bill is an attempt to turn all private schools into public. I do not believe private schools want the state oversight that will come with this bill as well the additional demands that will eventually come for accountability. Parents want good public schools. This is just another political money grab.

Kitty Kenyon
Self/retired
Granite Shoals, TX

Vouchers drain much needed money from the public school system. Texas used to be known for their great public school systems, public roads, and healthcare systems. Let's start by rebuilding and shoring up these things not breaking them down and making our state weaker.

Cynthia Outlaw, public school teacher
FUMC Noah's Ark Fairfield ISD
Fairfield, TX

raise monies for each student to \$1300 - that is still way below what is needed to educate our children - we as a state should be embarrassed that our state of Texas is so far behind on allotting money for public school children.

Juan Gutierrez, Dr.
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am writing to oppose this bill.

Bet-sua Trejo
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB3 because having ESAs will allow me to put my children in the learning environment that is at their own pace and with our own beliefs.

Victoria Purdom
Schools
Sherman, TX

No vouchers!! I will be watching to see how my constituents vote!

Patricia Whitley

Self

Carrollton, TX

As a mother of 3 boys who attend public schools, I am opposed to the ESA program in its current form. There are rigorous controls in place for public school funding, which create accountability. If the HB 3 does not include these checks and balances for private school and homeschoolers, how will accountability take place? Additionally, if we are asking for money to support school choice in areas that have less than favorable schools, that should also be a requirement for the distribution of vouchers. For instance, if someone chooses to send their kids to a private school despite being located near and zoned for A-rated schools, they should not be allowed to receive a voucher. In its current state, this bill appears to give income to families that have already decided they do not need public schools. How will these funds be allocated to low income or special needs students? How can we ensure private institutions are held accountable and accept those lower income or special needs students? This hastily thrown together bill does not appear to provide any guardrails for governance over these funds. As a tax payer, I do not authorize my taxes to be used for vouchers. I will vote with this in mind in the next election. If legislators agree that most people want vouchers, consider adding it to the ballot in the next election. Democracy, indeed.

Karen Kremer

Self/ RN

The Colony, TX

This bill will not help the students of Texas. It will only benefit rich families that can already afford to send their children to private schools. I do not want public education to be defunded. This will hurt many children who deserve to have education. Not every county in Texas has private schools as an option. Our schools are already suffering and this will make things worse. Do not pass this bill. You will hurt innocent children. Every child in Texas should be afforded the opportunity to attend school.

Renee Kelley

Self

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3!

Elayne Gibson

Self - Preschool Teacher- parent, grandparent, PTA member

Wylie, TX

NO School Vouchers. I strongly oppose HB 3

Elizabeth Moreno

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I am strongly against this bill. This bill will greatly impact all children to not be able to receive the education they all deserve. My kid requires extra help with her learning disability and this will take that away from her. As a middle class family, we are barely making it and if the school didn't provide these services, I would not be able to provide them for her. This will also raise the cost of private school to keep it only for the higher class families

Michael Shannon

self

Pflugerville, TX

I oppose the measure to take funding from public schools to make available for private school tuition.

First, experience in other states has shown that this will not make private school tuition available for lower income residents; it will simply put more money in the pockets of those who can already afford the tuition.

Second, it takes funding from public schools who are required by law to educate everyone, including those with special needs, and gives it to schools which can pick only those students who are easiest and cheapest to educate.

Reece Pickett

Self

Garland, TX

I do not support this bill and will not be supporting anyone that votes for its approval.

Catherine Cottingham

Self

Austin, TX

I'm writing in opposition to this bill and in opposition to the use of public funding outside of public schools.

Sandra Kuehl

Self retired

Houston, TX

After watching testimony at 230 this am, it is evident that this program is WRONG FOR Texas. Public schools should be funded. Choice is already there.. if you want private education you can pay for it yourself NOT with our tax dollars. Y'all have been withholding public education funds since the last session since your precious vouchers (you call it esa) didn't pass thankfully. FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION as the state constitution states. Quit wasting taxpayers monies. Texas's children depend on properly funded PUBLIC EDUCATION not bs vouchers. If you want private/religious education, then pay for it yourself

Robyn Clark

self

Plano, TX

I am against vouchers! I believe this will harm Texas students. Fully fund our public schools!

Angela Menchaca, Self

Self

San Antonio, TX

This bill is not good teacher retirement system, students who depend and choose public schools, or Texas. I oppose this bill and so should elected representatives.

Stella Fait, Ms.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 3 because I struggle feel it will destroy public education in the state of Texas. I also oppose the bill because Texas parents ALREADY have a choice about how their children are educated and what school to send them to. Finally I do not want my tax dollars financing private or religious schools.

Ariel Ruiz

Self - PTA chair member and higher education professional

Mansfield, TX

I believe and stand behind public education. Educational Savings Accounts will siphon public resources from public schools and are detrimental to our public education system as they redirect public dollars to private institutions. Why do we constantly have to fight so hard for basic needs and rights for our children. Even if this were not to fully affect me or my family, I would not want it to affect anyone who it would impact. Our teachers need to be paid more, our schools need to be a safe place for students, and a thriving educational environment is what we should be looking out for.

Amanda Stevens
Richardson ISD PTA
Dallas, TX

This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. It comes with a hefty price tag and zero accountability to the state or taxpayers! Our public schools deserve to be fully funded instead of offering breaks to those who are already wealthy. If we want our students to succeed, teachers need to be paid a livable wage, schools need safe and updated facilities and so much more that Greg Abbott has been holding hostage.

Darcie Speicher
Self, architect
Keller, TX

Please vote 'no' regarding school vouchers, and instead, significantly increase the funding per student provided to public schools. We moved to KellerISD for the fantastic schools, and our previously exceptional district has begun to deteriorate due to the withholding of funds by the Texas government. We have some of the best teachers in the state, and I fear we won't be able to keep them if funding continues to be siphoned from public schools. We don't want vouchers. They do absolutely nothing to make my local schools better. In fact, quite the opposite effect occurs. Our local schools are top-notch when funded correctly, and that's the bottom line. Support our amazing teachers and support our school district by rejecting vouchers.

Sara Orozco
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am strongly against vouchers. They will hurt communities, students, and hurt public schools. Please stand for public education, schools, students, and communities and vote no for vouchers.

Shelby Jones
Self- High School Teacher
Brenham, TX

Vouchers and ESAs will only hurt Texas students and will not help our most vulnerable population. This has been show in many other states. Please instead fund public education and support teacher raises with no strings attached. Proper funding would allow school districts to hire more personnel which could provide interventionist and more teachers to help with current class sizes.

Jodi Mahmood
Self
Richardson, TX

I am asking you to vote no to the school vouchers bill. Our tax dollars should stay in our public school systems that serve all Texas children, including the kids that need it the most. It ensures they have access to the kind of education that grows the Texans of the future. Neighborhood public schools are the glue that helps hold our communities together and funding them only serves all of us versus the select few.

Beth Crymes
Self - Bookkeeper Arlington ISD
Arlington, TX

This will not help the families that can not afford private schools. The minute this passes, "Private Schools" will raise their tuition to keep the ones that can't afford private school out. Then, whatever amount these families receive will still not afford them the choice of a private school. Families need to invest in their children. Show up for you kids, help them with homework, know their friends, know their friend's families, know your student's teacher. Support you student's teacher! Don't blame the teacher because your student isn't successful! It starts at home. Throwing money at failing families isn't the answer.

Jennifer Thompson

self

Pearland, TX

I do not want a voucher system in Texas. Texas public schools are underfunded. If this public money went to addressing the existing shortfalls, it would help all Texas students, not just a select few. I volunteer in several different public schools. I have friends that volunteer and teach in public schools across the state. In all schools, teachers are doing everything they can to give Texas students the best education they need. Much of the time, using their own money to purchase supplies. Also, most of our teachers that sponsor an activity that happens outside of the school day are lucky if they can receive a stipend that pays them pennies per hour they give of their time.

If you haven't already, please visit public schools to see what is going on for yourself. I have seen several different political figures making Facebook posts that are just photo ops at private schools. Where are the visits to the public schools? Talk to your constituents. I promise that there are very few that want vouchers.

Please make the smart choice for the 5.5 million Texas students. Keep public dollars in public schools.

Toshia Kimball

McMillan Jr. High PTA

Wylie, TX

No to Vouchers and No to SB3

Adeline Castleberry

Keller ISD Council of PTAs/Texas PTA

Forth Worth, TX

I urge you to reconsider your stance on Vouchers/ESA Accounts. The damage you will do to public schools and the 5.5 million students that currently attend will be devastating. We already are struggling in most districts due to the lack of public school funding and we cannot afford to take another hit by the passing of SB3/HB3. Please take the time to listen to the Texas people that are writing and calling on this bill. Thank You.

Katelyn Corder

Self - Public School Teacher in Mesquite ISD

Terrell, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the school voucher scam, and ask that it be voted against.

Local schools in Mesquite ISD stand to lose as much as \$15,684,094, That is 292 fewer teachers for students, 313,681 fewer library books and would result in a projected increase in student-teacher ratio of 7.28% which would be a devastating loss for our community. Us as teachers are already drowning in the amount of students currently enrolled not to mention the behavior struggles. Public funds should stay in our public schools, not be divvied up to unaccountable private schools.

Kara Markham
Self - hospitality
Hurst, TX

My daughter goes to HEB ISD and I could not be happier with the public school system offered here. My daughter is both in Advanced Academics and requires special education intervention for her to be successful. Both of those programs require funding to support students through their learning journey, funds that would be reduced by allowing this bill to proceed forward. There is OVERWHELMING evidence to support that any private school funding would not benefit Texans looking to move away from Public schools, as it is likely that the tuition increase from Private schools would simply raise by the amount of extra funds available.

I'm also concerned with the lack of funds being given to public schooling in Texas in general, as several local school districts have had to make the decision to shutter schools, making the learning and teaching experience worse. Please carefully consider the voice of actual Texans, your constituents, before voting in favor of this bill. Public schools do good work, can offer more and be more accountable than private schools, and take care of the most vulnerable citizens and students that need special help or more funding. Thank you for your time.

Cassie Knapp
Moe & Gene Johnson High School PTA
Buda, TX

Contact them and tell them to vote no. Here is a script if you need it:

I am writing to ask you to protect neighborhood schools and oppose private school vouchers in Texas.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them to succeed, not just students at exclusive private schools. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our neighborhood public schools for students, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private and religious schools that pick and choose who will enroll.

As a concerned Texan, I ask you to vote down any voucher scheme that diverts tax dollars from neighborhood public schools. Public dollars should stay in public schools.

Say no to vouchers that use tax dollars to fund the tuition at exclusive private schools. Keep public dollars in public schools.

Sincerely-

Cassie Knapp

Megan Boyd
Self
ABILENE, TX

I do not support this bill or anything promoting education savings account programs.

Ty Stevens
myself and public education
Miles, TX

I want to thank the committee for all the time and effort put into providing guidance for education as a whole. I am writing this to oppose HB3. I have served in public education for the past 24 years in various capacities. I am currently the Superintendent of Miles ISD. Miles ISD is an A rated district, provides many opportunities for our students which include 5 different pathways for CTE, we have received 100% in accountability for CCMR, our academics beat the state average in every category, my teachers are the best in the state of Texas, and both our elementary and secondary campuses are high functioning academic schools. HB 3 along with other ESA legislation will give \$1billion to private and homeschool entities that do not have to follow the same guidelines as Public Schools. It appears that HB 3 and SB 2 desire to legislate ESA accounts for the impoverished students and students with disabilities, however a private school can accept or deny anyone they choose, which does not make is true choice; the choice is up to the private school, not the parents. In my mind, \$160,000 is not at the poverty line and does not target what this bill states is a priority. Initially, ESAs may not have an immediate impact in Miles ISD, however, over time and with further legislation, ESAs, if passed, will expand thus squeezing public education even further.

I am constantly watching both chambers bills being proposed and coming to committee. With HB 2, uncertified teachers will not be allowed to teach foundation classes in a public school, however we are going to give \$1billion to uncertified teachers in private schools and even homeschools. Also, HB2 opens up the doors for transfers to public schools with little to not ability to deny a transfer student except for capacity, which makes public schools create a lottery system like a charter school for enrollment. That is taking away local control of the INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS. Our national politics is driving this voucher or ESA accounts, with millions of dollars being spent from outside of the state to campaign against representatives who are against the ESA program. The push is coming from the Republican party who insist that they are for less government in our everyday lives. This bill does not reflect less government, it provides more government control over private, homeschool, and public schools. For all that are for ESAs, there will be a time, if passed, that the government will want accountability for taxpayers money being spent in the private sector. It may not happen today, but it will take place in the future. The decisions that you as a committee will make will shape the future of education for years to come.

Thank you for your time
Ty Stevens

Monica Whatley
Self
Vidor, TX

Please do not vote for this bill. My daughter is in special education. We are a poor family. This bill will not benefit ALL students in Texas and will be detrimental for poor communities like ours.

Kaylin Latimer
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Vote against the school vouchers. This bill undermines our children and education system, only gives those who can already afford to send their kids to private school a tax break while everyone else gets nothing out of it. This is a terrible bill that needs to be done away with and never see the light of day. If you want to do something begin providing supplies for our schools and free meals to our children. VOTE NO TO HB3

Edmund Lee
self, Natural Gas Trader
Houston, TX

Vouchers are a direct transfer of wealth to the rich from the normal Texan. I am strongly opposed to vouchers, as it will starve our public education and increase income inequality here in Texas.

Edward Abel, Rev

Self

Temple, TX

As a minister and dad and native Texan, I want to speak firmly against HB 3.

First, if we believe all children are created by God, then we should be writing legislation that supports all children. This bill realistically helps those without disability of any sort whose parents make more than 200k a year. Generally, those kids have plenty of advantages already.

Second, there is no accountability for private schools to teach honest science. This will not help outcomes overall.

Finally, if we profess to be pro-life, then we need to stop contributing to division and the death of our society. This bill is divisive plain and simple. Simple math, you can't multiply good outcomes when you are dividing our world.

Thank you for your consideration. Proud Texan for 51 years.

E H Abel

Adam Parsill

Self

Austin, TX

To Whom this May Concern,

My name is Adam Parsill, and I'm a constituent in zip code 78735. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3. I urge my Representative and this Committee to vote against it and, instead, focus on fully funding public education. While Texas already offers meaningful school choice, what we truly need are the necessary resources to ensure our public schools can provide every child with the high-quality education they deserve. This includes the accountability and due process that are essential for ensuring effective delivery of that education.

We should not be diverting resources to privatized schools that operate with minimal or no accountability to the public. I believe the supporters of this bill cannot point to any successful examples from other states where similar laws have achieved the intended outcomes. On the contrary, voucher systems like the one proposed have been proven to fail, and if this bill moves forward, it will likely harm more families than it helps.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Katherine Williams

Self

Tomball, TX

Please fund our public schools. We do not want vouchers. All they will achieve is a tax break for the wealthy people who can already afford to send their kids to the good private schools and result in those schools raising their tuition. I do not want to send my children to an unregulated private school with no accountability that operates for profit. I want my public school district fully funded and protected.

Jill Edwards

Self

Houston, TX

Texans are against vouchers, school choice or education savings accounts. No matter what you call them they are bad for public education and not only hurt students and teachers but are simply a coupon for the wealthy. Say no to hb3! - Texas voter and teacher

Ranae Lane, Principal

Brock ISD

Millsap, TX

Before voting to approve vouchers, please address the issue of equality for vouchers and public schools. The reality is that public schools are asked to do more with less. Overhaul the funding system. How is it fair to only fund the schools when students are present? When students are absent, we still have to pay for the staff for those students and in reality it creates additional work on teachers to get students caught up when they are absent. The positions needed for the students still exist. Vouchers have no accountability to attendance tied to them. Why is that? Also, have any of you ever considered how belittling you are by giving public money to private entities that educate kids but don't have to have an education degree? You are essentially saying our degrees aren't necessary. Have you thought of that? We don't let attorneys or doctors practice without proper credentials but anyone can educate a child...how degrading this is to our profession. Also, if public schools are in such a bad state, then why does the state not offer support to all schools with instructional coaches and such like you provide to schools that have higher low socioeconomic percentages. All schools need support but small rural districts that are predominantly upper middle class get no additional support because we don't qualify but we are expected to do the same thing with less. Where's the equality in that? We've had to cut those positions in our district due to funding. What about accountability? Is there any form of accountability tied to these vouchers? I've had parents pull kids for homeschool and do nothing with them and then return a year later even further behind but those parents would receive money to do nothing. Kids are the ones who suffer. Accountability and fair funding is needed all the way around. Please consider the impact on rural districts but more importantly KIDS.

Vicki McDonald

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose the voucher bill and do not feel would be beneficial to our educational system and I do not want my tax dollars being used in this manner.

Jenni Sandman
Self
Caddo Mills, TX

Argument Against School Vouchers

House members, I urge you to oppose school vouchers, as they undermine public education, fail to ensure accountability, and do not improve student outcomes as promised.

1. Diverting Public Funds Hurts Public Schools

Vouchers siphon taxpayer dollars from public schools, which serve the vast majority of students, and redirect them to private schools that are not required to serve all children. This weakens public education by reducing resources for teachers, special education, and school improvements, leaving disadvantaged students in underfunded schools.

2. Lack of Accountability and Oversight

Unlike public schools, private schools receiving vouchers are not held to the same academic and financial transparency standards. They are not required to follow state curriculum guidelines, administer standardized tests, or disclose how public funds are spent. This lack of oversight leads to waste, fraud, and a lack of educational consistency.

3. Vouchers Do Not Improve Student Achievement

Multiple studies have shown that students using vouchers often perform the same or worse than their public school peers. Instead of funneling money into an unproven system, we should invest in strengthening our public schools, improving teacher salaries, and expanding programs that benefit all students.

4. Discrimination and Exclusion

Many private schools accepting vouchers are not obligated to accept all students. They can deny admission based on religion, disability, or academic performance, leaving the most vulnerable students without options. Public funds should not support schools that do not serve all children equally.

5. Vouchers Favor the Wealthy, Not Low-Income Families

While advertised as a way to help low-income students, vouchers often benefit families who can already afford private school tuition. Many voucher amounts do not cover full tuition, making private schools inaccessible for the very students the program claims to help.

Instead of weakening our public education system, we should focus on policies that strengthen it—better funding, smaller class sizes, and expanded support services. I urge you to stand with public school students, families, and educators by opposing school vouchers.

Mallory Cislo
Representing my kids
Dallas, TX

I'm a mother of five and former educator, and I do not support vouchers, which I believe will destroy public education.

David Fields
Self-city planner
Houston, TX

Please explain how public funds can be used to pay for a school that doesn't meet the same minimum requirements as the public school system we fund directly? If you're going to approve this system, please make sure all schools receiving these funds are held to the same standards.

Walter Coppage, Mr.
Self
Wichita Falls, TX

Vouchers will cost our economy and our kids. Do not let these bloodsuckers take over our schools. Save our schools not a tax cut.

Nicole Stone
Spring Branch ISD
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Tanya Donaghey
Self
Allen, TX

Vote no to vouchers. I am a professor who teaches dual credit history and elementary education courses. I'm also a mother of 3 and Texas resident for 59 years. I wrote my dissertation on the history of education in America and the role of teaching social studies and patriotism to our citizens. Public schools have always been our most democratic institution with LOCAL control and locally elected school boards. I have worked in private, charter and public schools. The quality of education has been superior in public schools vs private and charters in most cases.

Cassie McDaniel
Self
Spicewood, TX

I oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background.

Maria Vargas, Mrs.
Self, All my Grandchildren, All my nieces and nephews.
Brownsville, TX

Buckley, I am opposed to passage of HB3! This bill will result in inequality for ALL Students in public schools!

The funding should be used to FULLY FUND public education!

These vouchers are a welfare handout for the wealthy!

This bill will result in defunding public schools in Texas!

This legislation is a SCAM! Jeffrey Yass and other billionaire cronies are the only ones who will benefit by passage of this legislation!

As a conservative, I'm disgusted with the Republican Party!

My family, including all extended family members will remember the betrayal of the Republican Party against chicken and family throughout Texas!

Aleshia Bowers

Self - purchasing

FORT WORTH, TX

Please vote against HB3! I am a multi generation Texan with two new Texans, one who is starting kindergarten this fall. Texas public schools need to be funded. We didn't qualify for public pre-k and had to pay for private. Private schools do not have the means nor do they want to take an influx of children! This "education savings account" will only be a discount for people who can already afford private schools. We may have struggled paying for our child to go to private, but EVERY child in America & EVERY child in Texas deserves the best education. It is more than time that Texas steps up & finally becomes the "best" state in at least one area. Voting against HB3 will give public schools the chance to achieve that goal. Voters in Texas have said we don't want a voucher program, listen to us for once and do not pass this bill! Thank you for your time.

Michelle Dahlenburg

Self / Instructor

Austin, TX

My name is Michelle Dahlenburg, and I'm a parent of an elementary school student in public school in Austin. I'm writing to oppose HB3. Proponents of HB3 say that it is about school choice. HB3 is not about school choice, it is about funding wealthy families who want a subsidy for their expensive private schools. In larger cities, wealthy families already have the choice to go to private schools if they want to, they do not need to take funds from our already underfunded pot of public education money. Here in Austin, we already have school choice. My daughter and I currently live in a neighborhood that is zoned for a public elementary school that wasn't a good fit for her. I was easily able to apply transfer her to another nearby elementary school, that is a wonderful fit for her. We love our public school, it's the center of our community and our lives. I serve on the Campus Advisory Committee for our school, and it's astonishing to hear about what a small budget they have to do all the things they need to do. In rural committees, students do not have another choice. Special education students are often denied entry to private schools because private schools are not required to support them. Parents already have "school choice," vouchers would hurt Texas. I urge you to vote against HB3. Thank you.

Kelsey Tinnin

Self

Cypress, TX

I homeschool and appose this bill.

Rachel Rogers

Self

Austin, TX

We in Texas are against and do not support school vouchers. Texas public schools need funding, we don't need vouchers in Texas. Public schools are our kids education and future. Public educators teach everyone including special needs, children with physical disabilities, hearing impaired, children who excel and children who don't. Teachers love to teach and we should support them in every way, especially financially. Our communities are healthier and better off when we support public school.

Marga Simmons, Ms

Self

Menard, TX

Totally oppose!!

Christina Zarate
Self- cost controller
Angleton, TX

I stand firmly against HB3 because it exacerbates systemic issues in over 150 Texas counties with limited or no access to essential resources. This bill enables a system where Texas officials and billionaires work in tandem for personal gain, with no transparency, no accountability, and no real solutions for the people impacted. Public funds should serve the public good, not private interests—no vouchers, no loopholes, no backdoor deals. I am formally requesting Full funding for our public schools and an increase in the Basic Allotment so kids aren't crammed in a classroom like a jail cell like private prisons. Reducing classroom size would benefit everyone emotional well being and learning environment.

Jennifer Peete
Self, instructional coach
SHADY SHORES, TX

As an educator and a product of public education, I know the importance it played in my students'and my own life. Please don't use our tax dollars to fund private schools. Please use tax dollars to fund public school well, so Texas's citizens can be well educated.

Micaela Segal, Mrs.
Self, Public School Teachee
Houston, TX

As a public school graduate and public school teacher, who went to private school and has taught in private institutions, I must say that school choice is NOT the choice for Texas and definitely NOT the choice for Texans. Only public schools should receive public funding. Anything else is a disservice and disrespect to the people of this great state.

Aaron Gonzalez, Mr.
Self
Dallas, TX

I am urging you to vote NO on HB3 and protect Texas public schools from being drained by a voucher scheme that benefits only a select few. School vouchers do not help public schools—they actively harm them.

Public schools exist to serve all children, not just those who can afford private education. They provide special education (SPED) services, safe learning environments, and essential resources like free meals that many families rely on. Vouchers funnel taxpayer dollars away from these critical services, leaving the vast majority of students worse off.

Let's be clear: vouchers do not make private school accessible to working families. Private schools do not have to provide SPED services. Families like mine have had to pay \$600 per month for dyslexia support and \$300 per month for speech therapy—out of pocket, on top of tuition. That is not a solution—it is an exclusionary system designed for those who can already afford it.

Public schools are saving lives. They educate and support children regardless of income, disability, or background. Diverting funds through vouchers is a direct attack on these students and their futures. I urge you to reject HB3 and stand with Texas families who depend on strong, well-funded public schools.

Vote NO. Our children's futures depend on it.

Cecilia Wood, Esq

self - attorney

Austin, TX

1. It is most unlikely that a billionaire would ever qualify. Five hundred percent (500%) of the federal poverty level for a family of fourteen (14) is \$435,750.00 NOT a billion.
2. Economic disparity exists now because wealth and earning ability varies greatly between individuals, family, and neighborhoods. This bill will not save all of the student from low income neighborhoods. It will rescue some. It makes no sense to save none because all cannot be helped.
3. All the state money has gone to public schools presumably since 1876. No matter how much money is invested in public schools the effectiveness of public schools continues to decline. The numbers offered by various legislators this session demonstrate that fifty percent (50%) to seventy-five percent (75%) of current public school students cannot read or do math at grade level. Even if this bill doesn't solve the entire problem it will be a first step. What we're doing now is NOT working.

Brian Hensley

Self

Manor, TX

This bill must not pass. I don't want my tax dollars to be used to give breaks to rich people and further fund systemic racism, classics, and party politics. Please vote NO on HB3

Jana Davis

Self

Wills point, TX

I am opposed to this bill. As a prior educator I don't feel that this benefits low or middle socioeconomic children in the state of Texas. All this bill does is help the rich get funding for their child's education. This should never be considered.

Elizabeth Ferguson

Representing myself; change management/employee experience lead

Austin, TX, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3, the largest and most expensive school voucher scheme ever proposed in Texas. This bill takes taxpayer dollars meant for public schools and redirects them to private schools that lack transparency, accountability, and equal access for all students. How is anyone okay with that?

Public tax dollars should support public schools, which serve every child, regardless of ability, income, or background. Texas lawmakers have not increased the basic per-student funding allotment for public schools since 2019, despite rising costs, inflation, and a record budget surplus. If there is money in the budget for education, our priority should most certainly be fully funding public schools first. By doing this, we should be ensuring teacher raises, better resources for students, and improvements to school infrastructure—before sending tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

Additionally, HB 3 does not even prioritize the students who need the most support. It allows families already in private schools—including those making over \$200,000 per year—to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers. Wealthy families will get a discount on private school tuition while public schools lose funding, harming the vast majority of Texas students.

While I'm horrified that this is even the case, this bill also fails students with disabilities. While HB 3 offers larger voucher amounts for special education students, private schools are not required to accept them or provide the necessary services. Public schools are legally required to serve all children, yet HB 3 shifts funding away from them to schools that are not obligated to meet these needs. This does not make sense.

Texas public schools educate more than 5.4 million students—far more than private institutions ever will. If we truly care about education, we should be investing in strong, well-funded public schools that serve everyone, rather than subsidizing private schools that can pick and choose their students.

HB 3 is bad for Texas families, bad for students, and bad for our public schools. I urge legislators to reject this costly and irresponsible voucher scheme and instead invest in fully funding public schools, raising teacher pay, and ensuring that every Texas child has access to a high-quality education.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Ferguson
Austin, TX

Ginia Luker
Public educators and students
Lufkin, TX

I oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background.

Christine Douglas
Self
Cypress, TX

Our public schools, our teachers and staff, our children, our FUTURE deserve better than this!

Julie Armstrong
Self
Austin, TX

I do not support HB 3. I believe my kids and the children of TX deserve better. This benefits the wealthy and strips our kids of a decent public education. When did we decide ALL of our kids are not worth fighting for and deserving of a great education.

Rebekah Riley

Self

Coppell, TX

The majority of public schools in Texas are incredible. We moved here from another state to benefit from the wonderful public education system in Texas. This is a dramatic and half-baked idea that would have serious repercussions to our economy.

August Wunderlich

Self

Montgomery, TX

Say no to vouchers or at least fund public schools appropriately and have private schools abide by the same rules. This includes standardized testing and accepting all students.

Tricia Chalaire

Self

Paris, TX

I am opposed to HB 3, vouchers, ESA. Please vote NO!

Christine Heath, Mrs.

Self

Cypress, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers

Claire Rucker

Self

Wolfforth, TX

I do NOT support vouchers.

Sarah McHugh
Self/Social media management
Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3, the largest and most expensive school voucher scheme ever proposed in Texas. This bill takes taxpayer dollars meant for public schools and redirects them to private schools that lack transparency, accountability, and equal access for all students.

Public tax dollars should support public schools, which serve every child, regardless of ability, income, or background. Texas lawmakers have not increased the basic per-student funding allotment for public schools since 2019, despite rising costs, inflation, and a record budget surplus. If there is money in the budget for education, our priority should be fully funding public schools first—ensuring teacher raises, better resources for students, and improvements to school infrastructure—before sending tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

Furthermore, HB 3 does not even prioritize the students who need the most support. It allows families already in private schools—including those making over \$200,000 per year—to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers. Wealthy families will get a discount on private school tuition while public schools lose funding, harming the vast majority of Texas students.

This bill also fails students with disabilities. While HB 3 offers larger voucher amounts for special education students, private schools are not required to accept them or provide the necessary services. Public schools are legally required to serve all children, yet HB 3 shifts funding away from them to schools that are not obligated to meet these needs.

Texas public schools educate more than 5.4 million students—far more than private institutions ever will. If we truly care about education, we should be investing in strong, well-funded public schools that serve everyone, rather than subsidizing private schools that can pick and choose their students.

HB 3 is bad for Texas families, bad for students, and bad for our public schools. I urge legislators to reject this costly and irresponsible voucher scheme and instead invest in fully funding public schools, raising teacher pay, and ensuring that every Texas child has access to a high-quality education.

Sincerely,
Sarah McHugh
Austin TX

Michelle Herskowitz
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose HB3 and do not want you to vote for vouchers. Please fund our public schools.

Chris Goode
Self
San Marcos, TX

I am totally against school vouchers! I am a retired Texas teacher of 35 years. Texas public schools need to be funded much better than it is now. I spent thousands of dollars out of my paycheck to buy supplies for my classroom, paid for my own conferences and training so I could be the best teacher I could be, and the amount of hours I worked was way beyond a normal work day. The better we educate our young people, the better our society will be. We need to educate all children. I worked with all kinds of students, mainly junior high level. Some students were in gangs, who did turn their life around once they found out they could read and think. We need to give every child a valued opportunity to learn. Vouchers are not the answer!!! Funding our public system of education will be the best future for our students!

Megan King

Self

Cooper, TX

I oppose!

Lori Mayfield

Myself as the mother of a hs senior at LTHS

AUSTIN, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Does this go against the Texas constitution? This will hurt public schools. I have a son with a 504 who is graduating this year from Lake Travis high school. Additionally, do not let Governor Abbott take away 504's and IEP's for students with disabilities Support public education and don't take away funding by letting rich people send their children to religious schools.

Elizabeth Nelson

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am vehemently opposed to the creation of an education savings account. It is our duty to provide the best public education for our children. It is time to substantially increase teacher pay and spend the money to over engineer our public education just as we over engineer our defense in this country. Most rural areas don't have private schools and will be harmed. Let the citizens of this state vote on this, not legislators lining their pockets.

Nikita Pena

Self-Teacher

Rio Grande City, TX

I oppose any voucher program, including a tuition tax credit, education savings account, or any other such program that would direct public funds to private, home, or for-profit virtual schools.

Jessica Pleimann

None

Abilene, TX

I am very against school vouchers. Education funds shouldn't go to private schools. We need to keep the money in our public school system. If anything, they deserve more money to have the tools to teach our children. I'm sure many of your kids go to private schools. I'm sure you all can afford them without the help of the state helping. Many of us aren't in that position. We need our public schools to have ample resources to teach our kids.

James Tatum

Self Teacher

Longview, TX

Please do not pass this bill! It will not help kids in this state!

Melanie Atkinson

Self

Arlington, TX

Say no to vouchers and this bill. This bill will endanger public education in Texas. If you really want to give students the opportunities they deserve, then fully fund public education. Give educators the raise they deserve. Raise the per student allotment.

Anne Mills, Mrs
Retired educator
Commerce, TX

Fully fund schools. Then will talk vouchers. Public \$ belongs in our public schools.

Michelle Pietri
Private citizen
San Antonio, TX

I am against school vouchers! As someone who has had children in both public school, and private school, I believe that the voucher system is stealing from the vast majority of students who have to use public school education!

They are not vouchers that are fair when not everyone has the opportunity to use them.

If you don't have transportation, you can't use it,

If you don't have the finances to cover the rest of the tuition, you can't use it,

If there is not a public school in your area, you can't use it,

This is not a fair voucher system!

I am completely against it!

As someone who has been in the education system for over 20 years, I am highly against how it will affect public schools financially.

Again, I have looked at many side sides of this issue, and I am completely against it!

As someone who had a child in private school, I am completely against it!

It is an unfair coupon for the wealthy, and it leaves people with less means behind.

All students should have the opportunity for a good education, no matter what their family background!

I am completely against the voucher system!

As a representative of the people, please represent the majority of the youth who all want to be educated fairly! Please vote no!

Please vote no!

Claire Hicks
Self- Fundraiser
Fort Worth, TX

I am strongly against school vouchers and am horrified by the direction our state leaders are pushing education. Public dollars should remain available for ALL students.

Carrie Shevlin
Self
Montgomery, TX

Please stand against any effort to implement school vouchers in Texas. These schemes are nothing more than a calculated attack on our public education system, diverting taxpayer dollars from the schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children and funneling them into private institutions that operate with little oversight and zero obligation to serve all students. This is not school choice—it is government-sponsored abandonment of public education.

Texas public schools are already underfunded, understaffed, and overburdened. Instead of addressing these urgent crises, vouchers would strip even more resources from our classrooms, leaving our students and teachers to struggle while private schools, many of which are religious and exclusionary, reap the benefits at taxpayers' expense. Private schools are not required to accept students with disabilities, English language learners, or those with behavioral challenges. They are not held to the same academic standards as public schools. Why should public dollars subsidize institutions that can pick and choose whom they educate while turning their backs on our most vulnerable children?

This is a blatant betrayal of Texas families. If you care about the future of this state, invest in the schools that serve all children, not just the privileged few. I urge you to reject any and all voucher proposals and commit to strengthening Texas public schools instead. Texas children deserve better.

Sibyl Delgrolice

Self

Lufkin, TX

Vouchers divert essential funding away from our public schools, especially harming rural communities where public schools are the backbone of education. Instead of weakening our public education system, we should be investing in resources, teacher support, and student success.

Please stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting HB 3 and prioritizing strong, fully funded public schools.

Caren Lane

Self/Senior Art Director

Bedford, TX

Vote against the “voucher program” education savings accounts. It will harm students and bankrupt TX school districts

David Bower

self

Hillsboro, TX

My wife, daughter, and I all vote, and we are totally against the Republican school voucher scheme. Public tax money should go to public schools, where the vast majority of students are educated. Republicans have strangled public education for years, and teachers are ridiculously underpaid. There is also a deeply-disturbing undercurrent to the proposed funding formulas, where public school students are only funded at 3/5ths of the funding for private/parochial schools. This harkens back to the 3/5ths Compromise in our US Constitution, where slaves were counted as only 3/5ths of a free human for purposes of congressional enumeration and apportionment. It appears that Republicans have the same attitude toward public school students...that they are only worth 3/5ths of a private school student. In addition, rural students virtually will be eliminated from utilizing these vouchers, because there are no private schools anywhere close by. So the majority of people who will benefit from vouchers will be the well-off, who can afford to physically transport their kids to private schools and who can afford to send them to private schools now. WE OPPOSE HB3, AND WE VOTE AT EVERY ELECTION!

Martha Thompson

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Mary Brownlow, Mrs.

Self retired teacher

Amherst, TX

This bill will have the effect of closing our small school and provide money for those who choose private education. I am in whole heartedly AGAINST this bill.

Kelly Jarisch

Self

Austin, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and support Texas public schools. This bill diverts taxpayer dollars from public schools, which educate over 90% of Texas students, to private institutions with little accountability. Schools already facing teacher shortages and rising student needs will be forced to cut programs, increase class sizes, and limit services.

Private schools receiving taxpayer funds are not required to serve all students, follow state curriculum standards, provide performance data, or maintain financial oversight. If public money is being spent, there should be transparency in how it is used. HB 3 lacks that accountability.

While promoted as a "school choice," HB 3 benefits only a small group of families. Vouchers do not fully cover tuition, leaving many working-class and rural families unable to access private schools. Meanwhile, public schools serving most students will be left with fewer resources.

Strong public schools create strong communities. When schools suffer, property values decline, businesses struggle, and workforce development weakens. Texans have consistently rejected voucher schemes, recognizing that public funds should support schools that serve all students. HB 3 threatens that foundation.

I appreciate your time and consideration in protecting Texas public education.

Shari Baird

Self

Richwood, TX

I am wholly against House Bill 3. It does nothing to help a majority of the students. It subsidizes the rich, who can already afford public schools. Our great state needs to properly fund public schools and quit trying to divert funds to private businesses which do not follow the same requirements of public education. ALL of our Texas children deserve a quality education. Not just the rich. Public schools can be wonderful when they are properly funded! I am a republican and WILL use my voting power to oppose anyone who supports this bill next time I vote. Greg Abbott will NOT be getting my vote in any shape or form.

Kyle Coker

Self/former teacher

ROUND ROCK, TX

Governor Abbott, As a seventh generation Texan, retired public and private school teacher, and parent, I can say that that all my colleagues, BOTH republicans and democrats alike are vehemently opposed to school vouchers. On reading all the comments on your many posts regarding this issue, I can conclude without question that most all my fellow Texans say NO to this voucher system. We ask you to listen to your constituents, Governor! As our state leader, you must also say NO TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS! Thank you for your time...Sincerely, Kyle A. Coker, Round Rock resident

Trisha Lynn
Self
Rockwall, TX

Questions that need to be asked:

1. How will the lottery system choose applicants? I understand how students will be prioritized, but there isn't clear language on how the comptroller will conduct the lottery? How do we ensure there is randomization?
2. Will we be able to see a list of schools and vendors that have an ESA program participant? Not asking to see student info that violates FERPA, just a list of schools and vendors receiving public funds via the ESA.
3. Will we be able to see the norm-referenced testing scores (without violating FERPA) and other accountability measurements required to receive ESA funds?
4. Why not change accountability measures in public schools to just norm-referenced testing scores instead of criterion-referenced tests (STAAR) if that's all ESA participants need to prove program proficiency?
5. Why not restrict the first few years of the program participants to just applicants in the top 2 priority groups (low income and disability)?

Considerations for changes:

1. The ESA funds should only be used for tuition and fees for private schools and homeschool program vendors. It should not cover sellable items like books and uniforms that can be resold. The bill in its current form says that parents/guardians should refrain from selling an item purchased with ESA program money, but there is not a way to uphold this provision and therefore should not be allowed.
2. ESA funds should not be used for lunch or any other meals for homeschool and private school participants unless they would have qualified for free/reduced lunch in public school. In those cases, only the amount allocated for students in public schools should be allocated for just the meal portion of the private school and homeschool ESA. Why should taxpayers foot the bill for expensive chef-made meals for program participants when we don't pay for public school student meals.
3. ESA funds should not be used for gas reimbursement. Only transportation costs associated with the school or approved homeschool vendor (school bus) should be approved funding. Taxpayers should not be paying for those participant's parents' gas.
4. ESA program participants should not be allowed to receive ANY services from their local public school district/campus. If money is following the student then why should they get any services from the public school that doesn't receive funding for that participating student? Why should public school resources that are already spread thin be utilized for program participants that didn't think the school was good enough in the first place? Put that burden on the private school or homeschool parent getting the funding.
5. There needs to be transparency showing which schools and educational vendors were associated with applicants (not the actual applicant- just the school or vendors they listed on their ESA application). We should also be able to see which schools and vendors actually receive the funds.

Sherri Dowhower
Self - Retired
Vernon, TX

I am the grandmother of 6 school-age children in Vernon, TX. I want my tax dollars to fund PUBLIC schools which all 6 of my grandchildren attend. I am angry my tax dollars would be used to rob children in our rural schools to fund the wealthy. I faithfully attend church twice weekly and I believe there should be a clear SEPARATION of church and state.

Brittney Womack
Self
Grapevine, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 and so should you! I am a mother of 3 children just starting out in their education journeys. I have also had experience in the education field for the last 8 years as different positions within Elementary Education. The public schools I have worked in and sent my kids to are a real treasure! The programs and educators deserve our full support and to be fully funded by the state of Texas! Voucher programs have no place here and the billionaires backing and pushing them are only in it for themselves not the well being of our children's education. Do not cave to outside pressure but instead stand up for our children and their future. Vote NO on HB3!!

Linda Steen, Hood County Judge, previously

Self

Granbury, TX

I am totally opposed to this bill!! I don't want to pay for Ferris Wilkes private school or anyone else's!!

Meredith Wiley

Self- parent

Canton, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Ilya Martinalbo

Self - engineer

houston, TX

Strongly opposing school choice as detrimental to public education funding and only serves as a subsidy to families who already can afford private education

Mike Wischkaemper

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am against vouchers.

Wr need to first find public schools so they can function properly

Linda Timmerman

Self

Corsicana, TX

I respectfully request a "no" vote on this proposed legislation. Parents already have a choice in their children's education, and I'm against using taxpayer dollars to fund anything other than constitutionally mandated public education. Every child deserves a superior education and our public schools have been underfunded by the State for too long.

Julie Hoyle

Self

College Sta, TX

No to vouchers! Fund public education.

John Grygar
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Abigail Simpson

Self
Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Lynn Boswell, Trustee

Austin ISD

Austin, TX

My name is Lynn Boswell. I'm an Austin ISD Trustee sharing testimony AGAINST HB3 on behalf of the district in alignment with our legislative priorities, which include opposition to ESAs or any other programs that divert public tax dollars to privately run schools and a call for accountability and transparency if an ESA or voucher passes. Our opposition is based on the needs of Texas public schools and students and the well-documented problems with these programs in other states.

Texas has rejected vouchers again and again

Session after session, communities across our state have told lawmakers that vouchers are the wrong choice for Texas and Texas lawmakers have voted in the interest of their communities. The conversation is different this time – not because the needs and values of Texas communities have changed, but because the resources being used to push vouchers have grown. It's important to make the choice that's right for Texas students and taxpayers, not for people who hope to profit from Texas students and tax dollars.

Vouchers undermine public education

Vouchers can undermine public education by diverting resources away from public schools, which educate about 90% of Texas children and offer a range of academic options, extracurricular programs, and student supports. Public schools are valued by communities across our state. Rather than diverting money to fund an unaccountable private school system, the legislature should invest in our public schools.

False promises of academic outcomes

Some supporters justify vouchers by promising better academic outcomes for students “trapped in failing public schools,” which struggle when they are starved of funds needed to meet student needs. Other states offer many well-documented failures to improve student outcomes with vouchers – programs described by economist and former voucher supporter Josh Cowen as delivering “dreadful academic results for voucher users.”

Lack of accountability and transparency

Vouchers offer families and taxpayers fewer opportunities to find out what's happening inside their child's school because private schools are exempt from state accountability and assessment standards, financial reporting requirements, open records laws, special education rules, student safety rules or curriculum requirements.

Benefit to wealthy families

In state after state, vouchers are being used primarily by students who never attended public school. More than 60% of Texas students come from families with economic disadvantage, so using tax dollars to subsidize tuition for wealthy families is especially difficult to justify. Taxpayer funds should be used to benefit the larger public, not a privileged few.

Vouchers are not fiscally responsible

Every taxpayer will bear the burden of vouchers. So it's important to understand how often vouchers are not a responsible use of taxpayer funds. Stories of fraud, waste, and ballooning expenses offer clear evidence that this is not a fiscally responsible choice.

Andrew Harbuck

Self

Lufkin, TX

This bill is not what Texans want. We ask for better funding of our public schools. When you can start asking for refunds on public services you don't use, where does it end? Refunds for roads I don't drive on? Fire departments if I don't have a fire? The choice to out your kids in private school is a private choice, not something to State should fund with tax dollars. Do your job and increase funding for public schools.

Cody Satterfield, Mrs
Self, public school educator
College Station, TX

Reiterating my plea for a vote of NO for school vouchers.
We are whole heartedly against school vouchers.

If you cannot add language to the bill in support of these funds going directly to low income or middle class families, then the vote should be no. I would also like to know what will happen to these funds when a child gets kicked out of the private school? Would they return directly to the public school? Why not fund all students the same? Why can you not hold all schools, (private, public, charter, homeschool,etc) to the exact same standards for funding, assessment, accountability, discipline, teacher certifications, etc? Fair is fair. We should be worried about giving all 5.4 million public school children the very best education possible.

Trent Bates
Self
Millsap, TX

VOTE NO. As a historically conservative and right-voting member of Texas, I do not agree with HB3. This is NOT good for our children and is not fiscally responsible for my wallet. This bill at appearance seems to gut funding to the public schools that are system is designed around. This will inevitably create or worsen the ever-widening income gap between low-income earners and more financially stable households.

Theresa Neman
Self
Spring, TX

Please vote no to vouchers. Texas Leg has a constitutional duty to fully fund public schools. Over 100 counties have no private schools. Texas offers choice already. In those areas with options, families can already choose free charter schools.

Texas cannot afford to privatize education in oder to pay back Abbott's big donors.

Please let those donors know that Texas education is not for sale!

Support Texas teachers and students. Vote NO!

Jerilynn Daugherty
Self
Burleson, TX

VOTE NO ON VOUCHERS!

The majority of Texans do NOT want vouchers !

KELLY GIN, DR.
SELF
CEDAR PARK, TX

Please vote NO on vouchers/ESA and fully fund public schools. Increase the allotment by at least \$1500 per student. Fund by enrollment, not attendance. Public education is the right of every Texan and withholding funds or dispersing for private school is not in the best interest of ALL.

Shannon Mann Butler

Self

Leander, TX

I am a mother of a public school student, and attended public schools in TX myself. You've heard arguments for and against vouchers, but I am sincerely asking you to think about the lack of logic to this bill.

1. Public schools must adhere to various subject curricula approved by the state. Private schools will not be verified if they adhere to the same standards in the TEKS.
2. Public schools and their districts are given "report cards," but private schools won't have them.
3. The public elects boards of trustees to select a superintendent, set a budget and create policies that support enforcement of state and federal education laws. Will you require private schools to be transparent? Will those tax dollars from vouchers be publicly accounted for?
4. Public schools are required to take any student at any point in the school year. Private schools limit enrollment numbers and limit enrollment periods to the semester before the new year starts.
5. Under current law, students with special needs must be supported with personnel and equipment where required. Private schools can tell parents they do not have the ability to assist children with special needs.
6. Many private schools are religious in nature. Because public schools are secular, all students are welcome. Religious private schools can, and have, discriminated against students because they don't worship or believe the same way.
7. We need separation of church and state. By giving tax dollars to religious schools, we are showing preference and bias. It is the antithesis of what our Founding Fathers created and fought for.

Public schools in Texas have not been fully – and adequately funded for years. It's not the schools failing our kids, it's our legislators who have no desire to actually improve the schools in their communities while they're busy fighting for vouchers that none of us want.

I urge all of you to vote NO to vouchers because it is against all our values in Texas. Look at our constitution for the state. It talks about fully funding our public schools, not giving tax dollars without accountability and transparency, to private schools.

It's time to end this.

Thank you,
Shannon Mann-Butler

rachel zindler

Self

Austin, TX

Families in Texas rely on LOCAL public education. Vouchers drain public schools of critical funding and only provide subsidies for wealthy families to pay for private and parochial schools. Please vote NO on vouchers!

oj garcia
self
austin, TX

Texas HB 3, which proposes sweeping changes to the state's education system, should be opposed for several reasons. The bill prioritizes privatization and voucher programs, which could divert crucial funding from public schools, further exacerbating the inequities faced by disadvantaged students. Instead of strengthening public education and providing resources to improve schools, HB 3 seems more focused on fostering a market-driven approach that undermines the principle of equal access to quality education for all. Additionally, the bill fails to address the systemic issues within public schools, such as insufficient teacher pay, overcrowded classrooms, and lack of resources. By shifting attention away from supporting public schools, HB 3 could ultimately harm the students who rely the most on robust, well-funded education systems.

Nicole Watson
Self
Argyle, TX

Vouchers are a scam! Please vote against this school voucher bill. Please support and fund our public schools and teachers.

Deirdre Pattillo
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vote NO on HB3! The Texas constitution is clear: "A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools." When I chose to put my child in private school for a time, I knew the cost was my responsibility - not my neighbors'. I was happy to contribute my taxes to support public schools for the benefit of my community as a whole. Public schools are essential for strong neighborhoods and communities. Strong neighborhoods and communities support the healthy function of the greater economy. Vote NO on HB3!

Chad Howard

Self

Canyon, TX

As the spouse of a teacher, I am deeply concerned about the potential impact of Texas HB3 on our public education system. While the bill proposes additional funding, it falls far short of addressing the real challenges faced by our schools, students, and educators. Texas students deserve a fully funded public education system that ensures every child, regardless of their background, has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed.

Public education in Texas has been underfunded for years, and this has created stark disparities across the state. Many schools in low-income areas are forced to operate with outdated materials, overcrowded classrooms, and inadequate facilities. Teachers, like my spouse, often spend their own money on classroom supplies, and many students don't have access to the tools or technology they need to thrive. The funding levels proposed by HB3 may offer a short-term boost, but they do little to address these persistent disparities or meet the growing demands of our education system.

One of the primary issues with HB3 is that it does not provide enough resources for long-term, systemic change. While the bill proposes some increased funding, it will not significantly improve the conditions in our schools or the educational opportunities available to our students. Overcrowded classrooms, teacher shortages, and the increasing need for mental health support are just a few of the critical issues that HB3 fails to address. A modest increase in per-student funding will not be sufficient to close the gap between wealthy districts and those struggling to keep their doors open.

Teacher compensation is another area where HB3 falls short. As the spouse of a teacher, I see firsthand how hard educators work, often with little recognition or adequate support. Teachers in Texas are among the lowest-paid in the nation, and many are leaving the profession due to burnout and frustration with the lack of support. While HB3 provides some funding for salary increases, it is not nearly enough to address the growing teacher shortage or to provide educators with the compensation they deserve for their hard work and dedication.

Additionally, HB3 does not address the equity issues that continue to plague our education system. Wealthier districts often have access to the best resources, technology, and extracurricular opportunities, while underfunded schools are left behind. Without a substantial increase in funding that is specifically targeted to the schools that need it most, these disparities will only continue to widen. Every child in Texas, regardless of where they live, should have the same opportunity to succeed. We need a funding system that ensures equitable distribution of resources and that provides the support every student needs to thrive.

What Texas truly needs is a comprehensive approach to funding public education—one that prioritizes long-term investment and ensures that every school has the resources

Natalia Mora

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose this bill, public schools need more funding. Republicans should continue to follow George Bush's motto of no child left behind!

Bob Pavlock

Self

Sugarland, TX

Want funding to remain for the public schools. The voucher system is inequitable and unfair.

cinthia pedraza

Self

austin, TX

This bill is un American. As a tax payer I do not approve of school vouchers

Sheree Felan
Self - Customer Success Manager
Richland Hills, TX

Who is Jeff Yass and why does he have influence over TX legislation??? <https://www.texastribune.org/2024/07/17/greg-abbott-jeff-yass-campaign-donation/>

Donna Linn
Public Schools
Lakeway, TX

As a past principal in a highly successful Title 1 school, I urge our representatives to fully fund public education. It is the life line to our "land of opportunities". Without the support of the state, my school and work as an educator for 40 years would have been impossible.

Marrit Ingman
Self / Instructional Designer
Austin, TX

Texans already have school choice. Moreover, without a strong system of public schools, "school choice" is meaningless. All Texans deserve a free and appropriate public education as stated in our Constitution. Underfunding and starving the public school system is not the answer.

Pam Whitehouse
self
Austin, TX

This is a private voucher scam that would take money away from kids and schools in need and give it to already well-funded private schools. This would be bad.

Jenna Sims
Self/Realtor
Mineral Wells, TX

Public education is already struggling with not enough funding. This bill would take MORE tax dollars from public education. Vouchers would not allow all children the same opportunities and would leave some parents still unable to pay for private education, making the voucher system unfair. Private schools do not want ANY government strings attached with these vouchers. My kids go to a private school where they still teach cursive, THE BIBLE, and have the rights that Texans should have. I fear that government funds will mean more government oversight and regulation for private schools removing many of these things from private schools. Also, it seems those of us who work hard to put out kids in a private school with our own hard earned money will not qualify for these vouchers. Just another way to make it almost impossible for the middle class to thrive. Let's leave private schools alone and focus on using more tax dollars for public education. Those of us who choose to work hard to be able to afford private schools will keep doing so.

Carrie Couch
Self/speech language pathologist
Vernon, TX

Please vote against an education savings account program. The public school system is struggling and the savings account program will not make it better. Public schools are required to provide a free and appropriate education to all children. Private schools are allowed to discriminate, not allowing children with behaviors or IEPs. The schools are not held to the same standards such as state testing and required curriculum.

Adelina Parks

Self, teacher-parent

Highland Village, TX

I am a public school teacher, this is my 20th year in education. It's an honor to teach the children of Texas. I have had students with both physical and learning disabilities, students new to the country, and our local neighborhood children in my classroom. I have always loved educating and engaging students within the classroom and supporting them from where they are educationally and building from that foundation to get them the grade level TEKS they need. All while building a family environment for them to feel safe. When COVID hit and schools began closing down it was another challenge I never thought we as a state would have to face. Our district had us using technology to support every student online with live lessons, tutoring sessions, and 1:1 intervention. I had my 2 children at home with me while I juggled my virtual classroom schedule and getting my children on theirs for 2nd and pre-k. We made it work because that is how I was raised and how I am raising my children. The respect teachers felt after that difficult time was wonderful and short lived. Fast forward to today, our classrooms are stuffed and we continue to meet the needs of so many children from language barriers, behavior needs, special education, and gifted students, but we make it work. My classroom of 25 students is thriving. I have to be creative in my lesson planning, seating chart, and group project ideas, however my students are all growing and progressing and each one of my students knows I care about them and we are a family. Our school was one that was of the schools in the district being reviewed as a potential closure. Our campus eventually was taken off the list, but another school near us will be closed and the some of the students and teachers from that school will be added to our campus next year. We all have fears, and are nervous about this next year. We will have added special education programs like behavior intervention classrooms being brought over as well as an ALS classroom. Our classrooms were full this year and waivers had to be added, and we aren't sure how big the classrooms will be next year. We are going on several years of no raises for teachers and our voters voted to give us raises last year, however we have not received anything. The rising costs of everything due to inflation has made it difficult for our family. We do not have the funds in school to pay for students needs, and I am paying for more now out of pocket to support my students. I am asking that you consider public education and providing us with increased funding to support our local students, give our teachers a raise so we can meet the cost of living. As a career educator I attended public school all my life, I went to Texas Tech University, I hold a masters degree in education and I have trained and certified to teach K-12, GT, ESL, and special education. The students that walk in my classroom deserve to have a highly educated and passionate teacher supporting them.

jandel crutchfield

Mansfield ISD

Mansfield, TX

Please keep public dollars in public schools. As taxpaying citizens we deserve to have direct access to the benefits we are paying for. We do not subsidize private ventures for other areas like roads and houses. If people want to complete a project on their private home or driveway they are not entitled to our public tax dollars.

The majority of kids in Texas attend public schools that are NOT failing and provide services that private schools do not.

Don't repay evil for good, don't approve defunding the hard work of our staff in Mansfield ISD and other districts.

Reject HB3 voucher/education savings account portion and focus on fully funding our schools.

You represent the every day people in your district. Please hear us. We have 1100 signatures and growing on a petition to reject this voucher plan.

<https://chng.it/kWN9KX9nFV>

Please listen to us.

Bailey Hogan

Self

Lubbock, TX

As a concerned parent with two children enrolled in a public school, I firmly believe that the concept of school vouchers is not a wise approach to education funding. I strongly advocate for the notion that tax dollars collected from the general public should be allocated exclusively to support public schools, rather than being redirected towards private institutions or homeschooling programs. Public schools serve a vital role in providing accessible education to all children in our community, and I feel that our investment should be focused on enhancing these public educational systems. By doing so, we ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to receive a quality education in a shared, diverse environment.

Elyse Freed

Self

Houston, TX

School choice offers value and should be passed

Karen Stanton

Self

Allen, TX

I am adamantly opposed to school vouchers, and so are most Texans I know. Public signs are for public schools, and you have defended us for long enough. Our legislators are not representing us. Our governor has abandoned us for whatever campaign donations he has received. Please listen to Texans and fund our schools so that all our children can learn, our teachers can be paid appropriately, our classes won't be bursting at the seams.

Crystal Zant

Self

Lubbock, TX

While you are trying to trick families into feeling like they have more school choice, it has serious consequences
Diverts critical funding from public schools
Lack of accountability
Private schools can discriminate
No guarantee of access and equity
Weakens public education

Sincerely, a conservative public school educator of 20 years

Laura Williams

Public school educators

Troy, TX

Vote NO for vouchers. Protect and support Texas public school students, teachers, staff, and schools!!! Fully fund public schools!

Amy Lentz
Self
Austin, TX

If parents want to send their children to private schools, they are allowed to — at their own expense. It is not the taxpayers' responsibility especially since these are private schools over which the taxpayers do not have oversight of. It is the responsibility of private schools to make their schools affordable. If they accept any taxpayer money, they forfeit their right to be private. All of their students (not just the ones who used vouchers) should be required to take assessments to see their ranking if the private schools accept any voucher. Let's gather the data to see what kinds of students private schools produce. All the private school students should have to take what I believe is now called the STARS test (what use to be the TAKS test). All private school teachers will need to have the correct degrees, certifications, & such that public school teachers have to have. This Voucher Scheme should be considered the end of private school education in the state of Texas. This is a backdoor way to end private school education. The taxpayers deserve to know what they are paying for.

Yvette Bugarin
Concerned Texan
Fort Worth, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
I respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids, for example states such as Arizona back this data. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 I support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you for remembering you work for the people and not for private schools or private entities.

Roy Luevano, Mr
self
Grapevine, TX

Please vote NO on any voucher program. As a public school teacher I am already spending my own personal money to meet the needs of my students and my classroom supplies. Surrounding districts are closing schools because of lack of funding. The last time the state raised the public allocation was 2019. Please stop holding hostage the teachers and students of the entire state of Texas to appease the needs of .05%.

Rachel Adkins
Self
Hawley, TX

Vote no on HB 3. Protect Texas students from this ludacris bill.

Rachel Flowers

self

Austin, TX

The House Bill HB3 and the Senate Bill SB2 DO NOT reflect the interest of choices of the people of Texas, nor my own. The school choice or voucher system is incredibly short-sided and will do more damage to student education in the State of Texas than support. Vote representing the voices of the constituents you serve, which is against instituting a system of school choice or vouchers.

Allison Walker

Self

Austin, TX

Dear dedicated Texas public stewards,

I ask you to please take my comments into consideration regarding HB 3.

My daughter Poppy's (current 2nd grader, attending school in Austin ISD) education won't be protected with vouchers/allocating public monies to private schools. Money taken away from our community public schools will make it harder for her and students of all needs to receive the education they deserve and we as taxpayers contribute to.

If it weren't for our community public school our daughter would not have even been identified as needing the services necessary to support her learning needs that she now receives by teachers and interventionists we cherish and are incredibly grateful for.

Our family living in rural areas will also be negatively effected as there aren't even private schools accessible/close to them. Even if there were, they cannot financially afford to cover the difference in tuition.

Please PLEASE keep our money, your faith and support into our community public schools. Our Texan students and families deserve it. Our voices matter & I'm pleading with you to prioritize our Texas community schools, teachers and students - what could show more Texan pride than that?

Thank you for time and considering my input and personal experience,

Proud Texan and community public school parent, volunteer and supporter - Allison Walker

Chris Parker, MR.

Self

Houston, TX

FOR THE BILL TO PASS

Stacie Smith

Self

Houston, TX

As a property taxpayer, mother to 5 school aged children, and former special education teacher, I strongly oppose HB3. Education savings accounts do not give parents choice. It puts the money in private organizations with little oversight or accountability. Private schools are not required to educate all children. Children with special needs may receive more funding in your bills, but they are not guaranteed admission or appropriate placement or education.

We must not further break down our institutions of public education. We need to fully fund schools to the amount they need.

Listen to the teachers, the superintendents, the families.

Craig Keaton, Dr.

Self

Arlington, TX

Dear Esteemed Legislators, As a dedicated homeschooling parent of two teenagers, I am writing to express my strong support for HB3, which proposes funding for homeschool families in Texas. This bill represents a significant opportunity to enhance the educational landscape for our children and provide them with the resources they need to thrive academically and athletically. Homeschooling allows us the flexibility to tailor education to our children's unique needs and interests. However, the financial burden of materials, extracurricular activities, and athletic programs can be overwhelming. By supporting HB3, you would be investing in the future of countless families like mine, enabling us to access essential resources that foster both academic excellence and physical well-being. With the additional funding, my children would have the chance to explore diverse educational materials, participate in enrichment programs, and engage in athletic activities that are crucial for their development. These opportunities not only enhance their learning experience but also promote lifelong skills such as teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. I urge you to consider the positive impact that HB3 could have on homeschooling families across Texas. Your support for this bill would demonstrate a commitment to educational choice and the well-rounded development of our children. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nancy Monroe, Mrs.

Self - former teacher, retired from second career

Coppell, TX

An ESA program WILL hurt public schools in Texas. There is no doubt to that inevitable result. If this was limited to Only Special Needs Students or Only Poverty level families (100% poverty level, not 500% of poverty level.) I could see some justification to it. But it is not limited that way. Even if it was it would not fill the needs for those children. It is written so that wealthy families can take advantage of it. Focusing on ESAs as a way to improve education in Texas is mistake and is insulting to all those in public education who accept all children and work tirelessly at lousy pay to do a great job. There are always outliers but taking money away from public education and having it end up in private schools or charters is not the solution. Private & Charter schools don't have to accept everyone. Public schools do. And when a Private or Charter school closes it's doors because of finances or when it kicks out a child - the public school accepts the child back - and - there have been too many recorded instances that those children are actually behind the public school grade level they were in. So what happens - when in less than a year a child goes back to the public school - will that ESA money be restored to the school?

What about home schooling? What kind of accountability would be in place there? That could allow a child to be completely uneducated without safeguards! And lack of socialization? That could be very hampering to children.

Other negative factors: with ESAs will any students whose parents use ESAs be required to have the same testing and accountability? How can that be accomplished? Seems like a new department would need to be created to keep up with that! But private, charter & home schooled children should be held to same accountability as public school students.

And is there availability of private & charter schools all over the state? We know it is not. So where is the equity in that? It isn't - the only solution is to focus on improving Public Schools and Vote NO to ESAs.!

Cora Lansdowne

self; music therapist

Midlothian, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I am a product of Texas public school education system and I believe in it. I am also deeply concerned what ramifications a voucher system would have for children currently receiving special education services in public schools. Please vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please support and fund public education for our children and our future.

Melissa Ingram

Self

N Richlnd Hls, TX

As a lifelong resident of Texas, product of the Texas public school system and a parent of a child who attends public schools, I ask that you oppose the creation of school vouchers. Please support public schools, the teachers and administrators who work so hard to educate and protect our children, and the innocent children of all walks of life who the public school system serves. Vouchers will only benefit a fraction of Texas families who are more affluent than the average Texas family while siphoning funds away from desperately underfunded public schools. Please support Texas children by voting against "an education savings account."

Marc van Bree

Self

Buda, TX

I write to you today as a father. A father deeply concerned about the future of my children, and particularly, the future of my youngest son.

My son, who is 11 years old, is a loving, non-speaking and autistic child, requiring substantial support to thrive. He attends a foundational learning classroom in Hays CISD, a district that, like so many others in Texas, is struggling under the weight of chronic underfunding.

I've seen firsthand the impact of this struggle. My son's Individualized Education Program (IEP), the document that guarantees his civil rights, is under threat. Understaffing, a direct result of the state's failure to adequately fund public education, is jeopardizing his access to the education he deserves.

Let's be clear: Texas ranks among the lowest states in the nation for state funding of public education, contributing a mere 32%. This forces local districts to shoulder an overwhelming burden. If this legislature truly seeks to decouple funding from zip codes, it must invest in public education at the state level.

Furthermore, Texas has a shameful history of violating federal law. The state has illegally decreased funding and artificially capped the number of students receiving these vital services. The U.S. Department of Education and federal courts have repeatedly intervened, yet problems persist.

HB 3, as it stands, does not solve these problems. It exacerbates them. This bill in effect diverts public funds to private schools, offering \$10,000 per student while public schools receive a mere \$6,500. This disparity is not only unjust but also unsustainable.

Proponents of this bill tout "school choice." But for families like mine, it's a false choice. There are few private schools equipped to serve students with complex needs, and even with vouchers, they remain unaffordable. More importantly, private schools are legally permitted to—and will—deny admission to students like my son.

This is not "school choice." It is a system that further underfunds public education, erodes the civil rights of students with disabilities, and creates a two-tiered system where some children are deemed worthy of investment, and others are not.

We don't need vouchers. We need the state to fulfill its constitutional obligation to fully fund public education. We need to safeguard the civil rights of all students, ensuring they receive a free and appropriate public education, regardless of their needs.

Public education is the cornerstone of our democracy. As John Adams wrote in 1785, "the Whole People must take upon themselves the Education of the Whole People and must be willing to bear the expences of it. there should not be a district of one Mile Square without a school in it, not founded by a Charitable individual but maintained at the expence of the People themselves."

I urge you, members of this committee, to uphold that fundamental principle. Reject HB 3, and instead, invest in the future of all Texas children.

Greg Silva
self
Fort Worth, TX

I reach out with an earnest plea to stand against Governor Abbott's proposed voucher plan. This position is shared by the majority of Texans. To support this plan would deny the voices of millions of Texans who depend on you to defend their children's educational future.

Governor Abbott has received substantial funding from billionaires involved in the Christian Nationalist movement, including Jeff Yass, Tim Dunn, Farris and Dan Wilks. Their coordinated effort aims to defund public education while directing money into private Christian institutions, promoting Christian-based values and curriculum while fortifying social inequity between Christian and non-Christian communities.

As a non-Christian taxpayer, this violates my religious freedom and the constitutional separation of church and state. Taking my tax dollars and allocating them to private religious schools violates my rights and the rights of all who don't subscribe to Christian beliefs. I ask you to consider how you would feel if your government took your hard-earned money to fund schools promoting religious beliefs contrary to your own. How would you feel if your "choice" was between an underfunded public school or one that celebrates beliefs opposing your deeply held convictions?

Abbott falsely calls this a "School Choice" system. The \$10,000 allotment per student doesn't cover full tuition at most private institutions. In Fort Worth where I live, private school costs range from \$20,000-\$40,000 annually. What prevents these schools from simply raising tuition by \$10,000, increasing their profits while providing no additional value? This isn't choice – it's a subsidy for the wealthy.

Public schools provide a safe, unbiased environment for all people, without discrimination based on faith, race, sexual orientation, gender, or other differences. Private schools can reject ANYONE for ANY reason as private institutions. They aren't required to accommodate students with disabilities, provide transportation from surrounding areas, or serve all communities equally.

This voucher system takes money from families who cannot afford tuition despite the \$10,000 allotment and gives it to wealthy families who don't need assistance. It allows the wealthy to shirk their responsibilities to the public.

Public schools, roads, parks, community centers, libraries, and other public amenities benefit everyone in society, even the wealthy. When we all prosper, society remains healthy as we function as a community rather than isolated individuals.

Dismantling these basic public systems creates dangerous social inequity and desperation that ultimately corrodes all aspects of society.

PLEASE stand against this egregious violation of religious freedom, misappropriation of funds from the working/middle class to the wealthy, and movement to use Christianity as a basis for social control. Reject this plan and protect the inclusive, equitable public education system that serves all Texans.

Jennifer Lorenz
Self
Cypress, TX

This is clearly a coupon for the wealthy.

Private schools do not take in all students. They also charge too much for lower income, even with the "education savings" voucher, they won't be able to afford any of the private schools.

I don't want my taxes to go towards private schools for the wealthy who don't need nor deserve my subsidies.

Mary A Gonzales, Dr.

self- physician

Austin, TX

Parental concerns regarding the implementation of school vouchers in Texas often center on the potential impact on society's most vulnerable populations. Critics argue that diverting public funds to private institutions may exacerbate educational inequalities, leaving disadvantaged students in underfunded public schools.

Evidence from other states provides insight into these concerns. In Wisconsin, for example, over 80,000 students are enrolled in voucher programs, with only 25% coming from public schools. This suggests that the majority of voucher recipients were already attending private institutions, leading to a minimal decrease in public school enrollment but a significant diversion of funds. Consequently, public schools face financial challenges, potentially reducing resources for remaining students.

Furthermore, studies have indicated that voucher programs can have negative effects on student achievement. Research from Indiana's Choice Scholarship voucher program found that students experienced declining performance in mathematics after transferring to private schools. Similarly, in Ohio's EdChoice Program, voucher students who previously attended high-performing public schools performed worse academically than if they had remained in public education.

In terms of political support, Governor Greg Abbott has received substantial contributions from pro-voucher advocates. Notably, Jeff Yass, a billionaire from Pennsylvania and prominent school voucher supporter, donated \$6 million to Abbott's campaign in December 2023, followed by an additional \$4 million in July 2024. These significant out-of-state contributions have raised questions about external influences on Texas education policy.

Regarding the protection of public education, the Texas Constitution, Article 7, Section 1, mandates the support and maintenance of public schools. It states: "A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools." This provision underscores the state's commitment to providing free public education to all children.

In summary, while school vouchers aim to offer educational choices, data from other states suggest potential adverse effects on vulnerable students and public school systems. The significant financial backing from pro-voucher donors further complicates the debate, especially considering Texas's constitutional obligation to maintain a robust public education system.

<https://chatgpt.com/c/67a9e84e-eb6c-8005-8690-c6215d5e9a9c>

"school choice" or a scam :
let's see what does the data show:

Do vouchers work ? no
Do they improve quality of education? no
Do they improve outcomes? no
Do they provide improve accountability? no
Do they harm the most vulnerable amongst us? yes

is access to free public education enshri

Mary Pat Rafferty, Ms

self / retired school teacher

Sugar Land, TX

I am highly AGAINST HB 3 by Buckley. The wealthy can already afford to send their children to private schools and don't need any reimbursement from the state. It is a CHOICE to attend either FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL or pay tuition at a private school. The loss of revenue for the public school system which services more than half the student population in Texas would devastate many programs and not meet the needs of many students, especially in rural areas. DO NOT VOTE FOR THIS UNFAIR BILL. It's time for the wealthy to appreciate what they have and stop trying to squeeze out extra from the government.

Kathryn Manuel

self

Houston, TX

I am against school vouchers. Tax dollars should be spent on funding public schools as the vast majority of the children in our state attend public schools and all children deserve an equal opportunity for quality education. Our schools are already underfunded compared to the national average. Providing excellent public education is the only way for our great state to thrive in the future. Vouchers are simply welfare for the wealthy.

Melissa Miller

Self

Frisco, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families already sending their kids to private school. This will only hurt public schools. I implore you to fund public schools and not have private school vouchers.

Burt Ahn

"self" Engineer

Cedar Park, TX

My name is Burt Ahn and I'm a parent writing to express my strong opposition to the HB 3 and any voucher legislation that diverts my tax money toward private schools. I know vouchers have been tried before in other states and have been proven ineffective. All public funds should stay public and be used to support all of Texas kids. Our taxes shouldn't be used to subsidize families who choose to send their kids to private school. It's an economic decision that a family's household should weight and consider, and public funds shouldn't be part of that consideration.

Jennifer Blair-Cockrum

self/na

Houston, TX

Oppose HB 3;

Taxpayer funds should not be used to fund private education. More than 5.5 millions students attend public schools in Texas while only approximately 125,000 attend private schools. There is already school choice: choose where you live, transfer, use the district lottery system, attend a magnet or charter system, or attend a private school on YOUR OWN DIME.

ESA are school vouchers, parents have choice and we dont need to give assistance to those who chose private schools. Private schools do not meet the same accountability, standards, or requirements as public schools are required, private schools do not have to take every student, private schools are not required to adhere to IDEA/ADA laws nor required to provide accommodations. This is welfare for the wealthy who made a choice that should not impact every other student in the state. This bill will negatively impact funding of public schools which are taxpayers funds allocated to public education, NOT private schools.

VOte no on SB2 and SB3 school vouchers is not good for Texas, students, or educating Texans.

Hillary Willmon

Self - Parent to children in TX Public Schools

Hollywood Park, TX

I am opposed to this voucher program and how it will contribute to the detriment of our public schools. We NEED public schools fully funded before creating avenues for families to go elsewhere. Every child, no matter their socioeconomic status, has a right to education and that is likely in the public realm. I am a parent to children who attend public school and spend many unpaid hours volunteering in my local school on behalf of the children in it. While private school is an option for us, we have chosen not to pursue it. We believe in the importance of our local public school and want our efforts and tax dollars going into it. The more funding public schools lose due to this program will further disadvantage countless innocent children and families who cannot afford private education. Please do not support this bill.

Pooja Harris
Self, architect
Cedar Park, TX

As a product of a Texas public school, and a property tax payer, I am horrified by this attempt to further line the pockets of the rich at the expense of everyone else. Our public schools are already suffering - students struggling, teachers being forced to quit to be able to take care of their families and their own wellbeing - and you all simply do not seem to care. Those of us paying attention see how blatantly you are trying to dumb down the general population to benefit your friends. Just like in Arizona, the average Texan will be worse off of this bill passes. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy. Thank you.

Kamie Herrera
self
Longview, TX

I am a proud parent of four children who all attend public school. I am a product of public school. Three of my children have had either a 504 plan or an IEP. Our 4th grader recently graduated from the Speech Therapy services he had received since Kindergarten; we are so proud. Our 5th grader has a 504 plan for her ADHD. She went from barely meeting grade level in math and almost meeting grade level on the 3rd grade STAAR to mastering the STAAR in 4th grade. She missed one math question and scored perfectly on her Extended Constructed Response on the Reading. She is an active participant in her academics and her 504 plan. This year, she requested accommodations to help her be the best she could be. Our 5-year-old is in Pre-K and his 3rd year as a public school student and thriving. He receives Autism Therapies and rigorous Speech Therapy. He is a Twice-gifted child. He can do multiplication, read, and comprehend many other skills above his grade level. Living in House District 7, my children do not have access to a private school that would help them reach their full potential. Living in rural Texas, with smaller Independent School Districts, losing one teacher in their grade level in core subjects would increase their class sizes and ultimately hurt the education of the students. We have school choice. We are fortunate to live in an area where several public schools offer the ability to transfer free of charge. Instead of the legislature offering education savings accounts, we should start with solutions for our public schools and make it so that parents can choose, at no cost, to transfer their students to another ISD. Our public schools offer vital services to millions of our students. Private schools do not have to provide or accept students who need these services and are free to do that because it is not discriminatory, according to the law, for our private schools in Texas to do so. Public Schools have to serve these students, no questions asked. I am a very involved parent in my student's education, and I fully believe it is time to hold me accountable for their education. Our public schools cannot educate our students properly without family involvement. I understand HB 3 is working to give parents this right and accountability. I'm asking for that same right in the public school system, it should not be exclusive to ESA-recipient households. I am against tax dollars going to private institutions. I would like to see education savings account recipients be held to the same standards as my students. I would like to see these private institutions that accept ESA held to the same standards. I would like to see parents be able to transfer a student to a public school they are not zoned for free of charge. If holding ESA recipients to the same standards as a public school violates the private school's rights as a private school, this bill violates the rights of tax dollars needing to stay public dollars.

Regina Sorokin
Self, Nurse
Pflugerville, TX

Public schools have BEEN underfunded for some time now, and there is money being held up that could pay teachers and provide valuable resources. We are strong supporters of public schools and I have public school teachers in my family, it's abysmal how little they are paid. As a nurse, I also work closely with many children who need accommodations to attend school. Many of these children may not even have a private school option available to them, and the school could easily deny them admission, due to their accommodations. All children in Texas are entitled to a quality education, and you are responsible for providing that to ALL of them. Support our public schools and pay our teachers! Texans don't want this!

Jessica Tullis
Self
Nederland, TX

I oppose this piece of legislation and for the sake of our future Texans, I encourage all legislators to oppose this harmful bill. We need our already intentionally under-funded public schools to be fully funded based on enrollment, not average daily attendance, and this piece of legislation will provide even less funding to public schools. HB 3 proposed by Buckley will keep Texas among the bottom in education. Public funds will be diverted to private schools, which are not held accountable for a standard curriculum. For a group so worried about waste and fraud, this is opening up the misuse of taxpayer money for fraudulent means because private schools have the ability to operate in Texas without accreditation (providing little to no actual educational value), there is no central oversight organization, there is no clear vetting process for new private schools (which could lead to “pop-up” schools whose sole purpose is to gain access to these funds), and, unlike public schools, private schools can discriminate.

Leigh Beebe
Self
Houston, TX

I homeschool and I oppose this bill.

Justina Klassen
Jody C. Arrington - DUSTIN burrows-Charles Perry- Mr. Aaron kinsey- John cornyn- Ted Cruz
Brownfield, TX

Vote no on bill HB3

Kimberly Bearden
Self - Retired educator
Early, TX
NO to Vouchers!

Robert Ezzo
Self
Georgetown, TX

Basically that vouchers only benefit the wealthy at the expense of the greater community

Katherina Payne

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

I strongly believe in our need for public monies to go toward public schools. I do not have children and still vote time and again to increase funds for our public schools because the efforts there are toward educating the future of our society, and hopefully democracy.

Sincerely,
Katherina Payne

Annette Kirk

self

Bryan, TX

This bill has too many unintended, negative consequences for Texas school children. The bill will not help those children to whom the bill purports to give greater educational access. This bill opens the door for dubious "private" schools to use tax payer dollars while providing little, if any, benefit to our most vulnerable children. Charter schools should serve as a case in point: While some charter schools do provide adequate education, they do not out-perform public schools. This bill will hurt rural and small districts who already struggle. This bill will hurt children with a variety of special needs because they will not be served without discrimination; charter and private schools already exclude many children with disabilities. This bill further erodes public trust in public officials who don't support our most critical public institutions. Texas public schools have historically been, and continue to be, pillars of their communities because educating all our children is in the public interest. Public funds should be spent on public institutions for the public good. This bill is bad for children because it will not deliver the benefits of a good education to all children.

Allegra Mora

Self

Muleshoe, TX

My name is Allegra, and I am a HS teacher at Muleshoe ISD. I am highly concerned about any version of a voucher program, and I am asking you to oppose HB 3 or any other voucher legislation.

-Our public schools are the heart of our community, and the state should focus on these schools instead of diverting funds to private schools.

-Unlike public schools, private and home schools have very little accountability to taxpayers, and don't have to conform to most state and federal laws regarding curriculum standards, financial accountability, teacher qualifications, student performance, special education, and student health and safety.

-Charter schools are already siphoning off students and funding from our school system, and a voucher program would create a third education system for the state to support.

-Other states, like Arizona, have created a budget crisis by introducing vouchers.

-Teachers and other employees desperately need improved compensation, and low salaries are contributing to the shortage of qualified, certified teachers. Available funding should be directed into the classroom.

-Unless strictly limited, vouchers tend to benefit families of students who are already attending private schools or those with greater wealth.

-Private schools can refuse to admit a student for any reason, including for special education status, family religion and disciplinary history, while public schools educate any student zoned for attendance.

-The highest performing private schools are unlikely to accept voucher students due to costs (tuition is higher than the amount of the voucher) and concerns about state -regulation.

-As with charter schools, even a "limited" program is very likely to be expanded in future years, to the ongoing detriment of the overall state budget, including public schools.

-Our public schools already offer choices, including magnet schools, virtual education, CTE programs and much more.

Mallory White

Self

Sherman, TX

The citizens of Texas have spoken and we say no to school vouchers! Fund our public schools, they are some of the only place kids with a tough home situation can go to be seen and cared for! Public schools provide shelter, stability, guidance and nourishment. They bring the community together, of all walks of life, so we can meet and look out for each other. Families fight for the best education for their kids, they make sacrifices to get them there everyday, to have supplies. Don't make them pick which kid they can afford to send to the better school. Don't make it harder for parents to get their children ready for society. Education should be a basic human right. Not just for the rich and elites.

Nicole Lucas

self

Cedar Park, TX

I do NOT SUPPORT this voucher scam. This is the worst possible choice any rural Republican representative could make, literally giving money to more populated areas.

Similarly, this scam will hurt every child and educator that works with kids in special education. We should be increasing the dollars per student for all children, instead of a giveaway for families that already have the means to fund private education.

Send teachers a message TODAY that you support and respect them and vote NO on HB 3. Thank you.

Sandra Zaragoza

self and health

San Antonio, TX

I don't want my tax dollars paying for private education vendors. In our state's history, our predecessors fought for the fair distribution of education resources so that all children can have access to a quality public education. This will not improve or advance public education.

Katelyn McWilliams

Self

Plano, TX

I strongly object to establishing ESAs, as they are not beneficial to ALL Texas students and educational professionals. We must preserve and strengthen our precious American public education system for the benefit of all Texans.

Erin Nowlin

Self

Tomball, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As Taxpayer and supporter of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Wendy Thibeault

Self

Temple, TX

Our public dollars are for public schools, period. Parents already have school choice in our state and the funding needs to stay for public services. Public schools need adequate funding. Public schools need sufficient resources and backing by our PUBLIC officials and not to used a political pawns. Our tax paying dollars are allocated for public services, not private entities. Do not allow Abbot to bully you into a bill that doesn't fully support and fund anything other than public schools!

Margaret Mayo

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, I can my roots in Texas to before Texas was a state. My entire family are products of the Texas public education system, therefore, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Christina Ezzo

Self

Georgetown, TX

School vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a mother of 2 children currently in the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Leah Jenkins

Self, Pediatric RN

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will only help families who can already afford private education, leaving children who are dependent on public education behind. As a pediatric nurse I work closely with special needs students in the public school system. These children often can't come anywhere close to affording private education, even with a voucher program. Many private schools aren't equipped to provide services for these students, meaning these children are fully dependent on the public school system. As a lifelong Texan, a nurse, and a parent, I ask you to vote against vouchers in order to ensure public schools get adequate funding so they can continue to serve Texas's most vulnerable children.

Mercedes Burks
Self
College Station, TX

I have chosen to homeschool my children, I have chosen to send them to a charter school, and I have chosen to send them to public schools. I am against the passage of this bill. Public taxes should never go to private schools.

Charles Hicks
Veterans
Lantana, TX

Private school voucher programs have consistently failed to deliver on their promises, proving to be a bad policy that harms public education and does not improve student outcomes. These programs divert critical funding from public schools, exacerbating inequality and leaving the majority of students—who remain in public schools—worse off.

One of the main arguments for voucher programs is that they provide "choice" and improve education through competition. However, in practice, voucher programs have not led to widespread academic improvement. Studies from states like Indiana, Ohio, and Louisiana have shown that students who use vouchers to attend private schools often perform worse on standardized tests than their peers who remain in public schools. The idea that competition would improve education simply doesn't hold up when private schools are not held to the same standards as public schools and can select their students while rejecting others.

Additionally, voucher programs disproportionately benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition. Many vouchers do not cover the full cost of private school, meaning that lower-income families still face financial barriers, making the program more of a subsidy for those who can already afford private education rather than a genuine opportunity for disadvantaged students.

There is also a significant lack of accountability in private schools that receive public funding through vouchers. Many of these schools are not required to follow the same transparency, non-discrimination policies, or academic standards as public schools. This has led to cases where taxpayer money funds schools that teach ideologically driven or unscientific curricula, such as creationism over evolution.

Beyond these practical failures, voucher programs undermine the fundamental role of public education as a unifying institution that serves all students, regardless of background. Instead of improving education for everyone, vouchers exacerbate segregation along socioeconomic, racial, and religious lines.

Wherever they have been implemented, voucher programs have failed to live up to their promises, harmed public education, and prioritized ideology over evidence. The solution to improving education lies in adequately funding and reforming public schools, not diverting resources to private institutions that lack oversight and fail to deliver better results.

Eric Flores, Mr.
Self-retired
Lubbock, TX

I am against this school voucher program. If people want to send their kids to private school, the taxpayers should not have to subsidize them. The money used to subsidize this voucher school program will draw funding away from public schools that can benefit all children.

Sherry Healy
self
Austin, TX

Vouchers do not provide equal education to all children. Schools the vouchers are designed to help can choose which students they accept. Public schools have no such choice and need the funding being taken away from them to help the handicapped, disturbed and challenging students.

Kelly Jacobson

Self

Allen, TX

ESA's are flat out a scam. We the PUBLIC school parents want Texas to invest in public schools. We do not want tax payer dollars subsidizing and already wealthy families newest BMW just because they are going to collect that 10k. You know that is the only people who will take part in this scam. With the way Trump is destroying our economy- not a single middle class family will be able to make up the other 20k to choose vouchers.

Alex acevedo Acevedo

Self

Terrell, TX

From a Republican-I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas.

We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Ana Rojas Bastidas

Self

Spring, TX

NO VOUCHERS! Fund Public Schools

Angela Scott

Self and Northwest ISD

Justin, TX

I encourage every member of the House Public Education Committee to prioritize funding Texas public schools before implementing a new financial commitment through an education savings account program. While I understand the concept of separate buckets for public education and ESAs, funding is ultimately limited and coming from the same source - your Texas taxpayers. Texas public schools are already underfunded. Consider the state's budget during an economic downturn - how could we support our public education system while also financing an ESA that is expected to drastically increase? In Northwest ISD, we are currently cutting \$16 million to address a structural deficit. I have watched as our board and administration has been forced to make cuts that we know are not best for kids, that we would never voluntarily make in an effort to reach a balanced budget. We pride ourselves on our culture, yet we are desperately shifting over 100 teachers to a new assignment so they can have a job next school year due to an increase in our classroom sizes and program changes. And yes, it's heartbreaking to hear of some staff who will not be able to be placed and will not have a job next year because their certification is specific and that job is no longer available. Texas public schools who educate the majority of our young Texans are drowning. There simply isn't enough money in the state to help every family fund their personal heart's desire. Even with an ESA, low to mid-income families would still not be able to afford a private school education along with all of the additional fees, uniform and event costs that would go along with it. The guardrails are not in place to prevent HB 3 from being an entitlement program for the wealthy and those already attending private schools - and that's not a complaint against the authors, it's just the reality of limited funds. So we plead that you take action that benefits the necessary majority instead of the limited few. We also fundamentally disagree with using taxpayer dollars to fund private/homeschool education that does not have the same academic or financial accountability as public schools. The management design of HB 3 is also concerning as the Comptroller has the sole ability to select five organizations to run the program, opening the door to political favoritism, lack of transparency, and a structure that benefits vendors and their pocketbooks rather than students. Thank you for believing in our children and in the future of Texas, your consideration is appreciated!

Tricia Wahl
self retired
Schertz, TX

I do not think this is a good idea for Texas. My county, Guadalupe, has 3 private schools that have less than 350 students enrolled between the three of them. This does nothing for the students in my county. If our great State is worried about supporting our students we need to adequately fund public schools that are available to everyone. If private schools are receiving tax payer money they need to be held to the same standards as public schools and should have to admit any student that applies. Who is ensuring there will be no fraud in this system. How many parents will claim to be homeschooling to get the home school money and with no oversight we'll have kids sitting home doing nothing. I have no children, but I don't mind paying school taxes to make our state great with an educated population. I don't agree with giving money to private entities and religious organizations that can be teaching anything. I attended private school in elementary school and my parents paid for it. It was their choice. Tax payers shouldn't be made to pay for other people's choices - it's no different than student loan forgiveness. You decide to do something extra, that's great, but it's on your dime.

Julie Pusey
Self
Belton, TX

No school vouchers. Stop underfunding Texas public schools.

Bernadette McBride
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB3. I am against school vouchers. This bill will unfairly distribute tax payer's money and steal the little funding provided by the state to public education. Do better.

Mary louise Whitlow
Self
Dallas, TX

I'm very much against vouchers they hurt our schools and the children who live in rural areas.

Maria Guerrettaz
Self/ School administrative asst.
Pearland, TX

School vouchers are a bad idea. It's going to ruin our public schools. You say school of choice will help those in struggling schools, why don't you fund them instead of taking funds away. Naïve parents think you're helping them by giving them money to help pay for private school but private schools are more than what you are giving them. I don't think they understand that and I'm guessing that's what you're hoping for. Public education needs funding so we can provide a good education to all our children. STOP SCHOOL VOUCHERS!

Barbara Harless
self
Murphy, TX

Vote NO to HB 3 and all legislative proposals which promote government funding of private education or home school education. Government should leave the successful education models ALONE! Instead, copy what the successful model does, don't corrupt it.

Melanie Babadjanov

Self

HOUSTON, TX

As a mother with school aged children in Texas and a tax payer, I am extremely against HB 3. This bill will negatively affect so many Texas children and help a small percentage. I pray this does not pass.

Sara Fields

Self

Dallas, TX

"School Choice" vouchers are another break for the rich. They will decimate public schools and disadvantage already disadvantaged students, be they disabled or in rural areas with no private school option. No public money for private schools. No public money for unaccredited, unaccountable private or charter schools.

Jennifer Hildebrandt

Self, Manager

Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Public money should go to public education, no exceptions.

Patricia Arredondo, Mrs.

Self

Woodway, TX

I am opposed to school vouches that take money away from our public school funding. Please vote against the vouchers which will diminish the funding for public schools.

Ashley McKibbin

self/operations manager

Hitchcock, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the public school voucher bill currently under consideration. The stories I am hearing from family and friends that are teachers are astounding. Positions being cut due to funding issues are causing public schools to lose really great teachers because of the lack of resources. My children attend public schools because we can't afford the private schools available. With the voucher program, we still will not be able to afford these private schools, so our kids will still be in public school with fewer resources and aids.

While proponents claim that vouchers expand school choice, the reality is that they divert critical taxpayer dollars away from our already underfunded public schools—schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children.

Public funds should be used to support public education, not subsidize private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards. Unlike public schools, private institutions can selectively admit students, discriminate based on income or ability, and operate without the transparency required of taxpayer-funded entities. The voucher program would ultimately widen educational disparities, benefiting wealthier families while leaving behind students in rural and low-income communities who have no access to private schooling options.

Texas public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education, meals, special services, and support for all children, regardless of their background or challenges. Instead of siphoning funds away, we should be investing in teacher salaries, infrastructure, and classroom resources to ensure every child receives a quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families, teachers, and students by voting against this harmful bill. Protect our public schools—our children's future depends on it.

Carol Frost
Self
Boerne, TX

Please vote against school vouchers I feel that they will be detrimental to the teacher retirement system and to public education as a whole

Robert Dale
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill!

Hugh Li
Austin Chinese-American Network
Austin, TX

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

On behalf of the Austin Chinese-American Network, I strongly oppose Texas House Bill 3, which seeks to divert public education funds into private school vouchers. This bill threatens the integrity of our public school system, a system that has been instrumental in the success of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students across Texas.

AAPI families, the fastest-growing minority group in Texas, overwhelmingly rely on public schools for their children's education, social development, and future opportunities. Public schools provide rigorous academic instruction, specialized educational resources, and diverse social environments that are essential for the success of all students, including those from immigrant and minority backgrounds. The results speak for themselves—AAPI students consistently demonstrate high achievement on state-mandated proficiency exams and national college entrance tests such as the SAT and ACT.

By diverting taxpayer dollars away from public schools, vouchers will directly harm the very institutions where AAPI students thrive. Reduced funding means fewer resources for teachers, larger class sizes, and diminished educational quality—outcomes that disproportionately impact students who depend on public education for social mobility. Additionally, private schools receiving vouchers are not held to the same academic and accountability standards, putting students at risk of receiving an inferior education with little oversight.

Public tax dollars should remain in public schools, ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has access to high-quality education. We urge you to oppose HB 3 and to protect the strong public school system that has enabled so many AAPI families to succeed in Texas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Hugh Li, President
Austin Chinese-American Network

Cynthia Dominguez, Mrs.
Bryan ISD AND MYSELF
Bryan, TX

I am graciously asking to help save our public schools and vote no to vouchers. No one wants this. Ask anyone in our great state. Public dollars belong where they should be—in public schools. If a parent wants their child to attend private schools—then they should be able to pay for it. As an educator of 19 years, the idea of vouchers scares the “bee Jesus” out of me. I want my school to stay open. Look at other states where vouchers are in tact. The proof is in the pudding—like they say. Please! Texas is better than this! Our kids deserve more!

Theresa Sandoval
Myself, attorney
Houston, TX

Vouchers are not the solution to our public education system's problem. Please vote to oppose HB 3 and get to work on implementing changes and funding our public schools.

Claudia Segovia
Self
Cypress, TX

As a parent of three graduates from Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District (CFISD), I've seen firsthand the value of well-funded public schools. Two of my children, diagnosed with dyslexia, thrived due to the district's dedicated special education services.

Recently, budget constraints have led to significant resource reductions in our district. Cuts to bus routes have caused traffic congestion and safety issues for students commuting through non-pedestrian-friendly areas. Additionally, the number of librarians has been halved, leaving 42 librarians to serve 117,000 students across 88 schools. This reduction hampers literacy development and diminishes educational quality.

I fear that underfunding public schools is part of a broader strategy to promote school voucher programs. By limiting resources, public schools are set up to struggle, creating a narrative that vouchers are necessary. This approach undermines equitable education and jeopardizes the future of students who depend on public schools.

The proposed House Bill 3 (HB3) aims to implement a school voucher system, diverting public funds to private institutions. The Texas Legislative Budget Board projects that demand for vouchers could quickly exceed initial budget. This diversion could lead to further cuts in essential public school services, affecting the majority of students who remain in the public system.

Moreover, private schools accepting vouchers aren't always required to adhere to the same accountability standards as public schools, leading to disparities in educational quality. Vouchers may not cover the full cost of private school tuition, making them inaccessible to low-income families and effectively subsidizing education for wealthier households. This dynamic could deepen existing inequalities and limit opportunities for already disadvantaged students.

Reflecting on my children's experiences, I recognize the irreplaceable value of well-funded public schools, especially in providing specialized support for students with learning differences like dyslexia. Investing in public education ensures all students, regardless of socioeconomic status or learning needs, have access to quality resources and opportunities. Strengthening public schools benefits individual students and enhances community well-being and societal progress.

For these reasons, I firmly oppose HB3 and any measures that divert funding from our public schools. We must prioritize and invest in the institutions that serve the majority of our children, ensuring they have the resources and support necessary to succeed.

Please listen to us and reject HB3 and approve more funds to public's schools were people can get raises and don't have to have more than one job because they can live in a respectful salary.

Sincerely,

Claudia segovia

Jami Stewart
Public schools
Plainview, TX

The voucher system should not exist unless you intend on making homeschooling families and private schools have the same testing system. If public schools are held accountable and transparent with government funding then they will have to be held accountable. Teachers in private schools don't even have to get a teaching license. Vouchers brings up a whole bunch of topics that now have to be addressed with homeschooling families and private schools. Most families homeschool because they want to choose how to educate their kids. They don't want to be told what to do.

Public schools are already underfunded teachers work for half what other college educated professionals make. Maybe try to fund public schools adequately and see how things change. Do not vote for vouchers!

Lauren Silva
Self
Denton, TX

Dear Fellow Texans, I am writing to you as a mother and as an employee of an educational technology company for over 15 years. I ask that you please vote NO on HB3. This bill will not serve the children of Texas nor will it expand their education. This is a blatant attempt to further undermine and defund our public schools. I have worked with public school teachers and they are our hardest working citizens. I am constantly in awe of their dedication to the children of our state. Please do not hang low income families out to dry with this bill, and create an even bigger wealth and education disparity. Thank you for your time.

Hunter Clayburn
Self
Cypress, TX

As someone who is homeschooled in the state of Texas for 10 years, I do not agree with this bill. We already have great homeschooling laws in Texas and we have the freedom to raise our children in the way that we decide is best. We don't want any strings attached to our education at all. We don't want any government dealings in our home. Or in our school.

Craig Campbell
Retired self
Austin, TX

Your question today concerning the hypothetical student who needed a small bump to provide additional funds for full tuition. It could be solved in the bill.

You could provide a lesser amount for families who are at or above the 300% or 400% income level, of \$6000 or \$7000, with the difference going to a separate fund at the school for stipends dedicated to help lower income students.

There is no reason that upper income students need the same voucher amount. A graduated voucher is a better way to go. The Certified Educational Assistance Organization" (CEAO), TEA, or the Controller could include this in their report.

Kim Rust
Self
Carrollton, TX

I am against HB 3. This will not truly add school choice. It will subsidize students who are already going to private school. When you look around the area every private school is expanding. This is about putting money into private schools and draining our already strained public school system. The funding for public schools hasn't been raised since 2019. To give private schools more money than public schools is blatantly biased towards providing religious education. I hear the argument that parents need choice to get out of bad public schools. Well there wouldn't be bad public schools if they were funded adequately. Texas is near the bottom for public schools funding in the country. We can and must do better. 5 million students in the public system deserve real action. For the sake of argument this bill is to give parents choice to leave inferior public schools. Well how will they get to school, how will they pay the difference in tuition if they are low income. Let's face it the poorer families won't get choice out of this. This is to give money to wealthier families to subsidize what they are already paying for. It is obvious.

Alison Colemere

self

Wichita Falls, TX

As a public school teacher and parent, we DO NOT want vouchers. School vouchers will only further harm our true public schools, while benefiting the select few. Public schools have been operating in a funding deficit for years, and serious questions need to be asked of our leaders who support vouchers. As a public school teacher, we welcome accountability, however, the "accountability" we now have in the name of Pearson to the tune of \$900 million is absurd! Ask those involved in the DAILY operations of schools what they need. Utilize benchmark assessments that reveal student growth and inform instruction... not high-stakes, developmentally inappropriate "gotcha" state testing.

Implementation of school vouchers will lead to the gutting of services across all public school districts.

Maria Guimbarda Dean

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and I am against school vouchers.

Ed Yoo

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I disagree with taxpayer dollars going to private schools and away from public schools. The state system should be propped and held to a level of excellence independent of private curriculums.

Carin Rinkenberger

Self

Conroe, TX

School choice sounds like a great idea - until you get into the logistics of how it might work. I'm a parent of pre-school and school-aged children, and recently looked into private schools as an alternative to public. What I found was that a \$10k voucher wouldn't cover private school tuition at any private school in a reasonable commuting distance. Which means, even if I were to receive a voucher, and my child were accepted, I would still have to pay more out of pocket to take advantage of this. So many families, mine included, cannot afford private school tuition, even with a \$10k discount from a voucher. So many families cannot manage the extra commute to transport students to/from a private school, either. So many families rely on public schools, where all students are guaranteed a FAPE, where transportation via bus is provided, where child nutrition programs feed the kids, where special needs are accommodated. A \$10k voucher wouldn't make private schools accessible to most. It would primarily benefit those wealthy parents who already can afford to and do send their children to private school. Those families would receive a \$10k discount on private school education, at the expense of the families who can't afford choice, even with a voucher. At the expense of our already underfunded, understaffed, under resourced public schools. At the expense of increased class sizes and decreased budgets for maintenance, school supplies, etc. It doesn't take much digging to see that school choice / vouchers in other states have significantly impacted public school funding, leading to decreased educational outcomes. Please don't gut the Texas public schools to give tax breaks to wealthy parents. Please vote no on vouchers / ESAs.

Jennifer Ne

Self

Richmond, TX

No to vouchers. Fund public schools now

Rachel Erickson, Mrs.

Self

Conroe, TX

Passing this house bill would be **DETRIMENTAL** to the students of Texas. As a parent to two young girls in public school, we are afforded fair and equitable schooling for our children and our community. Please reconsider and **DO NOT** pass this voucher. This will ruin the school system in Texas. As a former state employee for FL working at the FDOE for school choice, private school are unregulated and even with a voucher program, schools will increase prices and be too expensive for lower income students. Currently public school in Texas allows for amazing music, art and stem programs that private school cannot provide. The rural communities of Texas will lose their options of public schools if they lose this critical funding for teachers and resources. **PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS VOUCHER BILL.**

Lauren Redmond

Self, mother, homemaker, small business owner

Cedar Park, TX

The large majority of Texans oppose this program. It is astonishing it is still being considered. Show us that you still represent the everyday Texan and vote No on school vouchers.

Whitney Watts

Self

Dallas, TX

LISTEN TO YOUR TEACHERS. Without them, you will have nothing to offer your children. Few (if any) of us (including the ones who have already left teaching) believe that school vouchers will help students succeed universally. Stop cutting funding for our children and actually invest in their future for once. We **NEED** it. And **BELIEVE TEACHERS.** Remember us, your favorite “essential workers” that you shoved into classrooms 5 years ago before there was a viable COVID vaccine?

Carla Brady, Mrs.

Self, retired

Cedar Park, TX

I want to address the Texas House Public Education Committee Hearing on HB3, regarding establishing an EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT program.

Please VOTE NO on any such program.

I am Carla Brady of Cedar Park, Travis County. I have a granddaughter in the Austin Independent School District and I care greatly about the public education offered to her and to all of our children in Texas. I am strongly against funneling public funds away from our public school system which is already underfunded.

By our Texas Constitution, it is our duty to preserve people's rights and liberties by supporting and maintaining our system of public free schools!

If parents find problems with our public school system, they owe it to their children and the children of their fellow Texans to do what they can to remedy those problems. Parents, teachers, administrators, board members, and legislators can work together and are accountable to each other.

If parents want to supplement public education with religious instruction, they are more than welcome to do so at home and through churches and other religious organizations. We must remember that Article 1, Section 7 of our Texas Constitution states that no money shall be appropriated or drawn from the Treasury for the benefit of any sect or religious society. Supporting private schools with our tax dollars to indoctrinate children in religions is not allowed by our Constitution. It is especially inappropriate to drain our public education dollars from the Treasury to do so.

It is also flagrantly wrong to give tax dollars to schools that are not subject to the same standards and degree of inclusion, oversight and regulation as our public schools.

We must build a strong education system for all of our children. If some parents want to build a different system for their children, they are free to do so. Don't ask us to pay for it. I'd like to add that it is much more than a matter of sharing dollars in an Education Savings Account program. As stated in HB3 it is a matter of spending additional millions of dollars to set up the program; to "promote, market, and advertise the development and use of the program"; to pay for up to five "certified educational assistance organizations" to handle the application process, the expenditures process, help prospective applicants, applicants, and participants find preapproved schools and educational products; and more. ALSO, the students who would receive our handouts to pay for an education outside of what we offer, would still have the public schools pay for their evaluations to determine special education eligibility and for developing Individualized Education Programs for them. ADD to that the expense of administering and auditing the program on an ongoing basis.

For these and many more reasons, PLEASE DO NOT PASS HB3.

Lesa Brownstein

Self

Pearland, TX

As a retired public school teacher I am opposed to the education savings account. Our public schools are already underfunded, and even Governor Abbott admitted that this bill would take money from public schools. Private schools do not have to follow the same regulations that are required for public schools. If a child has special needs, private schools do not have to admit them into their systems. The legislature needs to do more to build up public schools In Texas Currently, we are ranked in the bottom 10 states for funding of public schools. Please don't divert funding from public schools.

Virginia Camfield, Mrs.

self - retired, homemaker, and parent of 3 children who went to public schools.

Houston, TX

Our governor clearly hates public schools, but he is charged by the constitution to provide them. The least he could do is support as much money to the public schools as he offers to private ones with his vouchers. They will never serve the poor students who need them most.

John Gardner

Self

Austin, TX

I have two children in public school. They are both in need of extra services, which my school is providing. This voucher bill draws away resources from our school system. It is already shameful how much our school is subsidized by our PTA and the hard work of unpaid neighborhood parents. I want my state to fully fund our entire state public school system before we entertain any talk of voucher programs.

Meredith McCarthy

Self/CPA

Brock, TX

I am fully opposed to any bill representing "school choice". The main focus of elected officials should be public schools and making them the best they can be!

Elizabeth Koteiche

Self

Boerne, TX

The school voucher program is just a way to give money to the well off families. Majority of families in San Antonio wouldn't even be able to cover the cost of tuition at private schools even with the \$10,000 seeing that most schools charge \$12,000-\$18,000. Also, we ALREADY have school choice with charter schools. How about opening up the ISDs to non resident students, so that kids from south san can go to north side or Boerne isd. We don't need public money going to private entities when only the rich can use it. Let's bolster our public schools and ensure that they are properly funded and we can afford to hire high quality teachers who are allowed to teach kids to learn not memorize a test. Or how about we build more preK programs to give ALL 3/4 year olds the chance to have access to high quality preK so they ALL can start on equal footing. Let's also point out that most private schools are religious, and Christian to be exact, so how are the Jewish kids supposed to feel, how about Muslim or Hindu kids? Again, public funds should be used for the public NOT already rich people at private for profit companies. If we want to make Texas top in education then let's focus on our education and not private religious schools that majority of our population can't even attend.

Je nifery Hyatt

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am against school vouchers.

Lori Duke

Myseld

Austin, TX

Fund public schools. So not give taxpayer money to private schools that do not have to abide by the same laws and processes that public schools do.

This is shameful legislation.

Azeemah Sadiq
SEAT
Houston, TX

Representatives and Members of the Committee,

My name is Azeemah Sadiq, and I am a Junior at Alief Early College High School in Houston, Texas. As someone deeply involved in civic engagement, leadership, and business education through Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), I have personally seen the impact of school funding on student success. When public schools lose funding, we don't just lose money—we lose opportunities, resources, and the very programs that support our education.

For me, FBLA has been more than just an extracurricular activity—it's given me real-world skills in business, finance, and leadership. It has allowed me to compete at the regional and state levels, expanding my knowledge of supply chain management and sales. But when school funding is cut, programs like FBLA are often the first to go. Without it, students like me lose access to career development opportunities that set us up for success beyond high school.

School vouchers only worsen this issue by diverting funds from public schools to private institutions that serve a select few. This bill has adverse effects on students like me and thousands of others students from underprivileged communities who rely on public education for academic growth and career readiness. Public schools are already struggling with outdated resources, overcrowded classrooms, and teacher shortages, this bill would only exacerbate the issue.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 3. Public schools are meant to provide equitable education for all students, and to do that, they need full funding—not cuts that take away opportunities. Investing in our schools means investing in students like me, who rely on extracurricular programs and dedicated teachers to shape our futures.

Thank you.

Jennifer Wright
Self
Austin, TX

I do not support school vouchers. Our public schools need funding, plain and simple. I want my taxpayer dollars to go directly to public schools, not private schools via vouchers.

Brigitte Hancy
Self
Justin, TX

I vehemently oppose the voucher bill. I am a registered republican but will vote against any legislators that are in favor of this bill

Mary Beck, Mrs.
Self/homeschool mom
Lufkin, TX

Government needs to get out of education. Instead of vouchers, get rid of the taxes people pay for public schools or give people the option to opt-out if they don't want to use public education. Those who want public school need to pay for it themselves. Those who don't shouldn't have to pay for their neighbor's kids to go since they are going to be doing something else for their own kids, whether it be private or homeschool. If private/homeschool families aren't having to pay into the public school fund via taxes vouchers aren't necessary.

Carol Bryant, Mrs
Retired educator
Cypress, TX

Say NO to vouchers or ESAs of any sort. Public schools need to be fully funded and no public tax money should go to private schools.

Quinn Bratteng

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is going to take tax dollars away from public schools to charter schools that have no accountability or transparency. This is a horrendous plan and should not be supported by anyone representing the interests of the citizens of Texas.

DeeDee Villarreal

Self Director of Data

Spring, TX

We need less funding to go to private schools and more to go to public schools. Our students cannot be expected to have quality education for OUR future if we don't pay into it currently. The majority of students attend public schools and they need funding to keep great teachers. I pay a lot in Taxes and it seems to fund all but the schools in my district. We had to get bonds exclusive for our schools to have improvements made. That is crazy.

Linda Feldman

Myself

Allen, TX

Do not kill public education. Fund it!

Angela Baptiste

Self

San Antonio, TX

VOTE NO!!!!!!!!!!!! Vouchers are not good for our children, taxpayers or teachers.

Angela B Garza, Ms.

SANA East Austin/Co-Chair EMLK Combined Contact Team

Austin, TX

Hello Current Serving Members of our Texas Most High Education Committee.

I am commenting with the Highest Respect and Gratitude for your public service to our Great State of Texas. Thank you each for the mindfulness to implement an education savings account per child. We all understand that each child is our future and deserves fair ground access to high quality education opportunities in this state. Not only for the children. To solidify our stance in the globe, and now universe, as the state that is leading the way as a case study example for the rest of the world to follow.

We already have proven quantifiable examples with the current working and evolving public/community school models.

It is on the right course of enormous success to meet the current reality and future progressive evolution of the direction of the world. STEAM provides that guidance. We currently now have students using their time much more efficiently and effectively with proven useful vetted out tools (including responsible AI tools), that are allowing students to graduate college before high school. With minimal children being left behind from all walks of differences, disabilities, languages, and more. We are at a deciding precipice course. We are on the correct conscientious winning tract with everyone working collaboratively. To stop a winning progressive success is to take Texas backwards. Leaving many children behind from the opportunities to compete on fair ground. Instead you are intending to create a system that pushes children who may not meet your education productivity metric requirements towards jail systems versus developing responsible accomplished human beings that will take this fast moving world into the future, responsibly.

Bankrupting public school systems will take society backwards as a whole. We all know it takes a village to raise a successful child with the best caring and qualified teachers who feel appreciated, well compensated, and who do not need to use their own money to further care for a child in need. There is no excuse for that in a state that boasts the 8th ranking GDP. No excuse to leave any child behind. I will now share my personal story.

I was 17 with my first child and 18 with my second child. I had no earthly idea how to become a responsible parent. My husband and I did our best scared to death. I read every book in a library on child development and more. Our cubs, Joshua and Joseph started out at Ortega Elementary School (not aware of it being a Title 1 Underfunded public school at the time). It turned out Joshua had two disabilities. I was a PTA president at time feeling like a failed parent. He was behind 3 grade levels with a speech impediment and reading disability. I felt like the worse parent in the world. Then I had to quickly get over my pity party. We packed up the family and moved to Round Rock TX Blue Bonnet Elementary School. (I'm leaving this as part 1 of this story)

Lynae Carroll

self

Austin, TX

This bill aims to further destroy public education in Texas. School vouchers will be predominately used as coupons for those who can already afford private school. School vouchers will funnel tax payer money to religious schools and schools that do not have to accept low income student's, student's from different backgrounds, or students with disabilities. School vouchers will privatize education and take it out of the hands of citizens. School vouchers will blow a hole in state's budget. School vouchers are a scam. I want legislation and action that properly funds public schools to increase support of the public school students. A free and appropriate education is paramount to a healthy society, this voucher bill aims to continue to dismantle public education and take education away from the people. The only people who want to destroy public education and privatize education are those who want to control the public. If you have a 10k coupon per students to give to private schools, why are public schools only getting 6,160 per student? FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION PROPERLY. Thank you.

Courtney Koder

Self

Highland Village, TX

I am serving for my 19th year as a high school CTE teacher. I have two sons that attend public schools. Rather than setting aside this money for the select few, it would be better spent funding the school system as a whole. An area of education that really needs attention is that school funding is based off a very short 30 minute period of attendance rather than on student enrollment. There is not an attendance accountability measure in place so school funding that is available currently is tied to a broken attendance system. Fund schools so we can hire quality educators and set them up for success rather than a struggle. Private schools don't have the same accountability measures in place for students and don't have to follow federal guidelines on inclusion and services for the special education population. Education savings accounts are not the answer to a broken system.

Arva Tatman
A concerned citizen
RICHARDSON, TX

In order to have a healthy Democracy which I had thought our state and country was, the education of all the people regardless of class, race or ethnicity is KEY!!! Supporting public education is Your responsibility I believe as you represent myself and others in this governmental capacity. Please do not continue to deplete funding for public schools in order to use tax dollars to fund private schools as parents make the choice when most do not have that choice. I would appreciate your consideration. Thank you

Patricia Olvera
Self
Austin, TX

Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Richard Brewer
Self
Allen, TX

I strongly oppose any voucher system, or the use of school funds for use towards private schools.

Joseph Wachsman
Self
Dallas, TX

Please sign this bill! It's a necessity

Amanda Neff
Self
Carrollton, TX

I strongly disagree with this bill's approach to school funding and teacher compensation. It does not adequately address the root causes of educational inequality and may disproportionately impact underfunded districts, particularly rural communities. Additionally, it fails to consider the unique needs of students requiring special services, potentially widening the gap in support for these vulnerable groups. This bill will disproportionately affect low income and students in poverty. Public schools will be even more underfunded and understaffed than they already are. We should be investing in our public schools, not giving breaks to those who can already afford private school.

Samantha Taylor, Dr

Self

Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to school vouchers. They only help the already rich and undermine our public schools.

Alana Wood

Self

Magnolia, TX

I do not want my taxes to go towards vouchers. I have been a part of public education for over 30 years and have seen our students grow in ways the private schools cannot provide. Being in classrooms with those from a different social status, helps our students appreciate their own place in society or allows them to prevent themselves being stuck where they are. Please consider the repercussions of the voucher system as a whole, not just the immediate “fix” for education—in your opinion.

Julia Martinez

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Taking taxpayer money to give credits to rich families so that y'all can dismantle our public education system is cruel and diabolical. NO ON VOUCHERS, NEVER VOUCHERS.

Dyan Twining

Self

Dripping Spgs, TX

As a veteran homeschooler I do not support the establishment of an education savings account program. The system as it is now works fine.

Brends Phillips

Public School System

Austin, TX

Hello. Thank you for your attention to the State of our Schools. I am a Texas mom who is concerned about children's education.

I know my teachers are working hard and my district is financially responsible. I also know we have not seen a significant increase in student funding since 2019 and are still at 2014 real-dollar numbers, despite additional expensive mandates and double digit inflation. We have a \$24 billion surplus in the general revenue fund and another \$28 billion in the Rainy Day Fund. I understand there are House and Senate bills that propose directly supporting teachers but I ask you to raise the basic allotment by \$1300, instead. This would give a much-needed and long-delayed \$10 billion dollars of investment in our children and their futures. We have the money. And if we don't, we need to understand why.

Raising the basic allotment gives our teachers the much-needed boost they deserve AND it gives districts the opportunity to support all the aides, librarians, counselors, cafeteria staff, custodians, and all the other people who are also struggling with lower-than-national-average wage amid funding that hasn't kept up with 2014 dollars. Our teachers and students deserve that additional support.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I will be paying attention relentlessly through this legislative session to ensure our schools get the funds they need to meet the needs of our children and all the people who support them before sine die on June 2, 2025.

Sincerely,

Brenda Marie Phillips

Michelle Lunday

Self - stay at home parent

Trophy Club, TX

I am providing comment against educational savings accounts. As a parent that has had a child in public, private and homeschool, I know I already have school choice, and I don't believe that we should be funding private school with tax dollars.

As a parent of a child with disabilities, I also know that this is being used to say it's helpful for kiddos with disabilities, but it will not be. Schools do not have to accept students with disabilities or keep them if there is an issue. The private school we attended was well over the amount offered as a ESA.

Please do not pass ESAs.

Haley Godding

Self

Sachse, TX

I adamantly oppose this bill!

It will end up taking much needed funding from our public school system & hurting our kids!

Christina Valencia, Teacher

Self

Midland, TX

No

V'Anne Huser

Self

Shiner, TX

This voucher bill will take money away from public education and will cripple public schools in rural communities. We have one private school in our town which already has full capacity. Stop the handout to private entities and folks who can already afford a private school education. Don't use my tax dollars for this scheme. Invest more in public education and TRS.

Holly Lamb

Self

Stephenville, TX

Please do not support HB3 because use of vouchers is the beginning of the end of public schools. Public schools are the foundation for a democracy and I would hope everyone still believes in a democracy. Texas public schools are already underfunded, all money should go to supporting them. This bill will really negatively affect rural school districts. If we want Texas to stay strong with a strong economy we need a powerful public schools system.

Chella Gordon

Self

Caldwell, TX

Say no to vouchers!!! Public tax dollars should only be used for public schools. We have to follow all of the laws from TEA, teach ALL kids, follow required curriculum, prepare ALL students to take the STARR test, meet ever changing state passing standards, etc. It is grossly unfair to say public schools are failing, then turn around and give public tax dollars to private schools and homeschools that won't have to follow the same rules. Stand up to Greg Abbott and vote "no" to vouchers!

Jennifer Martin

Self

Arlington, TX

To the members of the Education Committee,

I am urging you to stand up for public education in Texas. Diverting public funds to private schools that are not subject to the same limitations, laws, regulations and state testing accountability is no equitable and is not appropriate use of tax dollars. Tax dollars should not go to private institutions that can deny entrance to students based on disabilities and/or academic achievement. That is their right as private schools, but tax dollars do not have their place there.

The \$220 increase provided for public school per pupil allotment is simply not enough and not acceptable.

I have voted Republican most of my life and I have countered claims from democrats that republicans want public education to fail and want to privatize education. However, this latest move by republicans is proving this. The per pupil allotment has not increased in years despite rising inflation.

Please prioritize funding public schools and provide EVERY Texas child the opportunity to succeed!!

Chandra Christensen

Self

Lewisville, TX

I am completely against this. This does absolutely nothing for those that cannot afford private school. It leaves the most vulnerable even more vulnerable just to line the pockets of people looking to make money and nothing more. Private schools discriminate, they do not have to support special needs students, people of color, etc. There has been funding from Texas billionaires that want nothing more than to push their religious agenda and make more money, there's also been donations from out of state donors who shouldn't have any interest in the Texas school system. In order to go to private school you already have to be privileged and using a voucher to still go is no different. You still have to cover the costs the vouchers don't cover, meaning you're already more privileged if you can do that. Our economy is falling apart, people are struggling more than ever and all people want to do is take away from families even more? As a parent to a disabled child in Texas, our resources are already next to none. Now you're taking away from the one thing everyone can benefit from and allocating it to a private school? That's absolutely sickening and I don't understand how those for it can go to bed at night knowing this will suppress families even more. Texas should truly be ashamed of itself considering we're one of the lowest states ranked for education and resources for people with disabilities. We have better things we could focus on but here we are, essentially funding vacations for rich people.

Esther Newell

Self

Montgomery, TX

I homeschool my children and oppose this bill. While the financial incentive is appealing, I fear it comes with strings attached.

Susana Mendoza
Self
Glenn Heights, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Michael Wilson
Self
Frisco, TX

The current design of Texas schools systems does not prevent parents from placing their children into non-public education systems, including home school. When not utilizing public schools parents lose the transparency and legal rights on how their children are treated in an education system.

Like when a teacher at Saint Mark Catholic school is seen violently grabbing and shaking a child there is no real recourse. When the people in charge of that employee say they will do better and correct issues but fail to actually perform any action the only recourse parents and entities have is to sue civilly which is costly, time consuming, and an uphill battle for the normal person. While if that had happened in a public school there could be real accountability and transparency.

CARRIE Odom
Self
Shallowater, TX

I was a public school teacher for 27 years. More important than that, I am a property owner and tax payer. Homeschooling and Private schooling are a choice. I don't want my tax dollars going to fund the schooling choice that others have made. Republicans might want to rethink their stance on this when it comes to election time!

Jennifer Phillips
Hodges Elementary School
Lubbock, TX

I am writing to strongly urge you to oppose any efforts to implement school voucher programs in Texas. As a public school teacher assistant, I work firsthand with students and educators who rely on the resources, structure, and support that only a well-funded public education system can provide. Diverting taxpayer dollars to private schools through vouchers would only weaken the schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children.

Voucher programs take much-needed public funds away from our already underfunded schools and redirect them to private institutions that are not held to the same standards of transparency, accountability, or accessibility. Unlike public schools, private schools can reject students based on academic ability, disability status, or socioeconomic background, leaving the most vulnerable students with fewer resources and opportunities. Texas public schools serve all students, and they need increased funding and support—not policies that drain resources from the students who need them most.

Public schools across Texas are already facing significant challenges, including teacher shortages, outdated materials, and inadequate funding. Instead of diverting funds to private schools, we should be investing in the teachers, classrooms, and programs that directly impact the success of Texas students. Our priority should be strengthening the public education system, ensuring fair teacher pay, and providing students with the resources they need to thrive.

Public education is the foundation of a strong economy and a thriving democracy. Weakening our public schools through voucher programs will only deepen educational inequities and harm the future of our communities. I urge you to stand with Texas students, families, and educators by opposing school vouchers and instead advocating for the funding and support our public schools desperately need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Irene Halbert
Self teacher
Midlothian, TX

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Virginia Roberson

self

Mansfield, TX

Good morning-

I am a Christian and I am a conservative Republican. I am also a retired public school elementary principal. I am strongly opposed to vouchers. I am not strongly opposed to private schools. The amounts being discussed for private school vouchers will not make a dent in the annual cost of sending students to private schools. Families that I know who choose to attend private Christian schools such as the one at my former church, Prestonwood Christian Academy could afford to send their children to the school without the help of vouchers. I have read the implications on the dramatic impact these vouchers will have on public school funding. It will be extremely dramatic and in some districts devastating. In many counties in our state, there are no private schools. The small districts in these rural areas will be greatly impacted by the drop in funding. I hear so many different theories about why Governor Abbott is so "pro" vouchers. Mostly I hear it is because the big donors from West Texas are pushing the cause. Please take a serious look at the implications. Consider how the vouchers will impact the families who receive them - does it help them to buy another vehicle because they currently have three students in private school? Does the low socio economic family keep the money and "home school" and attempt to provide a comparable education to public schools and teach their high school student calculus, physics and a foreign language? Public schools are held accountable for their test scores and performance. If public funds are being used for private schools or home schoolers - will there be any performance accountability or does the state just send them a check and say - enjoy your funds? I do believe there are some struggling schools in Texas and performance could be better. I also believe that there are some amazing public schools in Texas who are producing some amazing Texas citizens. I'm sure you've heard the comparison of school vouchers to the country club membership. If people don't like their public neighborhood pool, then they can pay the fees and join the country club and enjoy their pool. The city isn't going to supplement their country club membership fees.

I'm asking you to please look at the BIG PICTURE - are you truly helping the young students in Texas by promoting private schools and home schools - or could the impact be greater if more funds were allocated to our public schools? I'm not attaching a donation to my comments because as a retired public school educator - I don't have the funds to donate. I'm betting that many of your largest donors are products of public schools. I am a proud public school graduate - Harris Elementary, Pearce Jr High, and John H. Reagan High School - all in the great city of Austin! Thanks for reading my comments and hopefully giving my opinion as much weight as those who donate big funds for their beliefs.

Chyah Averick

Self , doctor

Dallas, TX

A Mother's Perspective as a Family Medicine Doctor on Supporting HB3 and Education Savings Accounts

As both a mother and a family medicine doctor, I strongly advocate for the support of HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. ****Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities****, which is essential for their growth and development.

From my experience, I know that ****education is not a one-size-fits-all solution****. Each child has unique needs, and families should have the ****freedom to choose the educational path that aligns with their child's strengths and interests****. This bill empowers parents to make those critical decisions, ultimately benefiting not just the students, but also educators and taxpayers.

With nearly half of the states already implementing school choice programs, ****it's time for Texas to join this movement****. As a mother, I want to ensure that my children, and all children in our community, have the opportunity to thrive in an environment that best supports their individual learning journeys.

Liesel Termin

Self/teacher

Arlington, TX

This proposal has the potential to destroy protections for children across the state. Providing financial aid to institutions that are not public or charter schools is unconstitutional. All we are doing is providing a coupon for the wealthiest Texans to continue sending their children to private schools. Please protect our rural schools and our urban school districts, as well as actual low income children. Students with disabilities, students in poverty, students that want to engage in school activities, all of those will be put at risk. Our public schools are at the very foundation of our democracy. Please don't sacrifice Texas children so that Greg Abbott and his wife can make the return on investment to billionaires that purchased his victory. As a teacher, I see on the front lines the devastation that this could cause. If you care about Texas children, teachers, or our future at all, vote no on this bill

David Minshew

Self/farmer

Lufkin, TX

I am against this new government give away program. If the state has an extra billion dollars to spend, then I would suggest that the legislature do this with the extra billion dollars:

1. Return the billion dollars to the taxpayers
2. Fix our electric grid
3. Fix our state highways
4. Invest in water infrastructure

Spending money on these 4 things make much more sense than giving a billion dollars to private schools. Listen to your constituents. Everyone that I talk to or communicate with is against this bill. Stand up to Governor Abbot and his billionaire buddies

Matthew Thompson, Mr

Self

Beaumont, TX

Vote NO on HB 3! Fully fund public schools!!!!

Amy English

self

Hutto, TX

No vouchers!! Do not weaken our public schools for private schools. You are not doing this for our students, but for your financial contributors. If this gets passed you will see the most outrage there has ever been. Those who vote for this will not be reelected. Everyone knows that is this was up to the voters it would not pass. I am not talking about putting in favor of "parental choice" on the ballot to deceive people I am saying if you ask the voters are you in favor of tax money going to vouchers for private schools they would overwhelming vote no.

Rachel Kistner, Superintendent

Italy ISD

Italy, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

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Noelita Lugo

Self

Austin, TX

Siphoning money to pay private ed vendors does nothing to improve Texas's long-term standing --neither economically nor socially. HB3 is not a education bill. It is a vendor bill. It is an entitlement program for wealthy families who want taxpayers to pay for their choice to send their children to private schools. Do not vote HB3 out of committee. The risk of destabilizing and harming the Teacher's Retirement System is too great. Abbott and Patrick desperately want to score a win for their private ed donors and friends at the expense of 5.5 million children who rely on public schools in their communities. Pour your legislative energy into strengthening and substantially improving our public education system. Start by increasing the base funding allotment by \$1324 and by using an enrollment based, rather than attendance based, funding model.

Lisa Shaw

Self

Lago Vista, TX

Stop trying to steal public funds for private schools! My tax dollars are for Public Schools not rich children and children with special needs! STOP STEALING!

David Wyler

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Kaitlin Riedel
self, public school teacher
New Braunfels, TX
I OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 3.

Jody Piel
Self
Brazoria, TX

I vote NO on this bill! Fix the system we have now instead of creating a new or modified one. I see this in my place of work and it creates more problems then solutions. Again I vote NO!

Sarah Canales
Self
Bedford, TX

My child is public school and receives services for dyslexia. With these services my child is approaching state standard with less than 1 year of instruction. These programs need good funding. This bill will take funds away from public schools and programs that support children like my child. My child does not have the option to go to private school and receive these services. The local public schools average 20,0000 in DFW so the average middle and low income family will not benefit from this bill. Please support and fund our public schools. For most of us this bill is not "school choice".

Christine Schumacher
Self (stay at home mom)
Leander, TX

Your constituents, the people of Texas, do NOT support this bill. The majority of our children will be negatively affected. I have spoken with other republican moms who send their kids to private schools and they don't want this to pass either! If this is approved you will sending a clear message that you are prioritizing the will of a select few donors, over the purple who elected you and who you took an oath to represent. Please choose the people of Texas, and the children of Texas who need you to represent US!!

Kajsa Nielson
Self/parents of school aged kids
Leander, TX

We need more funding for public schools. Please consider the people living in this state and the kids, not just the money.

Paul Hiaumet
Self
Henderson, TX

I oppose this bill, first on principle. Its purpose is to degrade public education in favor of religious indoctrination. Regardless, it will degrade already strained public education resources in this state. Lastly, it will do nothing for rural public schools but steal resources from them. It enrages me that the governor would hold school funding hostage to get his pet project passed (bankrolled by an out of state billionaire). We need to send a message that he cannot bully the people of this state.

Patty Peebles
Self/Registered Nurse
Bastrop, TX

I urge you to vote NO on HB3. Taxpayers want to fund good quality public schools for all children. That is a cornerstone of democracy. We need more funding for public schools already! For taxpayers dollars to go toward private school education is wrong. It is stealing. We need a concerted focus on improving funding for our public schools. They are an important part of our communities. No to HB3!

Randolph Bauder
Self-Forensic Engineer
Bryan, TX

I am in favor of the option for school choice. As a parent in a school district with middle schools where drugs and pornography are distributed in the bathrooms, I would like the opportunity to choose the school, whether public, private, or home, for my children and the option for our tax dollars to be used partially in a way that benefits my children directly. Currently, the property tax that goes to the school district doesn't benefit our family at all if we choose not to enroll our children in dysfunctional public schools.

Alan Reynoso
Self
Austin, TX

I am staunchly opposed to school vouchers. This is bad for all Texans. NO TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS!

Iesheia Wilson
Self
Houston, TX

Please say no to vouchers

Jennifer Burrus, Mrs.

Self

Lazbuddie, TX

Education savings accounts (ESAs) divert public funds away from traditional public schools, leading to decreased budgets and resources for these institutions. This can worsen the quality of education for the majority of students who remain in public schools.

ESAs can exacerbate existing inequalities in education. Families with higher incomes may have the means to supplement ESA funds with additional financial contributions, while low-income families may struggle to afford the costs of private schooling or other alternatives, leading to a wider achievement gap.

Private schools and alternative education providers that accept ESA funds may not be subject to the same regulations or accountability measures as public schools. This can lead to a lack of oversight regarding curriculum quality, teacher qualifications, and student performance.

There is mixed evidence regarding the effectiveness of ESAs in improving educational outcomes. Some studies show no significant difference in academic performance among students who switch to private schools using ESA funds, raising concerns about whether these programs genuinely benefit students.

Public schools often serve as community hubs, providing not only education but also extracurricular activities, social services, and community engagement. Diverting funds to ESAs could weaken these vital community connections and reduce overall support for public education.

Implementing and managing an ESA program can create additional administrative burdens for the state and school districts. Ensuring proper oversight, tracking expenditures, and managing compliance with differing regulations can detract from resources that could be spent directly on student education.

ESAs could lead to increased segregation in schools as families choose schools based on personal preferences rather than geographic or community-based considerations. This could undermine the objective of providing an inclusive education for all students.

As public school funding declines due to the shift in resources to ESAs, there may be job losses for teachers and support staff in public schools, leading to larger class sizes and diminished support for students.

With private entities receiving government funds through ESAs, there is a risk that profit motives will overshadow the educational needs of students, potentially leading to a decline in the quality of education provided.

Erosion of support for public schools may lead to a long-term decline in the quality of education across the state. This could impact Texas's future workforce and economic competitiveness, as well-educated individuals are essential for a thriving economy.

Stephanie Van Fossen

self

Austin, TX

I am a Texas parent with two kids (one in middle school now, and one that graduated high school last year), and I am multigenerational Texan who has experienced both private and public school systems. As much as I have appreciated the private school experience, I have also had incredible experiences in the public school system. I am strongly opposed to school vouchers because public schools are bound by a wide range of rules and restrictions. If these rules and restrictions are important, then private schools should be bound by them as well in order to receive public funds. If these rules and restrictions are NOT important, then they should be optional for our public school districts to follow. Thank you for your time.

Michelle Yates

Educators and public schools in Texas. I am an educator.

Fort Worth, TX

To fund a small minority of families in Texas for educational purposes, that may not even still have the means or qualifications to be accepted to these private institutions, is a huge injustice on public schools in Texas, whom are already ranked very low in the nation. The reality of this bill is to fund private schools with tax payer money, and have no accountability or promise to accept these students, even after receiving fundings from taxpayers.

Public school funding has been held hostage by the appointment of vouchers along with the lack of accountability. Additionally, we are spending billions of dollars to a state testing system, which private schools do not have to be accountable for, yet the very funding of tx public schools depend on for our funding.

Please see the truth in these documents. If we are to provide state taxpayer funds to these private institutions, then they should be required to uphold the same standards and test as our public institutions.

Bethany Corey-Ekin

Self

Austin, TX

Vouchers and ESAs serve a small number of individuals, namely those who can already afford private school. If Texas public schools are not working for Texans it is your job to fund and fix them to serve all young Texans, not provide an alternative route for a select few. Public schools serve all communities and all types of learners which is not true for private options. I urge you to fund our public schools fully and not allow public funds to be diverted to private institutions.

Kate Winsor, mrs

self - executive

Rockwall, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, at least 4th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas Constitution.

Hilary Ricky

self, electrical engineer

Austin, TX

I'm not a parent or teacher, but I am a concerned tax-paying Texan writing in opposition of HB3. Some may argue that someone like me doesn't have stake in this conversation because I don't have kids, but they're wrong - everyone has stake in how educated and fulfilled our fellow Texans at large are.

Over 90% of our students attend public schools, and they in turn will become adults that hopefully will be prepared enough to work good Texan jobs, contribute to society, and ultimately live happy lives. If public education degrades, the average Texan's quality of life will degrade because they won't be able to compete. Bills like this will further degrade our public education because the money that would be allocated to private schools with this bill, could have gone towards improving our public schools instead – which desperately need that help.

The Texas budget per each student needs to increase not just to match inflation, but to make up for relatively low funding for many years. Texas ranks very low as compared to the other states, and lo and behold, it similarly ranks just as low in overall education rankings. Conversely, the top 10 states with the best education rankings are also among the highest rankings when it comes to spending per student.

I've heard so much testimony about how students that were able to attend private schools benefited greatly from it – good for them! But if it's at the expense of public school funding because our state refuses to significantly increase public school funding per student, I urge everyone who cares about the average future Texans' quality of life, to vote against this bill.

James Palma

self

Farmers Branch, TX

Why are we underfunding public schools while giving a gift to those who can already afford private schools? Private schools: do not have to accept every student, do not have to meet accreditation standards and may hire teachers who do not meet basic standards. They may not offer a full slate of courses and can tailor classes to the schools faith or ideals, not necessary what's best for a student. They do not expose kids to diversity and different ideas. They do not have to follow the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. I guess since Gov. Abbotts' wife is not on the board of a relatively new private school, we all need to play along. PUT IT TO A VOTE FOR ALL TEXANS.

Mandy Moore

Self

Marion, TX

Esteemed representative, thank you for hearing my argument against HB3 today. It is always a good time to hear your constituents. My name is Mandy Moore and I am from a tiny Texas town known as Marion, Texas. A one stoplight town where the Friday night lights draw in the whole community. The majority of the population is either home schooled or attends the public school system. The closest private school is a 30 minute drive from my home and I am one of the closest residents to that school. Although I fit the demographic of most of your constituents I feel as if my words will still fall on deaf ears. As I thought about what I wanted to communicate today I considered giving the facts, that over 60% of the Texas population opposed school vouchers or that special education students will ultimately suffer at the hands of school vouchers but I know you all are inundated with facts that you choose not to acknowledge. I also considered sharing my personal experience of being the mother of both an honor roll football playing high schooler and a wonderfully creative elementary schooler who gains so much from the special education program offered in her public school. My daughter has learned so much from the gifted teachers who are already underpaid but who still understand the value of educated adults. I considered what I would say but I knew my personal experience would be better told to a brick wall and facts no longer matter because you are paid to disregard them. The only thing left to say is that everyone here today and everyone not here who is opposed to this bill is not only a Texas taxpayer but also a Texas voter and just like you got into this position of power there is always going to be another election season. As the parent of two children on both ends of the spectrum I am making my choice and that choice is opposed to school vouchers.

Nicole Taraba

Seld

Austin, TX

I come from generations of conservative Texans. This voucher bill is not fiscally responsible and is not Texan. I do not want my tax dollars going to private schools. If I want to send my kids to private school I will be a true Texan and pay for it out of my own pocket. Vouchers are NOT good for our state and will strip away much needed funding from our beloved public schools. I beg you to please remove vouchers from your political agenda and get to work to make our public schools a better place for our children. The majority of Texans do not benefit from vouchers and we absolutely do not want this! Please prove us wrong that billionaires have more of a say than the will of the people who voted you into office.

Brandy Flisram, Mrs

Myself -

Houston, TX

If this bill passes not only will the state of Texas lose phenomenal teachers and staff. teachers will just move out of Texas. This bill will defund public schools. Public schools are already under funded. Think about the students that you are representing, and how truly awful this bill will impact them.

Marco Fiorilo

Myself

Austin, TX

Kill HB3. It would make it impossible for anyone below a certain tax bracket offer their children a decent education. If ignorance and lack of education is your end goal then congratulations. This is just a handout for the wealthy who already send their children to Private Schools. Vote against school vouchers!!

Lisa Peterson, Mrs

Self

Austin, TX

Public funds should support public schools, not provide discounts for private schools. Not every Texas child has access to private schools. Our children deserve the highest quality education to become our productive adults tomorrow. Support public education!!

George Garcia, Mr
self/citizen
San Antonio, TX

The present education system requires a new vision. Vouchers are not the new vision that is needed to improve the outdated system. Elected officials have failed to address our present system. They were elected to come up with new ideas that would improve the education of all children. One has to realize that not all citizens have the funds to send their children to private schools even if they receive vouchers to send them. Families that barely have funds to feed their household and pay basic bills would not be able to get vouchers , the reality is those families would be left behind and not have all the school resources needed to educate their children.

Jennifer Despins
Constituents
Austin, TX

Completely and totally against vouchers. Listen to real Texans and not outside monetary influence. Do your job.

Rachel Leclair
Self
Cypress, TX

I am a homeschooler parent and I oppose this bill. I do not consent to any additional regulations for educating my children.

Geula Gniwisch
Self, mother
Houston, TX

Every child in Texas deserves access to quality education that fits their unique needs.

Education isn't a one-size-fits-all journey. Parents should have the ability to choose the learning environment that best supports their child's success. HB3 puts that choice in their hands—creating better opportunities for students, supporting educators, and using taxpayer dollars wisely.

With nearly half the states already offering school choice programs, it's time for Texas to step up and do the same!

Christie Luff
Self
Plano, TX

Your constituents do not want this bill to pass. Please stop turning a deaf ear to the voice of Texas residents

Lisa Tomlinson
self
Houston, TX

Having homeschooled two of my children successfully, I OPPOSE this bill.

Ashley Evans

Self

Mansfield, TX

Save public schools! I believe all forms of education are vital but are public schools are very important! As an educator, everyone needs better pay in their positions, we need better opportunities for professional development. Our students, our children deserve to have the best opportunities to learn. Public school education opportunities have expanded with gifted and talented, STEM, project based, Montessori , fine arts focus and so much more. We need these opportunities and more for our children. Special education is growing and we need appropriate space for our students! Paraprofessionals need adequate training. Our students futures will be darkened if funds are taken away from public school funds! We are doing great things in public schools and we can continue. There are many things that need to be reviewed, removed and renewed but taking away funds from is NOT the answer!

Richard Grijalva, PhD

Self - Independent Researcher

Austin, TX

I write as a parent of a fourth-grade child currently enrolled in an Austin ISD school; I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it, whether it is dressed in the ideological garb of liberty, the legality of parental rights, the policy name of school choice, or the political-economic notion of competition. These ideas seem to obscure what is at stake, which is the privatization of education and the corrosion of local public school communities already under the stresses. And these are local public school communities made up of parents, teachers, administrators, and students alike.

Our public schools have been corroded by decades of ideologically driven hostility and neglect. The legislature should prioritize existing public school mandates and focus on increasing local families' access to high-quality public education instead of subsidizing private schools. And with private schools increasingly operating in areas underserved by our public school infrastructure, the State of Texas is neglecting its duty to our children. With so-called school choice, we are using limited state resources to create mechanisms of choice while aggravating inequalities that favor private schools over public schools. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Kimberly Holzwarth

Self

Spring, TX

As a parent in a great school district, I am against vouchers. If we can find money to pay for private school vouchers being advertised for students with learning disabilities, why can't the money be used to strengthen programs in public schools? This would benefit more students and strengthen the Texas public schools system. If school choice is truly the goal, then school choice for every student to attend the public school of their choice regardless of address or district would be the true school choice program. The vouchers hurt the state and will keep high earners from moving to this state. Better public schools mean more businesses moving here and their high paying jobs along with more job opportunities moving to Texas. This bill will cause some economic decline in Texas. Please vote no.

Joy Abbs

Self

Dallas, TX

I am against the vouchers for Private schools.

SCHOOL CHOICE

Parent choice? Not really. Private schools choose whether or not to accept a child to attend their school. PRIVATE SCHOOLS CAN, AND DO, DISCRIMINATE and accept only those students that fit their academic and social criteria. Public schools cannot discriminate against any student.

The real problem with "school choice" is the creation of yet another education system (traditional public schools and charter schools already exist) that allows students

Jill Tate
self, mom
Colleyville, TX

I want to talk to you about school choice from a mom perspective. You see we have heard about it from policy makers, the governor and specialist, but have you heard what is in a mom's heart? Have you heard what it means to a real-life family.

You see School Choice to me is not a political sound bite, it is not a bill to pass, it is not a race to win, it is a deeply personal conviction for me and my family.

In February of 2009 I welcome the cutest little 5 lb bass into this world. When your child is born you dream and wonder – what will his interests be, what sports will he play, will he be good at math like his dad or creative like his mom? The world is his so open to all the possibilities. And you don't think of struggle at all. You don't imagine the hard parts of parenting and you certainly don't imagine having a neurodivergent child.

So when it was time I researched and found the best preschool with all the programs. At his pre-K evaluation I found out he is the only one in his class that could not write his name. but he is 5 – so what?

Kindergarten comes and he is in trouble all the time. By mid-year he still doesn't really write well, but he is a boy – it takes them a little longer. He still does not read well, but he is in kindergarten – does he have to be able to read war and peace? But at his teacher conference she says he is behind the other children – I ask could he be dyslexic, she says it's too early to tell. Failure one.

First grade comes along – he begins having panic attacks. Every seen a 7-year-old have a panic attack – it will break your heart. They don't know what is happening and neither do you. He starts throwing up before school and hides under his desk and he is in trouble all the time. The school said, he has ADHD, if you get his ADHD under control he will read and quit being in trouble. So, I took him to a psychiatrist to prescribe meds and a psychologist for therapy to learn to control his ADHD and anxiety.

What I didn't know was that for Sawyer the marks on the board and on the paper were Chinese one minuet, Russian the next, and then Spanish the next and the Japanese the next time he looked up. Everyone else understood, why couldn't he? His frustration and anxiety grew along with many visits to the principal's office. On one visit to the principal's office I said, could he be dyslexic – No it's too early to tell, it is his ADHD – you need to get his meds right. Failure two. At the end of the year, Sawyer's therapist screened him for dyslexia and said – he has dyslexia and possibly dysgraphia. When I talked to the school about it, they said it is too late in the year we will have to do it next year. Failure three.

2nd grade comes, he is in trouble all the time again. He still isn't reading or writing. We have an ARD in October (2 ½ months into the year) I remind them he needs a dyslexia test and share what his therapist had done. Ok – we will order it, but we have to wait for the tester t

Lorri Boyd
Self
Georgetown, TX

I strongly urge you to vote against school vouchers, and instead invest in our public schools. The per student allotment has not been raised since 2019. Increase the allotment by at least \$1300, to keep up with inflation and ensure that our public schools continue to provide ALL students with a quality education.

Mary Phillips
Self - business owner
Mansfield, TX

I oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Amy Powell
Self/Teacher
Abilene, TX

Say no to Vouchers! Public education needs more funding. Teachers need raises. There is no accountability in the private school sector. Say no to Vouchers. It's just common sense.

Oliver Poblete
Self
SACHSE, TX

I am against the voucher program. Public education works and can be successful.

Shmuel Ceitlin
Self
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill allowing all parents to choose quality education for their children and joining most states in having a school choice program. Thank you

Deanna Quarles
self, CPA
Porter, TX

I oppose HB3 & ask that this bill goes no further. Public funds should stay with public schools. More resources to our public schools or give us our tax dollars back!

Lindsey Kappen
Self, teacher
Fort Worth, TX

School vouchers are not the way forward for education. It is not in the best interest for children of Texas. It will negatively impact children's well being and their academics.

Richard Bonn
self - mortgage broker
Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Cindy Crawford, Ms
Self
Kerrville, TX

Please save our school system. I taught 10 years in a private school and my son attended there until he entered the 4th grade He received a much better education in the public schools in El Paso. Please help us.
Thank you!

Kody Garcia
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am against this bill. That money should go towards improving our public schools.

Jodie Chevez
Self
Pearland, TX

Vot No on Bill HB3. This takes away funding from our public schools.

Anna Griffin
Self
Chandler, TX

MOST TEXANS DO NOT WANT VOUCHERS. I promise that more and more people are banding together to protect our children's education. Thousands and thousands of us are leaving party lines behind and uniting against vouchers. Stop selling our government to the highest bidders!!

Steve Forsythe, Dr. Steve Forsythe
Self
Lampasas, TX

I am opposed to an Education savings account program.

Charles Hicks
Self
Lewisville, TX

Private school voucher programs have consistently failed to deliver on their promises, proving to be a bad policy that harms public education and does not improve student outcomes. These programs divert critical funding from public schools, exacerbating inequality and leaving the majority of students—who remain in public schools—worse off.

One of the main arguments for voucher programs is that they provide "choice" and improve education through competition. However, in practice, voucher programs have not led to widespread academic improvement. Studies from states like Indiana, Ohio, and Louisiana have shown that students who use vouchers to attend private schools often perform worse on standardized tests than their peers who remain in public schools. The idea that competition would improve education simply doesn't hold up when private schools are not held to the same standards as public schools and can select their students while rejecting others.

Additionally, voucher programs disproportionately benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition. Many vouchers do not cover the full cost of private school, meaning that lower-income families still face financial barriers, making the program more of a subsidy for those who can already afford private education rather than a genuine opportunity for disadvantaged students.

There is also a significant lack of accountability in private schools that receive public funding through vouchers. Many of these schools are not required to follow the same transparency, non-discrimination policies, or academic standards as public schools. This has led to cases where taxpayer money funds schools that teach ideologically driven or unscientific curricula, such as creationism over evolution.

Beyond these practical failures, voucher programs undermine the fundamental role of public education as a unifying institution that serves all students, regardless of background. Instead of improving education for everyone, vouchers exacerbate segregation along socioeconomic, racial, and religious lines.

Wherever they have been implemented, voucher programs have failed to live up to their promises, harmed public education, and prioritized ideology over evidence. The solution to improving education lies in adequately funding and reforming public schools, not diverting resources to private institutions that lack oversight and fail to deliver better results.

Darla Barar
Self, marketing
Pflugerville, TX

I oppose vouchers and ESAs. These programs grow in cost rapidly—the current Senate proposal projects over \$11 billion in voucher spending by 2030, including \$4.6 billion that year alone. SB 2's fiscal note also estimates 42 new employees will be needed to manage the program. Public education needs proper funding.

Isaac Hinojosa
Self.
Killeen, TX

As a disable veteran I have 4 kids in the public school system and this bill tells me that Governor Abbott does not care about my kids or any of the other kids in public schools. The state has made it hard for teachers to teach and then blames the teacher when student are not passing. My 9 year twins attend school in Killeen and one of their teacher teaches for kids to learn and apply what they learn to real life. Because of her, his grades have gone up and is loving to learn new things. This is great for my twins, but I can't say the same for my senior. He had teach who didn't care to much but were teachers because they needed a job and all they had to do is teach kids how to pass a test. This new bill is taking money and materials away from my boys, hindering their education. Thank you Governor Abott and his team for telling me that my kids don't matter to them, as long as they get what they want. I know come election time, this will definitely impact my decision on who to vote for.

Mark Filley

self

Austin, TX

I am a parent with 3 kids. My oldest now is 16. I have sent my kids to 4 different types of school. First homeschooling, then private, then charter and then public. The only one that met all of my kids needs is public. Upon enrolling in public schools my two oldest who were in elementary school were a year behind in education relative to peers. It took several years and hard work to get back up to peer grade level. Second public school is the only one that services such as dyslexia are offered at. Receiving those services helped my kids learn. I'm asking to not have school voucher program. The wealthy who already have money to send to private school do not need additional financial assistance with their private school tuition.

Amber Houck

Self /technology teacher

Wichita Falls, TX

I'm a Texas teacher and vouchers will destroy education. Vote no to vouchers

Kristie Graf

Self, educator

La Grange, TX

As a former public and private school teacher and current homeschool teacher I oppose this bill and am asking you to vote against it. The bill does not provide school choice but takes away choice and rights from private schools and homeschoolers. The bill is only good for the vendors and not good for any school or family in the end. If you really want to help family with school choice give a tax break for families wanting to homeschool or send their children to private school. When you start putting stipulations on curriculum and standardized testing it takes away any benefits this bill could have. Please vote no to this bill.

Lara West, Mrs.

Homeschooling

Jersey Village, TX

I homeschool and I oppose this bill!

Bridgett Donald, Dr.

Self

New Caney, TX

I homeschool and I oppose this bill.

Reginald Oliver

Self

Houston, TX

Against

Kate Leonardo

Knowles Elementary PTA & Self

Leander, TX

Say NO for HB3! Public schools already struggle with the funding that hasn't been increased since 2019!! The rippled effect of taking even more money away from public schools would be disastrous.

Susan Cummings

self

Baytown, TX

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to the establishment of an ESA program in Texas. This would permanently establish a two-tier system of education and will drain public schools, especially in rural districts, of vital state funds. All Texas students should receive the same robust education. All schools should serve students of all abilities and be transparent with the money they spend the the outcomes of students.

Mary Elizabeth Dickerson, Ms.

self, public school principal

Plainview, TX

House Bill 3, which proposes education savings accounts and vouchers in Texas, poses a significant threat to the integrity and funding of public education. By diverting public funds to private schools, this bill undermines the financial stability of public schools, which serve the majority of Texas students. Public schools are already struggling with inadequate funding, and this bill would exacerbate these challenges by reducing the resources available for teacher salaries, classroom supplies, and essential programs. Additionally, vouchers and education savings accounts lack accountability and transparency, making it difficult to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used effectively. This shift in funding could also lead to increased segregation and inequality, as private schools are not required to adhere to the same non-discrimination policies as public schools. Ultimately, House Bill 3 threatens to erode the foundation of public education in Texas, leaving many students without access to the quality education they deserve.

Until all schools are held to the same standards of accountability and performance, and schools are funded equally, this bill is obviously an agenda pushed by special interest, millionaire lobbyist.

Sissy Wong

Self

Friendswood, TX

Do not pass this bill. Protect public education!

Kourtney Benton

Moms Demand Action

Austin, TX

I am against school vouchers!

Alexandra Dehoff

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose ESAs (education saving accounts) and support public money being used for public education.

Amber Shawver, LSSP
self, School Psychologist
Fort Worth, TX

I am the parent to four middle school aged children enrolled in Northwest ISD. When they were preschool age, my husband and I intentionally chose our school district due to reputation of high quality academics, fine arts, and a close knit community. The district has served our family well. Our children have receive enrichment through the Gifted and Talented Program, special education, athletics, fine arts and so much more. I am also a School Psychologist in FWISD. I serve the most vulnerable students with visible and invisible disabilities who deserve a free appropriate public education. As you can infer, public education is close to my heart. I believe in the system and that it is the upmost importance for public education to provide an education to ALL children of Texas because they are the future of our state. Working in within the system, I have witnessed what happens when students with disabliites attempt to leave the public school system. Many of my students have enrolled in charter or private schools only to either be turned away or to to be frustrated due to being underserved. There are a few charter and private schools equipped to accommodate and serve special education students. Many are not and do not have staff or resources to educate students with even mild disabilites let alone more significant ones. I also know students who were denied entry into schools simply due to their disabilites even when they were academically capable students.

With the enticement of vouchers upon us, my husband and I did some research about the options for our own children and there are none that are viable.

Here's why-

- the nearest private school to our home is 21 miles away and there is no bus service making it inaccessible
- if we could go to that school, tuition is roughly \$25k per child, with vouchers we would still owe \$60k which is outside of our income (we are well above the poverty level and this is still not attainable for us)
- if we could afford the tuition and transportation, it is unlikely our children would be admitted due to one who requires special education services and accommodations
- also, the private school does not offer the array of fine arts and atheltics that our public school does

I have been closely watching HB 2 and 3 and hope you consider the desires of your consituents. Vouchers will not benefit families like mine and the math indicates that there would only be enough for less than 2% of school children. I ask, WHO benefits from vouchers, certainly not my family, my community or any of the children I serve.

- Please, say "no" to vouchers!
- increase of \$1,340 bringing the basic allotment up to \$7,500 (from \$6,160). Raising the basic allotment by \$220 is simply not enough. It represents an increase of only 3.58% during the same time in which inflation has increased 23%.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Amber Shawver, Nationally Certified School Psychologist

Christopher Davis
Self, business executive
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the proposed education bill for vouchers. Public education funding is already severely limited and this voucher program will further lead to unequal educational standards for students. Furthermore, the program's limited scope and lack of availability in many Texas districts makes it an ineffective solution. Prioritizing robust public school funding is essential for ensuring equitable educational opportunities for all Texans, not just a select few.

Kristen Brown
Self
Conroe, TX

I am against HB3 and believe that our state representatives (and Governor) should focus FIRST on fully funding our public schools, where the vast majority of Texas students will receive their education. Public Education is part of a social contract Texans have with our government. Find it FIRST.

Nancy Hartline

Self

Abilene, TX

Vouchers will take money away from public schools and give to private/home schools without them having to meet all the requirements public schools are required.

T Kistler

Allen ISD

Mckinney, TX

The majority of Texans are not in favor of this bill. Do the right thing for ALL Texans and cease the attacks on public schools and their funding. Education should be available to all in this state and should not take second chair to private schools. Say NO!!!

Laron Cheek

self

Eules, TX

I am vehemently opposed to the establishment of a school voucher program. Funding should go only to public schools simply because if you're wealthy enough to put your kid in private school, you should get no assistance from the state.

Sharon Gardner

Self/retired teacher

Grapevine, TX

Dear committee members, please stop this bill! The people of Texas are counting on you to save the future of Texas by safeguarding education for all Texans. This bill has a great degree of certainty of leading to the death of public education for all. Please help us!

Liz Clearman

Self, freelance copywriter/copy editor

Houston, TX

I'm a single parent living in Houston, and am a freelance copywriter/copy editor as my occupation. I recently lost my main source of income. Why am I telling you this? Because even if I received a \$10,000 voucher for some random private school (Christian, of course, because that's what y'all want) for my high school junior to attend, guess what? I STILL couldn't afford it. I couldn't even get close. Please tell me how defunding public education is a good thing. I cannot afford private school. Those who CAN afford private school are the already wealthy where an extra \$10,000 can go toward a school they were already planning on sending their kids to. How do you fathom that people like me, given what I just described to you, can afford private school on \$10,000?? While I understand that you desire a less educated populace so that they will continue to vote for Republicans, I will never understand prioritizing the needs of the wealthy over all. I cannot afford private school for my child - although she and I would have ZERO desire to send her to one, given that most of them are Christian/religious - and a \$10,000 voucher would do absolutely nothing to help. You are penalizing the poor, low-income, and middle class and literally handing subsidies to the wealthiest. Guess what? If those parents want to send their kids to private school, THEY ALREADY HAVE THAT CHOICE. Taxpayer dollars should never go toward subsidizing private, religious school. This goes against every fiber of the constitution, and if any of you had paid attention in law school (which, did I mention that I also have a law degree?), you would know that smashing church and state together is about as unconstitutional as it comes. Do NOT vote for ESAs. It's a terrible, awful idea.

Denise Manley

Self-none

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose the implementation of vouchers or “school choice” in Texas. We already have school choice as one can select public schools including magnet schools, or one can pay to select a private school.

Public dollars should not go to private schools as the necessary result is defunding public schools.

People without money cannot afford private school even with a voucher so it only benefits the rich. In other states, over 90% of vouchers are sued for religious schools. In Texas, there are many strong Christians and those of other or no faiths and everyone can practice that but not at the public expense. That’s wrong and not in line with Texas values.

What happens to the vast majority of kids that don’t use vouchers and so are left at the “failing” schools, which would have even less funding!

We must fully fund public schools and provide a quality public education to all Texas children as required by the Texas constitution. Thank you.

Olivia Primanis

self --Book Conservator

AUSTIN, TX

Vote no on HB3 -----HB 3 and similar bills would take \$1 billion collected from Texas taxpayers earmarked to support Public education for All and gifted to for-profit private education enterprises. The money given for vouchers will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties -more than 150 Texas counties don’t have a private school to send your kid to. Texas already ranks 28th in spending for public school students. University grad programs are already 50% filled with international students whose education is more advanced than that offered to students in TX. Support ALL our students-- our next generation -- our replacements ---with public education.

The voucher plan is bad for the Texas taxpayer, bad for public educators, and bad for the kids in our public school classrooms.

Sara Windham

Self Speech-language Pathologist

Salado, TX

Please listen to your constituents and the data. Data from other states with vouchers tells us that they are a subsidy that goes primarily to wealthy families in spite of any “best intentions” you believe are in this bill. There is plenty of data about the harm to students with disabilities. Students with disabilities will not receive services they need to be successful. There is also plenty of data that tells us of the price of vouchers to taxpayers- ballooning budgets, inequity and fraud because of lack of accountability, and weakened public school systems because of the financial impact of vouchers. Families who leave public schools in hopes of better opportunities but are rejected by private schools because of behavior or academic challenges or other differences will be forced to return to a public school system drained of resources in worse shape than when they left it. Additionally, Dr. Buckley stated to a room of constituents in Salado that there is no data to prove that vouchers will threaten the TRS system in spite of documentation in SB2 and testimony to the contrary. This bill creates a new arm of the government that would not exist without HB3 or SB2- the vendors are ready to get their hands on Texas taxpayer dollars to “provide” something we already have - school choice. The sales pitch we are given about the bill does not match what’s in the bill. It is foolish to say we have to do something and will fix it later because our own history shows that in the last decade, only 0.03% of legislation that has passed in Texas has been fixed after the fact.

Vouchers are not fiscally conservative. Listen to the data. Listen to the voices of constituents who do not support vouchers. Brad Buckley spoke to a group of Ft Cavazos and school district leaders last year. He shared that, just before he was sworn in, he stood on the balcony of the House chamber and was reminded by someone important to him that the people on the floor of the house were not the people he should listen to- it was the people who voted for him that should have his ear. That is what all representatives and senators should remember. It’s not the voice of big donors - it’s the voice of voters that matter. Texans recognize a bad bill when they see it and this is a bad bill. Vote no to vouchers.

Sarina Jones

Self, Licensed Social Worker

AUSTIN, TX

The people of Texas, on behalf of our children and all future children, implore you to resist the school voucher scam. This is only important to Abbott because his loyalty has been bought (to the tune of \$12mil by out-of-state billionaire Yaas). The people of Texas want our public schools funded appropriately. We know by seeing the long-term effects of similar voucher scams passed in other states, that this will only serve to degrade the quality of public schools (something every child in Texas has a right to) while lining the pockets of those whom invest in private schools. Private schools have less accountability, fewer teacher certification requirements, and can turn away any student for any reason. Vouchers will not make private schools more attainable for those in the middle class or the working class (likely the majority of your constituents); private schools, operating in a free market economy, will merely raise their tuition further (likely by around \$10k) to ensure their school remains elite and their bank accounts swell.

Fund public schools, say no to vouchers.

Brandon Langston

Self- Athletic Director/Teacher

Munday, TX

Public education is the backbone of our future. We must begin to fully fund public education to move our youth forward. It is embarrassing where the state of Texas is at when compared to other states in public education funding. The vouchers are not the right thing for our kids. This will only create a larger gap between the haves and have nots. Private schools are great for some, they should not be given public funding though with no requirements though. Homeschooling is good for some, but a lot struggle socially. Public education accepts EVERYONE and works with them at their level and tries to build them to where they should be. If this voucher bill is pushed through, it will kill public education, look at some of the other states and the budget deficiencies it has caused. The kids who can not afford private schools, or do not have access to private schools will not be able to use the vouchers either as it does not cover the travel to and from school, it does not cover the entirety of most tuitions, it does not cover over fees associated with private schools. This bill, and public education funding, will tell we the people, who are truly doing what is best for the kids and who is trying to pad pockets. There will be large educator turn out in the next election.

Angela Callier

Self.

Houston, TX

I am against school vouchers. It will adversely affect lower-income neighborhoods.

Christina Davis

Self - parent

Carrollton, TX

Please vote "no" on this bill. We need to fund our public schools, not divert our tax dollars to unaccountable private schools that have limited oversight. This bill, if passed, will decimate our public schools. It will be detrimental to all Texas students, but especially our special needs students. It has very limited benefit to anyone other than those already enrolled in private school. Even those families are unlikely to benefit considering that private school will likely raise their tuition in the amount of the voucher. In every state that has passed similar legislation, this ends up being the case -i.e Arizona. My kids are thriving in Lewisville ISD; however, our district needs state funds and an increase in the basic allotment in order to continue to properly continue to serve our children. HB3 is misguided and bad for Texas families. Thank you.

Michelle Gehring

Myself

Richmond, TX

<https://fb.watch/xV7OocaywM/>

Christopher Drake

Self

Lubbock, TX

The typical argument I hear is that people that are already sending their kids to private schools don't want to spend their tax money on kids going to public schools. Well I'm on the obverse of that argument. My child goes to, and will always go to, public school and I don't want my tax dollars supplementing some rich person's kid going to a private school. I also feel like this is trying to legalize a new form of segregation and as a white man, I feel like that is abhorrent.

Kelley Palma

Self

Kerens, TX

I am for school choice!

Diane Birdwell, CPT

TSTA-Retired

Dallas, TX

To the members of the committee:

I am a former Army officer and a retired high school teacher from Dallas. You've heard all the arguments for and against vouchers, but I am sincerely asking you to look at the LOGIC, or lack of it, with this bill.

1. Public schools must adhere to various subject curricula approved by the state. Private schools will not be verified if they adhere to the same standards in the TEKS.
2. Public schools and their districts are given "report cards," but private schools won't have them.
3. The public elects boards of trustees to select a superintendent, set a budget and create policies that support enforcement of state and federal education laws. Again, will private schools be required to be transparent and will those tax dollars from vouchers be properly accounted for?
4. Public schools are required to take in any student at any point in the school year. Private schools limit enrollment numbers and limit enrollment periods to the semester before the new year starts.
5. Under current law, students with special needs must be supported with personnel and equipment where required. There is no such requirement for private schools. In fact, they can tell the parent that they do not have the ability, nor will they acquire the necessary personnel or equipment to assist a severely handicap child.
6. Many private schools are religious in nature. Because public schools are secular, all students are welcome. Religious private schools can, and have in the past, discriminated against students in admissions because they don't worship or believe the same way.
7. Our nation is a secular republic that does not favor one religion over another. By giving tax dollars to religious schools, we are showing preference and bias. It is the antithesis of what our Founding Fathers created and fought a war over.

Public schools in Texas have not been fully – and adequately- funded since at least 1999. That is when I became a teacher, and I saw shortcomings then. It has not gotten better, because there is no desire by many to actually improve the schools in their communities.

I urge all of you to vote down this voucher scheme because it is against the values of Texas. Look at our constitution for the state. It talks about fully funding our public schools, not giving tax dollars without accountability and transparency, to private schools.

Vote this down and end this.

Thank you.

Feel free to contact me, and if you want, I can come down to Austin and have a conversation with any of you. I am retired, and that is the joy of being such.

Diane Birdwell
CPT, MI, USAR
214-957-3987

Kelly Petty, Ms.

Self

Montgomery, TX

Time and time again, Texas residents, Republican, Democrat, and Independent have voted no on school vouchers, over and over. The residents of Texas DO NOT WANT SCHOOL VOUCHERS. Now Greg Abbott and his friends are holding our public schools hostage and not providing the funds that are needed for our public schools and our children unless he can pass his voucher plan backed by billionaires, which is a vendor bill that will put money in the pockets of the billionaires and friends who support him. They have supported vouchers for a long time. This has been in the plan and the works for a long time. Public schools have not been given funding for many years, teachers have not been given raises, and public schools are doing more and more with less and less money with our public schools are being given more and more criteria to meet. It is a sad day when our Governor and his friends want our public schools to fail, and they do everything in their power to make them fail. With voucher bills, only the rich who already send their children to private schools will get more money in their pockets. The students who are middle class, that come from working-class families, are poorer, and have special needs will not be able to make up the difference on top of the voucher for private schools. There are no checks and balances on private schools like there are on public schools. Our rural communities do not have private schools near them for them to even attend. Our Governor and his friends need to be more concerned about educating all students in Texas, for they are the future of Texas. THIS IS A SHAME, AND THIS IS A SCAM, AND THIS IS UNETHICAL IN SO MANY WAYS. Especially when they try to disguise it as what is the the best for children. We as Texans have time and time again said that we don't want vouchers and we don't. Listen to the people of Texas and do your job ... You were voted in to serve the people and the children of this state.

Heather Wright

Self—Republican Voter

Kerrville, TX

The current proposal for ESA/vouchers is irresponsible and in defiance of the wishes of Texas taxpayers. While there is undoubtedly room for improvement in Texas public education, this proposed ESA/voucher program is not the way nor the means. This is a vendor bill designed to funnel money to out-of-state interests and satisfy donations from profiteers. As a conservative, I want to see my representatives truly represent the people of Texas, the parents and students. The funding schema for this bill is not sustainable without pillaging public education or other revenue sources. It enmeshes church and state, the basic separation of the two being a foundational principle of our republic. Additionally, at a time when our national government is rightly focused on decreasing the size of government bureaucracy, this program adds an entirely new government department. This proposed program would supplant public schools without providing Texas taxpayers, parents, or students with the protections and transparency guaranteed through public schools.

The recent “town hall” meetings held by various representatives have highlighted how out of touch our representatives are to the wishes of their constituents. I have heard too many representatives discount these constituents as “paid demonstrators”. That is far from the truth. It is time for our representatives to actually listen to the voters and taxpayers instead of billionaire donors. If you really want clarity, put this on a statewide ballot instead of making lofty decrees. I am a lifelong Texas conservative. I am not pleased with the decisions being made by those who are blatantly ignoring their constituents.

In closing, one need only examine the effect of similar programs in other states where the program has exploded budgets and decimated rural districts in favor of “storefront” private schools.

Diane Estrada

Clint ISD

El Paso, TX

I do not support the voucher program in Texas!

Danielle Hills

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote NO to vouchers

Maureen Saval

self

Leander, TX

Vouchers give private schools, not parents, the right to choose. Private schools can select which students to admit, while public schools are for everyone. Additionally, parents who accept a voucher lose many important rights.

They help kids who are already in private school the most.

Vouchers send taxpayer dollars to private institutions with no accountability. Private schools do not have to meet the same standards as public schools.

The system of universal, free public education benefits all of us. VOTE NO on HB 3.

Tamar Leiber

self

Navasota, TX

Please don't sacrifice public education for the benefit of the wealthy. Texas children are guaranteed a free public education and if their parents decide that is not the best option for their child, they should pay for it themselves

Linda Janette Johnston

self

ROUND ROCK, TX

Please do NOT pass this bill. It will hurt rural areas especially, as they do not have as much choice for private schools.

The bill will only help parents who already have enough money to pay for private schools, anyway, and hurt those left in public schools which desperately need MORE money. This bill makes absolutely no sense financially. We need strong public schools to have an educated public. If legislators want it so badly, it should be put to a public vote. Even in Republican states, when on the ballot, the issue has overwhelmingly been defeated. It should be the voters who decide.

Scott Reed

Myself

Midland, TX

I will not support any Senator or Representative that votes in favor of this bill

Marjorie Crawford

Self retired teacher

Boerne, TX

Vote NO to school vouchers

Brittney Payne

Self

Dallas, TX

NO to school vouchers! I am a 7th generation Texan and deeply concerned about the direction our state has been headed for the last several years. Vouchers would be a detriment to our public schools. Be on the right side of history! BIG NO TO VOUCHERS!

Alissa Christopher

Self

Dallas, TX

Establishing education savings accounts will serve the purpose for which it is intended—DEFUNDING public education. So many small and rural areas of Texas have no private school alternative to public school. For those communities, there is no “choice” and creating a voucher program (i.e., education savings program) will only serve to decimate the already greatly underfunded public schools. For areas where private schools are available, the education savings account program will defray approximately 1/2 of the annual tuition of private school education. Therefore, this program would only aid families who can almost afford private school and will do nothing for families who cannot come up with the additional funds for private school tuition. It is imperative for Texas to have a robust public school system for many reasons. First we must educate our children to allow each of them attain their potential, to set them up for success in their chosen workplace, to prepare them to be the workforce our state needs in the future. We need our children to flourish and not languish. We need to be able to attract business and industry to our state, and we cannot do that if we continue to underpay teachers and underfund public education. Creating education savings accounts will do exactly the opposite by further underfunding the Texas public education system. Do not bow to pressure from our Governor who is acting in the best interest of his billionaire donors and not the citizens of Texas!!!

Rosamaría González

USA CONSTITUTION SUPPORTER, Teacher

Austin, TX

Your PRIMARY MISSION is to ensure that ALL children in Texas get access to a fully,funded education First-12th Grade. ANY legislation that thwarts that CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT is CRIMINAL.

It is in the BEST INTERESTS of our PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC SECURITY, and PUBLIC CIVIL RIGHTS that you vote AGAINST school vouchers. STEALING our PUBLIC MONIES for private purposes is UNCONSTITUTIONAL !!!!

Well know we that many families who can afford to pay for their child’s private school are getting these “stolen” voucher funds as bonus funds.

Well know we that voucher deals will throw the state into debt. And then what?!! CHAOS

THE INNOCENT CHILDREN SUFFER as we see programs cancelled. These are programs which I have witnessed helping children succeed, and IMPROVE and FLOURISH with their ACCOMPLISHMENTS. Families support their school!!

What happened to this being

“ A Land of Promise!” ?

VOTE “NO” on HB3, SB2

YOU CAN DO THIS COURAGEOUS ACT

SINCERELY,

Rosamaría González

TEACHER

Barbara Rush

self

Whitesboro, TX

It is a clear violation of the separation of church and state for our state tax dollars to be paid to church schools. We have an obligation to fully fund public education. We should be doing everything possible to make our public schools better, including lowering class size, increasing teacher pay, and paying for school supplies. Please do the right thing, and vote against SB 3, and oppose attempts to send our hard-earned money to private, unaccountable "schools".

Terri Arnold
Self retired
Houston, TX

I strongly support public schools and oppose HB3. This is just wrong. I am not going to pay to educate wealthy students at private institutions. I will move to another state first. This is WRONG.

Patricia Rusthoven
self
AUSTIN, TX

As a Texas public school teacher for over 30 years, a voucher program would weaken the public school system that is already underfunded. These programs would not allow the school choices that is being touted for those students in low-income families or with special needs. Students with IEP's will not get their needs met in most of the charter and private schools as they do not have to offer those services thus making families accept the removal of these services if they chose to attend their school. I've had many students leave public schools with the promise of smaller class sizes and better educational experiences, only to return within a year, so that their student can get all of the services that will be legally provided in public schools. Most of these voucher plans all offer more per student than is currently being funded at public schools, so instead you should increase the per student funding in public schools. Families that would choose these vouchers, will still have to come up with significant money to pay the remainder of tuition, while also having to make plans for transportation and even how they can adjust their work schedules to meet family volunteer requirements.

Private schools are not held to the same standards that public schools have by state and federal guidelines, which includes unfunded mandates, curriculum, schedules, and tests.
Say no to vouchers and fund public schools appropriately.
Thank you for your time.

Abbigail Davis
Self
Bay city, TX

Hb 3 will be detrimental to public education. We already have a choice of where to send our children to school. If I choose to send my child to a private school, that is my choice and should not be paid for by public funding, not to mention that the \$10000 is not going to cover tuition and fees for most private schools so middle and low economic class still will not be able to afford this option. These schools pick and choose who to allow in, what will happen with Special Education students or students that do not score well on tests, or have behavioral needs-HB 3 will limit funding for those students who need it. If you truly believe this is what the majority of Texans want, put it to a public vote with clear and concise language. Please listen to your constituents that are pleading with you to put your focus and funding where it belongs-Public Education!

Lisa Bua
Self/ Parent/ Teacher
Tomball, TX

Save the the children's education and the public school system in Texas from vouchers!

Elizabeth Berthiaume
Self
Dallas, TX

Kill this bill. It will hurt public schools and teachers who are already suffering. Increase pay for teachers and increase funding for public schools. No vouchers. We don't want them.

Patrick Houlihan
Self/facilities maintenance specialist
Conroe, TX

The Texas voucher program diverts public funds away from already underfunded public schools, weakening the education system that serves the majority of students. Instead of improving public schools for all children, it primarily benefits private institutions that lack accountability and can selectively admit students. This program threatens rural schools, special education programs, and low-income families who may not be able to afford private school tuition even with a voucher. Public dollars should remain in public schools to ensure every child has access to a quality education, rather than subsidizing private choices at the expense of the greater good.

Minda Caesar
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3.

Numerous studies show that voucher programs do not improve academic outcomes for children. Texas' economic growth and prosperity depend on a well-educated workforce, and diverting public funds to private schools undermines that goal.

HB3 is not a true school choice bill—Texas parents already have school choice. Instead, this bill funds private school selectivity, allowing private institutions to determine which students they accept, not parents. Public money should come with the same accountability standards. Any school receiving tax dollars must follow the same mandates, testing, and transparency requirements as public schools.

Vouchers represent a significant and growing financial burden on the state. The current Senate proposal projects that more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6 billion in 2026 alone. Meanwhile, the fiscal note on SB2 shows an increase of 42 state employees just to manage the program. Rather than diverting billions to private schools with little oversight, Texas should focus on properly funding its public schools, ensuring that every child has access to a quality education.

Texans deserve a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education, and taxpayers should have a direct say at the ballot box. Some representatives claim the primary ballot question granted a mandate for vouchers, but that measure was vaguely worded and did not disclose the lack of oversight for public funds. If legislators believe vouchers have public support, they should put the issue directly on the ballot.

This entitlement bill benefits only a select few, not Texas as a whole. We urge you to reject HB3 and instead pursue measures that strengthen public education and hold all schools equally accountable for taxpayer dollars.

Please fund public schools fully first, before you commit public funds to create an entitlement program with minimal accountability for taxpayer dollars.

Thank you.
Minda Caesar

Sydney Gutierrez
Self
Waco, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Julissa Ramirez
Self
San Antonio, TX

As a student teacher from San Antonio, Texas, I strongly oppose HB3 and the establishment of an education savings account program. This bill defunds public education, benefits the wealthy, does not hold private schools accountable, and excludes students, especially students from a rural area and students who are economically-disadvantaged. A quality education should not be awarded only to those who can afford it. All students deserve a quality education with abundant resources and funding.

Stephanie Scheffel, Mrs.
Self, public school music therapist
Buda, TX

In addition to being a mother of a second grader in the public schools, I spend 40 hours per week in the public schools working as a music therapist with students with a wide range of disabilities. I spend time with hundreds of teachers and school staff every week, be it paraprofessionals, occupational therapists, speech therapists, nurses, and administrators. In all my years working in the schools, every single person I've encountered has had as their number one goal the safety, growth and development of the students we serve. We work hard for these kids, we support them and their families, and we dip into our own accounts to buy things that will enrich their education. Public schools are the cornerstone of our community. They serve as social hubs, meeting areas for organizations, places for families to meet and receive information. Our community lives and stories are woven into the public schools, and they have been for generations. Instead of fully funding public education in Texas to expand the reach and possibilities for our public schools, HB3 undercuts the ability of public schools to serve all students. Furthermore, studies of voucher programs across America have shown not only academic declines as a result of voucher programs, but also that most of the money from these programs go to students who were already attending private schools. As a person working with students with disabilities for years, I also have serious concerns about private schools' ability to reject special education students and their lack of accountability through IDEA. Our kids deserve better than this bill. Our school staff who pour their hearts into their jobs every day deserve better than this bill. I urge you to vote NO on HB3 and keep public schools healthy and strong in Texas by fully funding public education. Thank you.

Caleb Massie

Self

Addison, TX

Dear Representatives,

As a Texan who benefited from public education myself, I am strongly opposed to the "School Vouchers" proposed. Legislation impacting local education should truthfully reflect the core mission of the Texas Education Code to "ensure all children have access to a quality education that enables them to achieve their potential and participate fully in the social, economic, and educational opportunities of the state and nation." School vouchers undermine this mission.

Even with an extra \$10,000, many families will still be unable to afford private school. For families struggling to meet basic needs, this amount will not make private school a viable option. In states where school voucher systems have been implemented, private school tuition has often increased. \$10,000 is insufficient for working-class families. Furthermore, private schools are not required to provide transportation. This poses significant challenges for working parents, particularly in rural areas of Texas some of which lack private schools entirely.

In this nation, every child has the right to a fair and sufficient education. The rule of law must therefore ensure every child has fair and sufficient access. A move in favor of the voucher system, empowering private institutions with the ability to discriminate in their admissions, undermines this right. Private schools can choose who to admit, meaning children with learning disabilities, behavioral challenges, or those who don't fit the school's culture may be turned away. Public schools, however, are required to accept all students and are committed to supporting them.

Additionally, private schools are not mandated to provide special education services. When they do, students must be sent to public schools for evaluation and accommodations, using public school resources. Under the voucher system, public funds would be diverted to children from wealthier families, who often already have access to private schooling. It is well-documented that in states with voucher systems, over 75% of funds go to families already enrolled in private schools, indicating that the program primarily benefits the wealthy.

Moreover, private schools are not required to administer state tests like STAAR, raising questions about accountability. Without certified teachers, we cannot be certain these schools provide quality education. As constituents and parents on various ends of the political spectrum would agree, children do not go to school to be indoctrinated. Quality education does not impose specific religious doctrine or dogma. Dedicated public educators acknowledge that the role of public education is to nurture and enrich young minds to think critically and independently.

School vouchers would only serve to harm economically disadvantaged and working class children and deepen social divides. If you truly care about Texans, support Public School.

Monica Godkin

Self Parent

Boerne, TX

As a mother of children who have been in the public school system for over 20 years, I am inclined to state I am against House Bill 3. I can see why it could benefit some. There are those looking for what they feel is a better education system than what may be offered to them in their area. Although that may be true for some, it is not the case for all. Take a moment and look at the benefits of the public school system. A public school offers a student more in terms of academics, arts, sports and special services for those with disabilities. Is this not the intention we have strived to give our children to become future leaders, doctors, plumbers or musicians? Tax payer money would be better suited in the public school to help offset costs or add to the curriculum and services offered by the school. As a tax payer, a voucher would not benefit my child in any way. Vouchers being offered to someone who can afford to send their children to a private school benefits them in no way other than putting that money back into their pockets. The public school system is already hurting. Our teachers are underpaid and classrooms are being packed to capacity because of the inability to hire more teachers. Vouchers will only hurt our public school system causing a domino effect to shut down schools that are on the cusp of closing while other schools continue to fight the battle to keep up with their own enrollment. I understand families who choose to homeschool or send their children to private or charter schools could benefit from some type of funding to offset costs. However, if we can standfast by the schools most of us have grown up in, we can offer up more opportunities and provide more service to cater to every student no matter what class or demographics they come from.

Diana Cosgrove

Self

Plano, TX

Vote against this bill. No school vouchers.

WILLIAM KILGORE

SELF - RETIRED

Austin, TX

I am going to address my remarks to the committee and to Representative Schoolcraft, in particular.

Representative Schoolcraft, your House district contains schools from a dozen or more ISDs. Four of them that are almost entirely within your district are Schertz-Cibolo-Universal, Seguin, Gonzales and Marion. These four districts have roughly 26,000 students. These districts have a combined operating deficit in the current budget cycle of \$23 million. Let's assume that the uptake rate of Education Savings Accounts is 2%, over time. These four ISDs within your district could lose 520 students: 2% of 26,000 students. With their departures the ISDs will not receive \$3,300,000 in funding every year from all sources including the basic allotment for those students. That's going to increase their operating deficit by 14%.

Representative Schoolcraft, last year your campaign received \$937,000 of in-kind contributions from Governor Abbott and \$106,000 from Texans United for a Conservative Majority, mostly funded by Tim Dunn, Dan and Farris Wilks. A top priority of all those benefactors is using public money to fund private schools.

I have two questions:

#1. Are you willing to significantly increase the operating deficit for public schools serving almost 30,000 students in your district, when the public schools remain way-underfunded, even with the possible passage of HB2, in order to fund an alternative education opportunity, lacking much accountability and oversight, for only 522 students?

#2. Can your dominant concern be the adequate provision for a superior education for all 30,000 students in your district, or might the need to please your benefactors have become your overriding concern?

Kim Kamin, Dr.

TRTA

Richland Hills, TX

Please support public school in Texas by voting against education savings accounts.

Eunice Navarro Garcia, Mrs.

Self/parent

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Daniel Bearden

Self

Corsicana, TX

"Education Savings Accounts" are a fiscal mismanagement. They are a reverse Robin Hood, appropriating taxpayer funds to benefit political donors who either own or aspire to own private schools in Texas. Notably, these accounts lack state oversight of the schools or the funds they manage. Therefore, it is imperative to vote against this proposal.

Jillian Giles

Self

Watauga, TX

I am opposed to this bill as it does nothing to support our Constitutionally mandated public schools, but rather siphons public money off to private entities. I am a product of both public and private Texas education, and am the parent of a current public/former private school student. How could it be possible that I myself have personally utilized both public and private school options when I am repeatedly told that this bill must pass so we can have school “choice”? The truth of course is that Texans already have school choice, we can choose from a myriad of different educational options - public, private, charter, homeschool, etc. What we don’t have, and this bill will also not provide, is unlimited public funds to utilize however we choose. And we should not have that because it is not my neighbors’ responsibility to subsidize my personal choices, just as it is not my responsibility to subsidize theirs. But it is all Texans’ responsibility to provide a free public education for all students, as our state Constitution requires. We love our public school, that is why we choose to send our child there, despite the myriad of other educational options available to us. We are very involved with our school, participating, volunteering, donating and fundraising as is our responsibility as parents and community members. Our public school is not failing, though it faces many of the same struggles other Texas schools deal with, such as unfunded mandates and the absurdly ineffective STAAR assessments. Speaking of STAAR - if it is so critical to the accountability and success of public education, why doesn’t this bill require private and homeschool students utilizing ESAs to undergo the same STAAR assessments? There are numerous “strings” attached to ESA funding but oddly enough, the assessment that has come to define Texas education for more than a decade is not deemed a worthy enough tool to also evaluate private and homeschool programs? Just one of the many contradictions presented by this bill that purports to provide universal school choice, but in reality only serves a tiny fraction of Texas children. By its own account, this bill will primarily subsidize the choice of parents already sending their children to private school or homeschooling. Only 98,000 current Texas public schoolchildren will be selected for the privilege of using public taxpayer dollars at a private school IF those private schools choose to admit them, because this is really the schools’ choice, not the parents’. How about we adequately fund our state public schools as required rather than having our children play the lottery of maybe getting selected for ESA funding and maybe being admitted to the private school of their choosing and maybe having their educational needs met there (not great odds if that is a SPED student!)? Speaking of the lottery, remember when that was the legislative fix promised to solve our educational funding woes? A false promise, just like this one.

Sheri Meyers, Mrs.

Individual

Fort Worth, TX

No vouchers! This will take much needed funds from the public schools, which have not had any increases since 2019. It is unfair that private schools are not held to the same standard nor required to provide services such as transportation. Plus, I do not want my tax money going to some of these schools, which can be breeding grounds for terrorism.

Josefina Leon, Mrs.

Self and. Child

Wylie, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the implementation of school vouchers. As a parent and a concerned member of this community, I believe that school vouchers will have a harmful effect on our public school system, leading to unintended consequences that will ultimately hurt our children and society as a whole.

First and foremost, school vouchers divert vital funds from public schools. Public schools are already underfunded in many areas, and diverting public money to private institutions would only exacerbate these challenges. The resulting funding cuts would make it even more difficult for public schools to maintain the quality of education, resources, and support services that all students deserve.

Additionally, school vouchers disproportionately benefit wealthier families. While proponents argue that vouchers offer more educational choices, the reality is that many low- and middle-income families cannot afford the additional costs of private school tuition beyond the voucher amount. This creates a two-tiered system of education where those with greater financial means have access to better opportunities, while those who need the most help are left behind in underfunded public schools.

Public education is a cornerstone of our democracy, ensuring that all children, regardless of their economic background, have access to quality education. School vouchers undermine this principle by allowing public funds to flow to private institutions that can select students based on ability, behavior, or other factors. This exclusionary practice can result in some students, particularly those from marginalized communities, being left behind.

I urge you to reconsider any support for school vouchers and instead focus on strengthening our public school system. By investing in public education, we can ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to high-quality, equitable learning opportunities.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue. I hope you will stand with our public schools and reject the harmful policy of school vouchers.

Keir Simon

Self - Consultant

Dallas, TX

I've been a Texas resident for over 40 years and for the life of me, I cannot begin to fathom how holding public schools hostage by withholding funding to support an initiative that the majority of residence despise is beneficial to anyone. This is not about choice. It never has been. Not only are you negatively affecting the education that my two young children are getting but you are driving down my property value because our local public schools are suffering. If people want to go to private school, that is their choice but I do NOT want to be subsidizing it anymore than I want to be subsidizing my neighbor purchasing a new car. That is their choice and their burden to bare. The school taxes I pay should be going to support the teachers, staff, and students where I live not where someone else chooses to send their children.

Ginger Blankenship

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB3. This bill will take money away from public schools that are already underfunded and give it to well off individuals to defray their private schools tuition. The amount proposed are more than what the state is giving public schools for each student. My child went to private schools for part of his education. That cost should not be paid for by tax payers

Sarah Stephens

Dr.

Arlington, TX

I am a retired educator and am writing in opposition to HB 3. Public schools in Texas are already underfunded and HB 3 will only exacerbate the situation. It is essentially a redistribution of wealth to upper income parents who are already sending their children to private schools with little accountability to the state. This bill must be defeated.

Amy Nordstrom

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Amy Royall

Self

Greenville, TX

Please vote NO to vouchers! I am a teacher in a small rural school that functioned with a deficit budget this year. Vouchers will not benefit our students as there are few private schools in the area and most of our students are economically disadvantaged and would have no way to travel to a private school even if they were available. Shifting money from public schools to private will be detrimental to public schools. States that have adopted voucher programs are seeing fraud and waste due to mismanaged money because of little accountability. A final reason to vote NO is my concern about the stability of the TRS pension program. Our pension is supported by teachers paying into the system. If vouchers are approved, public teaching positions will be vacated due to attrition which will leave fewer teachers contributing to TRS. Has the state planned for supplementing our pensions if this happens? I invite any member to spend a day or even a week visiting public schools in your area. You will see dedicated hard working staff trying their best to teach our students and prepare them for successful futures. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and again, please vote NO and instead support public schools fully!

Michele Chambers

self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3 (aka vouchers) as they hurt the public school system which is necessary for us to have an educated, effective society. They give public funds to affluent folks that are already sending their kids to private school.

Diana Escobedo

PTA

Wylie, TX

I oppose to HB3

Cassandra Grim

Self/Retired teacher

San Antonio, TX

Texans do NOT want vouchers! We already have school choice and simply want our public schools and public educators fully funded! This is the best thing we must go for our Texas students!

Signed, a retired teacher

natasha emerson

Self - retired public school teacher

Houston, TX

Please protect our children and public school teachers by voting against the voucher system.

Cynthia Nunnelley

Myself

Cedar Hill, TX

I want HB 3

Camelia Sandoval, Ms

Self/teacher

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will weaken Texas education system. I do not want vouchers in Texas. It is not about school choice equitably for all Texans it is only available for a few rich Texans.

Rosaura Flippin

self

Fort Worth, TX

I urge you to stand with Texas families, not special interests. This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. The students will have a chance, not a choice. ESAs will come with a hefty price tag for me as taxpayer and without any sort of accountability. Texas public education is underfunded, we don't have surplus funds to give to private entities. I urge you to advocate for FULLY FUND PUB ED instead. The majority of the future of Texas attends public schools.

Darla Simmons

Self/teacher

Lufkin, TX

This policy will hurt the most vulnerable of our public school students. Please stand up for those with no voice in this! Vote NO!

Melissa Black

Self

Portland, TX

I adamantly oppose the school voucher program. Gregg Abbot has systemically kneecapped our public school system by withholding funds. This is just the latest in a series of thinly veiled attempts to defund our school system to the benefit of his cronies who will no doubt profit from Texas taxpayer dollars.

Governor Abbot does not represent hard working Texas families- he has sold us out the the highest bidder in an effort to line the pockets of his wealthy friends and donors. I'd say shame on him, but to have sense of shame he'd need to possess a moral compass.

I will use every opportunity to remind my community of his steamrolling behavior at election time.

Michael Muldowney

self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3. Stop playing silly rhetoric games, you will be taking money out of public schools and subsidizing wealthy families that are already sending their children to private schools. How about you just address the giant wage gap that Texas teachers currently have compared to other states and don't suggest taking millions in tax payer funds to subsidize the wealthy. I can think of about a dozen things where that money could be better used. If you can't also identify better uses for that money, you probably shouldn't be in this job.

Rebecca Moore

Self, stay at home mom

Kountze, TX

I am against HB3. I believe that tax credits are a better option for assisting families.

Patrick Blackard
Self, TV lighting director
Round Rock, TX

Don't give my school tax money to private schools. Especially don't give private schools fifty percent more than the allotment for my local public schools that I thought I was paying taxes for.

Lauren Clein, Mrs
Self, Attorney
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Donna Reed
Self
Conroe, TX

I have taught in Texas public schools for over 30 years and my children attended school in Conroe ISD. Since I arrived in Texas in 1980 from NY, the budget for public education has been seriously underfunded especially in the last 25 years. The voucher program will be a killing blow to our public education system. Pulling \$1B from public schools and the 5.5 million Texas kids to "assist" a measly 100K students is not in our students best interest. Texas educators, students and parents don't want vouchers; we want public education to be funded appropriately. Please listen!!!

Sadie Wehner
PTA, Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Amanda Henry
Self occupation public school teacher
Winnsboro, TX

Please say no to vouchers. I feel that the current proposal is unfair to students, parents, and teachers. The bill provides far more money per student to private schools than public schools. Private schools are not held to the same standards as public schools. Public schools are burdened by the STAAR Test where private schools who would also receive state funds are exempt. Private schools do not have to educate all children unlike public schools. Even with vouchers most families who are middle and low income cannot afford private schools. Please properly fund public schools so we can provide students and families with the quality they deserve. For the past two biennium the legislature has under funded schools so they could say how horrible those schools are in order to push forward the idea of vouchers. I am a teacher who is passionate about my students and wants what is best for them. Please give us the money that we need to properly do our jobs and allow our students to succeed.

Chauna Jacques
Self/ teacher
Spring, TX

I say no!! I am an educator at a Title 1 School!! Please protect our public schools !! I say no!!!

Rebecca Parker-Felder
Self-parent
Magnolia, TX

Please do not pass vouchers. By undercutting and over mandating public schools, you are jeopardizing the education of many young Texans. ESAs are not the way to raise the ranking of the Texas education system. Fund Public Education!!!

Macey Byles
My child
Fort Worth, TX

Please reject this bill and focus on fully funding our public schools! Private schools cannot meet the needs of every student. Saving the rich money is only hurting the middle and lower class. These vouchers rob our children of a better education and extra curricular activities, along with our teachers of jobs. Our education system is on the decline since this has been a topic of discussion.

Erin Thompson
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose HB 3 and any bill that seeks to legalize school vouchers or educational savings accounts.

Sara Allen, Dr.
Self - Clinical Psychologist
Plano, TX

We **STRONGLY** oppose these education savings accounts or school vouchers. We want a government that uses our tax dollars for essential services - not to fund people's personal preferences. Having good **PUBLIC** schools is important for the education of **ALL** Texans. These school vouchers take money away from our public schools which are a very important part of children's lives and our communities. If some people want private schools or home-schooling, that is fine and they should have the freedom to do that - **BUT** they should not get our tax dollars to fund their personal preferences!!

Nydia Alvarez-Alonzo
Mission Classroom Teachers Association
Mission, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) in Texas. While I understand the desire to offer more options to parents, I believe that the implementation of ESAs would have a negative impact on our public education system and the students who rely on it.

Texas already provides ample educational choices through public charter schools, magnet programs, and specialized districts. Additionally, our state's public schools are obligated to serve all students, including those with special needs, English language learners, and students from low-income backgrounds. Diverting public funds into ESAs would only reduce the resources available for these schools, making it more difficult for them to provide the quality education that every child deserves.

Moreover, any funding taken from the public system should be directed back to where the students are, not into private accounts that may not guarantee equitable or quality education for all. Public money should be allocated to public schools, which are accountable to the community and are required to meet rigorous standards for all students, not just a select few.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of diverting funds away from our public schools, which serve the majority of Texas students. Instead of ESAs, we should focus on strengthening our public education system, ensuring that every student has access to high-quality teachers, resources, and educational opportunities.

Please stand with the students of Texas and oppose the approval of Education Savings Accounts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Emily Dial
Self/Engineer
Fort Worth, TX

All of this money going to charter schools is shameful. You'll be hurting almost all of your constituents to line the pockets of the rich.

Sarah Gray

Self

Austin, TX

I am a longtime public education advocate and a community member in Austin. I also lived in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for most of my life. I am saying heck no to vouchers. Let it me known I am AGAINST HB 3 and against privatization of schools. School choice is just you putting lipstick on a big. We want fully funded public schools. We don't want vouchers. Listen to us. All Texans of all backgrounds want their neighborhood schools to be fully funded so we can provide our children with the best. Fund our schools. Say no to vouchers.

Shirley Hanna, Ms

Self (retired teacher)

Fort Worth, TX

I am a teacher, my husband was a teacher for 50 years, my son and daughter are teachers and I have a grandson in public school so I have a passion for education.

I am a person of faith. I do not believe that tax dollars should not fund vouchers to private schools. Parents have always had a choice of where and how their children are educated. The proposed voucher program would take money from public schools and be a gift to people who already have the means to send their children to private schools. As a person of faith the voucher program would trample the separation of church and state. Please do not let this bill pass. Our public schools need to be supported and valued. Visit your public schools and see the what is going on with dedicated teachers and students. You might be surprised. Assessments are necessary but the STARR Test doesn't give a complete picture. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of what two-thirds of Texas voters want.

Tammy Foster, Mrs.

Self, parent, teacher, pta member

Midland, TX

Please vote against this bill. It will take even more funds and programs away from our students and public schools. Private schools do well because they have substantial funding and a variety of engaging programs for students. Public schools need more funding so they can offer STEAM classes and other engaging clubs and opportunities to students as private schools do. This voucher program will hurt Texas families and schools. I've worked in a well funded school district in Texas and seen students thrive and I've worked in a district burdened by losing so much funding to the robin hod system in place that students had no real elective choices and no clubs which meant engagement and academics suffered. Unhappy kids will not perform well. Schools need funds to make learning engaging and fun. Additionally, private schools have no incentive to keep tuition rates low enough that the vouchers would help. A \$10000/year voucher would only help cover the cost of 2 of the 5 private school options here. The other 3 would still be unaffordable for any family unable to pay costs above the voucher as well as costs of uniforms, etc. Private schools also already offer a few scholarships to underprivileged individuals, so there are opportunities for families to access them already in place. This bill will not help the majority of Texas families and will only further decimate our already struggling, underfunded schools. Please vote no! Do not support this bill!

Ingrid Blue, Mrs.

Self

Arlington, TX

Please don't vote for this. Please take the time to look at where other states have failed on this issue. Please take care of our communities and public schools. This isn't about school choice, but is about subsidizing students that already attended a private school. I am the mother of two public school students both on the spectrum. I worry that this will drain their schools already deprived resources.

Margaret Marquez

Self/Teacher

Cedar Park, TX

Please vote no to vouchers! Properly fund public schools and raise the basic allotment to \$1300 per student!

Sincerely,

Margaret Marquez

Proud Texas teacher of 32 years!

Mary Jones

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I am deeply against HB 3 and the shift away from public tax dollars being spent in schools and academies that are not public.

Linda Siemers

Self

Houston, TX

I am against vouchers. They will destroy our public school system. My children and grandchildren received excellent educations in HISD. Increase fundings for public schools.

Jessica Morrison

Self, attorney

Fort Worth, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

My name is Jessica Morrison, and I am a Texas parent and PTA leader from Fort Worth. I am writing today to express my opposition to House Bill 3 (HB3) and the proposed Education Savings Accounts (ESAs).

One of the main reasons I oppose HB3 and ESAs is that they divert vital resources from our public schools to private institutions that are not held to the same standards of accountability. This could result in even fewer resources for our already underfunded public education system. Public schools serve all children, regardless of background or ability, and they are an essential foundation for our communities. By shifting funds away from public education to ESAs, we risk undermining the very institutions that serve the majority of Texas students.

HB3 and ESAs disproportionately benefit wealthier families who have the means to supplement their children's education with private options. This leaves low-income and at-risk students—who need public education the most—without the resources and support they need to succeed. Education should be a right, not a privilege. ESAs widen the achievement gap and reduce access to quality education for our most vulnerable students.

As a parent of children in Fort Worth ISD, I see firsthand how crucial it is for every child to have access to quality public education. In our community, public schools are a cornerstone of our neighborhood and city's well-being. The teachers, staff, and administrators work tirelessly to provide a quality education for every student, and cutting funding through ESAs will hurt that effort.

I urge the Texas House to reject HB3 and any proposals for Education Savings Accounts. We must prioritize strengthening our public schools, increasing funding, and ensuring that every Texas child has access to a high-quality education that will help them succeed. Instead of diverting funds to private schools, we should focus on improving our public school systems—investing in teachers, enhancing resources for all students, and making sure that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

I hope that you will take my concerns, as well as the concerns of many other Texans, into account when making decisions on this critical issue. Our children's futures depend on the quality of education they receive, and we must ensure that every student has an equal chance to succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask that you vote against HB3 and the Education Savings Accounts proposal.

Sincerely,?

Jessica Morrison

Sandra Dolan, Ms

Wellsprings Methodist church

Georgetown, TX

No money for private school vouchers! Invest in the public school system so its rating goes up nationally, not at the bottom where it is now. My daughter is a teacher and I get tired of her spending her salary for her class!

Heather Clark
Self - Accountant
Austin, TX

My name is Heather Clark and I am writing to oppose House Bill 3.

I grew up in a rural town outside of Tulsa, OK called Sapulpa. While there were some K-8 school systems in the area, there was really only one high school that students in town could attend. That high school was tragically underfunded: we could not take home our textbooks for most classes because there weren't enough for the class, and worksheets were instead projected onto the white board because we didn't have enough money for copies. I spent a good chunk of my eighth grade biology class in the bathroom, coughing so hard I would dry heave, because I was allergic to the black mold growing in the back of the classroom.

If I wanted to transfer out of Sapulpa High School, I had two options. One, a small private Christian school in town that had a handful of kids per grade and acted more like a homeschool hub than a school. Two, a rich private school over thirty minutes from home that would cost over half of my parents' annual salaries combined. A few years after I graduated, a new option appeared: an online charter school called Epic. Epic would eventually commit "the largest abuse of taxpayer dollars in Oklahoma history" through embezzlement, per the Oklahoma State Auditor.

School vouchers purport to benefit kids in circumstances like the ones I grew up in. They claim to swoop talented kids out of low performing schools and put them into high performing ones. But that doesn't work in rural towns where one school is the only option, and charter schools aren't itching to bring classrooms to towns where they may get ten students. The much better, and much more equitable option, would be to put that money toward public schools so kids wouldn't need to leave in the first place. Rural schools need help, there's no doubt about that—so give them books. Give them paper copies. And give them classrooms without mold.

For the reasons detailed above, I urge members of the Committee to vote no on HB 3.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katie Wharry, Mrs.
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Vote against vouchers!

Lisa Jones
self, Editor, Aurora Grants and Foundations
Austin, TX

I am **ADAMANTLY OPPOSED** to this bill, its ultimate goals, and its defiance of the majority of the voters in this state who are similarly **OPPOSED** to it. If Texas has a rainy day fund of an anticipated \$27B by the end of this year, why can't we improve the public schools this bill is claimed to supersede?

Sandra Schneider, Mrs.
Allen ISD Teacher
Allen, TX

Public schools have made our state and nation great. Please adequately fund public schools instead of providing "welfare to the wealthy."

Brent Hawkins, Dr
Self
Copperas Cove, TX

I oppose HB 3 as a conservative in the state of Texas. This bill is not a fix for education and financially unsustainable. Competition is not a proven improvement mechanism and public schools have proven to be the most successful delivery method of the vast majority of students. I would love to debate the issue but clearly there is no forum for this nor will voters be allowed to vote on this bill. I could support this bill if public schools was funded at the \$15,000 per pupil revenue for M&O only by raising the basic allotment.

Elizabeth Switek
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote no on HB3 which is a scam to defund our public schools and transfer public money to wealthy individuals and private schools who should not receive it. Public schools provide access to ALL students while private schools can deny entry, not provide transportation, free breakfast/lunch, offer no SpEd or section 504 services and can actually teach untrue things like humans living at the same time as dinosaurs (case in point: taught at Brenham Baptist School). The majority of vouchers will go to people who already pay and send their children to private school and the vast majority of Texas children will not be eligible and do not even live in counties with private schools who. This scheme has already bankrupted Arizona. Spend public money on public schools. My property tax money should not go to a bunch of Christian Nationalists and fringe religion followers. FUND public schools now. You have not raised the per student allotment since 2019 while costs for everything have gone up and every single public school district in Texas is feeling the pinch and facing deficits that are causing them to make decisions that hurt our children, teachers, communities and ultimately Texas. The voucher scam is short-sighted and will make Texas children uncompetitive in the future. Vote NO on HB3.

Keegan Webb
Self, elementary principal
Gatesville, TX

I implore you to stand up for the 5.5 million public school children of TX and vote no to HB 3. Our public schools are grossly underfunded with teachers leaving the profession at unprecedented rates. Texas can not sustain sending an estimated 5 billion dollars (over the next 5 yrs) to private schools and properly fund our public schools. School choice already exists though the form of private school, charter school, homeschool, or applying for a transfer as my personal children have done. HB 3 is a not a parent choice bill, but a SCHOOL choice bill as your private schools will hand pick the students that attend. The passing of the bill will begin the systematic dismantling of our public schools and this is NOT good for Texas. Please stand up for what is right, stand up for our children, stand up for the future of Texas.

Tara Barrett
Self
College Station, TX

Charter schools are already and alternative to public schools. Will private schools be held to the same standards as public and charter schools? Why not focus on putting the money and energy into bettering our public school system? Dividing assets even further only weakens our already fragile public school system. How do we get Mr. Talarico in office as governor? He's one of the few people who's only agenda seems to be for the welfare of the students.

Gabrielle Rasmussen
Self
tomball, TX

I oppose this bill and I'm against school vouchers.

Christy Nutter, Ms.

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill because it will hurt public education in Texas, and public education in Texas is already struggling. Fund more public education, invest in the equal and free education of our children to ensure a prosperous future.

Keith Dye

Self

Canyon Lake, TX

Against all defunding of public education

Crystal Smith

Self

Kerrville, TX

Many questions are still to be answered regarding this program. As a parent, I was proactive and created an ESA for my child. I should receive a credit for not using the state provided ESA.

While a competitive market is great, we should be looking at the real problem. Texas has lowered the standards. "No Child Left Behind" became a catalyst for this, as schools simply pass a failing child on to the next grade. Children need to experience failure. As they'll experience this in life. They need to know how to handle these emotions, and then how to address the situation. This makes them better functioning adults in society. We've lowered the standards for teachers. We've lowered the standards for GT/AP/Honors classes. These classes have become where the good kids go. Educators who care, are not allowed to reprimand students, as they have fear of administration and/or parents.

This is an entitlement program, pitting rural vs urban schools.

Texans want safe communities. Moms want to be able to pay for their groceries and have some left over. Texans already have school choice - I can send my child to public school, private school, or home school.

Heidi Dye

Self

Canyon Lake, TX

Absolutely NOT in favor of anything to do with vouchers, ESA's or bills which will continue to defund our public schools. The state constitution entitles students to a free and appropriate education.

Katherine Kelly, Dr.

Self; pharmacist

Grand Prairie, TX

Public money should be for public education and not private schools that can pick and choose their preferred students. We should not reduce funds and resources for public schools that help children who need it the most and have few or no options for alternative education.

Karen MCGUIRE

Self

Houston, TX

It has been shown when other states adopted the ESA serious funding problems escalated year by year and made public schools lose the necessary funding to provide proper education opportunities for those students

Catherine Ramos

Self - N/A

Austin, TX

I am writing to express my disapproval of HB 3 by Buckley, which proposes we give taxpayer dollars to parents sending their children to private schools. At this time, it has never been more important to make quality public education available to all Texans, and fund our public schools. The voucher amounts would take money and resources away from our public school system that provides essential services to our students. Just this week, four schools in my hometown of Carrollton were closed down due to a lack of funding, despite the hardship this puts on the families that rely on those schools. Private and Charter schools do not necessarily guarantee a better education to students, just a more exclusive one, and this does not serve the needs of Texans.

Susan Stabe

Self

KATY, TX

I oppose the voucher HB 3. I believe that it will remove funding from public schools, benefit higher income families with children already in private schools, and in the long run do disservice to special needs children both in private and public schools, because private schools can pick and choose their students, and public schools will have less funds to assist such students. HB 3 takes the emphasis off of improving public education and the recruitment of excellent teachers by not funding our public schools as they should be funded. \$250 per student is wholly inadequate. HB3 is basically caving to special interests and big money funding here in Texas that has an agenda to destroy public education.

Meghan Chiasson

Self

Forney, TX

What if we poured this money into public education to develop the best public educational system in the country?

Vouchers will destroy public education many Texas still will not be able to afford private school, even with a voucher, which means this only subsidizes education for rich kids, which every one attends schools with limited resources and huge class sizes.

Vote no for vouchers and fund our public education system.

Jeremy Sutka
self
McKinney, TX

Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) are a brazen scam—a Trojan horse to dismantle public education under the guise of "choice." They're welfare for the wealthy, a taxpayer-funded coupon system for the rich to subsidize private schools while starving public schools of resources. This isn't reform; it's a calculated assault on public education, the cornerstone of opportunity for millions.

ESAs don't empower families; they divert public dollars into private hands, enriching the privileged while leaving vulnerable students behind. Wealthy families get vouchers for private schools, paid for by taxpayers, while low-income students are trapped in underfunded, crumbling public schools. This isn't equity; it's a grotesque reinforcement of inequality, where the rich thrive and everyone else fights for scraps.

Proponents claim ESAs offer "parental choice," but that's a lie. Real choice means ensuring every family has access to quality public schools, not creating a two-tiered system where the wealthy buy their way out of shared responsibility. ESAs betray the promise of public education—that every child, regardless of zip code or income, deserves a well-funded education. Instead, they siphon billions from public schools, leaving them to crumble.

This is a moral failure. Public education is the bedrock of democracy, the great equalizer. By defunding public schools, ESAs undermine this principle, creating a system where the wealthy thrive and everyone else is left behind. It's a handout for the rich disguised as progress.

But let's be clear: this is exactly what the Republican Party wants. An uneducated society is easier to control, manipulate, and exploit. By gutting public education, Republicans ensure only the privileged have access to quality education, while the rest are left uninformed and underserved. This isn't an accident; it's a strategy. An educated populace demands accountability and fights for justice. An uneducated one is easier to dominate.

We must reject ESAs and every scheme to privatize our schools. Public funds should strengthen public education, not subsidize private profits. We need smaller classes, modern facilities, well-paid teachers, and support for students in need. Anything less is a betrayal of our children and our future. ESAs are a raid on public education, a handout for the wealthy, and a Republican strategy to keep the populace uneducated and under control. We cannot—and must not—let it stand.

Nikita Pena
Self
Rio Grande City, TX
VOTE NO!

Beatriz Bocanegra
Self
Hutto, TX

I am a parent of three children in the public school system and I OPPOSE school vouchers.

Pam Ferworn, Mrs.

Self - Mom / Speech-Language Pathologist / Artist / Volunteer / Mentor / Wife

Houston, TX

Dear Rep. Buckley

I appreciate your efforts to address education. However, we oppose vouchers. For us, fairness is the main issue; private or charter schools that receive government funds should have the same accountability standards as public schools, and the dollar amount per student from the state should be the same for both voucher recipients and the basic allotment. At present, there is no obligation for private school to admit any student who applies.

The voters that I speak to know that vouchers are purely political and the vast majority are against them. We are the same; we reject this proposed version of vouchers/ESA for the reasons above.

Sincerely,

Pam & Kevin Ferworn

Lansing Brown

Self parent and taxpayer

Cypress, TX

No to vouchers that only serve a small percentage of Texas students. Fully fund public schools!

Valerie Valentine

Self

Austin, TX

I do NOT support taking money from public education to spend in private schools. A free public education is provided for all, if someone chooses to not participate in the public education system, they should be responsible for the cost.

Tiffany Brantley

Self

Marble Falls, TX

I oppose HB3. My tax dollars should go to public schools that accept all students.

Debbie Strouse

Self

Mcgregor, TX

I am totally against this bill as it is written. It does not support Texas students. Remove Tier 4 of the ESA. Require private schools to take all public ed students who apply. This bill does not support the needs of special ed students. Please support Texas public schools instead.

Heather Cole
Self/ clinical pharmacist
Arlington, TX

The proposed bill presents serious concerns for education funding, equity, and community cohesion. It would strain already limited resources for both rural and urban schools by enabling student departures without addressing the fixed costs these institutions must maintain regardless of enrollment numbers.

The exemption of charter schools from standardized testing requirements like the STAAR exam creates an uneven playing field. When different institutions operate under different accountability standards, we cannot make fair comparisons or ensure consistent quality across all educational options.

This bill essentially provides a subsidy that fragments our educational community. Rather than bringing parents together across income levels to work toward better schools for all children, it enables withdrawal from the shared project of public education.

Most troublingly, data from neighboring states like Louisiana demonstrates that similar charter school initiatives have not delivered improved educational outcomes. On average, charter schools perform worse than their public counterparts despite operating with different rules and standards.

I urge you to vote against this bill. Our focus should be on strengthening public education through evidence-based improvements that benefit all students rather than diverting resources to alternatives without proven success. We need solutions that unite our communities in supporting education rather than fracturing them.????????????????

Karen Kelley
Self
Katy, TX

I oppose vouchers.

Kate Johnson
Self
Haslet, TX

I oppose HB 3 or any effort to defund public schools in attempt to prop up charter or private schools. My son relies on an IEP in High School and has used special education services in public school since he was in Kindergarten. Any cuts to public school funding, or quite frankly, not FULLY funding public schools puts special education at risk and diminishes the services that my son and other children rely on. Texas is currently in the bottom 10 states of the most poorly funded schools, according to Texas AFT and one of the poorly educated states in the United States. To fund vouchers or a savings plan for parents to choose a charter public school, money would need to be removed from public schools. This bill also disenfranchises many Texans. 25% of Texas public schools are in Rural areas. Over 165 counties DO NOT have private schools, making public schools their only option. For families in rural areas, those that rely on special education, and those that may not be able to afford the full tuition of a charter school or public school above and beyond the voucher or savings plan amount, the quality of their education will suffer and lead to more economic difficulties later on.

Please just fully fund our public schools, where families and children have can have a level playing field and the best chance to get a quality education and be a contributing member to society, which ultimately benefits all of us in the end. Thank you.

Molly Gonzales, Dr.

Self

Brenham, TX

I am saying NO to vouchers. As an educator, I am very well versed in the difference between public schools and private schools. I think this bill is a miserable attempt to give tax breaks to the wealthy. For rural areas, many don't even have access to private schools. \$10,000 will not cover private tuition and private schools are not held to the same standards that public schools are. They are held to fewer. These funds could be put towards the 99% of students who attend public schools and support their education. This bill is disappointing and is a sad attempt by Governor who continues to not listen to the majority voice in the state who all say NO to vouchers. This isn't a partisan issue - it's literally a human issue.

Cheryl Bellah

Self

Rowlett, TX

I am against this. I have paid private school tuition for many years and know this won't give people choice. Private schools do not want families who must use other sources of income to pay tuition. They want people who can pay tuition without assistance plus pay additional funds to further support the private school. This will only help people with the resources to pay private school tuition in full independently each year plus pay the additional "donation" amounts. It will not make private school a choice for someone whose family cannot already absorb the high cost of private school. I paid private school tuition for more than 10 years. I understand fully what those schools want from their student's family.

Christine Broughal

Texans for Special Education Reform

Cedar Park, TX

We at Texans for Special Education Reform submit the following comments in opposition to HB 3. The concept of "school choice" as contemplated on the Bill is literally just that. It is the school's choice. Private schools have the choice as to whether to admit students with disabilities. They have the choice whether to raise tuition on an annual basis to put it out of reach of children with disabilities, they have the choice to provide or not provide services and supports necessary for children with disabilities. They have the choice as to whether to open a school in a location that is rural or a low income area to make it more accessible for students with disabilities. They have the choice to provide transportation or not to provide transportation for students with disabilities. They hold all the choice. For this reason, we feel that the money would be better spent going straight to funding special education services to students in public schools. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our public comments.

Nia Crockett, Mrs.

Self

DeSoto, TX

As a public education worker, I know first hand how our schools are working to provide the best education possible for our students of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Katy Dylla

Self

La Vernia, TX

A hard NO for the voucher bill.

Allison Bardin

Self—homemaker and former teacher

Pflugerville, TX

The voucher system is appalling. Not only will it take funding away from the already struggling public schools, but only a certain segment of the population of Texans will see any benefit from it. Those of us that can see through this know that poorer students will not be able to attend private schools, as \$10,000 will not begin to cover full tuition. Vouchers are simply a discount for students already enrolled in private schools.

Gayle Ash
self - attorney
Belton, TX

I am a former public school teacher, 30-year homeschooler, attorney, and native Texan. One thing I am proud of in Texas is our deep respect for and deference to parents' rights to direct their children's upbringing. HB3 honors that core Texan value.

Regarding the fear that this might take money away from public schools, the only funds the school will forego are those marked to educate a child no longer there for the school to educate, thus eliminating the need for those funds.

I applaud the tiered plan to prefer students with disabilities and our most vulnerable lower-income families who often benefit most from such a program but are unlikely to be able to attend a hearing during the workday. Thank you for specifying that for students with disabilities, funding would be correlated to their individualized education program to meet their needs, and other special provisions for them.

Truly, this bill provides a way for all our students to have a more individualized education with freedom to choose a program to meet the unique needs and giftings of all our varied Texas children.

I am grateful for the thoughtful protections for our children's private information. I am grateful for the provisions limiting the funds that can be used to administer the program, which will limit unnecessary bureaucracy. I am deeply grateful for §29.368 confirming that no service provider, vendor, or participant will face limitations on their religious, educational, or general business freedoms.

I respect the thoughtful debate I witnessed this morning and offer a few comments.

I agree with Rep. Hinojosa that "operates in the state" is vague. Ex: vendor based in Ohio selling a science kit to a Texas student should be okay.

Approval process for vendors of books and materials needs clarifying.

Also, EAOs should not be permitted to solicit gifts, only the comptroller.

I believe better of our private schools that Rep. Talarico's concern that they will work against admission of our poorest students. I believe these schools will be excited to have more opportunities to serve them.

I agree with Rep. Schoolcraft that it does not make sense to arbitrarily cap the income eligibility given that the wealthy pay the lion's share of property taxes.

On Vice Chair Bernal's idea that private schools might waive tuition above the allotment, it's not a bad idea, but I would not want to place requirements on private entities. The school must have the option to opt out completely. Participating schools might be limited from raising tuition above the rate of inflation (or similar metric).

Families should be able to sell program materials after 2 years to avoid waste.

Special ed allotments should only go to those actually providing special ed services.

This program is destined to be an enormous blessing to Texas students, helping them to succeed in the 21st century.

Thank you, Chairman Buckley, and honorable committee members for your caring efforts for Texas children.

Cindy Ashmore
39 year experience public school educator
Lubbock, TX

No to HB3. Our kids deserve better. You are failing our kids if you pass this

Kathryn Schaper
Self. Photographer
AUSTIN, TX

Oppose establishing an ESA program in Texas and/or voucher system

Emma Dishner, Dr.
Self
Dallas, TX

No school vouchers. Fully fund public schools.

David Fleming
Self
Little Elm, TX

Vouchers are not for working class Americans. This should be voted down.

Amy Boyer
Friendswood ISD
Friendswood, TX

Please do not pass this bill. I feel it will ruin our public education system. I have been a public school teacher for 28 years. Both of my children are in public school. My husband went to public school. Please do not ruin our schools. We need all the money we can get. We need more teachers. We need your help. Please remember we are voters too.

Taylor Kent-Kowalski
Self/Educator
Houston, TX

NO TO SCHOOL CHOICE! From my perspective, school choice in Texas undermines the public schools that serve as the backbone of our communities. I've seen how diverting resources to private options not only weakens our collective investment in education but also deepens inequality. Every child deserves access to a robust, inclusive, and well-funded public education, and I believe that investing in our shared schools is the best way to secure a bright future for everyone. Listen to your constituents NOT those who fill your pockets.

Frank and Nancy Schultz
Self retired
Spring, TX

Public money to public schools! No support for private schools.

Russell Hicks
Self
Cypress, TX

Im against vouchers!

Linda Wandt
Self, Adult Arts Educator
Austin, TX

This is a terrible effort to defund public school even more so than they already are. All children deserve education, not just rich ones. This bill is a blatant attack on lower & middle class families, and a shameful attempt to decrease opportunities for kids. The voucher system benefits only a small percent of families, leaving so many kids behind. Our kids deserve better than this. Our teachers deserve better than this. Our state deserves better than this. This bill is shameful, aiming to further weaken the public school system, making life much harder for Texan families. We don't want it.

Meagan Blair
Self
Lubbock, TX

I strongly disagree

Jared Ripple
Self, parent
Cedar Park, TX

I am writing to voice my disapproval of this bill. First and foremost, I have yet to hear a single valid argument for ESAs. It has not proven to be beneficial in any way in the states that have implemented such programs. Passing this bill will only make our taxes go up and cripple our public education system, and, frankly, I find it disheartening that our elected officials who support this bill are either completely out of touch with their constituents and their needs, or they truly lack the intelligence necessary to fulfill the duties of their office. There is a third possibility, but I hope and pray that our elected representatives have more morals than to trade their votes for money and/or power. There is no reason to take money away from our public schools that are already woefully underfunded. The passage of this bill will force districts to make cuts to staff and resources and communities to make up the difference by raising taxes. This will lead to our already subpar education falling even further behind other states and other developed countries and have a generations-long effect on our economy and the health and happiness of the citizens of our great

Veronica Lester
Self - sales operations manager
Richardson, TX

As a granddaughter of a former teacher in Texas, I have been raised to appreciate public education. Our neighbors are better when they are educated. Our communities are better when they are educated. Public education provides the opportunity to all children regardless of economic background. Public education provides options for those with disabilities, physical or mental. Private schools are not required and are not equipped for this. I do not want my tax \$ going to any private schools. Period.

Timmie Bui
Self
Austin, TX

NO TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS! You are destroying our public education system by offering vouchers!

Suzanne Leonard
Self, Business director and parent
Mckinney, TX

As a Texas parent of 3 and strong proponent of public education (and former special education teacher and school counselor) I adamantly oppose school vouchers and ask our elected officials to represent your constituents by voting No.

Denicia Karcher
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Public dollars belong in public schools.

Cynthia Dinneen, Ms.

Self

Lago Vista, TX

As a product designer of Texas public schools and a retired teacher/ librarian, I stand firmly against educational vouchers. While much could be improved in Texas public education, there's so much they get right.

Public schools educate the whole child for EVERY child whether they are bilingual, gifted, learning disabled, physically disabled or emotionally disturbed. Private school are not required to accept every child, but rather the chosen ones.

Society struggles from deeply rooted divisions along socioeconomic, race, gender status. We must look for and embrace the ways we are alike, rather than the way we are different.

Please DO NOT rob the majority to pander to the minority who seek to deepen the societal divide at the expense of our future success as a society.

Gwendolyn Rivers

Myself

Spicewood, TX

I do not want this

Robin Underdown

Self

San Marcos, TX

My name is Robin Underdown and I am a teacher in Hays CISD.i am completely opposed to HB3 or any other voucher legislation for a multitude of reasons.

Meagan Wentz

Self

Richardson, TX

Strongly OPPOSE this bill. I do not agree with using my taxes to pay for someone else's private education. We want our public schools funded! We do not want our taxes given to those in private schools.

Jasmine Galdamez

Self

Lubbock, TX

Public schools are integral to the quality of education that every American child is entitled to. By presenting a voucher system, we are spending tax payer money to actively compete against the interests of every child that attends public schools. We must invest into our communities that are already here - sending kids to other schools under the guise of "better opportunities" takes away the opportunities of kids who will ultimately be stuck in underfunded public schools. Texas education isn't behind because our public education is intrinsically subpar, but because we choose to not to provide proper wages for teachers, proper funding for up to date textbooks, and continually underestimate the power of equally available education. Do what is best for all Texan children and do not let the voucher system through.

FarCett Patrick

Self

Haslet, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3, which seeks to establish an education savings account (ESA) program, effectively diverting public funds to private schools through a voucher system. This legislation threatens the financial stability of Texas public schools, which are already underfunded and struggling to meet the needs of millions of students. Rather than funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions that lack the same accountability and accessibility as public schools, we must prioritize strengthening the foundation of our public education system.

Texas public schools serve a diverse student population, many of whom rely on critical resources such as specialized instruction, mental health services, and meal programs. With HB 3, funding that should be allocated toward teacher salary increases, modernized school facilities, and fully funded meal programs will instead be used to subsidize private education—without ensuring equal access for all students. These vouchers will not cover the full cost of tuition at most private schools, leaving many families unable to afford the remaining expenses. As a result, only a select few will benefit, while the vast majority of students in public schools will suffer from further budget cuts and declining resources.

Furthermore, private schools are not required to adhere to the same academic standards, student accountability measures, or non-discrimination policies as public schools. This means that taxpayer dollars could support institutions that exclude students based on income, academic performance, disability status, or other factors—something that public schools are legally prohibited from doing. Public funds should serve the public good, and diverting them to private entities undermines the fundamental purpose of public education: to provide every child with a high-quality, equitable learning experience, regardless of their background or zip code.

Instead of promoting school vouchers, Texas lawmakers must focus on fully funding public schools, increasing teacher salaries to address the growing educator shortage, ensuring that school buildings are safe and modern, and prioritizing student well-being, including school meal programs. Our students, teachers, and communities deserve better than policies that weaken public education in favor of private interests. I urge legislators to reject HB 3 and instead invest in the future of all Texas students by strengthening, not dismantling, our public school system.

Amanda Villanueva

Self

Brownsville, TX

Against

Scott Jessen

Self

Richardson, TX

Our public schools are under funded, school teachers are grossly under paid and have been burdened with added security cost with no additional support from the legislature. Private schools are not required to take every student who walks through the door nor do they have the same accountability standard as public schools. There is simply not enough money to support public schools and private schools.

Laurel Trevino, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3 bill. "Education Savings Account Program" is a misleading name for the HB3 school voucher program. I'm a lifelong educator. I've taught biology in private schools at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. I've taught biology in private and public universities. I'm the beneficiary of both public and private education. Every American has the right to a good well-rounded education without religious or political bias. Most Americans benefit from our public education system while a privileged few can afford private schools. Private schools should not compete for resources with public schools that we fund through our taxes.

The nation and Texas already have an education funding program called Public Education. Rather than siphon money away from public schools, which are already underfunded in Texas, this state should fulfill its obligation of fully funding public schools to ensure that teachers get paid adequately for their hard work and school infrastructure is maintained and improved.

Public schools helped build the American middle class, which make this country thrive because public education welcomes all students and discriminates against none. Private education excludes a great segment of the population. Since the Constitution of the United States stipulates a separation of church and state, public education cannot impose any religious beliefs upon any students. That should continue to be the best way forward.

Although I do not have children, I pay property taxes to fund Dripping Springs Independent School District for my neighbors' children to get a basic education. The state of Texas should not siphon my/our taxes into vouchers that would fund semi-private schools, which will benefit upper income students to the exclusion of most lower income students. A school voucher program would hijack our publicly funded education system to re-direct it toward a semi-private education system. Semi-exclusive schools should be funded by their patrons and not by our collective tax money.

Barbara Meyer

Myself

Tomball, TX

I am against HB 3

Anna Harmon

Self

Brownsville, TX

Against.

Caroline Tarski

Self

Uvalde, TX

How dare you. This voucher bill is a joke and is set to ruin rural education systems. Not only are you hurting the future of Texas, you are hurting teachers who are paid NOTHING to teach our children.

Jenn Herbin

Self/Public school parent

Buda, TX

I do not support private school vouchers or anything similar. They will segregate our school system and further divide differing socioeconomic statuses. The money should be spent to further improve our public school system. It appears that public school funding is being held ransom. Testing is being changed so that it looks like the schools are doing worse when it's just the testing changes and continual budget cuts. The vouchers should be refused at all costs.

Wanda Digby
self
Cedar Park, TX

Please vote NO on HB3. Our public school system provides a quality education for our children. If a parent should choose to send their child to a private school, they should pay that cost. We need to re-invest in our public school system, our children and our teachers. We should value our teachers more by investing in their continued education, compensation and retention by increasing their salaries. Teacher salaries in Texas are below the US average and we should focus on increasing the salaries to retain teachers. Thank you.

Anna Morrison
Self/ teacher
Grand Prairie, TX

As a public school teacher and constituent, I strongly oppose school vouchers. These programs would exacerbate inequities in our education system by diverting funding away from already underfunded public schools, further widening the gap between wealthy and low-income students. Additionally, vouchers could dip into TRS funds, jeopardizing the retirement security of dedicated educators.

Private schools, unlike public schools, are not required to serve all students, including those with special education needs. They can deny admission and are not held to the same accountability standards as public institutions. Using taxpayer dollars to fund schools that do not follow the same laws and obligations as public schools is fundamentally unfair.

I urge you to prioritize strengthening public education rather than redirecting funds to private institutions that do not serve all students equitably. Please oppose any legislation that supports school vouchers.

Sincerely,
Anna Morrison

Lindsey Harris
Self
Dallas, TX

This will harm children in Texas more than it will help. Rural kids will be hurt the most. We need to find better ways to support our kids and teachers. Vouchers have not had overall success in other states, Texas will not be the exception.

Lynn Hagan, Dr
Self/retired social worker
College Station, TX

Against education savings accounts (ESA).Against use of private funds for public education as this is tantamount to the defunding and destruction of the public education system resulting in its lack of accountability.

Whitney Lacey
Self
Austin, TX

Eliminating critical race theory from the curriculum is cruel. Give our kids a chance to learn and make a difference.

Danielle Tennant, Mrs.
My family
San Antonio, TX

As a new parent, it is more personal than ever to save and properly fund our public schools. We should not be giving vouchers to private schools. Public money should stay with public schools. And while I'm at it, they should all be funded equally!

Lianna King
self
San Antonio, TX

As a former public school educator, I oppose HB3. I worked in public education and encountered first hand the funding needs for every student on campus. I'm specifically concerned about our special education students. This population of students require specially designed instruction from a certified educator. This money will be directed to schools who get to choose their population, testing requirements, and educators. How are we serving the needs of every child by allowing parents who already send their children to a private school to get a coupon. The public schools need these "coupons" to maintain a higher educational enviroment for each child. Passing this bill will disrupt public education funding and it's already at an all time low. I am concerned about the effects it will have on my children currently attending public schools.

Sara Morales
Swlf
Austin, TX

I am against this bill.

Anne LeMasters, LMSW
self, school counselor
Austin, TX

As a public school employee and social worker I am vehemently against this bill. We need to put money into public schools rather than divesting in them. Texas needs to focus on strengthening our public education system. Passing this bill would be detrimental to the future of children in our state.

Kara Labbe-Lane, 1940
self
Carrollton, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Terri Sponsler, Mrs.
Self
Los Fresnos, TX

I am a retired public school teacher. I taught 39 years in Texas public schools and I am opposed to this bill for three reasons. First, I believe this will take money from public schools that won't be replaced by other means. Secondly, I think this will end up causing layoff ps in the public school setting high will have a detrimental effect on the teacher retirement system, and third, I do not want my tax dollars used to support private schools education in general and religious schools in particular. My tax dollars should not be used to subsidize someone else's religious schools education education. I believe in separation of church and state.

patricia Ruth
NONE
Round Rock, TX

This is a terrible bill. It encourages the rich to seek segregation for their children. Public education is the bulwark against stupid adults who will fail to understand their personal bills, personal responsibility and drive the remaining educated teachers from the schools as money for schools is reduced. VOTE AGAINST THIS BILL!

Anita Froese, Mrs.

Self

Seminole, TX

I respectfully ask you to reject the bill, as it will unnecessarily increase taxes. Also I believe it is the parents right and responsibility to choose how to educate their children.

Rebecca Johnson

Self Supply Chain Specialist

Austin, TX

I am opposed to private school vouchers. I believe that a good public education is a great equalizer. My children went through public schools and I experienced their excellence as well as their lack of proper funding. Taking money out of the system will not help children in the most need. Thank you.

Ted Hsieh

Self

Houston, TX

No, vote against it. Keep funding public schools! Vouchers are BS!

Jessica Johnson

Self

Austin, TX

I am firmly against allowing families to use taxpayer funds for private school tuition and other educational expenses. If education was a priority you would fully fund public education now. The future of our state and country depend on prioritizing our children. Parents already have the choice about whether or not they want to send their child to a private school. Tax payers do not need to fund private schools that are not held to the same standards as public schools.

Nancy Henderson

Self. Retired.

Odessa, TX

Vote "NO." I do not support this bill. If enacted, it will bring material harm to public schools. It will unfairly deprive public school students of resources they need and deserve. It will unfairly provide a stipend to students in private schools whose parents likely can already afford the tuition. These private schools will have no requirement to meet minimum standards of quality and efficacy. It is, in effect, stealing from most students to give to a few affluent students. Keep the funds in the public schools and work to improve them.

Kimberly Dill

Self

San Antonio, TX

This bill will kill public school education. This bill is for the governor's friends. It only benefits people sending their kids to private school. It is NOT a true school choice.

Ann Winer

National Council of Jewish Women

San Antonio, TX

As a resident of Texas and a member of The National Council of Jewish Women, The San Antonio Jewish Community Center, Temple Beth El San Antonio and the Building Standards Board of the City of San Antonio I strongly oppose HB 3. The bill will take millions out of the budget for Public Schools while only serving a few thousand students/families. Public schools and teachers have not seen a raise or a boost to their schools reimbursement since 2019. In six years the cost of inflation has made the present school reimbursement unsustainable for the delivery of safety and education to the students. There is no incentive for teachers to stay in public schools or in the state without a decent raise. Also, the voucher program will not ensure special education when needed as the public schools are required to do.

In addition to taking from public schools, the private schools have no controls put on them. They are not required to test children or guarantee their learning. The money can go to parochial schools which is against separation of church and state.

Lastly, this money will go to people who can afford private education and can afford to transport their children to the private school if there even is one in their locality. This is unfair to the millions of Texas students whose parents are unable to afford the balance of the tuition and sustain the transportation.

I implore you along with the majority of Texas citizens to reject this bill that will cost billions as the years pass. Texas should be proud of its public schools and public school teachers. Give them the respect and the funds they deserve.

Georgia Polley

Self

Houston, TX

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose HB 3 Vouchers and urge you to reject this harmful legislation. This bill diverts public tax dollars away from our public schools to fund private institutions that lack transparency, oversight, and equitable access for all students.

Public Schools Will Lose Critical Funding

Public schools, which serve over 5.4 million Texas students, rely on state funding based on average daily attendance (ADA). Redirecting these funds to private schools and education service providers through Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) will weaken our public school system, forcing larger class sizes, fewer resources, and teacher shortages. Texas already underfunds public education—this bill will only make it worse.

Lack of Accountability & Risk of Fraud

Unlike public schools, private schools accepting ESA funds are not required to follow the Texas curriculum (TEKS), administer standardized tests, or provide special education services. Other states with similar programs have seen widespread fraud and misuse of funds. HB 3 lacks strong safeguards to prevent taxpayer dollars from being wasted on unapproved or low-quality education providers.

Harms Students with Disabilities & Rural Communities

Private schools can reject students based on disability status, language needs, or other factors, leaving many vulnerable students without the support they need. Additionally, rural communities have few private school options, meaning this program will drain resources from public schools while offering no real alternative for most families.

Real Solutions for Texas Education

If lawmakers truly want to improve education, they should focus on fully funding public schools, raising teacher salaries, reducing class sizes, expanding early childhood education, and increasing support for special education services—not draining resources through a privatization scheme.

Conclusion

HB 3 undermines our public education system, lacks accountability, and disproportionately harms students who need support the most. I urge this committee to vote against HB 3 and instead invest in strengthening Texas public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Janice Schange

Self

Vernon, TX

I work with SPED children in a rural community. I believe that vouchers will take funds from the areas that really need them. This will lower teacher, administration and service standards in lower income communities.

Nadine Rueb

Vela

Austin, TX

I oppose vouchers

Lauren Jimenez, Dr.

MRE PTA

Katy, TX

Public funds need to stay in PUBLIC schools. Listen to the PEOPLE. The overwhelming majority DO NOT want this.

Amanda Lutz

self/retired educator

AUSTIN, TX

I oppose HB 3, voucher bill, it will harm our public schools, special education students and their services, and devastate our smaller, rural districts.

Angela Lancaster

Self

Coppell, TX

TEXANS DO NOT WANT VOUCHERS. AT THE VERY LEAST, ANY VOUCHER ALLOCATION SHOULD NOT EXCEED THE BASIC ALLOTMENT PER STUDENT FUNDING, AND ANY SCHOOL RECEIVING STATE FUNDS SHOULD HAVE TO MEET THE SAME TESTING AND SAFETY STANDARDS.

Taylor Lonsdale, Mrs.

Self - Mother and Private School Founder

Austin, TX

I strongly support HB 3 to provide education freedom to Texas parents. Passing HB3 would raise the quality of education across public and private education by introducing competition into the system and keeping schools accountable to parents. Our new Jewish classical school, Hadar Academy, will be far more accessible to families in our community under HB 3. We look forward to providing a comprehensive liberal education – an education for liberty – that will equip our students to think for themselves, live as free people, and contribute to our great state and country.

Corey DeAngelis

Corey DeAngelis

San Antonio, TX

15 red states have passed universal school choice in the past four years. It's time for Texas to go all-in on education freedom, too. Education funding is meant for educating children, not for protecting a particular institution. We should fund students, not systems. The teachers unions have overplayed their hand and awakened a sleeping giant: parents. Parents have found that too many schools are focused more on indoctrination than education. Parents care about their own kids – and know their education needs – more than bureaucrats sitting in offices hundreds of miles away. They must be empowered to vote with their feet to the school that best meets their needs and aligns with their values. That's the only way the system will cater to the needs of children and their families as opposed to the other way around. The good news is that school choice is a rising tide that lifts all boats. 26 of 29 studies on the subject find that school choice competition improves outcomes in public schools. A new University of Houston poll found that 67% of Texas voters support universal school choice, including 77% of parents, 71% of Republicans, and 71% of voters in rural areas. Texas will finally unleash education freedom for all families, and – with this bill – pass the biggest day-one school choice victory in U.S. history.

Khyle Flory

Self

Cypress, TX

I oppose HB3

Beverly Shipley

"self" retired

Buchanan Dam, TX

We voted you into office to represent US -- say NO to VOUCHERS!

Taxpayer funds need to go to Public NOT Private Schools!

Vouchers HURT our neighborhood schools!

Vouchers HURT our rural communities !

Texan billionaires just want WHITE, CHRISTIAN PRIVATE schools! We do NOT agree and you need to demonstrate courage and commitment to hard-working Texans and say NO!

Julie Anderson

Self; homeschool parent of 12 years

Bedford, TX

As a homeschool parent, I am committed to education for our children. I have worked with many local families to support their endeavors and during the lockdowns of 2020, I helped several public school parents navigate school at home. I have many concerns about HB 3.

First, this bill does not fit the current Texas GOP platform concerning school choice.

Second, this bill creates taxpayer funded agencies to certify various aspects of homeschooling and private schools. Right now, home and private schools have complete freedom to teach, assess, choose curriculum, activities, develop, design etc all aspects of their schools. Many fought very hard for these freedoms under the Leeper decision. This bill will ultimately limit our freedoms by insisting on government supervision of any who participate. It is also unclear what impact this certification/supervision will have in situations where homeschool families come together to educate their children when only some opt in for the financial aid.

I am also concerned about the ability and integrity of the comptrollers office to oversee educational issues. What do they know of the various methods of education? What do they know of the needs of special Ed students? Of families wanting a specific religious interest? Of a specific presuppositional approach?

I am concerned about the fairness of this bill. Why are only some able to access funds that all have paid into? Why do private schools receive \$10,000 but homeschools only \$2,000? What of the sacrifices that all families make to educate their children? How does this bill create competition to improve public schools (they suddenly become desperate for more students so with less funding they are to hire better teachers? Train them in other methods? Equip their libraries and classrooms with better supplies?

As a homeschool parent who pays taxes, I want my tax dollars being well spent not just "well supervised."

I am concerned that the very system that parents are avoiding by withdrawing from the public schools, this bill through regulation and oversight will force these families to follow the requirements of public schools. It is the first step in creating universal education not freedom in education.

This bill merely creates minimal support for private school tuition. Families that cannot afford another \$1,000/month to educate their child in a private school will not be able to use this option. Thus, this bill is merely helping those who already have the financial resources to pay for private school. In the DFW area, private tuition is nearly \$20,000 at most schools.

It is very unclear what limits will be placed on organizations like Classical Conversations who accept money for tuition but partner with parents to help teach their children.

Finally supporters of this bill claim that it will create competition. But there is no provision for incentives or help to start schools of any kind.

Thank you for considering my opinion and voting against HB 3.

Tracy Bangs

Self

Cypress, TX

I homeschool and I oppose HB 3.

K Rodriguez

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill and out of state Billionaires from having influence on Texas children.

Kathryn Kizer

Year

Austin, TX

No vouchers. Public dollars belong in public schools!

Heather Salas

self, teacher

Denton, TX

Please don't let your legacy be that you only helped a few wealthy families and their children but you did everything you could to reach each child in Texas and lift them up. Please.

Janice Smith, DR.

self retired

Arlington, TX

It is imperative to take actions to promote the public schools. Education savings accounts will take away monies from public education. Also, private schools are not held to the same educational standards nor mandatory reporting of their educational achievements. No public monies should be given to organizations that do not meet the legal requirements of public schools. Public education is underfunded in this state. More money should be put in PUBLIC EDUCATION, NOT education savings accounts.

Amy Clancy

Self- self employed

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you!

Christine Koeppe

Self, teacher

Weatherford, TX

Do not pass this bill. As a public education teacher and a mother of 3 in public schools, I strongly feel that this bill would ruin the education system as it is. Teachers are already in the most underpaid, underappreciated position that exists, passing this bill would strip funds to public schools limiting the already slim budgets we have. I may not fully understand the vouchers, but I do know that they will only benefit the wealthy while taking from the ones who need the school the most. Leave the vouchers out, give the money back to the schools so we can give these kids the education they deserve, and raise teacher pay. Thank you for listening.

Ronda Underkofler

Self - occupation = pharmaceutical industry

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill

Maria Douglas

Self as parent

ARLINGTON, TX

Good afternoon, Chairman Mr. Buckley and members of the House.

House Bill 3 fails to create a level playing field between all schools. The bill mentions a “norm-referenced testing” requirement on ESA-eligible private schools, yet a separate House Bill (4) is now proposing that we will assess our public-school students even more frequently by different standards. This would move the goal post on public schools once again and have the potential to confuse parents who are truly seeking the best educational offering for their child.

House Bill 3 proposes no curriculum oversight on voucher recipients, yet public schools will remain bound by state-adopted standards. The bill does not require voucher recipients to serve students with special needs appropriately and effectively. A higher voucher amount for students with special needs would not guarantee the accommodations they’d need to learn and thrive.

Finally, private institutions would still have the ultimate authority to choose the children they accept, not the other way around.

As discussed this morning, this is the sixth hearing on ESAs in just two years. The majority of Texans still oppose ESAs, so we ask that you listen to your constituents once again this session. ESAs will hurt the state budget, our local communities, and our future. Thank you.

Mike Pool

NA

Weatherford, TX

I see the school vouchers as ultimately an end to public schools and would like my opinion to be voiced as NO voucher system. Schools are fine with exception to teaching the STAR test primarily.

The main problem is lack of parenting.

Itze BERNAL

Self

El Paso, TX

I am a 20 year Texas public school educator and a Texas public school parent. For too many years, Texas has been selling Texas public school students short. This voucher scam will negatively impact all Texas public school students. It will put even more of a burden on already under funded schools. It will cause districts to cut even more positions and close even more schools. This scam will only put more money into the pockets of the rich. It will also put my tax dollars into religious private schools of which I am in opposition. Our Tax dollars need to go toward funding our public schools adequately to provide all Texas students with a good education. They are deserving of it. Our entire state of Texas deserves a well educated population. Those who send their children to private schools do so knowing they are responsible for the costs. They clearly can afford it without any assistance. These vouchers won’t do much for them. The majority of Texas public school students would not be able to afford private school even with a voucher. All it will do is take more money from those who need it most and deteriorate our already crumbling school system in Texas. You have an enormous opportunity to properly fund our public schools. Please vote against these vouchers and send the money to our public schools.

Eva Guzman

Self

San Antonio, TX

Save Public Education, Fund Public Education. Without good public education our Students with not become successful citizens of so that they can become productive citizens. Don’t kill The Texas GDP. No School Choice! No Vouchers!

Elaine Boden, Mrs

Self, parent, it qa manager.

Mckinney, TX

Please do not pass the voucher scheme which will divert funds away from public schools to fund niche education for the wealthy. Public schools look after all the children and don't just cherry pick rich successful kids.

Thomas Landers

Myself

Fort Worth, TX

So the rich get richer & middle class gets the finger up the o'l WAZOOO!!! AGAIN. Thanks

Jamie Griffin

Self/Private Citizen

Belton, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. Texas already upholds choice, as stated in our constitution, making this bill unnecessary and harmful. HB3 does not expand freedom, it threatens it.

This bill risks diverting public funds to private entities with little to no accountability, ultimately weakening our public education system. It sets a dangerous precedent where taxpayer dollars could be funneled into programs that do not serve all students equally. Public schools are the foundation of our communities, and any legislation that undermines them harms Texas families.

Texans value personal responsibility and local decision-making, yet HB3 imposes top-down policies that do not reflect the will of the people. It's a misguided attempt at reform that will have long-term consequences on education funding, rural communities, and future generations.

Our representatives have a duty to protect the integrity of Texas' education system and the rights of all of their constituents. I urge you to reject HB3 and focus on strengthening the resources already in place for Texas students.

Christopher Koopmans, Sergeant

Self / Public High School Teacher

Little Elm, TX

I am a teacher at Braswell High School and a member of ATPE. I see firsthand that the substandard performance of public schools is NOT directly tied to school funding; rather, it is due to poor decisions made by administrators and resources not being utilized effectively. These administrators retain their positions because of unions like ATPE. They are not compelled to think critically about the proper use of funds. I STRONGLY urge you to disregard the detractors and do everything you can to ensure that every Texas parent who desires the best education possible receives all the funds they deserve to use as they see fit. Fraud protection must be implemented, but the principle of this initiative is correct. As private schools flourish, public schools will be forced to rethink their spending and performance priorities. Please do not fall for the falsehood that poor performance (i.e., test scores) are due to a lack of funding; they stem from apathy, inconsistency, incompetence, and wastefulness among administrators. When public schools begin losing students, they will be forced to adapt and start doing the right thing because their jobs will depend on it. Texas parents deserve a choice.

Megan Blair
Self- Public School Teacher
Sugar Land, TX

I have been a dedicated public school teacher in Texas for 12 years, and I am writing to urge you to oppose Governor Abbott's school voucher plan.

I could cite the overwhelming data on how similar voucher programs have harmed public schools in other states, but you are likely already aware of those statistics. What you may not fully grasp—like many decision-makers in education—is what life is really like inside today's public schools.

If you were to step into a public school classroom, you would see students experiencing burnout as early as second grade. You would see teachers who are just as exhausted, yet working tirelessly to create a positive learning environment despite mounting pressures to focus on standardized testing above all else. The STAAR test is deeply flawed—it does not accurately measure student learning, yet we continue to shape instruction around it. And now, with all standardized testing moving online, we are expecting students—many as young as eight—to complete lengthy, high-stakes exams on technology we simply do not have the resources to provide efficiently.

Meanwhile, interventionist positions are being cut, leaving teachers responsible for providing Tier 1 instruction and interventions for struggling students—an impossible task given the growing needs in our classrooms. Teachers are drowning, and as a result, we are losing some of the most passionate, dedicated educators who love these kids with their whole hearts but can no longer endure the overwhelming stress of a system that is failing them.

Rather than diverting essential funding to an unproven voucher system that benefits a select few, we should be investing in the public schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children. We need funding for updated technology, smaller class sizes, adequate intervention programs, and, most importantly, retaining quality teachers.

I urge you to stand with Texas educators, students, and families by opposing this harmful policy. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further and invite you to visit a public school in your district to see firsthand the realities we face.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jean Goodnight
Self. Grandparents
Abilene, TX

I am not in favor of Hb3. I live in a small town. Our families will not chose private education. They must have free lunch , free breakfast and specials. They are poor. Please fund our public schools

Jenny Jennings, Dr.

Self

Amarillo, TX

This bill advocates for wealthier families. Representatives can clearly see opposition from the people who pay the taxes that would fund this program. I do not support this bill for the following reasons:

1. It undermines public schools. State politicians are admitting they are essentially moving public funds from a failed public school system they refuse to fix.
2. Increased segregation.
3. Hurts student achievement. Research shows that vouchers do not improve student achievement.
4. Fails to support special needs students. This is especially important. I am a parent of a child who needs these services!
5. Increase costs for students who remain in the public schools.
6. Fails to help low income students. A voucher will not cover the entire cost of private school and they usually do not have the academic achievement for a scholarship like you propose. You are leaving the rest to chance.
7. This program undermines accountability. Private schools are not accountable to taxpayers!

If this goes through you will see a big shift in who gets reelected. There is agreement across party lines and the state of Texas is not listening to the people. The priorities need to be to fix and fund public schools.

I can afford private school for my children and I chose public school because I am trying to support the system that my tax dollars go to.

Agnieszka Dwornik

Self. Former teacher

Katy, TX

Dear Representatives,

As a Texas educator, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed school voucher program that Governor Greg Abbott is pushing. As someone who works daily to support and educate our students, I know firsthand the importance of ensuring that public schools remain well-funded and accessible to all students, regardless of their background or financial situation.

What deeply concerns me, beyond the negative impacts school vouchers would have on our public education system, is the troubling fact that Governor Abbott is receiving financial backing from Jeff Yass, an out-of-state donor from Pennsylvania. It is deeply unsettling that such a significant decision affecting the future of Texas schools is being influenced by outside interests with their own agenda, rather than focusing on the needs of Texas families and students.

Our public schools serve the vast majority of Texas children, and they are crucial to the success of our state. We need to ensure they are equipped to provide quality education, not siphon off resources to private institutions that are not accountable to our community. The push for vouchers, especially when fueled by out-of-state donors, undermines the values that should guide our education system: fairness, equity, and local control.

I strongly urge you to stand with educators, parents, and students in opposing the voucher program and protect the integrity of Texas public schools. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nina Stelly, Dr

NAACP andPTA

Port Arthur, TX

Let's support public Education

Cheryl Nichols
self
Springtown, TX

School vouchers in Texas would take away crucial funding from public schools, funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions that lack accountability and oversight. This system primarily benefits wealthier families who can already afford private education, while leaving rural and low-income students with fewer resources in underfunded public schools. Instead of improving education for all, vouchers widen inequality and weaken the very schools that serve the majority of Texas children. Public funds should stay in public schools, ensuring every student has access to a high-quality education, regardless of their zip code or financial status. PLEASE VOTE NO!!!

Hedrich Michaelsen
self
Austin, TX

I would like to express my opposition to this bill. I am a staunch supporter of public education and this bill would undermine our public education funding. We are already close to the bottom nationally in terms of per-student funding. I do not want my tax dollars going to support wealthy families' "school choice" vouchers at the expense of public schools. These vouchers will be useless to students in rural areas and areas that are not affluent.

The legislature should instead be showing their commitment to article 7, section 1 of the the Texas constitution, which states:
A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.

There is no ambiguity in that statement. I don't want my taxpayer funds to be diverted to wealthy families who don't think public schools are good enough for their kids. They have been able to manage just fine without a taxpayer subsidy, so let them continue to foot the bill. Instead I want all public schools to be adequately funded so that future Texans will be properly educated for the betterment of all. As a reminder, I don't get a handout from the Texas government if I don't take advantage of some public services that are funded by our tax dollars and neither should those families who want taxpayers to pay for their "school choice".

Damon Rambo, Pastor
Self
Markham, TX

As a pastor, I 100 percent support an ESA bill to expand parental choice.
It is utterly vital for parents to be the primary director of their childrens' education.

I implore you to pass this legislation, keeping any "strings" to a minimum. I also urge you to allow virtual/online private school for students in rural areas.

Thank you!

Barbara Bergman, Retired School Principal and Teacher
Self-Retired School Administrator & Teacher
Round Rock, TX

I encourage legislators to look closely at this bill to see who will benefit and who will not be able to access this money—what the long-term impacts will be. Families would need to meet several criteria to access these funds: 1) provide daily transportation to and from school; 2) be able to pay the remaining tuition and fees above the \$10,000 allocation; 3) have students with no special needs like an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) due to a learning or emotional difference. Middle and upper class families—rich families—are far more likely to meet these entry requirements, leaving public schools the task and the privilege of educating every child, every beautiful child, who shows up at their doors. It is the great calling of public education. It is what makes our nation and our democracy strong. And public schools need every available educational dollar to create top grade schools which meet the needs of ALL our students in Texas. Furthermore, because of wage and housing differences that still exist in our country and state, children of color would be less likely than other children to meet these entry requirements. I believe these unintended outcomes should be strongly considered, lest we return to a period when students of color do not have equal access to schools. I spent 44 years as a public school educator and principal, ending my career at Caldwell Heights Elementary Dual language and International Baccalaureate School in Round Rock, Texas. It is also a Title 1 school and meets the needs of a very diverse student body. The learning and social outcomes continue to be remarkable. Investing our best in public schools is a worthy and life-changing commitment for current and future generations. Let us stand back and choose the wise arc of history to make decisions which put us on the road to fairness and excellence for all students. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Jacqueline Whitlock
Self
Cedar Park, TX

No less money for public schools

Kelly Hunt
Self/Public school teacher
Weslaco, TX

As a public educator in your House district, I strongly urge you to vote against HB 3 when it comes up for consideration in the House Public Education Committee. I believe that passage of this bill will negatively impact public education as it will divert funding from public schools to private, parochial and home school settings. I believe that public funds should support public education. Public schools are already under funded and passage of this bill will greatly impact those students in the poorest districts, many of which are located in your House District. I appreciate your consideration and support of public education in this very important vote. Thank you.

Deborah McCullough, Ms.
Self Retired Educator
Austin, TX

As a retired teacher, principal, and special education professional, I have dedicated my life to serving the students in Texas. I find that taking our tax money and spending it on private schools is a misuse of the funds. Parents are not the only ones that know what is best for their children. Teachers know what is best for students. If a school is not achieving that school needs support not by giving support to other schools. This idea has been voted on twice and failed. Let it rest! Vote NO and put the funds in public schools and public school teachers.

Karen Sager
self, retired
Somerville, TX

I am writing to express my objection to SB2, "school choice."

This is a subsidy to private schools, many of which are religious. The Texas Constitution forbids public funding of religious education.

The bill would pay more to private school students than is allocated to public school students. Most students who would take advantage of the program are already enrolled in private schools, effectively making this a reimbursement of an existing expense for these families.

It is estimated that public schools would lose \$2.2billion, while having to accept disadvantaged students that private schools don't have to accept.

Although the program supposedly extends benefits to all students, rural students where no private school may be nearby would be excluded. Furthermore, even if poorer students would like to enroll in private schools, they may not be able to afford transportation or other incidental costs associated with a costlier education.

In short, this program benefits the wealthy at the expense of the poor, and is a direct transfer of funds from public to private education.

At the national level, Texas already ranks 29th in education, and 40th in public school funding.

VOTE NO.

Richard Yoder, PhD
Self
San Antonio, TX

I want to make this simple and clear. "No" school voucher bills or laws in 2023 still means the same in 2025. If you truly want to know how we Texans, especially those of us who are educators feel about this issue, then put it to a special vote by the public rather than simply believing that the district lines drawn in 2021 represent the will of the people of Texas. Thank you.

Jennifer Barber
Self
Cedar Park, TX
No on HB3!

Kim Weidmann
Self
Austin, TX

This bill robs funding from our public school systems which has a mandate to serve ALL children regardless of their economic status or educational skills. This bill is a callous and unjust attempt to deprive the majority of Texas school children of the right to a quality education. It is a short sighted attempt to dodge our responsibility to prepare the next generation of Texans for a promising future. The way forward is simple- fully fund public schools and generously support public school teachers. Vote NO for HB 3.

Amanda Henke, MRS
self
Austin, TX

I'm OPPOSED to school vouchers. Fund public education!

Sam Turner
self- teacher
Denton, TX

ATPE opposes any voucher program, including a tuition tax credit, education savings account, or any other such program that would direct public funds to private, home, or for-profit virtual schools.

Joyce Muncy
Self retired
Boerne, TX

Why have schools become the enemy? You will ruin public schools with vouchers. They were so much better off before the state got all involved with testing. Now you want to continue testing in public school but not force the private schools to live up to the same expectations? This is stupidity

Reatta Bell, Mrs.
Self-Retired Teacher
Austin, TX

"I want you to know that this Voucher Scam represents a fight between a bi-partisan, pro public education coalition vs. billionaire mega-donors who control Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick. Your constituents love their kids, believe in public school teachers, support our neighborhood schools and want them fully funded. We don't want a Voucher Scam that will eventually defund our local schools. I would like to see these things:

- the Basic allotment tied to inflation indexes so Gov Abbott cannot hold it hostage anymore
- the basic allotment become enrollment-based vs. attendance based
- full funding to make up for 6 years of missing funding

Vote NO on the Voucher Scam. I vote and this matters to me. Thank you."

Adam Carroll
Wimberley Resident
Wimberley, TX

Dear Rep Buckley and respective committee members,
Please vote No on HB 3. It's estimated that voucher programs would drain \$1,106,823.00 from Wimberley ISD where I live, and \$7,501,801.00 from Tyler ISD where I grew up and attended public school. I was born with Cerebral Palsy and have had other learning difficulties, and despite these challenges, I received lots of help from public school educators in my community, and I was able to attend college, and have a music career. Please support HB 2 (the school finance Bill) and vote no on HB 3. I hope you will follow your conscience and do what's best for the folks you represent in our great state. I know you're facing great pressure to do otherwise, but I'd be grateful if you'd resist that and do the right thing. Everyday folks, and kids now who need public education will thank you one day.

Adam Carroll
Wimberley Texas

Mary Esther Escobedo

self

San Antonio, TX

I oppose the passage of HB 3.

This bill proposes to divert public taxpayer money that should go to public schools to private ones instead. This is wrong. Public schools were established to provide society with an educated population and electorate. Because of that reason all children within the jurisdiction of a school system are to be educated in that system. This includes those that are physically disabled or mentally challenged. Public schools do not choose which children to educate and do not exclude those that pose educational challenges. Private schools do select which students to educate and can refuse to educate some.

Over the decades that State of Texas has reduced the financial support it gives school districts leaving said districts to rely on property taxes. Texas is a growing state with people migrating from other states as well as internationally. Texas should increase the percentage of support it gives to school districts instead of diverting money to private schools. Statements are made that public schools do not provide a good education. Taking money from public schools will make it harder to attract and keep quality teachers. It also makes it harder to provide adequate programs for all Texas children that the school district is obligated to educate. The burdens are already high for public schools. HB 3 increases those burdens.

HB 3 leaves public school districts with children who need additional support and allows the private schools both taxpayer money and the ability to reject the children that need additional educational support.

Pasting the label "public school" on charter schools does not make them public but allows them to take public taxpayer money. This too is wrong.

Public schools were created to provide our society with an educated population that could truly participate in our democracy.

HB3 is one more way to undermine American democracy.

I am a taxpayer that does not have children. But I do have an interest in living in a society that has an educated populace. I do not choose to take my taxpayer money and send it to any private school. Parents do have a choice to send their children and their money to private school. But they should not have the ability to appropriate my taxpayer money.

Jamelan Hemphill, Mrs.

self retired teacher

Medina, TX

Dear Public Education Committee,

As a retired school teacher of 30 years and a member of a family of public educators since the 1930's, I am aware of the advantages of public education. Vouchers will strip the schools of much needed funds to function properly. It is the State's responsibility to educate ALL students. I do NOT want my taxpayer dollars going to private or parochial schools. If parents want private schools, they can pay for it themselves!!! Tax dollars should NOT be used to give preference to religion, race, or social standings.

David Crowe
Self/retired principal
San Antonio, TX

This is an absolute tragedy for public education. The only people who will benefit from this are those already going to a private school and the private schools themselves. There is ZERO ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS!

The students who need the most help are not going to get it with this scheme. The public schools will have fewer teachers and larger classes without exception. Students who can't make it at a private school will get sent back to public schools as we have to take all students and cannot restrict enrollment.

As a retired principal, this also affects my TRS future. I worked 29 years as a public teacher, coach, AP, and principal. I deserve my full retirement as expected for my service. This bill will have an effect on my future too as less money will be available in this system moving forward should this bill pass.

The real shame is that NO ONE WANTS THIS!!! They want their neighborhood schools intact and fully funded. There is plenty of choice in the current system.

Also, there are many counties that don't even have a single private school available for kids. But their ISDs will suffer funding cuts due to this bill.

What I should do is open a private school school, take your bill money, and then go out of business. Good luck tracking it. I'm sure there will be plenty of bad actors with similar intentions. And you all can't police it. You don't have the means or staff.

I cannot believe this is a bill at all. I'm so embarrassed of my state. I'm embarrassed to vote Republican. Yall ran out a great representative (Steve Allison) and replaced him with a puppet. He's not even a Republican- yall just made him one for election.

Kids suffer. Schools suffer. You don't care. This legislation and the accountability system nonsense is a big big reason I retired. You don't care about public schools. You haven't the whole time I led them. I lost teachers EVERY YEAR BECAUSE OF CUTS!!!

In my last four years, I lost 16 teachers, a counselor, an AP, two family specialists, and other staff reductions. Without losing significant enrollment. This is due to your poor funding schemes. Everything is a shell game with you all. COVID funding mismanagement was another huge factor.

If you care at all about kids, you'll vote no on this bill. There is no other choice.

Courtney Hoyt
Self
Houston, TX

As a parent, we already exercise our right to choose a private school for our child. As property owners, I am furious at our legislators for underfunding our public schools, which devalues any property held in the state. Neighborhoods with great schools see rising property values. Our legislators are proposing vouchers which will put public funds in unregulated private schools, and make our properties less valuable. What families will choose to move to Texas if our government can't properly fund our public schools?

Vijay Badam
Self
Prosper, TX

We pay huge amounts of property taxes going to public school funding. We don't want to share this with other private schools. Private schools more than capable of funding themselves. Please don't move funds out of current public schools. This can adversely affect our kids future. We moved to this district because of good public schools reasons. If some parents wanted to go to private schools that is their choice. We don't want to pay for that. Appreciate your help.

Ebony Turner
Self/Attorney
Mansfield, TX

Hello!

I am a resident of House District 96. We do NOT want vouchers here. We do NOT need vouchers here! My son, Isaiah, has special needs and as you well know, private schools do NOT have to accept students with special needs nor do they have to provide special education services. Vouchers do NOT offer options to students with special needs. If the Congressional cuts to Medicaid are sustained, this voucher bill plus those cuts will certainly have a devastating impact on public school budgets! Instead, fully fund public education, give teachers pay raises, increase the per student allotment, and make it based on enrollment and not attendance. Students like mine have several doctors' appointments and therapy appointments outside of school. That causes them to miss school quite frequently. This is why it makes no sense to base it on attendance. The lie is that a majority of Texans want school choice. A majority of Texans do NOT want to foot the bill for a handful of students to attend private schools! Please listen to the public and keep public school dollars in public schools!!

Brett Bim
self Software Engineer
Plano, TX

Vouchers will inevitably lead to the weakening of the public school system via a transfer of wealth from public education to private firms. This will have a long term cascading negative effect on the education that children of middle and lower class citizens in the state receive. Instead of spending time and money on vouchers, we should redouble our efforts to raise the quality of education in the public school system so that all Texas citizens can benefit. Public education is exactly that, public, and we should want all students to receive the best possible education possible.

Heather Solis
self/teacher
Round Rock, TX

State governments have a constitutional responsibility to fund public schools adequately. Let's start doing that! 5.5 million children depend on it! Raise the allotment by a minimum of \$1,000.

Erika Cooke
Self
Midland, TX

I am against any program that undermines fully funding public schools. I am a teacher, at a public high school in Texas that has seen the constant attacks on public schools, all while claiming to support teachers and families. The best course is to fully fund public schools and to not implement any voucher program. Calling it school choice shows only that the private schools have a choice in who they accept. There will not be a choice for parents who have children with special needs. There will not be protection for students from indoctrination when they are in schools that do not require certified teachers or testing accountability. Certified teachers are bound by law and their certification to teach the standards mandated by the state or have their certificate revoked. Teachers must ensure students learn curriculum that incorporates and covers the state standards, as well as additional initiatives like Celebrate Freedom Week, in order to demonstrate knowledge and skills for state test graduation requirements. Any students sent to private schools under voucher programs would be under that school's choice curriculum that would not adhere to state requirements and would prove more indoctrination than in any public school. This program would only provide welfare to the wealthy that would choose and pay for private schools on their own anyway.

Michelle Anderson
Self
Houston, TX

It's unfair to take money away from public schools who are already underfunded and allow that money to be used at a private school that doesn't have the same accountability as a public school. Who really benefits? Of course, parents that already send their children to private schools by choice. The kids that really could benefit from a smaller setting still would not be able to afford private school with the voucher.

Jo Highsmith
Self
Hitchcock, TX

I strongly oppose this bill! Teachers do too as well as students(if they could have a say)!

Maggie Queen
Self- K-12 Instructional Coach
Galveston, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 and believe public funds should remain in public schools.

Meg Buckley
Self
Frisco, TX

I graduated from a Texas public high school and I intend to have my children do the same. Please do not sacrifice our children's future by passing a bill that does not benefit the majority of students.

Nicole Klingelhoefner
Self
Colleyville, TX

As a parent of two sons educated in Hurst Euless Bedford ISD, and most recently Grapevine Colleyville ISD, I wish to express my continued support for the strong public schools, programs of choice, and teachers that have supported our gifted and talented children. Our public tax dollars have allowed them to opt into choices like health science courses, SAT preparation courses, and given them the opportunity to enjoy band, soccer, and other extracurricular activities. Choice has been and continues to be plentiful in our public school districts. We strongly and vehemently oppose the diversion of our tax dollars into private school programs and away from our children whose education programs are already underfunded. Public dollars should remain in our schools to continue the extension of academic programs, ensure school safety, provide an avenue for every student to graduate high school, and pay teachers what they deserve in their careers. Please do not pass the bill for school choice.

Corie Tabb-Ash
Self
Lipscomb, TX

I oppose HB 3 and fully support public school funding.

Mary Garza
Self /Mother/ caregiver
San Antonio, TX

I do not support this bill. I do not believe it will positively impact children in working class families.

Charlotte McHale

Self

Houston, TX

As a teacher, I can honestly say that charter schools are a poor choice for families with less opportunity to pay for a private school, even without a stipend. Private schools are just that- they are selective, and they don't give discounts, even for employees. This bill is an excuse to abolish public education, which Texas students utilize and in many cases need in order to carry out their daily routines and support their families, especially those who don't make enough money to pay for school, much less the amenities that public schools offer such as free and reduced lunches, counseling services and extracurricular opportunities. Why should Texas students have to bear the burden of the consequences of poor budgeting on Governor Abbott's part? This initiative is biased in favor of the wealthy, and will only hurt Texas students, not only depriving those less fortunate of an education, but depriving students who have the luxury of choosing public schools for the realistic social backdrop. Public schools provide all students opportunity to experience the relevance and beauty of diversity between ethnicities, religions, and social classes in an environment appropriate for educating young people to function in the real world. Please say no to private school vouchers and devote the funding that Abbott wants to use instead to maintaining the public school system in our great state of Texas.

Lindsay Petty

Self

Fort Worth, TX

No vouchers

Chani Buettner

Self

Austin, TX

Please don't let the children of Texas down by voting for this bill. Public education is so important to the children and families of Texas. This bill does not make education equal for everyone in Texas. I have 2 children on a 504 plan and if you take funding away from their public school, to give to private schools they will suffer. Some of their programs may have to be cut, including speech and dyslexia classes. These classes have helped my kids so much in catching up with their classmates. My boys will also have a hard time being accepted into the best private schools, since those schools only have to accept the highest achieving students. Please support the children of Texas and vote no on this bill. Thank you!

James Ward

Self Retired teacher

Georgetown, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Courtney Stubblefield

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am a product of the Texas public education system whose two children are also attending public school in Texas. This bill will not strengthen our education system, it will only harm it. Issuing vouchers without accountability makes no sense. And issuing vouchers for a higher amount per student than is currently paid for in the public schools also makes no sense. Private schools that have no accountability to the state and that do not have to accept students they don't want to should not receive state tax dollars. Instead, our public schools should be fully funded and more effort should be focused on strengthening them since they are who educates the vast majority of students in this state.

John Thomas, Retired public school administrator

Self

Lubbock, TX

As a former public school superintendent and the father of a dedicated elementary educator, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed voucher system. I have seen firsthand how hard public schools work to provide equitable, quality education to every child, and I am deeply concerned about how vouchers will undermine these efforts.

One of the most glaring issues with vouchers is the lack of equitable funding. Public schools are already underfunded, and diverting taxpayer dollars to private and charter schools will only make it more challenging to meet the diverse needs of students. Public schools are mandated to serve every child—regardless of ability, background, or socioeconomic status—while private and charter schools can choose whom they admit. This disparity leaves our most vulnerable students behind and further widens the opportunity gap.

Moreover, voucher-funded schools do not have to follow the same accountability standards as public schools. They are not required to use state-approved curricula, administer standardized assessments, or publicly report student outcomes. As a former superintendent, I know how crucial transparency and accountability are to building trust with parents and the community. Private institutions receiving public funds should be held to the same rigorous standards as public schools.

Another critical concern is the quality of education and teacher qualifications. Public school teachers are required to have degrees and certifications, but voucher-funded schools are not held to these same requirements. My daughter, an elementary educator, has spent years earning her degree, training, and continuously improving her practice to ensure that her students receive the best education possible. It is unfair to divert public money to schools that do not demand the same level of professionalism and expertise from their staff.

Lastly, as someone who has dedicated much of my career to public education, I know how vital it is to support and invest in our public schools rather than undermine them. Instead of creating a system that lacks oversight and accountability, we should be focusing on strengthening our public schools to ensure they have the resources needed to serve all students effectively.

For the sake of our children and the future of public education in Texas, I strongly urge you to reconsider the voucher system. Public funds should support public schools—institutions that are committed to serving every child, every day.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

John Thomas

Benjamin Getter, Dr.

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support public education.

Melinda Northcutt

Myself

Porter, TX

Please vote NO on vouchers. Public money should not be given for private schools

Jennifer Cottrell

Self

Mansfield, TX

Please DO NOT pass this bill! The people of Texas do not want or support the voucher program. This will absolutely demolish public education and educators and has prevent to do so in other states.

Chris Tijerina

Self/Network Engineer

San Antonio, TX

Republicans continue to act like this voucher program does not take away funding for public schools. The continuous lies that is told to the public. While yes, there can be a choice for schools. Why would this need to go to the wealthy families that are already going to private school. What's going to stop these schools from raising the tuition? Which in the end will end up being the same thing. Essentially taking away from the schools that need it the most! Why has this program been brought up so much? Why isn't teacher pay brought up more? This has been brought up more than all the more important issues. School shootings, teacher pay etc. but hey let's take funds away to help the families that don't need the assistance. Always helping the rich get richer.

Tanya Lloyd, Mrs

Self

Lockhart, TX

Please fully fund public schools before giving my hard earned tax dollars away to private schools. School choice/vouchers are

Amanda Garrison

Self

Roanoke, TX

Fund our public schools APPROPRIATELY and FAIRLY. NO TO VOUCHERS. They only hurt our education systems. Our tax dollars must be released to the public schools like they should have been for the last three years. Jobs, families, and the people of Texas suffer at the hands of billionaires who could HELP the world but choose to hurt it instead. Why not take those "fundraising" dollars on vacation instead of putting in pockets of crooks.

Rojelio Rodriguez

Self

Heath, TX

Vote NO. Against HB3 vouchers. This bill will continue eroding our public education system.

Megan Whitford

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Leandra Timmons

Mosaic Academy - Paint Rock ISD

Levelland, TX

As a public education advocate, teacher, and parent, I strongly oppose House Bill 3 and its push for an education savings account (ESA) program. This bill threatens to divert essential public funds from our schools, funneling taxpayer dollars into private and unregulated educational institutions. Instead of strengthening public education, HB 3 undermines its foundation by prioritizing a program that benefits a select few while leaving the majority of students behind.

From a public education perspective, the establishment of an ESA program weakens the financial stability of our schools. Public schools rely on consistent funding to maintain quality instruction, support services, and extracurricular programs. By redirecting state education dollars to private and homeschooling options without accountability, HB 3 erodes the resources available to students in public classrooms, especially those in rural and underfunded districts.

As a teacher, I see how policies like this directly harm students. When funding is siphoned away through ESAs, schools face larger class sizes, fewer support staff, and cuts to essential programs. This ultimately hurts the students who need the most support—those with disabilities, English language learners, and children from low-income families. Teachers are already struggling with inadequate resources, and HB 3 would make providing a high-quality education to every child harder.

As a parent, I want my child—and all children—to have access to a well-funded, strong public education system. ESAs prioritize individual choice at the expense of the greater good, leaving public schools to suffer while taxpayer money supports unregulated private institutions with no guarantee of quality or equity. Public education should be a public good, not a system weakened by policies that divert funding without oversight or accountability.

For the sake of our students, teachers, and public education system, I urge lawmakers to oppose House Bill 3 and reject the establishment of an education savings account program. Instead, we must invest in strengthening public schools and ensuring that every child—regardless of background or zip code—has access to a quality education.

Kristen Brown

Self

Conroe, TX

New day, new comment!

I am against HB 3. There have been so many well spoken citizens providing their comment in the 22 hour window for testimony that I cannot provide anything new.

But as a daughter of a Texas public teacher, as a product of Texas public education, of a mother of two children in Texas public schools whose other grandmother is also a retired public school teacher: Texas public schools can be amazing if given the resourcing. HB3 is not needed. There is no guarantee that the high priority students will find a local, affordable option that WILL accept them.

The ONLY way that I would support this bill is to put strict limits on family income eligibility, and increase accountability in the private institutions that accept the funding.

Christy Long

Teachers

North Richland Hills, TX

I am a Texas Retired teacher. I want you to vote No on school vouchers!!! This will destroy public education in Texas!!! Please, vote NO!!!!

Jordan Kellner

Self

Mansfield, TX

I oppose HB 3. I am against ESAs.

Errin Lagow

self / Medical Science Liaison

Austin, TX

Vote NO to HB 3.

Texas public schools need better funding and to eliminate the Robin Hood program, not death from starvation by re-routing funds. School voucher programs in Louisiana and Arizona HAVE NOT delivered positive results for student achievement and decimated the public school systems there. Texas can and should learn from those experiences and invest fully in public schools accessible to ALL families. I fully support Texas public schools, my two children attend Austin public schools (Kealing Middle School and LASA, and previously Baranoff Elementary), and my spouse teaches at a public Texas university (Texas State University). I am an Austin parent and resident since 2007, a Texas native, was educated in a rural public school system (Kaufman ISD), graduated summa cum laude with a BS in Biology from a public Texas university (Stephen F. Austin State University), and graduated with a PhD in Biological Sciences from UT Health Science Center-Houston. I have been employed in the molecular diagnostics field since 2007 and give back to my community regularly in many ways including Central Texas Food Bank, KUT, and Austin public schools.

Grace Mancilla, Mrs.

Self

Palestine, TX

Parents already have school choice. Stop HB3 and fully fund public schools. You are failing 5.5 million public schools students not educators. Listen to the people who elected you. We will remember how you voted and are organized to vote you out!

Ted ONeil, Mr.

Self retired

Whitney, TX

I am a retired public school Principal. I do not support this bill because it does not insure equity in funding of public schools vs Private schools. According to the constitution my tax dollars should be used for public education as this is the foundational learning environment for ALL Texas students. Free and Appropriate! When you dilute the dollars spent for Texas school children to include private schools and not hold private schools to the same accountability as state and federal requirements, you are diluting and misappropriating my tax dollars. I can't speak for anyone else but those that are pushing this ridiculous misappropriation of tax dollar funds will not get my vote the next time. Another problem with this is the rural public schools that do not have any private schools in proximity of a public schools so how is the transportation issue taken care of

Paula Lyssy

Self; school psychologist

Falls City, TX

This bill is a MISTAKE. Please consider the damage it will cause to public education. I have served 28 years in public education, specifically special education, and I know we have a broken system. But what needs an overhaul are the parents you are trying to bail out with this bill! Most of the times we have deficiencies in schools due to a few "bad apples" who abuse the system and the staff, yet you want to reward them with financial dollars to go shop for a unicorn. What they want doesn't exist. They want entitlement and special privileges. What needs to occur is a shift in funding education so that we are not short staffed and constantly retraining and rearranging staffing assignments that are limited due to the toxic stress and harassment educators endure daily. We need to focus dollars on early mental health and supporting parents in learning how to build better community instead of tearing down everything that has already been built. Quit making giant schools with no long-term community feel and commitment and where everyone is just out for themselves. My children went to a small rural school, and the respect that is earned by the staff has endured over time. They don't have to continue to establish themselves as trusted adults and community leaders each new school year. Long term relationships in schools really do matter! Build THAT! Quit letting people take advantage of the system to shop around for themselves and require them to invest in their community and their school. Require parent volunteer work. Eliminate education advocates who know NOTHING about school law, but continuously bully school administrators and teachers with threats of filing complaints that go nowhere, but require hours of time and attention from school personnel. Require advocates to become certified by TEA!!! Fund schools to retain and reinvest. You guys have it all wrong. ALL WRONG. You truly don't know what is really happening in schools and the voices of a powerful few are going to destroy the already crippled system. Fix it. Because many of these children will be your nursing home CNAs and pharmacy techs. They will drive on your streets delivering your orders. They will prepare your food and stock your shelves. If they don't have a decent education, how will these necessary roles of society exist? We will always have a surplus of doctors and lawyers and engineers, but who will change the diapers of the elderly and fry the burgers? FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION and STOP THIS NONSENSE.

Amanda Ryan

Self, school founder

Austin, TX

I am mom to 3 children. We have had the good fortune of being able to afford to have our children involved in several educational settings for the K-8 years. Our oldest is a freshman in high school this year and we chose to have her try public school for the first time. While her K-8 education prepared her very well and she maintains a 4.0 unweighted GPA, the experience has been one disappointment after another from the perspective of the education and overall environment of the public school. Despite being in a well-funded district and in honors and AP classes which we were assured is where the "good teachers" are found, teachers are very regularly absent, academic rigor is seemingly defined as voluminous work rather than resulting in any evidence of actual conceptual learning, and quite often this voluminous work is not even graded. The outcome is students feeling disrespected, unmotivated and utterly fed up. Watching the love of learning disappear in my previously enthusiastic learner is incredibly disheartening.

As well, I am a school founder of a small school that serves grades K-8. We unapologetically assess students three times per year after which our students perform data analysis on their results and work with teachers to set their individual learning goals. Our students are motivated, have a tremendous zeal for learning and despite most coming in slightly below grade level, over 90% of our students are now performing at least one full grade ahead and, even more important, they are joyful in the process. As an educator, I am grateful for this proposed bill. It addresses the most common concerns of school choice opposers and allows parents so much more educational freedom than currently exists. Helping our children become the best version of themselves requires them being able to be educated in an environment that brings out their best in every way. This bill does much to make that possible for many families. One day I hope ALL families will have that choice.

Debra Berry, Ms.

Self

Houston, TX

As a public school teacher, we don't have enough resources and allocating money to private schools is not the answer. The private schools won't even accept students with learning disabilities and will require they be served at their home schools. When those students and others with poor home situations will not receive empathy and support in a private school as many receive in the public school settings. Once a student Cts out in a private school they are kicked out and the public school has to take them by law.

Patti Everitt

Patti Everitt

AUSTIN, TX 78722, TX

I urge Texas House members to oppose taxpayer funded vouchers. Not only does HB 3 create an entirely new \$80 million government bureaucracy, there is virtually NO ACCOUNTABILITY over how our state funds will be used by private schools and private vendors. Both Democrats and Republicans should be concerned. These private schools do not comply with open meetings or open records laws so we will have no way to monitor or review how our tax dollars are spent or what students they actually serve and what students are denied admission. Private schools openly admit that they are not required to accept special education students and can discriminate against applicants who don't fit their education "model" or religious beliefs. The education of all children should not be a political football - these are our children. Independent researchers have provided hard data that the performance of students at "voucher" schools is "catastrophic". And we know from other states that the majority of families that receive taxpayer dollars for private schools are already enrolled in private schools and live in wealthier zip codes. We heard testimony from parent after parent at the voucher hearing that private schools would not accept their children with special needs. Vouchers are not good government, and there is ample evidence to oppose them.

Beth Daines

Self - alderman/parent/substitute teacher

San Antonio, TX

Please vote no to vouchers. Public schools have be chronically underfunded for years. We have had to give up so many important programs, like art and music. Counseling services have been cut at a time when they are needed more than ever. Class sizes have had to increase as teachers positions get cut.

Vouchers are a tax break for families who are already sending their kids to private schools. Public dollars are for public schools. This is important: Public dollars are for public schools!

Jennifer Rodgers

Self

Nederland, TX

I am completely against school vouchers. Public tax money should be spent on public schools.

Texans have always had school choice. My parents chose to send me to private school, grades 1-12. I wouldn't trade my school days for anything. But, they paid for private school, without any help from the state.

I worked in the public school setting for 36 years. Do changes need to be made, yes. Are school vouchers the answer...no!

In my opinion, there are far too many wealthy outside people influencing our elected officials. Why is Jeff Yass interested in the education of children in Texas? Could it be he will profit if this passes?

My suggestion is to let the people of Texas vote on this issue. We know why it won't happen. The overwhelming majority of Texans are against vouchers, period!

Voters of Texas will definitely be watching who votes for and who votes against.

Morgan Spirlock
Self - Granbury ISD Parent
Granbury, TX

I am writing as a concerned parent to express my strong opposition to any efforts to implement or expand school voucher programs in Texas, including HB 3. I strongly oppose HB 3 and request that you oppose HB 3 with your vote. HB 3 is not in the best interest of all Texas children, public education, or the future of our great state. Prioritizing public education is vital to building stronger communities and a successful future for Texas. I implore you to represent your constituents & do what is best for all Texas children, which is to oppose HB3. Thank you.

Genevieve Sugalski
Self
San Antonio, TX

Individual House members that vote for HB3 will be posted everywhere. How do you think the families will feel when their school closes who haven't been paying attention and they find out why. The why being that these individual members gave in to special interest, out-of-state wishlists to kill our schools. Y'all Will Be Out.

Drue Brown, Ms
Self Retired Educator
Brownsville, TX

I am strongly opposed to this Bill for several reasons. I have a TRS pension and eventually this legislation would impact the retirement system for future educators. There are many details that have not been addressed and this will significantly impact our small Texas towns and rural areas. Please do not vote for this bill. It is not good for many of your constituents.

DiAnna Hynds, Dr.
Self, Professor
Denton, TX

Please defeat HB 3, the bill that would approve education vouchers. I oppose this proposed actions for several reasons. First and foremost, it is not the will of Texas voters. A survey of likely voters indicates that 70% oppose vouchers. Second, the bill will not benefit the majority of Texas students. Rural students do not have private schools available to them and students with lower economic status are similarly limited. Third, the choice of accepting vouchers lies within the schools, not with the parents of those students. Fifth, vouchers will eventually be supported by property taxes, both increasing them and not allowing property owners input into how their taxes are used. I am more than willing to pay taxes supporting public schools, but do not want my taxes to support private faith-based discriminatory institutions. I also do not want my taxes to increase when it will not help all students in my area. Sixth, the main impetus and campaigning for vouchers comes from out of state billionaires. Vouchers will only help students from affluent families and will further increase economic disparity in Texas. Thus, there are many reasons that school vouchers would be exceedingly bad for Texas. I do not want to see the comic divide increase, nor do I want my tax dollars to support such an effort. I urge the Texas House of Representatives to defeat HB 3. It is a bad bill, not the will of the people, and would be a true disservice to all Texas children.

Emily Herlihy

Self, business owner and parent

Sachse, TX

I would like to express my opposition to HB 3. I watched much of the public hearing held yesterday and appreciate the committee's dedication to hearing all testimony. I am a parent of two beautiful sons, Kevin (13) and Charles (10) who both struggle with dyslexia and severe ADHD. Their father and I have considered whether private school may be a better option than public school, even though we have felt our boys have received wonderful support from the 504 and special education teams within their public schools. However, in the DFW area, *reputable* private schools that could meet our sons' needs charge tuition of \$30,000-\$40,000 per year per student. We are a middle-class family with a decent income, but we could never afford to spend up to 100% of our take-home pay in tuition, even with the proposed ESA funds. Sure, we could work additional jobs to make it happen, but then when are we spending time together as a family?? I know and appreciate that there are less expensive private schools in Texas whose tuition would be covered by the ESA funds. That is not an option in my area for my children. Their public schools are amazing, and we love all of the educators that work to support our sons and so WE CHOOSE to keep them in public school. I also heard testimony that additional ESA funds may be available for children with special education needs. However, I would never ask or expect that taxpayer funds be diverted from public schools to pay for my children's private school tuition. And yes, funds would be diverted if we sent them to private school because public schools are funded based on enrollment; please do not pretend they wouldn't be. I acknowledge that I already have a choice where to send my children to school and that the choice is MINE and THEIR FATHER'S, not the State's or other taxpayers. Asking other taxpayers who exercise their CHOICE to stay in public schools to face reduced funding, potential teacher reductions, and potential school closings because of MY CHOICE to use an ESA to send my children to private school is unconscionable to me and goes against the very principle that taxes are paid to serve the many, not the few. I heard a lot of testimony yesterday about the extreme examples on both sides of the debate over this bill. However, I ask you to consider that families like mine represent the majority of families you claim to want to help with this bill. We all know no bill will be perfect for everyone, especially in a state the size of Texas. These decisions cannot be made based on outlier "what-ifs" and the bottom line is that this bill creates no greater CHOICE for families like mine than we already have. Please vote "no" to HB 3.

Rica Smith

Self

Santa Fe, TX

Private School should not be funded by state dollars. The fact that you are even proposing this, says that you have no place in public office. You know \$10k is more than any public school student gets. How decisively unfair.

Savannah Hollan

MOVE Texas

Austin, TX

HB 3 weakens Texas schools by prioritizing taxpayer-funded privatization over real investment in public education. Taxpayer money should be invested into public schools to create a better work environment and nurturing place for children as they learn and grow. Stop taking money from already underfunded public schools, this will lower the overall Texas learning criteria, weaken our education system, and isolate those in low income and rural families.

Scott Browning

Lutheran South Academy

Seabrook, TX

I am in support of House Bill 3, as it will allow some of our current school families, and some new families to experience a top-notch education. As the new head of school at Lutheran South Academy and an educator for 28 years, I've seen firsthand the benefits of school choice in many other states. It's time for Texas to craft a program that gives students more opportunities.

CAROLYN VERNICK

SELF

AUSTIN, TX

THE VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS WOULD BE TERRIBLE FOR OUR STATE AND OUR ECONOMY. PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE THE FOUNDATION AMERICA WAS BUILT ON. MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS EDUCATED OUR PEOPLE AND OPENED MINDS TO HIGHER IDEALS AND STANDARDS WHILE ALSO OFTEN TRIGGERING CURIOSITY. MOST PEOPLE WHO CAN AFFORD PRIVATE SCHOOLING CURRENTLY ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF THE VOUCHER SYSTEM. THEY KNOW THEY CAN AFFORD IT, AND SO THEY MAKE THE DECISION TO PAY IT. DOWN WITH HB - 3

Anna Ansari

Self

Austin, TX

Please keep public dollars in public schools. My kids are in public school and all kids should be able to have a well funded education.

Megan Yocum

Self, Parent of 3 school aged children

Coppell, TX

Allow me to introduce myself: my name is Megan and I am a parent of 3 children served by the public education system in Coppell, TX. Furthermore, 2 of my 3 children qualify for Special Education and receive services. I am staunchly against an legislation that includes ESAs without increasing the daily allotment by a meaningful amount that takes into account inflation that has occurred since the last increase in funding in 2019 or provides a voucher to Texas school children that exceeds the daily allotment for public schools.

As a parent with children served by special education, as I understand the current bills, I would qualify to receive a \$10,000 private school voucher. Even given that opportunity, there is no private school in DFW that will meet ALL the needs and provide ALL the services that my children currently receive in Coppell ISD. Even if there was a school that would accept my children and provide the same services they have received in the public school system, a \$10,000 voucher is a small drop in the bucket for tuitions that exceed \$25,000/year. Just to give you a visual, the following chart is the annual tuition for 7 Dallas area private schools that serve children with learning differences.

\$27,400

\$40,400

\$36,987

\$28,540

\$31,000

\$28,500

\$27,600

Even if we did choose to attend a private school that would still come at a high cost for our family. First, my children would no longer enjoy the benefit of walking to school, attending school with neighborhood children and would lose valuable time each day commuting to/from school.

I strongly urge you to reconsider HB 3 as currently written. This bill does not make sense and is not in the best interest for our youngest Texans.

Sincerely,

Megan

cynthia rutledge
self - physician
San Angelo, TX

This bill will drain money from our public schools. If parents need to send their children to private schools, they should do it without public assistance.

Megan Ojeda
Self/ Teacher
San Antonio, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school vouchers in the state of Texas. Vouchers divert crucial public funds away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas children, to subsidize private and charter schools that are not held to the same accountability standards.

Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education, support, and opportunities to students of all backgrounds. Instead of funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions, we should invest in strengthening our public school system by increasing teacher pay, improving resources, and ensuring every child has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting any voucher proposals and focusing on policies that uplift public education for all.

Thank you for your dedication to the future of Texas students.

Mae Lane, Dr.
Self
Willis, TX

Vouchers will further damage our public education system. Taking additional funding from public schools to supplement families who already pay for private schools does nothing except subsidize the wealthy. It is not a matter of school choice; school choice already exists. Parents can move their children to a different public school if they are displeased with their current school option. The loss of funding this bill will cause impacts teacher salaries, programs that are available to students, availability of paraprofessionals, and countless other things important for student success. It will create a loss of teaching positions in public schools. With the passage of this bill, we are essentially funding schools that have no oversight, are not required to provide a curriculum that meets our state standards, and who can accept only students they want to attend their schools. They can also expel students without cause. HB3 only helps parents who are currently able to afford a private education. Transportation is not provided by private schools, nor is special education for a majority of those schools. And the fact that Abbott has held billions of dollars hostage that could have improved our public schools to try and force the passage of HB3 tells you about his priorities. Do not pass this bill if you care at all about the majority of Texas families and students.

LeeAnne Rogers
Self - College Admissions Consultant
Arlington, TX

Fully funding public education is critical to the success of ALL Texas children. It is also crucial to our economy. We already have school choice, and many of our districts who offer it are severely underfunded. Fort Worth, Keller, and McKinney ISDs have all recently had severe budget issues. Please vote no on HB3. My tax dollars should solely go to public schools, not paying for private schools. Even with the vouchers, most lower income families could not afford private schools, as well as this is discriminatory against students with disabilities and those from different religions (since most private schools are religious based.) We demand that the surplus be poured back into our schools, teachers get raises, and the teacher retirement funds are protected. This is vital to the success of all Texans.

Kirby Shallue

Self / Executive Assistant

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the Texas school voucher bill (HB 3) for several key reasons that directly impact the future of our public education system. As someone who is a product of a Texas public school, whose mother was a dedicated public school teacher in Texas, and as a parent with children currently attending Austin ISD elementary schools, I have seen firsthand the value and potential of our public schools. Public education is a cornerstone of opportunity, and this bill threatens to undermine that foundation in ways that will harm our children, teachers, and communities.

The governor's strategy of withholding essential funding from our public schools to push this bill forward is not only harmful—it's a betrayal of the teachers, students, and families who rely on these institutions every day. Our public schools have faced years of financial strain, with funding levels stagnating since 2019. Meanwhile, inflation has skyrocketed, increasing the cost of living for families and the cost of supplies and resources for schools. Teachers, who are already underpaid and overworked, have left the profession in droves. It's clear that instead of addressing these issues, the governor's priority has been to promote a voucher program that will do nothing to help the struggling schools that serve the majority of Texas children.

Furthermore, the evidence from other states that have implemented school voucher programs shows that they disproportionately benefit wealthy families who already have the means to send their children to private schools. Rather than creating equitable opportunities for all students, this bill would simply serve as a tax break for the rich, funneling public funds into private institutions that have no obligation to serve the diverse and vulnerable populations that our public schools are committed to educating.

Our schools need more resources, not less. We need to prioritize increasing teacher pay, improving classroom conditions, and ensuring that every child—regardless of their background or zip code—has access to the quality education they deserve. This voucher bill is a step in the wrong direction, and it will only exacerbate the disparities in our education system. I stand firmly against HB 3 and urge all Texans to do the same for the future of our children and our state.

Amy Jagers

Self

Austin, TX

As a public school educator in Austin, I urge you to vote NO HB3 and stand with Texas families, teachers, and communities against school vouchers. This bill would take millions from our already underfunded public schools and funnel it into private school subsidies, with no accountability or transparency. As someone who has worked in Austin ISD for over 20 years I have watched the Texas legislature strangle our district with recapture and how districts are funded through student allotments. This large urban district will not be able to maintain its current status if vouchers pass. Most districts in the surrounding area along with Austin are already discussing what programs to cut because of the lack of adequate state funding, and instead of using the state surplus to pay back districts you are instead considering giving that money to individuals with no personal state in public education in their communities. In states where vouchers have already passed the data highlights that vouchers don't benefit students who need a "choice" in their education but instead it goes to families who already have their child in a private school. If you aren't going to let the people vote on this issue than you need to listen to what the people are demanding and that's for this committee to vote no on vouchers.

Here's what's at stake:

?? Defunding Public Schools – Vouchers divert critical taxpayer dollars away from public schools, which serve 90% of Texas children. Rural communities, where private options are scarce, will be hit the hardest.

?? Higher Taxes, Bigger Deficits – Voucher programs in other states have led to massive budget shortfalls and increased local taxes to compensate for lost education funding. Texas can't afford the same mistake.

?? No Accountability, No Standards – Private schools receiving taxpayer money don't have to follow the same academic, financial, or anti-discrimination standards as public schools.

?? Hurting Our Future Workforce – Texas needs strong public schools to prepare students for college and careers. Weakening public education weakens our economy.

HB3 is a bad deal for Texas families. Please vote NO and protect our children's education and our state's future.

Sincerely,
Amy Jagers

Nancy Burke

self- Teacher and parent

Friendswood, TX

Texas vouchers will hurt all public schools. Our children deserve better. No tax money should ever fund private schools. Texas has held back on funding, teacher pay raises and teacher retirement for decades- only giving a little when elections are looming. I did some research on the money given to the Governor. Mr. Yass- stop bribing our governor to push vouchers which the overwhelming majority of Texans do not want Mr. Yass should have donated that 12 million dollars to the schools to bring innovative technology which they have made billions on as a company. The fact they are giving money to dismantle our public schools is alarming. As a parent and educator I am angry and dismayed by what Texas is doing the education system. Many companies have headquarters here because we HAD outstanding schools. We are now in the lower quarter of the United States and dropping. We need to invest in funding and teacher pay to attract the best and brightest. We do not have a teacher shortage- Teachers chose to leave due to low pay and the disrespect that is happening now. Our legislature and Governor should not be bought and they have the obligation to vote for what their constituents want and need. NO VOUCHERS!!!!!! Better funding for our public schools and better pay and retirement for teachers- The money has been sitting in the account- Please spend it on what it was intended for. and stop putting money in the Texas teacher allotment- it is not a raise- benefits very few and costs teachers many hours and costs money especially getting a national certification. Just give teachers the raise they have been denied for years and years. No vouchers!!!!

Austin Prochko
Self, Comms Manager
Manor, TX

I support empowering parents with ESAs. Please make sure there are no strings attached and make this the biggest program possible!

Heidi Cook
Self
Plano, TX

I strongly oppose the establishment of vouchers in Texas. Public schools are the foundation for success in Texas and throughout our country. Please fund our public schools and do not pass the voucher system. Thank you for your support.

Adalgisa Morales
Self
Plano, TX

I am against this bill. Our educational system is already hurting. Texas school districts are already short of resources. We cannot take funds away from our schools.

Tom Cole, Mr.
Self
Amarillo, TX

I am OPPOSED to HR 3...I believe in public education of all eligible students...I vote and I vote regularly... This bill is an abomination to public education...Keep the playing field fair...Private schools cherry pick their students...It is not fair to all students...Instead of funding public education as you should, you do your damnest to destroy it... I am as I said opposed to it... Hopefully you be as well... Thank you...

Laura Banaszynski
self
Dallas, TX

My name is Laura Banaszynski. I have two children who both attend Dallas ISD public schools. I am an active voter, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB3 and its provision to fund private schools with taxpayer dollars.

Diverting public funds to private institutions undermines our public school system, which serves the vast majority of Texas students, including those with diverse needs and backgrounds. Public schools are already underfunded, and this bill would further strain resources, making it harder for educators to provide quality instruction, support special programs, and maintain necessary infrastructure. Instead of funneling money into private institutions that lack accountability and transparency, we should be investing in and strengthening our public education system for all children. Safeguarding a strong, well-funded public education system is crucial for nurturing an informed, skilled workforce and upholding democratic values. Rather than embracing divisive policies that benefit a select few, we must prioritize equitable investments in public schools to empower every child with the tools for success. I urge you to stand with Texas families and vote against HB3. Our public schools - and the future of our children - depend on it. Thank you for your time.

Andrea Edwards

Self

Austin, TX

As a native Texan and product of both public schools and a prominent Texas university, I am appalled at the diversion of taxpayer dollars from public education to private schools. There is no way that lawmakers can both cut taxes and adequately fund public schools while simultaneously funding private ones. The money for vouchers has to come from somewhere and if you proceed in this vein, public school students will suffer in a number of ways: 1) there is no fair way to judge the quality of education received as public schools must provide education to all students including those with special needs so overall test scores are subsequently lower. Furthermore, there is no state oversight of private schools-some are outstanding, some are just fancier forms of babysitting or religious indoctrination (not just Christian schools by the way but Harmony schools which are run by Turkish Muslims for example). 2) In many rural areas there are no private schools and many districts have consolidated to provide what public education they can. 3) Public schools are already underfunded. Teachers are leaving at an increasing rate through retirement as well as those leaving for jobs in the private sector due to low pay, long hours and lack of administrative and parental support. When teachers leave and are not replaced, or replacements are temporary or inexperienced, students suffer. 4) Poor parents cannot afford private schools. "School choice" sounds good but any voucher would only be minimal in the face of private school tuition. Also, not everyone has access to transportation options to take children to and from a private school which may not be in their neighborhood.

In summation: Every student in Texas deserves a quality public education so they can thrive and become a productive member of society. Public tax dollars should adequately fund public schools in both rural and urban areas without relying on stealing from wealthier districts to fund poorer ones. We have a surplus. Let's invest in our future workforce by making sure that all of our students, not just the wealthy or the fortunate few scholarship recipients are ready.

Thank you.

Jim Tate

Concerned taxpayers

Granbury, TX

This bill will destroy public schools, the very backbone of our very fragile democracy!

Jessica Lugo
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Testimony in Opposition to HB3
Jessica Lugo
Former Public School Teacher & Texas Public School Parent

Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Jessica Lugo and I am a former Texas public school teacher and a proud parent of two children who attend our local public schools. I am writing to strongly oppose HB3.

For years, I dedicated my career to educating Texas students, and now, as a parent, I continue to see the incredible work that public schools do every day. My children are thriving in our public schools—not just academically, but socially and emotionally—because of the dedicated teachers and diverse opportunities available to them.

And let me be clear: my family already has school choice. We were able to select a public school that best meets our children's needs through an existing transfer process. Texas public schools offer magnet programs, dual-language campuses, and open-enrollment policies that give families real choices—without diverting taxpayer dollars away from the schools that serve the vast majority of students.

HB3 is not about giving parents choice—it's about shifting public money to private institutions that are not held to the same standards, not accountable to taxpayers, and not obligated to serve all students, including those with special needs, behavioral challenges, or language barriers. As a teacher, I saw firsthand how public school employees work tirelessly to support every child, regardless of background or ability. Private schools, on the other hand, can pick and choose who they enroll. That's not real choice—it's exclusion.

Instead of draining resources from our already underfunded public schools, the legislature should be investing in them—ensuring competitive teacher pay, reducing class sizes, and expanding the innovative programs that give parents real options within the public system.

Texas public schools serve over 5 million students, and they are the backbone of our communities. I urge you to reject HB3 and stand with the families, teachers, and students who believe in strengthening—not dismantling—our public education system.

Thank you.
Jessica Lugo

Candace Heeren
Self/Dyslexia Therapist
Mount Pleasant, TX

I do not agree with school vouchers. They will not benefit children in Texas. Public schools are already grossly underfunded. Governor Abbott has made it clear that he is not interested in running for Governor again. This is a Hail Mary effort for him to pass school vouchers before his term ends. It is evident with his daily school vouchers social media posts. Please listen to the voters. Most of us do not want a school voucher program and we are paying attention to how our representatives vote on this matter.

John Sigety
Self
Frisco, TX

Please do right by public school kids (like mine) and increase the basic allotment to AT LEAST \$7,500. The Texas Constitution requires it. Recent inflation necessitates it. Please help make Texas better in terms of educating our kids.

Ambur Allen
Self/RN
Roanoke, TX

We have to increase the Basic Allotment to \$7500 for NISD. Our teachers and students deserve better

Mary Anne Helms, Ms.
Self
Rosenberg, TX

Research has consistently found that vouchers fail to improve student achievement and often cause significant harm, particularly in math. A 2019 study of the Louisiana voucher program by the University of Arkansas found that after four years voucher students performed 24 percentile points below their public school peers in Math. A 2016 study by a conservative think tank found similar results in Ohio, noting that voucher students “fared worse academically compared to their closely matched peers attending public schools. . These negative impacts “appear to persist over time.” A pair of 2018 studies found that Washington DC voucher students performed significantly worse in math than non-voucher students with one study finding that these students fell behind by 10 percentile points after 10 years. Another study found that attending a voucher school had a larger negative effect on math achievement than all other factors reviewed, including feeling unsafe in school AND teacher turnover. This research refutes Abbotts claim that “school choice helps every student thrive.”

To quote an article from the Texas AFT (a statewide union with 66,000 members including k-12 educators, community college educators, support staff and retirees), “Texans deserve an honest, fact-based conversation about the track record and real fiscal and social costs of school privatization programs. Our state’s economic prosperity and the well-being of millions of Texas children depends on ensuring all have access to a high-quality public education. Diverting hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to unaccountable private schools, while cutting funding for public schools, would be a reckless step in the wrong direction. Our state leaders must focus instead on providing our public schools the full funding they need to help every child achieve their potential.”

Julia Lenz
Self
Austin, TX

We must invest in our future and children. By not covering inflation rates for education and cutting funds from education we are creating more homeless and dire strain on the economy from uneducated and un-hireable in the future. Cutting these funds will create a lack of teachers which will create higher class sizes, more behavior problems and more issues for public education. With the increase we’ve seen in taxes there is 100% capability to cover inflation for the education system. Please ensure you are providing funds for our future or it will cost 4x in the future to cover homeless, drug problems, and economic devastation to a non-capable workforce. Teachers already do the hardest job with little pay, we cannot keep asking them to do more with less or we will have fewer or less qualified teachers. Please make the right decision for our children and future, or I will have to look to leave this state to one that cares about education and children and you will lose more and more tax paying income.

Chelsea Kerestine, Mrs.
Self / sales
Roanoke, TX

We need the allotment raised to match the inflation we have faced over the last 6 years. Nothing costs the same as it did in 2019. This is impacting our future leaders in our students and the teachers that are working hard to get them there.

Manuel Martinez
Self/Teacher
Austin, TX
Support Public Education

Nikki Harper, Mrs.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Public school funding should be a minimum \$7,500 per student. There has not been an increase in YEARS and the increase in cost of everything needs to be taking in to consideration. Why are we putting so much more value on private schools...when we shouldn't be funding those at all? It needs to be an equal playing field. If private schools get \$10k the public schools should get the same. And private schools should have the same hoops to jump through as the public schools. Invest in our public schools that serve ALL students.

Robin Barker

Self

Amarillo, TX

I am in opposition of the school vouchers. I have always been a proud Texan. I've seen how Texas does things differently and others try to follow. What I don't understand with this bill is that Texas is following other states as well as other countries that implemented this school voucher system - none with great results! The public school system used to be decent. I taught in the public school system long enough to know that was not what I wanted for my children. I homeschool my children. I do not want any school vouchers. I want to see Texas try to fix what is broke - public schools. You can't fix that by allocating funds to such a small number of students in Texas to go elsewhere. What are those students that still go to public schools going to get? Higher student to teacher ratios? Less security? Definitely not a better education. I do not want your "help" homeschooling my child either. He is above his grade level thanks to my teaching, not anything I've been told to do. I would appreciate you all thinking about ALL children when you think of this bill. Not that small percentage that *might* benefit from a voucher. If you truly want to help those students, create a scholarship program, just like the videos that Greg Abbott has posted.

Betsy Kemper

Self children's entertainer

Austin, TX

I do not support the voucher program for Texas Public Education. That education is available for all children and this voucher program will take much needed money to subsidize the education of wealthy children. Public education is available to them and if their parents don't want to take advantage of it that should be their choice. It should also be their choice to fully fund it. Taking money away from public education is not the right choice for all the children of Texas. They have no voice and you were elected to represent all the children of Texas.

Bonnie Lockhart

Self/Retired attorney

Austin, TX

I am adamantly opposed to taxpayers dollars being used to fund private schools. I would like to see better-funded public schools in order to assure a better education for all.

Abbey Garber

self - attorney

DALLAS, TX, TX

Please vote NO on public school vouchers. They dilute essential support for public schools, whose funding is guaranteed by the Texas Constitution that you swore an oath to support and defend. There are more than 5,000,000 children in public schools. The past practice of underfunding (no increase since 2019) is consistent with handicapping public schools. Thank you for taking the steps necessary to effect the improved education for the State's public school children when the federal government threatens to withdraw its support. Your vote will be observed closely.

Michael Appleman, Mr

Self / Attorney

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote NO on public school vouchers. They dilute essential support for public schools, whose funding is *guaranteed by the Texas Constitution that you swore an oath to support and defend.* It is estimated that vouchers will only benefit about 10% of the 500,000 or so Texas school children. "Parent choice" is a nice way to disguise privatization and support of private religious schools, which are the only ones where Gov. Abbott took his campaign. Further, the increased support of \$210 per student in public schools that has been proposed is insulting and a mockery, especially when compared to the proposed diversion of \$10,000 per student to private schools.

Thank you for taking the steps necessary to effect the improved education for the State's public school children that you claim, esp. when the federal government threatens to withdraw its support. Your vote will be observed closely.

Jason Rodgers

self

Sunset, TX

Don't do it. This is a boondoggle wrapped in garbage, and effectively nothing more than a big money grab. It has nothing to do with education. This is a nasty and invasive UN think tank idea, and I'm embarrassed and ashamed that my representatives would even consider this.

This is essentially a vendor Bill and it will greatly impact private and homeschool communities with broad restrictions. I turned my attention to the drain on taxpayers and the cost to implement these programs, so not to draw more attention to the private and homeschool communities that they are essentially targeting with these bills.

Education is, should be, and has always been a personal journey. Not everyone learns the same, and since the adoption of standardized testing, not one single metric has risen. Public school is a socialistic institution,

Sharon Berliner, Dr

Self. Clinical Psychologist

Houston, TX

Our public funds are for the public welfare. Texas has never fully funded our public schools and our national rankings show this. Parents have always been free to send their children to private schools but we the public do not want to fund private schools. This takes money directly from our public schools. Other states that have vouchers have found themselves with escalating debt incurred from this. Let's make our public schools the envy of the nation by fully funding them.

Mimi Platt Zimmerman, Ms

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote NO on public school vouchers. They diminish essential support for public schools, whose funding is guaranteed by the Texas Constitution that you swore an oath to support and defend. There are more than 5,000,000 children in public schools in Texas. At most, vouchers will only benefit about 10% of the Texas school children. We all know that "parent choice" is a false flag to hide the real agenda of privatization and support of private religious schools, which are the only ones where Gov. Abbott took his campaign. The proposed increased support in public schools of \$210 per student is insulting and a mockery. That is clearly inadequate when the proposed diversion to private schools is \$10,000 per student, which only covers a minimal amount of a private school education.. The past practice of underfunding (no increase since 2019) is consistent with handicapping public schools. The concern about uncertified teachers in public schools can only increase with this current plan to provide vouchers and very little funding for teachers' raises

Thank you for taking the steps necessary to effect the improved education for the State's public school children that you claim, esp. when the federal government threatens to withdraw its support. Your vote will be observed closely.

Kevin Rutkowski

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Public money should not go towards private schools, especially when public schools are terribly underfunded. If private schools do get public money, they should be required to meet 100% of public school mandates in order to receive a student using the funding. They should be required to administer STAAR testing, be required to serve every student, and to meet every other mandated provision in state law.

In addition, any school funding law should mandate that 100% of taxes collected to fund schools goes to actually fund schools. There needs to be a provision that will automatically increase funding by any amount of school taxes collected state wide that is above the funding level for schools. Today, more school tax is collected than is spent in schools, so we essentially have a hidden tax to fund the state general fund.

Irma Quiroz

Self/RN

El Paso, TX

This bill negatively impacts public schools. If they would vote to fund public education we wouldn't need vouchers! At the moment public education is understaffed, overworked, and underpaid! Public school teachers are committed to their students to provide the best education. Students are receiving their services. If the state passes this bill it will greatly affect students and educators in the public setting. These "choice schools" do not adhere to the law like public school. They don't have to provide special education. Therefore in October public schools get an influx of students because these "choice schools" tell parents that this is not the "best choice" for their child and they have to take them back to their home school.

Please vote NO on this bill.

Your constituent,

Irma Quiroz

Marcy Tanter

Self

STEPHENVILLE, TX

This bill should not go forward. The money taken away from public education will hurt Texas schools. We rank low in national ratings as it is, removing this funding will make things worse. Teacher retention is at risk, students from low income areas are at great risk. This bill is unfair and serves only to benefit students from wealthier families. I oppose this wholeheartedly and it is extremely troubling that people who are supposed to be working for the PUBLIC good support and initiative that will only do harm. Texas children need your help, not your disdain.

Debbie Cross

Self

San Angelo, TX

Please no vouchers our Texas children in public school deserve better

Calli Eubanks

Self

Bronte, TX

This is a horrible idea! Please listen and put money into public schools! They are already struggling and this will make it worse!

Deidre Mead
Self
Greenville, TX

I am a firm believer in a public education provided for all Texas children.
Public education should be protected and fully funded in order for our community, state, and country to have an educated public.
Tax payer dollars should never be used for anything other than the public good.
Diverting education dollars to private and/or religious institutions goes against the separation of church and state, which is another foundational tenet of our US Constitution.
HB3 and SB2 are a money grab for the wealthy, many of which already send their children to private or religious schools.
The poor, rural, and disabled children will be excluded in larger numbers as they will not have access to schools (distance), will not meet entrance requirements, and/or will not be able to meet the additional tuition over the ESA amount.
We need to be all in and focused on public education.
At the very least this issue should be decided by a vote of the people, not legislators (especially those bought and paid for by West Texas "influencers").
Please vote against Vouchers.

Eric Gaeta
Self
Austin, TX

I am against HB 3. HB 3 is unconstitutional and would allow public funding for religious educational institutions. Furthermore these public school vouchers will defund public education and offer more discounts to wealthy citizens thus creating more disparity between economic classes. There is no school choice in this bill. The only choice would be the private institutions ability to accept or deny entry. Keep public funds in our public schools and remove this bill from becoming law.

Coryne Rich, Ms

Self

Houston, TX

As a concerned parent deeply invested in the quality of education my daughter receives, I believe that the implementation of this bill would have detrimental effects on our public education system and, consequently, on the educational opportunities available to my child.

This substantial diversion of taxpayer money away from public schools threatens to undermine the financial stability of a system that serves the vast majority of Texas children. Public schools are already grappling with limited resources, and siphoning funds to support private education will exacerbate these challenges, leading to larger class sizes, reduced programs, and diminished support services. ?

Unlike public schools, private institutions are not held to the same standards of accountability. HB 3 does not mandate private schools to administer the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) tests, allowing them to choose alternative assessments. This discrepancy hinders parents' ability to make informed comparisons between educational institutions and undermines the transparency essential for maintaining educational standards. ?

The bill's provisions do not require private schools to accept all students, potentially leading to discriminatory admission practices. This loophole could result in the exclusion of students with special needs or those from low-income families, effectively denying them the purported benefits of school choice. Such practices would leave the most vulnerable students in underfunded public schools, widening the educational inequality gap. ?

The proposed voucher program could also have unintended consequences on the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). A reduction in public school enrollment may lead to decreased contributions to the TRS, potentially jeopardizing the retirement security of our dedicated educators. While some analyses suggest minimal immediate impact, the long-term effects remain uncertain and warrant careful consideration.

Although HB 3 proposes increased funding for special education students, there is no guarantee that private schools will have the capacity or willingness to accommodate these students. This uncertainty could leave many special needs students without appropriate educational placements, further straining public schools that are already under-resourced.

In conclusion, while the intent of HB 3 may be to provide families with more educational choices, the bill's implementation poses significant risks to the quality and equity of education in Texas. I urge the committee to consider these concerns and vote against HB 3 to protect and strengthen our public education system for all students, including my daughter.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Glenda Rogers, Mrs

Self

Georgetown, TX

Please do not vote for the voucher system. I fully support the public school system and want to see more support both financial and otherwise to make it stronger.

Gordon Appleman

Self, attorney

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote NO on public school vouchers. They dilute essential support for public schools, whose funding is guaranteed by the Texas Constitution that you swore an oath to support and defend. There are more than 5,000,000 children in public schools. At most, vouchers will only benefit about 10% of the Texas school children. We all know that "parent choice" is a false flag to hide the real agenda of privatization and support of private religious schools, which are the only ones where Gov. Abbott took his campaign. The concern about uncertified teachers in public schools is magnified in home schooling. The past practice of underfunding (no increase since 2019) is consistent with handicapping public schools. The proposed increased support of \$210 per student is insulting and a mockery. That is clearly inadequate when the proposed diversion to private schools is \$10,000 per student.

Thank you for taking the steps necessary to effect the improved education for the State's public school children that you claim, esp. when the federal government threatens to withdraw its support. Your vote will be observed closely.

Christine Coffill-Scott

Self

Austin, TX

This bill harms public education. Please don't pass this.

Chasity Johnson

Self - Education Content Writer

Arlington, TX

As a former public school teacher with 19 years of experience, I am deeply concerned about the devastating impact that House Bill 3 will have on Texas public schools, educators, and the Teacher Retirement System (TRS). While I am no longer in the classroom, I remain committed to advocating for the profession I dedicated nearly two decades of my life to and for the students and educators who will suffer if this bill is enacted.

House Bill 3 threatens the stability of our public education system by diverting critical funding away from public schools. This loss of funding will result in declining student enrollment, which in turn will lead to teacher layoffs, school closures, and increased financial strain on already struggling districts.

Beyond its immediate effects on schools, this bill poses a direct threat to the long-term viability of the TRS pension system. Recently, the head of TRS testified that even a 1% reduction in the number of actively contributing members could destabilize the system, rendering it actuarially unsound. This bill will undoubtedly lead to such a reduction as public schools lose students and are forced to downsize their workforce.

As someone who has spent nearly two decades contributing to TRS, I find this deeply alarming. If this bill passes and teachers begin to lose their jobs, I will have no choice but to withdraw my contributions from TRS and transfer them to an IRA to protect my retirement. I am certain that many other former educators who, like me, are not yet eligible for retirement will do the same. This mass divestment will only accelerate the financial collapse of TRS, putting the retirements of thousands of Texas educators at risk.

Unless there is a concrete plan to transition public school employees into the Employees Retirement System of Texas or another stable pension structure, I will not stand by and allow my retirement savings to be jeopardized. Legislators must understand that this bill is not just about school choice—it is about the long-term consequences for Texas teachers, retirees, and the financial security of those who have dedicated their lives to public service.

I urge Texas lawmakers to reject House Bill 3 and prioritize strengthening our public education system rather than dismantling it. The future of Texas students, educators, and retirees depends on it.

Jeanne Devine, Rev

Self, retired clergy

Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB 3, which would divert public funding from public schools and instead send public funding to private schools with no accountability. The amount of state support would not pay full tuition at many private schools. It would, however, enrich families who are already able to pay full tuition at such schools, making it a windfall for the wealthy. The idea, suggested by the Senate bill, that household income up to \$160,000 is "low-income" is ludicrous. Private schools are unable and generally unwilling to provide all special education services required by some students; public schools, however, are required to provide special education services despite the lack of state funding increases since 2019. The Legislature's job is to fund public education for the children of this state. You have not done this, and until you do, you have no business sending public dollars elsewhere.

April Pettitt

Self

Arlington, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB3. Please vote to fund public education.

Robin Harris

Self-Dyslexia Therapist for Texarkana ISD

Texarkana, TX

I am a product of a public school education as are my parents, sisters husband and children. Giving money to people who are going to choose private education anyway, through vouchers doesn't increase the number of people who choose private school, it only steals money from public education that is desperately needed! As a teacher, Dyslexia Therapist, I believe that public education serves students well. Most children attending public schools are not going to choose private schools due to vouchers! The vouchers only give more money to people who have plenty of money to attend private schools already. This robs public school districts who are already struggling. Teachers deserve considerable raises and they need to continue getting a raise with every year of service! My 1st year teaching in 1996, I made \$18,000 a year. That is below poverty level! Teachers have 4 year college degrees, and many have more advanced degrees! They are not paid enough for what they put up with. So many parents don't have kids to raise them to be productive members of society, they have kids to get a check! Free money so they don't have to work. These "parents" send their unruly children to school and expect teachers to do miracles! It is impossible to teach what we are supposed to teach and deal with undisciplined children. Teachers ARE NOT PAID ENOUGH!! I work in a school with many different types of children with disabilities such as autism, hearing impairment, dyslexia to mention a few. Private schools would not accept students with these disabilities yet, politicians are trying to entice parents with vouchers for private schools that won't accept their children and are not equipped to do so. Please remember without public schools, many children with potential will be put in to classrooms with too many students, not enough supplies and an over worked teacher. DO BETTER! Vouchers DO NOT alleviate the problems we need to be addressed! Politicians should not take money from the poor and give to the rich! The voucher amount is not enough for people to move their children to private school. Vouchers would only impair public schools and teachers even more that we already are! I am a teacher who wants to teach students to read. I continue to have Dyslexic students added to my classes because there are not enough Dyslexia Therapists for the number of students being diagnosed with Dyslexia. Please put the money towards something worth while! Make Public schools better!

Amy Brown
Self
Smithville, TX

HB3 Testimony Template – Herb Krasner

In your statements today and previously, you have consistently pushed the possible positive effects of this universal ESA program – without a single mention of the downsides.

Experiences in the other states has shown that Universal ESA voucher programs fail to achieve improving educational outcomes for students. In fact, research shows vouchers have substantial negative effects on academic achievement: For example: Studies in Louisiana, Indiana, and Ohio found that students who attended private schools using vouchers performed worse than similar peers in public schools. These negative effects persisted over years, meaning they were not a temporary result of students' transition to a new school.

Studies of voucher programs in Washington, D.C., and Alabama found no significant improvement in student test scores. Vouchers fail to deliver even on non-academic measures. Parents do not report greater satisfaction with schools, nor a greater sense of safety, with the use of vouchers.

Indiana's program has been described as the poster child for the segregating effects of vouchers

Claims that vouchers improve academic performance are simply false

Furthermore, vouchers harm under-resourced rural public schools and their communities, with no benefit to those rural students who cannot find any private schools.

Voucher programs drain millions of dollars from public sources but are subject to virtually no public accountability—a fraction of the requirements imposed on public schools. Unregulated, unaccountable voucher programs are a waste of taxpayer dollars.

It has also been shown in the other states that:

Vouchers are more expensive than public schooling

Vouchers shift education expenses to the parents

Vouchers subsidize private education for students who would not otherwise have attended a public school

Voucher programs do not change the fixed costs in public schools

Vouchers cost taxpayers money to subsidize private education – often for the more wealthy

Vouchers create new subpar education vendors to suck up the increased demand for profit sake

Question:

What makes you think that none of that will happen here in Texas starting next year???

Patricia Smith
self
ROUND ROCK, TX

As a retired educator, I am vehemently opposed to HB 3. I am so confused about how intelligent men/women can look at the data from other states who have done a version of this plan, and still support it. Funding this bill (or ones like it) and gutting public education (you know it will eventually happen) is not the way to leveling the playing field. Please do your research and get out of thinking that "Texas will do it better.". Abbott is not your boss. We the people are and I am confident that the majority of people in this state can see through the smoke. If nothing else, put it on a ballot and see what your constituents think. Thank you- Patricia Smith, voter.

Mary Miller, Mrs
Teachers, Students, Public
Gause, TX

As a constituent of governor Greg Abbott and a veteran Republican teacher in a rural community, please LISTEN to us and VOTE NO TO VOUCHERS and NO to school choice and NO to family first.

Teachers IN the trenches in public school classrooms put CHILDREN first and all families in Texas currently have a choice; public funds shouldn't pay for private education. Release the funds and redirect the payments from testing to support public education. Say NO to VOUCHERS!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Miller

Lauren Gutterman, Dr.
self/professor
Austin, TX

I am a parent of two students in the Austin Independent School District. I am asking you to vote no on HB3.

Our public schools are vital to our children's learning and the strength of our local community. Taxpayers should not have to subsidize private schools for wealthy parents. Even with vouchers, that vast majority of Texans could not afford to send their children to private schools. Furthermore, we have seen in other states how private schools simply increase their tuition after voucher laws have been passed. Our tax money is meant to go to fund public schools that serve everyone, not private schools that can choose whether or not to accept students based on race, religion, or disability among other characteristics. Why should I have to fund private schools that might discriminate against my children for being multi-racial or having gay parents?

We have already seen how similar legislation in other states has drained public funding from schools among other public services. Arizona, for example, where lawmakers passed a voucher bill in 2022, witnessed a more than 1 billion dollar budget shortfall in 2024. Like so many other Texas parents across the state, I am asking you not to take away public resources from our children. Once taken away, this funding will not be returned to our public education system. All children deserve an education, not merely those whose parents can afford to pay for private schools.

Steve Rowe
self; development
Arlington, TX

It is time for Texas to join the dozens of other states who have prioritized the education of its children over the interests of teachers unions and the entrenched public school system. Though my children are not likely to benefit from ESAs themselves, it is incumbent on all of us to create a system that produces an educated population. The status quo is not sufficient, as reports show educational outcomes far below where they should be. ESAs will have the effect of introducing competition into the system, which will cause outcomes across the board to improve. They are not a panacea, but neither is perennial increased funding of the public school system.

I myself attended Texas public schools and private schools. I am not anti-public schools by any means. In fact, even when ESAs are implemented, most people will continue to send their children to public schools. The currently-proposed appropriation will impact less than 1% of all school-age children in the state. But it will impact 100% of the public school districts as they will no longer have a monopoly on options for most parents.

In my years of following this issue, one thing is clear about those who oppose ESAs--they view them as a threat to the status quo. They are not wrong. But the truth is, the status quo is failing far too many Texas children. It's time to do something about it.

Allyson Lannom
Self Speech language Pathologist
Fort worth, TX

Lack of funding for our public schools is already a serious issue. There is not enough staff to support the students. Especially those who have special needs. The demands on teachers and staff are unrealistic which is leading to many leaving the profession. "School choice" is simply encouraging private school to those who need a little help to do so. Low income students whose parents rely on transportation from the district will not get to benefit from this "choice". The populations that require more early education, interventions, access to special education will now be underfunded.

Carol Bryant
Retired educator
Cypress, TX

Say NO to this bill. Vouchers and ESAs are not in the best interest of public schools or Texas taxpayers. You have a Constitutional duty to fully fund the public schools of the state. Funds should not go for private educations which do not meet the same criteria or standards required of public schools. You have shortchanged public schools long enough.

Cyndi Norris, Mrs
Self
Canyon, TX

No public money for private education!!! ALL of Texas' children need to be served and that won't happen in private schools. Plus, private schools Donny want the scrutiny public schools get. Do what is RIGHT and vote down this bill!!!

Vikki Deloach, Ms.
Self
El Paso, TX

How does this benefit ALL children? My main concern is how this adversely affects public schools. HB 3, is structured to be advantageous for affluent families. Please be transparent on the effects on those struggling socioeconomically. This is not about ALL children.

Carlos Gutierrez, Mr.
Self
El Paso, TX

My family and I are strongly opposed to school vouchers. There are far too many people getting rich by constantly skimming money off of the government. As we've seen in the news recently, we need to avoid government waste and make it more efficient. Vouchers take this in the wrong direction. The only people that win in the privatization of education are CEOs and owners. Students, teachers, and classrooms do not see the extra money spent per student. Please do your job by representing your constituents by opposing the governor's voucher scheme. Thank you for your time and we appreciate you looking out for your people.

CELIA SAIZ-BROUSSARD
BROWNSVILLE EDUCATORS STAND TOGETHER
Brownsville, TX

No to vouchers!!

Kristin Bingham, Mrs.

Self

Lubbock, TX

Education savings accounts are bad for Texas students and for Texas educators. The impact of this bill to TRS will devastate the program. Texas students deserve fully funded public education and that is what our tax dollars are intended for. Parents that want to send their children to private school have that choice now. As a conservative I do not support subsidizing programs that are not the governments to govern - we don't do this with healthcare or business, why would we do this for education? And to only benefit a select few 100,000 students? With no guarantees that funds will go to families that need them? Families making \$500,000 do not NEED government subsidies and this is a clear violation of conservative principles. I urge you to vote NO on this bill as it is a clear expansion of government. Instead, keep that \$1 billion in PUBLIC education, pay our teachers what they deserve without strings attached, replace the STAAR test, and INVEST in Texas students to move us out of 44th in the nation. Consider policies that have made other state education systems top 10, and let's try those instead. Unfortunately, public education has been an active experiment since the early 1990s. Let's stop experimenting on our kids. Instead let's teach them to be great thinkers, ready for any career they choose to pursue. Thank you for your consideration.

Jenn Vermeulen

Self

Dallas, TX

As a homeschooling parent, I opposed the back door expansion of government into private education through an ESA program. Regardless of whether my family "opts in" or not, we - and all homeschooling families - will suffer the economic impact this inflationary policy will have on the cost of tuition, programming and educational materials. I encourage Representative Meyer to reject this and all other bills attempting to expand the government's involvement or interests in non-public education.

Marissa Stewart

self

Hutto, TX

I am writing to ask you to protect neighborhood schools and oppose House Bill 3 in Texas. I am a public school teacher in Texas and this system will defund public education hurting our students, families, and schools.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them to succeed, not just students at exclusive private schools. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our neighborhood public schools for students, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private and religious schools that pick and choose who will enroll.

As a concerned Texan, I ask you to vote down House Bill 3, which diverts tax dollars from neighborhood public schools. Public dollars should stay in public schools.

Say NO to vouchers that use tax dollars to fund the tuition at exclusive private schools.

Julia Backus

Public Education

Waxahachie, TX

Perhaps you have misread the map or looked at the wrong demographic line but public education is a pipeline to a better future for millions of Texans and a way to bypass prison or poverty. When should a gift of this magnitude be revoked and money from hard working Texans be given to those seeking private education when it's already earmarked for public education??? That doesn't seem quite right...especially when the money offered is just a drop compared to what is needed for a reputable private school. First, not every child/family will have access to private schools...hence review your map. And if they do, do you think everyone will qualify for a public school??? No! And if they do for a year (because of the 10k), they can be asked to leave just as quickly! Next, think of the economic engines public schools provide for communities! Your communities! The neighborhoods where your family and friends reside. The same people who elected you to represent them! In many small towns, teachers and administrators are the most sought after commodities for employment and are treated in high regards. It's only our government/governor who have made it criminal to be a teacher! This large voting body put you in office and by golly, they can get you out! Do what you were asked to do. Be our voices when we can't speak! REPRESENT!!!

Jim Wunderlich, Mr

Self

Dallas, TX

This bill is just a very slick way to send public tax dollars to wealthy parents who already have their students enrolled in very expensive private schools. \$10000 is more than is provided to public schools to educate each child. To be fair the voucher program must be limited to that same amount that public schools get per child.

Sincerely,

Jim Wunderlich

Marissa Stewart

self

Hutto, TX

I am demanding the committee vote NO on HB3. Vouchers will harm public education in Texas by taking away money from public schools and funneling it to private schools that aren't held to the same accountability standards by the state. Parents in Texas ALREADY have school choice as many districts offer open enrollment, there are charter schools, and parents can also choose to send their children to private schools. Public tax dollars should NOT fund private education. Please show your support for public education, Texas students, and teachers by voting NO on HB3.

Pat Stevens

AFT

Fort Worth, TX

Plz vote AGAINST school vouchers-that is a vote FOR our struggling and underfunded public schools in Texas

Barbara Foley, Ms

Self

Cedar Hill, TX

Please don't take much needed funds from Texas' public schools. They haven't gotten any funding since 2019 and school districts in Texas are failing to the point of having to loose important programs, equipment and resources for the public schools. Please don't rob the poor to give to the rich.

Stephanie Burns

Self, higher education

College Station, TX

This bill will only end up benefiting children who come from means. Public schools are for all students, and choosing to go to school somewhere else is right but should not be paid for by the people of Texas.

Edward Sills, Mr.

Self. Retired.

Austin, TX

I'm against HB 3 as an abrogation of the state's constitutional duties toward the public school system, as a regressive move toward privatization that will mainly enrich wealthier Texans, and as taxpayer support for schools that completely lack accountability. I would add that under this bill, we can expect private schools to raise tuition dramatically to claim a share of the voucher bounty, undermining any notion of "parental choice" (which already exists anyway). To do otherwise would be business malpractice. Please vote no on HB 3.

Patricia Yeargain

Self - Retired

Austin, TX

HB 3 is a travesty to your constituents. It offers a chance, not a choice because private schools will have the choice, not parents. Private schools are not required to accept every child and most do not offer special education services. Private schools are not held accountable by standardized testing or required curricula as are public schools. There are 155 counties with no private schools. Since many private schools will be parochial schools, public funding of these schools creates conflict with the Constitutional separation of church and state. Lastly, there will be very little oversight of the schools accepting these vouchers. Please do not send HB 3 forward.

Jacalyn Dielmann

self

Austin, TX

I am very opposed to vouchers as a retired public school teacher. They ONLY benefit the already rich!!! Shame on Texas for promoting this scam!!!

Jill Burk, Dr.

Self - retired teacher

Stephenville, TX

I strongly oppose vouchers. Public funds should go to public schools. Vouchers are welfare for the wealthy. Private schools can admit only the students they want and have no academic or financial accountability. Worst of all, this effort is funded and pushed by billionaires outside of Texas who want to discredit public schools and see them fail.

Ashley Culverhouse

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed school voucher program. While I understand the intention behind such programs may be to provide families with more choices in education, I believe that school vouchers are ultimately harmful to our public education system and could result in negative consequences for students, teachers, and communities.

First, school vouchers divert critical funds from public schools, which serve the majority of students in our community. Public schools are the backbone of our education system, and reducing their funding undermines their ability to provide quality education, particularly for students who rely on these resources the most. In turn, this could exacerbate inequality and make it more difficult for public schools to meet the needs of all students.

Second, school vouchers often lack the oversight necessary to ensure that private institutions adhere to the same standards of accountability and equity that public schools are held to. Without proper regulation, vouchers could funnel public money into schools that do not provide the same level of education, inclusivity, or support for all students, particularly those with special needs or from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Finally, I believe that our focus should be on strengthening our public schools, not undermining them. By investing in public education—providing teachers with better resources, supporting students with the tools they need to succeed, and improving facilities—we can create an education system that works for everyone, rather than furthering division between different types of schools.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed voucher program and instead focus on supporting our public schools so that every student has the opportunity to receive a high-quality education, regardless of their background or where they live.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and hope that we can work together to strengthen our public education system.

Jason Duckworth

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Jose Cardoza

myself

Pharr, TX

The implementation of school voucher programs threatens the educational equity and opportunities of our most vulnerable student populations, particularly those in Title I schools and special education programs. As advocates for public education, we must strongly oppose the diversion of public funds to private and charter schools through voucher programs, which undermine the fundamental mission of our public school system: to provide every child, regardless of socioeconomic status or ability, with a high-quality education. Harmful Consequences for Special Education Students

Students receiving special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are particularly at risk when voucher programs are introduced. Public schools are legally required to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to students with disabilities, ensuring they receive individualized supports, specialized instruction, and related services necessary for their success.

Private and charter schools that receive voucher funding are not held to the same legal requirements as public schools, often failing to:

Provide specialized services, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, and behavioral supports.

Employ trained and certified special education professionals.

Develop and implement Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) that meet students' unique needs.

Accommodate all students, as many private institutions reserve the right to deny admission based on disability status.

By funneling public funds into private schools that are not obligated to support special education students adequately, voucher programs create an inequitable system where students with disabilities are left behind, ultimately weakening the promise of IDEA and the rights of every child to receive an appropriate education.

Scott Hinze, Mr

Self

Aledo, TX

I reject school vouchers and the defunding of our public education. This country is getting stupider and stupider and we need to invest in ALL the kids and their current public schools which need higher paying teachers and smaller classrooms. Vouchers for private schools will just inflate their market-driven prices - what's to stop them?

Emily Chandler

Self

Kilgore, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3. As our elected officials you have each been chosen by Texans to represent OUR beliefs and be OUR voice in the legislature. In the almost 24 hours of testimony I observed yesterday it is clear that the talking points and rhetoric that many of the committee members and members of the Republican Party have utilized when they are unable to give a real answer to a real question from a REAL Texan are not consistent with the voices of their constituents.

It is time to do your job that you were elected to do and listen to the people who voted for you. Gregg Abbott is not your constituent, PACs from the Northeast are not your constituents. Your constituents live in Texas.

I have been a life long Republican, but I am bitterly disappointed by all of the lies and bullying that I have seen from this party that have directly targeted our educators.

Thank you to Hinajosa, Talarico, Bryant and others who have come prepared with factual evidence. It's abundantly clear who on the committee truly cares enough about public education and who has taken the time to do research and have real conversations so that they can truly understand the impacts of HB 3.

Lisa Cantrell

Self

Austin, TX

Elected officials,

I know the needs of individual students varies greatly, and of course, there are some individual cases where a private school may be a better fit for that student. This bill, however, will affect ALL Texas students. This bill does NOT serve to enhance the education of our students. Supporting public schools and funding them properly should be your number 1 goal.

As a parent of 2 public school students, daughter of a retired teacher, and friend of teachers, I encourage you to do what is best for our students and not special interest groups. Please vote NO HB 3!

Charles Jackson

Myself -Retired

Round Rock, TX

What happened to Republicans who are fiscally responsible and demand accountability with my tax dollars? Vote NO to ESAs, and vouchers (in case that bill is next). Vote NO to HB3!

Britta Hinze

Self, Realtor

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy for Texas taxpayers, and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Amy Mathews-Perez

Self

Waco, TX

This bill enables parental choice more than it supports students. If you believe in public education AT ALL, if you are committed to the education of the children of this state AT ALL, you will STOP this bill. I believe in parent choice but NOT at taxpayers expense's and I feel sure that the people that elected you feel the same way. Let parents that want their children to go to private school do that-ON THEIR OWN. It is NOT the taxpayers responsibility to create options for parents choice of education any more than it would be the taxpayers responsibility to create choice for private county club memberships. Trust parents to do what they want with what they have; if they don't have what they want then they'll figure out "the best path for their child" as you say. Let them. Neither you, the legislation nor the taxpayers are obligated to create choice. I want to believe that you support public education more than you are willing to acquiesce to pressure, influence or money. However, your actions do not exemplify this. At MINIMUM, set up a step-by-step implementation of this ESA. It is bewildering to me how you can claim to support public education and be willing to gut it at the same time. If there are funds available, direct them to public education first, set benchmarks & evaluate progress. If a fully-funded public education systems fails, THEN consider the reasons and how an ESA option that does NOT take funds from public education could work. Consider the bigger picture-a picture beyond your own words, beyond the words in this bill-a picture that includes the students, families and public ed. staff that will lose (funds, opportunities, consistency, jobs and more) because of this bill; a bill that is SO opposed, yet you are not willing to comprehend the input of those people. You may "listen" to testimonies, but if you truly comprehended the risks and negative impacts of this bill, you would stop it. Stop the rush if it, consider other options and be willing to pivot, reconsider and take the time to do the thing that best serves the majority: public education.

Sarah Ratliff

Self/Elementary Educator

Canyon, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed voucher system, which I believe will have detrimental effects on public education in our state. While the idea of providing parents with more educational choices may seem appealing, the reality is that vouchers will undermine public schools and fail to ensure equitable, high-quality education for all students.

First and foremost, the funding associated with vouchers is not equitable. Public schools are already underfunded, and diverting taxpayer dollars to private and charter schools through vouchers will only widen the gap between well-funded and under-resourced schools. Public schools serve all students regardless of background, ability, or need, while private institutions have the ability to selectively admit students. This inequity contradicts the fundamental principle of providing equal educational opportunities to every child in Texas.

Furthermore, private and charter schools that receive voucher funds are not held to the same level of state accountability as public schools. These schools are not required to follow the same curriculum standards, administer state assessments, or report on student outcomes in the same manner. Additionally, there is no guarantee that voucher-funded schools employ certified or degreed teachers, which raises serious concerns about the quality of education students may receive.

Moreover, private institutions are not obligated to accept students with disabilities or those requiring special education services. This lack of accountability and inclusivity leaves many vulnerable students behind while using public funds to support selective admission practices.

The public expects accountability and transparency when it comes to taxpayer dollars. Yet, under the voucher system, there is little assurance that the funds will be used to provide high-quality education. Without consistent oversight and accountability measures, we risk funding schools that do not meet the high standards we set for public education.

In conclusion, I urge the Texas House to reject the voucher system and instead invest in strengthening our public schools. Every child deserves access to a quality education, and public funds should be used to support public institutions that serve all students equitably and transparently.

Thank you for your time and the hours you put in to serve our great state.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ratliff

Doreen Martinez, Dr.

Self

Katy, TX

March 12, 2025

My name is Dr. Doreen Martinez, my address is 29106 Dove Lane, Katy, Texas and I am a public educator with 30+ years of experience as a teacher and an administrator and I am a product of public education. I work for Royal ISD as an elementary principa, and I am opposed to any type or form of a school voucher that will take away funds from public schools. The majority of our Texas children are in public schools. We educate every child who enters our schools, and we meet them where they are and prepare them for the next level. We need our public funds to educate our children and it's time to take a stand for public education. I am aware the Texas Legislature is considering HB 3 and I am absolutely opposed to implementing vouchers in Texas. As a native Texan, I am very proud of my public education. In fact, as a low income, at-risk, and highly mobile child growing up in Texas, I received a high quality education at all the various schools and districts I attended. In fact, my public education is what inspired me to become a history teacher. In 2015, I earned my doctorate and served as a principal at the elementary and secondary level. I am was an example of what can be achieved in Texas schools. I have dedicated my entire working career to helping children achieve academic goals. In addition, I support teachers from new to experienced increase their instructional practices so our students can master the taught and tested curriculum. Our Texas children deserve a high quality education from our public schools. The reality is the vouchers will not be able to cover the total cost of a private school, children in rural areas won't have access to private schools, and most of the money will go to the large cities in Texas. How does school vouchers ensure equitable access to all Texas children? It doesn't!

In fact, If a large voucher program is implemented in Royal ISD, it would drain...

\$1,115,022 from our neighborhood school district to unaccountable private schools. That could mean the following:

- * As many as 20 fewer teachers for students.
- * 22,300 fewer library books.
- * A projected increase in student-teacher ratio of 6.69%.

I ask that you please stand up for our Texas public schools and vote NO on HB 3 and or any other type of bill that would take public funds from our Texas Schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Doreen Martinez

Joyce & Bill Baker

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Between the two of us we have over 80 years teaching experience in both public and private schools. Each of us feel strongly that you should not pass HB 3! We believe strongly in the separation of "Church & State" and DO NOT want ANY of our tax payer dollars going to private or charter schools.

Beth Ishmael

Self, nurse practitioner

Fate, TX

I oppose HB3!

Nicholas Johnson, Retired Educator

Na

Lancaster, TX

I do not support this and this will be devastating to the education system of Texas and the students we serve. More money should be placed in the public schools for teacher pay, training and support for struggling students.

claudia blalock
self
fort worth, TX

I am opposed to the approval of school vouchers and support complete funding for public education. In many rural communities, the use of school vouchers would be pointless since only public education is available and the only option. I am a product of public schools and only want funding from Texas to be directed toward public school education.

Leslie Halleck
self
Dallas, TX

HB 3 the Voucher Bill: As a Texas resident, business owner, and tax payer I'm wholly against school vouchers. Taking our tax dollars meant to fund public schools, with access to education for all, against our will and handing them to parents (who are mostly already sending their kids to private schools) to spend on private and religious schools is tax fraud and theft. Texans do not want school vouchers. We want equal access for all kids to get a quality education and a separate of religion and state. My tax dollars should not be stolen to support a private religious school. If this is about choice, what about my choice as a tax payer with no children - should I get to choose not to pay property taxes that support schools at all because I don't use them? This bill is NOT about choice. It's about defunding the public school system in favor of religious indoctrination, racist segregation, dumbing down the entire population, and THEFT. Plain and simple. Oklahoma just published it's voucher study, and it's predominantly the WEALTHY benefiting from vouchers. This effort is egregious and transparent and you think the citizens of Texas don't know why Gov. Abbott pushing this, and the reaction from Texas residents and tax payers, he's sorely mistaken. This is not going to go well for you.

Shirley Hu
self, consultant
McAllen, TX

I oppose HB3, it is limits the quality of education for all by taking funding away from public schools. Public schools are already short of funds to pay teachers what the deserve. As a former teacher, I know how tough it is to be in front of the class day in day out, educating students of all abilities. All our children have the right to expect quality education. Charter schools here pick their students. Funding "school choice" is actually reducing choice for the community who do not fit the "target", example special needs students with physical or mental disabilities, they must go to public schools. HB3 will siphon off money for struggling rural and inner city public schools because their income from property taxes are lower. In those areas there are not other options. Please build up the current system stronger, rather than weaken it. . Our future depends on a well educated work force. Thank you for considering all our children.

Rachel Preston
Self, teacher
Austin, TX

Reject this bill. Keep public funds in public schools, and create a serious increase in public school funding so that Texas children have equitable access to high quality, fully funded public schools.
Stop starving the public school system of funds; it hurts our children and our future.

roel urbina
self
Houston, TX

No to privatizing public schools.

Debra Bonanno
Self-Retired Teachers
San Antonio, TX

I'm against the vouchers. It has the potential to make our public schools worse. These vouchers will only help the middle and upper class students. The handicapped and Title 1 students will suffer. Please get input from teachers before you pass this bill.

Abby Orrell
Self
Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS & NO TO HB3!!!!!!!

Sylvia Ostos
self community volunteer
Kerrville, TX

Public Education is too important to jeopardize it with vouchers that only help private schools and students already in private schools. Tax payers do not wish to support private schools. Increase the per student amount schools receive from the state by changing the formula based on student daily attendance to enrollment. This move would help all public schools finances. Vote against the false promises of Hb 3. NO VOUCHERS

Carla Cheshire
Self / Retired Educator 40 Years
Weatherford, TX

I am against HB 3 as it is written. Please vote against HB 3. Thank you!

Elizabeth Doyle
Self
Grapevine, TX

I disagree with using public money for private schools. Vouchers take money from public schools that are currently already underfunded. Schools that use vouchers are not held to the standards to which public schools are held. Public schools need more resources. Send your extra money to them. Vote no to vouchers!

Joy Casnovsky
Self
Elgin, TX

I'm a mother of a 4 year old. I'm opposed to using vouchers in our public school system. Private schools can pick and choose which students to serve, whereas public schools serve ALL children. Vouchers will take away funds from our public schools. Stop playing around with vouchers and fully fund Texas Public education. We have the funds, so it's not a matter of having the resources.

MacKenzie Ellis

Self

Amarillo, TX

If sweet Felicita wasn't able to persuade anyone to change their vote to "against" on this bill I am not sure if I'll be able to, but I figured I'd still give it a shot.

Hello, my name is MacKenzie and I live all the way in the Panhandle in Amarillo, TX so making it in person for this hearing wasn't in the cards for me. I work for Canyon ISD as a Student and Family Advocate for both Randall Jr. High and Randall High School.

Each week I sit in on a "behavior meeting" with colleagues as we discuss the behaviors and needs of our students (many of which are 504 or SPED), and every week as we brainstorm various ways to support these students we often hit roadblocks. Not because we don't have some great ideas, but because we don't have the resources/personnel.

For example, some of our students with a diagnosed emotional disturbance need more supervision during unstructured time such as transition periods between classes, lunch, during fire drills, etc. It would be best for them to have a 1-on-1 staff escort during these times. (And we have multiple students with this particular need I might add.) However, we don't have enough paraprofessionals to meet this need, so what ends up happening is Paraprofessional A rushed to take Kid B to their next class, then runs over to pick up Kid C from their class and then rush them to their next class before the bell rings. These are students that have supervision such as this written into their ARDs and BIPs.

Despite not being able to attend the hearing in person I was able to watch majority of it online. A common theme I heard people say in their testimonies that are "for" HB 3 was that with their private schools receiving ESA funds they could further meet the needs of their students... but so could our public schools!!

A while back my stepson broke his phone. We did not rush out and get him a new phone as a replacement because it was clear to us as parents he wasn't mature enough yet to handle the responsibility of having a new phone. Unfortunately, our legislators have broken our education system, and yet want the public to sign on to getting a replacement. It is for these reasons (and many more) I urge you to vote AGAINST HB3 and put funds towards fixing the school system we already have in place.

I'd also like to add, that I think having over 700 people sign up to speak on this bill (majority against) until 6:30am in and of itself speaks volumes to how much the people in our state do NOT want this bill. Thank you!

Lauren Worsham

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Valerie McCamish, Teacher

Self

Muleshoe, TX

Please vote no on vouchers!

Texas citizens do not want them. They are a scam. Only benefiting a few select people!! our students in Texas deserve better! Our teachers deserve a raise without any strings attached! Governor Abbott is pandering to his wealthy donors and pandering to his wealthy companies that support him!! Texas Citizens do not want vouchers!!

Ann Schwartz

Self

Round Rock, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3, which would take public dollars from our public schools and give them to private schools, who are not held to the same standards and are not required to provide the same educational services. This bill provides discounted private education for well off Texans while taking even more resources away from our struggling public schools. Parents with limited income may not have the transportation or access to choose private schools, and in rural areas (much of Texas), there will be no choice at all. Furthermore, our public schools are the heart of many of our rural communities, and they should be strengthened, not weakened. The push for "school choice" has nothing to do with choice or even quality education. It is political leaders paying off their big donors. This is not how democracy should work, and if this bill passes, it is our children and the vitality of our state that will suffer, even if it pleases a few billionaires and the politicians they bought.

Cornelia Murray

Self

Frisco, TX

HB3 Public Education

I'm totally opposed to tax payer money going to vouchers for non public school education. All of our tax payer money should be invested in the latest technology, facilities, teacher salaries for our public schools where the greatest number of students are educated. We need a highly educated population and that can best be achieved by investing our tax payer funds only in our public schools.

Larry Collmann, Mr.

Retired

Austin, TX

School vouchers for private schools is not necessary. Parents who choose private schools are now paying for them and should continue because it is their choice. the Government should not subsidise private schools. Instead additional funds should go to public shools who are required to teach all children not matter what their special needs might be. unless private shools are required to meet the same standars, no public funds should go to them.

If any public funds are allocated to private shools (which i oppose) they should get much less per student compared to public shools unless they meet all public school requirements.

Respectfully

Larry Collmann

Paul Ahrens
Kids R Kids Seven Lakes
Katy, TX

Child Care needs 3-4 year old Pre-K to be eligible for ESA's. The public school ISD's are destroying the child care industry, particularly in the larger markets. Our school are providing better education to the children but parents are choosing the ISD because they are FREE. The Katy ISD is taking children from our school ages 3-12 and are able to offer lower cost of free childcare because they are funded by the state. In addition my school pays Katy ISD annual property taxes. I am paying my biggest competitor to compete against me. Private childcare's are on the verge of extinction if they are not allowed to share in the ESA's and have school property taxes waived.

Laura Arena
Self
Kountze, TX

Please vote no! This will be terrible for public schools. Send that money to public schools!

Shannon HILL
Self
League City, TX

My personal issue with this bill besides cutting funding to Public Schools, is that this bill will give parents 10 times more money than what they contribute to public education. If you pay \$1000 in school taxes the State will give you \$9000 more, all paid for with your tax dollars. This is nothing more than Welfare for the Wealthy. This will hurt so many families and children.

Melinda Denton
self, teacher
San Antonio, TX

There are so many arguments against taking money away from our public schools and redirecting it to private schools. Texas public schools are already grossly underfunded. And we know from many other states who have tried vouchers that this will only make the situation worse and the primary beneficiaries are families who already have more resources and do not rely on the public school services as much.

And my main concern is this: LET US VOTE. This is going to affect all families in Texas. Let those families vote on this measure!! If you are so confident that this is what is best for Texas families, please let those families have a vote in how our tax dollars support education. Please do not pass this bill without giving us that opportunity!

Benjamin Hall
Self, Graphic Artist
Arlington, TX

I do not believe that public money should be given to private schools. The state of Texas should focus on raising public school teacher pay so that we have a strong middle class that can continue to compete in the future.

Rebecca Redwood
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote against SB2. A voucher system will hurt our public schools where most of Texas families send their children to school. Thank you for your vote NO on SB 2 for equal education for ALL Texas families

Michael Henry, Mr.

Self and business

Rockwall, TX

This is a complete travesty and terrible for the people of Texas. It will destroy the very public schools the state has handicapped and manipulated for decades. Fix our property tax code which is antiquated and fix our public schools. Then we can discuss “freedom” of school choice. Not putting this on the ballot for the public to decide is cowardly and not representative.

Keith Quinonez

Self

El Paso, TX

To the Texas Legislature

I am a Marine Corps veteran and have been a high school teacher in El Paso for the last 18 years. I’ve seen firsthand the dedication, sacrifice, and accountability that public school educators are held to every single day. This message isn’t about belittling private or charter schools — I respect any parent’s decision to do what they feel is best for their child’s education. What I take issue with is the uneven playing field created when private and charter schools receive public funds without being held to the same standards as public schools.

If taxpayer dollars are funding private and charter schools, then those schools should be required to follow the same rules, regulations, and curriculum set forth by the Texas Education Agency — just like public schools. Public schools are required to hire certified teachers, adhere to strict curriculum guidelines, and follow accountability measures that often seem designed to find flaws rather than highlight successes. Meanwhile, private and charter schools can hire whomever they want, teach whatever they want, and deny enrollment to whomever they want — all while cashing in on public dollars. How is that fair?

This isn’t about competition — it’s about fairness. If private and charter schools want public funds, they should have to play by the same rules. Hold us all to the same standards, require the same certified teachers, teach the same curriculum, and then let the chips fall where they may. Let’s truly see which system performs better when the playing field is level. If they don’t want to follow those rules, fine — they can remain private and operate however they like without public funding.

Public education is about serving all students, not just the ones who fit a certain mold. If we’re going to talk about choice, let’s make sure it’s a fair choice — for parents, for students, and for the educators working hard every day to make a difference.

I’m not asking for special treatment. I’m asking for equal treatment.

Terri Garcia

Sel

Cedar Park, TX

As a retired teacher I have seen how underfunded our public schools are. Passing vouchers will only take money from public schools when it is needed the most. Private school tuition is way beyond what ordinary parents can afford and the 10000 is basically a pay raise for the rich. Many districts have no private schools in their area. Please do not devastate our educational system in Texas to satisfy a few billionaires. Ease vote to actually help parents at a time when money is short and federal government has eliminated the dept of education. Texas is can use some help educating children but vouchers are not the answer

Staci Thomison
Georgetown ISD
Georgetown, TX

We adamantly OPPOSE Vouchers! Follow with 1 of these
Taxpayer funds need to go to Public NOT Private Schools!
Our Public Schools have been neglected for 5 years - DO NOT send Public dollars to Private Schools.
We HAVE choice in our public schools right now! But the legislature is NOT funding CHOICE in public schools!
We voted you into office to represent US -- say NO to VOUCHERS!
State government has a constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public schools. Let's start doing that ! 5.5 million children are depending on it !

Aimee Duet
Self - Tax Accountant
Trophy Club, TX

Although I am against this ESA / voucher program, it appears to be moving forward with no real consideration for those against it. I would ask that you consider increasing the basic allotment for public schools to reach between \$7500-\$10,000, to be more in line with inflation and better support the public school system. I would also like to see greater accountability to the private schools receiving this state money. Public schools have a high Texas standard to meet when it comes to budgeting and testing. Lastly, this program should not be provided to those already attending private school, they have made the choice and can afford that choice. If this is for school choice, it should be provided to those who truly need financial assistance in making this school choice. Thank you for your consideration.

Libby Lauten
Self
Lucas, TX

I am commenting on HB 2 - specially raising the allotment by only \$220. The allotment hasn't been raised since 2019 as you know, and this doesn't even cover cost of living inflation. The increase of 3% is just not enough - especially when education has such a surplus in this state. Consider raising the allotment to account for the insane inflation everyone has seen since Covid. Support the kids in these schools.

Christa Thompson Martin
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts in Texas. Taking money out of public education is not the way to close the gap. Vouchers do not provide equity and access.

Christopher Ruffin
Self/Client Representative
Austin, TX

This is an absolutely unwarranted and unwanted attack on equitable and reliable public education! This bill is meant to harm one of our most vulnerable communities: children! If you want to support schools fund teachers and public education. These vouchers are a shame! Shame on you!

Anna Kehde
Self
San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB3. I live in San Antonio, TX. My children are in the Alamo Heights School district. We are fortunate enough to have a district with lots of resources to support our school system. But even with a school foundation and high property values, our school district is suffering. Instead of focusing on the essential needs of our community and state, the governor and others in the TX legislature are focused on a give back to the wealthy and private schools. They talk about school choice but really this bill is a fraud. Look at every other state that has vouchers and you can see how it does nothing for college or job readiness and just bankrupts the state. Instead of passing vouchers, the House should focus on fully funding the students of this states, increase teacher pay and make TX a place where education is #1. Increase the student allotment to \$1300.
Thank you.

Lily Andrus
Self
Highland Vlg, TX

Please prioritize school choice as it already exists in Texas! We chose to homeschool for a time, but our public schools offer so much more. For ALL children. This bill cannot pass before we fix public education!

Hannes Mandel, Dr.
self (Assistant Professor of Instruction)
Austin, TX

As parents, we are deeply concerned about the impact of HB3 on our schools, teachers, and, most importantly, our children. This bill does not address the real issues facing Texas education—it worsens them.

Our schools are already struggling with underfunding, teacher shortages, and increasing political interference in the classroom. Instead of providing the resources our kids need—like better teacher pay, mental health support, and smaller class sizes—HB3 diverts attention and funding away from real solutions. Our children deserve fully funded, high-quality public education, not legislation that prioritizes political agendas over their well-being.

We do not want our children’s education to become a battleground for partisan politics. We want them to learn in an environment where teachers feel supported, where curriculum is guided by experts—not politicians—and where schools have the funding necessary to help all students succeed. HB3 threatens that vision.

We urge lawmakers to listen to parents, educators, and communities: Invest in our public schools. Strengthen, don’t weaken, the foundation of education in Texas. Do the right thing and oppose HB3.

Sincerely,
Hannes Mandel

Barbara Didner
Self
Austin, TX

I urge you to vote no on the Voucher bill and protect our public schools. Use the money this bill would cost to increase the per student funding for public education.

Stephanie Spacek
Self
New Braunfels, TX

This bill does not benefit all students in Texas. Parents already have school choice options. School districts have processes in place to accept students from outside their designated zones or allow them to attend a different school within the district. I know this firsthand, as I've utilized these options for my own children. Additionally, parents can choose to homeschool, enroll their children in online schools, or pay for private schooling.

While not all schools are equal, public schools are held to standards that others are not. They are required to accept all students who live within their designated zones, unlike private, charter, and online schools, which can choose who to admit and retain. If a student in a private, charter, or online school does not meet the school's standards, they may be dropped, helping those schools maintain high-performance data. In contrast, public schools cannot deny or drop students, even if they are struggling academically.

What public schools need is more support—resources and funding—so we can effectively serve our entire student population. It's crucial to ensure that all students, regardless of background or academic ability, have access to the educational opportunities they deserve.

Thank you!

Donna Bandera
Self
Temple, TX

I have no children and pay my taxes and have no problem funding public education but do not agree with a voucher system to subsidize private schools. Vote no on HB3

Brenda Williams
Self
Whitewright, TX

Public schools served me, my children, my grandchildren and now my great grandchildren well. I live in a rural area and public schools will absolutely will be damaged by "school choice". Use the money for public schools especially rural public schools. My children's careers are dedicated to helping people. My granddaughter finished college with a masters in 4 years. She was well prepared for college due to her rural public schools. Another granddaughter finished with a bachelor's degree early. Supporting public education pays off. Giving tax breaks to people who choose another method of education is wrong it's their choice and they should pay for it. Public education should be publicly supported and private schools should be supported with private funds. I cannot see an upside to supporting private schools with public monies. I call on all of you to vote against the voucher system. It's not good for Texas.

Tara Barrett
Swlf
College Station, TX

The basis of this bill in several areas is unconstitutional and disregards what the public actually wants. If you truly believe the general public wants this then allow people to vote on it. Additionally, private schools are just that- private- and are not held to the same standards as public schools. Look at the data and see how many private schools are even available in rural areas. Look into the data amd see for yourself how many people would actually benefit. If this bill gets passed the general public will not give up fighting this bill because we are concerned about what's best for students. That's why we became educators.

Krystle Gervais

Self

Austin, TX

- Private schools are not required to accept poor or disabled students.
- Private, religious, and home schools are not accountable to the state.
- Studies of similar programs found that voucher money largely goes to students ALREADY in private schools.

Emilí Krantz

Self -Graduate Student Therapist Intern

Austin, TX

Dear Committee Members , I implore you to examine the impact public school vouchers have had on other cities. Time after time, they have failed. Vouchers are not a choice. They help only current families who are already paying for private schools and offer these wealthier families a discount on their private education. Families who are of lower financial status will not be able to afford the difference of private school tuition for 2-5 children. That is up to a total of \$3,000 to \$15,000 difference they will have to pay in the city of Austin for the least inexpensive middle schools. This voucher is not equal for the marginalized in our communities. Wealthier and higher test scoring students will be admitted into the private school system. And poorer students and those who meet 504 criteria will not. Currently, every year private schools DENY entry to children who need extra support. Time and time again these families are told that the private school they are trying to enroll their child in “is not equipped to serve” their child’s needs. I ask you, how will this change after vouchers? These families will be left behind in failing public schools that have been further stripped of funds, supports, and programming. Yet, the public schools test scores will be unfairly evaluated against that of the private schools making the private schools look better and will receive more funding. Please do not leave the most vulnerable children behind. The choice for a private school education is a family’s PRIVATE choice and should not be funded from PUBLIC monies. Thank you.

Anne FarleyCortez

Self / libraries, and instructional materials administrator

La Porte, TX

Absolutely, no to vouchers! Do not support this in any way shape or form! Please do not pass vouchers.

Elizabeth Watson

Self

Lacoste, TX

I oppose this.

Stormy Ravizza

Self

Uvalde, TX

Please do not pass school choice, our state should be a shining example of how well a public education system can run with everyone supporting our most precious and valuable resources, our children. Rural communities will again be left as an afterthought and our children will fall even further behind nationally. If there’s one issue someone, anyone should stand up for, it’s fairness for all children and supporting our schools.

Veronica Rasmussen

Self

Houston, TX

I respectfully ask my representatives in the Texas house & Senate to vote no on HB3. This bill will hurt rural communities and our urban public schools who are already struggling due to Gov Abbot's cruel withholding of crucial funds that are already owed. I do not want my tax dollars to support private schools who can select their students. I want my tax dollars to go to support arts in schools and special education students so that they get the extra supports they need. Thank you.

Dawn Dski

Teachers

San Benito, TX

No. Just NO !! Real school choice would be allowing parents to choose another PUBLIC school over their designated school for students to attend. Public tax \$\$ do NOT belong in private schools. If parents want to send their kids to private schools or homeschool, they have the freedom to do that already.

Dawn, public school teacher since 1985

Amanda Kington

Self

Pecos, TX

Tax dollars should benefit public education. There are so many areas of Texas that do not have any private or charter schools, yet funding is being taken from them. There is school choice already in play. Did you know there is also school choice available in public schools? There are so many different models of schools within public education. And even if it's a tradition pathway, there are great opportunities in these schools. The accountability system is broken within public ed. Funding should be by student allotment. Please do not take away funding and opportunities in our public school systems to save the rich money. Texans are relying on you to do what's best and right for our future and our kids. ESAs are not the way to go. Please reconsider.

Sharon LaDay

Self

Houston, TX

I regret I could not attend this morning's hearings, as it is Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo season in Houston and I have volunteer responsibilities that prevent my participation. As a former participant and beneficiary of the education technology industry, I appreciate the market opportunity this bill creates for the private education industry. However, the fundamentals of society that create as many equally competent people in that society, should not be monetized --or, privatized. Equally accessible education creates a stable democracy within the state of Texas. I hope that is your ultimate goal, as 158 out of 254 counties in Texas do not have a private school option.

Therefore, I ask that you vote NO on HB 3.

Thank you.

Barbara Green

Self, retired public school teacher

Pearland, TX

Please vote no on school voucher bill. Public funds should go to public schools. Public education is what makes America, and Texas, great.

Nicole Chartier

Self

Austin, TX

School choice for private school should not be funded by the state or take away from public education. Private school is personal choice parents can make. It should not be funded by the state like Public school. How can the state mandate rules for public schools but not offer funding. Example required to have full day pk but only get 1/2 day funding. It makes no sense.

Jamie Wood

Self

Ransom Canyon, TX

I strongly oppose all forms of school vouchers

Sonia Lopez

Self

Waco, TX

I am adamantly opposed to HB 3. I am a public school educator and I am terrified for my students if this bill passes. We already have teachers having to purchase their own supplies due to lack of funding. Public schools need more money not less. Our Texas babies have the abilities to be the top students in the nation and they need our support to do so. Don't punish children to reward the self interest of our governor.

John Settle

Myself

Sunnyvale, TX

School choice is one thing but vouchers is entirely different. Under no circumstances should the voucher bills go forward as written. A kid in private schools should not get more money than a kid in public school. Public schools are the backbone of our communities and should be supported

Christine Miller

Self

Leander, TX

While the state of Texas is making this decision, please consider that public schools are already suffering under the financial weight of caring for the vast many different needs of the children. We are in a time of unprecedented financial despair and teachers who are already paid low wages compared to other jobs are being let go because of shortfalls while the Texas government could provide relief and does not. School vouchers will only serve to provide an even greater chasm between the true needs of the children and the wealthy, since those institutions receiving thr vouchers have no obligation to take any child, regardless of their discipline, their extra needs, etc. they can pick and choose who they enroll, with little to no accountability to the state, while public schools get racked with all levels of accountability and must educate ALL students at what the government is proposing as a portion of what school vouchers provide.

This weighs heavily on the hearts of public educators and the many that are serviced and will continue to be serviced through public education. Instead of vouchers, why can the state of Texas not pour resources into the many public schools to create the very best environment of learning for our children, pay educators what they are worth and support them so that the profession does not continue to be a dying breed as people either choose to leave public education because of the lack of funding and lack of support or choose not to go into education at all. There's work to do Texas! And it's not through vouchers and elevating the wealthy and private institutions - it's in taking care of your public institutions and public servants and making Texas Public Education a stellar program that is available to ALL.

Annette Carter

Self

Fort Davis, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 and fully support public schools and good teacher pay being funded with public tax dollars. No private voucher program should exist in Texas.

James Zotzky

Self

Justin, TX

I strongly support this bill to assist homeschooling families.

Amy Matthews

Self

Denton, TX

My personal concerns over HB3 are the following;

1. The different levels of funding for ESAs and public school students. Ask yourself: why is there a difference in the value attributed to students in Texas?
2. The long-term plan seems to be also focused on making TRS (Teacher Retirement System) insolvent. When I started teaching over 20 years ago I was enrolled in this program and denied the option of Social Security. As a teacher nearing the end of their career in the next decade, I am terrified that everything that I have worked toward is a lie.
3. In the misinformation campaign Gov Abbott is trying to justify his ESAs as legitimate and not a handout by promising lower taxes. If the legislature wants to lower taxes, they should increase the state contribution to lower the burden on local taxpayers - this also would increase local control.

I am advocating on behalf of public education in the State of Texas. Schools in Texas, when compared to other states per student funding, are in the bottom five states - depending on the criteria. I am aware that the argument of spending shows that schools are funded more favorably, but that is really an indicator of the total number of students, and how widespread the influence is across the state. This increase also would not fully fund students at the same levels as 2019 when inflation is taken into consideration.

Just because teachers aren't protesting, speaking out, or striking doesn't mean they agree with this ridiculously low (not taking into account current inflation) increase in the per student allotment. Most teachers are intimidated or scared to speak out because we have been conditioned that way through rules that have put our certifications at risk.

The election was not a mandate on school choice. I feel that if this was sent back to the people in a referendum it would be overwhelmingly rejected.

Thank you for taking the time to read my appeal to create a truly bipartisan approach to serving the students and educators of Texas Public Schools.

Anne Mashek

Self

BELTON, TX

I am not in favor of vouchers. The vast majority of Texans do not want them, despite what Gov. Abbott says. I only know a handful of people who are in favor, and they already have their kids enrolled in private schools because parents already have the choice of where to enroll their children in Texas. This scam will take money from our already underfunded school districts. It affects our Teacher Retirement System.

I attended a small, private, church school from Pre-K through 5th grade. I attended public school from 6th - 12th grades, and both schools have their place. Both were excellent for me, and I went on to a Texas public university, graduated with a double major, and taught in Texas public schools. My parents did what was best for our family, and I carry that on for my family now. Last year we paid for our child to attend a public Pre-K program within my district. We weren't thrilled to have to pay, but we made it work for a year because we knew the value of education and how good the program was. We had a choice, and we chose to pay for that education. This year our child is doing very well in our local public elementary school within the same district.

Taxpayer money is for community and public services, not private businesses and organizations. Texas parents are already free to send their child to the best school for them, and they are free to pay for it themselves. My taxes are for my local public schools that are accredited, held accountable to high standards, and that educate every child within its boundaries. Our Texas public schools teach every child, no matter their learning level or special needs. Texas is a special place, and it's time we fully fund our next generation.

Jay Roberson

Myself

Austin, TX

Honorable Representatives....While HB3 has some restrictions on parental rights and limitations of freedoms of choice that parents and children deserve, please support it. As a father and grandfather in Travis County for 32 years, I have had children and grandchildren in public schools and private schools. Those in public schools have received a better core education (3 Rs), preparation (STEM and Lib Arts - Amer. Hist) and better attitude toward school and learning than those in public schools. I am the product of public schools. But the degree to which my children and grandchildren in public schools have been subjected to ideologies that differ from those timeless ones my parents taught me, what my teachers taught me, and what I taught them is troubling. While teaching is a very difficult profession which I respect because of limits on relative financial benefit and more restrictions on discipline, increasing testing and classroom size from what I experienced, I don't think core values and life skills that I find essential have been reinforced by public schools. They have at private schools. With generally lower proficiencies in reading, math and science in public schools, I believe my children have graduated with less skills than what I had. Competition would do public schools good by leveling the 'playing field' on education essentials that really matter to prepare youth for life and reducing costs through efficiencies for everyone. For a host of reasons (e.g., individual responsibility, quality of teachers, classroom size and distractions, discipline disruptions, safety, college prep, moral/ethical behaviors, , parental rights, etc) I support private school options for all Texas children. Fifty percent of my property taxes are essentially distributed to other public school districts for which I have no voting representation. I want more of what I pay going for education that I value. This is personal so arguments that my property taxes are used locally and across the state for education and ideologies that I find inadequate, is shameful and disgusting to me. Incidentally, if some form of school choice is not passed this session because it is blocked by 'conservative' leadership or in Calendar, I will make it my mission to help primary them. Thanks for your time.

Margaret Russell

Self

Austin, TX

Listen, if parents are unsatisfied with the trained public school teachers who are governed by certification requirements, trained by experienced professionals, teaching in settings with standards set by the state, they can request transfers to other public schools, attend a charter school or home school. But they need to forgo the public funding if they cannot follow the basic standards set in place by the state's education department. There is no accountability for these private schools or homeschoolers to assess how much learning happens while using my tax money on big screen tvs, trips to Disneyland. And why would these private schools get more per pupil than the state schools? Are you only working for the wealthy? School choice means the private school chooses. Do not be bought by the 2 billionaires from west Texas. This has been tried in other states and the outcome has been a subsidy for the wealthy with very few of the poorer students attending.

Andrew H

self, data analyst and concerned former Texas public school student.

Austin, TX

I am writing to ask you to protect neighborhood schools and oppose House Bill 3 in Texas.

The language of this bill is misleading. The consequence of these education savings accounts would serve to subsidize the cost of exclusive private schools at the taxpayer's expense.

I communicate my concern as someone who values education, and I believe it to be a right that should be accessible to every Texan, regardless of family income. I am a proud result of Texas public schools -- they allowed me to attend the University of Texas at Austin, one of the best universities in the world, where I now work in Austin as a professional.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them to succeed, not just students at exclusive private schools. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our neighborhood public schools for students, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private and religious schools that pick and choose who will enroll. I do not want my tax dollars use in this way.

As a concerned Texan, I ask you to vote down House Bill 3, which diverts tax dollars from neighborhood public schools. Public dollars should stay in public schools.

Say NO to vouchers that use tax dollars to fund the tuition at exclusive private schools. Instead, prioritize increasing the funding for public schools. Do your job, and do the right thing.

Jaime Townsend

Self

Katy, TX

I am AGAINST vouchers and do not want my tax dollars going towards funding them. I'm a product of private schools. My single mother didn't get handouts to pay my tuition. This is no different. TX could have world class education but instead we don't fully fund programs. We can't keep good teachers because we don't pay them enough. Stop the BS! No vouchers! No handouts! Fully fund public education!!

Amanda Brack, AISD parent

Public Schools

Austin, TX

I am a born and raised Texan. Please properly fund our public schools and say no to these education savings accounts. I'm also an AISD parent at a Title 1 elementary school. I have three young children and choose to keep them in public school despite being able to afford private or alternative options. My tax dollars pay for public schools, not for privately funded entities without the same standards placed on our public school system.

I remain disappointed in the state of Texas and the choices being made against the will of the people. You are our elected officials who are supposed to support us and our children. Public schools, which are the heart of our communities, are dying due to the policy choices being made by our state. Every child in our state deserves to have a high quality education but cannot with the excessive testing, lack of pay, and underfunding to your own public school system, the system to which you should provide for, watch over, and care; like your own child.

Vote NO to HB 3.

Jennifer Scull

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly believe this bill will destroy Texas public schools. Public education is a right, and everyone deserves to be treated equally. Paying relaxes into this system is for the greater good, not an individual return on investment. Please do not vote in favor of this bill

Sharan Davis
Self
FAIRFIELD, TX

Representatives,

My name is Sharan Davis and I have children/grandchildren in Texas Public Schools. I have been observing schools for years and see how important our local schools are for the well-being of my community.

I've been reading in my local paper and talking with teachers about all of the cuts that my local school is having to make because of budget deficits. Now I hear that you're wanting to give money away to private schools instead of funding public schools. Not a good idea. Most people I talk to think our taxpayer dollars should go to making our public schools strong. Please work on funding our public schools first before you consider giving away our public money to private schools. Please vote NO on HB3.

Sincerely, Sharan Davis

A taxpayer, grandparent, and public-school supporter

Spencer Wheelwright
Self
Georgetown, TX

Please vote no on school voucher bill.

Gregory Reininger
Self
Terrell Hills, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House Committee on Public Education,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3, which, in my view, risks defunding public schools and unfairly subsidizing private education for those who can already afford it. As a parent and taxpayer, I believe my tax dollars should support public schools, which are the heart of our communities.

This is not about "school choice"; it's about diverting resources from public schools to private institutions. The proposed allocation of thousands of dollars per student for private tuition will benefit wealthy families, not those who truly need help. Meanwhile, public schools—serving the majority of Texas children—will face even greater funding gaps. This only deepens the divide between the privileged few and the rest of us, undermining the opportunities of our children.

Texas prides itself on attracting talent, yet undermining public education will harm the future workforce. Public schools serve every child, regardless of background, and are essential for ensuring all children have the opportunity to succeed. The long-term consequences of this bill could be devastating to the very system that educates our next generation.

My wife and I recently moved into a highly-desired school district in anticipation of our oldest starting kindergarten this fall. We specifically sought out this district for its strong public schools, paying nearly double to stay in a similar-sized home. With the increased property taxes we now pay, I expect those funds to support our public schools—not be diverted elsewhere. We didn't make this investment for our schools to lose funding, teachers, and resources.

I urge you to reflect on the future of Texas and consider what's best for our children. Playing politics with their futures is not the solution. Taking resources from public schools—especially while teachers remain underpaid and resources are stretched thin—is shortsighted and wrong. Texas must invest in its students, teachers, and communities.

Please keep our tax dollars in public education, pay teachers fairly, and ensure all children have access to quality education in well-funded schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Gregory Reininger

Hans Graff
Self, Attorney
Houston, TX

Education Savings Accounts or education vouchers are bad policy. There is no accountability and everywhere they have been implemented, they have resulted in lower educational outcomes for students using vouchers. Texas needs to adequately fund public education and the voucher proponents need to stop spreading false information about public schools and public educators. This is nothing more than a billionaire policy with a carve-out for companies to administer the program which amounts to \$50 million dollars or if the program proceeds, \$200 million dollars. This program will primarily benefit families of students already in private school, as most states find about 80-90% of voucher recipients were already in private school. The 500% of the poverty line means it's an entitlement for the wealthy, at a time when we're cutting programs that serve the poorest and most vulnerable. The amount of money being proposed and the budget surplus to fund it will disappear when the economy turns, as it already appears to be doing. Then what? Then, you will cut public school budgets to fund vouchers, because you're not going to be able to get rid of them. This is not conservative. It's a give-away to the wealthy. The legislature cut the inflation adjusted equivalent of \$8 billion dollars in 2011-2012 and budgets were beginning to recover, before the legislature failed to pass a school funding bill. I strongly urge you honor your oath to the Texas Constitution and make suitable provision for the free public schools of Texas. That does not include a subsidy for private schools. I strongly urge all members to vote no on school vouchers ESAs or whatever poll tested name you are calling them today.

Aly Busch
Self
Lubbock, TX

As a Texan I strongly oppose hb3. We need to be sending our money to public schools, not voucher programs for private schools. Many communities and cities here in Texas don't even have the option for private schools. It's unfair to ask us to fund private education for the few and not public schools for the many.

SANDRA LICON, Mrs.
Self
San Elizario, TX

I am a community member, and school board trustee for San Elizario ISD. I oppose vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. I humbly implore you to properly fund public education.

Chris Kimball, Taxpayer
Self
Hilltop Lakes, TX

I greatly oppose this Bill. It takes money away from public schools which will weaken their ability hire, pay competitive wages and retain highly qualified staff. The funds are not controlled and I as a taxpayer have great concern. I was a 52 year resident of Alaska and I have firsthand knowledge of funds going to home schooling being used for vacations, snow machines, hunting trips etc. My point is there is little or no control over ESV funds going to homeschooling, or private school. These funds are provided me the taxpayer. I see a long term, detrimental, affect to the TRS which will affect the lives of years of dedication by many professional educators. This bill is a bad idea and to put it bluntly, a money grab. I am Republican but I do not support my party, governor, and others regarding stealing public education funds.

Ydalia Guajardo

Self

Donna, TX

I am a homeschooling mom and am against school vouchers. Sure, it sounds nice to be given funds to go towards our children's education, but what will that require in return? Texas is a free homeschool state and I enjoy having the freedom of homeschooling my children as I see fit, without having to answer to anyone or take state tests. Free money is never Free. I do not want to have to be required to have my children's education be regulated and monitored by the government. Bringing up children in the way they should go is the responsibility of the parent, not the government. I am also concerned about those who have backed this bill by millions of dollars. They are the same people who are pushing the woke agenda. One reason I chose to homeschool is to protect the innocence of my children and let them be children.

Isabel Fricano

self

Leander, TX

I am writing to ask you to protect neighborhood schools and oppose House Bill 3 in Texas.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them to succeed, not just students at exclusive private schools. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our neighborhood public schools for students, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private and religious schools that pick and choose who will enroll.

As a concerned Texan, I ask you to vote down House Bill 3, which diverts tax dollars from neighborhood public schools. Public dollars should stay in public schools.

Say NO to vouchers that use tax dollars to fund the tuition at exclusive private schools.

Joy Farmer

Self

Pearland, TX

I don't believe that school choice/vouchers will be beneficial to the majority of students in Texas. I believe taxpayer money should be used to improve public schools. Public schools and charter schools are not held to the same standard as public schools. **I DO NOT SUPPORT SCHOOL VOUCHERS!**

Jaclyn Scales

Self

Bridge City, TX

Simply put, public funds should never be used to fund private education in any form or fashion. It's disgusting to see the bureaucracy that has kept public education from being funded instead. That should be the real focus. Ensuring an educated public should be the MORAL thing to do.

Sarah Terrell
self retired
Houston, TX

I urge you to vote against the voucher bill HB 3 and in favor of real increases to funding for public education, such as an increase in the basic allotment and raising teacher and staff pay.

The voucher schemes in other states have proven to be budget busters, because there is no cap on the spending. The bill may have a cap for now, but Governor Abbott is advocating for no cap, and no limits on family income of the users of vouchers. If not this session, then next. This is fiscally irresponsible. Vouchers will spread out the students in a way that destroys the economies of scale that we enjoy with the public system. In total it will cost much more to educate the same number of students. All this so that Abbott can say the parents have "choice." It's not a business; it's a public good. We cannot afford to fund an infinite amount of "choice."

Not to mention all the other downsides, particularly that private and voucher-funded "choices" will not be held accountable to STAAR results the way public schools are. Not to mention that private and voucher-funded schools can discriminate against whomever they wish. This is a big transfer of taxpayer wealth from all of us to the richest parents and to private enterprises, including religious institutions. This is a fiscally irresponsible and bad idea for Texas.

Sarah Terrell

Alex Rodriguez, Coach
Self
Jacksboro, TX

No to vouchers

Bailey Hebert
Self, missions
Waco, TX

I am a Texan and I strongly oppose HB3 and I ask all representatives to oppose this bill in the vote. I care deeply about the public education system and want to be sure that funding allows the public schools to continue to do the good work they are doing.
Please vote no for HB3

Paula Overstreet
Self Public School High School Teacher
Kermit, TX

This bill is not going to benefit the majority of students in Texas. In fact, it will harm more than it will help. This bill sets aside funds for only 100,000 of the 5.84 MILLION students in Texas. That's less than 2%. For the 2024-2025 school year, Texas saw 12% of students already enrolled in Private Schools or Homeschool. That means 5,139,200 students in Texas will have funds diverted from them to assist 100,000 students who will primarily come from larger metropolitan areas. That doesn't seem fair. Especially considering that 62% of students already live in economically disadvantaged circumstances. Many of those in small, rural communities where there is no private school option. Most of these students live in households where both parents have to work to make ends meet if they're lucky enough to have both parents in the home. Many of the single-parent households have the parent working two jobs to keep the family afloat. To these families, home school is not an option. Who is going to be home to watch younger children during the day? These families rely on the schools to act as daycare for their children while they're at work. In my community, Kermit, the closest private school would be in Odessa. A 45-mile trip. With two parents working, who is going to make that 100-mile, round trip every day to take the kids to school and to pick them up? The gas cost alone would be more than most could afford. Is anyone going to help families cover that expense? Kermit isn't the only community whose private school option is a long drive. You will find those communities all across the state. Many will have only a religious school option that conflicts with their own beliefs. So how is this bill supposed to help? This bill also allows for those private schools to receive more funding per student than the public schools. As a teacher, this makes absolutely no sense. Private Schools are generally already better funded than public schools. They have fewer students as they have the freedom to pick and choose who comes through their doors. So they can pick the students whose parents have the deeper pockets. And they have a lot more freedom in the way they fundraise than public schools. So why would they receive a larger per-student payment? The result of HB3 passing is going to be fewer certified teachers in Texas public school classrooms. Districts across the state have already closed schools and laid off faculty and staff. This means remaining faculty will have larger classes with less help to manage them and less money to support them. We are already working with ridiculously small budgets and large classes as it is. Adding to that is going to drive more teachers away. The \$220 more per student this would give us, is not nearly enough to do right by our students. Don't they deserve better? Or only the 100,000? This bill is just a giant middle finger to every public school teacher in Texas & tells us what the state leaders think of us, and our students.

Sandra Thompson, Mrs
Self
Beaumont, TX

Vote NO!!! Fund ublic schools!!!

MARANDA ROBINSON, MRS
SELF
LUFKIN, TX

This bill is not in the interest of the public and it is not in the interest of Texas children. Texans already have the choice of keeping their children in failing public schools, putting them in private/charter schools or homeschooling. This bill is only going to benefit vendors and special interest groups, and serve as a gateway to increased government regulation of private and home schools. Texans that care about Texas children do not want the government control that will come with this bill.

Mary Robson
Self
Bastrop, TX

I am a teacher formerly employed by the State of Texas. My daughter is a current teacher in the Public School System. I know that the legislature has repeatedly turned down teacher raises and has refused to use the stockpile of money being held for the support and betterment of public school education. Now you are proposing to further cut funding by diverting funds to families who choose private education for their children. Before you fund this extravagance, please take care of the teachers and students who deserve your support. I urge you to vote NO to funding education savings accounts.

Carol Lammers
Self Retired teacher
Dallas, TX

I am opposed to HB3! I taught 33 years in the public school system. We accomplished great things for all children when adequately funded. Tuition in private schools can be in excess of \$24,000 a year. This savings account amount will not allow most parents to afford private schools. Once again the state is giving to the rich and taking from the poor. Most private schools do nothing to help children with learning differences. They do not even provide services for dyslexic students. This bill will ruin the public school system. Sitting on all these funds and depriving our schools of much needed money is appalling.

Mindy Loxterman, Mrs
Self/parent
Conroe, TX

I am a former public school teacher and proud parent of two public school students. I am also the product of public school. The destruction I see happening to public schools in Texas is a travesty. Currently, our schools in Conroe ISD are underfunded thanks to Gov Abbott. He withheld hundreds of thousands of dollars from our children and teachers. Now you are considering a bill that would go even further to cut money to public schools. Everyone deserves a great education not just the wealthy. That great education can be obtained from a fully funded public school. This bill will not create an equal playing field as suggested but rather a very unbalanced one where the wealthy families will receive even more help keeping their already properly funded schools funded. The students who cannot afford private schools will still not be able to nor will they be able to provide their own transportation to these schools. There are also not enough private schools to assist in this effort. I was in the classroom for 22 years. I bought my own supplies and supplies for my students when needed. Thus should have never happened if we were fully funded. Stop playing these games and do not pass the bill. Put the money back in public education where we work tirelessly to educate ALL students.

Carrie Guerrero
Self
CONROE, TX

I don't agree!!!!

Diana Candida
Self
Houston, TX

Please vote against vouchers. Instead, please fund public schools properly. Vouchers have been a failure everywhere they've been implemented, resulting not just in lower academic scores for children overall, but also for the large cost to taxpayers. States like Arizona have had to take money budgeted for other things to continue sustaining the voucher system. Texas cannot afford to support two sectors of education...no state can.

We already have school choice (my son goes to a dual language school that we are not zoned to). Subsidizing private schools where the schools have the choice of who gets to attend is taking away choice from parents...especially because public schools will have fewer resources and either provide a lower quality education, or be forced to shut down.

The people who profit from public schools are primarily the private school owners. The ones who suffer are children, Texas' economy and your taxpayers.

This is very unpopular and if you were to put it to the people to vote, both republican and democrat Texans would overwhelmingly vote no.

tge guardrail put in to offer this only to parents whose children are not in private schools already is not sufficient. At most schools the amount of the voucher won't cover the full tuition.

One other thing to consider is that many rural areas don't have private schools.

Please vote NO.

Brandon Benson

Self, electrician

Austin, TX

Texas would be worse off if this bill passes.

Penni Chaloux

Self, Communications Director

Murphy, TX

Regardless of what you call them, school vouchers siphon my taxes away from public schools without the accountability and transparency required of public schools. Accountability and transparency of how our taxes are spent is CRITICAL to your voters in Texas. We have voted AGAINST this already! STOP bringing it back for a vote. Texans do not want to subsidize private school for people who can already afford it. Texans want to PAY OUR TEACHERS and FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS so that we have a literate, educated community. NO TO VOUCHERS!!! NO TO THE ESA!!!

Larry Rickel

Self

Hutto, TX

I oppose HB3. My tax dollars should not be given to people so they can send their children to private schools. There already is school choice in TX. Vote no on this bill.

Rachel DiMasi

Self - LMSW

AUSTIN, TX

My name is Rachel DiMasi and I am the parent of two school aged children with special needs who are currently attending public school in RRISD. I am a native Texan and constituent currently residing in Williamson County in Austin, TX. I am writing today to urge the committee to vote NO on HB3.

I've watched the Governor attempt to force his vouchers on the citizens of Texas for years, and every attempt fails because Texans simply do not want vouchers. They take much-needed money from local neighborhood schools, schools who, despite assertions from the Governor, are grossly underfunded, and help only students whose parents can already afford private schools.

Private schools aren't required to accept all students, including those who need accommodations like my own children, and they are more likely to reject students who do need additional help. Vouchers are lauded as giving parents the "right to choose" while in fact, our family would lose our rights by moving our children from public to private school. This bill creates the illusion of choice but does absolutely nothing to guarantee that a parent's choice for their child will be fulfilled. This isn't even taking into account that out of 254 counties in Texas, 158 of them don't even have a private school. How is this parents' choice for children in those counties? What happens to their already struggling public schools when money is taken away to fund these vouchers?

It is also extremely concerning that a Pennsylvania billionaire appears to be funding this push for vouchers. What is his vested interest in our children's schools? Why should this non-Texan have such a huge say in how our schools are funded?

In short, I urge the committee to vote NO on HB3. Vouchers aren't right for Texas, and will only harm our children.

Dustee Knapp

Self

Lufkin, TX

I believe vouchers will be detrimental to the public school system, especially in my small town. I vote NO to vouchers. My local representative does not represent me or my constituents' feelings on this matter. In a small town where there are limited school choices to begin with, this only takes money away from our public school system and promotes the hiring of lesser qualified teachers while providing fewer and fewer services and programs to our students. Our students, who are trying desperately to "keep up" with the larger city offerings and programs but continue to have roadblocks put in their way, making it harder and harder to get ahead in life.

Casey Garcia

Self

Lubbock, TX

My kids attend wonderful public schools in Lubbock, TX via Lubbock ISD. I am sickened to see how far this scam has made it. I have the means to send my kids to private schools but choose not to, because I Want their world to be bigger. I want them to see people from all walks of life, and be educated on a global level. I fully support people having the choice to send their children to whatever school they wish, but I wholeheartedly do not support public funds being given to exclusive schools, not regulated by the state. We all know exactly what is going to happen here, these private schools are going to raise their tuition and still keep out the people they don't want in their schools. This is an absolute embarrassment to our state. Hear me when I say, I will remember who supported this scam, and they will not be receiving my vote.

Larry Oliver

self

College Station, TX

As a retired educator and father of two sons who are products of College Station ISD and Texas A&M, I implore the legislature to say NO to any voucher program. The data clearly shows that vouchers will siphon funds from already underfunded public schools and will especially harm students who because of lack of funds or location (esp rural schools) will be unable to participate in the program. Public tax dollars should NOT be used for private schools. Please vote NO on HB 3. Thank you for your attention.

Kari Walker

Self

Dallas, TX

I can not support this bill!

Anne Joseph

Self

Austin, TX

As a mother of an AISD kindergartener and child mental health therapist, I am vehemently opposed to vouchers. Public education is a constitutional right and vouchers would be taking away from the schools, teachers, and students. Please vote against this bill and support to fund public education in Texas!

Christine Payton

Self

Flower Mound, TX

Sec. 7. APPROPRIATIONS FOR SECTARIAN PURPOSES. No money shall be appropriated, or drawn from the Treasury for the benefit of any sect, or religious society, theological or religious seminary; nor shall property belonging to the State be appropriated for any such purposes.

(Feb. 15, 1876 .)

VOTE NO!

Rhonda Joyner, Gen Ed Teacher
Mansfield ISD
Grand Prairie, TX

Vouchers are the absolute worst option! I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas.

We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Aimee Almaraz
Self - chemical engineer
Odem, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability

Lisa Maldonado
Self
Hebbronville, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds should NOT go to private schools.

Carolyn Grygar
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Rolando Ramos

Self

Victoria, TX

Please do not pass this bill for the future of public education in the great state of Texas. Let us learn from other states that school vouchers negatively impact public schools, and cost much more than "experts" anticipate in the long run. Release the funds that have been withheld since the beginning of COVID. Our public educators are drowning as it is financially. These words are coming from a parent with two public school enrolled children, and a wife who works for a public school in Texas that would be greatly impacted by this bill if passed.

Lavinia Garcia, Ms.

Self-teacher

Austin, TX

I firmly stand against the establishment of an education savings account. I believe we first need to address the needs of public education.

Naomi Douglas

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that nearly every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want that in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Lisa Ingalls

self - retired

Lewisville, TX

I don't want my tax dollars funding anyone else's school choice. Parents have a choice now, if they want to use it. The ESA is a voucher program that only benefits people who are already able to send their children to a private school. It will not help families who can't afford private school because it won't pay for full tuition. Private schools won't have transportation and the families won't be able to afford the other costs associated with the private school. They won't take that kid who is a discipline problem. They won't take the special education kid. Even private school parents don't want this. When listed on the Republican primary ballot, it was a very broad statement about wanting school choice. Parents already have the ability to change schools within districts. They can already choose a charter school. They can already choose a private school. People who said yes to that statement didn't know the whole story- that it is taking money away from public schools and teacher retirement. I know, you say it doesn't. Sorry. I don't believe a word of it. Texas CAN'T AFFORD to FULLY FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS and pay for vouchers. The money will have to come from somewhere else -And it better not be my retirement. ESA will further segregate the children of Texas into the "haves" and "have nots". The ONLY reason this is being pushed is because the BILLIONAIRES WHO FUNDED LEGISLATORS ELECTIONS will make more billions by starting up schools or selling other products that are not needed. This is the epic sham where people who want to make money started rumors about public schools and have worked for years to take them down. I worked in Public Schools for 40 years. Nobody is indoctrinating kids. Nobody has time for that. Too many requirements of what they must teach. It's in the Texas Constitution - fully funded public schools. It's not in the constitution to pay for any other education. NO to HB 3. FULLY FUND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS that we have now! If they are funded, they will thrive!

Sean Fields
Self
Burleson, TX

Instead of giving wealthy families tuition from our taxpayers money why don't we ask them to help contribute a little more to our public schools funding? A chain is only as strong as its weakest link and the dying public school system is the only thing keeping us from having largely uneducated masses. Vouchers may allow a very small group of kids to go to private schools but the majority of its impact will be detrimental to kids who can't afford public schools even with a voucher. You can judge a society based off how it treats its most vulnerable members. Do better.

LeeAnne Grommesh
Self
Arlington, TX

I oppose education savings/voucher programs.

Christina Noser
Self
Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to private school vouchers, and instead advocate for \$1,300 per student funding to the members of the House Public Education Committee.

I want strong public schools in Texas. I don't want tax dollars going to private school vouchers.

It is obvious to me the majority of Texans do NOT support the vouchers and support their local public schools.

No private school vouchers.

Heather Odabashian
Self
AUSTIN, TX

My name is Heather Odabashian, I'm a homeowner in Austin and reside in the 78748 zip code. While I do not currently have children, I'm still very concerned about the state of our children's education today. I am opposed to HB3.

I am frustrated that this bill is being proposed for two distinct reasons: 1) This bill will cost me as a home owner more as it will raise my property taxes. Last year the state government refused to properly fund our public schools despite there being a budget surplus. This meant that our students were funded at about a \$1,100 deficit per child within the AISD. This resulted in an estimated \$80 million deficit to the total budget, in response our community voted to make up that gap via a tax increase, however despite the increase in funds, AISD still estimated about a \$10 million deficit. This meant that I as the tax payer would pay out of pocket the same dollar twice for my local school district and it still would not cover the full cost of my community's education. This bill will likely increase the need to raise taxes further at an exponential rate.

Secondly, this bill is disappointingly unpatriotic. Public Education is an American invention. The first known public school in recorded history was the Boston Latin School which was founded in 1635. Additionally, our public school system was founded by Horace Mann in 1871. Public schools have been a shining beacon the United States has used to ensure all of its citizens have a bright and productive society. Our country has shared this invention as a diplomatic tool to strengthen our allies and support our global community. To turn our backs on public education is scornful and unamerican as it is one of the best and most impactful inventions to come out of the United States.

I would like to close with a reminder to our legislators on this committee- you have been elected with the sole purpose of representing your constituents wants and needs. You are a host for our voices and your opinions come as secondary. That is the responsibility you swore to uphold when taking office. Those that have called, written in or testified have taken time out of their personal and professional lives because this bill is so impactful to them. Please respect and listen to their needs. I say this on the behalf of my fellow constituents, you are welcome for our time and our votes. Vote no on HB3.

Virginia Ramirez

Self

Houston, TX

Reject it

Crystal Galvan, Mrs.

Texas for Parental Choice in Education

Weslaco, TX

Supporting the choice for parents in their child's education.

Jill Ephlin

Self

Rice, TX

All Texas children and parents deserve the opportunity at the best education! The only way to do that is to fully fund public schools.

NO TAXPAYER MONEY TO PRIVATE ENTITIES!

Do the most good for all by using taxpayer money to fully fund all public schools!!

Vance Ginn

Ginn Economic Consulting

Round Rock, TX

Please find my testimony here: <https://www.vanceginn.com/letpeopleprosper/testimony-before-the-texas-house-committee-on-public-education-on-hb-3-school-choice-bill>. Let me know if you have any questions.

Kari Richter

Self - teacher

Corsicana, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas.

We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Liz Scrogginthorpe

Self- Product Designer

RICHARDSON, TX

I am against the school voucher (education savings account) bill because it will gut our public schools and put our tax payer money into the hands of the wealthiest. It is a scam and we all know it. We will remember who was for this and vote them out!

Sara Sealy

Self

Mansfield, TX

Vote no on education savings accounts! **FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS!** It is stealing and unlawful!! Equal access to education!

Sue Schuelke

Self, retired public school educator

College Station, TX

The idea of vouchers is completely wrong! I do not agree with vouchers! You will be destroying public schools as they are not even fully funded!

Carla Wilson

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Christy Gonzales

Self

Spring, TX

If you were to actually ask a significant portion of parents with children in public schools, you would know we oppose school vouchers—fund public schools instead! If you truly believe vouchers have widespread support, put them on the ballot and let the voters decide. Ignoring your constituents now will have consequences at the polls.

Adriana Taylor, Dr

Self

Round Rock, TX

As a mother to 4 young boys, I am adamantly opposed to the passing of the school voucher program. I have 1 child in public school and 2 in a private school. Next year, I will have 2 in public school and 2 in private school. I believe that all children deserve a top notch education and by taking away money from public education, we will deprive many students of a good education. My paternal grandmother never got past a 3rd grade education in Thrall, Texas because her parents needed her to help pick cotton and they didn't see the value in a female attending school. Thankfully my parents valued education and they themselves were public school elementary teachers. My younger brother just left a decade of public high school math teaching for better pay in a totally unrelated field. How are we going to attract teachers if we can't give them better pay and how are we going to give them better pay if we take money from public schools. The voucher program is not an equitable solution. All of our kids deserve a good education, at the very least a basic level of education.

Carina Carreon-Reyes
Self and Registered Nurse
Austin, TX

Representatives of the public education committee, my kids have received so much support in term of 504 supports and evaluations which are of such benefit to them now and for their future. The uncertainty of such services being provided elsewhere is frightening. Even more worrisome if they will be offered at all at a private or charter school. Also, those schools can deny my child admission to their schools. How is that looking out for children? If students and their families will Be scrambling to find an education. I'd rather work to support public education than spend all This time trying to dismantle it.

Christen Powers
Self graphic designer
Justin, TX

We are strongly opposed to school vouchers. Please represent the best interest of all Texas children and save our public schools.

Caleb Backholm
Self -- Insurance Agent
Ft Worth, TX

I strongly support school choice for parents and hope this bill is passed. We need to stop discriminating against families that choose private schools, and instead give everyone the same access to constitutional government services. I do want to make sure no new conditions are placed on private schools or home schools, and I want this legislation to be expanded to include not just 100,000 students but every student in the state. It should all be funded out of the same education category, regardless of the school receiving the funds. Thank you!

Ellen Knapton, Mrs
Self, retired public school teacher
Pflugerville, TX

Vote no on HB 3. This bill has been made to financially support private schools and charter schools at the expense of funding for public school students. A majority of students in Texas attend public schools and deserve quality education that will allow them to be productive citizens in society. HB 3 will detrimentally impact these students education by limiting resources available for students, loss of quality educators, and negative impact decisions that districts will be forced to make to balance budgets with funding allocated from the State of Texas.

If leadership is set on school choice please look at options that are equitable to all students in Texas.

André Treiber
Self
Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 3 and all other attempts to create vouchers in Texas. Public dollars should not be going to private schools. Furthermore, the Texas Constitution requires that the State provides a quality public education to all children - a bar we have not even met, as the State continues to fail to pay its fair share of public school costs, burdening local taxpayers with growing property tax bills. How can we begin to create a coupon system that will further defund public schools and disproportionately help the wealthiest Texans if we haven't even met the bare minimum for the rest of our schoolchildren?

Norma Viegra
self
Pflugerville, TX

I oppose HB 3 related to vouchers. These vouchers are not available for all students. They are damaging to our public schools that serve all students. I am so dishearten by our Governor and his followers. They do not care about ALL Texas children. I have been in education for over 10 years, the disregard and lack of financial support for our schools is hurting our children and the dedicated staff members throughout the state.

Macon Blair
self
Austin, TX

School vouchers are an obvious SCAM that would only benefit wealthy people, who don't need the help, and penalize working families , families with special needs children, anyone who doesn't ALREADY attend a private school. Education in Texas is already an embarrassment and this would only serve to make it worse at the expense of the ordinary citizens while benefiting billionaires who want to privatize everything for ever more profit.

Jena Toich
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I urge you all to vote no on HB 3. Funding the voucher system is not needed. Instead, focus on funding public education

Karen Jacobs
Self
Dallas, TX

Education Savings account programs are NOT a conservative use of taxpayer funding. Private schools do not have to take any child that applies. Even worse - this bill gives private schools more funding per student than public schools. That is unacceptable.

Sara LeMar
Self, Science Educator
Austin, TX

To whom it may concern

As a resident ofAustin, Texas an educator at Cedar Park High School, I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sara LeMar

Lani Caffey
Teacher
Olney, TX

Trying to get your attention.

What happens to TRS? Will it be solvent?

Will private and homeschools be held to the same standard as public schools? I'd like to know how my tax dollars are being effectively and efficiently spent. Will we know that with the current bill?

Will we see an increase in funding per SPED student like the House bill mentions for vouchers?

Where is the evidence of improved student outcomes in state with vouchers? What happens to those left in public schools?

Dawn Gerstenberger
Self
Matagorda, TX

Please pass this bill. My husband and I are RETIRED and still paying student loans for one of our children who are grown and working.

Deanna Whittington
Self
Frisco, TX

Public education has been the stronghold of our family. I grew up attending public school, my dad taught in the public school, I taught in the public school and my child attends public school currently. We love it! However we are hating the negative impact private school families are having on our family. We have many private school friends who downgrade us for sending our children to public school. They are wealthy and do not need our support. My daughter's classroom, teacher and classmates need the support.

Cassandra Parish
Self
Wylie, TX

ABSOLUTELY NO to SB3 and HB3! This is a scourge on our state and nobody wants this. Every single constituency rejects this, has rejected it, and will be continue to reject it.

Tina Verma
Self, stay at home mom and PTA President
Frisco, TX

Please stand with Texas families, not special interests. This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. It comes with a hefty price tag and zero accountability to the state or taxpayers! As a family who CAN afford private school, we choose the public education that Texas has always done better than anywhere else. Let's keep it that way. By providing great quality public education to everyone, we are lifting up our entire state for the better. Why stop that for nonsense vouchers?? Say YES to supporting Texas public education and the teachers who serve to create a better future for our children. NO VOUCHERS!!! We are also members of a private country club, where we pay a hefty fee to play golf and enjoy the facilities and community. What's next? Vouchers for people to join private country clubs? It makes no sense.

Marcie Rivera
PTSA
San Antonio, TX

/a

Cindy Stubbs
Self
Carrollton, TX

Please keeping funding for public schools fair and not giving more to private schools. Our children need the programs and resources provided by the public schools. Public education is the backbone of our society and if it goes away; I hate to think what could happen. I have always supported the Republican Party, but my I I'll not be able to support candidates who do not believe in public education and proper and fair funding for it. I am a retired school teacher of 32 years and I put so much of my own money into things-supplies, food, etc. for years. Please listen to the teachers and do what is right for so many students who cannot afford private school, even with a voucher. Keep the money in public education.

Kole Vedder
Self- Teacher
Meadow, TX

We do not want vouchers. We do not want "school choice" which is a deceptive tactic used to entice parents. School choice does not exist until private schools have to accept students within their district. We do not want taxpayer money going to the wealthy families already in private schools. Arizona is a great example of why not to pass this. What public schools want is the basic allotment to increase, which we've been told it will before. What we want is more funding in public schools. RAISE THE BASIC ALLOTMENT, DO NOT PASS VOUCHERS, DO NOT PASS SCHOOL CHOICE, PROTECT PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Jacy West
Self
Haskell, TX

This bill will hurt public education. I am for private schools; however, I feel that if you are seeking private schooling for your child, you should be able to afford it on your own. Public schools are already functioning on little income. We take any and all students. We do not "select" our students in public education. Please consider public education when voting for school vouchers. Do not hurt public education any more than it's already hurting.

Jordyn Combs
Birmingham Elementary PTA
Wylie, TX

We are saying NO TO VOUCHERS & NO TO SB3!!! The majority of kids are in public schools, we need to support these children so they can get the best education possible.

Margaret Ingle
Self
San Antonio, TX

I have seen it happen in Illinois when the private school ran up so many health violations rather than pay or correct they just handed it back to the school district mid term

Lauren Trayner
Self
Dallas, TX

Please keep money with our public schools, if you want to do right by Texas school children, let's strengthen the great schools we already have that serve our kids. There is no reason to fund private schools with these vouchers. They don't have room, they don't need it, and most people can't afford them even with the vouchers. The money would only go to pad the pockets of those wealthy who already attend private schools, no benefit to anyone who actually needs it.

Sandra Burnett
Self
Rosenberg, TX

Vote NO to school vouchers. That money should go only to public education.

Jae Nam
Texas AFT
Arlington, TX

I'm a public school teacher in Grand Prairie ISD and a proud member of Texas AFT. Vouchers will not help our public school students and will only benefit the private schools themselves and/or the wealthy enough families that are already sending their kids to private schools. We must take care of the majority of students and families in getting a good education with up to date funding. If legislators don't think public schools are adequate enough, they should try to make it better.

Mary Castillo
Self
Saginaw, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Lauren Douglas
Self
Austin, TX

School vouchers are terrible for Texas. Public schools, families and children with special needs with all suffer if this bill passes. **NO SCHOOL VOUCHERS IN TEXAS.**

Heather Cargin
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools

Jinna Lindemann
Teachers
Cost, TX

No to vouchers!!!!

Crystal Escobar
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Brett Kippes
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote no

Kari Lynch
Self
Lewisville, TX

I vehemently disagree with this bill. Texans do not want eses. It will weaken the public school system and the retirement of teachers. We already have school choice. If you must pass this bill, you must fully fund public schools.

Steve Denison
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3. I strongly oppose private school vouchers.

Laure Owens
Retired Teachers
Spring Branch, TX
AGAINST HB3

Public school funding needs to increase. Do not send money to private schools when it only benefits wealthy families instead of the needy.

Brian Bloss, Mr
Self, teacher
Grapevine, TX

Brian Bloss
Against
Teacher Self

To the House Public Education Committee, I want to thank you for having a full and open hearing on the issue of ESAs. After listening to the hearings, I am now more opposed than ever to this bill. This bill does not have the best interest of Texas students at heart at all.

The good news is that if you choose to show the value of public education by raising the public student per student allotment by 1,300 and pass public school funding first that would certainly be a good first step. Also it is a great idea to not try and pass a new entitlement program that will run up 13.25 billion in spending in the first 5 years as we are staring down a very real possibility of a recession.

After hearing the testimony here is more to add to my other points about why HB3 is a bad bill for Texas and should be thrown out.

First, the legislation does not limit who will qualify for ESAs. Yes there is a hierarchy of needs BUT that is dependent on how many of the lower income students can find and access a private school that will accept them.

Second, while there is not a member of this committee who would say they are opposed to public schools, voting for this legislation to create a marketing campaign to actively try and take students out of public schools will take funds away from public schools. Remember, if students are not in public schools that represent lost funds which eventually means lost teachers. Hearing proponents of the bill say that eventually there would be "savings" for the state and public schools by having students go to private schools reveals the true cynical nature of this bill, that teachers and students are an expense rather than a vital part of the future of Texas.

Fourth, after hearing yesterday's testimony it is clear the largest proponent outside of companies that will benefit from the execution of the bill is the Catholic schools. This again begs the question of how this is not a violation of the establishment clause when Catholic schools will be the primary winner.

Fifth and perhaps most glaring was the confirmation that the end result of this legislation is not going to be top quality education for all Texans. Instead it will be separate and unequal. Robert Enlow when questioned by members of the minority party admitted that depending on the model that is available for a family's financial means would determine the quality. He cited micro-schools as a major model that could take off in Texas.

Sixth: the representative of the Texas Association of Private Schools had a very interesting insight on "accountability". She said that the parents of private school students are the accountability. This is problematic and it shows that again this system will be separate and unequal as public schools will have to jump through more and more hoops to get ever dwindling dollars in the budget.

The future that awaits public schools should this pass is one with fewer funds, fewer teachers and larger classes.

Clint Glaesmann, Dr.

Self

Woodway, TX

Dear Members of the House Public Education Committee,

My name is Clint Glaesmann, and I proudly serve as the principal of Castleman Creek Elementary in Hewitt, Texas. I am submitting this testimony to express my deep concerns regarding the expansion of vouchers under HB3 and the detrimental impact they will have on our public schools and communities.

As it stands, Texas ranks in the bottom ten states in per-student public education funding. Our schools already struggle to provide essential resources, competitive salaries, and adequate support for students with diverse needs. Redirecting taxpayer dollars to private institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools will further drain the limited funding available to serve all children. The projected cost of vouchers is expected to balloon to \$4 billion by 2030—an unsustainable financial burden when our public schools remain underfunded.

In my own school, Castleman Creek Elementary, we see firsthand the growing needs of our students. Our teachers work tirelessly to provide high-quality education, yet they face increasing class sizes, limited instructional resources, and rising costs for essential programs like special education and intervention services. Instead of funding an unproven voucher system that benefits a select few, we should be investing in the schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children.

Vouchers siphon money away from public schools, forcing districts like mine to make difficult decisions—whether to cut staff, reduce programming, or delay much-needed improvements. In our district, losing even a small percentage of funding would mean fewer intervention specialists, outdated technology, and fewer opportunities for students who rely on public education to break cycles of poverty and reach their full potential.

Public schools welcome all students, regardless of background, income, or ability. Private schools that receive voucher funding are not required to follow the same open-enrollment policies, leaving many families with no real choice at all. Instead of creating a system that favors a few at the expense of many, we should focus on strengthening our public education system, ensuring that every Texas child—regardless of zip code—has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to reject any expansion of vouchers under HB3 and instead prioritize fully funding our public schools. Texas cannot afford to gamble with the future of our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ryan Cruz

Self, Teacher Extraordinaire

Frisco, TX

Public dollars belong in public schools. Please say no to ESA's. Or if you believe in your plan, put it on an general election ballot and let's find out. I've voted red for a long time, but I'm keeping receipts on this, as I know many republicans are. I'll vote blue until you're all replaced.

Amy Wright

Citizen, self

Austin, TX

Please vote no. I am a former math and Special Education teacher.

Andrea Parrish

Self

Abilene, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers for Texas schools. Please vote against school choice and / or vouchers. Sending public funds to private schools is a misuse of our tax dollars. Most members of our community, even if given money in an education savings account, would still not be able to afford a private school. Even if they can somehow afford private school there is no guarantee a private school will accept them. Not to mention that private school is not even an option for most families in rural areas that have no private school in their area. Instead of sending education dollars to private schools, let's use that money to fund our public schools appropriately so they can function at the highest level. Taking money from failing and hurting schools is not a solution.

Joanna Guerrero

Self

Spring, TX

I am a homeschooling mom who doesn't support HB3. I left my career to homeschool my kids. There have been many sacrifices I have made to ensure they get the best education that is well suited for them. My desire is to continue to have choices in Texas. HB3 can do many negative things for our homeschooling community as a whole and those in private schools. How? By later implementing regulations on both. I've seen it happen over and over again in other states. Wyoming has recently given back their homeschool community their freedoms once again. When people say this won't hinder homeschoolers. Please consider how other states have. Also, Texas Homeschool Coalition does not speak for me as a Homeschooler. Please, be mindful of this, especially considering their view on homeschooler's support, because I do not and will not support this bill as a homeschooling mom.

Thank you for your time.

Carolyn Veillon

Self

Montgomery, TX

I am a parent grandparent and educator. Parents have always had school choice they have always had the right and should Moore be the number one advocate for their children. Setting up an account which incentivizes them monetarily to get their child to have a special education need is barbaric. Public schools already are under funded and I cannot believe that anybody with an education could fathom that providing public funds for a private school is a good idea. Help Texas school children by making public schools so extraordinary that there would not be a need for any further school choice.

John Escalante

Public School funding

San Antonio, TX

Our taxes have always been established to assist the greater good of a society. I support funding for public schools. I do not support funding for private school vouchers.

Megan Lanning

Self/children

Mansfield, TX

NO Vouchers for Texas. This will only hurt public education further and won't help the kids who truly need it. Please fully fund schools and increase teachers salaries.

Lisa Lasch
Self
Pflugerville, TX

As a former educator and as a Texas tax-payer, I am adamantly OPPOSED to HB 3. Across the country, vouchers (which are erroneously called education *savings* accounts in this bill) have destroyed state budgets. The cost of these programs has consistently been grossly underestimated. In 2024, Arizona's voucher program was estimated to cost \$65 million, but the actual amount ballooned to \$332 million (Grand Canyon Institute analysis). Projected 2025 costs rise to \$429 million. Additionally, vouchers are touted to help economically distressed families pay for private school education, yet data shows that it is higher income families who overwhelmingly use vouchers. Aside from the fiscal irresponsibility of vouchers, the real victims are public school students. The Texas Legislature repeatedly fails to adequately fund public education and ranks 43rd in the country in per pupil spending (educationdata.org). It seems like the goal is to starve public education, then complain that public ed is failing. The over 5 million students being educated in Texas public schools DESERVE better. Vouchers benefit a shockingly small number of students, most of whom are ALREADY attending private schools, with little, if any, transparency, while depriving the vast majority of Texas children of the funding they need. I am adamantly and completely opposed to HB 3.

Louis Mascolo
Self
Kingwood, TX

Please do NOT pass any ESA OR VOUCHER bill. Support Public education with a larger allotments per student.

Paula Collins
Self
Angleton, TX
Opposite

Robert Allen
Self
Wylie, TX

I oppose school vouchers. FULLY FUND our schools!

Margaret Telford
Self. Retired teacher
Grapevine, TX

Vouchers do not work as evidenced in states that currently have vouchers. Private schools can chose which students they want, few are equipped to support special needs students, students are not held accountable for learning since no state testing, teachers do not have to be certified, and private schools do not have to follow the state curriculum. Although the bill provides for funds for low income students, usually not enough to meet the cost, no transportation is provided as well as costs for uniforms and books. I am not against private schools since two of my grandchildren attended one with their parents paying; I am against my tax dollars going to support private schools to the detriment of public schools. Currently public schools are grossly underfunded which is not what the state constitution requires and this hurts the children of Texas as well as the future workforce.

Candice Ornes
Teachers
Garden Ridge, TX

I submitted this: I strongly oppose SB2 and HB3, which would divert public funds to private schools through education savings accounts. These bills threaten to undermine Texas' already underfunded public schools, taking away critical resources from the majority of students who rely on them.

Taxpayer dollars should be used to strengthen our public education system, ensuring every child has access to quality teachers, well-funded classrooms, and necessary support services, not subsidizing private institutions that lack accountability and can selectively admit students.

Rather than funneling money into a program that benefits a select few, Texas should focus on increasing teacher pay, improving school infrastructure, and expanding educational opportunities within public schools. Our priority should be to invest in the success of all Texas students, not just those who can afford private tuition.

I urge lawmakers to reject these voucher programs and instead commit to fully funding public education for every child in our state.

John Payne
Self
Wolfforth, TX

The Texas school voucher bill primarily harms lower-income families by diverting public education funds to private schools, which can reject students based on academic performance, behavior, or special needs. The vouchers often do not cover the full cost of tuition, leaving poorer families unable to afford quality private education while wealthier families benefit. Public schools, especially in rural areas with no private alternatives, face budget shortfalls, leading to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and diminished educational quality. Additionally, private schools receiving voucher funds lack the same oversight and accountability as public schools, potentially leading to misuse of funds and inconsistent educational standards. Rather than improving education for all, the bill disproportionately benefits wealthier families while weakening the public school system that serves the majority of Texas students. This is a bad idea that continues to be just as bad as it was last legislative session.

Shelby Zeka
Self
Houston, TX

WE DO NOT NEED VOUCHERS. This is going to completely destroy the public education system. If we want to do vouchers then make it an equal amount of money that will go towards those who choose public education. This is not for the best of Texas. Our people will continue to be uneducated and everything else will start to fall apart. **SAY NO TO VOUCHERS.**

Michelle Potter
Self, leadership development consultant
San Antonio, TX

HB3 gives schools the right to choose, not parents. Voucher schemes in other states have shown that 70% of the vouchers go to parents whose kids are already in private schools. So this is just a cash subsidy for wealthy families. It will take money away from the public schools and the students public schools serve. Additionally, for those kids who weren't in a private school already and who take the voucher, the research in other states shows that they suffer terrible academic outcomes. It's not the elite academies who take these kids. It will be the fly-by-night, just opened last week, don't know what they're doing private schools that will take this group of kids. Vote NO on vouchers. Vote NO on HB 3. Thank you.

Jeanne Mixon
Retired
Pflugerville, TX

Please do not pass the school voucher bill. My grandchildren's public school is woefully underfunded without enough teachers to get through some days. I volunteer in the library because the excellent librarian is so overburdened doing her own job and helping fill in where ever needed throughout the school. Please fully fund our public schools. Our kids deserve a good education. We cannot afford private school and do not want to go to charter schools which have lower qualifications for teachers. I vote in every election and I deserve better representation than this.

Seth Beaugh
Self, Grant Writer
Austin, TX

I am absolutely OPPOSED to this bill that would establish a school voucher program. My taxpayer dollars should not be allocated to fund some wealthy family's private education. Private education is called that for a reason; it is funded privately. Public funding should not go toward subsidizing private education like this. We've already seen that programs like this cost taxpayers and states a ton of money: <https://www.propublica.org/article/arizona-school-vouchers-budget-meltdown>

This will not even the playing field; it's just going to drive up property tax expenses, drive up wealth inequality even more, and make it even harder for those students who really need extra attention in their education to receive it. This is a terrible idea.

Lyn Stoll
Self/Retired
Lubbock, TX

Please vote against school vouchers and support public education for all children

Thomas Acebo
Self / teacher
Dallas, TX

Thus bill is wildly unpopular across party lines. It does nothing but take money away from the public schools and give it to wealthy families whose children already go to public schools. We've seen this in states where similar programs have been implemented. The few students who do transfer from public to private see sharp drops in academic achievement. Our public schools have never been fully funded. Try that first before giving money to private schools. Private schools have no public accountability, so they should not receive public funds. As a high school teacher at a public school, I have to meet standards set by the state and the district. Without those standards, this bill just opens the door to massive fraud. Best case scenario, if more students go into private schools, it will inevitably lead to increased property taxes. This bill is bad for students, bad for parents, bad for teachers, bad for tax payers, bad for Texas. It's a scam. Texans have already rejected it over and over for years. We shouldn't have to keep having this same argument.

Kristen Barron
Self — Executive Assistant
Lubbock, TX

First and foremost, I oppose HB 3. I have personally seen the benefits of a quality public education for my children, but this quality cannot continue for all public education students if the Texas Legislature does not fully fund it. Furthermore, I have a special needs child that would likely not be accepted by a private institution and needs a quality public education because he's worth that. It is not my responsibility as a taxpayer to fund students whose parent/guardian chooses a private school. Our school districts are operating at deficit budgets because the legislature is holding funds for HB 3. This must stop. Hear the voice of the people — fully fund public education and vote against HB 3.

Melanie Ewert

Self

Wylie, TX

We love our school, we love our teachers. Do not take funding away from public schools. These kids are our future and deserve a free quality education.

jodie maresh

Educational Diagnostician

Denison, TX

It is truly concerning that the governor of the great state of Texas, would be pushing an agenda that could potentially cripple public education in our state. To say you are giving "choice" to families is such a farce. This will benefit the few and the wealthy while undermining the majority and those who serve them. I watch as teachers daily work to educate our future while they are given more and more to do, while being given less resources to work with. Not to mention that our state has chosen to ignore how little our teachers are paid year after year after year. This bill will be, yet another strike against public education while certain students will benefit. How is that not discrimination in education? I plead with our government to end this insane notion that this bill gives families a choice when in reality it provides very few a choice, and in fact will benefit mainly those who are already paying for private school. Our governor should be ashamed of himself for holding funding and teacher pay raises hostage, in order to benefit himself and the wealthiest Texans while ignoring the vast majority of his constituents. Please, please do better for our current and future students.

Charity Saenz

Retired teachers

Coppell, TX

Please do not pass This bill. Support and fully fund public education. That is your responsibility.

Lizet Villagrana

Self

Austin, TX

I apposed education savings accounts and support public funds being used towards public education.

Misty Gajewski

Self

Rockwall, TX

I'm a grassroots conservative in District 33. I oppose this version of school choice.

Kolt Moreland

Self

Lubbock, TX

Here in west Texas there are no private schools, the families that choose that education for their children go to midland, Lubbock or Amarillo for it. It makes no sense for families in ralls or muleshoe to pay for private education they will never recieve. This bill must be for the metro plex or Houston, anyone with enough sense to get out of the rain can see this is idiotic.

Eric Tuzin
Self, Data Analyst
Dallas, TX

This effects of this bill on rural and urban districts will be catastrophic and will ultimately lead to an even weaker public school system in Texas. I do not want my tax dollars going to fund a religious school in any way shape or form. Keep the public's funds where they belong- with the public.

If a parent wants to send their child to private school that is their right but it should not come at the expense of the tax payer.

Alicia Servin
Self/social insurance specialist
Willow Park, TX

Public education is the backbone of our society. We have one of the top-rated public schools where I live. This isn't saying much as Texas is ranked 41st in America, but it was something that we considered heavily before choosing to raise our family here. If the education savings account program is established, it will be taking taxpayer funds from our public schools. Because the school district is so much better than the surrounding area, we accepted paying higher property taxes. Now the peace of mind that the school district provided us is at risk. Not only that, but we stand to pay higher property taxes if this program is implemented. The public schools will lose funding which will equate to fewer teachers and fewer resources for our children. Private schools will greatly benefit from this program, and they have no lack in funding as the wealthiest members of our community can already afford to pay tuition. They don't need the assistance from tax payers. Texans deserve to have quality education programs accessible to every child. Our education system is already under-funded, under-performing, and cannot survive another cut-back in funds. Please protect the future of Texas by investing in the education of all our children.

Vickie Morgan gipson
Human Resources
Arlington, TX

No vouchers! Fully fund our public schools so EVERY child is given the opportunity they deserve. Real Texans do NOT want this. Teachers and parents do not want this.

Frederick Case
self
San Marcos, TX

I am totally against the savings account program for Texas schoolchildren. Neither bill in the Legislature is appropriate. I am in favor of enhancing our public schools and making them stronger .I am not for passing bills that will largely benefit our more wealthy families at the expense of the average and below average income level families! Public education is the bedrock of our country and needs enhancement not ruination!

Bridget Milliman
Self
Mansfield, TX

I oppose distribution of public money to private education

Mariko Brunson

Self

McKinney, TX

We all want future generations to have access to a high-quality education. While we can agree on this shared goal, I urge you to vote no on HB3. Instead of allocating funds for vouchers that won't be accessible to all students in need, we should invest those resources back into Texas public schools.

Our students deserve reliable, dedicated teachers who are equipped with the materials, training, and facilities necessary to support their success. The very students prioritized for the education savings program would benefit more from well-funded public schools with the resources and accountability to meet their needs. Education savings accounts would only offset a portion of private school tuition for most schools in Texas, leaving many families still unable to afford the remaining costs.

Moreover, the rising "cost per student" statistics are misleading. School districts haven't seen an increase in per-student funding since 2018, despite ongoing inflation and growing demands on educators.

Now, more than ever, our students need your support. Please uphold your commitment as a public servant by directing funding to public schools — where it can make a meaningful impact for every student.

Mary Lynn Sloane

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote against the education savings account program. A strong public school system benefits everyone in the community. It provides a strong workforce and elevates all levels of society.

Sophia LeBlanc, Ms

Self, Air Quality Scientist

Austin, TX

My name is Sophia LeBlanc and I live in Austin, TX. I oppose HB3 and any bill proposing school vouchers which take public taxpayer money and use it to fund private schools which are inaccessible, unaffordable, and do not provide support that many Texans desperately need. Moreover, I am concerned about the lack of accountability and transparency in how exactly public taxpayer money is used to fund these private institutions. The overwhelming majority of Texans attend public schools, and public schools are in desperate need of funding, support, and resources now more than ever. This bill would directly impact funding for public schools which millions of Texans need access to. Please consider the children and families who will be negatively impacted if this bill passes, as private schools overwhelmingly cater to the wealthiest of Texans, leaving the most underserved communities behind. Thank you.

Teresa Everhart

Texas parents

Palestine, TX

Texas doesn't want this. It doesn't improve education outcomes. I do not support HB3. I will remember this when it's time to vote!

Stephanie Gustafson

Self / teacher and musician

Houston, TX

I am shocked and horrified by the idea of tax dollars going to support schools that could deny anyone for any reason. Families with different religious ideas, kids with disabilities, etc. Of course it's fine if parents want to send their kids to private school, but we should not be funding that choice, particularly when there is NO PROVISION stating that there is a salary cap on who gets a school voucher. Families making \$500,000 a year and already send their kids to private school do not need extra tuition incentives. This is a terrible bill that would greatly harm public schools, working class families, rural communities, kids with disabilities—the list goes on.

Tabitha Castellanos, Mrs.

Self/Teacher

Canadian, TX

I absolutely do NOT support the voucher program for pro choice. Texas is already 100% pro choice. Rural Texas and most of Texas do not have access to private schools. The only people who will benefit from this is the rich who already go to private schools. TEXAS and TEACHERS DO NOT SUPPORT THIS.

Deborah Clanton

Self

Farmers Branch, TX

This is not ok

Jeanie Newman

Teachers

Groveton, TX

Vouchers may help private schools but will hurt all small public schools

Carolyn Wrinkle

Self

Hutto, TX

I believe after all the hundreds of testimonies heard yesterday, the resounding answer of NO to VOUCHERS and YES to Public Education was spoken! As public servants and representatives of your constituents, do the right thing and listen as the people of our state have spoken! We don't give a poop about Abbott who no longer represents this great state but has merely become a boot licker to the orange one and his billionaire donors who do not even live here but merely want to line their pockets! Texans are done with this non-sense and will remember this vote and vote accordingly!

Clara Burns

Self, teacher

San Antonio, TX

The private school voucher program removes funding from our already underfunded schools. Private schools have the right to choose their student population, often leaving out students with 504 plans and IEPs. The funding allocated for vouchers reduces the amount of funding that can be used to provide training and services for these vulnerable student populations that are frequently left out of private schools.

As a teacher at a high economic disadvantage, free and reduced lunch school, my student will not benefit from HB 3.

Noah Ryan

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

C. H. Campbell

Grandparents for Children

Austin, TX

Private schools have the advantage of being smaller. Fund Public Education more and let them be smaller with human resources to be a warmer climate, creating a belongingness that is missing.

Shanley McLaughlin
self - school counselor
Austin, TX

Texas schools are woefully underfunded. Our classes are overcrowded. The teachers at my school are leaving in droves because of low pay. We have several positions unfilled and kids have to work online. School vouchers would just draw more funding away from our public schools which are doing the best they can, and a very good job, with very little money. School vouchers hurt public education and would hurt Texas families. Please don't vote for school vouchers!

Raynell Veltkamp
Self
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Hindatu Mohammed
Self, veterinarian
Austin, TX

I urge a NO vote to this voucher bill which would have a devastating impact on our Texas public schools. Public, tax payer funds should go to our public schools, NOT to private schools that lack the accountability and oversight of our public schools. If we seek to improve the quality of public education, the answer is to increase the allotment, not take more money away from a system that needs our support.

Ervin Coonrod
Self
Austin, TX

I am in total opposition to the creation of a voucher system for school funding. Our public school system is suffering already and taking public funds away from it to help fund private schools is total nonsense and extremely unfair to the lower income families in the state and to small communities. On top of that any school receiving public money should be subject to the same rules and regulations that public schools must meet regarding enrollment and curriculum.

Rachael Cayton Barden
Self, school social worker
Austin, TX

Firstly, thank you for your service.

As a Texas school social worker, and a proud child of 2 amazing teachers, I want you to know that our state's public schools are extremely important to me, my family and my community. My daughter attends public school and my son actually attends a religious private school. However, I fervently disagree with vouchers and want nothing to do with defunding public schools.

To make sure that we have the public schools our children deserve, I ask you to support these measures immediately:

Increase funding for all Texas public schools this session using the basic allotment. The state needs to pay its fair share, not balance school budgets on the backs of local property taxpayers.

Revise school finance laws to provide fair and sufficient funding for all Texas students.

Say no to vouchers or similar schemes that would divert scarce public dollars to unaccountable private schools and programs.

Reduce the amount of time Texas students spend on high-stakes standardized testing. Tests should diagnose, not punish.

Reject the flawed A-F rating system for public schools.

Use positive, community-based solutions to support and improve struggling schools and students.

Texas students are our future, and their education is the most important public investment we can make. I hope you will agree with me by supporting these critical measures. I expect that you will make education a top priority. Thank you.

Robert Zamora

Self/Teacher

El Paso, TX

Please help those of us that have committed to educating tomorrow's leaders have a sustainable income. This can happen by increasing the Minimum Salary Schedule starting pay for educators to at least \$45,000, and ensuring all teachers, librarians, counselors, nurses, and diagnosticians with at least 2 years experience receive a raise, all teachers with 5 or more years of experience receive a raise of at least \$3000, and teachers with 10 or more years of experience receive a raise of at least \$6000. While I do not oppose expanding the TIA, this should NOT be at the expense of these raises but rather through raises to the Small/Midsized Allotment and Basic Allotment. I also ask that you support raising the threshold to at least 40% of any increase to the Basic Allotment must fund educator pay increases.

Lee Livingston

self - Sr Director Procurement

Austin, TX

I'm saddened to see our state leadership allowing money to be pulled out of our public school system. I moved my family to Austin from Oregon in large part due to the quality of public education here. I believe school vouchers will erode that quality of education and hurt the taxpayers as a whole.

Kanani Mahelona

Self, Designer

Ft Worth, TX

We send our grandson, who lives with us, to a private school for children with learning differences. It's expensive due to its specialized programs and small class sizes, which are crucial to his success. However, we value the right of EVERY child to get a good education, regardless of family wealth. So we believe in paying our fair share of taxes to fund public schools so that ALL children receive the education they need.

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and prioritize adequate funding for public school children! Studies show voucher programs do not equate to improved academic outcomes. HB 3 is NOT a parent choice bill – This bill funds private school selectivity with public money. Texas families already have school choice. Public money demands public accountability—any school or entity receiving taxpayer dollars must meet the same standards, mandates, testing, and accountability requirements as public schools. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education, and Texans deserve a voice in this decision. I urge you to put the measure on a statewide ballot and let the people vote!

Lori Kerrigan

SELF

Austin, TX

We urge you to vote - NO. Texas public schools sever millions of children and it so disappointing to hear, watch, listen to District after District talk about budget cuts, being under funded and not having the proper resources to server the existing and current student body today. As a born and raised Texan, I urge you to listen to the families, parents, grandparents that are telling you we do not want this.

LaCota Rhodus, Sgt

Self Army Retired

Wylie, TX

I oppose hb3.

Private schools can be funded by the people who send their children there.

Janet Cullender

Self, I am a retired teacher

Canadian, TX

I oppose HB 3 and public education should fully and adequately be funded

Mackenzie Ulam

Self, Therapist

McKinney, TX

This will cost our state BILLIONS and only serve a few, with zero accountability. This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. By providing great quality public education to everyone, we are lifting up our entire state for the better. Say YES to supporting Texas public education and the teachers who serve to create a better future for our children. NO VOUCHERS!!!

Abby Anderson

Self

Red Oak, TX

Against

Katie Sewell

Self

Dallas, TX

School vouchers hurt students with disabilities. Whether they are physical or intellectual, vouchers take money, accommodations, and choice away from these students. Private schools do not accept students with disabilities and even if they did, they don't have to adhere to IDEA or IEPs.

Johanna Hedges

Self, parent

Austin, TX

This bill will take away from the education of most Texas students by starving public education. Vote against this bill.

LaTaShaw Thomas

self

Allen, TX

Public funds should stay in public schools! Vouchers take away critical resources from our students, our teachers, and our classrooms, diverting taxpayer dollars to private institutions with little accountability. HB3 threatens to undermine our public education system by prioritizing privatization over the needs of Texas students.

Let's stand up for strong, fully funded public schools—where every child, no matter their background, has access to a quality education. Say NO to vouchers and NO to HB3! ??????

#FundPublicSchools #NoToVouchers #NoToHB3 #SupportTeachers

Deb DeLeon

Self

Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS & NO TO SB3

Terri Curtis
Self/Texas PTA member
New Braunfels, TX

I am opposed to public funds being spent for private schools. The basic allotment for public schools needs to be increased to allow Texas to educate the children of Texas. A free Public education is essential for continuing to have an educated nation. Funds should be going to support the public school system. I do not want public funds to go to organizations that do not have to meet the same standards of education nor provide the same transparency as public schools. I do not want the state supporting organizations that can deny education to a child based upon disability. Currently private schools do not have to provide additional support services to students such as dyslexia services, occupational therapy, speech therapy, physician therapy services. They are also not required to provide any accommodations to help children be able to learn. The Texas government should be ensuring that all children are able to obtain a quality education even if they have learning difference. This is accomplished by fully funding public schools- not by taking money from public schools to give to private schools without the same standards as public schools. I am against the use of public tax funds to support educations savings plans. Please do not pass this bill.

Susan Carlisle
Wylie ISD teacher
Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS' & "NO TO HB3

Melissa Tyree
Dripping Springs
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3. Please fund public education.

Natalie Krejci
Self
Shiner, TX

This bill does not help the public school system at all in Texas. In fact, the bill will continue to cripple public education. There will less funding and resources available to the public schools.

Jessica white
Self
Plano, TX

As a 3rd generation Texan I DONOT support this bill. Texas public school Parents are tired of being demonized and having resources meant for their children's schools held by Greg Abbott. My child's elementary school is closing because of this nonsense. Stop hurting Texas public school children in favor of a billionaires pet project.

Amanda Davis
Self
Coppell, TX

Texas has repeatedly said "no" to vouchers and ESAs. Please listen to us, your constituents and fellow Texans. WE DO NOT WANT THIS. We do not want to bankrupt our state to give welfare to the wealthy. Please vote NO on HB 3.

Kathy Hardman, Ms

Myself

Mt Pleasant, TX

I am against school vouchers! If you think it's so popular put it on the ballot and let Texas voter decide because I guarantee it will fail overwhelmingly. Stop cramming this down our throats! It will kill public education and for what? To give a hand out to wealthy parents who can already afford to send their children to private schools. I live in a rural county. There is no private school within 90 miles of here. NO to vouchers!

Twila Parker

Hartman Elementary

Jacksonville, TX

I oppose the school vouchers No to vouchers in SB 3

Prescilla Ambrose

Self, stay at home mother

Plano, TX

I do not support this bill. Government funds belong in public institutions and not private schools! Even if I had \$10k for private school tuition from the government, I would never be able to afford the rest of the cost of yearly tuition which is always more than \$10k. The reasoning given for this bill is a complete farce and should not be taken seriously by anyone who thinks about the logistics for more than a few seconds.

Cynthia Scott

Self-HS Teacher

Bay City, TX

As TX HS English/EB teacher with over 20+ years of experience, I'm writing to express my OPPOSITION to the voucher/ESA proposal. Right now, I teach in a county that has only one private school (a Catholic K-6 school) and therefore, ESAs will only serve to provide money to parents who already send their children to this very small school, while simultaneously draining funds that should be used to increase the per pupil allowance. The people of TX do not want this voucher program; you will only reveal yourself as beholden to special interest groups should you vote for this proposal. And, as someone who has voted in every election since I was 18, I guarantee you that I will not forget, neither will my teacher peers.

Emily Jelen

self

Dallas, TX

Please keep public funding with public schools. We live in our neighborhood because of the public school our children attend. We depend on programs like the 504 for help with our son, who has ADHD, but simply love the school for our daughter. Please keep supporting public schools by increasing spending to keep up with inflation, rather than support private schools, who can enlist the help of their alumni.

Rebecca Wrobel

Self; library programmer

North Richland Hills, TX

I would ask the House to prioritize funding public schools in our state before considering funding a voucher program. We currently lag the national average in school funding, often finding ourselves in the bottom ten states in per-student public education funding. Our students and their parents deserve to have the best public schools available to them. By moving to private school, if available locally, students may miss out on opportunities such as developing relationships with their neighboring peers and extracurriculars such as sports. Let's make public education the best it can possibly be in Texas, by supporting students and families where they are.

Heidi Schmidt

Self

Austin, TX

A free, inclusive, robust public education is part of what makes America great, right now! Manipulating the public with a voucher system will only create further divisions, with Christian-centric charter schools, “owned by, and subsidized by the taxpayers of Texas”. Privatization has only served to further separate the classes, and line the pockets of billionaires... Texas has the money to invest in its public schools, but has stingily and misguidedly pulled that funding, making school teachers scramble and make due, in an already high stress (responsibly teaching and guiding our Texas youth). I personally know two Texas public school teachers, who represent some of the hardest working, and most dedicated professionals around.

Please do not plant seeds that will only serve to further divide our already fragile social structures. Great Texans, and great Americans should all be on the “same team”. Let us build bridges, not walls.

That is what makes America great.

Thank you,

Heidi Schmidt

(Mother of Texas educated children, and a very concerned Texas citizen)

Lori Wilson

Self

Lewisville, TX

I support fully public education and absolutely oppose the establishment of any voucher system. Vouchers will only serve to undermine the public school system and harm our children, our communities and our future workforce.

Vanessa Jackson

Self - small business owner

New Braunfels, TX

There is nothing good about this bill for the vast majority of Texans who rely on public education because of socioeconomic circumstance or geographic location. It is damaging to the cost efficient ways parents know schools safe places for kids while parents are at work. We already half heartedly fund charters and public schools. Do not divert more funds into the pockets of Abbott’s donors. The math already shows how bad this will be for a system that is already heavily damaged due to how the state government chooses to improperly fund its schools.

In a political arena where there is great division, almost every agrees this is bad. Why won’t our elected legislators kill this bill once and for all. Pass legislation that prevents future attempts!

Lisa Healy

Self

Midlothian, TX

I am a big supporter of school choice and was very excited to have it supported financially by the state. With that said I am adamantly opposed to this bill. It adds more chains to a parents choice. It builds our state government which we should working to shrink. I would recommend keeping it simple by offering those wha want to participate receive a tax credit. Clean and simple. Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Thompson

Self

Spring, TX

I do not agree with school vouchers. This bill is going to defund our public schools which will have lasting negative impacts on our students and communities.

Neisha Teer

self, Education Consultant

Pearland, TX

I do NOT support ANY bill that will use government funding for ANY private education. Public funding is for public education only. Private is considered private due to the nature of the funding being from private citizens. Allowing ANY government funding into private education is requiring government oversight which eliminates the "private" control which is desired. I see 2 options that would allow for more school choice for the citizens of Texas: 1) property tax exemption based on students enrolled in private education to allow families to spend their own money on their own choices or 2) overhauling the public education system to reflect the attributes in private education that bring better education results. If Texans need more opportunity to choose because public education is inferior, then hold public education to a higher standard! On top of that, multiple states and other countries have walked this government funding for free choice road only to cause irreparable harm to state budgets and therefore their constituents' pockets and/or irrevocably restructuring private education to the extent it is government controlled and restricted. Freedom of choice should NEVER end with less choices for our citizens. Government funding in private education will end in less choices: government funding will drive up the prices on facilities due to a larger buying power of some (those not accepting vouchers will be left with no choices due to limits in personal funding), it will drive the prices of curriculum up due to the larger buying power of vouchers yet hurt those who refuse vouchers by creating an inflation in curriculum pricing, and it will encourage the same money hungry profiteering found in many other industries. Education should not be controlled by those who care more about the bottom line than they do about quality, content, and accessibility to educate. Universities are a prime example of the elitist effect of government funding. Now they are too expensive for most to be able to afford without large debt and government loan forgiveness.

This bill will begin the movement of government dependency for all. That is not "freedom." It might not happen in the next few years, but history has proven it will come in time.

Vote NO to HB3 and any government funding in private education!

GURBEY DEMIRTURK, Mr.

Self-Educator

Richmond, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House Public Education Committee,

I strongly oppose using public funds for private school vouchers, which would divert critical resources from public schools. As a Director of Gifted and Talented (GT) programs serving 65+ public charter campuses in Texas, I see firsthand how state funding supports equitable, high-quality education. Vouchers would undermine public schools, harm students, and benefit private institutions that lack transparency and accountability.

Public Funds Should Serve All Students, Not Private Interests

Public schools are required to serve every child, including students with disabilities, English learners, and those needing additional support. Private schools do not have to accept all students and can pick their enrollment. Redirecting public money to private schools leaves the most vulnerable students behind.

Lack of Accountability & Transparency

Public schools follow state standards, testing, and financial oversight to ensure taxpayer dollars directly benefit students. Private schools receiving vouchers would not be held to the same standards, meaning public funds could support institutions with lower accountability and inconsistent educational quality.

Threat to GT & STEM Programs

Programs like GT education and STEM initiatives depend on state funding to provide advanced coursework, project-based learning, and enrichment opportunities. Vouchers would drain resources, limiting access to high-quality education for talented students in public schools. Instead of funding private institutions, Texas should expand innovative public school programs to benefit all students.

Rural & Low-Income Communities Will Suffer Most

Many rural and low-income families have no access to private schools. Even with vouchers, tuition and transportation costs make private education unrealistic. Removing funds from public schools disproportionately harms students in areas where public education is the only option.

Invest in Public Schools, Not Privatization

Governor Abbott's push for vouchers is not about "school choice"—it's about defunding public education. Texans overwhelmingly support strong public schools, and taxpayer money should be used to increase teacher salaries, improve classrooms, and expand student opportunities—not to subsidize private schools.

I urge you to vote NO on private school vouchers and stand with Texas public schools, students, and families.

Sincerely,

Laura Scogin
The People of Texas
Buda, TX

The integrity of this bill should be seriously questioned when the votes are here from Representatives only through threats and political attacks from Governor Abbott.

Beyond that, the people have spoken. The majority does not want vouchers yet a different narrative is being pushed to convince people that this is what the people want.

We already have school choice. As a student, I went to public and private school. As a parent, I homeschool my children. I decided that I wanted to be the primary influence on my children so we are currently completing our 15th year of homeschooling. Homeschoolers and private schoolers do not want vouchers because we don't want government oversight. And it would be wrong for the state to give families money and NOT keep them accountable. Public funds should stay for public education. Private funds for private education.

Please, don't be afraid to make the right choice. The integrity of our representative government is on the line. Governor Abbott shouldn't have this much power and by being afraid to vote against his wishes, you are giving him more power.

Katherine Moorehead
Self-Advanced Practice Nurse/Nurse Practitioner
Dallas, TX

I adamantly OPPOSE vouchers, and ask that you please vote against them.

Taxpayers do not want to subsidize already affluent families by giving them money to send their children to private schools. As currently proposed, the education savings accounts are primarily a tax break for people who are already in private school or can afford that option.

Private schools receiving public taxpayer dollars are highly vulnerable to fraud and abuse. Their governing boards, if they exist do not have to meet in public or disclose how funds are spent. Private schools do not have to meet financial standards and are not measured by the state's fiscal accountability system.

State-funded vouchers will take needed dollars from public schools. Vouchers take dollars from public schools that are already underfunded. Every dollar sent to a private or home school cannot be invested in public schools. Voucher advocates say funding schools and funding vouchers are separate, but in Texas, where "funding follows the student," public schools will lose needed funding as millions of dollars are siphoned to unaccountable private institutions.

Furthermore, the real problem with "school choice" is the creation of yet another education system (traditional public schools and charter schools already exist) that allows students to fall through the cracks. When we fragment the public school system, we create more opportunity for inequity without making any real gains.

Catherine Parsons
Rice Military
Houston, TX

I'm a registered Republican. I have studied and followed the pros and cons for the voucher program. And I am 100% convinced that this plan is nothing but a transfer of wealth to the people already paying for private schools. Public monies should NEVER be used to pay for private school education. This is completely unacceptable. Public schools can be so much better if they were properly funded. Texas ranks near the bottom of states in regards to school funding. This too is unacceptable. Teachers in public schools are dedicated professionals and deserve far more support than they currently received. Furthermore, we all know that private schools don't have to offer any programs for special needs students, students that need extra help, students that don't have transportation, etc. Seeing Christian Nationalist billionaires like Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks PLUS out of state donors like Jeff Yass to sit down. Texas does not deserve to be turned into a theocracy. There absolutely needs to be a separation of church and state. **DO THE RIGHT THING. STAND UP TO ABBOTT. BE A CHAMPION FOR WHAT IS RIGHT. VOTE NO TO VOUCHERS.**

Shawn Mason

Self, Retired public school superintendent

Wolfforth, TX, TX

Rural school districts comprise about half of all the school districts in Texas (631). The average number of rural districts in the other 49 states is 133. Texas rural public schools provide an education for approximately 900,000 students. This is by far the most in the nation, and second place is not close. Most, if not all of the rural school students in Texas do not have access to a private school.

This bill provides no benefit for approximately half of the school districts in Texas, or the 900,000 students that attend these schools. The students who attend our rural schools tend to be more diverse and come from families that have a lower income than their urban counterparts, the very students that this bill is designed to benefit.

Elyse Longoria

Self

Buda, TX

I strongly oppose this bill! Support public schools for the good of all Texas. Please do not give our public funds to private schools.

Jan Clay

Self

Woodway, TX

Our town of 150k has 8 private schools which are filled. Vouchers will just make the tuition go up or more come out of the woodwork when we have wonderful public school options in our city of Waco/Woodway/Hewitt. Put money into those public schools and the teachers helping our children's futures instead of the schools already filled who can currently afford the tuition. Say NO to vouchers, this would just pad the pockets of people who are ALREADY sending their kids to the private schools. Invest in the STATE schools!

Rhonda Jackson, Mrs

Self

Magnolia, TX

As a homeschooling family we are opposed to this bill, the requirements of being a retired teacher, and other red tape to open a qualified schooling organization, or using ESA funds to pay for private school is not benefiting most Texans. This bill should not pass, public schools are against it, homeschoolers are against it, parents with kids in public schools are against it, who is it really benefitting?

Mary-Katherine Arias

Self

Lubbock, TX

My name is Mary-Katherine Arias, and I am a public school librarian from Lubbock, Texas. I am writing to strongly urge you to oppose any efforts to implement school voucher programs in our state. As both an educator and the parent of a public school student, I see firsthand the critical role that public schools play in shaping the future of our children and our communities.

Voucher programs threaten to divert much-needed taxpayer dollars away from our already underfunded public schools and into private institutions that are not held to the same standards of accountability or accessibility. Public schools serve all students, regardless of ability, socioeconomic status, or background, while private schools can pick and choose who they accept. By siphoning funds away from public education, vouchers would further strain resources for students who need them most—particularly those in rural and low-income communities.

Texas public schools are already struggling with teacher shortages, outdated materials, and inadequate funding. Instead of funneling public money into private schools that are not required to serve students with disabilities or follow state-mandated curriculum standards, we should be investing in improving the schools that educate the vast majority of Texas children. Our teachers need better pay, our schools need more support, and our students deserve a fully funded education system that sets them up for success.

As a librarian, I work every day to ensure that students have access to books, technology, and opportunities to develop a lifelong love of learning. As a parent, I want my child—and all children—to have access to a strong, well-supported public education. Vouchers do nothing but weaken our public school system and widen educational inequities.

I urge you to stand with Texas students, families, and educators by opposing any voucher programs that take funding away from our public schools. Please invest in strengthening our education system instead of undermining it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brian Weldon

AFSCME 1624

Austin, TX

Opposed - taxpayer money should not be funneled to a completely unaccountable series of private entities masquerading as education services providers. This money should be used in an accountable public education system.

Fabiola Sanchez

Self

Buda, TX

I in no way support school choice or the use of public funds for private (for profit) institutions.

Wendy Kilmer

self, communications director in higher education

Abilene, TX

I strongly oppose the voucher program. I support funding our public schools instead of offering state dollars to private schools. A quality education should be available to all Texas children, and the best way to do that is to fully fund public schools where there is accountability, needed support programs, and easy access to good schools in the local area, regardless of location. Private schools are not intended to be for everyone, and we need to focus state dollars on public education that IS designed for all children.

Zoheb Hassanali

Self

Fort Worth, TX

To whom it may concern,

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill, and you all will be voted out if you vote yes on this scam.

Jenny Henson

self and our future children

Nacogdoches, TX

This will hurt our public schools. These are the kids that will be helping to take care of us. We need all children educated. Please vote NO on HB 3

Kendall Bay

Self

Spring, TX

Say NO! Not only will it hurt our schools, but our home values in the process! Rather than damaging our public schools, make reforms to improve them! Add funds, add perks! Do better.

Tara Hrbacek

Self

Carrollton, TX

I am opposed to any sort of ESA or voucher program. It is not fiscally responsible to place tax dollars into educational institutions that have no accountability to the taxpayers on how that money is spent.

Brittnay Richard

Public school

Arlington, TX

The idea of this “school choice” has been shot down in Texas for many years. The people do not want it. Stop forcing it on us. It has proven to be very detrimental to public education in other states. Just stop with your childish hissy fit and release the money for public education so that OUR CHILDREN get the education they deserve. This is about the children. It is not about lining the pockets of your rich donors!!!!

Jay Raman
Self
HOUSTON, TX

This will destroy public education and private schools can choose to not accept kids, discriminate , or raise tuition. Arizona budget is getting blown because vouchers is destroying financial checks because schools increase fees, then voucher will follow.

For kids on special needs programs, kids who lack transportation , etc ; these vouchers could leave them with no options.

Every modern western counterpart is working to provide greater access to education for all and on multiple levels.

Ashleigh Lawrence
Self/Clerk
Lake Jackson, TX

I do not support HB 3. Public tax dollars should not be sent to private institutions.

Emily Barry
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to money collected for public schools going to vouchers. The current administration has not properly funded public schools for years. This appears to be a calculated effort to weaken and destroy our public school system. Vouchers are the first step toward the privatization of our school system, which would be a catastrophe for our students and our state. Republicans and democrats agree that vouchers are not the solution and would be another obstacle created by this administration designed to weaken our public schools. Texan families already have school choice, we do not want vouchers. Thank you.

Meredith Gardner
self -- non-profit employee
Round Rock, TX

I am against HB and putting public dollars towards private schools. I have five children, four of whom are old enough to attend public schools. They have received a great education in Texas but their district is currently facing a large budget deficit and is cutting programs and staff. Please do not support this bill, which will further draw resources away from the state. This is not conservative, and it will likely not actually help those who need it most.

Brenda Bell
Retired
Austin, TX

I am a 79-year old native Texan. I live in Austin now but attended public school all 12 years in Colorado City. My kids went to public school in TX and now so do my grandkids. This bill will cripple public schools all over the state but especially in little hometowns like mine. HB 3 is NOT an emergency - the real emergency is adequate funding of our short-changed public school system. Texas is a rich state. We can afford to increase the per student allotment by \$1300 before even talking about tuition subsidies for families whose kids are already in private school. Because they can afford it. Private school vouchers have proven disastrous to state budgets in Arizona and elsewhere. Stop this madness and do your job for the greater good. Take care of the five million students in Texas PUBLIC schools first.

Kimberlee Rowan

Self/Lvn mom

Lubbock, TX

I am completely and adamantly against vouchers. First it will affect my child school as you are forcing the state into private school which is one of the many reasons I choose to send my child to a private school. If I wanted my child in public education I would send him to a public school. Second it takes money away from the public school and the teachers that desperately need it. If you truly wanted the public opinion you would put it to a vote! But you know it will not pass. We the people don't want this but you don't seem to care. I voted for you but I can promise if you pass this you will not get my vote again. NO SCHOOL VOUCHERS!!

Melissa Cobb

Self

McKinney, TX

I do not support universal vouchers for private/homeschool education. As a product of the public school system, I believe our public schools need to be funded in accordance with the costs of education (ie, not based on 2019 numbers). Providing high quality public education is a critical part of our societal structure. I am also a private school parent. I made that choice and am grateful to have the financial ability to make that choice. I do not want public tax dollars coming into my kids' school to fund tuition. Doing so would violate the separation of church and state enshrined in the US Constitution and which, as a Christian, I wholeheartedly support. Defunding public schools because they do not meet standards is not the solution. Providing public education is one of the core functions of state government, and this bill would outsource that function. Additionally, universal vouchers would be useless to families who do not have geographic access to private schools. It could also result in private schools increasing tuition due to government subsidization, or it could result in the creation of private schools attempting to monetize and profit off of state subsidies. If you want to improve education in Texas, increase state funding for schools, stop the redistribution system that bleeds tax dollars from so-called wealthy districts (some of which are suffering budget shortfalls), and pay teachers more. Leave private schools and homeschools alone.

Tina Green

Fort Worth Independent School District

Arlington, TX

I am against HB3. Public School tax dollars should only be designated for Public Schools. Private schools are a personal choice. HB 3 will redirect hard-earned taxpayer dollars from our neighborhood public schools and provide public funding to private schools that are subject to no accountability and that can pick and choose the students they want to educate. VOTE NO FOR HOUSE BILL 3.

Karen Goodman

Self, (parent of school age children)

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill because it provides funding to a minority of families at the expense of those who cannot afford or do not have the opportunity to have their children in private schools. Public schools are already severely underfunded, and any additional K-12 education funds should go to public schools. Private schools are comparatively unregulated and are not subject to the same testing and standards required of public schools. Neighborhood public schools accept all students, but private schools can deny admission or educational services to any student, including students with disabilities, among others. Use of tax dollars should come with standards and not allow cherry picking of the easiest students to teach. Doing so would leave only the most challenging students in public schools, at a reduction of funding for the public schools (as the daily census would fall if students moved into private schools). Please represent the interest of all or the majority of families in your districts not special interests of politicians. The large majority opposes vouchers and want their public schools properly and adequately funded.

Robin McMillion

self

AUSTIN, TX

I am happy to pay taxes to the public schools because the schools were there for my kids years ago, and they are accountable to the public. But I'm not happy about my tax dollars going to the XYZ Academy sandwiched between a laundromat and a pawn shop. Vouchers/ESAs will give taxpayer dollars to schools that have no accountability to the public. Private schools can refuse to accept kids. They kick out the kids they have accepted for any reason. They can shut down for any reason. Many towns - including the Texas town I grew up in - have no private school except a Catholic school which non-Catholic families (a majority of families in the state) may not want to send their kids to. If the Legislature thinks that public schools are inadequate, then make them adequate! It's the Legislature's job to ensure access to a good public education for all kids, not to tell parents they can "shop" for their kid's education with taxpayer dollars.

Jo-Ann Fitts

Self

SanAntonio, TX

Please vote against vouchers!

Diane Stegall

Self (retired RN)

FW, TX

This will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties (more than 150 Texas counties don't have a private school to send your kid too, even if you could afford the difference between what the voucher pays and what tuition costs!).

It's bad for the Texas taxpayer, bad for public educators, and bad for the kids in our public school classrooms.

Opposition to the school voucher bill. It will aid the wealthy and leave the poor children in schools with less funding and have a very big impact on our rural schools. This bill is not for education in Texas only again for the upper class to have another "tax brake"

—

Paige Biersdorfer

Self

San Marcos, TX

Please do not pass HB 3. Texans want funding for public schools. School Vouchers have failed in other states, and aren't we as Texans better than that? As Texans shouldn't we strive for the best for all of us? Listen to the citizens! This is a bipartisan issue. We all want to be able to send our children to funded, free, and fair public schools. My daughter has dyslexia and the ability to receive services has been life changing for her. I am scared what reducing funding means for not just her but for all students.

I also feel that it is a bit of a conflict of interest when our own Texas Governor's WIFE sits on the board for a private school. The tuition to this school is \$21,900 - how would a \$10,000 voucher even help me to get my child to that school. I find it a bait and switch to market this school of choice, especially when many of us feel there is no actual choice. I PRAY that you don't let greed cause you to bend the knee (which is not a very Texan thing to do) Oppose HB3 and let's get Texas Public Schools funded!

Kate Landon

Self

Springtown, TX

This will create a disparity between poor kids and rich kids. Dont do this!

Christen Towne

Self

Katy, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school vouchers in the state of Texas. Vouchers divert crucial public funds away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas children, to subsidize private and charter schools that are not held to the same accountability standards.

Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education, support, and opportunities to students of all backgrounds. Instead of funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions, we should invest in strengthening our public school system by increasing teacher pay, improving resources, and ensuring every child has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting any voucher proposals and focusing on policies that uplift public education for all.

Thank you for your dedication to the future of Texas students.

Bret Boeker

Self - Pharmacist

San Angelo, TX

Do not pass this bill. Instead focus on getting proper funding to the public schools that truly need it.

Kevin Burns

Self / Financial services I str

Frisco, TX

I strongly oppose passage of this bill. Our state should not put public taxpayer dollars toward private for profit schools. Those dollars should be allocated to maintain and improve our existing public school system. If parents choose a private for profit school for their children, they should not receive support from the taxpayers of the state. Thank you.

Sharon Howell

Self - retired teacher

Katy, TX

As a parent and a retired teacher I am asking you to vote NO on school vouchers. The vouchers will undermine public education and ultimately only benefit families who can already afford public school. I made a decision to send one of my children to private school for a few years for various reasons. That was my choice and I did not expect the state to help me pay. Instead you need to be focused on adequately funding our public schools by finally raising the state allotment. Thank you for your time and consideration before you vote.

Adrienne McKee

self

Richardson, TX

I oppose HB 3. Our local school is important because it fosters a sense of community, provides tailored needs for children in our community, and supports local economies and cultures.

Christina Hernandez

Self

League city, TX

As a life long Texan, public school student and parent to 2 public school children I DO NOT SUPPORT either SB 2 or HB 3. Redirecting publicly paid funds to private entities is and will be a disaster and cause further undo stress on our already stressed public school system. We already have school choice in Texas. Parents to can send their kids to any school they choose. These vouchers will not make anything more affordable for the socioeconomic disadvantaged citizens. It will however, take funds away from their schools resulting in closures and greater hardships on parents for transportation and scheduling. This is not how you help the public school system. Make the governor fully fund public education and stop withholding funds to push this agenda. Pay teachers a living wage, accounting for inflation. Pay the districts appropriately so that teachers can use public funds to stock their classrooms instead of their personal bank accounts. I am so disappointed in the GOP. As a former republican, I can tell you the reason myself and my husband along with a majority of my friends have left this party because it no longer stands for small government and fiscal responsibility. This party now stands for the government in parts of our lives it has no place and wasteful spending to satisfy donors. You should all be ashamed of yourselves. This is not what actual Christians behave. This is how pharasees behave. Only looking out for how they can benefit the most. You are all public servants and wether or not your constituents voted for you, you still represent them and should vote accordingly to their will, not your own personal beliefs.

Max Maurer

Self

Seguin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. It would take money from Public Schools and leave many, who don't have access to private schools or the ability to Home School with little option other than the local public schools that would be further starved of funding. This is a give away to wealthy people with private school options they are likely already using. In addition, it is designed to weaken public schools.

Rachael Hammoudeh, Ms

Self - Retired

Galveston, TX

I am NOT in favor of HB 3. Do not use my taxes to support private schools.

Carolyn Nottingham

self, retired

Georgetown, TX

As a long time registered voter who exercises her right each and every time, I urge you to vote NO on this voucher bill. It will harm our public school system in Texas and our students. It is unfair and should not be enacted. Thank you. Carolyn Nottingham

Janet Butler

Self/former teacher 32 years

Austin, TX

The last thing Texas needs is a voucher system to relieve our stressed education system. The data from other states has not proven that voucher system works at all. 75% of the vouchers go to students who are already enrolled in private schools and apparently have the money to afford tuition though the governor says low income students and students with special needs will have priority. It is up to private schools, whether or not to admit the students. The \$10,000 towards tuition does not cover the entire tuition, low income, families and families with special needs kids generally do not have the transportation or the extra funds to make up the difference.

We need to be investing in our students in the public schools. Due to unfunded mandates and the lack of increased funding using inflation, our school districts are stressed and are scrambling to balance their budgets. Cutting programs, teachers, maintenance are common place. They're starting with a deficit and cannot keep up. The legislature should be taking inflation into the equation when funding schools and per student allotments. A \$1300 increase to the per student allotment is needed to keep up with the inflation and bring us back down to 2019 funding it is ridiculous. Texas is ranked 41 out of 50 states in funding to public schools. We need to be investing in our students investing in early childcare and our teachers and supporting them in their endeavors. The children are our future and we need to invest in them for a better Texas. School vouchers take away from public schools. The governor and legislators' unfunded mandates and callous disregard for the needs of our school districts have caused this problem. The School Districts and children have suffered because of this. Please set this straight and invest in our public schools and students. No vouchers put the money in to Texas schools. Please invest in Texas not in private schools. They get plenty of money on their own.

Joseph Hunt, Mr.

Self/Sales

Austin, TX

School vouchers amount to a tax rebate for wealthier Texans who are already sending their children to private schools. Vouchers will not provide alternatives for rural Texans where no private schools exist. The bill will serve to undermine funding for existing public schools and further erode the quality of education provided to young Texans. We can also expect that existing private schools will simply raise their tuition should the bill passes, thereby reducing any proposed benefit the vouchers were intended to provide.

In short, this is a BAD BILL for Texans and if you're listening to your constituencies, the majority of Texans oppose it.

Tanya Callejas

Self

Pflugerville, TX

This bill will completely destroy our already struggling public education. It is very heartbreaking how there is no thought for all the majority of children in Texas and the teachers is beyond me. We should be focused on making our public schools better not taking away.

Kate McDermott

Self, marketer

Austin, TX

Providing money to the wealthy to subsidize their private schooling is unconscionable. Support public schools! No to vouchers!

Jackie Fushille

Myself

Dripping Spgs, TX

This is the most accurate bill to show that the ones with means are better than the ones with none. Please do not allow this bill to pass. It helps the few but destroys the rest of Texas's children. Disgusting.

Lesley Bohmann
Self
Liberty Hill, TX

Texas public schools are the pillars of our communities, and should be protected and treated as such. The State has been withholding funds for years, and this will only make it worse. Public schools and the students they serve deserve adequate funding to provide a great education. Vote NO to school vouchers and the school choice savings account.

Kathryn Sazer
Self
Plano, TX

I fully support this bill as a Texas resident. Thank you.

Judith Gonzalez-Rodriguez
Self
Corp Christi, TX

I support public school and oppose HB 3.

Christina Kiddy
Self
Austin, TX

I urge you to vote against this school voucher bill. As a concerned constituent and advocate for a strong public education system, I firmly believe that this legislation will harm Texas students, teachers, and taxpayers. Rather than solving the challenges facing our public schools, HB3 diverts essential funds away from the very institutions that serve the majority of our children.

The Texas Constitution mandates that the state provide a "suitable" and "efficient" system of public free schools. A voucher program directly undermines this mandate by diverting resources toward private entities, many of which lack the capacity, willingness, or obligation to serve all students equitably. Public tax dollars should remain in public schools, benefiting the greatest number of students rather than a select few.

Unlike public schools, which must meet rigorous state standards, adhere to curriculum requirements, and undergo public financial audits, private schools receiving vouchers operate with minimal oversight. This lack of accountability means taxpayer dollars could fund schools that fail to meet basic educational standards. Many private schools are not subject to the same financial transparency laws as public schools. This opens the door for potential fraud, mismanagement, and misuse of funds—something we have seen in other states that have implemented similar voucher programs. Without stringent accountability measures, Texas risks wasting public money on schools that may not provide a high-quality education.

Proponents of HB3 argue that school vouchers expand parental choice. However, in reality, vouchers often benefit only a small segment of students—primarily those who are already attending private schools. Many private schools charge tuition rates that far exceed the value of the voucher, leaving low- and middle-income families unable to cover the remaining costs. Additionally, private schools can selectively admit students based on entrance exams, religious affiliation, and other criteria, excluding many children who would benefit from school choice the most.

If lawmakers truly want to improve education in Texas, they should focus on increasing funding for public schools, raising teacher salaries, reducing classroom sizes, and expanding access to advanced coursework and vocational training. Redirecting public funds to private schools through a voucher system does not address the root causes of educational inequities—it only exacerbates them.

Public education is a public good that benefits all Texans. When we invest in our public schools, we invest in the future of our state by ensuring that all children, regardless of their zip code, receive a quality education. HB3 moves Texas in the wrong direction by prioritizing privatization over public investment, harming our students and communities in the process.

Michael Kochumuttom

self, engineer

Lewisville, TX

Hello,

I write to you today to vote against HB3. The creation of school vouchers is a frivolous use of funds. Public schools are vastly more affordable for the tax payer to provide education, all while ensuring Texas students receive the cutting edge education that public schools have always provided. I am a graduate of Texas public schools, and I would not have had the success I've achieved without a properly funded public education system. With vouchers, this quality education will be diminished; this is the last thing Texas needs.

Thank you

Alan Carsrud

self

Spicewood, TX

This bill will hurt rural schools and only benefit for profit schools.

Leslie Funk

Self

Spicewood, TX

I am firmly against vouchers or education savings account programs. It is not in the public interest to steal public funds and give them to private schools. It's a scam and it's wrong. Vote against this bill.

Tyler Loofs

Self, Dietitian

Georgetown, TX

I am a new parent who has chosen to stay in this state with my extended family, rather than move elsewhere solely for better education opportunities for my new son. I am the son of a public school teacher, the husband to a counselor, and a friend to many involved in the public schooling system. I ask you on behalf of sensible, accessible, quality education - please vote against implementing vouchers for private/religious schools. They will only serve to weaken the public school systems, disenfranchise those who don't have funding to close the gap between vouchers and private tuition, and drive people like myself - people who love Texas and want it to blossom - out of the state. If the end goal is to create a homogenized, Christian society by driving out diverse perspectives and education that stands distinct from religious organizations... then may God have mercy on you all as you proceed.

Melody Long

Self

Leander, TX

Dear Texas Legislator, As a proud Texan, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I am the product of Texas Public Schools and spent 33 years teaching in Texas Public Schools. I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. I believe private school subsidies are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair. These subsidies can create unequal schools by prioritizing private schools over public schools by diverting funding from public schools to private schools, which can leave public schools underfunded. Studies show that voucher programs are ineffective, and other states have seen the same results. I am vehemently opposed to any school voucher program funded with taxpayer dollars!

Luke Longino, Mr.

Self

Belton, TX

Stop "reverse Robinhood-ing" our children! It's anti-Jesus.

George Davis

Self - retired Admin Manager at Texas Utilities

FAFIRFIELD, TX

i do not want money spent on vouchers for parents sending their children to private schools. We need to spend any money we have to support public education and make salaries and benefits enough to attract great teachers who will stay in the profession. Giving money for vouchers is taking money from public schools that they need now. We see schools being underfunded all over the state and having to close or overcrowd due to lack of funding by state legislature. I also am opposed to the state supporting private schools (other than certifying that graduates are qualified to get a diploma) due t separation of church and state. Most of the private schools around are attend by children who have parents who want to push a certain religious view. Our children need to be taught to think and reason, look at all views, and learn to appreciate and respect those views.

Megan Pierson

Self

Texline, TX

Dear Education Committee,

I am writing this today as one of your constituents and a current public educator in Texas to urge you to rethink your position on the school voucher program. Please note, this is my opinion, and I do not represent any entity in writing this.

First, I see what legislators are attempting to do in championing the school voucher program. However, I urge you to fight for our public schools instead. While school vouchers look great on the surface, they leave out thousands of rural students like mine. The closest private school for my students is over thirty miles away. Even if my students could afford tuition and get there each day, the private school ends at the junior high level forcing high school students back to public education as the closest private high school is over two hours away. Most of my district is low income and could not afford private school tuition regardless of access or a voucher. I am confident that my students are not the only population without access to prestigious private schools in Texas.

Furthermore, according to the Texas Tribune online, the budget set aside by Texas legislators this session was \$1 billion for school vouchers and \$5 billion for public school funding. Divided out, that is \$3,981.99 per private school student and \$903.96 per public school student with 5,531,236 students in enrolled in Texas's public schools based on the enrollment numbers from TEA's August 2024 report, and 251,131 enrolled in private schools according to data from the National Center for Education Statistics. Why then would we not consider the majority of Texas students first? I am asking you as my legislators to consider the majority of students when appropriating funds.

In order to make public schools better for the majority of students in Texas, changes must be made. This includes more funding, a better school accountability system, more flexibility for LEAs, and better pay for teachers as a starting point. As previously stated, the funding for public schools is off balance when compared to the numbers of public versus private school enrollments. Additional funding to public schools creates more opportunities for students. For example, better funding in my district would allow my students more rigorous career education instantly.

Furthermore, the minimum salary requirement for an educator with zero years of experience is \$33,660. Frankly, an individual can make more working full time at a fast food restaurant than being a first year teacher, as Ziprecruiter lists the average salary as \$37,808. There is no wonder then that we have a statewide teacher shortage. Simply put, if we want high quality people leading our schools and preparing our students, we need to pay them better.

Instead of school vouchers, please shift your focus to supporting and funding our public schools. School choice is important, so let's work together to make public schools first choice for parents and students!

Sarah McGee
Self/education/FFA
Katy, TX

Hello,
I am a first year teacher working in a public school as well as a product of public education. I would like to voice my opinion and concerns about the establishment of the voucher system in the state of Texas. As someone who has family in the voucher state of Louisiana I can promise you 2 things 1. Crime will go up 2. Education will go down. I have seen outcome of voucher programs and they only hold back students and education as a whole. No matter politics this bill is outrageous and will NOT help anyone but those who can already afford these private schools; if the argument is “school choice” then that argument is completely irrelevant, choice has always been available when it comes to schooling but what has NOT always been available are programs that aid in ensuring students have free lunch, after school programs, mentors, and the extra aid teachers cannot provide with our already busy schedules. I myself am not just a classroom teacher, I also have to work late hours, weekends, and in some cases holidays due to my involvement in FFA. But with all teachers we have too many hats and too little pay, these vouchers taking away from our students as well as us will only worsen the education here in Texas. Please take a drive through Louisiana and in the areas where private schools are the higher attending places of education, I promise you won’t be able to tell the difference between a poorly funded public school and that private school. Think of our future.

Maravia Shepherd
Parent
Conroe, TX

I do not want this.

Daniel Lindenberg

self - real estate development

Houston, TX

Dear Members of the Texas Senate,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to proposals that seek to divert funding from our public schools through private school voucher programs. As a concerned citizen, I urge you to stand firmly in support of public education and reject any measures that would defund or weaken our public schools.

Texas' public education system has long been a cornerstone of opportunity, ensuring that all students, regardless of their background, have access to a quality education. Our public schools serve a diverse range of students, including those with special needs, English language learners, and children from low-income families. They are places where every child, no matter their circumstance, has the potential to succeed. Public schools offer a sense of community, foster inclusivity, and provide a range of services beyond education, such as meals, counseling, and extracurricular activities.

Introducing vouchers that funnel taxpayer dollars into private schools would have a disastrous impact on our public schools. Vouchers would effectively siphon money away from the very institutions that serve the vast majority of our students. These funds are crucial for maintaining essential programs, improving educational outcomes, and supporting teachers. Public schools are already struggling with overcrowded classrooms, underpaid teachers, and limited resources. Redirecting money to private schools would only worsen these challenges and leave public schools with fewer resources to meet the needs of Texas children.

Private schools that accept vouchers are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. They do not have to accept all students, particularly those with disabilities, special needs, or English language learners. They can select students based on academic performance, financial means, or other factors, which leaves the most vulnerable students behind. Public schools, on the other hand, are required to accept every student, ensuring that every child has a fair chance at success. By diverting funds to private institutions, we risk creating a two-tiered education system that exacerbates inequality and disadvantages those who need the most support.

The focus should not be on dismantling public education but on strengthening it. Instead of providing vouchers for private schools, Texas must prioritize fully funding its public schools to ensure every student has access to a high-quality education. We must increase teacher salaries, improve school facilities, and ensure that every child has the resources they need to succeed. Our public schools can be the best they can be if they are given the support and funding they deserve.

Lyndia Day

SELF - Texas citizen since 1968

Comfort, TX

PLEASE STOP THE STEAL OF PUBLIC SCHOOL MONEY TO GIVE TO THE ALREADY RICH FOR VOUCHERS! IT'S A SCAM AND WE ALL SEE IT FOR WHAT IT IS!

Karen Burdick

Self

Conroe, TX

Please, please, please do NOT approve the voucher bill. This bill will harm public education which is already struggling with underfunding. It also endangers the teacher retirement system. Educators and students deserve much better. We should not be sacrificed to reward big money donors who are not motivated for the public good. I hope each legislator votes for the public good and does not succumb to political pressure and fear. Thank you for all you do for our state.

Samantha Leivers, Dr

Self

Plano, TX

HB 3 will significantly negatively impact students across Texas, especially those with disabilities, rural students and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Similar bills on Louisiana and Indiana have shown negative impacts in student achievement, particularly math. Texas already lags in public schooling, and implementing the bill will worsen the situation but taking away funding from our public schools. Make no mistake that this bill does not offer choices for our children's education, but rather negatively impacts the majority of Texan children while providing a discount for wealthy Texans who are already sending their children to private school. As the mother of an autistic child, I am very concerned about the lack of support my daughter will receive if this goes ahead, particularly as the limited research on the effectiveness of school voucher programs rarely includes children with disabilities. It is time for Texas to be for Texans again, not for the 1%. I strongly recommend rejecting this bill in its entirety.

Monte Endres

Self

Muenster, TX

No voucher

Allison Martin

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no. Public dollars should only be used for public schools.

Disha Chaudhry

Self

Plano, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 because it diverts public funds to private schools with no accountability, harming our public education system. I urge you to vote NO on HB3 and instead support increased funding for public schools, teacher pay, and resources for all Texas students. Thank you.

Robert Howard

Self

Bay City, TX

I am a life long, donating, Republican. The idea that our elected representatives are discussing a voucher program and not property tax relief with the surplus funds is unacceptable. Why are we not holding the TEA accountable and the local school districts? Part of the reason is every two years you all move the goal posts for public education through, different testing, different software programs, different rules and laws, therefore nothing stays consistent. The idea that the focus is on creating a new voucher system, instead of making sure our public school system is the best in the nation, is a complete distraction from the issues. Furthermore your political futures and governors political futures are in jeopardy. This is not a Democrat vs Republican issue and the fact that the governor is turning this into a red vs blue issue on Facebook and X is alienating untold numbers of loyal Republican supporters. Stop this nonsense and focus on issues that effect all citizens of the great State of Texas. Fix the public school system as it stands. Do you not have the authority or common sense or leadership to do so?

Shanterra McBride

Self/Author

DeSoto, TX

Fully fund public schools!

Dikila Jones

9300 Investments, LLC

Killeen, TX

Why not solve the problem by giving all schools the resources they need for all schools versus the option for parents to send their kids outside their community because the closest schools don't have the resources they need. Am I missing something? I'm not confident the transfer of funds will follow the students to the school of choice.

Lauren David

Self/Mom/Stylist

Austin, TX

I am the parent of a Texas public school student and a former teacher. I believe that public funds should stay in public schools. Establishing a voucher system for private education will directly impact the quality of education received in public schools. Private institutions are not held to the same standards as public schools and are not required to meet the needs of all students. In addition, I believe it will only be families who can already afford private education that will be benefitted, leaving those that are under resourced with less resources than before. Rural school districts without access to private schools are particularly vulnerable if this bill passes. It is shameful that Texas lawmakers who vote yes on this bill are ok with spending more money per private school student than per public school student. This is discriminatory and will only serve to decrease the overall quality of education in this state. It is already at an embarrassingly low national ranking and will only get worse if this bill is passed. Please fully fund public schools and leave our taxpayer money where it benefits ALL Texas students.

Kelsey TenBrook

Self

Buda, TX

I oppose school vouchers!!! No, we don't want them!!!

Jennifer Bennett

Self; Parent of student in Austin ISD

Austin, TX

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bennett

Bracha Strassman

Self

Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Sheldon Rosenberg

self

Dallas, TX

I support this bill. Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities. Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Jennifer Wang

Self

Bryan, TX

Let me begin by saying that I attended and graduated from private school. My mother worked there and her entire salary paid for 3 of us for 7 years. She never drew a paycheck. I did get an excellent education and continued on to graduate from college. However, my brother enrolled in public school for high school because they offered a much wider range of courses than the private school ever could. My children have always attended excellent public schools in Texas because I believe in the ability of the public school system to educate all of our children. And not only educate them for college, but also trade schools and wherever else life leads them. If I even wanted to send my children to the private school I attended, a voucher would precipitate a tuition I still could not afford. I do not want and do not support private school vouchers in the state of Texas. If residents can afford to send their children to private schools, then the tuition is their responsibility, not the state. Private schools already offer tuition assistance for those that need it. Please put school vouchers up for a vote and let Texas citizens make the decision instead of forcing it on us.

Clayton Phillips, Reverend

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am firmly against vouchers for private and homeschool students. Public, mandated taxes are to be allocated for the public good, not for religious, isolated education. Parents already have choice to send their children to private schools, or to homeschool with no regulations by the State of Texas. Let them. But don't use my tax dollars to fund choices that may or may not serve all of Texas.

Cynthia Daniels

Self

Mansfield, TX

I want to tell you why public schools and fully funding public schools is so important to me and why I will ask you to please vote no on HB 3. I am a product of Fort Worth ISD public schools and went on to receive my BS in Animal Science from Texas A&M University. I am now the Executive Director of a non-profit and I run my own Mary Kay business. My husband grew up in the little bitty town of Fruitvale, Texas. There was only one option for schools, Fruitvale ISD. He graduated 3rd in his class, went on to receive a BS in Ag Development from Texas A&M University and now is very successful as the President of a small inventory software company. I am the mother of 3 adult children who are a product of Mansfield ISD public schools. My oldest is now very successful in the IT field, my middle is finishing a degree at UTA, my youngest just started at TCC. My sister is a teacher, my sister-in-love is a Superintendent, 2 of my nieces are teachers and my youngest daughter is going to College to become a public school elementary art teacher. So you can see, public schools and fully funding public schools are very important to me. I have heard our Governor say many times how we have a very large surplus of money and also that he will continue to withhold funding to public schools until ESA's are passed. That is tax money that we as the public tax payers have paid specifically for funding public schools. Our Governor has also stated that ESA's will take funding away from public schools. Mansfield ISD stands to lose \$14 million if ESA's are passed. We will also lose another \$822,000 if Medicaid is eliminated. ESA's are welfare for the wealthy who don't need it for their kids to attend private schools. ESA's will hurt public schools and will also hurt rural communities whose only options are public schools. Teachers will lose their jobs due to lack of funding. They already aren't paid their worth. We already have school choice. Any parent can choose public schools, private schools, charter schools, online schools and even homeschool. These ESA's will only help 100,000 students in Texas. The state of Texas has 5.84 million students enrolled in public schools right now. Also, private schools are not required to accept all students nor are they required to provide accommodations to students that need a 504 or IEP. When my youngest was 13, she started having a lot of pain, brain fog, cognitive issues, vomiting, etc. She was in pain 24/7 and missed a lot of school. MISD was able to start her on a 504 and then an IEP to provide her accommodations to help her stay in school and get her education. She was able to graduate a year early from High School all while being in an accelerated STEM program. She is now attending TCC and will be transferring to UNT in the Fall. Without public schooling, none of this would have been possible. Please, do not pass HB 3. Say no to ESA's. Protect students like my daughter. Fully fund public schools first!

Thank you.

Cynthia Daniels

Lisa Manuel
self
Katy, TX

I am against this bill because public education is important and school choice should not come at the expense of public schools.

Ben Reeves
self
Cedar Park, TX

This directly steals from public schools. The amount of funding that is allocated to public schools is determined based on the number of students who attend. If students are given government assistance to attend private schools, it reduces head count and reduces funding for that school. This funding should instead be going directly to increase the amount of allocation per student in public schools. There has not been an increase since 2019, during the worst years of inflation we've seen in many decades and the schools are suffering as a result.

Debbie Welper
Self/Teachers
Hart, TX

It is an injustice to destroy the education system by which you, yourselves were educated!!! Do us all a favor and for once be supportive of Texas Teachers!!!!

Pamela Daggett
Self
Austin, TX

Anything that removes resources from public classrooms will put middle and lower income children at a greater disadvantage. The voucher will not pay the entire cost of a private education so unless families can afford to supplement the voucher their child will be forced to remain in a more seriously underfunded public classroom. Also, private schools are free to pick and choose their students. Students with special needs are not as likely to be picked. Public Education has always been a shared responsibility and benefit for all of us to share. Vouchers look like wealthier people withdrawing their support from the common good. I have paid outlandish property taxes to support schools (primarily) and I don't even have children. If wealthy people get their money back in the form of a voucher, I want my money back too. We either all support public education or we revert to a primitive society that believes education is only for the privileged. Vote "no" on vouchers and safeguard education for all children

Mary Katherine Higgins
Self
Houston, TX

Vouchers don't work. This is completely insane and disgusting

Dana Luna
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

Vote NO. Your constituents do not want vouchers. Please FULLY fund our schools and let them soar! They have been stifled for years with rising costs and no increase in budget. You CAN make a difference to our students by increasing PUBLIC education funds and voting NO to HB3. Thank you.

Daisy Greer

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no on this bill. This is going to be detrimental to the public education my children receive. One of my kids receives special education services and I am confident that he gets the best help in a public school setting. Plus even with a voucher we couldn't afford a private education and we are a dual income family so your hope that this bill helps low income families is absurd. Your voucher will not help low income families because private school tuition is so much more than what a voucher covers.

Julie DuPree

self - project manager

Liberty Hill, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3 and any form of school voucher program in Texas. School vouchers divert essential resources from public schools, which serve all children, toward private institutions that lack accountability and transparency. Our state should be investing in strengthening public education, not undermining it. Please protect our public schools by SOUNDLY rejecting HB 3.

Jay Prengler

self

Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them and have school choice in Texas supported by the State of Texas.

Thank you.

Cindy Barrier

Self

Lorena, TX

This voucher plan is outrageous! Do not begin the destruction of Texas public education because Greg Abbott received millions of dollars. He is only concerned about himself and is bullying lawmakers into bowing before him. EVERYONE I've spoken to is against vouchers!! Stop this now!!!!!!!

Jillanne Odonovan, Digital Supervisor

Self

Austin, TX

This program takes funding away from public schools and is something I oppose!

Peggy Aschenbeck

Self

Austin, TX

Governor Abbott and the rest of his cohorts keep short changing and crippling the Public School Districts. Abbott tells us that school vouchers are the answer. His remedy is to give the private schools \$10,000 per student but only give the public schools \$6,100 per student. I don't know about you, but that just doesn't add up. Once again, the republicans appear to be thinking that their constituency is a bunch of idiots. Stop the grandstanding and start doing the right thing. Fund the public schools appropriately. Give our children the best public education they deserve. A strong public education system is integral to our democracy, and vouchers undermine public education. People who want to send their children to private school have every right to do so. Just don't expect us taxpayers to fund it. The people of Texas deserve much better than what the politicians are doling out.

Robert Selders Jr

Garland ISD School Board - Trustee, Place 6

Rowlett, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3 because it puts public schools, and the millions of students who rely on them, at risk. This bill diverts taxpayer dollars to private schools that aren't required to serve all children, follow state curriculum, or be financially transparent. Meanwhile, Texas public schools are still underfunded, and teachers are leaving the profession due to low pay and overwhelming workloads.

Would you accept this for your own kids or grandkids if they were in an underfunded public school? Would you support funneling their school's resources to private institutions that can deny students based on income, disability, or academic history?

HB 3 is not real school choice (or parent choice for that matter); it's an expensive, unaccountable system that drains billions from public education. Rural communities will suffer the most, with fewer options and fewer resources for the public schools that keep their towns thriving.

Instead of creating a costly voucher program, Texas should fully fund public schools so that every child, regardless of zip code, gets a strong education. I urge you to vote NO on HB 3 and stand up for Texas families and communities.

Reizel Grossman

HB 3 by Buckley

San Antonio, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Rabbi & Fraydee Wender

Young Israel of Houston

Houston, TX

Our parents need affordable school choice in order that our children can receive a proper education. I have taught for 0 years. Believe me I know

Lynette Norman

Self-retired

Abilene, TX

There's no reason for this bill to pass. It will take desperately needed funds from public schools to fund welfare for the rich. If someone wants their children to attend a private school, then they should pay for the school out of their own pocket. There's no reason to take public school funds to pay for someone else's rich children to attend a private school. Ridiculous. Texas public schools are underfunded and running at a deficit budget now because of our awful governor's agenda to appease billionaires that don't even live in Texas.

Jennifer Smeby

Self, teacher

Mansfield, TX

No vouchers! Listen to your constituents and fully fund our public schools! Public money should not be used for private schools, which are not held to the same standards. Do the right thing and vote no!

Adam Skjonsby

Self

Houston, TX

Becca sent me this text if you want to use it:

I am writing to strongly oppose Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) introduced in 2025, which seeks to expand school vouchers in the state. As a concerned citizen and advocate for quality education for all Texas students, I believe this bill will harm public schools and undermine the core values of equity, fairness, and opportunity in our education system.

Expanding school vouchers would divert much-needed funding away from public schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children. Public schools are the cornerstone of our education system, legally required to accept all students, regardless of background, abilities, or socioeconomic status. By funneling taxpayer dollars to private schools, HB 3 would severely weaken the resources and programs available to students in public schools, especially those who rely on them for a quality education. This move would disproportionately impact students in low-income and underserved communities, who are already facing significant challenges and disparities.

Instead, I recommend increasing funding per student, as research shows this approach has a proven impact on academic performance. A 2023 study from Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research found that increased funding directly improves student outcomes, including academic achievement, behavior, and future employment (source: Rice University Study: <https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/when-it-comes-education-outcomes- we-get-what-we-pay>).

Hispanic, Black, and other marginalized students face disproportionate financial barriers due to systemic racism and historical inequities in education. Increasing per-student funding would help bridge this gap, offering these students greater opportunities for success. A 2021 study from Rutgers University calculated the cost of bringing the average test scores of the poorest 20% of students in each state up to the national average. The study found that in Texas, \$12,682 per student annually is needed to close this performance gap (source: Shanker Institute Study: <https://www.shankerinstitute.org/sites/default/files/The%20Real%20Shame%20of%20the%20Nation.pdf>).

While the gap in funding is substantial, it is not insurmountable. By prioritizing alternative legislation that invests directly in public schools, we can ensure all students receive the quality education they deserve.

Daniel Mitchell

Self

Carrollton, TX

FUNDING:

Taxpayers want to know that their tax dollars are being well-spent. Vouchers will take public tax dollars to pay for private schools without any accountability, so taxpayers have no way to compare schools to know if their tax dollars are being well-spent.

Taxpayers do not want to subsidize already affluent families by giving them money to send their children to private schools. As currently proposed, the education savings accounts are primarily a tax break for people who are already in private school or can afford that option.

Private schools receiving public taxpayer dollars are highly vulnerable to fraud and abuse. Their governing boards, if they exist do not have to meet in public or disclose how funds are spent. Private schools do not have to meet financial standards and are not measured by the state's fiscal accountability system.

State-funded vouchers will take needed dollars from public schools. Vouchers take dollars from public schools that are already underfunded. Every dollar sent to a private or home school cannot be invested in public schools. Voucher advocates say funding schools and funding vouchers are separate, but in Texas, where "funding follows the student," public schools will lose needed funding as millions of dollars are siphoned to unaccountable private institutions.

The cost of voucher programs accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4,557,317,230 spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program.

SCHOOL CHOICE

Parent choice? Not really. Private schools choose whether or not to accept a child to attend their school. PRIVATE SCHOOLS CAN, AND DO, DISCRIMINATE and accept only those students that fit their academic and social criteria. Public schools cannot discriminate against any student.

The real problem with "school choice" is the creation of yet another education system (traditional public schools and charter schools already exist) that allows students

Jana Dodson

self

Richardson, TX

Please vote against any legislation in support of vouchers. Vouchers will weaken public schools and provide more benefit to the wealthy who have chosen to send their children to public schools already than the poor. 3 of my 4 children attended highly competitive private schools in Dallas. We would be considered upper middle class BUT our income is pennies compared to the majority of students who attended the schools. It was a challenge to fit in. The schools already scholarship a limited number of students. I would imagine that number wouldn't change as they will be aware of the need to fund capital projects through current families and alumni. Students with vouchers may choose to attend private schools. Often those schools won't have the same financial stability. In those schools, the education may be on par with public schools, but likely below. The poor still won't have choice in Texas as we have a limited transportation system that the students could use to get to schools. The state demands that public schools do ALOT. Fund them so that they can address the problems. (I also believe that no amount of money can solve some problems.) Most public school teachers that I know have to spend hours on administrative tasks. And, the ability to discipline students is limited. Vouchers are not the answer.

Jacqueline Chamberlain

Self/ Homemaker

Penelope, TX

Hello, my name is Jacqueline Chamberlain. I am writing regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and I am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to ask Representative Orr to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3. Thank you.

Alicia Pierce
Self/homeschool mom
Levelland, TX

Hello, my name is Alicia. I am calling regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and I am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to ask you all to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3. Thank you.

Teresa and Mario Beltran
Self, Homeschooling Mom of 4
Liberty Hill, TX

"Hello, my name is Teresa Beltran. I am calling regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to ask Representative Terry Wilson to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3. Thank you!"

Paul & Carole Haupt
Yslata ISD Retired
79935, El Paso, TX, TX

Defeat public dollars for education from going to private schools.

Lindsey Ramirez
Self
Austin, TX

I am the mother of 2 students in a public school. This voucher bill is stealing our taxpayer dollars to subsidize overinflated private school costs that only the wealthy can even afford regardless. This does nothing to provide "choice" to parents of students who require specialized educational services, those that would require transportation, those that do not live in an area with private school options, nor provide the remaining funding needed for people who are low income. It's a facade meant to take money from the middle class majority to funnel to the rich minority.

Jennifer Burger
Self, Founder & Head of Market Research
Austin, TX

Voucher programs and so-called "school choice" initiatives will strip funding from public schools and create unequal education opportunities by using public funds to support private schools. All Texas children deserve the highest-quality public education. Please defend our public schools by OPPOSING vouchers.

Cathy McAuliffe, Dr.
Self retired college professor
Rockport, TX

Vouchers will hurt my school district. Please vote no on vouchers.

Delia Sambrano, Teacher
Texas AFT/representing self and my children. Teacher
San Antonio, TX

Say NO to HB3, voucher scam that's inequitable and will take money out of our public schools!

Caren Felps
Self
Kountze, TX

Vote No on Vouchers! Full fund public schools where all students can learn and grow!

Kimberly Herrick
Self
Kingwood, TX

Vouchers were repeatedly voted down, but Abbott didn't like that because it didn't agree with his racism. So Abbott withheld allocated public school funds for YEARS and tried and sometimes succeeded in ruining the political careers of those who did what their CONSTITUENTS wanted instead of him. Abbott should be IMPEACHED! NO, NO, NO school vouchers!!! Our public school system must not be tanked by self-serving racists like Abbott and his "friends."

Mason Reeves
Personal
Celina, TX

I find this entire process awful, and simply a way to defend our public education while allowing Private Schools with lobbying interests to see higher profit margins. The focus should be funding public schools, so that we can be better than our current 38th rank in education.

Arlene Bryant Hill
Dallas independent School
Desoto, TX

Comment HB 3 by Buckley

George Rohm
Self
Richardson, TX

The Basic Allotment
should be at least equal to Vouchers.

.
?Where is the \$5,000,000 from last session?
But as a minimum, at least increase it for inflation.

Blanca Espinosa, Teacher
Self
San Antonio, TX
No vouchers

Rebecca Beck
Self/Teacher
Carrollton, TX

I am firmly opposed to the education savings account program or vouchers.

I am a concerned Texas voter, and I urge you to say NO to HB 3 and Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) in Texas. First, ESAs will only benefit a very small number of students out of the over 5 million students in the State of Texas. ESAs are a coupon for wealthy families who can already afford to send their kids to private school, at the expense of students in underfunded public schools. I do not support welfare for the wealthy.

The \$1 billion price tag is too high to benefit so few students. Our public schools already lack adequate funding, and it would be outrageous to rob them of even more funds to benefit a select few students. Keep public funds in public schools!

Also, Texas ALREADY has school choice. Students can attend public school, private school, charter school, or homeschool. ESAs will not create more or better choices. A majority of students wouldn't even be able to use ESAs to attend the school of their choice, for a variety of reasons, including:

- *The costs per student cap established by HB 3 makes it impossible for middle-to-low-income families to pay for private school.
- *There are many parts of the state with no private school or charter school options.
- *Most private schools do not provide transportation to and from school.
- *Private schools are not required to provide accommodations for students with disabilities.
- *Many students might not get accepted to the school of their choice, because private schools get to choose their students.

ESAs are bad for Texas students! Please vote NO on HB 3.

Emily Dornier
Self
New Braunfels, TX

As a public school teacher, I am saying NO to vouchers. Please invest in the public school system or let Texans VOTE instead of deciding for us! We are not happy! Public school teachers will remember this at the polls!

Sharon Smith
TRTA
Mission, TX
Vote against vouchers

Patti Pierce
Self
Austin, TX
School vouchers is a big no from me.

Tim Slayton
Myself
Midlothian, TX

As a lifelong citizen and property owner I am completely opposed to this theft of my taxes to enrich private schools.

Melissa Hostetler
Self
Lakeway, TX

This bill is terrible and will cripple our public schools! I vehemently oppose this bill.

Kelsey Davis

Self

Abilene, TX

Rep Buckley, I urge you to vote against HB 3. This will harm our public schools greatly.

Kayla Lain

self

Godley, TX

Hi my name is Kayla Lain, a mother of three. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to ask Representative Kerwin to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3. The overreach of government into private school and home school with tracking through college, career readiness, mandatory state assessments, and pre approved curriculum providers is not choice. We do not want these strings. Thank you!

Sarah Morgan

self

Willis, TX

The school voucher system is not for Texas! It is for the wealthy families that can afford to send their children to private schools. I believe that the families that would like a choice can't afford private schools but what are the chances they will qualify or pass entrance exams? I have a son who is dyslexic and they did not have a dyslexia teacher to accommodate his services. He also couldn't pass the entrance exams to the private school. I believe this is not a good option for this state! I would like to see the statewide state funding increase per student who attends public school so that a student in public school can benefit from the resources the state is willing to give each student. So in conclusion, Raise the statewide state funding per student but SAY NO to vouchers!

Madison Rodon

Self / Teacher

Spring, TX

NO to HB 3. This will harm public schools and millions of public school students in this state. Public schools, students, and teachers DESERVE better!

Terrie Goodloe, Mrs

Self - Mortgage Broker

Godley, TX

I do not believe that I want my tax dollars to be given to school choice or private education, all funding should be brought current with our Public Schools. Please vote NO to school choice or voucher systems.

Melissa Ruffino

Self

Dallas, TX

I fiercely oppose HB3. This is bad for public education and only good for private schools. This is not parent choice as the private school has the last word. I urge house members to put children first.

Kathryn Marty, Mrs.
Self- substitute teacher
Austin, TX

ACTION ITEM for my Texas friends!

A public hearing at the Texas Capitol is happening on the school voucher bill (HB 3). Use the link below to ensure your OPPOSITION is on record. Not a drill, and it only takes a few minutes!

NOTE- I had trouble completing this from my phone and I had to submit from my computer.

Here's what I said:

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a parent and substitute teacher who has worked in Title I schools across Central Texas, I have seen firsthand the impact of underfunded schools on students, families, and communities. For the future of all Texas children, I urge everyone to vote against the creation of a voucher program and to fund our public schools. Thank you.

Lynnette Tieken
Self
Henderson, TX

The public schools need our help!

Kendall Younger
Parent in disd
Dallas, TX

I live in 75229 and would like to request more money for our teachers and that the allotment per public school student would be raised to 10k per kid. The vouchers will hurt our public schools and so many children.

KATHY Gulley
Self
La Vernia, TX

I am AGAINST vouchers. Our public schools, especially in rural and remote counties, will suffer negatively. So will public school educators suffer negatively. I am FOR fully funded, high quality education for all in Texas!

Jack Brown, Dr.

Self

Paris, TX

My name is Dr. Jack Brown, and I have dedicated 24 years to public education as a high school and college biology instructor. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed voucher programs in Texas, including House Bill 3.

Vouchers, whether labeled as education savings accounts, tax credit scholarships, or school choice programs, take public funds and redirect them to private schools. I view these initiatives as a misuse of taxpayer money. Many private schools are religious in nature and fail to teach scientific facts. No public money should fund them. Our public schools, especially in Texas, are already underfunded, and our teachers are facing the damaging effects of insufficient funding.

Furthermore, Texas' STAAR accountability system, which holds public schools to rigorous standards, will not be required of voucher schools. In a time when we are striving for higher academic standards and transparency, it is critical that we maintain consistent accountability to ensure progress for our students and provide clear information to parents.

Voucher schools also offer limited services for students, and they often engage in selective enrollment practices that can further disadvantage students who are already underserved.

Texas already offers charter schools, which are a form of public school, and while these schools are sometimes criticized for lack of transparency and accountability, they are still held to public standards.

Additionally, the Texas Constitution, in Article 7, makes it clear that taxpayers are only responsible for funding free public schools. Vouchers divert resources from the very system that ensures access to quality education for all students.

Research consistently shows that voucher programs often fail to serve students from disadvantaged or marginalized backgrounds. They also present significant risks for rural schools and students with special needs, who may be left behind in a system that is already strained.

I urge you to oppose House Bill 3 and any voucher programs. Texas has rejected vouchers for decades, and we should continue to prioritize the funding and support of our public schools. If parents want to send their children to private institutions, they should be responsible for funding those choices themselves, rather than relying on public education funds for private interests.

Our students deserve a well-funded, accountable, and equitable public education system. I urge you to stand with our public schools and vote against any attempt to undermine them.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Texas public schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jack Brown

Amanda Nguyen

self

Austin, TX

School vouchers take public tax payer money and allocate it to private schools, even if that school is religious, a charter school, or inaccessible.

This defunds public education and funnels taxpayer money directly into the hands of elitist private and charter schools with zero accountability or transparency.

We need public schools that provide equal and open access for all students, no matter where they come from in their walk of life.

Tiffany Davis
Self/Regional Operations Director
Spring, TX

As a former public school student who later graduated from Texas A&M University and then obtained an MBA from the University of Houston, I do not want HB 3 to pass. Public schools are already severely underfunded which means they aren't able to provide the quality education they should. HB 3 would just hurt public schools more. Don't forget public schools are meant to create an educated population to help the US in the long-run. HB 3 will create a less educated general population which will harm our economy and create more gangs and crime.

Chris Reedy
self
Bullard, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Kasia Croney
Self
Bee Cave, TX

Funds should not be diverted from public schools. Do not support this.

Bennie Fore, Dr
Sage Emergency Services
Bastrop, TX

Educations savings account should not affect any moneys that may go to existing public schools. No state taxes should be available to private education institutions. Vouchers should not replace or draw down on any money that would have gone to public schools.

Tonya Mitchell
Self
Nederland, TX

As a conservation I am very much against Tax dollars funding private anything. This bill does nothing to improve education for the 5.5 million students in Texas. It gives no priority to students in low performing campuses. It gives no priority to low income families. It is your job to make Texas public schools the best schools in the nation you gather them. Do your job.

Nicole Sanders
Self, Nurse
San Antonio, TX

I oppose this bill as a mother of children who formerly attended private school and as a former private school child myself. Our public school systems and educators are phenomenal, my child with autism is thriving, my youngest with ADD is growing by leaps and bounds. When we transferred out of private school into public, they were both behind in math by one year. Their teachers have worked hard to get them up to speed. Again, I oppose this bill you are taking money out of schools and from children who desperately need it.

Erika Eisenhauer

Self, teacher

Austin, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Keith King, Dr.

self

Georgetown, TX

This is simply a ploy by several political leaders including Abbott and Patrick to repay financial support from investors in private schools. Please place first consideration on Texas students in rural counties with limited tax resources.

Randy Rutherford

Self/retired public school teacher/coach

Johnson City, TX

I am a retired teacher/coach with 30 years of public school experience. Vote NO to HB3/Vouchers. I'm a conservative Republican and I oppose this bill.

Namrata Misra

Self

Allen, TX

My family and friends do not want public education funds to be used for school voucher programs

Leah Sanchez

Self

Carrollton, TX

The public needs to see that data on TRS.

Who is creating the new private schools to keep up with the supply? How do we know they are not for profit?

Public schools would love to have less SpEd paperwork, but it is not allowed.

What does "physically" in Texas mean; just having an office here in Texas?

Why is Pre-K only funded at 50% since full day Pre-K was mandated in 2019?

Where can I find the data from Ed Choice?

How often do private schools have to be re-accredited?

If we are to compare apples to apples in education then the private and public schools need to take the same test.

We cannot bank on "good will" if we intend to help low income students.

Why are districts spending so many hours without compensation to help assess SpEd students from private schools?

Olivia Perkins

Self

Austin, TX

As a public school student and a former attendee of charter schools, this bill will NOT increase the quality of education at these schools but will significantly disenfranchise already vulnerable students. I urge my congresspeople to vote NAY

Susan Kessler
Self. retired
Cedar Park, TX

PLEASE, PLEASE vote against HB 3! I do not want my tax dollars supporting school vouchers which I believe will dilute funding for public education. My daughter teaches in a public school and I volunteer in one in Round Rock, and I see first-hand the difficulties schools are facing with cuts to positions like librarians (!) and others. I hope that you will support public education and oppose the education "savings account" program. Thank you!

Elizabeth Pannill, DVM
Self
Staples, TX

I oppose private school vouchers . My
Tax dollars should not support someone wanting private school for their children . Increase finding to public schools to increase quality of education so it can be superior to private schools. .

Sarah Rivlin
Community Voices for Public Education
Houston, TX

Please show some courage and save our public schools. When you pay for private school at the expense of public schools, what happens to the kids left behind?

DALE RUDIN
self
Austin, TX

Vouchers will discriminate against those who don't have enough extra money to pay for private school. While it appears that a voucher would help, the cost of private schools is higher than the voucher. Improve public education and give all a chance to succeed not just the wealthy.

Debra Stark
None. I am representing myself as a private citizen and resident of Texas.
MCALLEN, TX

I am writing to voice my objections to the establishment of an educational savings account program. It is a diversion of taxpayer funds which are designated for the funding of public education which is a right of every child in the state of Texas. This is only a means of providing an opportunity for families to have access to public funds for their private us to fund their children's education. This effort to undermine public education and subsidize private educational entities is an insult to the taxpayers whom you think do not understand exactly what you are doing.

Jamie Fletcher
Self
Houston, TX

Please vote NO! This will dismantle our public schools

Sarah Bentley
self
Austin, TX

As a parent of a public school child, I do not think it is fair that people would get \$10,000 to attend private school when public schools only get \$6,000 per student per year. I might support the bill if public schools would get a raise of \$4,000 per student.

Brittany Deen
Self- RN
Mansfield, TX

ESAs will irreparably damage our schools and hurt students like mine who are disabled. Private schools do not have to accept students with IEPs or 504s nor do they follow IDEA. This bill should not be called "school choice" instead you should call it for what it truly is "School choice BUT ONLY FOR SOME!"

Alicia Bailey
Self
Ft Worth, TX

Basic allotment should be increased to \$7500

Angela Brooks
Self
Southlake, TX

Any money given to non public schools should equal that given to public schools, per student. They also should be held to the exact same testing and admittance requirements. I do not support ESAs but if we are going to have them, they should at least maintain the same standards and oversight as public schools.

Kathryn DiGioia, Ms.
Self/ teacher
Austin, TX

As a Public School educator, a parent, and a constituent, I am increasingly concerned by the concerted effort to divert more funds away from public schools, after continuous cuts to funding over the past several years. Since I started teaching in TX 7 years ago, the stress and the pressure due to the increase in the student: ratio INCREASED after the pandemic. All this while TX has consistently, and seemingly now intentionally, withheld funding from public schools during and after the 2020 pandemic. There is about \$33 Billion dollars in 'rainy-day' funds, that they have chosen not to provide to public schools, especially districts in urban areas, thereby fostering and worsening a crisis for students, faculty, staff, and families.

My workload has gone up 40% since the pandemics... and now I have 170 students. This means I have to grade 170 essays routinely. The pressure to constantly work outside of contract hours is always there.

The building I work in at LASA High School, is infested with rats, mice, raccoons, ants, and often time rat feces lines the classroom. When it rains, the rain leaks. Teachers and students frequently get dizzy and experience health concerns due to persistent malfunctions from an outdated and barely patched HVAC system.

These conditions and this work load, among other reasons, have forced qualified, extraordinary teachers to leave the profession that they are so good at!

Please increase the student designation for HB2 to \$1300 a student, at a minimum to bring it back to 2019 levels at a minimum. Regarding HB 3, please vote NO!! Having a voucher program, or an 'ESA' Education savings account' is only bound to siphon more money designated to public schools in TX away, and into private schools.

Sara Julitz
Self
San Marcos, TX

This bill should be strongly opposed.

If it is adopted, it will further exacerbate gaps between rich and poor Texas children. Research shows that public school students who use vouchers don't stay in voucher programs long-term, returning to their public schools. Vouchers also typically don't cover the full cost of private school tuition, making it a tax subsidy for higher-income families. Public monies belong in public schools, and should not be used as welfare for the wealthy.

Megan Johnsen

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Hello, I am a parent of two children in Corpus Christi, Texas, who attend school at an already underfunded district in a low income area. We do not need vouchers. Even with vouchers, our parents will not be able to afford private schooling for their children. Even though the bill suggests that the funds for this program will not come from the public school funds, i find that hard to believe. What happens when the first line of funding dries up? Do our taxes increase? Do our public schools get chipped away at even more? Education is a right for all children in the United States. Let's work together to make it better for all children, rather than just giving a private school discount for the wealthy.

Rosie Garrison

Myself

El Paso, TX

Tax payer money should not fund private education. The governor has an obvious agenda in regards to this legislation. Considering his wife is on the board of a private school, perhaps transparency is needed in order to understand his obsession with this bill.

James Nichols

self; hospital chaplain

Abilene, TX

I am sternly AGAINST the education savings account program. It is financially negative in the long run and detrimental to public education now.

Robin Ward, Mrs

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Increase the basic allotment to \$7500. All district employees deserve a pay increase. Just like in any business there are many people that make up an organization. My children deserve better from our representatives. I don't want to put the in private school.

Mary Anne Helms, Ms.

Self

Rosenberg, TX

Some identified problems with voucher programs include the fact that most private schools do not provide transportation, nor do they provide free or reduced meals for low-income students. Providing "choice" in the form of vouchers for low-income students while not addressing these issues is just paying face service to the idea. This façade allows legislators to report to their constituents that vouchers benefit everyone when the facts indicate otherwise.

In addition, private schools lack requirements for special education services that are available in public schools. Voucher programs siphon money away from public schools to private school with students that are generally less expensive to educate due to the lack of need for these services. The result is an increase in the ratio of typical students to those requiring special education or 504 services. This creates an increase in the cost to educate students while draining funds from public schools.

Another concern includes the unfair distribution of use of the program. In Florida, analysts have expressed alarm that while the vouchers are "supposed" to go to low-income families to get their children into private schools, it was students who were already attending private schools who were the most common recipient. "So we estimate that 70% of voucher students would be students that have never been in public school before," according to Norin Dollard, an analyst with the Florida Policy Institute. He continues, "So they're already in private school, so this was just tuition assistance for them."

Bobby Murphy

Self

Austin, TX

I strong oppose this bill. It will be a waste of tax payer dollars and will be end up making the education system in Texas worse off. We need smart solutions that invest in the next generation of Texas, particularly if we want to continue to attract talent and corporations to the state. This bill will hurt our state. Do not vote in support of this bill!

Logan Hatla

Self- teacher and parent

Haslet, TX

The basic allotment for public school students need to be raised to at least 7,500. With inflation, the basic allotment has not been increased since 2019. Also, I want to note how it is wrong if vouchers pass and you would increase the basic allotment for private school students to a much higher amount than public students. Public schools have a much higher standard held to them for funding than private.

Camille Wieprecht

self

Houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Camille Wieprecht, I am a parent/community member in Spring Branch ISD in Houston and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical educational programs that serve our students.

The data from SBISD's state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend—our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

For example:

Special Education: The state allotment for special education in 2023-24 was \$31.5 million, but actual expenditures reached \$53.5 million, leaving a \$22 million shortfall. This gap is projected to be \$20.3 million in 2024-25. Without adequate funding, students with disabilities may not receive the legally mandated services they need to thrive.

Safety & Security: In 2023-24, the state provided only \$0.9 million, but the actual cost was \$8.9 million, creating an \$8 million deficit. For 2024-25, the gap is projected to grow to \$10 million, putting school safety measures at risk.

Transportation: The 2023-24 state allocation was \$1.5 million, while the cost of maintaining transportation services was \$10.4 million, leading to an \$8.9 million shortfall. In 2024-25, the gap is expected to be \$8.3 million, making it difficult to ensure students have reliable and safe transportation to and from school.

Pre-Kindergarten: This critical early childhood education program faced a \$3.7 million funding gap in 2023-24, with an estimated \$3.2 million shortfall in 2024-25. Underfunding pre-K limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities that set children up for future success.

Our educators and administrators are doing their best with limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with the actual costs of running these programs. This includes:

1. Increasing the Basic Allotment at a minimum of \$1,000

Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.

Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.

Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.

Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation for academic success.

I urge you to prioritize our students by closing these funding gaps. Texas schools cannot afford to keep operating with such large deficits, and our children deserve better. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jessica Smith
Northwest ISD
Northlake, TX

Urgent: Support Northwest ISD Students and Teachers – Increase the Basic Allotment

Dear Texas House Education Committee,

As a mother of two students in Northwest ISD, I am deeply concerned about the financial strain on our public schools. The current Basic Allotment of \$6,160 per student, set in 2019, has not kept pace with the 23% rise in inflation. Yet, House Bill 2 proposes only a \$220 increase—a mere 3.5%—which falls drastically short of what our schools need to function effectively.

One look at Governor Abbott’s Facebook posts and you will definitely know that NO ONE SUPPORTS VOUCHERS.

Just like Texas families, Northwest ISD is facing rising costs for bus fuel, insurance, program materials, and essential day-to-day operations. Without adequate funding, our schools are being forced to increase class sizes and reduce teaching positions, negatively impacting student learning. This funding gap is also why ISDs across the state are struggling financially.

If this minimal increase moves forward, NISD may only be able to offer a 1% salary increase for all employees—over the next two years. Meanwhile, inflation has risen 23%. How can we expect to retain and attract quality educators under these conditions?

Texas students and teachers deserve better. The Texas Constitution mandates proper funding for public schools, and it is time to uphold that commitment. I urge you to increase the Basic Allotment to at least \$7,500 to ensure our schools have the resources they need to provide a quality education.

Please stand with Texas families and invest in the future of our students.

Sincerely,
Jessica Smith
Northwest ISD Parent

Robert Seward, Honorable
Board President, Mesquite Independent School District
Mesquite, TX

Opposition to HB3 – Concerns About Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)

Dear Members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB3 and its proposed Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). While the intent may be to expand educational options, this legislation threatens our public education system and fails to serve all students equitably. My concerns are as follow.

HB3 would divert critical funding from already underfunded public schools, particularly harming vulnerable students who rely on public education. The lack of accountability standards for private schools receiving ESA funds is deeply concerning – these institutions aren't required to follow state curricula, administer standardized tests, or hire certified teachers, raising significant questions about educational quality and transparency.

This legislation risks deepening educational inequities. Wealthier families can supplement voucher amounts to afford private tuition, while lower-income families cannot, effectively limiting their options. Rural communities with few or no private schools would see their public schools lose resources without gaining alternatives. Additionally, many private schools are religiously affiliated, raising concerns about separation of church and state when public funds are involved.

Private schools can exclude students with disabilities or academic challenges, abandoning our most vulnerable learners. There's also no conclusive evidence that voucher programs improve educational outcomes, making ESA expansion premature. Without proper oversight, there's significant risk of misusing taxpayer dollars.

I urge you to oppose HB3 and instead focus on strengthening our public education system to ensure every child has access to quality education. Thank you for considering these serious concerns.

Dede Griffin
Self RO Analyst
Dickinson, TX

Our children deserve quality public neighborhood schools. Please fully fund public schools and say no to vouchers and ESAs.
Thank you.

Paula Israel
Self
Round Rock, TX

This bill should be rejected. Public education is the backbone of this nation. My grandparents received a public education, my parents received a public education, I received a public education and my children received a public education. Both of my paternal grandparents were school teachers. My paternal aunt was a school teacher. My maternal uncle was a school teacher. Teachers matter and whatever argument you make for these "vouchers" doesn't hold water. The children of this state deserve a public education with well-compensated teachers, not a private school that lower-income and, quite frankly, middle-income parents aren't able to afford. The fact that anyone wants to do vouchers or abolish the public school system is shameful. Our ancestors worked so hard to ensure that each of us had schools that taught us what we needed to not only survive but thrive. Please don't take this opportunity away from all Texas children so that a select few can receive a private school education. I am sure that most of the Texas House and Senate members attended public schools in Texas. We and you should all be working toward improving our public schools, not abolishing them.

Kay Andrews, Grandmother
Self
Austin, TX

Step back. Ask why. What do you believe will be accomplished by giving out funds for use in private schools? Who will benefit? If you give \$10k for private school students, private schools just increase tuitions. The families going there now are subsidized and the families who never had that option get nothing. Why are you doing this? Who gets benefit? The private schools and their owners.

Parents already have the choice in some parts of the state- not all- to put children in private schools. Most private schools have scholarships available for eligible low income families. Private schools are allowed to refuse children with special needs. We need to be supporting our public schools and their underpaid, tireless teachers and working to improve the quality of public schools.

Myra McNellie
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opinions on House Bill 3, education savings accounts. We feel that this bill will overlook many Texans who will lose the benefits of a thorough education. Research shows that the most important element of learning is a well-qualified teacher who is able to share information and encourage creative thinking in an understandable way. Private school teachers are often under educated and assume all students learn alike.

Public schools have experts in learning assessments which are specific to student needs. Many students in our county need transportation to school which is available in public schools. Communities support their public schools proudly and are splintered into economic groups with private schools.

We strongly support public schools and ask you to vote against this attempt to again segregate schools,
Thank you.

Tobi Jackson
FWISD 1st Vice -President Board of Trustees
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote NO on public school vouchers. They dilute essential support for public schools, whose funding is guaranteed by the Texas Constitution that you swore an oath to support and defend. There are more than 5,000,000 children in public schools. At most, vouchers will only benefit about 10% of the Texas school children. We all know that "parent choice" is available in Texas currently. The concern about uncertified teachers in public schools is magnified in home schooling. The past practice of underfunding (no increase since 2019) demonstrates clearly a need to review and adequately fund public schools to support our future workforce. The students of today are the workforce of tomorrow. The proposed increased support of \$210 per student is a false start, please look at 2019's funding upon which we are funded. Look in 2025 dollars and you will see >\$8k Is comparable. \$210 is clearly inadequate when the proposed diversion to private schools is \$10,000 per student.

Thank you for taking the steps necessary to effect the improved education for the State's public school children that you claim, esp. when the federal government threatens to withdraw its support. Your vote will impact Texans for decades forward.

Virginia Braverman
Self - mother of HISD student & Design firm owner
Houston, TX

This bill does not represent the people of Texas or serve their needs. It's dictatorial and invasive. Vote NO!

Laura Bagheri
Self
Austin, TX

I'm a Texas native and a product of Texas public schools. Our state representatives have a duty to ensure public funds are used solely for public education. Texas public schools provided me and my children with the foundation to attend Texas State Universities and build successful careers—right here in Texas. They strengthen our economy and give every student the opportunity to contribute to our great state. Support Texas public schools, not private institutions. Do not subvert public funds for private schools and put public school funding and TRS at risk. Vote no on HB 3.

Sandy Bagwell
Self / Parent
Lubbock, TX

This bill overlooks Special Needs kids. Please consider rejecting and asking for a re-write. Private schools are not required to accept or accomodate our kids regardless of how much money is allowed them. Thank you, SB

Rebecca Godkin
Self, proofreader and copy editor
Dallas, TX

Please do not pass HB 3 and instead stand with the more than 5.5 million Texas students who attend public schools. Our schools need reform through more resources—like increased teacher pay and support for those with learning differences—not by removing funds to help those who already have enough. In my neighborhood alone, we have a huge range of HHIs and backgrounds represented, and all of our children are equally worthy and deserving of a good education. If we abandon Texas' public schools, what will happen to our students long term? Where will the future civil engineers, doctors, wise politicians, and leaders come from? Where will the funds for increased unemployment and welfare needs come from if we don't educate and empower the majority of our children to work hard and create new opportunities for themselves? Please reject the anti-education rhetoric of our current president and show that Texas has a bigger and better vision for our future.

Stacy Teet
Self
San Antonio, TX

Hello,

I am a constituent from San Antonio with three children in the public school system. I am writing to strongly oppose the establishment of an education saving account program. I support public schools and want all funding to go to public schools. The education savings account program would be greatly disproportionate to Texas students. All children should have access to the same education opportunities. Also, I do not support school vouchers.

Thank you

Robert Lawrence
Self, Public School Teacher
Lake Jackson, TX

I am requesting HB3 NOT pass out of committee. The state should be adequately funding our public schools and not diverting money to other institutions. Funding should be tied to inflation, based upon enrollment, and any mandates should be fully funded in addition to basic allotment. As a public school teacher and a parent of two children in public schools, I see and experience the challenges brought about by insufficient funding. The passage of HB3 will only exacerbate this problem and lead to a self-fulfilling prophesy of failing public schools. This puts most of our student population at risk especially those who are most vulnerable.

Carissa Vega
Self
San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose House Bill 3 and urge lawmakers to reject this harmful legislation. School vouchers, no matter how they are framed, divert critical public funds away from our neighborhood schools, weakening the very foundation of Texas public education.

HB 3 is a voucher scam that disproportionately benefits private and religious schools at the expense of the 5.4 million students who rely on public schools. Instead of improving education, vouchers strip resources from already underfunded districts, particularly in rural communities, where public schools are often the only viable option.

Texans want strong public schools, not schemes that funnel taxpayer dollars into unaccountable private institutions. Private schools receiving voucher funds are not required to follow the same transparency, accountability, or non-discrimination standards as public schools. This means that taxpayer money could be used to support schools that deny admission to students based on disability, religion, or income level—further increasing inequality in education.

Furthermore, Texans have repeatedly rejected vouchers in past legislative sessions. Lawmakers should respect the will of their constituents and focus on fully funding our public schools, increasing teacher pay, and expanding resources for students with special needs rather than implementing a system that benefits a select few at the cost of the many.

Governor Abbott's voucher push is nothing more than a political maneuver that ignores the real needs of Texas families. I urge lawmakers to stand with Texas students, teachers, and communities by voting NO on HB 3.

Texas public schools deserve better.

Judy Malandrucolo
TARA - Retired Teacher
Plano, TX

Texans know that an Education Savings Account is just another name for Vouchers. Public taxpayer dollars should only go to public schools! Vouchers have proven to be disastrous in every state that has previously implemented them. Vouchers are taxpayer subsidies for rich parents whose kids already attend private schools. A voucher doesn't cover the price of a private school tuition. Not all children will be able to be accepted by many religious schools because of religious requirements, not to mention that most private schools have no ability to take care of disabled kids. Bus service is not given. If a voucher goes to a homeschooled child there is no accountability where the money will be spent. Certified teachers are not required in private schools or in charter schools, for that matter. There is no guarantee that your child will get a better education at a private school than a public school. More than half the counties in Texas have no other option for education than the neighborhood public school. Money for vouchers affect them, too... eventually starving their needed funds as well. Vouchers are a bad idea. I have studied this issue for years and know what I am talking about. There is a huge opportunity for fraud using a middleman to implement this whole program, and a grift for politicians to use pay to play vendors as well. Even the online school industry would lack accountability for taking your child's voucher, then disappearing. No accountability from the schools using the funds, as well as no similar system of testing as that of public schools will leave public schools without the full funding that they need.

Frances King
Self
Galveston, TX

Please do not pass this bill. As a tax payer, I do not want public schools refunded to prop up private institutions.

Brandi Cave
Self
Daingerfield, TX

The people of Texas do not want vouchers/school choice. We also see plainly the corrupt politics involved in the forcing of this bill on us.

Elaine Boehme
Self
San Antonio, TX

Religious schools should not be beholden to the state. State money should operate state schools— secular state schools. If money is to be accepted by private schools, the schools should need to accept all students in their attendance zone, provide appropriate education for all students, provide busing, and require state mandated testing, immunizations, etc. In other words, it would need to be a level playing field. Religious teachings would not be required. Since this bill does not meet that criteria, it is not a proper use of taxpayer funds.

Deborah McKenzie, J.D.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I, my parents, my siblings, and my children were educated in Texas public schools. Most of my grandchildren were public-school educated here as well, though 2 of them had brief -- and extremely unpleasant -- educational terms in 2 of Texas's private "Christian" schools. Please do not vote for this "education savings account" bill. I and most Texans oppose it, vehemently. For decades, under Republican rule, Texas has disgracefully underfunded its public schools. Always, whenever educators and parents pleaded for more funding for our public schools, Republicans told us that the state could not afford it. But now Governor Abbott and the majority of Republicans in the legislature are saying that the state CAN afford to pay \$10,000 per student to families who are already wealthy enough to send their children to private school and are already doing so, as well as saying that the state can afford to pay \$2,000 per student to families who financially able to have one stay-at-home parent who can homeschool their children. This means that, for years, Texas has had more than enough money to substantially increase its per-student funding to our public schools and deliberately chose not to do so. Why could the legislature and governor not have been sending \$10,000-\$12,000 per student to our public schools, instead of hoarding that money to send to private-school or homeschool education? The answer is clear: the majority party in the legislature hates public education, as does our governor, and they are stepping up their efforts to destroy it. Most private schools and homeschool-curriculum businesses are owned and operated by Christian nationalists who seek not so much to educate students as to indoctrinate them with a particular distorted version of Christianity, and that kind of indoctrination pleases many Texas politicians. Left out of this education-savings-account plan, and suffering directly from it, will be the children of the poor and working class, most black and brown children, the children of parents whose religion is something other than nationalistic Christianity, and children who live in rural areas where there are no private schools. And if this bill passes, it will be followed, every session, by more bills to further increase private-school funding and further chip away at public-school funding. Eventually, there will be a bill to subsidize private-school businesses in building and operating private schools in Texas. I suspect that this has long been the ultimate plan, bought and paid for by private-school oligarchs who make large campaign donations to those politicians who will shill for them in the legislature, in public, and in the governor's office. This is welfare for wealthy families and for the private-school industry, who do not need, and certainly do not deserve it. Texans do not exist in order to increase the profits of any private enterprise, including the private-school enterprise. Vote no. Please.

PAULA HALL
SELF/CPA
PLANO, TX

I am a product of the Texas public education system (Bowie County), having retired as a Certified Public Accountant. I have always held the belief that a strong public school education system is tantamount to a strong state economy.

My belief in the public school system continues today, as I am a volunteer twice per week as a reading assistant in a Plano ISD elementary school. I have seen first hand the benefits of the before-school reading program for children with dyslexia. I have also seen the number of dyslexia teachers drop from 2 to 1 ½ at this elementary school as Plano has had to cut teachers because of budget restraints.

I strongly oppose vouchers/education savings accounts for the following reasons:

- For public schools already strapped by inadequate funding, it makes no sense to subsidize private schools with public dollars.

More teachers & programs/services (like the dyslexia services I mentioned) will have to be cut. The basic allotment based on student attendance has not been adjusted for inflation since 2019 and therefore, our students are already underserved.

- The Texas Legislature has a constitutional duty to provide for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools. The Texas Constitution is also clear that public funding is not to support religious schools or the teaching of any faith. Vouchers will sap funds from public schools while at the same time undermine religious freedom for a very diverse student population here in Texas.

- As a former auditor, I believe in accountability and transparency. Private education is not accountable to the community. Private schools are not held to the same standards as public schools, in their governance or performance. The community has no say about educational quality, expenditures, or enrollment.

- Vouchers are often touted as offering a “choice” for parents. However, there is no guarantee for choice. Rural communities often do not have private schools so what is the choice there? Also, vouchers will rarely cover the entire cost of a private education so how does that provide a choice for lower income students?

Public education is one of the most important tools available to Texas to equip future leaders. Public education serves the public by preparing students for the workforce; providing a common base of skills like reading and writing; and transmitting core concepts about science and technology that will help students become self-sufficient members of the community. I believe that public schools should remain the cornerstone of our educational system, and I urge you to stand with our students, teachers, and communities by rejecting HB 3.

Ginger Russell
self
Magnolia, TX

I am opposed to this legislation. HB 3 is nothing more than another education vendor bill while the status quo experiments on children. I watched Republicans and Democrats alike vote for and pass bills that have created kids in public schools to fail. Now you want me to believe these same individuals now care that a great education is provided? This bill is a globalist scam in order to reign in all education under the same govt tent of control and data mining.

When you have govt preapproved vendors there is choice given. Vote NO on this Vendor Bill.

Ben Debayle
Wild Roots Collective, Texas Homeschool Organization
Saginaw, TX
Committee -

As a Texas resident, homeschool parent, and on behalf of our homeschool community, we are eager for school choice legislation, but CAN NOT support this bill UNTIL the bill removes its PRIVATE SCHOOL BIAS. This bill is really a "Private School Choice" bill and treats homeschooling and microschoools as second-class education options.

School choice legislation in other states like Florida does not have a private school bias and treats all education options equally. Texas should do the same.

To give \$2k for homeschool and \$10k for private school (5x more) can only mean one of two things:

A) The bill authors believe the quality of a private school education is 5x better than a homeschool education.

or

B) The bill authors believe homeschooling provides a quality education 5x more affordably than a private school education.

Which is it?

It can't be Option A since standardized test results consistently show homeschool students perform at least as well, if not better, than private school students.

And Option B is misinformed. It does not recognize how expensive homeschooling actually is. Homeschooling is very expensive when you consider the cost of one spouse choosing to stay home when they could be making an income for the household. The average salary in Texas is \$60k. That means the decision to homeschool theoretically costs a family \$60k plus additional education expenses for curriculum and experiences.

Giving \$2k for homeschooling is insulting. It also will not enable anyone to homeschool that desires to, but financially can not. With limited private school capacity, the bill will not make homeschooling a real alternative for most families.

There are an estimated 750k homeschoolers in Texas. That's more than double the estimated 350k private schoolers in Texas.

I do not know a single homeschool family that supports this bill as written because of this bias. It's simply inferior to what other states have enacted.

I urge you to remove the public school bias from this bill and treat homeschool and microschoool options with equal treatment and funding. If this gets corrected, there will be a wave of support from your homeschool family constituents. We would be eager to support this legislation!

I am available and would be happy to speak about this with any of you.

Thank you for taking the time to hear us,

Ben Debayle
bdebayle@gmail.com
972-589-8839

Robert Grainger
Powered by People
San Antonio, TX

It is not practical to pull money from hard working Texans and give it to wealthy Texans. In other states that have changed the law, between 65 and 75% of the kids being able to get into private schools were already going to private schools. Another way to support the rich.

Margaret Coulon, Ms
Self RN Parent
Eules, TX

Stop vouchers. The program will give state money to the rich and will not provide quality verified education to children. Give the withheld funds to our public schools to educate every child. Once our schools were excellent but funding has dropped us from top to lower 40 of states. Texas govt should put our tax money to save all our children. Shame on you

Sarah Wheeler
Self
Colleyville, TX

Please raise the allotment for school funding. I am a retired teacher working part time with special education students daily. We do not have a full sized white board in our classroom. Schools are the glue that holds communities together, please fund our future leaders. Please help us set high expectations. The allotment should be raised by at least \$3,000.

Craig Campbell
Retired self
Austin, TX

Reverse Robin Hood. Housing vouchers are usually 200% of the poverty level, it is not 500% in this school voucher program, which helps more wealthy people. My hunch is that it is about the income level of people who are already in private school. The income level doesn't capture wealth. Some people may own several houses, such as vacation homes. The State of Ohio provides a smaller voucher for higher-income people in a graduated manner.

marian strauss
Self
Georgetown, TX

No tax dollars going to private schools. This is a scam. Our kids deserve fully funded public schools.

Ellen Burch
Self
Houston, TX

CRT should be eliminated from all school curriculums. Teaching children division and hate is not what school was intended for, especially when the National and International scores for English, Math, and Science are the lowest among the top 40 industrial nations.

Mabel Tijerina
Self
Boerne, TX

This bill will affect the kids if Texas in a negative way! This will not allow for equal and fair education for ALL! Please consider not passing this bill in aid for every student in the public system which is far more than the students in private institutions. Do what is best for Texas children! Do not vote this bill in.

Catherine Crabe

Self

Austin, TX

I paid to put my son into a private Montessori school. I later took a job at a school, so I could get a tuition break for my child. I did that because I wanted a certain type of education for my child. But the whole time I did that, I was proud to pay taxes for public schools because I believe every child should have access to a quality free public education. Just because I chose a different route for my child, doesn't mean I have any right to demand that tax payers fund my personal school choice and deny desperately needed funds to public schools. Taxes should go to pay higher salaries for teachers and better facilities for public school, not to reimburse people who chose to not to use the public schools. People with no children pay for public schools. People with children in private schools should do the same. The public education of our children is the responsibility of every citizen. Each of us is free to use public schools if we wish, but all of us should pay for them. We are not paying for our children to attend any particular school, we are paying for the free education of all future citizens. They will grow up and pay for the future of all children that follow. Please vote against school vouchers. Please save our public schools, please save our rural schools. No to school vouchers! Thank you.

Linzy Foster

Self

Austin, TX

As a parent to two children in public schools and as the former PTA president to two elementary schools, I strongly oppose this bill. I do not support public funds going to private schools which are not held to the same standards and are permitted to discriminate against special education students. Public schools, when well funded, exceed expectations for student outcomes and for teacher retention. Please vote NO on this bill. The students of Texas deserve better.

Leigh Rowan

Self / Real Estate Agent

Spicewood, TX

I oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background.

Amanda Perkins

Eustace ISD

Eustace, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Stephanie Dolph
Self/entrepreneur
Dallas, TX

I am strongly opposed to school voucher programs because they divert essential public funds away from our public schools, weakening the education system that serves the vast majority of children. Public schools are a cornerstone of our communities, ensuring that every child—regardless of background or income—has access to a quality education. By funneling taxpayer dollars into private schools, often with little oversight, voucher programs exacerbate inequalities rather than providing real opportunities for all students. Voucher programs disproportionately benefit families who already have access to private education, rather than helping those in underserved communities. Many private schools that accept vouchers are not held to the same academic standards or accountability measures as public schools, meaning there is no guarantee that students receive a better education. Additionally, private schools can pick and choose their students, potentially discriminating based on income, ability, or other factors—something public schools are legally bound not to do.

Rather than diverting funds to private institutions, we should invest in strengthening our public schools by reducing class sizes, increasing teacher pay, and improving resources for students with special needs. Every child deserves access to a strong, well-funded public education, and school vouchers undermine that goal. Public dollars should support public schools, where they can benefit the most students, not be redirected to private institutions that lack accountability and inclusivity. Our focus should be on making public education better for everyone, not on subsidizing alternatives that leave many children behind.

Cindy Gomez
Self
El Paso, TX

Please vote no. This bill will negatively affect the public school system in Texas.

Vanessa Barker
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Public funds for PUBLIC SCHOOLS. No to vouchers. YES to funding public schools that uplift ALL children.

Christy Fair
Self
Lakeway, TX

Please vote against HB 3 and continue to fund our public schools for the sake of our communities, our youth, our future, our teachers... everything the American dream hopes for.

Karen Sams
Self
Weatherford, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas House Bill 3. This bill is a misguided use of taxpayer dollars that will harm the vast majority of Texas students while benefiting only a select few.

HB 3 proposes a \$1 billion voucher program that will serve only 100,000 students out of the 5.5 million in our public schools. According to the Texas Education Agency, there are only 25,000 available private school seats, meaning that 75,000 voucher recipients will already be attending private schools. This is nothing more than a taxpayer-funded subsidy for families who can already afford private education.

Furthermore, the program claims to prioritize low-income students, yet it defines "poverty level" as a household income of \$160,000—an amount far beyond what most Texans would consider poverty. The reality is that this bill does little to expand opportunities for truly disadvantaged students, particularly in rural communities where private school options are scarce or nonexistent.

Public funds should be used to support public schools, which serve all students regardless of background, income, or location. Texas schools need better funding, resources, and support for teachers—not a scheme that diverts money to private institutions while leaving the majority of students behind.

I urge you to stand up for Texas public schools and vote against HB 3. Our students, teachers, and communities deserve better.

Hannah Bradfield
Self, physician
Missouri City, TX

This bill will take much needed funds away from public schools and will contribute to the down fall of the public education system in Texas. Public education is vital to advancing our state and growing our economy. Access to quality education allows for children to grow into productive adults who are able to get and keep a job which decreases dependence on federally and state funded welfare. By destroying public education you are going to further plunge people into poverty that they will not be able to climb out of through education and advancement. Anyone who wants to send their kid to a private school has the ability to do so with their own money, but it cannot be at the expense of our public schools. I grew up in the public school system in Texas in the 90's/early 2000s and am who I am today because of my ability to access quality public education. I am now a physician, treating kids, most of whom depend on public school as they do not have the money to pay for private school, live in a rural area without access to private schools, or have a disability that private schools are not required to accommodate. If you want our state to grow and thrive you must fully fund our public schools and not shunt funding so the wealthy can send their kids to private school. Please listen to the voices of the majority and don't destroy our great state in service of the wealthy few.

Linda Norris
Self/retired
Plainview, TX

I am against vouchers. It will destroy public education

Kendy Johnston
Self
Wichita Falls, TX

As a public school educator for 26 years I oppose any proposed bills that divert public funds to private schools via traditional school vouchers, Education Savings Accounts, business tax credits, special population vouchers, virtual vouchers, bracketed vouchers, etc. Instead, our elected leaders need to be held accountable for properly funding public education in an equitable way, so that students from every district in Texas are taught by highly qualified teachers and have the resources they need to learn and grow, no matter their location or their local property tax value. Vouchers/Education Savings Accounts, etc. divert public tax dollars to private schools that are not required to meet the same standards for assessment or FAPE for students with disabilities. Additionally, HB 3 does not prevent private schools from raising tuition costs, nor does it prevent private schools from denying student entry based on religion, special needs, etc. as testified during the HB 3 committee meeting today. There is little to no oversight for student achievement or fiscal expectations.

During the testimony today Senator Buckley asked Ms. Hanson, testifying in support of ESAs, if a private school should accept a student whose needs they cannot meet and she noted they should not. She noted that her school does not offer the same services that the local school district provides because it costs too much. The same cost, I'd like to note, that public schools are required to meet at severely underfunded rates at this time. Senator Buckley provided a medical analogy to public schools stating that public schools are often asked to be general practitioners and neurosurgeons at the same time. However, private schools will not be required to meet those same standards. This alone proves that private school vouchers will limit who can be admitted to private schools because the needs of the student will not diminish with a voucher system and private schools will continue to admit students based on an application process.

The legislature needs to focus on ensuring that we invest in EVERY child in public schools with our tax dollars. PUBLIC tax dollars should be used to fund PUBLIC schools. Public funds should NOT be used to provide funding for private or secular schools. With billions of dollars in surplus the Texas legislature needs to make Texas public education a top priority.

Please vote NO on education savings accounts, vouchers, etc.

Amy Salinas
Self - parent
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and do not want school vouchers to pass. Attention needs to be paid to our public schools where education should be available for all.

Ruth Torres
Self
Mesquite, TX

I am strongly opposed to the scam of vouchers that gives welfare to the wealthy that don't even attend public schools. This is a trillion dollar public land grab with zero accountability to anyone that wants to open a school, including foreign enemies of USA. We need to protect our kids not send them to religious organizations that doesn't have to background check workers, or have policies or cameras that protect kids specially after decades of sexual abuse to kids - now we should just hand them kids! No! We need accountability and transparency with tax dollars. We need to improve our schools by proper funding. GOP has been in control over 30 years in Texas. GOP owns all education deficiencies and don't get to blame teachers or DEMS.

All those that sell out our children and their constituents with a vote for vouchers won't have to worry about a GOP primary opponent bc the people will vote them out in the general election and flip Texas to Democrats.

This agenda to undermine Brown v Board of Ed to return us to a segregated society will backfire.

May the Lord remove Greg Abbott and every corrupt politician from office together. Isaiah 10:1-4

Celinda Castro
Self, teacher
Corp Christi, TX

I strongly oppose this bill as a parent and teacher.

Angela Cardenas
Self
Lubbock, TX

ESA's will benefit only a tiny percentage of Texas students. Data shows the major of students who use vouchers will have already been enrolled in private schools. The billion dollars that would be spent to subsidize 1% of students would be better spent on our public schools. Vouchers are not fiscally conservative and will harm our states public schools. Vote no on HB 3

Linda Zimmermann, Ms
Self- Retired
Austin, TX

Establishing an educational savings is a very costly program to benefit a few wealthy students who can afford to send their children to any school they prefer. This action will severely weaken Texas Public Schools. I don't wish to spend my tax dollars on this obvious attempt to re-segregate and punish the public schools in Texas.

Genevieve Zucchetto
Self - manager
Lakeway, TX

I will for the rest of my life, and so will my husband, vote against any politician who supports school vouchers and takes money away from our public schools.

Christina Smith
self
Buda, TX

fund texas public schools, we've been struggling for the last 5 years because Abbott will not release funds we need. School districts across the state are facing major budget deficits because the governor is tying school funding with vouchers.

Misty Davis

Self- public school parent and librarian

Carrollton, TX

Public \$ needs to be spent on public schools. I am a product of public schools and a first generation college graduate. I worked full time to pay my own college tuition because my parents couldn't afford to help with those expenses. Even with a voucher, my family would not have made enough to send me to one of the few private schools in my hometown and MANY families across Texas live in places where there are no private schools. I now work at an elementary Title 1 campus of over 700 students and I know these families do not have the means to pay the difference in private school tuition in the suburban Dallas areas; these kids need the best and brightest educators to close the achievement gap but they are getting burned out and exhausted teachers who are burdened with huge classes and unrealistic workloads and expectations. I personally work from 7-4:30 most days on campus, then come home and work on the school's social media accounts and website. I run morning announcements, help kindergarten with lunch time, meet with 40 classes of students in the library including planning and prepping those lessons, shelve books for 700+ students, I'm in charge of 1:1 devices for all of these students, I help with dismissal everyday and I'm also the campus MAP testing coordinator because our HUGE elementary school only has 1 assistant principal due to lack of funding. Our district is closing 4 campuses this year since we haven't had an increase in per student spending since 2019, which was already abysmal compared to other states. Next year we are slated to have over 800 students. Learning does not happen when class sizes are huge in elementary school. Teachers are simply doing their best to manage behaviors while also feeding and clothing these children and buying their supplies because their families do not send them. Our teachers and students deserve better. Our public school students are worth as much as a private school student. Why are we getting just over 6k when private school kids are getting 10k vouchers? Why is my public school son only worth a fraction of a private school kid? Private schools get to choose which students attend. My son has severe combined ADHD so even if we wanted to send him to a private school, they would most likely not have the resources to accommodate him and deny his application. Furthermore, public schools are required to assess students within the district for possible learning disabilities even if that child doesn't attend. This takes more time and resources away from the students in our public schools. Private schools can expel students for behavior, and those kids come back to public schools but their vouchers have already been given to a private school so now the public school will be serving this child with special needs who needs additional resources for \$0. If you truly have the best intentions and our children's interests at heart, I implore you to vote NO on vouchers and give public schools a fighting chance.

Caroline Wilson

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose taking public funds away from public schools.

Nancy Gernold Gernold

Self

Tomball, TX

I am opposed to this program for the following reasons:

1. Private schools are not subject to the same standards as public schools. If we are going to fund these schools, then the standards should be the same.
2. Public schools are grossly underfunded. The per student allotment absolutely must be increased before we should consider diverting funds to private schools. **IF NOT, YOU ARE SETTING UP PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR FAILURE!!!**

Jae' Ortiz

Self

Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Mary Serff

Self

Austin, TX

Under this bill will LEA dollars continue to provide private school students with Full Individual Evaluations and proportionate share resources? Will private schools be asked to administer state accountability tests and be subject to the same monitoring and enforcement that public schools face? There are not equal opportunities to attend private or home school programs. How is this equitable? I disagree with a school savings account program diverting tax dollars away from public schools.

Karina Rabinowitz

Self, psychologist

Austin, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers**

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Karina Rabinowitz

Marina Roberts

Self, grant writer

Austin, TX

I oppose vouchers in any form. This is stealing from public schools and bankruptcy the education of children.

Kaitlyn Kash

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3, the largest and most expensive school voucher scheme ever proposed in Texas. This bill takes taxpayer dollars meant for public schools and redirects them to private schools that lack transparency, accountability, and equal access for all students.

Public tax dollars should support public schools, which serve every child, regardless of ability, income, or background. Texas lawmakers have not increased the basic per-student funding allotment for public schools since 2019, despite rising costs, inflation, and a record budget surplus. If there is money in the budget for education, our priority should be fully funding public schools first—ensuring teacher raises, better resources for students, and improvements to school infrastructure—before sending tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

Furthermore, HB 3 does not even prioritize the students who need the most support. It allows families already in private schools—including those making over \$200,000 per year—to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers. Wealthy families will get a discount on private school tuition while public schools lose funding, harming the vast majority of Texas students.

This bill also fails students with disabilities. While HB 3 offers larger voucher amounts for special education students, private schools are not required to accept them or provide the necessary services. Public schools are legally required to serve all children, yet HB 3 shifts funding away from them to schools that are not obligated to meet these needs.

Texas public schools educate more than 5.4 million students—far more than private institutions ever will. If we truly care about education, we should be investing in strong, well-funded public schools that serve everyone, rather than subsidizing private schools that can pick and choose their students.

HB 3 is bad for Texas families, bad for students, and bad for our public schools. I urge legislators to reject this costly and irresponsible voucher scheme and instead invest in fully funding public schools, raising teacher pay, and ensuring that every Texas child has access to a high-quality education.

Thank you, Kaitlyn

Kristen Escovedo

Self - Texas Public School parent and former public school employee

FORT WORTH, TX

Public schools benefit all Texans: Both those who have kids attending those schools and those who don't. Our founders knew that an educated society is a strong society, which is why they laid out a plan to find schools for ALL children. Proponents of this bill keep saying it will provide parents with choice, but the truth is, parents already have a choice. Most districts now offer choice programs, which allow students to attend campuses outside of their attendance zones. In addition, many districts now offer out of district transfers. Parents can choose Charter schools, private schools, or to home school. Choice isn't the issue. The issue is providing taxpayer funding for private and religious schools with no accountability attached. It is despicable that Governor Abbott has withheld funding for public schools in an effort to pass this bill. He is holding funding hostage, creating even more strain on public school budgets. Vouchers (or education savings accounts) will not decrease the burden on taxpayers. It will, however have a negative effect on public schools. Our public schools are tasked with numerous unfunded mandates, none of which would apply to schools receiving the funds allocated by this bill. I encourage you to listen to your constituents and vote No on HB 3 and demand that public schools be fully funded before any amount of taxpayer money is spent for private schools, who are not held to the same standards and who are not required to educate every student. Thank you.

Monica Camacho

Self

Austin, TX

I am against the bill , even do my son goes to private school because it was OUR choice i dont support

Jaime Thompson
Self, Public Relations
Austin, TX

I depend on our wonderful public schools to provide special education services for my visually impaired daughter. With the federal government actively gutting the Department of Education, I am concerned that our school district will lose funding for special education and negatively affect our daughter's ability to have an equal education to her peers.

Audrey Ash, Dr
Self - educator
Burkburnett, TX

I am against HB3 and would appreciate if our legislators truly listened to their constituents across the state. This is a priority of our Governor and not a priority of the people.

The lie circulating that public schools get \$15,000 per student is ludicrous. That figure is based on a time when we had federal ESSER funding that is no longer flowing to public schools.

Again, I am against HB3.

Thank you,
Audrey Ash

Holly Torres
Self
Arlington, TX

I strongly oppose the bill for school vouchers. It takes away crucial funding for public schools. I have kids in public school and many homeschool parents also oppose this bill. I have kids in public school & many homeschool parents also oppose this bill. And I know the governor has touted that football funding will not be affected. This concerns me because education is way more important than worrying about football funding. We need to focus public money on public schools.

Gail MacCartney
Self, retired
Lago Vista, TX

I oppose the voucher program. We need to represent all Texas children and fund our public schools fully as well as paying our educators well. This plan is proven not to work in other states. Public dollars for public education

Autumn Keiser
self - Senior Director of Marketing and Communications
Austin, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB 3. As a 6th generation Texan and a parent of two kids educated in Texas public schools, I've followed this issue closely for many years and am sad to see it continue to arise knowing the damage it will do to schools, teachers, communities and the millions of Texas children who depend on them to become the future of this great state. Honorable officials, this effort has failed again and again and again because it is a bad idea. Voters and elected officials have passed on vouchers after doing the math and weighing the risks and rewards - finding them both to be bad deals for most Texans. Not without millions of outsider and ideologically driven dollars has this idea remained on life support, and it's a shameful act to push it through despite all of the above. Yet, here we are. And voters know that you know that there can be no school choice when most counties don't even have a private school alternative and even fewer have one that will accept all kids regardless of their abilities and challenges. And voters know that you know that will end up hurting kids who are already hurting most. Republicans have had 30 years of power in this state, and it seems to have prioritized cruelty and misery over all else, and now that will include dimming Friday Night Lights and the future dreams of what should be our greatest resource: kids. I ask that you reconsider passing this bill or any other bill that steals from public schools to enrich those who already have plenty more than most folks in this state. Thank you.

Kathryn Caulkins

Self

Mullin, TX

Subject: Opposition to Texas House Bill 3 – School Vouchers Harm Texas Children

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas House Bill 3 regarding school vouchers. While proponents claim that vouchers offer more educational opportunities, they ultimately harm Texas children and our public education system. Here are five key reasons why:

1. Diverts Public Funds from Public Schools – Vouchers take taxpayer money away from public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students. Instead of improving struggling schools, this bill would weaken them further by reducing funding.
2. Lack of Accountability for Private Schools – Unlike public schools, private schools receiving vouchers are not held to the same academic standards, teacher certification requirements, or financial transparency, making it difficult to ensure quality education.
3. Exacerbates Educational Inequality – Vouchers primarily benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition, while low-income students are often left with insufficient funds to cover tuition and other costs. This worsens existing disparities rather than addressing them.
4. Fails to Guarantee Better Educational Outcomes – Studies from states with voucher programs show mixed to negative results in student achievement. Public schools have more oversight, support systems, and experienced educators dedicated to student success.
5. Undermines Rural Schools – In rural areas, where private school options are limited or nonexistent, vouchers provide no real choice. Instead, they drain resources from the only available educational institutions—public schools that serve entire communities.

Texas should focus on strengthening public education, increasing teacher pay, and ensuring all children have access to high-quality schools rather than diverting funds to private institutions with little oversight. I urge you to vote against HB 3 and invest in solutions that truly benefit Texas students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kathryn Caulkins

603 CR 508

Mullin, TX 76864

Valerie Moreno

Self

Buda, TX

I do not support allocating Public School Funds to Private Schools! Public Education is under funded as it is!! Do more for public schools!

Catherine Jones

Self

Austin, TX

I am a Texas, public education teacher. Both of my children have gone through the public school system. I have spent the last 26 years, giving my heart and soul to students and parents and staff. It is in the best interest of our state to provide equal access to education for all students. It is not okay to cater to the wealthy and leave behind the rest. By taking away funding for public schools, we are creating the haves and the have nots. We are creating more division in our state amongst class and economic status. Even with a \$10,000 voucher, that does not allow all students the opportunity to go to private school. It's basically a coupon to give a discount to those people who can already afford private school. And what about the students who need special education or who need special programs? Private schools don't provide those programs nor do they have to. I would really hate to see our state become an uneducated state because we did not prioritize teaching those students who need extra help. Those children are not going to just go away. They are going to become part of our system and it will bring our state down. I am so saddened and disappointed with our representatives who are voting for the voucher system. It is not in the best interest of anyone in our state. Again, we are giving a coupon to the people who would like to have their children at a private school. It does not cover the cost of the entire year of private school. And while we're talking about that, let's talk about transportation. How are these kids getting to school? Oh if they have a parent who has to go to work and can't bring them to school, they can't go to a private school? That seems fair. So now we're providing school for students whose parents can drive them to school because they don't have to work. Again the haves and have nots. And what about after school care? Are we only catering to those students whose parents can pick them up after school? Private schools don't have after school care. The entire idea is based off of a system that is intended to benefit some, but not all. I don't care if you're a Republican or a Democrat. I do care if you care about children and their future. The voucher system is not best for the future of all children

Laura Griggs

Myself public education

San Angelo, TX

No vouchers

Julie Clements

Self, Principal

Houston, TX

Public money (taxes) should not be used for private education. Public funds can't be used to repair my broken driveway because they are for public roads. They can't be used to upgrade my backyard landscaping because they are dedicated for public parks. They can't be used to pay for my alarm system because they are used for our police officers. Public funds cannot be used for private school because they should pay for our constitutionally designed public schools. Fully fund public education!

Kelly Fair Fair

Citizen

Cypress, TX

Say no to vouchers. And fund PUBLIC education.

Norma Herrera Herrera

Self

Spring, TX

If these school vouchers pass, this will most likely lead to Texas becoming a BLUE state. These vouchers will cripple Texans and our future leaders, children. This is obviously a ploy to keep middle and working class down. There is no proof or guarantee that these vouchers will go to every household or how much will be given or for how long we will receive them. Keep our money in OUR schools! The other states that are already partaking in this practice are not successful. This will significantly hurt special needs children. We already have the choice to homeschool or select private schools. The fact that we don't proves that WE CANNOT AFFORD TO!!!

Kellen Gildersleeve

Self - RN

Austin, TX

As a Texan mom to a neurodivergent 4 year old, I am against HB 3. This is an unpopular initiative meant to undermine public education and funnel public money into the pockets of private citizens. This is one industry that will only deteriorate with the insertion of the profit motive. Texas is already embarrassing compared to the rest of the nation when it comes to the quality of our education. Please don't make it worse. Vote against HB 3

Eden Barrera, Mr.

Self Programmer

Houston, TX

My name is Eden Barrera, and I live in zip code 77084. Thank you for serving on the public education committee. I ask that you vote no to HB3, SB2, or any voucher/ESA bill and instead prioritize fully funding public schools first by enrollment rather than attendance, increase the basic allotment by \$1300 to catch up with inflation, and support strong teacher and staff pay raises. This bill allows people making above \$160,000 to apply such that the richest families may benefit. Our tax dollars should support all students, not just a select few. Please prioritize strong public schools for all Texas children. Thank you for your time.

Catherine Parsley

self

Dallas, TX

I am writing to register my opposition to HB3 (and school voucher bills in general). I am a taxpayer who was educated in Texas public schools and know their value. Taking public money and funneling it to private schools is not a solution to our poor educational standings. If you want to improve our schools, pay our teachers and fund our programs in public schools. Not only is funneling the money away from public schools an issue, the private schools who would receive the money can discriminate against students without consequence. All of our students deserve a high-quality education, whether they live near private schools or are "good enough" to get into private schools or not. This bill does not benefit our students and our population as a whole and should not be passed. Thank you.

Jessica Martin

Self - photographer

Austin, TX

The proposed school voucher bill in Texas is nothing more than welfare for the wealthy, dressed up as "school choice." At a time when our public schools are struggling with overcrowded classrooms, teacher shortages, and inadequate funding, diverting taxpayer dollars to private institutions—many of which cater to affluent families—is an insult to the communities that actually depend on public education.

Vouchers do not create more opportunities for all students; they simply subsidize private school tuition for those who can already afford it while draining resources from the very schools that serve the majority of Texas families. Public funds should be strengthening public schools, not padding the pockets of elite institutions that can reject students at will. If lawmakers truly cared about education, they'd be investing in better teacher pay, updated school facilities, and fully funded special education programs—things that actually help students succeed.

This bill is not about helping kids; it's about shifting money away from the public good and into private hands. Texas students and families deserve better.

Vanessa Aguillon

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully paid for by local, state, and federal funds. Tax payer funds should not go to vouchers for private schools, especially without the same accountability as public schools.

Robin Gajeske

Self

Bellville, TX

As a teacher I see first hand what the lack of funding effects in public schools. Lack of adequate facilities, resources, and programs needed for students to be successful. The lack of funding has shifted public schools into a race for the amount of attendance to get the scraps of funding we do get, we have lost focus on the student themselves and what they need to be successful or the ability to find the reason why they aren't being successful, because we are so focused on getting them in a "seat" to count towards the money per day. Those who have chosen private have found the ability to pay for it, it is their "choice" to leave public and seek their child's education somewhere else for whatever the reason. Why should we punish those who stay to learn or teach in public schools due to that families choice to leave and pay for their education. Private school have no real standards to hold them accountable, they have private donors who help fund their schools, why should my tax dollars go to them instead of the public school system, where those families 90% of the time don't have a choice to leave. Instead of giving more money to the already privileged, we give more money to the programs and schools that bring those kids in public schools as more of the private school students equals and give them every opportunity the private schools get.

Elizabeth Molter

Self /former public school teacher

Midland, TX

I have submitted numerous comments on this issue. It has been railroaded through our state government at a speed train pace. I found out this today: I have asked three families of my former students. Great families raising good and successful kids in public school. They all have no idea this is happening now! They say NO TO VOUCHERS! Surprise!!!

Amy Woodell, Mrs

Self

Austin, TX

The majority of Texans do not want vouchers. Do not pass this bill return it to committee. It is estimated to cost between \$1-\$4 Billion to implement and dole out. Wouldnt it be much easier to increase the basic student allotment by \$1300 for public school children? Many public schools are doing well. Let's not 'bleed these dry' with unfunded mandates and basic allotments not pegged to inflation. 3 special sessions last legislative sessions where vouchers were voted down each time. Please stop ignoring your constituents. Most of do not want vouchers. We want our public schools funded!

Hollie Jenkins

self, parent

Austin, TX

Texans clearly do not want vouchers- voters on both sides of the aisle know it's a bad deal. Our public schools face many challenges, but with fully restored funding, they can meet those challenges and educate our Texas kids to their potential. Please vote to FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS and VOTE NO on any voucher/ ESA bill. I vote and this matters to me. Thank you.

Bethany Cone

Self / salesperson & mother to my children

Dallas, TX

Please keep our dollars in public schools. Every single child deserves the opportunity for an excellent education.

eileen davern, mrs.

self

Austin, TX

i am against school vouchers! it will hurt our public schools and all the services they provide

Joan Lege-krebs

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3 and any other voucher bills and would like to see public schools remain fully funded in Texas and our tax dollars supporting them. This type of program in other states has exploded into very expensive program with no proven benefit, that results also in defunding schools in vulnerable communities.

Hilary Toma

Self

The Woodlands, TX

As a parent with a child in Texas public schools, I am heavily invested in ensuring Texas public schools are properly funded. I do not support education savings accounts or school vouchers. My taxpayer funds should not be used to pay parents to send their kids to private schools. Use those funds to adequately fund all public schools and increase teacher salaries.

Sue Woodson

SELF--retired

Galveston, TX

State Subsidizing of Private Schools

HB 3 is an outrage. I do not condone using my tax dollars to subsidize private schools. I particularly object to being forced to support religious schools. Would any religions be accepted? If a student chose to attend an Islamic madrasa, would that school be eligible for this program? In Texas, public schools are the only venue we have where all our children can learn a shared understanding of the rights and duties of good citizen in a democratic country. We need a common core curriculum for all Texas schools!

And the amount of money the state would award isn't enough to cover tuition. Thus, lower income families would never be able to benefit from this program. Intentionally or unintentionally the program would lead to a class-based education system.

This is not the America I grew up in! Stand up! And vote nc nnHBBnknkncv

Charles McCollum, Mr.

self

Austin, TX

"NO ON Texas House Bill 3: A Disaster for Public Schools, A Windfall for the Wealthy

Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) isn't about helping students. It's about robbing public schools to fund private institutions that aren't accountable to taxpayers. This bill, spearheaded by Representative Brad Buckley, is nothing more than a corporate handout masquerading as "school choice." And let's be clear: school choice isn't about giving parents more options—it's about defunding public schools and shifting resources to private entities that can pick and choose their students.

This is the Arizona Disaster, Now in Texas

Texas lawmakers should take a hard look at Arizona, where a universal voucher program turned into a financial black hole. Originally projected to cost \$65 million, the program ended up ballooning to \$900 million in just two years, draining public school budgets and delivering zero measurable academic improvement. What did taxpayers get for their money? Private schools pocketed millions while public schools were left scrambling to keep the lights on. [1]

A Texas study predicts that the cost of this program will skyrocket to over \$8 billion by 2029, all while rural public schools—which don't even have private schools as an alternative—are left to rot. How is this anything but a direct attack on public education? [2]

A Direct Attack on Rural Texas

For rural communities, HB 3 is a death sentence. Most rural areas don't have private schools, so these funds won't "follow the student." Instead, they'll be siphoned out of already struggling school districts. That means fewer teachers, outdated textbooks, and schools forced to cut arts, sports, and essential programs. Schools that serve as the heart of their communities will be starved of funds while wealthier suburban families collect taxpayer dollars to send their kids to elite private academies. [3]

A Handout for the Privileged

Let's not pretend this is about helping low-income students. Data from other states show that most voucher recipients are students who were already in private school—meaning taxpayers are just footing the bill for wealthier families. In North Carolina, 75% of voucher recipients never set foot in a public school to begin with. [4] This is a welfare program for the rich, dressed up in fake concern for struggling students.

No Accountability, No Oversight, No Standards

Public schools answer to taxpayers. They're required to hire certified teachers, meet state curriculum standards, and report test results. Private schools? None of the above. They can:

Refuse students based on income, disability, or religious beliefs

Teach whatever they want—including curricula that do not meet Texas education standards

Shut down or mismanage funds with zero accountability...NOT ACCEPTABLE!!!!

Veronica Ramirez, Na

Self

San Antonio, TX

Against school vouchers for their propensity to contribute inequity and lack of opportunity for the poor

Tracie Morgan
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc
Elgin, TX

I strongly oppose House Bill 3 (HB3) in Texas, as it undermines the future of our public education system by pushing for private school vouchers instead of increasing vital support for our public schools. This bill is a step backward for our children and communities, as it diverts much-needed funds from public schools that are already struggling with limited resources and underpaid teachers.

Instead of creating voucher programs that primarily benefit private institutions, we should be focusing on strengthening our public schools—ensuring that every child, regardless of their background or learning needs, has access to a high-quality education. This means increasing funding for public schools, providing fair wages for teachers, and investing in the necessary resources to create better learning environments for all students. A strong public education system is the foundation of a thriving society, and Texas should be investing in its schools, not abandoning them.

Additionally, we must consider the needs of students with learning disabilities, particularly those with dyslexia and those on 504 plans. While private schools may be seen as an option for some families, not all private institutions have the resources or trained staff to support students with learning differences. Children with dyslexia or 504 plans often require specialized instruction and accommodations, which are not guaranteed in private schools. Excluding these children from the option of private schools that could meet their needs only creates additional barriers to their education.

Moreover, we cannot ignore the reality that not all families have access to transportation to get their children to and from private schools, especially in rural or underserved areas. For many parents, even if a private school could provide a better educational experience for their child, the financial and logistical burden of transportation makes that option impractical or impossible.

Rather than diverting funds to private school vouchers, Texas should prioritize policies that strengthen our public schools—providing all students with the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their learning needs or family circumstances. It's time to put the focus on improving our public education system, ensuring that every child has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they deserve. I urge our lawmakers to reject HB3 and invest in public schools, which are the foundation of our children's futures and the future of Texas.

Jesus Villa
Self
Leander, TX

I want to say no to vouchers.

Rafaela Martinez
SELF
DALLAS, TX

I believe in public schools. I was raised by the many amazing teachers in public schools and offer my full support in making their lives and their students lives more fruitful.

Nancy Sharp, Ms.

self

Lubbock, TX

I oppose the establishment of Education Savings Accounts as currently proposed in HB3. The same accountability safeguards must be required of any entity taking ESA funds by requiring the exact same academic and financial accountability measures to which independent public schools adhere. Public dollars require public accountability. To allow anything less, is not a conservative position.

Ilana Levi

Self

Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Kristen Patterson

Self

Argyle, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 and ask this committee to vote "No." Educational Savings Accounts are, essentially, vouchers. The public is being told this gives them choice. What choice? We already have the freedom to choose: public; public online; charter, private, and homeschool. The options are clearly defined in the bill, and all of them are choices for state approved schools and curriculum vendors, making this a Vouchers for Vendors bill. The problems we face in primary and secondary education are not really about money, not for the individuals. The problems are things like standardized testing. Vouchers for Vendors will further tie once, truly private schools and homeschoolers to those state created problems.

I am someone who does think competition would be good for all schools, but I have learned, in these last years of homeschooling my own children, that public schools have their hands tied to standardized tests. Now the state would like to level the playing field by tying private schools and homeschoolers to those same requirements. The argument against the point I make here is that we can choose to not participate, but that is not the choice you are selling. The more vendors and school options that do align with state requirements, the less free choice there will be.

The only way for us to truly change this situation is for all of us to take responsibility and create something better, without state funds. The only role state government should play is in creating laws that incentivize us, the individuals, to do just that, which is the opposite of finding money outside of public school funds and using a new bureaucracy with both elected and unelected officials choosing who gets those funds.

Freedom is where innovation thrives. Please vote "no" on HB 3.

Katherine Martinez

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please do not vote for HB3 . It would not be equitable to families who live in rural areas. Thank you for representing your constituents honestly.

Cathryn Ortiz

self

Lubbock, TX

Dear Members,

My name is Cathryn Ortiz, and I am a student teacher from Lubbock, Texas. I am submitting this comment to urge the committee to support policies that strengthen student teacher programs and provide necessary funding and resources for future educators. Student teachers play a vital role in Texas classrooms, gaining hands-on experience under the guidance of experienced educators while helping to meet the needs of students. However, many student teachers face financial hardships due to the unpaid nature of their work, making it difficult for talented individuals to pursue a career in education. Texas is already facing a significant teacher shortage, and without support for student teachers, we risk losing a new generation of dedicated educators before they even enter the workforce.

To address this, I strongly encourage policies that:

Provide stipends or financial assistance for student teachers to alleviate the burden of working without pay.

Offer mentorship and support programs that ensure student teachers receive quality training and guidance.

Expand partnerships between universities and school districts to create smoother pathways for student teachers to transition into full-time teaching positions.

Investing in student teachers is an investment in the future of Texas education. Strengthening these programs will help ensure that we have well-prepared, passionate teachers in our classrooms for years to come. I urge you to take action to support policies that provide financial and structural support to student teachers across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathryn Ortiz

Lubbock, TX

Dear Members of the [House Committee Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I am a [Your Role, e.g., public school librarian, educator, concerned citizen] from [Your City], Texas. I am submitting this comment to urge the committee to support policies that strengthen student teacher programs and provide necessary funding and resources for future educators.

Student teachers play a vital role in Texas classrooms, gaining hands-on experience under the guidance of experienced educators while helping to meet the needs of students. However, many student teachers face financial hardships due to the unpaid nature of their work, making it difficult for talented individuals to pursue a career in education. Texas is already facing a significant teacher shortage, and without support for student teachers, we risk losing a new generation of dedicated educators before they even enter the workforce.

To address this, I strongly encourage policies that:

Provide stipends or financial assistance for student teachers to alleviate the burden of working without pay.

Offer mentorship and support programs that ensure student teachers receive quality training and guidance.

Expand partnerships between universities and school

Lindsay Rose
Northwest ISD PTA
Fort Worth, TX

I've speaking against this since I first started hearing about, but yet feels like too many of our leaders can only hear the coins jingling in their pockets over this politically charged topic.

While statistics and quotes may be shared about the benefits of this plan, they are all politically fueled and short sighted. At the end of the day, more than 80% of Texas students attend public schools and this bill will no doubt cause significant harm to our public school system. Without a strong public school system, our homes decrease in value, crime increases, and good people move elsewhere in search of a better life. Those who oppose this bill, which is the VAST MAJORITY OF TEXANS, do so without regard to their political beliefs. They stand on both sides of the aisle united AGAINST this bill which will destroy our public schools. VOTE NO.

Dean Crooks
Self Retired parent of a 10th grader
Gilchrist, TX

I am a conservative and strongly opposed to HB3 (and SB2). I do believe in school choice and most importantly freedom, but HB3 is not truly about that. HB3 is about money and, eventually control. Control which has, in recent decades, hurt public schools far more than it has ever helped. Why then would we want this for private schools or homeschool children? There will be no new choices for Texans if HB3 (or anything close to it) becomes law. We Texans, of all stripes, know this and we know that this is being shoved down our throats.

I can't understand why so many legislators are pushing HB3 so hard!

I mean, the Legislature has oversight on the Texas Education Agency and the T.E.A. has oversight on the public schools. If passed, there are no new choices for Texas parents that they didn't already have without HB3. The only new thing for parents is, if selected, they might be eligible for thousands in tax dollars every year towards private education or homeschooling.

Therefore, the essence of the message I hear is that the Texas State government screwed up our public schools so bad, they are now willing to pay people to go to private schools or homeschool. Since they are in charge of Texas Public Schools, wouldn't the simpler and more logical solution be for the Tx Legislature and the T.E.A. to work towards fixing them, and maybe themselves?

Furthermore, if they can't improve public schools, then why would we want more government and more intervention into the private schools and homeschooling, coupled with a price tag of billions more in taxpayer money?

My own State Representative, Terri Leo-Wilson has said she will support this inspire of overwhelming opposition in her own District. I have heard the same about several other State Representatives and Senators across Texas. This is unconscionable! Perhaps they are the product of a poor school growing up because they clearly do not understand the term "Representative". I am not intending to be insulting, but how insulting is it when someone makes promises to shrink government, lower taxes, and represent the needs and desires of those citizens in their district and then get told that they won't.

EITHER VOTE "NO" ON HB3 OR VOTE TO SEND IT VIA A REFERENDUM FOR A TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IN THE NEXT ELECTION. Let We the People of Texas decide on the merits of the Bill, not merely the title of the Bill. Please do not dictate, but serve.

Charlotte McHale, Mrs.
Self, Techer
Houston, TX

School savings programs are pointless and will successfully deny those less fortunate the opportunity to attend any private school. Private schools are allowed under the law to be selective, and will subsequently increase their tuition fees, which means that the money dispensed for this supposed innovation in Texas education will be wasted- it will only provide a discount for already-astronomical private school tuitions. This is Abbott's endeavor to eliminate public education, which is a vital service to Texas students, especially those who depend on it not just for education, but for child care, transportation and enrichment programs for children whose families cannot afford private school tuition to begin with. Please vote no to HB 3 to meet the needs of all constituents, not just the wealthy few whose lives won't change as if this farce of a piece of legislation passes.

Melinda Bridges

Self

Mansfield, TX

Vote NO to any school voucher bill! Bad for Texas students and teachers! Give public schools what my taxes are meant to give public schools. Pay for TEACHERS not administration!

Taciana Hardmon

Self - Mother of School aged children

Houston, TX

As a mother of children in public schools, I worry a voucher program would strip vital funds away from already cash-strapped public schools. Also, there is no clear process for financial oversight or for requiring private schools to report student test scores or meet the same academic standards as public schools. Lastly, studies in multiple states have shown that vouchers do not consistently lead to improved standardized test scores for low-income students. Therefore, HB 3 should not be passed into Texas law.

Holly Cheek

Self/homemaker

Houston, TX

I homeschool and am opposed to this bill.

Grace Thompson, Miss

Self

Beaumont, TX

No to HB 3!!! Fully fund public schools!

Susan Sandles

Myself

LEWISVILLE, TX

I am against it

Michael Holland

Self

Cedar park, TX

Please do not support giving public tax money to private organizations. We have a education department already, let's improve what we have and not put our future with private organizations that are focused on profits and not education

Maria Andrews

Self

Shenandoah, TX

Texas must stand firm in its commitment to public education. School voucher programs would divert much-needed funding from public schools, weaken accountability, increase inequality, and offer no real solutions for rural or low-income students. Rather than taking resources away from public education, Texas should invest in improving its schools so that every child, regardless of background, has access to a quality education.

The Texas Public Does Not Support School Vouchers

Time and time again, Texans have rejected school voucher proposals. Recent polling shows that a majority of Texas voters oppose using taxpayer dollars to fund private education. The Texas Legislature has repeatedly declined to pass voucher bills, recognizing the devastating effects they would have on public schools. Instead of promoting an unpopular and damaging policy, lawmakers should focus on fully funding public schools, increasing teacher pay, and ensuring that all Texas children—regardless of ZIP code—receive a high-quality education.

I urge you to oppose any school voucher legislation and instead prioritize strengthening our public school system. Texas students, families, and communities deserve nothing less.

Lisa Shaffer

Self

Plano, TX

I currently have two sons attending public schools in Plano TX. Both of my sons receive special education services. They have been receiving these services since elementary. We have been fortunate to have excellent teachers and staff support our children throughout this time and without them our sons would not be thriving. We did look into a private education for our sons. We found that not only was the cost astronomical, our local schools could offer equal opportunities without enduring the cost. This way we can save for college and future opportunities for our sons. Knowing the cost of private schools I can tell you for a fact that vouchers would barely make a dent in the cost. Our family could actually afford private schools but have found the cost benefit is not there or worth it. Our local school district is fantastic but it's also affluent. I believe all school districts should be funded so they too can offer real school choice to all students and families. We as a society all benefit when children are given access to excellent education. Our schools including those in affluent cities are underfunded. Texas education rankings are some of the lowest. Taking funds from already struggling schools is not the answer. I know several parents in the special education community initially thought vouchers could help give them an option. After much research many of us realize that is not the case. The majority of private schools do not provide special education nor do they value it. Then you add the cost and this idea of school choice or access is not a reality. Another aspect being ignored is how this could potentially hurt all homeowners. If you live in an area known for their school districts then people want to move and live there. School districts are already struggling. Vouchers could further hurt school districts and standings. As a result the desire to live in particular school districts is no longer desirable and homes don't sell. In the end these vouchers do not only hurt school age families but also members of the community. Overall vouchers are only going to benefit the smallest number of Texans and are not worth the lasting damage they will do Texas education.

Kate McCarthy

self

Austin, TX

I would like to be put in the record as being OPPOSED to HB3. I have two children that are in the Austin Independent School District where they have received a solid education. They are both currently at Anderson High School and actively involved in the fine arts programs. They have thrived there, becoming incredible leaders while taking many challenging AP and IB classes. We have been well served by our public schools. While there are many private school options here in Austin, the cost can be as much as college tuition, a voucher would only make a small dent in the price. I support our public schools and believe that every student deserves access to good, well funded public education and that our tax dollars should stay in our public schools.

John Miller
Self - Business Owner
Austin, TX

To the Honorable Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

I am a born-and-raised Texan, who attended public K-12 and University education in Texas (Go Horns!). My wife and I have two sons in public high school right now. One of our sons, a graduating senior, has a disability and has been well supported in Texas public schools.

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding House Bill 3, which proposes the implementation of a school voucher program in Texas. While the intention behind this bill may be to provide more educational options for families, the evidence from other states suggests that such programs often have detrimental effects on public education and the students they aim to serve. In states like Arizona, Ohio, and Louisiana, voucher programs have led to significant budget shortfalls, academic declines, and unequal access to quality education. For instance, Arizona's universal voucher program has resulted in a \$1.4 billion budget deficit, impacting other critical public projects. In Ohio and Louisiana, students using vouchers have shown significant academic losses compared to their peers in public schools.

In Texas, the proposed voucher program poses several specific challenges:

1. **Financial Impact on Public Schools:** Vouchers would divert essential funds from public schools, exacerbating existing budget deficits and potentially leading to school closures and reduced educational programs. Texas already ranks low in per-pupil spending, and further reductions would worsen this situation.
2. **Lack of Accountability:** Unlike public schools, private schools receiving vouchers are not required to adhere to the same accountability standards, such as the STAAR test, which could lead to uneven educational outcomes.
3. **Selective Admissions:** Private schools can choose which students to accept, potentially excluding those with disabilities or lower academic performance, which contradicts the goal of providing equal opportunities. My son's disability, for instance, is not as well supported in private schools, and without appropriately funded quality public education, I doubt we would have had the successful results we have had.
4. **Inequitable Access:** Many areas in Texas lack private school options, making vouchers impractical for families in those regions.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to reconsider the implementation of HB 3 and instead focus on strengthening and adequately funding our public education system. This would ensure that all Texas students have access to quality education, regardless of their background, disability or location.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
John Miller

Carla Cochrane
Self
Palmer, TX

Please stand up for all children and Texas public schools. Every child deserves an education where disparities are not seen!

Victoria Martinez
Self
Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Patricia McNeely, Mrs.
Texas Democratic Women of Hood County
Lipan, TX

This is a power grab at the Texas Education Fund. I oppose using public money for private schools. Please fully fund our public schools. Our students deserve it.

Krys Baxter
self, librarian
Austin, TX

I am writing as a parent of public school children and a graduate of public schools in rural Texas to ask you to protect neighborhood schools and oppose House Bill 3 in Texas.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them to succeed, not just students at exclusive private schools. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our neighborhood public schools for students, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private and religious schools that pick and choose who will enroll.

As a concerned Texan, I ask you to vote down House Bill 3, which diverts tax dollars from neighborhood public schools. Public dollars should stay in public schools. Please properly fund our public schools to invest in the next generation of Texans.

Eugenia Vance
Myself
pasadena, TX

No Vouchers for Texas schools

Eileen Matte
Self/teacher/parent
Conroe, TX

As a special education teacher and a parent of a child with special needs, I strongly oppose the proposed voucher program in Texas.

Vouchers divert crucial funding from public schools, undermining resources essential for supporting students with disabilities. Public schools are legally required to provide vital services outlined in Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), and vouchers threaten this commitment by allowing funds to flow to private institutions that may lack accountability and necessary requirements.

Additionally, vouchers can exacerbate inequities in education. Families with resources may navigate the private school landscape, while those without may be left behind, widening the gap in educational access.

All children in Texas deserve access to a quality public education that meets their unique needs. Instead of pursuing vouchers, we should invest in strengthening our public schools to ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your attention.

Jean Mayer, Pflugerville school board trustee
Pflugerville ISD
Pflugerville, TX

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jean Mayer and I am here today to oppose the expansion of Education Savings Accounts (ESA) and the continued erosion of public education funding in Texas.

At the heart of this issue is not a lack of revenue, but a failure of prioritization. Texas has the funds to fully invest in public education, yet time and time again, we see policies that redirect public money into private ventures rather than strengthening the system that serves the vast majority of our students.

We are being told that ESA programs can coexist alongside a well-funded public school system, but the truth is, even the breadcrumbs of funding that have been promised to public schools are already being compromised. The very same legislators advocating for private school subsidies have yet to deliver on basic funding increases for public schools, leaving districts struggling with unfunded mandates, increasing special education costs, and inflationary pressures on teacher salaries. If the commitment to public education were real, we wouldn't be fighting for leftover dollars—we would be fully funding our schools first.

The idea of “choice” means nothing when the system is rigged against those who need the most support. Private schools are not obligated to accept all students, provide special education services, or meet the same accountability standards as public schools. What we are really prioritizing with ESAs is a system of exclusion, where public funds benefit the few at the expense of the many.

Every dollar diverted to vouchers is a dollar stripped from the 5.4 million students in Texas public schools—impacting teacher retention, classroom resources, mental health services, and special education programs. We cannot claim to be investing in education while simultaneously fracturing the very foundation of our public school system.

I urge you to consider what we are choosing to prioritize. If we are serious about improving education in Texas, then our focus should be on fully funding public schools, investing in teachers, and ensuring every child—regardless of income, ability, or background—has access to a high-quality education. Public money belongs in public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Meredith Boyde
Self
Blooming Grv, TX
Vote against vouchers

Christine Smith
Self; Project Manager
Houston, TX

Vouchers are unpopular by a wide margin, because they divert funds from public schools. Our public schools are already struggling. Please vote NO.

Amy Cash
Self
Leander, TX

This is in regards to the "School Choice" education savings account scam. We have school choice in Texas. We have the option to apply to attend another school within the district, or school districts can make transfer agreements to accept each others' students. There is also the choice to attend a public charter school. My son attends a classical charter school and receives a free education that rivals any private school education. However, our school receives less funding than a traditional public school. Public dollars should stay in public education. Period. Greg Abbott keeps saying that the school voucher program has overwhelming support in the state of Texas. I wholeheartedly disagree with this statement. I know parents from many different political backgrounds, and not one supports school vouchers. I would encourage Texas to let the residents of Texas vote on the establishment of education savings accounts. Let us decide the future of education at the ballot box where it belongs.

Anna Rodriguez
Self
Beaumont, TX

Public schools are an essential part of accessible education for all in Texas. I am regularly in public schools doing student teaching and observations, and I see how essential the public school system is. Many students get a chance of having a free, proper education, but that cannot be possible if our tax dollars get diverted from public education towards private. I am not anti private school, as I work at one, but, students deserve the chance to have a FREE education that is meaningful and proper. There is no guarantee that only low income families will have access to these vouchers and it gives false hope to these families who look for "better" education. If we, as Texans, put our focus and money into public education, we would not be letting down the students who need it the most. If we ignore public education, we are simply leaving lower income students behind. I hope my words send the message that we must fix the problem at the root and pay more attention to our public schools. Public education is important and it matters.

Rachel Ketcherside
Self
Lubbock, TX

I support school vouchers. I believe all students learn differently and not all school curriculum should be cookie cutters. I wholeheartedly am in support for school vouchers and to encourage you to advocate for policies that expand educational opportunities for all families.

School vouchers empower parents by giving them the ability to choose the best educational environment for their children, regardless of their income or ZIP code. Every child deserves access to a quality education that meets their unique needs, whether that be in a public, private, charter, or religious school. By allowing public education funds to follow the student, we can foster competition, improve overall school performance, and ensure that no child is trapped in a failing school simply because of where they live.

Critics argue that vouchers weaken public schools, but research suggests that competition often leads to innovation and improvement. Additionally, vouchers provide a lifeline to low-income families who might not otherwise have the financial means to seek better alternatives for their children. Education should not be a one-size-fits-all system, and school choice is a step toward making education more equitable and effective.

I urge you to support school voucher programs and stand with families who want the best for their children. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would love to discuss this issue further if you are open to it.

Ryan Van Der Kar

Self

Dallas, TX

This is the wrong approach to improving the Texas education system. It will only leave those without means even farther behind which most certainly does not benefit our state in the long run. The public schools are terribly underfunded already. This is purely an ideological attempt to subvert the separation of church and state. Schools are not corporations and the education system should not be run like one. Please do not destroy the school system that needs to exist at its very best for all children regardless of socio economic status and creed.

The correct approach to improvement is to realize what we all know - chromebooks, iPads, and YouTube are not the best way to teach or to learn. The tech corporations sold us out and now the newest teachers are dependent on these "tools" to teach. I really can't understand the argument that elementary students really need to start learning on tech because they will need it for a job.

Daphne Meacham Daphne Meacham

Self Teacher

Burleson, TX

Do not vote for vouchers.

Christina Swan

self - teacher

Austin, TX

I am a parent of two children who attend Texas schools and have been a teacher in Texas for 19 years, and I am against HB 3. This so-called "school choice" steals our tax dollars and funnels them to wealthy families who already attend private schools--this effect, along with the disastrous results to education, has been shown time and again in states that have adopted a voucher system. I pay taxes for services, and I expect my government to provide those services. A robust, well-funded public education system is one of those services. I'm not paying taxes so they can go to niche, private businesses that do not benefit my community, and I'm not paying for welfare to the rich. Fund our public schools.

Linda Patterson

Self

Boerne, TX

Public schools are essential to our great state! Please vote against vouchers and fully support our public schools.

Lois Maiers

Self

Salado, TX

I am against education savings accounts because our public schools are underfunded and all resources should be given to the majority of students. Parents currently have the choice to send their children to private schools and they do not need money to continue to do so. Also, the bill is not equitable because there are many counties without private schools, so the children there do not have the equal right to private education. I am also concerned that the private schools do not have educational standards and consequently there is no oversight for the taxpayer monies. This bill is not good for all Texas students and families.

Thank you

Susie Rouw, Mrs.

Self-retired teacher

Midlothian, TX

Vote no on vouchers! We do not need the 'welfare' for the wealthy. We also need to properly fund public education as mandated by the Texas constitution. 70% of the citizens of Texas are opposed to using public funds to fund private schools. VOTE NO!!!!

Shane Hodyniak
Self / Father
Harker heights, TX

Statement in Support of HB 3 – Public Hearing

This legislation is a monumental step forward in ensuring that every Texas family, regardless of zip code or income level, has access to the educational opportunities that best suit their child's needs.

For too long, families in Texas have been restricted by a one-size-fits-all public school system that may not work for every student. HB 3 empowers parents by providing Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), allowing them to direct funding toward private school tuition, homeschooling resources, tutoring, and other educational tools that will help their children thrive. This bill prioritizes educational freedom, ensuring that parents—not bureaucracies—make the best decisions for their kids.

Opponents argue that this legislation harms public schools, but this is simply not true. School choice does not weaken public education—it strengthens it. When parents have options, schools are incentivized to improve and innovate. Many public schools will remain the best choice for families, but they will now have to compete and adapt to meet the needs of students more effectively.

Furthermore, HB 3 ensures that funding follows the child, rather than forcing students to remain in underperforming schools simply because of geography. This is especially critical for low-income families and children with special needs, who may not have the means to access high-quality education otherwise. No child should be forced into a failing system when better alternatives exist.

This bill is about fairness, opportunity, and putting students first. I urge the committee to support HB 3 and give Texas families the ability to choose the education that best fits their child's future.

Thank you for your time.

Ashlie Dance
Self, graphic designer
Southlake, TX

I OPPOSE VOUCHERS. Do not use our public school funds, already grossly diverted, to fund private schools. Invest in our schools the way our tax dollars were intended to.

Staci Bradley
Teacher
Grapevine, TX

As a teacher please do not pass vouchers, it helps no one but the rich and hurts our public schools.

Heather Nikkel
School Districts
College Station, Texas, United States, TX

This voucher system does not serve the best interests of children in the Texas Public School System. My children's district has already had to cut essential programs that support students due to budget constraints. These vouchers won't even be accessible to most families. The private school I was considering for my kids has already doubled its tuition. If the voucher covers \$10,000, who is supposed to pay the additional \$10,000 for just one child? On top of that, my daughter has an IEP, and most private schools do not provide the necessary services for her growth and development. Instead of helping, this program is actually harming my family. While school districts should absolutely be held accountable for wasteful spending, punishing our children for their financial mismanagement is not the solution.

Lynn Lada, Ms.
Self, Retired
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers provide my money to private schools at a level not reciprocated for public schools. Private school families and the schools should provide the funding for them. Not me and not Texas. I support public education. And if vouchers pass make them meet the same standards as public schools.

sammy kalter
agudah
Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Lindsay O'Connor
Self, spiritual director and former teacher
Richardson, TX

I am a product of Texas public schools, have taught in a Texas public school, and have two children who currently attend Texas public schools. I am strongly opposed to the establishment of an education savings account program for many reasons. Both of my children receive 504 accommodations, and I am deeply concerned about the lack of provisions for students receiving special education services should we move forward with the education savings program, which will effectively steal money from poorer students in order to give wealthier families a discount on their private school education because the amount allotted will not be enough for poor students to afford private school tuition. As funding is pulled from public schools, our most vulnerable students will lose funding for much-needed services and resources. I'm also concerned about our tax dollars funding private religious schools. I oppose giving government funding to schools that aren't held accountable to the same standards public schools must uphold. Students who live in rural areas may not even have access to private schools within a reasonable distance from their homes. Public schools serve all students who choose to use them, but private schools are able to pick and choose students, which would effectively discriminate against vulnerable students who have higher support needs. Public school, like many services provided for with tax money, serve the good of our entire community, regardless of whether individual people and families utilize public schools. Public schools that are struggling need more funding, not less; the withholding of available funds by our Texas state politicians is unethical in the face of inflation. It seems our politicians want to withhold and even pull funding from public schools and then turn around and say that they are failing when they themselves have contributed to the problem. Everyone benefits from an educated populace, whether or not they personally attend public schools. If we move forward with the education savings account program, funding will be taken from public schools, and our most vulnerable students and families will suffer most, followed by everyone else in our society that benefits from a well-educated population.

Sue Rita Myatt
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 3 and vouchers. I'm also against the establishment of an education savings account. Please listen to those that elected you.

Emilie Robinson

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) introduced in 2025, which seeks to expand school vouchers in the state. As a concerned citizen and advocate for quality education for all Texas students, I believe this bill will harm public schools and undermine the core values of equity, fairness, and opportunity in our education system.

Expanding school vouchers would divert much needed funding away from public schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children. Provisions in HB 3 ensure that funding for school choice programs are primarily made available to families from low-income or disenfranchised backgrounds. However, school voucher legislation enacted in other states demonstrates that the majority of funds are being used by families who are wealthy or whose children are already enrolled in private schooling. In 2023, 95% of students in Arkansas and 71% of students in Arizona who were utilizing school vouchers for private education were already enrolled in private schools before receiving the voucher benefits.

Additionally, most Texan families eligible for school choice initiatives are unable to afford private schooling with already receiving vouchers. The average tuition cost among all K-12 private schools in Texas is \$11,050. Conversely, Texas Senate Bill 2 proposes to allocate \$10,000 per year for families with children without disabilities and \$11,500 for families with children with a disability. And, in some cases, private schools raised their tuition amount by as much as 25% following school voucher expansion efforts. For the typical Texas family wanting to convert to private schooling, this would leave an excess thousand dollars that they would need to subsidize. This would result in families needing to find a way to cover this extra amount, which would be a difficult task for families from lower-income or disadvantaged communities.

Instead, I recommend increasing funding per student in public education settings, as research shows this has a proven impact on academic achievement, overall health outcomes, and lifetime earning capabilities. One aspect that determines overall health outcomes is financial status, which allows an individual access to healthcare. Education is a driving force that enables children from all backgrounds the opportunity to pursue upward mobility in terms of careers and socioeconomic status. Receiving less education is linked to overall lower-income status and less ability to afford quality preventative healthcare. Research shows that individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds have an increased likelihood of developing heart problems, mental health issues, and diabetes, and report overall worse physical wellbeing.

TRISH CASTRO

Self teacher

Victoria, TX

Opposed.

Samantha Durrance

Self, Program Specialist

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose any legislation that sends public funds to private schools, including education savings accounts and vouchers. Keep public funds in public schools, and fund them appropriately!

Sonya Kennedy

Self Teacher

Athens, TX

The general public does not agree. WE VOTE NO, PLEASE HEAR OUR CRIES AND VOTE NO

Kristen Delgado-Williams

Self

San Antonio, TX

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the implementation of a voucher system for public schools. While proponents argue that vouchers offer parents more choices, they ultimately undermine the public education system by diverting critical funding away from public schools, exacerbating existing inequities, and failing to guarantee improved outcomes for students.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, serving students of all backgrounds and abilities. By redirecting taxpayer dollars to private and charter schools—many of which lack the same accountability and inclusivity standards—voucher programs weaken the resources available to public schools, leaving the most vulnerable students with fewer opportunities. This approach does not promote choice; it creates division and deepens educational disparities.

Furthermore, private institutions receiving voucher funds are often not held to the same academic and non-discrimination standards as public schools. Many do not serve students with disabilities, English language learners, or those requiring specialized support, leaving families with fewer viable options rather than more. Instead of investing in a system that benefits only a select few, we should focus on strengthening our public schools for all students by increasing funding, supporting teachers, and expanding access to high-quality programs.

I urge you to reject policies that divert public funds to private institutions and instead prioritize strengthening our public school system. Every child deserves access to a high-quality education, regardless of their zip code or financial situation. I appreciate your time and consideration on this crucial issue and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Kristen Delgado-Williams

Kimberley Harrison

Self

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose education savings accounts or any other voucher program. This is simply a gift/tax break for those in private school. It takes much needed funds from our public schools. It has no oversight as private schools may reject anyone and make their own rules. It hurts small and rural and poor communities with no private choice. It is wrong.

Angela Johnson

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please do not pass this bill!!! I work in a very low socioeconomic district. We do our best to stretch every penny out of every dollar. I wish you would all go visit some underprivileged districts before you vote for this. It does not help our kids! I'm pleading for you to look at the facts and do the right thing.

Megan Allshouse

Self- Children's Minister

Missouri City, TX

Texans are not in favor of this bill. If anything, our public schools need additional funding-not reduced funding. Parents who prefer a private education are able to request financial aid through their school. A luxury private education should not harm our public schools.

Jennifer Lucio, Mrs.

HaysCISD PTSA

Buda, TX

I do not support giving public funding to private schools.

Giannina Guardia-Hayes

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I oppose this bill because I believe school vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford to send their children to private schools. Families already have "school choice" within our public school system by being able to transfer to other schools if they wish. These proposed vouchers will not make a private education accessible to the majority of families in the community. Instead, what will happen is public schools will lose funding. This could lead to school closures, program closures, teacher cuts, etc. Please continue to focus on funding our public education and ensuring that all students have access to an excellent education.

Zane Gilbert

Public

Littlefield, TX

I do not want to see the state of Texas go to privatized education.

Diandra Schwartz

self/former educator, current parent and illustrator

Montgomery, TX

I am a parent very concerned with the direction this state is going regarding education. We have enough funds in this state to properly fund education, but they are constantly held back (or used as a political carrot and hammer). Were those funds properly applied to education in this state, more parents would be able to have their children receive a quality education without having to use public dollars to fund private schools. I am also concerned by the fact that the majority of Texas parents and their students do not have access to the alternate forms of education this bill is touting, so this is a sweeping financial scoop away from the majority to benefit the very few. That is not how publicly funded systems, especially education, are supposed to operate. All this will do is line the pockets of a few people, and make balancing the needs of their students even more difficult for Texas districts, teachers, support personnel, and everyone in-between. Please do not allow this bill to move forward.

Debbie McMennamy, Constituent

Self/ Paralegal

Plano, TX

Start representing your constituents and not the donors' special interests. This welfare handout is not what the majority of Texans want. We made that clear but Greg didn't care and managed to get the politicians who actually listened to their constituents fired. He is a corrupt grifter who plays politics instead of governing. Shame on him. Stop listening to the billionaires like Wilkes and Dunn and start listening to your constituents. You are a governor not a dictator.

Kay Kennedy

Parent and grandparent of two children with learning differences. SELF

Amarillo, TX

I am against the private school voucher program. It is important that we use dollars for education for public school education. Certainly, a portion should be set aside for students whose educational needs are not accommodated in their loyal public school system, primarily dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia and similar learning differences.

Morgan Luka

Self

Tomball, TX

Vote no for school vouchers. Instead properly funded public schools to give all children a chance to learn and become who they are supposed to be.

Jeannette Whitt

Myself as a Christian, Mother, Grandmother and Educator

Liberty Hill, TX

Quit this insanity! Put it up for a vote of the people.

Veronica Harrington

Self

MONTGOMERY, TX

Oppose HB 3

Lauren Frazier

Self

Houston, TX

Standards for public money should stay the same no matter what school they go to. Why would we not want checks and balances on publicly funded money. It's a breeding ground for corruption.

AHMAD HERNANDEZ

Self - teacher

Richmond, TX

I support public schools and public education. Many Texas counties do not have private schools. And private schools can deny any student for any reason. Lastly, school voucher programs have been tried in different states, and none of them were cost effective. Vote no.

Amanda Miller

Self

Georgetown, TX

Tax payer money should go to help the underfunded public schools.

Jeremy Holland

Self

Round Rock, TX

Strongly against this bill as a lifelong Texan and father of two young children This money must go to public schools.

Jack Wellborn

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Use of tax payer dollars to subsidize private and home schooling without proper accountability and measurable outcomes is insane, and dare I say, very un-Republican. Without standardized tests, how does Texas expect to measure which of these self proclaimed educational institutions are actually educating. What are parents supposed to use to know which school they should choose? It's like going to a gas station that doesn't tell you many gallons you just paid for. Absurd. Texans may not always like the price of their public schools, but at least they know what they're paying for. Another aspect of this hand-out-without-oversight that is very un-Republican is the sheer ignorance of basic supply/demand economics. Introducing more money for the private system will invariably lead to more demand and increased rates, which they will then pass directly onto the parents. I'll bet you anything that if this goes through and is adopted, the entirety of a \$10,000 or even a \$15,000 voucher will be more than eaten by cost increases within a decade. It's like someone looked at college student loan debt and thought to themselves "we should have elementary student loan debt too!" Nowadays, I can't go five minutes without hearing some Republican talk about eliminating waste at the federal level, and yet the state of Texas is chomping at the bit to hand out free money with no strings attached.

Lisa Petrosky

Self

Angleton, TX

I don't agree with house bill 3 and school vouchers as it stands now. Each child should be treated equal and given the same amount to attend school. If the state is giving \$10,000 for a school voucher to a private school than each public school child should also be given \$10,000.

It is unfair to take money away from public schools and give it to private schools.

Monica Warren

Texas homeschoolers & taxpayers

Magnolia, TX

I am a homeschooling parent and I oppose this bill. Texas is one of the best places to homeschool because of the freedom we have from government interference. This bill will not only open the door to encroachment by the government into the lives of citizens, it will also increase spending & therefore, taxes. Please oppose this bill!

Lanny McKinney

Self/Teacher

Mexia, TX

I am an educator and taxpayer who lives in a rural community. My concerns are twofold: as a teacher, I am concerned that the diversion of funds to educational savings accounts will eventually lead to an even lower allotment amount for students enrolled in public schools and as an employee of a school district, I am very concerned about the ramifications this will have on TRS retirement given the decrease in students enrolled in public schools. I urge our representatives vote against this bill and end the crusade against public education.

Beverly Hennessy

My grandchildren and all Texas students who have disabled

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

I am writing to urge all Texas legislature members to vote AGAINST the voucher system here in Texas. I am urging the Legislature to demand that the Governor release the funds that have been withheld from the public school system here in Texas for many years. Pay our certified public school teachers what they deserve and go back to supporting and making provision for Texas students to receive a fair, equitable, honest and true education. This voucher system will destroy education in Texas for the nearly 6,000,000 students in our state. Texas and especially, you, the representatives of the people of Texas owe this to our children. As the mother of twin 34 year old severely autistic young men, who have been repeatedly declined admission to private or religious schools, many of whom are not required to maintain certified and appropriately educated "teachers," this community, the disabled, will especially be denied any chance in receiving the education they deserve. I now have grandchildren who I feel deserve better than what Texas is proposing. My husband is a retired Air Force colonel and he and his family has served the United States of America for over 30 years. Many families who reside in Texas serve the country and have no choice where they send their children to school. You should be ASHAMED to promote this type of system when it has been proven time and time again in other states to further weaken and destroy the public school systems that should be supported and funded appropriately to provide the fair and equitable and true education that ALL Texas children deserve.

I urge you, no I challenge you, the Legislature members to do the right thing and call an end to this voucher system, released the withheld funding or put this voucher system to a referendum vote for the entire state of Texas. A fair, honest and open vote by the people who you, the legislators work for. You DO NOT work for or should answer to outside wealthy influencers who seek to have control of what should a Texas led and supported decision.

Andres Hernandez

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3.

School Voucher is a scam.

Do not vote to pass this HB

Keri Frost

TCTA

Mulshoe, TX

Please do not pass this bill why should we take valuable dollars away from public education to help line the pockets of wealthy Texans who can afford to send their kids to private school. They only represent 1.5% of school aged kids. Why should 98.5% of kids in Texas suffer and do without needed supplies and curriculum because of a small percentage want to go to private unaccountable schools.

Jacklyn Zapiain

Self / Manager

Laredo, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Diana Robertson, Mrs

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Texans do not want school vouchers. Rural Texans definitely do not want their public funds reduced because of school vouchers. Private school which the vouchers support will not meet a rural community's needs. Vote NO on school vouchers. Vote to fully fund our public schools. Keep public funds in public schools!

Robin Knepp

Self

College Station, TX

As a current public educator, I can say with full confidence that this bill will only hurt our students and schools by taking critical funding away from already underfunded schools. Parents have always had a choice for sending their kids to schools with magnet schools, private schools, charter schools, and homeschooling. Taking public funding away from public schools and sending to private schools is not the answer to the problem you propose this bill to correct. To not hold private schools to the same standards of curriculum and educator certification and propose sending unequal funding doesn't make logical sense. This bill is not about one political party over another. This bill is about a redistribution of wealth that will disproportionately benefit the wealthy who can already afford to send their children to private schools. The public overwhelmingly voted against this agenda the first time it came around, and we see through the farce of it now. HB3 will not help the people you claim it is most for. There are better ways to help students most in need of better educational opportunities. Properly funding our schools, all special programs, and educator salaries to recruit and retain high quality teachers is the first step. Sending public dollars to private schools who are not held to the same standards is not the common sense solution.

Susan Robertson

Self retired

Austin, TX

Please support public schools. Vouchers will help to kill public education. My tax dollars should not go to private education.

Austin Wimberley

Self

Kyle, TX

Vouchers are a hard NO for me!

Lezlie Rogers

Self

Waco, TX

I am a former student of public schools in Texas, as are my children, and my grandchildren, some of whom are still in public schools. I am strongly not in favor of the voucher system. It is unfair to students and families.

Do not pass the voucher system. Do what your constituents want for the state of Texas, not what abbott is forcing on families and students. Texas American Federation of Teachers do not approve of this bill. The public does not need to pay for people of higher income to send their children to select schools.

Juanita Gonzalez

Self

Webster, TX

Taxpayers want to know that their tax dollars are being well-spent. Vouchers will take public tax dollars to pay for private schools without any accountability, so taxpayers have no way to compare schools to know if their tax dollars are being well-spent.

Taxpayers do not want to subsidize already affluent families by giving them money to send their children to private schools. As currently proposed, the education savings accounts are primarily a tax break for people who are already in private school or can afford that option.

Private schools receiving public taxpayer dollars are highly vulnerable to fraud and abuse. Their governing boards, if they exist do not have to meet in public or disclose how funds are spent. Private schools do not have to meet financial standards and are not measured by the state's fiscal accountability system.

State-funded vouchers will take needed dollars from public schools. Vouchers take dollars from public schools that are already underfunded. Every dollar sent to a private or home school cannot be invested in public schools. Voucher advocates say funding schools and funding vouchers are separate, but in Texas, where "funding follows the student," public schools will lose needed funding as millions of dollars are siphoned to unaccountable private institutions.

The cost of voucher programs accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4,557,317,230 spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program.

Gavi Wolk

self

dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Mary Hawkins

Self

Dilley, TX

I'm a former teacher and my sister is a retired teacher in Texas. What I'm concerned about is the Texas teacher retirement system going bust if vouchers are passed. I also worked in a very small school in Texas and if vouchers are passed, it's going to close that school down. Vouchers are not the answer. Please vote no on vouchers.

Joanna Rivera

Self

Plano, TX

I'm opposed to school vouchers. Support public school

Samantha Anderson

self/teacher

Farwell, TX

It is very disheartening to see that teachers are simultaneously respected and disrespected for our career choices. I have heard that teachers deserve raises and more resources, the best of the best, and in the same breath, I have heard that we spend our days not really "getting it," indoctrinating students, and trying our hardest to bring about the destruction of our society. I speak for myself when I say that I became a teacher (with the degree and certification to prove it) to help students learn, make them stronger people, and to give them the chance to show the world what they can do, I never thought that I would need to constantly justify my reasons. Many people assume we don't care, we are against making good choices, or that we don't know any better because we have been educated by the broken Machine anyway. Then we have people say that we are overworked and underfunded. Which is it? I want a living wage. I went to college to be a better human, and many of my coworkers can get assistance. That's unacceptable. I want to continue to do my best job, but I need a government that has my back. I want to understand how vouchers will help the actual certified teachers. I want to know that my students have the best education no matter where they go, and I want to feel secure in the fact that I made a good choice to be a teacher in a public school.

Kila Bobier

Self

Dallas, TX

I am adamantly opposed to HB 3! As a parent, my daughter went to Texas public schools and I do not want taxpayer dollars taken from public education for students to go to private institutions. As a parent I feel this will have a negative impact on the states public school system. I want the politicians in my district to know that I am an avid voter and I am strongly opposed to House bill 3!

Kelley Hebel

Self

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you

Sophie Kim

Self. Insurance

Frisco, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS

Joseph Meyer

Self

Austin, TX

I support public schools and strongly oppose HB3. I support fully funding public schools first. I also strongly oppose any public and taxpayer funds going to any religious organizations.

Jonathan Schultz

Self

Austin, TX

Just say Public funds for Pubic schools. If we can't find a way to fund public schools, we shouldn't be sending money to private ones.

Charlene Shafer

self

Cypress, TX

Texas PUBLIC schools should be funded with PUBLIC funds. Our public schools are the backbone of our republic & should be funded. Giving taxpayer money to private schools without the same accountability required for public schools should be a crime. It seems our legislature has been bought by donations from oligarchs. If you insist on giving taxpayer money to private schools, you should require them to test students yearly using the same measures required by public schools. These private schools should be required to accept ALL students not matter their ability or disability. Private schools should be required to hire certified teachers and meet the same safety regulations as public schools. The FIRST thing that needs to be done is increasing the per-student allotment to at least cover inflation & restore the \$4.6 billion that was withheld in 2023 because Governor Abbott's feelings were hurt that a voucher scam wasn't passed then. FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION! It's required in the state constitution! Thank you for doing the right thing.

tad miller
Self
Dallas, TX

As a public school teacher of 20 years experience I strongly oppose the establishment of an education savings account program.

Eli Nissel
DATA of Plano
Plano, TX

Our community's private Jewish school is suffering due to lack of funding, and the education it provides is top notch! Please help us religious folk keep our private schools vibrant with this funding opportunity!

Eryn Couzens
Self - Transaction Manager
Sugar Land, TX

Texans DO NOT WANT vouchers. As parents, we already have the choice to send our kids to public or private school. This will stress an already stretched thin public school system. I cannot comprehend why our leaders not been paying attention to the very public comments their constituents are leaving for them. We do not want vouchers in Texas.

Lisa Funari
Self - mother of 2
EULESS, TX

School vouchers are not a program that will benefit the majority of Texans. In fact, they will only benefit the rich who are currently sending their children to a private school. Not only do many counties in Texas not even have private schools available for parents to choose to send their children to, but the majority of Texans could not afford an additional \$10,000 + annually to send their children to private schools. Our public schools need the funding. Stop robbing the poor to pay for the rich.

Jennifer O'Dowd
Self, RN
Houston, TX

I am a parent of a 6 year old currently enrolled in public school and I strongly oppose HB3. We need to better fund all Texas public schools, not give money to a select few for spending at private institutions that the majority of Texas school children can not attend.

Lynda Streater
Self
Canyon Lake, TX
Vote NO

Nancy Frankel
Cypress-Fairbanks ISD taxpayer
JERSEY VLG, TX

I oppose any effort to divert public funds to private schools through ESAs or vouchers. Independent studies show that vouchers do not improve student outcomes and do not lift students out of poverty.

Derek Deskins

self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and I'm against school vouchers as they take money from public education, which is already underfunded, and disproportionately hurt lower income areas.

Lauri Thomas

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Lauri Thomas, and I am a grand parent of two children currently enrolled in Austin ISD, and an involved school volunteer. I have seen firsthand how continued yearly budget reductions have impacted our students.

I invite you to come inside our schools to see what underfunding schools looks like. The middle school sports uniforms are woefully old. Our schools have ongoing maintenance needs that increase each year. Supply costs continue to increase, as due training and curriculum. Our PTAs try to bridge gaps, but that isn't sustainable.

My grandchild's math teacher left during the middle of the year to relocate and transition to a non-teaching job, as the cost of living in Austin became unaffordable on a teacher's salary. Teachers at both of the students' campuses have left for similar reasons. Underpaid and overworked in a high cost of living city. Losing teachers because they haven't been adequately financially compensated for the job they perform doesn't make sense if we are working towards a goal of having a top educational system in Texas. In corporate America, we pay people for performance and adjust for inflation.

Vouchers have proven unsuccessful financially and academically in states such as Arizona, Florida, Nebraska, and Illinois. My 8th grade public school teacher taught us that we learn history so we don't continue to make the same mistakes. So let's learn from voucher history in other states, and not repeat history. Data in other states has shown that vouchers students with great financial need aren't using vouchers, but rather students that were already enrolled in private schools. The comprehensive cost of private schools in most areas is still cost prohibitive for low income families. This voucher is not about school choice for all. It is funding for those who can already financially afford private school.

In smaller towns, private schools aren't even an option. My daughter and her family live in West Texas, where she is a proud small district middle school (and formerly high school) educator and administrator. The school is the epicenter of their small community. The school feeds the students and provides stability. There are no private school options nearby, which makes private schools infeasible as a school choice. Withholding taxpayer dollars for school vouchers in these small communities doesn't make sense. Fully funding the public schools to meet today's budgetary needs does.

I am asking for this Committee to increase the funding for our public schools by at LEAST \$1300 per student to account for inflation since 2019. In reality, Let's help Governor Abbott achieve his goals of making Texas's educational system the BEST in the country by funding the public school system we already have. Making this investment is important, not only for our students, but for future business and commerce growth. Let's focus on doing what's right for our students.

Christine Kujawa

Self/ Program Director

Tomball, TX

This Voucher Bill is detrimental to public education and I don't want my tax dollars funding private schools. I strongly oppose this bill.

Gentry McLean, Dr.

Self, patent attorney

Austin, TX

Dear Chairman Buckley and Members of the Public Education Committee,

I write in opposition to HB 3.

Proponents of this bill talk about "school choice," but the only choice exercised if this bill passes will be by private schools choosing which students they want to accept. Giving \$10,000 per student to private schools and less than \$7000 per student to public schools is a blatant attack on public schools and an abdication of Texas's constitutional obligation to provide a public education for Texas children.

Please stop this gifting of our taxpayer dollars to unaccountable private schools and home schoolers. At least 10% of the school children in the entire United States are here in Texas, and it's time we started acting like it. It's time to get serious about funding *public* schools in Texas, for the sake of our children and of our state.

Again, please vote Against HB 3.

Thank you.

Michael Hovis

self

Austin, TX

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Hovis

Melissa Halm

Self

Cypress, TX

I'm against the education savings account program. Most of not all of Abbott's propaganda events were at private schools. "Surveys" he posted did not provide source, which is unusual and can not claim to be a representative sample of all of Texas. The rich do not need additional tax breaks. This scam only benefits a very small percentage of families of school-ages kid. Why are out of state billionaires donating to Abbott to pass this scam? This is a bipartisan issue. Texans don't want this.

Sherry Oates

Self

Eustace, TX

PLEASE sign and share voting today or tomorrow!!!! We need to protect our public schools and the children!

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Dodie Powers, Ms.

self/attorney

Round Rock, TX

HB3 is bad for Texas. Public tax dollars for public schools ONLY!!!! I DO NOT SUPPORT SCHOOL VOUCHERS, PERIOD!!!!

Maira Castro

Self

Houston, TX

Please vote against vouchers. They do not support public education.

David Cruz
Self
Round Rock, TX

Public schools are a cornerstone of our community and HB 3 represents an existential threat to their survival. My neighbors who are public school teachers, students, parents, and supporters need the State to finance the schools and keep our local communities strong. We cannot survive without our schools, especially when vouchers offer no real choice for working people. I ask you please reject HB 3 and do not send it from committee.

Timothy Edwards
People of Texas
Austin, TX

We should be funding public education, not siphoning money from public sources to private institutions. This voucher system is a handout to the wealthy, and I oppose it with every fiber of my being.

Lisa Ward
self, engineer
Austin, TX

School choice is a good thing. The accounts described in this bill do not enhance school choice and are not a good thing. Accessing educational choice requires being able to get there, being able to afford it, being granted a place, and being allowed to stay. This bill addresses only the affordability aspect and does so in a way likely to reduce money for our underfunded public schools and unlikely to enable additional school access for anyone new. A bill taking school choice seriously would support transportation for students wanting to attend within district transfers, between district transfers, and charter schools. If this bill was taking school choice seriously, it would address inequities in access to within school specialized programs like IB or trade/technical as well as the increasing cost of participation in arts, sports, and other extracurriculars. If this bill was taking school choice seriously, it would provide means of creating school choice in rural low population areas. If this bill was taking school choice seriously, it would stipulate that no program accepting funding could charge students attending through the program additional costs. This bill is NOT for school choice. It is for subsidizing the private school industry. Our tax money should not support a for profit sector. Stop holding our public school funding hostage for private sector business men.

Wendy Bilich
Self
Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. Having been an educator for my adult life and having two children gone through public education, I know the value of our tax dollars for public education. I also know that any dollars withheld from our public education system will damage our schools And the opportunities for the children of Texas. If families want to spend their money to send their children to private schools that is their option however, public funds are public funds, and they should go to public institutions. The only way that you should be able to give public funds to private schools is if they agree have the same rules and guidelines as public school do. They should have to take STAAR test, they should have to take every child, they should have money taken away for student absences, teachers should have to be fully certified, and the list goes on. **FULLY FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!!!**
Governor Abbott get your donor dollars elsewhere and leave our public dollars where they belong!

Patricia Saenz
Self - retired teacher
Cypress, TX

I am against house bill 3

Savannah Hennig

Self

Salado, TX

While I understand the reasoning (and intent) behind this bill, I am concerned there are too many unknowns and unanswered questions about functionality. And if it doesn't function in reality, I struggle to see the point in passing this bill. My questions are: 1. Does anyone in the House/Senate/Legislature have data on how many private schools would be willing to accept ESA's? If private schools have the option to "opt out", how many have said they'd "opt-in" and allow for this?

a. How does this serve a student living in a rural area whose needs aren't being met by their public school, but there isn't a private school accepting ESA's in driving proximity? The 5% population this bill is trying to serve just shrunk, and this bill doesn't serve them. It really and truly will only serve those "lucky" enough to live close to a private school that 1) they want to attend and 2) accepts ESA's. Governor Abbott is metaphorically shoving the belief down our throats (via social media) that "School Choice will give educational freedom for all." It won't.

2. If all students accepting ESA's must take a STAAR exam or other nationally accredited exam (which I agree with), what will the state do with those scores? Will "ratings" for private schools be given based (in part or whole) on those scores? If public schools are rated (in part) by STAAR, in this scenario then private schools should be too. This is less incentive for a private school to "opt in", but it's important for accountability of state funds. What's been thought through on this? What's the end result of giving STAAR exams to ESA students? If there's no end result, there's no actual accountability. I implore you to seek real, factual answers to these questions and if there aren't answers, please don't pass this bill.

Alex Passanisi

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to voice my opposition for HB3. The proposed voucher system will leave many low income families behind, something we as a state cannot stand for.

Laura Morgan

Self

Georgetown, TX

I am writing to oppose HB3. As a parent of 3 children in various schools, including home school and public school I urge you to vote NO. This is the opposite of school choice, and will limit the choices available to rural and low income families.

Cassandra Sodergren

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the passage of HB3 as it would be insufficient for working poor families and therefore serve as welfare for the wealthy. Our public schools are in desperate need for funding and support. HB3 will harm students, families, and the future of Texas by eroding our public education system. Please vote no.

Mary Dennison

Self retired educator

Houston, TX

I am a retired educator strongly opposed to HB3

Daniel Dawer

Self

Austin, TX

HB 3 threatens to divert critical public school funding to private school vouchers, weakening resources for students, and destabilizing the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) by reducing the number of active educators paying into it. Public schools serve all children, and shifting taxpayer dollars to unregulated private institutions undermines their ability to provide quality education. Lawmakers must vote NO on HB 3 to protect public schools, educators, and retirees instead of gambling with Texas' education system.

Natalia Arandia

Self

San Antonio, TX

I oppose this bill.

Melissa McClain

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Paul Lansdowne, Dr.

Self - physician

Midlothian, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I am a product of Texas public school education system and I believe in it. As a music therapist, I am concerned what ramifications a voucher system would have for children currently receiving special education services in public schools. Please vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please support and fund public education for our children and our future.

Annette Patterson

Self

Austin, TX

Against school vouchers. I oppose this bill.

Lauren Hazard

self

Houston, TX

I am a mother of two children in HISD public schools. School vouchers will divert tax dollars from our already underfunded public schools to private institutions. This system creates inequalities as the only families who will be able to take advantage of the "school choice" are those that can already afford private school education. Instead of funding private schools, we should focus on strengthening public education to ensure that every child has access to high quality learning.

Arianna Moravits

Self, educator

San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose any voucher programs or legislation that diverts funds from our already underfunded public schools. As a product of a rural public school, a current public school teacher, and a parent of two children in the public school system, I see firsthand the impact of inadequate funding. Every child deserves a rich and equitable education, but vouchers will only widen existing gaps and deepen resource shortages. I urge you to vote NO on all voucher programs and instead commit to fully funding public schools to well above the national average. Texas children deserve our investment and the future of our state depends on it.

Vote NO on HB 3

Kellie Wostal

Self

Austin, TX

I am 100% against this. This has already been proven in other states that this does not work.

KIM KRIST

SELF

HOUSTON, TX

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL OR VOUCHERS. Vouchers are just free money for the wealthy to use for their private school tuition. The amount of \$ designated will not cover the cost of private schools so only the wealthy will take advantage of this. Private schools do not have to take everyone, students with learning disabilities etc. There is already "school choice" you can go to a private school or charter school or even another public school is there is room for a transfer. This will further drain money form our public schools which Texas is already in the bottom 10 states for spending per student.

Kevin Bryant

self - Reliability Engineer

Flower Mound, TX

If the State of Texas is going to allow public tax dollars to be spent on non-public school entities, then they must have the following:

1. Total and complete transparency. Every fraction of a penny must be accounted for
2. Recipients of public monies must follow every regulation, guideline, requirement, and mandate as public schools must follow (testing, administration, admissions, accountability, etc.)
3. A fund must be created in the budget for public education monies. All monies received by the state from the school districts such as recapture; monies from the federal government for the state's public education; or any monies to be spent by the state for public education must come from this fund. Vouchers or private education accounts may not be paid/funded from monies in this fund.

I am against vouchers. They are nothing but wealth redistribution from the poor tax payers to rich private entities. Not very conservative in my book.

Ezra Horowitz, Rabbi

Tds

Houston, TX

Thanks

Delaney Herman

Self - social worker

Buda, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3. Keep our taxes in PUBLIC schools where they belong.

Mollie Huber

Self

Temple, TX

Texas public schools have been the political scapegoat for Texas politicians for far too long. Vouchers/savings accounts or whatever you want to call this scam will NOT do anything to improve education for millions of Texas school children. Fully funding our public schools will. Stop playing around with Texas education and vote NO on HB 3.

Margaret DeMarsh

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Vote against HB 3. Vouchers are a way to funnel my tax dollars into private schools. This is wrong and will only weaken our public school system. The healthy future of Texas and of the USA depends on well educated citizens. Keep public tax dollars in public schools.

Robert Hohenstein

Self

Cypress, TX

I homeschool and I oppose this bill.

Jessica Dunn

Myself

Austin, TX

The voucher system is not equitable. It allows money to be taken away from schools because families have more privilege than others. A family that has the ability to drive their student to another school might excel under this program, but what about the students who don't have that option? They deserve schools that are fully funded that are able to be staffed properly and utilize resources that everyone can benefit from. Secondly, schools that utilize vouchers often do not accept students who have accommodations, which is a direct violation of the IDEA Act and ADA. Vouchers will unnecessarily take away funds from schools that need them. Part of the reason why school districts are in a budget crisis is because the money they are budgeting to have follows students to charter and private schools that are not held to the same standard as public schools. EVERY student is due a free and public education that will not only help them academically but prepare them for life after high school. More often than not, we cannot provide students with the experiences and education they deserve because we don't have the staffing or funds. Not only that, but Governor Abbott has funds in our "Rainy Day" Fund that he is refusing to release to schools to be able to provide services. A real account of the situation needs to be made BEFORE vouchers should have even been a suggestion. Please invest our funds into our education systems NOW and let teachers do their jobs.

Jennifer Barker-Lombard, M.Ed.

Self

Taylor, TX

This bill is not designed to offer more choices to all students, only those that are within certain districts. It will do nothing to further education to our rural and underserved students. As a parent and an educator I vehemently oppose this bill, as does most educators in the state.

We are tired of this and are ready to vote out all that continue with this facade.

Jarrold Kendall

City of Austin

Kyle, TX

Do not pass this bill. This will be detrimental to the education system in our state specifically in rural areas. Vote NO.

Rachael Ervin

Self

Magnolia, TX

I am actively against this bill. Should this bill pass, it will not offer equal opportunity for all families. There are too many "if/then" statements from the start-to-end product: they have to apply, be accepted, and be able afford the cost and logistics of education outside of the allotted funds. The cost to educate a special education can cost as much as \$80,000, and they will more than likely not be given the opportunity. The fact that private schools have the ability to accept and deny students is a standalone big enough reason to say no to vouchers.

Logistically speaking, the true target audience that should receive vouchers if the bill passed will more than likely not apply, won't have the means to get their student fed and to and from school, and will not be able to afford the outside costs. The applications for the vouchers will end up coming from families that are already enrolled and have already made the financial and logistical adjustments to afford private school. The "poverty line" for the ability to qualify for a voucher is too high.

Public schools receive funding based on attendance. If attend decreases due to students leaving public education, then the school will lose funds, but their cost of maintenance and operations will not change.

It is not enough to say that private schools will be held accountable for learning unless they're taking the exact same tests as public school students. Providing all schools with the same accountability testing would cost additional taxpayer dollars.

Amy Barnes

Self

Houston, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, and a product of the public education system myself, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

sharon covey

self retired social worker serving special needs children

georgetown tx, TX

Vote No on vouchers. There are no real safeguards for children with special needs. To be born poor, in rural Texas and physically disabled will ensure a life of misery for these children.. There is no reason to sacrifice children because you are being bullied. Stand up, have a heart, vote no.

James RUSHING

Self / Technology Strategist

MCKINNEY, TX

Disgraceful, shameful, repugnant continuation of the assault on public education. KILL this bill, and STOP trying to drain the public education system of the meager funds they receive for the benefit of rich kids whose parents can already afford private schools. STOP selling children's futures. STOP spinning yarns about what this is and who actually benefits, because it isn't the working families who rely on public schools.

Donny Cornuauud

Self

Plano, TX

I am not in favor of school vouchers. They will have a negative impact on public schools and divert money away from already struggling public schools and children

Shaleah Rose
Lewisville ISD Retired Teacher
Flower Mound, TX

Public Schools in Texas are struggling due to a lack of funding from the Texas Legislature. This is unconstitutional and unacceptable. Over 90% of Texas children attend our local Public Schools. As a Christian educated, retired PubEd teacher, and now private school teacher, I encourage you to do the right thing. Provide the funds needed to care for our kids. Consider that the suggested TIA is not fairly distributed across the board. Raises are needed for all educators. \$220 is far too low to bring districts up to what is needed. It is time to do what is needed to care for Texas students. Increase the basic allotment to keep up with inflation and distribute raises equitably to all. Thank you for your time.

Rebecca Narramore, Dr.
Self, Retired
Linden, TX

This legislation will do irreparable harm to public education. I strongly oppose this legislation and urge state lawmakers to consider carefully the long-term ramifications of this legislation. My vote will reflect my position on this issue.

Dahlia Bock
Self
Austin, TX

VOTE NO ON USING TAXPAYER FUNDS FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS. THOSE FUNDS ARE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ONLY!!! Those who want to send their children to private school can do so with their own money.

Reagan Banks
Self
Mckinney, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill! Please fully fund public schooling!

Amy De Rosa, Mrs
Self—grandparent who pays for and oversees grandkids' education
Harker Heights, TX

If the public school budget isn't going to be reduced and if ESAs come from a separate budget line, then, as a taxpayer who wants school choice, I'm still paying for a bloated public education bureaucracy that controls my tax dollars. I don't support that, didn't support that. I want substantive change where the money really does follow the student and where I control how my money is spent for my kids' education. Is that ever going to happen in Texas?

Jennifer Neuse
Self
Fort Worth, TX

The children of Texas need strong public schools. For profit education is not the answer as shareholders will take precedence over the needs of children. You will be subverting their constitutional right to the pursuit of happiness by limiting their opportunities for success in a fast paced world economy.

Gerard Cavanaugh
Self, mental health professional
Burleson, TX

I am writing to ask that the school voucher program be defeated. It is just welfare for the wealthy. 85% of vouchers go to high income residents living in the states that have school vouchers.
Please use the billion dollar budget for vouchers and use it to fund public schools.

Beth Reuben
Self
Georgetown, TX

I was a dedicated public school teacher for nearly 40 years... I loved my work and felt I'd had a great impact upon the lives of my students AND their families... particularly as I chose to teach in low income areas!
It was regularly routine for my husband and I to fill our shopping carts with almost all back to school necessities such as notebooks, pencils, crayons, snack time foods, etc... then, as the year wore on, we would need to replenish those supplies and so many additional items to enrich classroom activities! I was offered a job teaching at the prestigious PINE CREST SCHOOL, in South Florida- but my heart and mission remained with those poor, sweet children who needed a teacher dedicated to their success-
DONT YOU UNDERESTIMATE the impact of good teachers upon those less fortunate!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I hope you will act with honor and integrity!!!!!!!!!!!!

Anni Killam
Self - parent
AUSTIN, TX

Vouchers for private schools are great, however we ALSO need to do something about public schools. Many of our ISDs are millions of dollars in deficits, and bond measure funds passed by large cities gets spread across the state. Supposedly there is a 31 billion dollar 'surplus' of ISD state funds - this cannot be true if the school districts are in the red. I just learned that many TEACHERS don't have enough money for food by the end of the month because of low salaries and many schools don't have enough money to retain their teachers or fill teacher vacancies. This is a crisis and we are not addressing the educational needs of ALL children and the educators who serve them.

Annie LAMM
Self
Dallas, TX

We paid a premium to move to an area with good schools. We pay more in property taxes for it. We should not then be causing these schools to have to make budget decisions because of private school choice. Also - in Dallas it's nearly impossible to get into the good private schools, so that's not us choosing, it's the schools choosing. Lastly, with the state withholding school funding this past year other schools in our district closed and now shuttle kids to the elementary school my kids will go to. It's now overcrowded and have changed the entire culture of the school. I went to college in Mississippi where they have these vouchers and their public schools are horrid. We were proud of our public school system, this will only continue to deteriorate them unless it's not passed and funding is restored.

Gayle Owens, Ms
Self - Retired
Garland, TX

School voucher programs should ensure that children receiving vouchers are held to the same rigorous academic standards as their public-school counterparts. This includes mandatory participation in standardized assessments like the STAAR test, to guarantee accountability and equitable education outcomes. Furthermore, private school teachers should meet state certification requirements, just as public-school educators do, to maintain high teaching quality across all institutions. Voucher amounts should also reflect fairness by equating to the per-student funding allocated to public schools, ensuring all students, regardless of educational setting, have access to comparable resources and opportunities. By enforcing these standards, we can uphold the integrity and quality of education for every child.
In short, the education savings account program is NOT needed in Texas - support public-schools.

Ashley Robinson
Self
Jarrell, TX

Please consider more funding for homeschoolers. Their sacrifice for their kids costs them the most because one parent must not work so they lose a whole income. In this economy it is very difficult to live without 2 incomes.

Anabel Cortes
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Can we stop doing things just for the sake of "winning"? No one is going to win if this bill is passed. This is going to create a domino effect of issues that is going to hurt ALL of us down the line. Do you want this state to only have more disorder and higher crime rates from lack of funding in public schools? That's what would happen if more schools need to close, ND they are overcrowded. Please think carefully about what you are doing. Please.

Jeanine Ratliff, Dr.
Self
Aledo, TX

I oppose this bill. It is not in the best interest of Texas children.

Luis Miramontes
Self- Project Manager O&G
Houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is [Your Name], I am a parent/community member in Spring Branch ISD in Houston and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical education programs that serve our students.

The data from SBISD's state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend -- our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

For example:

Special Education: The state allotment for special education in 2023-24 was \$31.5 million, but actual expenditures reached \$53.5 million, leaving a \$22 million shortfall. This gap is projected to be \$20.3 million in 2024-25. Without adequate funding, students with disabilities may not receive the legally mandated services they need to thrive.

Safety & Security: In 2023-24, the state provided only \$0.9 million, but the actual cost was \$8.9 million, creating an \$8 million deficit. For 2024-25, the gap is projected to grow to \$10 million, putting school safety measures at risk.

Transportation: The 2023-24 state allocation was \$1.5 million, while the cost of maintaining transportation services was \$10.4 million, leading to an \$8.9 million shortfall. In 2024-25, the gap is expected to be \$8.3 million, making it difficult to ensure students have reliable and safe transportation to and from school.

Pre-Kindergarten: This critical early childhood education program faced a \$3.7 million funding gap in 2023-24, with an estimated \$3.2 million shortfall in 2024-25. Underfunding pre-K limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities that set children up for future success.

Our educators and administrators are doing their best with limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with actual costs of running these programs. These includes:

Increasing the Basic Allotment at a minimum of \$500

Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.

Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.

Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.

Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation for academic success.

Jennifer Derington

Self

Amarillo, TX

I am a Republican who is opposed to school vouchers for several reasons. First, public funds should support the majority of the residents. HB 3 will only be used by a very small percentage. Public funds should also only go to public schools. There needs to be a separation of church and state. Also, if there is a surplus of money, it needs to go back to the taxpayers. Lastly, creating another government entity goes against the principle of small government which is what most Republicans pursue.

I am a mother of three and we have had school choice. Two of my children started at Bushland ISD and I was not happy with the gifted and talented program so we homeschooled them for a bit. One wanted to attend private school so she went to Ascension Academy for middle school. She wanted to be a member of a fantastic choir which Ascension Academy did not have so she went back to public school at Amarillo High where she graduated. She loved Amarillo High so much that my youngest, who had been homeschooled since kindergarten, wanted to go there. She graduates from Amarillo High in two years. So, school choice exists for those who live in an area that has private schools available. Unfortunately, many districts are not lucky enough to have what we have available.

Please, do not create a voucher system in Texas. It will only benefit the vendors or the donors who are pushing this on our representatives.

Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Derington

Wendi Searcy

Self

Amarillo, TX

Texans are not for this. Let's work on our public schools

Frances Ellington

self

Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts in Texas. Fund our public schools.

Gayle Symonette, Ms.

Self TDCJ Retired Correctional Officer

Tyler, TX

Public funds are for public schools not for vouchers for private schools. Vote no!

jermaine roy
Leander ISD
Leander, TX

Dear Legislator,

I live in Leander Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jermaine Roy

Kimberly Caston
Self Retired
Dallas, TX

I OPPOSE VOUCHERS and ESAs. Vouchers will NOT provide competition for public schools. Competition exists when the same rules apply to the competitors; public schools have hundreds of laws, rules and regulations that must be followed; private schools have none. Properly fund public education NOW. No more penalizing public education for special interest groups.

Crystal Richards
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.
Crystal Richards

Heidi Langan
self/retired teacher
Austin, TX

As a retired public school teacher, a mother of a current teacher and a grandmother of two Texas public school children, I oppose any voucher program, including a tuition tax credit, education savings account, or any other such program that would direct public funds to private, home, or for profit virtual schools. This bill will hurt the school children of Texas. This bill will hurt the economy of rural Texas communities.

Kelly Godfrey
Self
Comanche, TX

Public education will suffer more. Property taxes will soar. Private tuition will increase. Parents ALREADY HAVE school choice. This is a new, BIGGER government program and money laundering scheme. Homeschool families don't want government strings, loopholes, or restrictions -- it's a dangerous and slippery slope.

Erica Gremillion
Self - Project Manager
Seabrook, TX

I am a Texas citizen and parent concerned about HB 3 and the negative impact it will have on our public schools, and, thus, the future of our state as funding is lost and our kids suffer the consequences followed by our workforce. Academic excellence is in no way going to be reflected if the bill passes as it has been proven time and time again that vouchers do not equate to improved academic outcomes.

Texas families already have school choice, and this bill funds private school selectivity with public money. Public money means public accountability. Any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing, and accountability requirements as public schools. Texans should decide! Vouchers would use public dollars for private education—Texans deserve a voice in this decision. Put the measure on a statewide ballot if you are so certain this is what Texans want, and let the people vote!

Shawn Dempsey
Self, homemaker
Round Rock, TX

Texas has school of choice already. Vouchers are simply an effort to pay for personal choices. It is against conservative values for tax dollars to pay for private choices. If this nonsense passes, I'd like the state to pay for my private insurance, my private community park, my private property maintenance — I mean, it's my choice, right?! Also, I think I'll hire private security because it's my choice! It's total nonsense pushed by some big donors, and we ordinary Texans don't want this expense!

Melinda Strickland
Self--retired public school teacher; grandparent to public school students; advocate for public schools
Mineola, TX

I am and have always been a Republican as the Republican Party best represents my views on most subjects -- EXCEPT public schools. Any voucher program, including a tuition tax credit, education savings account, or any other such program that would direct public funds to private, home, or for-profit virtual schools does NOTHING to support public schools and will eventually direct public school monies away from them.

Republican representatives, you know what our arguments are and you have a response for each one that is maneuvered to serve your purpose. Can public schools improve? Of course! However, after 25+ years in the classrooms of small schools across the central part of our state, I know there is quality education going on! The areas that have these private/charter schools are primarily in the urban areas, and yes, some of those schools are struggling. HELP THEM, don't take even more funds away. I also have seen homeschool parent organizations saying they do not want these funds.

The apparent campaign contributions from those that would benefit and/or those totally in favor of this redirection of public school money makes the entire process suspect.

Get away from that perception, support PUBLIC SCHOOLS, fix the ones that are broken, and leave the others alone!

Respectfully submitted from a life-long Republican voter and constituent,
Melinda Strickland

Alice Bradley
Self - Human Resources
Fort Worth, TX

This bill will not help Texas schoolchildren or their families. We should already be ashamed of our education scores in Texas and the answer is *not* less money in the public school system; it's very clearly more. Texas spends an abysmally low amount per child compared to many other states, both red and blue, with demonstrable results. Pay our teachers more, fund these schools so all Texan children have a real chance at success and are not beholden to the lottery of birth. Please, please do not support vouchers.

Stephanie Holdren
Self
AUSTIN, TX

Please say NO to vouchers and keep public funds in public schools! Wealthy people who already send their kids to private school do not need a coupon. Public schools accept EVERY child, private schools do not. Public schools have accountability, private schools do not. Over 90% of children in TX attend public schools and we have a constitutional duty to make them the best they can be. Let's support public school teachers and public schools! Thank you!

Tammy Lee, Dr
Brentwood Elementary School
Austin, TX

No vouchers! Save public schools!!!

Daniel Walz
self / Trinity University, Emeritus Professor of Finance
San Antonio, TX

I do not support HB 3. Vote NO on school vouchers.

Suzanne Freeman
900741916
Austin, TX

Please vote AGAINST the education savings account program (vouchers). Protect our children, our democracy, and our education by throwing out the voucher bill. A free education is the foundation of democracy. Put MORE money in the public school system, not less. Thank you

Louie Blancarte
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I do not support this bill. Please vote against.

Sharon Koehl
Self/grandparent
Houston, TX

Public schools need money and good teachers. Giving public school funds for private schools where not all teachers are certified teachers. Let people who want private schools pay for them themselves. More tax payers have children in public schools.

Kelly Daley

Self

Wylie, TX

I do not want my taxes going to private schools. If parents want to send their children to private school then they can pay for it on their own. Most private schools are also religious schools and it is unconstitutional to provide tax payer money to them. Please honor the separation of church and state as our founding fathers wished. This is Christian nationalism which is unconstitutional and unacceptable.

Melissa Cortez

Self - utility coordinator

Mansfield, TX

As a Texas resident and mother I ask that the private school voucher initiative be stopped. Public schools are the root of communities in this country and should be funded. Private schools with no regulations or accountability in place. The more that money plays a role in level of education, the more lopsided our country becomes towards benefitting the most wealthy. We cannot go backwards, we must go forward and ensure that our public schools are to notch and well funded and supported.

Amy Froehlich

Self / Office Manager

Plano, TX

As a proud Texan, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. I believe private school subsidies are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair. Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Public schools in Texas are underfunded by billions of dollars every year. Vouchers force taxpayers to subsidize private schools' preferences. Without elected boards or state oversight, vouchers give away tax dollars with no financial or academic accountability. Public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students, serving all the students in their boundaries. They build the workforce that powers the Texas economy. We can't afford to underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future. We elect legislators to represent the interests of their communities. Responding to their communities, Texas legislators have rejected private school subsidies time after time. It appears there has been quite the pressure from the Governor of Texas on our legislators to pass the private school subsidies this session. I continue to pray that our legislators are listening to their constituents, and not the want of the Governor - the majority of the Texas voters, both republicans and democrats, are vehemently opposed to these subsidies.

Tracy Johnston

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts in Texas.

Tyana Brown, Mrs.

Self

Houston, TX

This bill does not benefit the average Texas child. If you believe that this is what your constituents want then you are delusional. If you really want to know what the average Texas parent thinks about this bill then put it on the ballot and allow us to vote on it. It is amazing how not in touch you are with the pyou repercent. You should be working for the best interest for the people you represent NOT yourself.

Debra Green
Myself
Granbury, TX

If we want to increase the quality of Texas education, voting for school vouchers IS NOT how it should be done. Fund the schools! Increase teachers pay! Cut the ridiculous "tests" that are not really showing how students are doing. Put the money where it will do the best. Wouldn't it be phenomenal if ALL students in Texas excel, not just a few. Please don't listen to the big money donors, listen to the people who voted you into office to support the quality of life in Texas.

German Amador
Self, retired engineer
Houston, TX

The Texas Constitution specifically prohibits using taxpayer dollars to fund sectarian organizations (see Article VII, Section 5c and Article I Section 7 of The Bill of Rights). Many private schools and home schools are religious based. I believe that providing public funds for private schools is thus unconstitutional. Public money should only be for public schools, so I am against any sort of voucher bill passing.

But if taxpayer money is directed to private or religious schools these schools must accept all students, just like public schools do, regardless of a child's special needs, aptitude or behavior issues. Otherwise, the remaining students in public schools will be the most difficult and thus the most expensive to educate. If vouchers pass, public school funding needs to be increased accordingly (after increasing funding to account for inflation since 2019).

I also believe that if taxpayer money is directed to private or religious schools these schools must administer the exact same assessment tests that Texas public schools are required to administer, in other words, the STAAR tests. The STAAR test is not a nationally normed test. The results cannot be used to compare academic success with students nationally who have taken other tests. Private schools receiving public money must be held to the same academic standards as public schools including testing and public reporting of results on a system-wide basis.

I am very concerned that monies directed to private and religious institutions will spiral out of control as they have in other states like Arizona, which now spends half of all new education funds on vouchers. I believe there needs to be an income cap on who can receive taxpayer voucher funds to ensure that money goes to the people who need it most. As the bill is written, the money will, by default, go to the wealthy because even with a \$10,000 state supplement, private and religious school tuition in Texas (which averages \$20,000) is not in reach for most middle- and lower-class families particularly if they have more than one child. The current bill has a prioritization of who is eligible for voucher funds, which is good, but then doesn't have an income cap if there are monies remaining. I suggest the current 500% of the poverty level should be the cap.

Lastly, vouchers / ESAs will introduce additional administrative costs through the use of the five "Certified Educational Assistance Organizations". These additional expenses decrease the effectiveness on funds used for educating the children of Texas.

Thank You.

Karina Silva
Self
Humble, TX

The school voucher program is a scam that targets low income communities. How is the US supposed to compete with international powers when we leave our population uneducated!!

Susan Muzny
Texas Impact
Livingston, TX, TX

Vouchers are wrong for Texas
Vouchers undermine the public school finance system
Vouchers rob taxpayers of oversight and accountability
Vouchers disadvantage rural and marginalized students
Vouchers impose religious favoritism.
Vouchers go against the spirit of the constitution by indirectly giving money to religious schools.
Vouchers will resegregate public schools by making it cost prohibitive for many students to access private schools.
Vouchers are a vendor bill that just give money to unaccountable private companies.
This will defund public schools because the public schools will not get the attendance money for the students that leave public schools.
This will eventually raise property taxes.
Half of rural areas do not have private school options so this is just taking away the money from these schools.
Prioritizing public schools will help businesses in Texas and our democracy since EVERYONE needs to be educated.
PLEASE HELP SAVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Misty Quigley
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools

Jayne Cornell
Self
Sachse, TX

I opposed HB3. This program would severely restrict the public school system that the majority of students attend and truly hurt the education of the majority of students in Texas.

Denise Storm
Children of Texas
Waxahachie, TX

OPPOSE HB 3!!!!!! EVERY child deserves a good education!!!!!!

Bahareh Tabaie
Self
Allen, TX

Absolutely destroying our public schools and quality of education in our state. Look at Arizona and learn what it did to their public schools. Destroying education quality.

Christy James
Self
Mckinney, TX

As a Texas teacher...NO to school vouchers!

Jacob Price

Self/Agricultural Science Teacher

Katy, TX

As a republican, conservative and most importantly a public school teacher I urge you to vote no on HB3. This bill goes against republican and conservative values. Career and technology education plays a pivotal role in preparing students for post high school, whether that be a job, trade school, or a college degree in a STEM field. When you look at CTE education in private schools it is virtually non existent. In fact, in the subject I teach agriculture science, there are only 10 private schools that offer these courses. With the valid role that CTE plays in the Texas economy, we cannot afford this bill. Additionally as a product of a rural Texas public school, this bill stands to irreparably damage schools just like mine I grew up in. Please know that there are republicans like me all across Texas who are watching the corruption, money from billionaires and private entities who stand to profit from HB3. We are watching your vote and hope that you will support us. If not, we look forward to when your name comes back on the ballot so we can select someone who truly represents their constituents.

Carol Bernhard, Ms.

Self- hr professional

Austin, TX

The United States cannot survive unless government schools improve. Too many families are being failed by them. Competition is the only thing that will improve them. It's morally wrong to oppressively tax families for ISD's that not only may fail students, but may spend their tax dollars indoctrinating Texas children. Please increase the # of children who can participate in The ESA program to at least 20% the first year. With more widespread competition, Texas will lead, children will learn, families will thrive and teachers will be happier. The Texas house republicans will lose their majority if school choice doesn't pass or if a watered down, monopoly empowering bill passes. Put parents in the driver's seat with the right to educate their children in the manner they want, pursuing the values they cherish. It's the right thing to do and it's past time to do it.

Also, protect our girls from boys in public school restrooms and protect women from men in the restrooms of the building you are in now. Women and girls should have safe restrooms. This shouldn't be controversial.

Charles Roeckle, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

I write in adamant opposition to House Bill 3. For elementary and secondary school, I was educated in parochial schools. But in my 44 years in higher education, as a teacher and administrator, I came to realize the importance of public school education to our state and nation. Free, widely accessible, and HIGH QUALITY public school education is fundamental to the success, growth, and well-being of our state and nation. At present, Texas public school education consistently ranks in the lower half of the states in quality assessments. The reason is simple to grasp. Texas has failed to provide adequate funding for public elementary and secondary education. That is especially true of teachers' salaries, for which our state has for years failed to offer competitive salaries sufficient to attract the best qualified people to teach in our schools. House Bill 3 proposes to syphon still more money from public school support. The argument that diverting funds public to private schools will improve the quality of education in our state is preposterous. The time has come for the Texas House of Representatives to stand up for the children and public schools of our state, defeat damaging House Bill 3, and give the people of Texas the high quality public school education they need and deserve. Thank you for your service.

Helen Howell

Self, APH

Austin, TX

program diverts public funds to private schools with minimal oversight, draining resources from already underfunded public schools. HB 3 weakens Texas schools by prioritizing taxpayer-funded privatization over real investment in public education.

Amanda Nichols

Self, Consultant

Austin, TX

The way we chronically underfund our public schools, while asking more and more of our teachers and administrators every single year, is one of our country's most shameful AND fixable problems. Do NOT pass this bill. We already have school choice in Texas. In my neighborhood alone, families send their kids to our neighborhood AISD school, a magnet school outside our zone with bilingual education, private schools, and the charter school up the street. We should aspire to be a model for the rest of the country. Fully funded public education with hefty teacher salaries that attract and retain the best, most committed educators. This bill is not it. Vote NO on HB 3.

Natasha Willet

LISD/PTA

CEDAR PARK, TX

Hello,

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools.

ESAs (vouchers) directly hurt students with disabilities who receive Special Education services in Public Schools in the State of Texas. Diverting \$1 Billion of my PUBLIC taxpayer money to private schools who do not even acknowledge IDEA, do not follow IEPs and only provide services when they are negotiated, compromised and then charged back to parents at exorbitant rates well above typical tuition rates it is theft of services and money to the most vulnerable population in Texas.

14% of the 5.4 million public school students in Texas receive special education services. That's 760,000 students at a minimum. These ESAs are completely inaccessible to at least 90% of our disabled students, and that is before they have a chance at any lottery or know if a private school will accept, serve, or retain them. There's no accountability. Not of services, not of the \$1 Billion of public taxpayer money this legislature wants to pour into private schools and not of impact or outcomes of our disabled students.

Even if we say ALL of the ESAs go to disabled kids receiving special education services, that still leaves a minimum of 700,000 students receiving special education services in underfunded understaffed Public Schools that this state put in this situation. This causes direct harm to these students with disabilities, the most vulnerable individuals in society, and it's at the hands of those who are supposed to represent us.

This is unacceptable. I want this legislature to take accountability, listen to the parent voice (and students), and have the courage to do the right thing: say No to ESA/Vouchers and Fund our Public Schools properly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Natasha Millar-Willet

Danvis Napier, Mrs.

Self

The Woodlands, TX

The Texas constitution ARTICLE 7 specifies taxes are for the support and maintenance of public education. Private schools should be paid for PRIVATELY. We need to make public better for all children. NO VOUCHERS! This should be on a statewide ballot.

Amanda Kight Gentry

Self/teacher

Houston, TX

Texas needs to focus on improving our public school system. The state has no business funding private schools. We need to follow through on our promise of providing the best quality education for ALL Texans, not just our students whose parents place them in private schools. Let's be true to the American and Texan ideal that ANYONE can succeed, and provide equal opportunities for all of us.

Kathleen Fowler

Self

Lubbock, TX

HB3 is offensive. Texas Public Schools have not been fully funded for many years. Funding private schools, AKA school choice, is an affront to public school students, parents and teachers. Your decisions should be based on your constituents opinions yet you and the majority of Republican Representatives have not listened repeatedly. You've decided what to vote for and continue charging toward that end without visiting public schools, allowing for questions at your Town Hall Meeting, or listening to constituents. I have voted Republican my whole life, but I assure you with the dishonesty and continued lack of funding for public schools, that won't be in my future. Disappointment, or maybe disgust is how I view this bill and all of your lack of knowledge about public schools.

Cynthia Edmondson

self, retired

Houston, TX

I do not believe that money should be taken away from public education. Texas already has some of the lowest funding for public schools. I feel that funding needs to be increased. I believe that Texas is one of the richest states and I do not understand why funding public schools is held in such low regard.

Holly Bass

Self/public school teacher

Plano, TX

I oppose the establishment of an education savings account program. As a special education teacher, I want my students to be fully funded through IDEA. Which I have yet to see. I speak for multiple sped teachers who whole heartedly oppose this bill.

Jan Casner

Self - retired educator

Dallas, TX

I oppose vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Lori Perry

Self

Austin, TX

This bill will hurt public schools!

I do not want my school taxes to go to a voucher system that will not benefit students.

Rural areas of this large state will not have adequate education opportunities for their families.

This has been attempted in other states and has not been successful.

Please listen to the majority of Texans, support public education and do not pass HB 3.

Put your support into public education, this is the future!

Lalania Richard, RN

Self nurse

McKinney, TX

While the goal of providing families with more educational choices is commendable, HB 3, in its current form, poses substantial risks to the integrity and effectiveness of Texas's public education system. It threatens to divert necessary funds from public schools, lacks sufficient support for low-income families, operates without adequate accountability, and faces considerable public opposition. I urge you to consider these factors carefully and oppose HB 3 to ensure that we continue to strengthen and support our public schools for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you

Lalania Richard

Danielle Vice

Self

League City, TX

I am against the voucher program and in favor of fully funded public education. Having spent equal time in both public and private education as a child (at different public and private schools) the quality of education from public schools is superior. It is a foundation of America. Efforts should be spent furthering public education, not undermining it.

Fred Castillo

Self retired

Nixon, TX

I'm in a rural town that is nowhere near any private school. Most of Texas is this way and our public schools rely on govt funding. This bill will use tax dollars to help people who already send their kids to private school. It will not help the thousands of kids who will never be able to go to private school because it is simply not available to us due to location. Our schools and teachers need these funds to keep our kids fed, educated and able to give their best. The special programs needed to help them through all the difficulties should not be cut or demolished. Our taxes are also needed to keep our teachers paid with a living wage.

Elizabeth Janning

self

Southlake, TX

Public dollars raised by our taxes should be kept in public. In this case, in public schools. Parents already have school choice! Moving money from the public schools and giving it to private enterprises will have long term consequences on public schools. And because of that on our society as a whole. If we can agree that our public school system in Texas is broken, let's fix it. Throwing public money into the private sector will only continue to hurt and handicap public schools. Vote NO to school choice ie. vouchers.

Sue Overton

self

Palo Pinto, TX 76484, TX

The voucher bill will be the worst thing for Texas education. I am a taxpayer and do not want my tax dollars spent on vouchers. Please vote AGAINST SCHOOL VOUCHERS.

Charlotte Hull

Self, Financial Analyst

San Antonio, TX

Vote against the school vouchers and vote FOR fully funded public education.

Education is a right EVERY person deserves no matter their background, history, or financial wealth/status. The school vouchers harm the vast majority of Texans and future generations. My taxes are to help the public, not to fund the agenda of the wealthy elite.

Do the right thing and vote AGAINST HB3, protect the future of your fellow Texans with access to education for everyone.

Dadrian Pittman, Student

Self Student

Temple, TX

I am in support for this bill to be signed and approved and submitted and put in law.

Jennifer Freiermuth

Self

McKinney, TX

Dear Members of the Texas Legislature,

I write to you today to express my profound opposition to House Bill 3 (HB 3), introduced by Representative Brad Buckley, which proposes the establishment of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program in Texas. While the intent behind this bill may be to provide families with greater educational choices, I firmly believe that its implementation would have detrimental effects on our public education system, exacerbate existing inequalities, and fail to deliver on its promises to Texas families.

Impact on Public School Funding

One of the most pressing concerns regarding HB 3 is its potential to divert essential funds away from public schools. Public education in Texas is already underfunded, and reallocating resources to support private schooling through ESAs would further strain the system. A recent poll indicates that 78% of voters believe Texas public schools are underfunded and support increased funding for reducing class sizes and boosting teacher pay. ?

The proposed ESA program would allocate approximately \$10,000 per child, with an initial budget of \$1 billion, enabling roughly 100,000 students to participate in its first year. ? This substantial allocation raises concerns about the sustainability of funding for public schools, which serve the majority of Texas students.

Insufficient Support for Low-Income Families

Proponents of HB 3 argue that ESAs would empower low-income families to choose better educational options for their children. However, the reality is that the proposed \$10,000 voucher would be insufficient to cover the full cost of private school tuition, which often exceeds this amount. Consequently, low-income families may still find private schooling financially inaccessible, rendering the ESA program ineffective in achieving its intended goal of equitable educational opportunities. ?

Lack of Accountability and Oversight

Private schools receiving funds through ESAs are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. They are not required to administer state assessments, adhere to state curriculum standards, or publicly report student performance data. This lack of oversight raises concerns about the quality of education that students might receive under the ESA program and diminishes transparency for taxpayers.

Potential for Increased Segregation

Without requirements for private schools to accept all students, there is a risk that ESAs could lead to increased segregation within the education system. Private institutions may choose to admit only certain students, potentially excluding those with disabilities, behavioral challenges, or lower academic performance. This selective admission process could result in a more divided educational landscape, undermining the principles of inclusivity and equal opportunity. ?

Public Opposition

It is important to note that a significant majority of Texas voters oppose the implementation of a private school voucher program

Melanie Gehman

Public Schools

Houston, TX

Please vote NO on HB 3. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy. I pay a fortune in property taxes in Texas, and I want my tax dollars to support public education for ALL, not white, wealthy private school children. The bill does not provide equitable support for the thousands of Texas students who don't have access to private schools. If you are being forced to pass this bill by our billionaire backed governor at least make the voucher scheme support public education fully with an equitable allotment of funds. PLEASE do your job and do what is BEST for the majority of your constituents and the future of Texas. Our state will not thrive without the bedrock of strong and fully funded public schools. Thank you.

Sydonia McDaniel

Self

Lubbock, TX

Creating a voucher system for the rich to receive a discount on tuition to private schools will not help students with limited income. The cost of private schools will still be out of reach for most students and their families.

My children attended both private schools and public schools. Their time in the public schools was much more effective than the private schools. My children were able to receive both remediation and acceleration when they needed it. Which is something they did not receive in the private schools they attended.

Funding vouchers for private schools over funding public schools tells the majority of Texas families that you do not care about their education. If you want the children of the Great State of Texas to compete with students from other states and the world, you will vote no on this bill and begin funding our schools at a rate that will ensure our children receive the best education the State of Texas can give them.

Marie Pousson, Mrs.

self, retired public school educator, taxpayer

Houston, TX

Dear Committee Members,

As a retired public school educator, and parent of three who graduated public schools here in Houston, I urge you to oppose HB3, don't let this voucher bill come to the house floor, especially without any amendments. It is said by many that it is already a done deal, but this is stealing of tax dollars from the public schools, to be handed over to parents whose children already attend private schools, in effect a subsidy to the parents who can afford private school already at the expense of all the rest of the taxpayers, especially those whose children will not be anywhere close to a private school in rural communities. This is false to call it "choice". It is really a massive transfer from the poor and middle class taxpayers to those who are already rich.

If vouchers are offered to families at \$10,000.00 to take to a private school, then the basic allotment for public school students must be increased to \$10K as well. Here in HISD the amount per pupil is much less than \$10K. Public schools are the backbone of communities all over this state. Taking public funds, my tax dollars, and allowing that money to fund a school that won't accept all students, won't provide all services, and won't be accountable to the same standards as public schools, where there is no accountability of how taxpayer dollars will be spent by that private school, is just wrong. Public means public. Nationwide, vouchers have lost millions to waste, fraud and abuse at private schools. Besides the vouchers primarily benefitting those parents whose students are enrolled in private schools already, there is no reliable evidence that vouchers improve the educational outcomes of those who obtain them, in fact there are recent studies that show vouchers lead to drops in student achievement. And there is no guarantee that students who aren't wealthy will even be accepted into the private schools, especially since vouchers were originally created to keep schools segregated after Brown v. Board of Ed. Private schools will continue to discriminate in acceptance. In addition to discriminating against those who might apply to a private school with a voucher for a child with low income or special needs, even if they were accepted, there is no auditing of where the funds go, no transparency of teacher salaries, administrative costs, or services provided to students, nor even a guarantee that the money would be spent in the classroom. Private schools are not bound to audits to the public taxpayer. Public school boards are transparent with budgets (even this unelected mess in HISD). Oppose HB3!

The only thing that has been shown to improve public school outcomes is to better fund the public schools with what they need. What needs to happen is that the basic allotment needs to be increased so that public school districts can hire and keep the very best faculty, and provide the specialists and services that Texas students deserve. NO HB 3!

Shannon Smoot Wheeler, Mom, Parent, Grandparent

Self, and daughter which is a teacher in Birdville ISD

Fort Worth, TX

Please do not pass this bill routing money from public schools to private schools. Many public schools in Texas are already struggling l ing with fewer students attending and money not allocated due to reduced number of students. Schools will close if the voucher bill is passed. Please consider those children in rural areas with limited access to school if budgets are cut and transportation becomes limited. Thank you for any considerations.

Maria Dracoulis

Self

Humble, TX

School vouchers should not be allowed. They take money away from public schools l, which are already underfunded to begin with.

Private schools are not required to accept poor or disabled students. Private, religious, and home schools are not accountable to the state. Studies of similar programs found that voucher money largely goes to students ALREADY in private schools.

Morgan Boeker
Self
San Angelo, TX

This bill would upend the already faltering public education system. As a product of the public school system it is abhorrent what this bill is trying to accomplish. Instead of passing this bill actually work with the TEA to improve classroom curriculum, abolish standardized testing, and asses teachers wages/retirement to have it as a livable income level. This bill will NOT improve my child's education, it will hinder it. It is my CHOICE as a parent that I want to send my child to public school and not private school. I do not want my child having their education intertwined with religion as private schools in Texas are predominantly religious based. This bill will end the right to choose by only leaving 1 choice. This is highly unfair and clearly are falling on deaf ears when it comes to Texans being able to openly vote for this bill.

Do NOT pass this bill.

Linda Holter
Self/Retired
Magnolia, TX

I oppose "vouchers" for a number of reasons. In many counties public schools are excellent, hire a lot of locals and there are no private schools available. That will change. It will be like the "for profit" colleges who take government money and provide no education.

Deborah Richard, MA
Self
Houston, TX

No for school vouchers

Cynthia Wise
self / parents
Austin, TX

We are for fully funded public schools.
We are against school voucher system, which will prioritize profit over quality education and not be available in rural areas.

Jennifer Worrel, Mrs.
Self
Southlake, TX

I am a homeowner, a business owner, and parent of two children attending Carroll ISD in Southlake. Carroll has already been impacted negatively by recapture, and will be further impacted by the private school voucher initiative.

I want strong communities and strong public schools in Texas. We already have school choice, and many in my community already opt for homeschooling or private school.

Being conservative means limiting government expansion. Private means private.

Elected officials should fix recapture—which is a DEI program that hurts good public schools—and let private entities endeavor without the intrusion of government.

If this voucher program is bad for Carroll ISD, it's bad for every public school in Texas.

Maria De La Fuente

Self

San Antonio, TX

Our students of Texas deserve an equal opportunity to a free education with designated supports for their success. This includes supports of Academic interventions, accommodations, individual educational plans, and other therapies aligned to their individual education plans. HB 3 would transfer funds for the voucher system for private schools, where only the few students would be accepted and neglect the majority of students, especially those who cannot pay the off set private school tuition amounts and deny those with disabilities access to an education, with less support and bigger class sizes. These tax payer funds being transferred to private school would take away from funding needed for school personnel who specialize in student service supports, teachers, and closing of more public schools.

The retirement system TRS would also loose funding due to less students in public schools.

If we want to improve the quality of our students' education, we need to invest in more academic support, social emotional supports, training and review the costs of state standardized testing.

Patricia Sumrow

Self

Frisco, TX

As a taxpaying citizen in Texas, I adamantly oppose my tax dollars being used for a school voucher program. I do not support this or any school voucher bill. Public dollars belong in public schools.

Holly Rice

Educator

New Braunfels, TX

As a retired educator, I am strongly opposed to Vouchers. The state of Texas ranks 41st in education. This is embarrassing because the Legislature has not funded education to an acceptable level. Private schools have no oversight and don't have to provide services to Special Needs students. Please do not send this bill forward.

Barbara Chiarello, Dr.

Self; English professor

Austin, TX

I am the product of an excellent New York City public education. I grew up in a lower class family. I am now an English professor. All my children have advanced degrees. The children with whom I grew up became doctors, lawyers, accountants, Elementary school, teachers, junior high and high school teachers. A few went into politics. My first point is that public education is a worthwhile investment which pays for itself over and over and over for the good of all.

My second point concerns the separation of church and state. My neighborhood was half Jewish and half Italian Catholic. School was a public space where we all felt welcome. There was never a Hanukkah menorah or a Christmas tree in our school. We knew about each other's religious traditions and respected them, but at our public school, we were all there to learn, as much as we could about things that had nothing to do with our religions.

I urge you two put our state's money, and good policy decisions into making our public schools strong.

Parents who want to send their children to private school, certainly have a right to do so, but I do not want my tax dollars to do anything else then support good public education.

Suzanne Danhof

Self

Denton, TX

I strongly oppose private school vouchers because they take critical resources away from public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students. Every child deserves access to a high-quality education, and diverting taxpayer dollars to private institutions—many of which lack accountability and exclude students—only widens inequities. Public funds should remain in public schools, where they support teachers, students, and communities. Instead of undermining public education, we should focus on strengthening our schools by increasing funding, reducing class sizes, and supporting educators. Texas students deserve better. Please oppose any efforts to implement private school voucher programs.

Susan Agiewich

Self retired

Georgetown, TX

TEXAS has some of the lowest rankings in Public Education in the nation and this bill will make it even lower. This helps rich families, not the poorest. It especially will hurt rural communities that do not even have Private Schools as an option. Plus there will be no oversight on these Private Schools. For once consider the future of Texas and how you are hurting it with this bill to take money from Public Schools for everyone

Todd Lorberbaum

Self

HOUSTON, TX

Please fund public schools and stop with the vouchers!

Mark Tucker

Students of Texas

Knox City, TX

Please just say NO to HB 3! The students of Texas needs YOU to vote NO! This bill will drastically affect Texas public schools by redirecting funds that should be and were collected for PUBLIC schools. If you vote for HB3 then you are committing a crime and should be held accountable for such crime. Put this to a vote of the tax payers! You and the others that represent the tax payers are NOT listening. James Franks does not represent me and does not listen to most of those that represent his district. We already have school choice! Your wealthy friends/donors can pay for their child's education if PUBLIC schools are not good enough for them. Public school do have many problems and throwing money at it is not going to fix everything but it will help those school administrators that are really trying to the right things for their deserving students that will not be allowed admission into private schools. Step up and do what is right for ALL students of Texas and vote NO! Have the balls enough to vote NO!

Graciela Rubio

Self

San Benito, TX

School vouchers should not pass because they drain critical funding from public schools, widening the gap between privileged and underprivileged students. As a dedicated public school teacher, I see firsthand how every dollar counts in providing quality education, resources, and support for all students, regardless of their socioeconomic background. Vouchers divert taxpayer money to private institutions that are not held to the same standards of accountability, equity, and inclusivity as public schools. Instead of funneling funds away, we should be investing in strengthening public education—ensuring smaller class sizes, better teacher salaries, updated materials, and enhanced support services. Public schools serve all students, not just a select few, and they deserve full funding, not financial sabotage.

Paul Campbell

self

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose a voucher system as it will take away funds from our public schools and divert it to private schools. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund our public schools that educate the vast majority of our children. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Amy Ninetto

Self, editor

Houston, TX

I urge the Legislature to reject this bill because it is unjust. It will harm many of our most vulnerable students by diverting state funds to private schools that do not have to accept students with disabilities or provide the accommodations and support they need. It will starve rural schools of needed funds; many rural families can't choose private education because there are no private schools in their areas. It's also a huge giveaway of tax money to families who can already afford private school. I want my tax dollars to fund a quality public school education for every child in Texas, regardless of their race, gender, economic resources, disability, geography, or religion. Having a well-educated population is the only way Texas will move into the future. This bill will hold us back.

Caroline Miller

Self

San Antonio, TX

This bill diverts public funds away from public schools, potentially weakening the overall quality of education for the majority of Texas students. ESAs allow state funds to be used for private school tuition, homeschooling, and other educational expenses, which benefits wealthier families who can already afford private education while failing to support lower-income and rural students.

Public schools, especially those in rural and underfunded areas, rely on state funding based on student enrollment. When students leave for private or alternative education through ESAs, public schools receive less funding, making it harder to pay teachers, maintain facilities, and provide quality education. This can lead to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and ultimately a decline in educational outcomes for students who remain in public schools.

Additionally, private schools and homeschooling programs receiving ESA funds are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. They are not required to follow the same curriculum, accept all students, or administer state assessments. This raises concerns about the use of taxpayer dollars with limited oversight and no guarantee of better educational outcomes.

Ultimately, instead of redirecting funds to private options, Texas should focus on increasing public school funding, teacher pay, and classroom resources to improve education for all students, not just those who can access ESAs.

Emily Harms
self- Event Planner
Richardson, TX

I DO NOT support this bill. Our public education school system needs more money, not less. We love our neighborhood school, Mark Twain Elementary, where my son is in 2nd grade. And yet, I see all the time that our school does not have the resources it needs. My son is in Gifted and Talented, and yet he only sees the teacher once a week for an hour. Friends in other states meet 2-3 times a week, and have so many great projects that they are working on. The program needs additional resources to help the kids reach their full potential. The teachers at MTE care so much, and yet they don't have enough supplies for their classrooms. DO NOT take money away from them to give to private schools. I do not want to send my children to a private school. I grew up attending a Catholic school and experienced first hand the racist superiority complexes that everyone had, and I do not want my children to experience that. Our world is not made up of one type of human, and being exposed to different cultures and viewpoints is a good thing. Public schools offer that opportunity, and it is important that every child get an equal opportunity for an amazing education. I believe in public education. Our schools need more funding. Richardson ISD had to close 5 elementary schools this year because of low funding. All those kids got uprooted and sent to other schools, which created additional hardships on their parents to get them to a new school. Vouchers do not work. Private Schools cost \$30,000 a year, and this voucher only provides \$10,000. I cannot afford another \$20,000 a year to send my kid to a school that is farther away, and does not align with the ideals I want to raise my children in. I am lucky that i live in the city where there are other options. Rural communities cannot send their kids to a private school, and they depend on the public schools. Please prioritize all the kids and teachers, and not the billionaires who want to make more money. You need to pay teachers more! This bill does not address any of my concerns and makes it so much worse.NO VOUCHERS!!

Debbie Olschwanger
Self
Dallas, TX

I oppose vouchers and ESA's!!

Rebecca Hirsch
Self, Insurance Executive
San Antonio, TX

My daughter has attended NISD schools in San Antonio since kindergarten and we've seen the value of a good public education. However, since 2019, funding has diminished and financial cuts have affected our public schools. I have seen this first hand as a regional advisory board member for Teach for America. I support fully funding public education and do not want private school vouchers. I attended private schools myself and that was a financial choice my parents made. That's the real school choice right there. I do not want my tax money going to subsidize private school tuition. I also believe rural towns make Texas great and they will not benefit from vouchers. It's unTexan to leave our rural Friday Night Lights Texas towns in the dust.

Teresa Wolke

Self and my 2 children

Plano, TX

Every Texas child has the right to a world-class public education. It is the responsibility of the Texas legislature to provide funds for that public education. At the same time, every parent has the choice of how to educate their children. Those who choose private schools, homeschooling or other means of educating their children take on the responsibility for the cost of declining the free option.

By giving money to parents who decline public education, Texas legislators will take quality education away from children whose parents cannot afford or choose not to pay for private options. This is discriminatory and against the rights of children to receive a quality education.

As a child of the severely defunded Los Angeles Unified School District, I grew up without access to quality in-school music, arts, theater and other valuable programs. Today, my children are thriving in the very different Plano Independent School District, with access to choir, theater, coding and other enrichment programs.

I ask you to commit to the success and growth of our public schools by rejecting the establishment of an education savings account for parents who decline public schools. Instead, secure additional funds so that all Texas children can have the same, if not more access, to the types of educational programs that will set them up for future success.

Sue Anne Rische

Self

Princeton, TX

Wondering why this money doesn't just go towards making public education better. Instead this will drain the funding from public schools, teachers will lose their jobs as students go elsewhere, and will drain 1.9 million peoples trs, including my own. We don't get social security either. Could the funders and supporters of this bill have ulterior motives? Do not pass this bill.

Kera Espinoza

Self

Austin, TX

The voucher program proposed in HB2 has been rejected over and over by the Texas legislature for good reason. The overwhelming majority of Texans, both Republicans and Democrats, do not want taxpayer dollars meant for public schools going to private education, including religious schools.

- Vouchers have been tried for decades in other states and, without exception, do not promote improved academic outcomes. Numerous studies have proven this point.
- States who have tried vouchers are ending their programs. Voters in Nebraska repealed their program, and the legislature in Illinois cancelled their voucher program. There's no need to jump on a bandwagon that is already in the ditch!
- The two largest existing voucher programs (Florida and Arizona) have been disasters both academically and financially.
- The major beneficiary of vouchers will already be able to afford to have their students in private schools. This has been the experience in Florida and Arizona.
- The majority of counties in Texas do not have any private schools. Even where there are private schools, most do not offer transportation and are located in areas inaccessible to low-income families.
- The amount offered does not begin to cover tuition at most private schools. Families would also need to cover other expenses, including uniforms, books, field trips, sports, enrichment and lunch. It just does not make any sense, except as a subsidy for wealthier families.

The Texas legislature should be focusing on its main job, which is supporting great public school education! Schools are grossly underfunded, with a \$10 billion cut in real dollars since 2019 due to inflation. Put \$1,300 dollars per student into the basic allotment first, before you consider giving the public's money away to vouchers.

Michelle Hungerford, Voter

Self

San Marcos, TX

Please do not pass house Bill 3 . Please make the right choice to keep Texas Public Schools strong . Neighborhood schools are the backbone of the USA!

Richard Branch, Mr.

Self

McKinney, TX

I strongly oppose the private school voucher bill and urge lawmakers to reject it. Vouchers do not save taxpayers money, improve student outcomes, or expand real choice—they weaken public schools, increase costs, and undermine conservative values of fiscal responsibility and local control. Texas already ranks 41st in per-pupil funding (Texas AFT, 2023), and diverting more money away from our public schools will only make the problem worse.

Vouchers are not fiscally conservative. They lead to runaway government spending with little oversight or accountability. In Wisconsin, voucher costs increased 119%, and in Georgia, they skyrocketed 883% (NCPE, 2023). Instead of saving taxpayers money, vouchers create multi-million dollar deficits, increase property taxes, and drive up education costs (Texas AFT, 2023). Texas already struggles to fund its public schools, and funneling tax dollars to private institutions will only worsen this crisis.

Vouchers take decision-making power away from local communities and hand it to private institutions that do not answer to taxpayers. Public schools are required to serve all students, while private schools accepting vouchers can reject students based on income, academic ability, or disabilities (Public Funds Public Schools, 2023). That means tax dollars would fund schools that do not follow IDEA, Title IX, or other federal protections, leaving parents without the same rights they have in public schools.

This program also fails rural Texans. 25% of Texas public schools are in rural areas, and 165 counties lack private schools (Texas AFT, 2023). Rural Texans would see their schools defunded without any real alternative, further straining communities where public schools are often the largest employer and central to the local economy.

Vouchers are not a free-market solution. Private schools that accept vouchers become dependent on government funding, increasing regulation and oversight in schools that previously operated independently. This threatens the autonomy of religious and private institutions by tying them to government dollars. In states with voucher programs, student achievement declined significantly, with voucher students performing 24 percentile points below their public school peers in math (Brookings Institution, 2023).

The conservative approach is to invest in public schools, cut government waste, and ensure tax dollars are used efficiently. Vouchers do the opposite. They grow government spending, benefit unaccountable private institutions, and take funding away from the vast majority of students. Texas should focus on strengthening its public education system rather than experimenting with costly, ineffective voucher programs that do more harm than good.

Kara Thompson

Self

Garland, TX

I live in district 5, and I oppose HB 3. Please do not pass this bill as it is detrimental to the public schools of Texas.

Tasnim Lat

Self - physician

Temple, TX

I have served my rural community for 10 years and my children will attend schools here. I oppose the school voucher program due to the adverse effects it will have on public school funding.

Santos Casillas

Self

Fort Worth, TX

SB2/HB3 grows government, weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money with zero accountability. It strips rural schools of funding, could send tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools, and violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education. Please say NO to SB2 & HB3!

Allison Becker

Self—Registrar

Dallas, TX

I'm an after-school drama teacher at three schools in the Dallas area. Funny enough, those three schools are a private religious institution, a charter school, and a public school. Each school type clearly offers unique opportunities and upsides for students and families, and I am very grateful that they have the ability to make that choice. This bill is not about school choice. School choice will exist with or without this policy or anything like it. This is about money. About who "deserves" funds. And let me tell you, as someone who spends time every week with kids from all three types of schools, none of them is any more or less "deserving." They all deserve the greatest chance of success—and that doesn't happen without funding our public schools. The voucher system won't help most people for whom private school is out of reach due to finances. Those students, each of whom deserves a vibrant, in-depth, enthusiastic education, will be in public school. Are you going to decide that those students are worth less?

Jennifer Scanlon

Self

Leander, TX

Vouchers will not help the vast majority of Texas children, and will take taxpayer dollars from public schools and give it to private education. Only 1-2% of kids will even receive a voucher. Vouchers have not worked in other states and have shown much worse outcomes for students. I have a child in private school and still do not want this to pass because I know our public schools deserve taxpayer funds and that private schools will likely raise tuition if this passes. Please focus on making Texas public schools better by fully funding them! The fact that Texas citizens cannot put issues like this on the ballot is ridiculous. No one I know wants vouchers! We will remember at the polls who voted for this if it passes - you need to listen to your constituents!

Melissa Gaskill

self, writer

Austin, TX

I oppose establishing an education savings account program. Public dollars should be used for public education, to make it better for everyone. Good public education is what makes Texas great and we need it to be the best it can be. There is not enough oversight of for-profit education companies and examples of corruption and misuse of funds. Let's keep public education public, and give it all the support it needs! Thank you.

Katie Cunningham

Self

Cibolo, TX

I am commenting in opposition of HB3.

- 1) This bill is not fiscally conservative and will add millions, growing to billions, in new spending. Data shows that every state that has implemented ESAs has blown their budget projections quickly, putting additional strain on taxpayers year after year.
- 2) This bill is bad for the public school system. No one will argue that there are challenges and room for improvement in public schools. Taking money away to give to schools with fewer requirements does not improve public schools, it will make it more difficult for them to meet the ever-growing list of requirements that cost money, like transportation, disability services, meals, standardized testing, etc.
- 3) The bill does not help the population it claims to help. Low income families will still not be able to afford private schools, and even if they can scrape together the money the private schools are not required to provide transportation, making it difficult for single and/or working parents. Private schools aren't required to participate. The free/reduced meal program, so families that need that assistance also won't be able to get it.
- 4) Non-public schools do not have to accept students with disabilities or behavioral issues. They can be selective, while public schools can not. Public schools are required to provide IEP and 504 services while other schools are not. Public tax dollars should not be used for schools that do not accept all of the public.
- 5) Homeschool families overwhelmingly do not want this.

There is a way to fix public schools. They are not irreparably broken. Vote against this poorly written bill, and focus on doing the work to improve public schools. Let's look at the TEA requirements, the testing, all of the regulations and administrative tasks public schools are required to do. Let's focus on fixing the problems we have in our public schools to make them as good, if not better, than the non-public options. Let's see our representatives out in the schools talking to kids about the important role of government, and how you are committed to EVERY child, not just the small percentage who would receive the vouchers.

You are at a critical juncture. You have the ability to do the right thing for all of Texas' students, or to be a follower. Be brave. Please do the right thing and vote against this flawed bill because it goes against everything we as Texans and conservatives believe in. Make us proud.

Mark Grantham

Self - born and raised Texan and Parent

Cedar Park, TX

Vote "No" for hb 3. Fund our public schools.

Camille Powe

Self

Slaton, TX

The proposed voucher system is a bad idea for Texas and the education of Texas children. It further empowers the wealthy who can well afford the private school tuition while lower income Texans will not have the means to make up the difference. This voucher system just further widens the gap between the haves and the have nots.

Texas is currently ranked 29th of the 50 states in education. We must do better. Invest that voucher money in our public schools. Raise the salaries of teachers to attract the best and brightest to the teaching profession. In best in ALL Texas children, not just those who are in a position to send their kids to private schools.

Why not take the voucher money and make college tuition more affordable or put it into technical training or trades. There are far better uses of our tax dollars than to fund a voucher system that would open to abuse. Some who homeschool their children do a great job, but many do not have the skill or education to provide the proper educational instruction to their children.

School vouchers is a bad idea for Texas.

Regards,

Camille Powe

Dan Jones

True Texas Project

Weatherford, TX

I am in favor of HB 3.

Mary Lemons

Self

Buffalo Gap, TX

As a public school educator, I am begging you to consider how this will affect already financially-starved public schools and the not-fit-for-private-schools students that we love and serve!

Meredith Woods

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the progression of this bill. Public education should be supported as a top priority for Texas. This impacts the future of our state for generations. Public schools are floundering to stay afloat and this bill would further defund public school services that are essential to all Texas children, much less our children with disabilities or others disadvantage. My mother is a public school teacher, my grandmother who passed away in November worked in public schools, and the children in my family rely on public schools for their education. I am a Behavior therapist for children with autism and i see them already underserved in schools due to lack of resources. Please discontinue elevating funds to private schools and instead support public schools.

Jennifer Baron

Self

Leander, TX

HB3 is not what our state needs! Texas law makers need to put our children's education first! All of Texas will fail and we will become even lower in our standing compared to other states. Our public schools need to be fully funded so that every child has a chance at a bright future. Our public schools are already short staffed and underfunded. By giving a select few a discount towards "school choice" will only hurt our kids. All students deserve the right to a fully funded public education. I have seen first hand the effects of budget cuts in our schools. As a teacher, I see the damage being done at the expense of our kids. We need to do better for our state. Vouchers (education savings accounts) are not the answer! Fully fund our public schools before the damage is so catastrophic that our state can't recover.

Tammie Marberry, Dr.

Self

Hull, TX

Please vote NO to any type of voucher program or any program by any other name that takes public money and puts it towards private education. Fully fund public education without unreasonable strings attached or money only specific to certain programs. Teachers and school staff should be paid at a better rate that encourages highly qualified candidates to join the profession. Increase parent responsibility for getting their children educated and taking responsibility for their children's actions. Remove barriers to students having appropriate consequences when they disrupt the instructional process. Remove the attendance of students tied to funding and support our profession professionally and financially. I oppose school vouchers or this type of program under any other name including education savings accounts.

Kimberleigh Gonzalez

Self- Realtor

Lubbock, TX

****Subject: Opposition to HB 3****

Dear Members of the Texas Public Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 (HB 3). This bill, which aims to implement a school choice and Education Savings Account (ESA) program, poses significant risks to the quality and equity of public education in Texas.

HB 3 allows taxpayer funds to be diverted to private school tuition, homeschooling resources, and specialized educational services.

While the intention may be to provide parents with more control over their children's education, the reality is that this bill will undermine the public school system by reducing the funding available for public schools. This will disproportionately affect low-income families and rural communities, who rely heavily on public education.

Furthermore, the introduction of ESAs could lead to increased segregation and inequality in education. Private schools are not held to the same standards of accountability and transparency as public schools, and they may not provide the same level of support for students with special needs or those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Public education is a cornerstone of our democracy, and it is essential that we continue to invest in and support our public schools. I urge you to reject HB 3 and instead focus on policies that strengthen and improve the public education system for all Texas students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kimberleigh Gonzalez

Lubbock, TX

Sofia Coronado

Self

Georgetown, TX

I oppose this bill

Krystal Williams

Self

Fulshear, TX

I have been a public school teacher in the state of Texas for 27 years. The bulk of which has been spent in the Alief Independent School District. The state of Texas has done a disservice to public schools over the last few years by underfunding school districts. The lack of funds have led to limited resources to educate students and a decline of teachers to do so. In the state's campaign against public schools, school districts are continually asked to do more with less. When schools/ districts are unable to hit the ever changing mark they are labeled as "failing". Nobody likes a failing school. In that case, yes, parents should absolutely have a "choice" in where their child is educated. But when private schools and charter schools are allowed to be selective in who they admit the data and outcomes are skewed. If the state legislature is going to continue to hold funding hostage from public schools until an ESA is passed then include in your legislation that schools that receive said funds are required to meet the same standards of public schools since they are receiving PUBLIC FUNDS. By allowing private schools and charter schools to receive PUBLIC FUNDS without the same standards as public schools it's like having them play the same game with different rules. One will definitely have an advantage over the other and that is unfair to ALL students, especially those CHOOSING to stay in public schools.

Michelle Spencer

Self

Buda, TX

This bill will take much needed funds from districts and put it in the pockets of wealthy people who are already sending their children to private schools. This bill is bad for Texas schools and Texas children. Don't pass it!

Sylvia Jackson

Self Curriculum Coordinator

Granbury, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Leah Sanchez, MEd

Self; Bilingual Early Childhood Educator

Carrollton, TX

The Basic Allotment for each Texas public school student is \$6,160 (this has not been raised since 2019 despite rising costs) and the proposed amount to give to students going to private schools 85% of the average for public school students in Texas. The numbers are not reported to the people of Texas accurately because the amount of money per student is being averaged when it shouldn't be. The additional money that may be given to a public school for small population groups or percentages of students cannot be added as an allotment that all students receive from the state of Texas because the money is ONLY for the special groups. The reporting must be honest and transparent so the people of Texas can be informed with the truth. As an Early Childhood educator, I also urge all representatives of Texas to be honest about the decision to only fund 50% of a Pre-K 4 year old student once the state required that they go to Pre-K for a full school day. When all students went to school half day the 50% amount per Pre-K student was accurate, but it has been a state requirement since July 18, 2019 when House Bill 3 Pre-K was passed with no additional funds being given for the increase to full day Pre-K.

Public education is given the basic allotment for each student based on the attendance of each individual and it is also required that attendance be taken during a small 10 minute window of the day. Teachers prepare for the whole class to be present daily so the money needs to be available to support all enrolled students. All schools (charter, private or public) should have the same requirements regarding attendance. The money given to public schools is based on attendance so all schools that receive money from the state of Texas should be based on the same criteria.

The TRS Pension is in danger of becoming non-existent due to decreases in the number of teachers in the public school system. Since 2000 I have been paying into the system and don't want to see all my hard work to this state and the children that have been educated in public school to become nothing. The solution cannot be that we teachers pay more into the TRS and/or our district pay more for each employee because it is not the state being helpful to teachers or districts. There is great value in education and there must continue to be a focus on the amazing things public education does for our society. Public schools offer free appropriate public education (FAPE) and do so without being fully funded by the national or state government. No student is ever turned away and so many are offered bus services to be able to arrive at school daily and make it home safely as well. Do charter and private schools have similar requirements?

May all Texans come together to lift up the necessary job public school teachers do every day in creating all the professions that exist in today's society. A true gift to all residents to make a brighter tomorrow with leaders across the state.

Aaron Duncklee

self, mechanic

Spring, TX

I don't think H.B. 3 is a good bill. I'm writing you to tell you to VOTE NO on H.B. 3 today!

I am VERY concerned that instead of simply returning our property taxes to us that currently go to fund our local schools, H.B. 3 would create huge opportunity for government oversight of homeschooling.

The most economically vulnerable parents – whom the bill is purported to help -- would be forced to comply with oversight of their curriculum choices, and more. Instead of the freedom to homeschool, these homeschoolers would be shackled with NEW REGULATIONS.

This bill leaves the door WIDE OPEN for regulations for ALL homeschoolers in the future. For example, if all homeschoolers are required in the future to use "approved vendors only" then there isn't true autonomy for parents to choose curriculum, or to switch curriculum mid-school year if we find that the teaching style does not match our child's learning style.

Please vote no for HB 3!

Robbie Low

Self, parent

Center, TX

Texas HB 3 (2025) could harm public education by:

1. Reducing Funding – Public schools lose state funds as students leave, but fixed costs remain, leading to budget cuts.
2. Widening Inequality – ESAs may not fully cover private tuition, benefiting wealthier families while leaving low-income and special needs students underserved.
3. Lack of Oversight – Private schools receiving ESA funds aren't held to the same standards, risking inconsistent education quality and potential misuse of public money.
4. Straining Rural Schools – With fewer private options, rural schools lose funding without benefiting from ESAs, worsening teacher shortages and resource gaps.
5. Undermining Public Schools – Instead of improving public education, funds are diverted to private options, weakening community investment and support.

Texas HB 3 (2025) could negatively impact students in several ways:

1. Fewer Resources in Public Schools – As funding declines, students may face larger class sizes, fewer extracurricular activities, and outdated materials.
2. Unequal Access to Quality Education – ESAs may not fully cover private tuition, leaving low-income students with fewer educational options.
3. Weakened Special Education Support – Private schools don't have to follow the same special education laws, potentially leaving students with disabilities underserved.
4. Reduced Accountability – Private schools receiving ESA funds aren't required to meet the same academic standards, meaning students may receive a lower-quality education.
5. Limited Rural Options – Students in rural areas may not have private school choices but could still suffer from reduced public school funding.

Amanda Nguyen

Self

Lubbock, TX

A majority of my community that I grew up with went to a public school from K-12. Although we didn't have much money compared to other schools, we very much valued the education that we received, but we found it was difficult to be at the same learning level compared to other schools. We didn't have the same facilities and/or opportunities that schools with more funding had, but we were able to manage to do what we can to work towards our future. However, this came with many struggles that stemmed from, for example, our older technology that negatively impacted our learning (especially during COVID) and the lack of internet access in some of my friends' home. It's concerning for me knowing that schools that I went to (along with schools that were less fortunate than I was) can further decline in the quality of education despite the current difficulties that we dealt with when every person should have the right to a proper education.

Tami Keeling, Mrs.

Self, Parent

Victoria, TX

I'm Tami Keeling. I'm writing to testify in opposition to HB 3.

Public funds are for public schools. Our Texas Constitution acknowledges the importance of public schools and your duty to fund them.

This is not a conservative bill. It creates more government, but doesn't hold private schools accepting ESAs to same standards, accountability, oversight, or any other state mandate that public schools are required by law to meet. The fiscal notes on this bill and its companion in the Senate make supporting this bill fiscally irresponsible. There is no evidence that school choice improves student outcomes. ESAs defund public schools and particularly harm rural schools.

If we are looking to other states as a reason to implement ESAs, the examples in other states are not good. They should be a cautionary tale for anyone who cares to examine these examples carefully. It's not affordable. We cannot afford to create another system when we aren't even funding our public schools.

Choice already exists. I think you already know that this is not in the best interest of the 5 Million plus children in our public schools, who are your responsibility and our primary investment in the future of Texas.

Thank you for standing for public schools, our teachers, and our children.

Tami Keeling

tami.keeling@hotmail.com

361-935-5142

Jessica Lopez

Self/ Small business owner

Brownsville, TX

I am testifying in opposition to the educational voucher program. My children attended a private school created by billionaires who have heavily lobbied for this program, donated millions to its advancement nationwide, and stand to profit from it. They have even established a network of "schools" in anticipation of its passage.

At this school, I witnessed firsthand the discrimination against special needs students and the lack of accountability. These schools are not designed to serve all children—they are designed to maximize profit. My children were emotionally harmed and academically set back by their AI-driven tutoring model, which replaced qualified teachers with automated lessons. Students received little real instruction, no personalized support, and no human connection.

Additionally, this and similar private institutions are not required to provide services for special education students. They cherry-pick students while rejecting those who need additional support, all while taking taxpayer dollars. If they receive public money, they should meet the same standards as public schools—including serving all students, not just the ones they choose.

There is no real oversight of these schools, and without accountability, taxpayer money is funding a system that operates more like a for-profit business than an educational institution. Public schools, despite their challenges, have regulations in place to protect students, ensure curriculum standards, and guarantee services for all.

For the first time, my children are now attending public school, and I am grateful for that option. Instead of diverting resources to private interests, we should be fully funding public education, paying teachers fairly, and ensuring every child—regardless of ability or background—receives a quality education. The voucher program does the opposite. I strongly urge you to reject it.

Carol Merkel

Self

Arlington, TX

I strongly oppose HB3, school vouchers, as most Texas parents do. Our public school system is in such trouble because of funding being withheld for years. School vouchers will take more money away from public schools. The majority of Texas children will continue to attend public schools. Why would you want to harm them any more? Texas always prides themselves as being the best, but we know we aren't. Please don't degrade our schools even more. Let's build up our public schools and fund them properly like other states.

Reagan Brendle
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Public schools in Texas currently serve over 5 million students, and extracting public funds for vouchers that would only serve 100,000 students is directly damaging to the education of our children. Public schools are already facing unnecessary budget cuts and school closures due to the withholding of funds, and the assumption that a voucher plan, (that has already failed in all other states in which it has been implemented), would benefit Texas children as a whole is logistically ridiculous at best and incredibly harmful at worst.

The surrounding area in which my family lives only has 2 small private schools that cannot accommodate many additional students, and especially not those who would require any additional educational supports. There are only approximately 25,000 open private school seats currently in Texas, therefore, as in other states, 75% of the designated vouchers would be distributed to students who already have the means to attend a private school of their choosing. Supporting Texas children in a meaningful way looks like increasing the basic allotment and raising teacher wages, not wasting money on coupons for those already able to engage in a choice for their child. Please vote no on HB 3. Our children deserve better than this.

Anne Russey
Self
Katy, TX

I oppose HB3. Vouchers/ESAs will harm my children's public school district (Katy ISD). And I do not want my tax dollars to subsidize private school tuition for other families.

Laura Horansky
Self, Retired parent of 3 public school kids
San Antonio, TX

HB3 will hurt the great majority of Texas children, those who attend TX public schools. If TX legislators are truly representing their constituents, the only choice for TX children is to OPPOSE HB3 and instead dedicate more of the Rainy Day fund to our public school districts.

Kay Peebles
Self, commodity Manager
Taylor, TX

I am against passage of this bill. There are more counties in Texas without a school in which families can use vouchers than there are counties in which they can be used. This bill will take money out of public schools. This bill will widen the gap between the privileged few and the majority.

Brecah Helm
Self
Conroe, TX

As a Texan, I do not support this bill. Vouchers will only impact a minority. State funds should not be allowed to be used towards private education and more funds should be funneled into our public schools system. My 3 children are currently in one of the largest school districts in Texas, and a voucher program as written in HB 3 will not help a majority of taxpayers, including my family. Please do what is best for the majority of Texans.

Kim Preston
Self
Belton, TX

I am against school vouchers and against defunding public schools.

Melinda Torres

Self; Homemaker

Lamesa, TX

I'm a Texan. I care about our K-12 public education system being well-funded for all students. I do not support HB 3, the education savings account bill, and I ask for all representatives to oppose this bill.

Lee Scott

Self

Lubbock, TX

Say no to vouchers. We already have school choice in Texas. Vouchers are a scam! Do the right thing and support public ed. Abbott is only pushing vouchers because of the people putting money in his back pockets!!

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director

Grassroots America - We the People PAC

Flint, TX

We support parent-driven educational freedom, but not HB 3. An education freedom bill should:

*Be a 100% Parental choice bill: parents in the driver's seat – not government bureaucracy

*Use tax credits – not tax dollars

*Set no limits on parental use of funds other than being for educational purposes. We do not support a government-approved menu of education resources from which parents must choose.

*Reduce funding for government schools for every student that leaves. Period. Otherwise, legislators will simply check a "school choice" box for campaigns, shovel more money into government schools, and leave the majority of students in substandard academic conditions.

The 2024 Republican Party of Texas Platform states; we concur:

Parents' Rights | Plank 84. School Choice: We support further empowering all Texas families to choose from public, private, charter, or homeschool options for their children's education and funding which shall follow the student with no strings attached. We oppose regulations on homeschooling or the curriculum of private or religious schools and believe a constitutional amendment should be adopted accordingly. In lieu of funding, citizens may use property tax exemptions.

HB 3, driven by Republicans, fails to meet the Platform standards.

In addition, Grassroots America believes that any school choice bill:

*Must empower parents to choose the curriculum and providers used in their children's education with no interference from the government. We do not support government pre-approval of the educational decisions parents make under the school choice program.

*Must make taxpayer funded education more efficient and less expensive to reduce taxpayer burdens. Under HB 3, inefficiency and costs are most likely to increase, not decrease.

*Must make free market-based principles the foundation of the legislation, which means there must be financial penalties for failing public schools – not continued dumping of more tax dollars to "make them whole." Promising to make school districts financially "whole" as they lose students is sheer folly.

Free Market principles Missing: It's like feeling guilty on your way home from an excellent restaurant. Guilty, you stop by a declining restaurant where you once dined. You no longer dine there because they serve bad food with bad service and charge unreasonable prices. But you stop by to pay the failing restaurant for the meals you didn't eat AND you leave a big tip because you feel sorry for the bad restaurant! Making public schools "whole" while losing students strips any incentives to improve academic results!

Under HB 3 and HB 2, there are zero free market-based principles at work to encourage accountability from any failing public school. It appears that the objective is to merely check a school choice box. In no way can this assure academic achievement.

*Must not allow illegals access to school choice. TX AG needs to take Plyler v Doe back to the US Supreme Court.

Do NO harm!

Angela Walden-Hulme

self

Sweetwater, TX

Please vote no on this bill. This bill will take money from public education and give it mainly to people whose kids are already in private schools. Private schools are not held to the same standard as public schools. They do not have to take the same test and are not held to the attendance standards that public schools do. They are also allowed to refuse people based on any reason. Public schools must take everyone. Also, I have heard that HB3 will drain TRS. As a 21 year educator, I am about to be relying on TRS for retirement in a few years.

Amy Ingram, Teacher/Coach

Teachers/Coaches

Kaufman, TX

With all due respect please do not create another system to fund. Talk to Texas teachers and ask us what we need to make public education the best in Texas! Texas teachers are some of the very best people in our state. Talk to us...allow us to be a part of the solution. I've been a teacher for 26 years in Texas and not once have I ever seen a teacher indoctrinate their students. We are too busy following what the TEA provides us in our TEKS. Let teachers teach and provide us the ability to discipline kids and provide safe classrooms for our children. Vouchers are not the answer...talking to teachers and finding out the issues in public education and fixing those are the way! God Bless Texas and God Bless Texas teachers!

Denise Kotrla, 14435 Robert I Walker Blvd

self - Music Instructor & Accountant

Austin, TX

Growing up in the state of Texas, I found great value in my public school education, and am richer for it. I believe our population is stronger, more able-bodied, and more self-sufficient when we are educated. I believe everyone deserves a free education provided by the government and that educated people create a stronger society. It is a human right, in my opinion. Taking money away from public education to give to people for private education undermines this premise. There is nothing wrong with people wanting to use private schools for their children, but because there is no way to make it equitable for all Texas children, it should not be funded in any way with public funds. Private schools are not available in all areas of Texas. The amount of money being proposed would not be enough to pay fully for private school, which means families who can't afford it, even with the education savings account, will still not be able to attend private schools. Also, private schools are not held to the same accountabilities as public schools, so there is not a way to check on standards. For example, private schools do not have to provide for students' special needs, so families with children who have special needs will not be able to benefit. Public schools have a number of specially trained teachers who can meet the needs of all students and personalize instruction. Private schools are allowed to decline enrollment or ask a student to leave the student body. Public education, however, is for everyone. No one is left out or asked to leave. Taking money from public education to give to private schools that are not equitable and not prepared to meet everyone's needs is unfair to public school children because the money will be taken from their districts. Districts are already suffering because of unfunded mandates from the Texas Legislature. We should be proud of our Texas schools and teachers and doing everything we can to promote their success. The rest of the country watches us and sees the disrespect you promote towards your public schools and teachers. We want to be a model for the country, instead of a joke. Thank you for your consideration.

Diana Porter

Self, attorney

Jonestown, TX

I oppose vouchers. Fund public schools fully and if we have extra money then cut property taxes. Don't give it to private schools.

Wendy Jones

Self

Abilene, TX

I do not know a single person in favor of school vouchers. Not a single one of my public school teacher, a private school teacher, home school parents, parents of children in public school or parents of kids in private school friends who are in favor of school vouchers. Stop this madness & get to work on listening to what our educators are telling you they do need.

Kerry Sjoberg, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Kerry Sjoberg and I am a constituent in zip code 78735. I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 3. I am asking my Representative and this Committee to vote no and to instead fully fund public education. We already have meaningful school choice in Texas - what we need are resources so that our public schools can deliver the education that each child in Texas deserves, and that which has already been mandated, with accountability and due process ensuring that delivery. We do not need resources for privatized schools to thrive with no or little accountability to the public. I don't believe proponents of this bill can point to any examples of similar laws in other states achieving any of the objectives that are the supposed motivation for this bill. To the contrary, voucher systems like this are a failed experiment, and if this bill moves forward, this will predictably harm more families than it helps. Thank you.

Heather Meeks

Self/educator

Houston, TX

Please reconsider approving this bill. It will destroy what should be considered a fundamental right for all children in Texas, a free and equitable education. This bill will defund public education and benefit students that are already attending private and charter schools while not holding them to the same standards and accountability of public schools. As a parent, educator and voter I am asking you to vote no.

Ana Benhalim

Self, full time mother

Cedar Park, TX

I urge you to vote NO on this bill, public funds must stay in public schools. Freedom of choice does not come with public funding, public funds are for public schools. Any program, like the proposed program, that funnels public funds into the pockets of a select few is unethical and cannot be supported by our publicly elected officials. Vote NO and make the right choice for ALL Texas children! No to private school vouchers paid for with public school funds!

Rosario Castilleja

Self

Edinburg, TX

No to vouchers

Aimee Flores

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

I have worked as a public school educator, as well as have children who have attended both public and private schools. The argument that the vouchers provide for school choice is a false argument. Vouchers will not allow nor guarantee students would be able to attend private institutions. Private Institutions do not have to take all students, they do not have to serve students that need additional support, and they will be incentivized to raise their tuition with this additional support from the state. Additionally, this is not a program that would even benefit all students in the state, as a large number of counties do not even have private schools.

Redirecting funds versus reinvesting funds is particularly misguided in the current environment. With the threat of Federal funds being cut off for education, a reduction of any funds would result in reductions of necessary programs for vulnerable students. Texans would either need to replace funding via additional taxes or face having to deal with supporting other social programs to fill the gaps.

Jeanne Funk

Self

Houston, TX

I support Public School education and do not want taxpayer money to be diverted to private schools, especially religious schools. Public schools will end up with fewer resources.

Shelley Rodriguez

Self

Wylie, TX

My name is Shelley, & I oppose HB3 & SB2. My son is a 6th grader & requires SPED services for his dyslexia, slow processing disorder, auditory processing disorder, & speech impediment. We looked at Shelton, the only DFW private with a specialized skill set for some of these services, and the only private I know of in the DFW metro that would consider accepting him because of these needs. Not only can we not afford the \$40,400 in base tuition+fees for him to attend, we also would not be able to spend nearly 4 hours sitting in traffic to get him to & from school & us to & from work. It is simply not feasible, even with a voucher. It would be ideal if he could receive these services from his local public middle school that is less than a mile from our home, where he has teachers that love and support him, and where he's built his community, as he is amongst a growing number of children requiring varying degrees of similar services. Our public schools have the capabilities and educational excellence to provide them but need the funding to do so properly and comprehensively. Taking money from them for privates &/or charters without accountability that could deny my child because of his needs is not just wrong, but it is unconstitutional. Properly fund our public schools - the \$220 in HB2 is nowhere near enough, as we need more than ten times that, & stop this voucher/ESA push that will not provide anymore choice for a majority of the 5.5 million children in Texas.

Taffanie Erwin

Self - educator

Helotes, TX

On 3/11/25, I attended the public hearing, and I appreciate the committee's commitment to giving all speakers time to testify. However, I strongly oppose HB 3 because it doesn't give parents more choice. Parents may already choose public schools, charter schools, or private schools. This is a private school funding bill because it provides tuition costs or reductions for parents.

1. Income Cap:

While HB 3 may prioritize lower-income families, an explicit income cap is still necessary to ensure that public funds are not used to subsidize private education for wealthy families. Families earning over \$200,000 should not be eligible for these accounts. An income cap would align with the bill's purported goal of supporting those who need it most.

2. Standardized Testing:

Private schools receiving EVAs should be required to administer criterion-referenced tests to measure student growth effectively. Norm-referenced testing only ranks students relative to their peers, failing to show individual growth over time. If private schools have flexibility in testing, public schools should also have the option to choose alternative assessments like MAP Growth. This test provides both criterion-referenced and norm-referenced data, potentially saving the state money by eliminating STAAR costs.

The original intent of charter schools was to innovate and improve public education by reducing regulations. Instead, the state seems to be funding alternatives to public schools without implementing real reforms.

3. Special Education:

The Texas Education Agency estimates a \$1.7 billion annual deficit in special education funding for school districts. Allocating \$1 billion for school choice when the existing special education system is severely underfunded is misguided. This \$1 billion could be better spent addressing the current funding gap, ensuring that students with disabilities receive the support they need within the public system.

4. Strain on Public School:

HB 3 requires public schools to evaluate private school students with disabilities within 45 days upon request. This mandate could strain already limited resources in public schools, potentially taking away from services for public school students. How will public schools manage this additional responsibility without compromising existing obligations?

5. Long-standing Issues:

If public schools are failing, it's important to acknowledge that Republicans have had a trifecta in Texas for 23 years. Persistent issues like the recapture system, stagnant basic allotment, and post-COVID attendance challenges need addressing.

HB 3 raises significant concerns about resource allocation, educational outcomes, and the overall approach to improving education in Texas. If this bill aims to provide better choices for parents, especially those with special needs children, the state should first fully fund special education in public schools. It is the state's responsibility to do so, but this has been neglected.

Annetta Gower

Self

Coppell, TX

I am very concerned for what the future holds for the public education of our children.

My son is a sixth grader in our local ISD, and my daughter is a third grader in our local ISD as well. For my son, with the exception of writing, academics and testing have come easily. He has been blessed with phenomenal, enthusiastic teachers, and we have been grateful for the teachers that took him from "writing is the worst thing in the world" to "it's not that bad," and now, he actually enjoys it.

My daughter started kindergarten at the end of COVID, and unfortunately, more than a third of the fabulous teachers my son had were no longer teaching at their elementary by that time. Most of these teachers have left the profession, and all that I have spoken with contribute lack of support from the state as the primary reasoning. For my daughter, academics have not come as easily. She requires extra support, although she is not eligible for special education services. She has high anxiety and a focus on perfection, which creates significant pressure when testing. She benefits greatly from additional counseling provided and it has helped her tremendously.

Needless to say, I have two children who are very different and require different strategies in and out of the classroom. We have all been grateful for the various educators, counselors and school specialists that have gone above and beyond to ensure they are getting what they need with the limited resources available to them.

The lack of funding included in the basic allotment needs to significantly change, as the needs vary by student. The approximately \$220 adjustment included in the latest bills is simply not enough. Not only do we need \$1,340 just to cover the inflation we have experienced since 2019, we also need coverage for the un- & underfunded mandates that have been put on public schools since then, including fully covering transportation costs, special education services and security resource officer expenses (that in large part is generously funded by our city), to name just a few. Our fiscally conservative destination district is running an annual deficit of over \$12M in those three areas alone (approximately an additional \$1k per student).

Lastly, As a Christian and Republican, I am strongly against HB3 & SB2. I am holding tightly to the words in Matthew 25 that say "whatever you do to the least of these, you did to me," and if you claim to be Christian, you should too. These voucher programs are not conservative, and they are most definitely not Christian. Our marginalized children - the poor, special needs, and the rural are just that. You have an obligation to the constituents in this state to fight for them and not against them alongside Abbott and the West Texas & PA billionaires. Enough will never be enough for them, so how far will YOU go?

As a side note, NO ONE who votes in favor of hurting public schools will get my vote, ever.

Sincerely,

Annetta Gower

Kacie Elwood

Self

Arlington, TX

I reject HB 3 based on expert testimony that it will hurt public schools and is NOT fiscally responsible.

Andrew Kozma, Dr.

Self, freelance writer

Houston, TX

I am not interested in school vouchers that are designed to take away public education and instead enrich those private schools that lack accountability to the public. I want state money to go to funding public schools and public charters schools, institutions that are designed to educate everyone fairly and provide equal access to all. School vouchers don't provide choice so much as they funnel money to already rich institutions (and families) allowing them to segregate their children from the broader mass of Texans. Don't pass this bill. Don't take away money from the public whose it is, by right.

Melissa Hargis, Mrs.

self/ data scientist

Austin, TX

?The Texas Constitution explicitly mandates the establishment and maintenance of a public education system. Article 7, Section 1, states: "It shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools." Therefore it should be this state's first priority to have the best public schools in this country. My tax dollars should go to lifting up our public schools, not providing welfare for our private ones. Anything but this is unconstitutional, unAmerican, and certainly not Texan.

Sarah Valentino

Self, music teacher

Bedford, TX

This bill only benefits the few, and even if low income families receive finds, they won't be able to pay the difference for private school education. Public funds need to be left for public schools. Too many programs have been cut, too many students left without the services they need because we are not finding our schools. Less than half the counties in Texas have private schools to choose from. School choice is available in most districts and parents have a choice without educational savings accounts.

Ivana Brata

Self

Allen, TX

I strongly oppose the HB3/ "Education Savings Account" voucher scheme. No matter how it's framed, it still diverts public funds away from public schools, undermining the education of 90% of Texas students.

Megan Richardson

Self

Gatesville, TX

Opposed

Jody Lyssy, Mrs.

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I DO NOT support this bill. Until public schools are funded to the level that is fair I am vehemently opposed to funding private schools. Please consider the public school needs that have gone ignored for so many years.

Jenny Haines

Self

McKinney, TX

Please vote NO. Our kids need better education, not less, and we certainly shouldn't be funding private schools with our tax dollars. It's ludicrous.

Abraham Castellano

RRSP

Richardson, TX

Please vote no on school vouchers as it will hurt public school education and it will be bad for our democracy.

Sandra Gavrilla
self - retired
Coppell, TX

I absolutely OPPOSE taxpayer-funded vouchers for private schools. Public schools are for every child and they deserve to be fully funded.

Caroline Stewart
Self
Wylie, TX

VOTE NO. This is not in our children's best interests. Stop pandering to money and stick to your oaths to do what is right for your constituents.

Hannah Jala
self
Austin, TX

As a former Texas educator, we should be FUNDING Texas public schools, not DEFUNDING through these "education savings account" SCAMS. Public dollars belong in PUBLIC schools.

Michelle Isaacs
Republican/self
Damon, TX

As a Republican voter and homeschool mom of 2, I am greatly concerned about the lies and shady business of this bill with Jeff Yass' donations as well as Abbot's. We were told the majority want this based off of a couple of surveys of select people of around 1200 participants. We all know this is ludicrous but yet we are told the majority want it because of this. We were told on the republican primary ballot that the money would follow the child. That is not happening. The fact that a new pool of funds is being bragged about by Abbott and many of you, is shameful. This is wasteful spending. There is no spending cap in the bill. Florida is spending nearly FOUR billion a year on "school choice" and if we're honest, it's failing from people I've talked to from there.

This bill creates muddy water between the distinction of public and private schools including homeschoolers.

We DO NOT want this. Give us a tax break with the money instead. This is not your money to make an executive decision about. It is OUR money and the majority of Texans don't want this despite your twisted surveys and intentional misleading words on the Republican primary ballot. Stop turning a blind eye to the people you are supposed to represent. We will primary you out and remember who voted for this big government bill.

Ashley Matthyse
Gullett Elementary PTA
Austin, TX

Public dollars belong in public schools, that are already significantly underfunded. Texas is #48 in per-student funding. HB3 will only make that worse and do so much more of a disservice to our students and families of public schools. Please vote NO on HB3. Thank you.

Jadrien Grimes

Self-Homemaker whose children attend public schools in TX

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Gene Sheets, Dr.

Self

Lubbock, TX

This is not what the Texas constitution intended. Please do NOT vote HB 3 out of committee.

Keri Thomas

Self/Self-Employed Advertising Consultant

Cedar Park, TX

I am writing because I strongly oppose HB3 and am asking you to fully fund public schools. I do not support public tax dollars going towards private schools who will not be held accountable in the same way as public schools including standardized testing, teacher certification, and curriculum requirements. ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Additionally, many private schools have religious-based education which means giving public funds to these schools would be a violation of the separation of church and state. Public funding should go to public schools for the benefit of all 5.4 million students.

Meg Smith

Self retired scientist

Flower Mound, TX

Please directs funds to public education in Texas

Private school options should remain available, but not supported by tax payer money

Samantha Stout
Self
Center Point, TX

I am a Christian, conservative, homeschool mom to 5 children. My husband and I pulled our children from public school after realizing we could do a better job at home. We have made many sacrifices, like losing a 2nd income, in order to make the choice to homeschool our children and provide with what we believe to be the best education according to our family values and my children's goals. We are very blessed for the homeschooling pioneers in this state that came before us and risked their livelihoods, we jailed, and fought for the freedom to home educate their children and the future children of TX. It is my responsibility now to ensure that my kids, and their kids will be able to homeschool with the same freedoms of today. It is not the responsibility of the government to fund private and homeschool options. It is the responsibility of the government to provide quality, free, public education made available to all children in TX. The answer to failing public school is not for the government to then get involved with private and homeschool, but rather to audit and correct the problems with the currently available public education system, because this system must be fixed, academically, structurally, and organizationally. We already have working school choice in TX, what we don't have; in which you all are presenting, is government funding for private and homeschool. Texas taxpayers do not want more of our money going into more education when we are already highly taxed for the public school system that y'all are allowing to fail, and unwilling to fix. Keep the government, and its money, oversight, and regulations out of our private and homeschools. The government saying it's "protecting homeschoolers" in this bill is a farce, we wouldn't need "protections" without this bill. To say that government oversight will not grow is an attempt to gaslight us, we all know what government pays for government wants accountability for. I ask that you all start to listen to your constituents, democrats and republicans, because while our reasoning may differ, none of us want what you all are trying to force upon us. You are representatives, not kings and queens.

Anne Hall
self, retired
Austin, TX

Gov. Abbott likes to say that Texas public schools are failing, that is his fault for not providing adequate funding for them. If the money being provided for vouchers was diverted to public schools instead, that would go along way toward fixing public schools in Texas. Also, I do not support giving "vouchers" to students who are already attending private schools, that is misuse of public funds and in the case of church-based schools it is violating the separation of church and state. Is is wrong to assume the students who need help the most will all be able to attend a private school, there will be limits to the number of students admitted and in rural areas there are not even private schools available. This is just wrong on every front and I don't want my taxes to be used this way.

Rachel Duvvuri

Self

Houston, TX

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

My son absolutely loves Cornerstone Academy in Houston. It is a wonderful school with caring and hardworking teachers. He literally prays and thanks God for regularly because he's so grateful to go there. He loves his friends and loves the quality of education.

Thank you!

Barbara Williams

Self

Fort w, TX

As a dedicated public school educator, I urge you to oppose HB 3 and its proposed school voucher program. A recent poll indicates that 65% of likely Texas voters oppose diverting taxpayer money from public schools to private institutions. I've seen firsthand how vital resources are to ensuring students receive the quality education they deserve.

This bill is especially concerning because it fails to protect students who receive special education services. Private schools are not required to follow the same federal protections that public schools must provide, leaving our most vulnerable students at risk of losing essential support. Similar programs in other states, such as Arizona, have led to significant state budget issues and underfunded public schools. Implementing such a program in Texas could result in substantial future costs and decreased public school funding.

I urge you to stand with the majority of Texans in supporting our public schools by voting against HB 3.

Shane Strawbridge

Self

Lubbock, TX

Fully fund public schools. No on vouchers.

Sandra Cooley

Myself

Fort Worth, TX

School vouchers are a giveaway to families who either are already attending private school or can afford to. They take funds away from our public schools. They do not have to take SPED kids nor provide transportation. They don't have the same oversight as public schools. Also, my "representative" Nate Schatzline has a conflict of interest. He sits on the board of the Mercy Culture Church and they have their own church school. He will be voting in favor of sending our tax dollars to support religious agendas. Please fully fund our public schools. Support our teachers and vote no to Abbott's (bought with campaign contributions) vouchers scam. Please vote, "No."

Andra Villegas

Self

N Richlnd Hls, TX

No vouchers!!

No School Savings Program.

Put public money into public schools!!!!

Corey Nieman

Self

Mansfield, TX

Please vote no for this bill. Texans do not want a funding program that has failed across the country. A program that has passed savings on to families who did not need them while leaving students in public schools with less. This is not the answer to improve our public schools. In the future, I will likely send my students to the best private schools in the state, but I do not believe that my family should be given any public funds to support their education. I believe that these should be used to ensure that public schools have what they need to serve ALL students. If this were put to a statewide vote it would fail miserably. You serve the people of Texas, so please vote accordingly.

Kristen Wallman

Self LSSP

Pearland, TX

Vote no on school vouchers. This will divert funding from public schools. No matter how you slice it, it's bad for education in Texas. If we want our kids to be the best and brightest we need to invest in public schools. They already have accountability and standards. Private schools are wild cards when it comes to effective instruction and equitable education. Public education may need improvement, but it is capable of improvement!

Patricia Elliott

Self

Horseshoe Bay, TX

This bill is just another school voucher scam to transfer public funds to subsidize parents who already can afford to pay for private schooling. It would transfer funds needed by already underfunded public schools to private schools that can pick and choose which students they take - neglecting the disabled, minorities and any child they don't want to accept. It would harm rural schoolchildren who don't have private schools in their towns and further underfund rural schools. Private schools don't have the accountability and transparency that public schools have. Vouchers cause huge deficits in state budgets and have caused great harm in states like Arizona. We see through this effort by state and out of state billionaires to destroy OUR public schools. It's time to represent the average Texan instead of monied interests. Please vote no on school vouchers.

Kirsten Loe

Self/parent

Hurst, TX

I oppose HB3. It will harm Texas families.

Eric Hansen, APRN, RN

Self

Leander, TX

This bill would absolutely devastate and harm education for most students in this state. Especially for those of the lower income classes this would bring about lower educational outcomes, which intern will lead to more poverty or crime and a depreciating outlook for the state of Texas if you want to see what happens to states who go and follow these vouchers, open your eyes to the state of Louisiana, whose educational system is absolutely atrocious and those who receive at the minimum a decent education are those wealthy enough to pay for private school for those who cannot afford to pay for private school their only chance of “getting out“ is if they show athletic capabilities where they can be used in university and college programs this bill should not be passed as you will see extremely poor outcomes for students, teachers and communities as a whole

Jess Weldon

Self

ROUND ROCK, TX

This bill would disproportionately impact rule families but would reduce the quality of education that all Texas families are able to attain. Vouchers have not succeeded in strengthening education systems of other states where they have been implemented. This is a misguided piece of legislation that is it not serving the interest of education.

Ashley Adams

Self- Mother

Lewisville, TX

Please no.

Kim Horton

Self retired homeschool teacher

Weatherford, TX

This education bill will grow more government for our state to fund and HB3 will not fix Public education which is the only form of education that we are required to fund. Let’s fix Public education by bringing back phonics so our Texas children can read. That is why we started schools in the first place so that children could learn to read and America wanted their children to not only read but to read the Bible. Most of our children will continue to be educated in the public school system. It will never go away so let’s fix it. Thank you!

Florence Gray, Mrs.

Self retired

Argyle, TX

I am against the voucher bill, HB 3. I want our public schools fully funded.

Chrysteena Barton

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I am a parent and Texan who opposes HB 3 and any private school vouchers. Our kids and teachers deserve fully public funded schools. Tax payer money should be for public schools and not given to private schools and without any accountability.

Brandi Bates

Self

Mansfield, TX

I am asking all members of the House to vote against the ESA/voucher bill. The state and governor should commit to fully funding public education and paying all educators appropriately. I do not want my state, city, or district to reflect what has happened in Arizona.

Jennifer Vickers
Self
Brownwood, TX

No vouchers for private schools. Parents should pay extra if they want their kids in private school. Perhaps they could be allowed a tax discount if they provide proof of tuition for private schools. Any voucher money should be available to give teachers pay increases.

Brittany Kennedy
Texas PTA
Houston, TX

Vote no on this bill, and fully fund public schools. This bill harms funding for public schools, the backbone of this state. This doesn't improve education for the vast majority of the state, it just gives money to those that already want an alternate education. Private school in Houston where i live is way more than this voucher can cover, so the only people that could possibly use are those that can afford to spend much much more. Focus on funding and educating the schools where the overwhelming majority of Texans attend. This bill is not popular among Texans. Don't vote against our interest.

Caleb Davis
self
Lubbock, TX

I do not support this in any capacity, I do not want my tax dollars to be used for private or religious institutions. Use this money to actually improve the public education system in Texas- to instead jump to expansion of private education is, at the very least, lazy.

Luke Bowman
My family and yours
Round Rock, TX

I am a proud graduate of public schools, an American military veteran, and a patriot. I stand firmly in support of Texas public education, which has long been a pillar of opportunity and community strength. HB 3 threatens to divert critical resources from our public schools, undermining the foundation that prepares our children for the future. Public education does more than provide academics. It fosters understanding and ensures every child, regardless of background, has a fair chance to succeed. Protect this vital institution for the sake of our children and the future of Texas.

Toni Silva
Self Retired
Houston, TX

I oppose HB3. No public money for private schools. Additional funding should go to public schools instead.

Tori Johnson
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Hello,

My name is Tori Johnson and I am a mother of two school aged boys. I'm respectfully writing as I would like to encourage you to please do not pass the new private school voucher program. I believe you will overwhelmingly find that the majority of Texans are against this bill. Instead please support and fund our public schools which have the biggest opportunity to help the most students.

Following are just a few reasons why I am against this bill:

1. I do NOT believe this provides school choice. In fact, I believe it will have severe negative impact on our Texas public system and therefore will remove our choices.
2. It assists a small amount of children vs using the money to have greater impact in the public system.
3. \$10k is not enough to cover tuition, transportation and other cost requirements of private school.
4. It does not support rural families that don't have private school options and homeschooling isn't not an option for many.
5. Most cities do not have enough private schools to accommodate this influx.
6. Private schools are less likely to have special ed programs nor do they have IEPs to guarantee children their services.

I am also very confused why an out of state donor would donate so much to this campaign and question how that person will benefit at the detriment of our children.

Our public school system is our best option to serve the greatest amount of children and this is where our time and funds should go.

Thank you for your time.

Tori Johnson

Lorraine Brown
Self/Retired Texas Teacher
Dayton, TX

Vote NO to HB3 Public dollars should not be used to fund private schools especially as Texas public schools are currently underfunded and over mandated. When many parents ultimately remove their students from the private system due to cost, inconvenience and loss of services they had in public schools, the money is lost but it will be the public school that takes up the financial loss. As always, the public school is expected to do more with less resources. Fund public schools fully, reduce class sizes, get facilities up to standards and enforce discipline. Teachers will not have the security of their TRS pension with the potential decline in enrollment and decline in contributions to the TRS system. Texas Teachers have no choice but to contribute to the TRS system. Vote NO to HB3.

Please incorporate by reference the published testimony from the Every Texan group into the hearing records for both Senate and House due to the Governor's rushed and/or other allegations of a need to expedite review. Please also be reminded of the indicated design flaws/ failures in the fund recapture issues to help better ensure a workable and speedy recapture of funds by the public schools for any students being temporarily parked in a voucher school and then being forced back into the public school by the private company playing catch and run with the Governor's indicated faulty design. A design that demonstrates contempt for the Texas Constitution that clearly wanted to protect the school funds from out-of-state corporate piracy using temporary student capture, dump and run with the money schemes and/or use Texas property tax funds for funding construction of private schools. Be reminded that Texas continues a population surge and the need for more public school construction, repair and increased operational funding are in great need---especially as the Governor has steadily reduced funding---going in the wrong direction---just like he's going in the wrong direction with the voucher program.

<https://everytexan.org/2025/01/29/testimony-vouchers-violate-texas-values/>

Testimony: Vouchers Violate Texas Values

Excerpt follows:

When the framers of the Texas Constitution created our biennial Legislature in 1876, they did it in part to prevent the meddling of out-of-state power brokers. That forethought continues to serve Texas students today as external and internal forces push our state toward an expensive, unequal, and harmful voucher program... 1876 Texas Constitution warned against. Not only does the voucher program in SB 2 violate the spirit of nearly 150 years of Texas values as an out-of-state vendor bill; by directing Texas tax dollars to private school pockets, this legislation defies the values expressed in Article 7 of our state Constitution because lawmakers have a "duty to establish and make suitable provision for... an efficient system of public free schools."...

Bill Chapman
London ISD
Corpus Christi, TX

I am a taxpayer in Corpus Christi ISD.

I am in opposition to HB3 - The Education Savings Account Program. As a conservative, it is hard for me to see public funds be diverted to private schools. Public money is for the public good and not for private use. In addition, if these vouchers must pass, they should never exceed the amount that a district receives.

London ISD receives a total amount of \$8,677 per student of ALL Federal, State, and local funds! If you look at state funds only, they receive \$8,127 per student.

If vouchers pass, there needs to be a level playing field in regards to finances, accountability, and oversight. The money and rules MUST be the same!

There should not be a different accountability or rules for the different systems.

Misty Daniels, Mrs
Self
Cleveland, TX

I agree with this bill

Bianca Downs
Self
Mansfield, TX

As a taxpaying citizen, I do NOT support this bill. If passed I plan to vote against those that passed it.

Ashley Spigener
WISD
Rowlett, TX

I oppose HB3

Melinda Harrington
Self
Gorman, TX

I do not believe that education savings accounts are in the best interests of our public schools, communities, and our state. As a taxpayer, I am not interested in paying for private schools or home schools that are not held to the same standards as our public schools. I would rather see our public schools adequately funded where they can show what they can do when not struggling to survive.

Elizabeth Goldberg, Ms
Self
Edinburg, TX

As a proud parent of two Texas public school children I am against any state voucher program. Vouchers harm our Texas children and their families by reducing funding for public schools, particularly in rural areas. Public school budgets have not kept up with the increases students and costs. They need more funding not less. Vouchers would exacerbate this problem. Do Not any bill supporting vouchers. Instead fully fund our public schools.

Richard Yew
Self
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Allison Duckworth
Self
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3!

Rachel Sorensen
Self
San Antonio, TX

I do not support the creation of school vouchers. Public money should only be used for public school. As a parent of a special needs student I have real concerns about the ability of private schools to discriminate against children like mine. It will still leave us with under funded public schools for the children who most need resources. Why are we trying to start a voucher program when they are failing in other states? It is against all common sense.

Roman Pena
Selfn
San Antonio, TX
No vouchers

Justin T
Self
San Antonio, TX

It's super fast to comment, you can copy and paste the following to make it easy if you would like!

Public funds should be used to fund public institutions, not private ones. Redirecting taxpayers dollars away from public schools undermines their ability to serve all students equitably and transparently. Private institutions are not held to the same accountability standards and can exclude students based on income, religion, and other factors. Our priority should be to strengthen public education, not diverting resources to institutions that do not serve the entire community.

Amitiss Mahvash
Self, Division Manager
Austin, TX

I am an absolute NO on vouchers. I am a Texas voter and am asking you fully fund public schools. Do not take public funds to fund private schools.

Felicia Taylor
Self. Parent
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Mindi Janssen
Self
Lubbock, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Richain Herod
Self
League City, TX

Please vote against this funding! Our public schools are the building blocks of communities and families state wide. By redirecting funds to vouchers, you are saying that only a handful of students matter and ignoring the other 5million students. Fully fund public education. Let the wealthy pay their own way if they choose private schools. This has NEVER been about choice as families always have the choice to remove students from public schools and choose alternatives. There are no guaranteed spots for students who may benefit from this funding. There are no requirements for these private schools to assist students with special needs. There is NO OVERSIGHT on how well these schools will prepare students and where they spend that money. This entire bill is designed to reduce public education to bare bones so that privatization (for profit companies) by donors can step in and make money. It has never been about better options or better education FOR ALL STUDENTS. What a disappointment that so many on both sides of the aisle and constituents have been stating this and disagree with vouchers but are being ignored because of the governor and his personal agenda to support his donors. SAY NO TO VOUCHERS and FULLY FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION!

Martha Grandinetti
Self, marketing executive
Plano, TX

Vouchers not only hurt students and teachers, they harm the community at large. No on vouchers.

Jonathon Kruse
Self
Fort worth, TX

I am against school vouchers, they will reduce public school funding and do not increase choice

Susan Lancaster
Self
Cypress, TX

I am not in favor of vouchers. Vouchers will take more funding away from public schools, which are grossly underfunded. Vouchers provide a tax break for the wealthy who can already afford private schools, but do not truly allow for school choice. Private schools do not accept all students, students with special needs in particular may or may not be accepted by private schools. Also, there are private vendors, such as Class Wallet who would charge a substantial fee to help parents and schools - again not helpful to public schools or families when they already have access to public schools paid for by tax dollars. Our governor received a donation of 12 million dollars from an individual associated with a private vendor, this is a clear conflict of interest. Our children deserve to have a free and public education as guaranteed by our Constitution, vouchers are not a solution and have a poor track record, look at Arizona. Our public schools are not for sale!

Helen Hauber
Self
Missouri City, TX

No to vouchers!

Emily Norton
Self
Crossroads, TX

Please vote against HB3. I am a mother of 4 kids enrolled in Texas public schools. Please vote against vouchers! Our public schools need more funding not private schools. I am also the PTA president of my local elem start school and have seen how the lack of school funding is directly hurting students and our teachers. My school has had large teacher turnover each year because teachers are leaving the profession due to lack of funding. My school district can't provide enough chromebooks for students to learn on and kids have to share. It's embarrassing that the state of Texas has a huge budget surplus and won't provide any of that money to public schools. Please vote against this voucher bill which will only take more money away from public schools.

Crystal Williams

Self

Galveston, TX

Members of the Legislature,

I urge you to reject school vouchers. Public schools serve the vast majority of Texas students, and vouchers would drain their funding, weaken accountability, and increase inequality without improving outcomes.

Vouchers take money from already underfunded public schools, leaving fewer teachers, larger class sizes, and fewer resources. Rural schools, which often have no private alternatives, would suffer the most.

Private schools receiving vouchers are not held to the same standards as public schools. They do not have to follow state curriculum, report performance, or hire certified teachers. Taxpayer dollars should not fund unregulated schools.

Vouchers also increase inequality. They rarely cover full tuition, meaning wealthier families benefit while lower-income students remain in struggling public schools. In other states, most voucher recipients were already in private school before receiving government funds.

Research shows vouchers do not improve student performance. Many students who transfer perform worse than their public school peers. Texas should invest in proven strategies—higher teacher pay, smaller classes, and better student support.

Vouchers also raise constitutional concerns. The Texas Constitution prohibits public funds from supporting religious institutions, yet most private schools accepting vouchers are religious. Public money should not fund religious education.

A strong public school system benefits all Texans. I urge you to reject vouchers and focus on strengthening public education.

Elizabeth Turner, Mom

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose hb3!

Leviticus Williamson

Parent

Spring, TX

100% against education savings accounts. Why would any of my tax dollars go to a private entity instead of properly funding the public system. How in over 4 years the allotted amount allocated to a child has gone up while your suggesting to give 60% more per child to a parent (\$10,000 vs \$6,200ish per public school child) to the district. Clearly, causing a problem to try and provide a solution instead of funding the system as needed. Top on the situation with inflation over the last 4 years and the state didn't provide increased funds. These children are our future and the state government has let them down.

Kelly Harrison

Parent

Klein, TX

I'm an advocate for not having religion in school. Personal choice of religious freedoms can occur in the home but not on public property or an a school voucher circumstance it's like you're giving a social hand out to rich people who can afford school.

Nikki Rennaker

Self

Wylie, TX

NO SCHOOL VOUCHERS!!!.

Becky Gossett
Self
Colleyville, TX

Vote NO save our state & students

Frank and Nancy Schultz
Self
Spring, TX

Public money to public schools! No vouchers!

MJ Poormon
Self
Lubbock, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. Please do your job and properly fund public education.

Yarimar Torres Leon
Public schools
Dallas, TX

I oppose any bill that will give funds to privileged families while taking away funding for public schools.

Briana Shay
Self
Houston, TX

Vote against vouchers and for fully funded public education!

Alicia Armontrout
Self/early childhood educator
Arlington, TX

I oppose HB3

Catherine Muldowney
Self
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Freddy Ortega
Keller ISD
fort worth, TX

please do not have vouchers. if anything, just make all districts be open enrollment. i have spoken to teachers in Arizona. they are telling me it is killing public education.

Shaun Kirkdorffer
Self
Houston, TX

As a homeschooling, liberty loving family in Texas we urge you to vote no concerning HB3. It opens the door to government regulation of homeschool, it comes with strings attached.

Gloria Sullivan

Self

Boerne, TX

I do not support this bill. It undermines public education and will assist those who do not need assistance. Additionally, there are no safeguards or accountability standards as required of public education.

Melinda Kizer

Self/retired educator

Allen, TX

Please vote against school vouchers

Jennifer Sullivan

Dimmitt ISD

Dimmitt, TX

I am an elementary principal in a rural west texas school. I am against the voucher program. This plan will adversely affect our small town schools. Vote NO!

Samantha Bethke

Self

Austin, TX

Basic per student allotment hasn't increased since 2019. Texas funds its schools inadequately and WE need the state legislator to fix it. Texas is ranked 36 out of 50 states in its funding per student. A proposed \$6380 per public school student vs \$10K for a private school voucher. What??? And, as I understand it, the vouchers plan is \$10K per student flat fee. A public school, on the other hand, only gets a portion of their student allotment based on average attendance numbers. So PUBLIC schools have to be staffed and have enough materials for 100% of enrolled kids, but the state is going to pay less than 100%. And, public schools are required to serve kids in their attendance zone while private schools enjoy selective enrollment. Heartbreaking.

Children and their education are OUR future. We need to do better for our kids AND our teachers. Learning in schools requires student attention, parental support, well funded schools, and well trained teachers. Vouchers will cause the outcomes will be worse. State funding should not be sent to private schools. If state funding is sent to private schools, those schools should be held to the same standards. Public funds belong in public schools.

Jason Stevens
Self - Community College Professor
Round Rock, TX

While I fully support efforts to improve educational opportunities for all students, I believe that school vouchers are not the solution. Instead, they divert critical public funds from our already underfunded public schools and exacerbate existing inequities in our education system.

Texas has long prided itself on a strong public education system that serves all students, regardless of background, income, or ability. However, instead of strengthening public schools, voucher programs redirect taxpayer money to private and religious institutions, which are not held to the same accountability and transparency standards as public schools. These private schools are not required to accept all students, meaning that many children—including those with disabilities, English language learners, and students from low-income communities—will continue to face barriers to access.

As a professor in Texas's higher education system, I see firsthand how disparities in K-12 education impact students' preparedness for college and the workforce. Public schools are the backbone of our education system, and instead of siphoning away resources, we should be investing in proven strategies to support teachers, reduce class sizes, expand early childhood education, and provide additional mental health resources for students. These are the kinds of initiatives that will strengthen Texas's future—not a voucher system that benefits the few at the expense of the many.

Furthermore, rural communities, which often lack access to private school options, stand to lose the most under a voucher system. While urban areas may have private schools available, rural students will see no real benefit, only a weakening of the public schools that serve as community hubs. Public funds should remain in public schools, where they serve all children, not just a select few.

Scott Moody
Self
West Columbia, TX

Please vote no on vouchers. It will kill public education , especially for low income kids. I am a retired teacher and I taught in low income and rural areas.

Stephen Binckley
Self- Public Servant
Cypress, TX

No to private school vouchers--whatever bill that is for!

Cameron Markeloff
Self - Education Consultant and Tutor
Houston, TX

Education savings accounts are detrimental to public schools. Taking money away from public schools to give it away to private schools is unconscionable. Private schools can pick and choose whichever students they want. They do not have to educate all students and certainly do not offer special education services for free. Most private schools charge extra for the extra help these students need. Private schools cost a lot of money and education savings accounts will only cover a fraction of the cost. Over 100 counties in Texas do not even have a private school option. We will see an influx of poorly accredited pop-up private schools. Public tax dollars should only go to public schools. Fully fund our Texas public schools. Do not bankrupt our public schools.

Ally Dobbins
Self
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3.

gregory wesley, Educator

Self

Forest Hill, TX

The plan should be decided by the people. Not their elected officials who are agents for private and corporate interest. There should be a proposal made and a proposition presented to the People. Not 151 legislature some of whom have no idea of how this affects public school funding. Some don't even realize charter schools are not private. My suggestion, let the people decide.

Susan Anderson

self, retired

Austin, TX

I oppose HB-3. Over 70% of our schools are underfunded; using our tax dollars for any purpose other than supporting PUBLIC education is a travesty. The only choice most parents have is public education and this bill will not change that; it will only diminish the quality of what is available to us. Public funds should not go to private education and should not support students leaving public schools.

Angela Groves

self, educator

Fort Worth, TX

oppose

Kathleen Kupelian

Self

Houston, TX

I urge you to reject vouchers - Texas needs to fully invest in our public schools.

Judith Rivera, Mrs.

Self

Arlington, TX

As a public school teacher of 9 years and a mother of 2 students who attend a public school, one of which who receives 504 accommodations, I highly disagree with vouchers. They do not support "ALL" and this budget will affect all public schools, students and staff. Public school is not a daycare and vouchers will not support Special Education students, General Education students or their families. Vouchers are going to promote an increase in students who are not academically ready for the real world or college. There are so many other issues at hand that need to be discussed and the money could be used to promote public education success in academics and behavior.

I hope that these comments are read and that our voices as parents and students are heard. The average family will NOT benefit from vouchers in any form in fact it will hurt us all.

Shellie Daly

Self & Kocurek Elementary PTA Member via Austin ISD

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3 and ask my elected officials to do the same. My 2 elementary school children do attend a Title 1 school. Although our family does not qualify or benefit directly from the financial and support resources at our school, I directly see the benefits of decreased school funding at our already economically disadvantaged school. Vouchers do not address many needs of low-income, at-risk students such as transportation, free and reduced-priced lunches, textbooks and other instructional materials these families and children depend on. The voucher system would further impact the reduction of these funds for schools like ours if passed.

Other reasons I do not support HB3 is that it:

Does not ensure accountability.

Violates separation of church and state.

I and other parents already have choice.

Again, I oppose HB3 and believe it is not in the best interest of our students, schools or state.

Thank you - Shellie Daly, public taxpayer and mom of 2 elementary students

Cassandra Kappel

RPM Living

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Public funds should be used to fund public institutions, not private ones. Redirecting taxpayers dollars away from public schools undermines their ability to serve all students equitably and transparently. Private institutions are not held to the same accountability standards and can exclude students based on income, religion, and other factors. Our priority should be to strengthen public education, not diverting resources to institutions that do not serve the entire community.

Tonia Ward

Self

Happy, TX

I do not support vouchers for our schools. Please vote against HB3

Sascha Terry

McMillan Junior High School

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3.

Katie Sangl

Self

15214 Sandstone Outcrop Drive, TX

Please vote NO to HB 3. Our schools are already underfunded, and the passing of this bill will be detrimental to our public schools. Everyone deserves the right to a good, free education. Pulling funds from the public schools will undermine this basic principle. Please do the right thing and vote NO! Thank you for your time. Katie Sangl

Amy Bowman

Self

Humble, TX

I OPPOSE HB3!!

Emily Bolf

Self

Austin, TX

I do not support this legislation. It will hurt public schools. If there is money available for vouchers then that money should instead be used to adequately fund public schools! Vote NO.

Brandon Hall, Member

Texas State Board of Education, District 11

Aledo, TX

March 11, 2025

Chairman Buckley and Members of the Texas House Committee on Public Education:

I stand in support of HB3. Last November, I was elected by over 500,000 North Texans to represent them on the State Board of education. In my travels throughout the six counties that make up SBOE District 11, countless parents have expressed to me their desire to be fully empowered to choose the educational option that works best for the needs of their family.

For far too long, student success has been hindered by limitations imposed by failing school districts and random zoning. The call for educational freedom and school choice is not just a rallying cry; it is an urgent demand for a conservative shift that empowers parents, breaks bureaucratic barriers, and secures a brighter future for the children of Texas.

School choice confronts an outdated system that binds students to underperforming schools based on their socio-economic status and zip code. The time has come to embrace the radical notion that parents, not bureaucrats, should decide where their children receive an education.

Educational freedom is not a luxury; it is a fundamental right. Parents must have the liberty to choose the educational path that aligns with their values and aspirations for their children. No longer should families be trapped in a system that dictates their options based on geography.

As a member of the State Board of Education, I am all too familiar with the plight of struggling students in underperforming schools. Attempting the same solutions over and over again and expecting better results is the definition of insanity. We need a serious reform that will breathe new life into Texas public education. Enter HB3 – a game-changing school choice proposal that introduces competition into the stagnant educational landscape. When schools are forced to compete for students, they are compelled to raise their standards, innovate, and deliver excellence. It is a powerful opportunity for parents to directly bring accountability that transforms schools from complacent institutions into dynamic hubs of learning, where success is not just encouraged but expected.

Critics may argue against school choice, citing concerns about inequality. However, the true inequality lies in a system that consigns children to subpar education based on their address. School choice is the antidote to this injustice, providing an opportunity for every child, regardless of background, to access a quality education.

The call for educational freedom is a demand for a system that prioritizes the rights of parents and the limitless potential of Texas children. The time for school choice is now, and it begins with passing HB3.

Brennen Cwatanaphol

self

San Antonio, TX

My name is Brennen Cwatanaphol and I'm an undergraduate student living in Bryan/College Station, Texas. My entire education is built on Texas' public schools and teachers, and I cannot imagine if schools like Stinson Middle School and Louis D. Brandeis High School in San Antonio weren't available, especially for the children that would have no option if they were priced out of an education—many such cases would occur. Privatizing our education system is a mistake that will kill any bright minds left here, a tragedy for a state with such wealth and opportunity to provide for its children. I grew up around tons of private schools and charter schools in San Antonio and we all know it's true that the divisions between our private and public schools are socially segregated by race and class. This wouldn't change with a meager 10K that doesn't begin to cover costs, and that doesn't address the issue of public, equitable education for all anyway. Rural Texans like my cousins who depended on their only public school in the area know this. High schoolers I have worked with here in the BCS area know this. I would venture to say my lawmakers know this too, as the makeup of our legislature changed a lot last election because of viewpoints on this crucial issue of how we build up young minds and reform our education system. Vouchers are not the solution to education reform in Texas. No matter how they rebrand (voucher, education savings accounts, etc.) the law would provide families with my taxpayer money to pay for private schooling. I object, this isn't what I paid for. Barriers like location, fixed tuition, and institutionalized racism ensure that private schools will remain exclusive, and I don't want the money I've paid in to be wasted on something that's proven to waste government funds. Texans like me want our neighborhood schools to continue providing equal access, standardized measures of success, and community impact—and that depends on funding public schools and not a new scam that would further devastate our public education system.

Patricia Gamez

Self

Carrollton, TX

Vote against School Vouchers, Choice of School, Education Saving Account Program. Any funding available should go directly to our public schools. We need to be able to hire quality teachers and we need a productive, well rounded curriculum in our public schools. This is a must to empower the children of our future with the tools necessary to have successful lives, lead our country, and understand how to live and respect all cultures around the world.

You are doing a disservice if you support school vouchers, this is not the solution. Public education needs to be a top priority. Therefore, vote and fight for the funding needed for our public schools to be able to provide the education for "all" of our kids.

Cathy Bowland

Self/ Agriculture

Taylor, TX

I do not support using Texas government funds to pay for private tuition. It defunds public schools that desperately need funding.

Meredith Buchanan

Self/Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

Rockwall, TX

We all know this bill hurts children and families. And you're doing it anyway. Self-serving by serving the richest of the rich only. 158 out of 254 counties do NOT have any private schools. Once again, this bill hurts children and families. This bill is not pro-life. This bill is selfish. This bill aims to actively harm poor and middle class children, disabled children, children who are geographically out of range of a private schools, and any other child a private school would not admit. This bill HURTS FAMILIES. All children deserve equal and equitable access to an education. They are children. Additionally, public school teachers deserve to be paid and not have salary money withheld at a political whim. Completely disrespectful and disgusting. This bill actively harms public school educators and other staff. Texas used to be better:

Vickie Jacobsin

Self - retired principal

Austin, TX

For several years m, "recapture" policies have caused public schools distructs to cut and redic

Mary Beth Lee
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Public funds are for public schools. Tax payer money sent to private education is wrong on every level. Data from ESA/Vouchers around the country show the same thing over and over: vouchers go to wealthy families and work as coupons for their tuition. Public schools are strong in the state. They educate ALL students. They are run by local boards and follow a state-mandated curriculum. Accountability is a constant with public schools. Private schools use whatever curriculum they want and there is no accountability. The boards are often not local. ESAs/vouchers are bad for communities and they will destroy public schools. Vouchers are not conservative. Parents are free to send their children to private schools. But taxpayers should not be paying for that choice. Taxpayer money should go where there is state curriculum and state accountability and local control.

Jill Urban, Mrs
Private citizen
Austin, TX

Please DO NOT vote for school voucher's! This will put our public school system and a terrible spot not only financially but the the between church and state will not longer be upheld with the forced teachings of certain religious topics. I am a Christian but this will not allow for an open and equal environment for student's and teachers. On the financial side, this bill will be taking money out of our public school and putting it into private schools, and will benefit students and families of those private schools, and leave public school students at a deficit in their opportunities and education. Do not vote for this bill and harm our children!

James Branch
Self - executive
Fort Worth, TX

I am against HB 3. Public money does not belong in private schools. We came together as a state to create public schools so our kids will receive a non-partisan religion that does not favor any one faith. Let's keep it that way and improve what we have. There is no need to privatize the education system.

Brittany Caldwell
Self/Hairstylist
Brock, TX

I support public schools and strongly oppose HB3. If we have money for vouchers, we have money to fully fund public schools first!

Amy Greenwald
Self
Austin, TX

Fund public schools not private.

Margie Turner
Self
San Antonio, TX

My children have benefitted from public schools. My tax dollars should go to public schools. I am absolutely not in favor of vouchers. Put this to a vote for all of Texas. We will show you this is NOT wanted.

Stacey Dehoyos

Self

Newark, TX

Redirecting public funds to private schools through Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) will drain critical resources from public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students.

Furthermore, HB3 does not ensure that private schools will accept all students, meaning the most vulnerable children—those from low-income families or with special needs—may still be left behind. Instead of diverting funds away, we should be investing in strengthening public schools, improving teacher pay, and ensuring every student has access to a quality education regardless of their zip code.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB3, as it poses a serious threat to the integrity of our public education system.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and vote against HB3. Our public schools deserve better.

Julianne Smith

Self

Burleson, TX

I implore you to vote NO to vouchers. Do not pass this legislation! Please use this money to fund all public schools fully!

Michelle Winn

Self- music teacher

Kyle, TX

Opposed to school vouchers- this takes away from public education as a whole. This is detrimental to schools and students . Private schools do not hold sane standards generally nor supports in special education etc... private schools are supported by private entities and should thus be supported ONLY by private entities . They are "business" centered and are for profit, giving them the right to raise costs, effecting those that attend . Public schools are for ALL STUDENTS, regardless of SES, race, ethnicity and disability . Funds should support PUBLIC education OVER private entities . School choice already exists: homeschooling, private schools, charter schools, public schools are all ACCEPTED means of educating students . Tax dollars should NEVER support private entities. Private citizens can decide if individually they wish to support private schools by affording tuition, donations, etc... in addition, the state does not, and will not, hold private entities to the same state standard with curriculum, testing, and accommodations required through special education. I DO NOT SUPPORT VOUCHERS FOR SCHOOL CHOICE.

Lillian Ligon

Self. Retired State employee

Cypress, TX

Hello, I have 10 Grandchildren in Texas and 4 educators among my children.

I am totally against using tax dollars for funding private schools.

Nothing must be even considered until all monies withheld from Public Schools have been returned with 25% additional for interest.

The schools are hurting. So many kids depend on their schools- poor kids, disabled kids. Kids the private schools will not serve. Also kids that must have transportation!

In other States that have vouchers, statistics show that private schools end up raising rate

Their rates to where only a portion of the populace can even afford tuition even with vouchers.

There was a time in Texas when our schools were the heartbeat of each community. My parents came from tiny rural towns.

Towns of this size DO NOT have private schools. Why should they subsidize a private school in the city while their school suffers from reduced funding?

Please don't pass this bill just to satisfy our Governor who is seemingly obsessed with this idea.

Everyone I have talked to, tells me they are against this.

Thank you for listening to me.

Lillian Ligon

Heather Griffin

Self

Lubbock, TX

Vouchers are not good for Texas. Those who wish to send their children to private schools can do so. Many of us who send our children to public schools could not send our kids to private schools even with vouchers as the tuition cost will still be prohibitive. Do not take tax payer dollars from the public schools system to funnel to private schools. Private schools do. It have to take, or are not equipped to take, children with special needs, who have 504 plans or IEPs, or certain medical issues. How would a voucher help me when I have three kids (two currently in public schools) - one of whom has a IEP? She would never be accepted into a private school due to her IEP and low test scores. She deserves a quality education just like every other child in Texas. That means equipping our public schools so they have the ability to continue providing education to children like mine.

Rural areas of Texas do not even have private schools - where's their "school choice"? Many families cannot afford to provide transportation for their children to a private school (assuming they can even pay the tuition even with the voucher) so they will also need to rely on the public school system as they provide transportation for their kids. Where is their "school choice"?

The government should not be providing ANY tax payer money to private businesses including private schools.

Listen to your constituents, who by and large are NOT for school vouchers. Quit pandering to the rich and elite and speak for the regular Texans who ELECTED YOU!

Anna Cheng
Self, homemaker
Houston, TX

As a homeschool graduate and a homeschooling mother I oppose HB 3. I highly value the freedoms Texas currently gives to homeschool parents to educate their children in the best way they see fit for each child and their family as a whole. HB 3 sounds appealing with the promise of funds to go toward curriculum each year, but in reality, few homeschoolers spend that much money per child per year on educational materials thanks to purchasing pre-loved books and most curricula not costing anywhere near \$2k.

Additionally, I do not agree with the promise of such funds still giving me 100% autonomy in making the best educational choices for my children based on their individual needs and our personal and religious convictions. History and current homeschool bills and laws in other states have shown that when the government gets involved with financial incentives for homeschool families, the freedoms of the people suffer. I do not believe it would take very long for the government to start telling me how I should educate my children and what curricula I should use if this bill were to pass.

Again, I oppose HB3 and encourage you to do the same.

Keri Lesur
Self
Stephenville, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill and am aware of the damage that will be caused to public schools and public school children. Public education is a right, private education is not. Please vote accordingly, with what constituents want. Not where the payoffs are!

Nancy Dacus
Self/Public School Teacher
Lake Jackson, TX

Support public education, students and teachers. Do the right thing.

Angela Hawkins
Self
Leander, TX

I do not support the savings account program. I support providing public education for ALL Texas children.

Phillip Sanders, Teacher
Self
Katy, TX

HB3 will not go to lower income or special education students. It will subsidize higher income families already in private schools. There will be no accountability in the funds that are distributed. One billion dollars would go a long way towards raising the student allotment to levels of other states and also help retain teachers in the profession.

HB3 is not a conservative bill. It grows the size of the government by increasing the size of TEA and the comptroller's office.

Robin Dehnel

SELF

SAN ANGELO, TX

I am a land owner and thus a school taxpayer in the great State of Texas. I do not want my tax dollars diverted from public schools to the schools of choice of non taxpayers. I do not support Hitler High, Putin Preschool, Eichmann Elementary, Mussolini Middle School, or any other non-public school. There is no oversight or accountability for these choices. As a retired 30 year educator from public schools in Texas, we need our own DOGE to help public schools become more accountable and improve performance. I tend to vote Republican on most issues however I am with the Democrats and those who are not trying to force vouchers on us using the term school choice. Wake up Greg Abbott...we elected our representatives to represent us, the constituents of the best state in the United States.

Jan Austin, Ms

Self and Texas UU Justice Ministry

Austin, TX

I do not approve of taking state funds to help families pay for private school tuition. Our public schools are already struggling financially and many are cutting programs and reducing faculty size in order to try to continue to operate. Taking money from the public schools will only make this worse and lead to more problems in our public schools. Under no circumstances will I approve using my money to send children to private schools when our public schools are available.

Kianna Cody

Self- public school teacher since 1992

Wichita Falls, TX

I am **STRONGLY AGAINST** anything that takes away from public schools. I currently teach in a Title 1 school. If public schools aren't readily available for ALL students, I know which kids will slip through the cracks. They won't just be lacking in education- they'll be lacking in a mandated reporter checking them every day, making sure that they've been fed. If I hadn't filed a report on one of my students last December, she'd still be in a house with a registered sex offender. What will happen to our SPED kids who get rejected by the private schools who don't have to serve them, but then the public schools who do won't have enough personnel on each campus? Abbott complains about public schools without giving them the funds to fix them. Sitting on a 33 billion dollar surplus for so long is inexcusable and is exactly why I no longer vote Republican after 20+ years of doing so.

Carrie Chambliss

Self

Richardson, TX

I am in favor of HB3 and urge my congressman to vote Yes.

Kevin Nichols

Self

Mansfield, TX

Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) is a direct attack on education, disguised as “school choice.” It diverts taxpayer money from public schools to private institutions that lack public accountability, can discriminate, and do not meet the same standards as public schools. This violates the Texas Constitution’s mandate to provide a free, public education for all children.

Proponents claim Texas can afford HB 3 due to a budget surplus, but this is shortsighted. The state is also pushing teacher pay raises and property tax reductions, all of which rely on temporary funds. Economic downturns or declining oil revenues could erase the surplus, forcing cuts to public school funding, teacher pay, or tax hikes to sustain the voucher program. Once public money is committed, it is difficult to reverse without harming schools.

Other states show the risks. Arizona’s voucher expansion cost taxpayers hundreds of millions more than expected. Florida and Wisconsin saw ballooning expenses that benefited wealthier families while draining public school resources. If Texas follows suit, the result will be underfunded public schools, larger class sizes, and fewer resources for students who rely on them most. HB 3 will not help the majority of Texas students. Vouchers disproportionately benefit families already in private schools. In Ohio, 88% of voucher users never attended public school. In Florida, most were already enrolled in private education. Vouchers do not create opportunities for most students—they subsidize private tuition for families who can already afford it.

Texans have rejected vouchers before. Proposition 2 in 1997, which sought to use public funds for private tuition, was overwhelmingly voted down. More recent efforts have failed due to bipartisan opposition, particularly from rural Republicans who understand that taking money from public schools will devastate their communities.

Yet HB 3 is being pushed through, fueled by out-of-state billionaires like Jeff Yass and Texas billionaires Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks. These donors have spent millions to unseat GOP legislators who opposed vouchers, proving this is a scheme driven by big money, not public demand.

If HB 3 is such a great idea, why not let Texans vote on it? This bill effectively amends Article VII of the Texas Constitution, which guarantees public education. The fact that its supporters are avoiding a direct vote shows they know Texans would reject it again.

HB 3 is reckless, fiscally unsound, and deeply unpopular. It undermines public schools while benefiting a privileged few. Lawmakers must reject this bill and defend Texas students, teachers, and communities. Public funds should support public education—period.

Danielle Nobleza

Self

Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS’ & "NO TO HB3

Stefanie Thompson

PTA

Leander, TX

Please reconsider this. It is a discount for the wealthy that hurts the vast majority of students. Private schools are small, and parents can pick and choose. This really doesn't create much of a choice for parents, even if they might be able to afford it. Plus, many offer payment options. Diverting public school funds for this is inexcusable and could set a nationwide precedent that will widen the education gulf between our children and those from other countries. What happened to America first? This is rich first and not fooling Texans. Public schools do amazing things with meager budgets, maybe DOGE could learn a thing or two from them. That's not the point though, they shouldn't have too. Diverting school funds for any reason is a mistake -- kids are our future and we should invest in ALL OF THEM.

Eugene Balaguer

Self/retired

Austin, TX

NO to vouchers for public schools. Tax dollars should NOT fund private schools. Vouchers don’t ensure ‘school choice’ because private schools can pick and choose their students.

Mindia Whittier

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools. Stop harming public education!

Amanda Stewart

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB3, the proposed school voucher bill in Texas. While supporters claim this legislation expands school choice, in reality, it serves as a mechanism to defund public education while offering taxpayer-funded discounts to affluent families who can already afford private schooling.

Public schools in Texas are already underfunded. Texas ranks 43rd in the nation for per-student spending, investing approximately \$4,000 less per student than the national average (Education Law Center, 2023). Diverting public funds to private schools through vouchers will exacerbate this crisis, leaving public schools—where over 90% of Texas children are enrolled—with fewer resources, larger class sizes, and deteriorating infrastructure.

HB3 is not about helping low-income families. Studies show that in states with similar programs, the vast majority of voucher recipients were already enrolled in private schools before receiving taxpayer-funded subsidies (National Bureau of Economic Research, 2022). The proposed voucher amount will not cover the full cost of tuition at elite private schools, meaning these funds effectively serve as discounts for wealthy families rather than real opportunities for low-income students.

Unlike public schools, private institutions receiving voucher funds are not required to meet state educational standards, accept all students, or provide services for special needs children. This creates a two-tiered system where public schools bear the burden of educating the most vulnerable students while private schools can exclude them at will.

Time and again, Texans have rejected school voucher schemes. In 2023, multiple rural Republican lawmakers joined Democrats in opposing similar legislation, recognizing that vouchers pose a direct threat to small-town public schools—often the backbone of their communities.

If legislators truly want to improve education in Texas, they should focus on fully funding public schools, increasing teacher salaries to address shortages, and investing in infrastructure and student support services. HB3 does none of these things.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject HB3 and stand in support of Texas' public schools, teachers, and students.

Chase Barber

Self - Data Governance

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Erin Anderson Cox

Self

Arlington, TX

I stand with TX families. No vouchers, no special interests. Please keep funding in public school.

Nicola Quillen, Ms

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3!

Jennifer Ames

Self

Murphy, TX

No to school vouchers please

Jaxson Hill

Self

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Lacrisha Sherman

Self

Wylie, TX

No

Anthony brackett

self

wylie, TX

This is unacceptable. How about we try and make public schools better rather than passing bills to try and widen the gap economically and financially between the rich and poor? Maybe do away with no child left behind as well. Its a failure policy. No to this bill

Merle Quave, Ms.

Self/Teacher

Houston, TX

Taking taxpayer funds away from public schools to fund private schools through vouchers will decimate public education in Texas. Private schools are not held to the same standards that govern public education - certified teachers, state assessments, accepting ALL students regardless of ability or needs. Siphoning off funds that should support the education of ALL Texas students - not just the wealthy - will severely affect public schools' ability to provide the education our students need and deserve.

I encourage you to vote NO on HB 3!

Sincerely,

Merle Quave

Victoria Loney

Self

McKinney, TX

I oppose ESA's. Republicans are supposed to be fiscally responsible and this is NOT a good use of tax payer dollars. Furthermore, these ESA's will RAISE taxes because the money sent to private schools is not sustainable without raising taxes. No public tax money to private schools. At the very least, private schools who accept public funds should have to take EVERY child who applies. Should be required to offer special education. Should be required to teach the Republican developed, state mandated curriculum and should be required to administer the STAAR tests. The money should have the Republican mandates for education attached. No public money to private schools! We all know this has been made possible by a wealthy donor from Pennsylvania. Since when do Texans do what people from other states push us to do. NO MORE TAXES!

Cathryne Chatmon

Self, parent

Sachse, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Kim Hileman, MS

Self. Retired

San Antonio, TX

I'm against this bill. Parents should have more control over the public school's curriculum and practices. Conservative parents are choosing private schools because they have a say and/or choice in what is taught and changing standards that go against their values. Public (free) education is critical for all children, and should receive more funding, then let parents have a say in how they are operated.

Joe Hite, MBA

Self (retired college administrator),daughter (teacher

Gunter, TX

We are ADAMANTLY opposed to the voucher system being considered by our Texas legislators! Public money should NOT be used to fund any part of private education! Private education is a CHOICE by the student and parents or guardians. Private schools DO NOT adhere to the same access and accountability as public education! Please do not cater to the wealthy donors behind this bill.

Michelle Maloney

Texas PTA, Wylie ISD, Harrison Intermediate PTA

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3. Keep public funding in public schools.

Angela Stubbs

Self

Leander, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed school voucher program. Redirecting public funds from public schools to private institutions undermines the foundation of our public education system and threatens to increase educational inequality across Texas.

Public schools are already underfunded and face growing challenges in meeting the diverse needs of students. Vouchers would divert critical resources from public schools, leaving them with fewer funds for teachers, classroom materials, and essential support services. This would disproportionately harm rural communities and lower-income families, where public schools often serve as the backbone of the community.

Furthermore, private schools that receive voucher funding are not held to the same standards of accountability and transparency as public schools. Taxpayer dollars could be used to support institutions that are not required to accept all students or provide the same level of educational access and services, including for students with disabilities.

Instead of shifting resources away from public schools, I urge you to invest in strengthening our public education system—by increasing teacher pay, improving classroom resources, and expanding access to academic and extracurricular programs for all students. Public funds should remain in public schools, where they can benefit every child, not just a select few.

I respectfully ask you to oppose the school voucher program and focus on policies that will support and strengthen Texas public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Harry Ryan
self
Nocona, TX

I am a retire/rehire administrator of Nocona ISD and I am writing to oppose the utilization of tax payer funds for private education especially as I see this bill only benefitting those who can already afford private schooling. In addition, I find it difficult to understand how our impoverished families who work 3 or 4 low paying jobs will get their students to private schools 30 minutes to an hour away in order to utilize the Educational Savings Account (ESA). These families can choose from several quality school districts within 10 to 20 minutes away, so choice is already in place.

On another critical note, Nocona ISD will stand to lose approximately \$311,000 which will equate to 5 or 6 teaching positions. Like many other districts in Texas, we struggle maintaining competitive salaries to attract the best teachers to insure the highest quality education for our students. This type of loss will notably impact our ability to maintain the quality standards our students and families are accustomed to.

Please consider how this harmful bill will impact the school districts you represent. With sincerity I employ you to look at the thousands and thousands of students that will be negatively impacted by this loss of revenue just to benefit the few that will actually access an ESA.

Vicki Goble-Lane Lane
Retired teacher
Allen, TX

I am registering my complete opposition to HB3 (vouchers). NO to HB3 ! I am a former public school teacher and public tax money NEEDS to fund public school for ALL children. Vouchers is just a handout to the rich. Make public school funding better to help improve public schools. Please represent the need of the majority of school children.

KINDRA Coleman
Self- parent, educator, advocate
Austin, TX

Hello, I am writing to express my opposition to your support of the voucher bill HB 3. The bill for creating vouchers to fund private school educations for students using tax dollars and public funds will significantly impact our local schools, potentially taking millions of dollars from local schools, which are already extremely underfunded. I am an advocate for funding schools using enrollment based per student allotments in alignment with national averages (Texas is currently 42nd in the US in funding, and has a funding deficit of approx \$4,000 per student).

We need to stop trying to line the pockets of Billionaires from out of state, and start educating young Texans, as they are our future. Jeff Yass, Tim Dunn, and Farris Wilkes do not represent us, and should not dictate the education of our children. Say no to HB3, and instead fund Texas public schools appropriately!

Daniel Bump
Self/ teacher
San Antonio, TX

I have a strong belief in a separation of Church and state. And I believe that private schools that receive state funds should be held accountable to the same testing standards as public schools i.e. Star testing. They should be required to accept any student that has applied for state education funds, and should not be allowed to charge more than that amount. I am not opposed to vouchers, but believe that the playing field should be level. If there is gonna be a voucher system, then the same amount of money should be given to every student to use and provide true parent choice. School district property taxes should be done away with and both private and public Schools receive the same amount of money per student.

As the Bill is currently written, I do not believe this really provides parent choice for those that are not already in private schools. I firmly believe that currently private schools do provide a better education than public schools. I believe this is because of two factors one is that the parents with the students to be there and secondly the teacher/aid ratio is approximately 12 to 1 in the early grades.

If you are really serious about improving the education of Texans, rather than spending this money on Religious schools, it should be spent reducing class sizes in pre-K through third grade.

One complaint about public schools is that it is indoctrinating the students. What do you think is going on in religious schools? At least public schools are accountable to the public who likes the school district. As the Jesus said "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God." That sounds like separation state and church. If you are a true Christian, then listen to Christ and not the Pharisees.

Doreen Geiger
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Vote NO for vouchers or ESA. Spend money to improve PUBLIC education

Kimberly Van Rees
Self, parent
Mckinney, TX

As a parent of two children, I am vehemently opposed to HB3.

Teela Hurt
self-retired teacher
Clarksville, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. It is not in the best interest of public education.

Alexandra Matis
Davis Intermediate PTA
St Paul, TX

I am not supportive of HB 3 and the school vouchers proposition. Texas public education will detrimentally be affected by the approval of this bill.

Melanie Bustos
self, digital marketer
San Antonio, TX

We do not want our public education tax dollars to go to fund private homeschool or other educational services.

Harless Thomas

Self/Teacher

Conroe, TX

I am writing to voice my sturdy opposition to Texas House Bill three. As a dedicated high school Teacher, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that our public education system faces, and I am deeply concerned that this proposed law will exacerbate these troubles and harm the future of our students, teachers, and communities.

Public education in Texas is already underfunded, and this bill does not provide the essential sources or aid to make sure equitable and best schooling for all students. It seems to prioritize brief-time period monetary alleviation over lengthy-time period educational equity and teacher aid. Reductions in funding for critical packages, consisting of superior placement publications, extracurricular activities, and offerings for students with disabilities, will disproportionately affect the most prone students.

Furthermore, the bill's provisions will increase stress on instructors without supplying the vital aid to cope with current worries. Instead of specializing in enhancing the professional environment or enhancing instructor reimbursement, HB three overlooks the real needs of educators who're already stretched thin with increasing workloads and inadequate pay. Teachers need higher reimbursement, smaller class sizes, and additional support, no longer rules that burdens them in addition.

Texas instructors are already many of the lowest-paid within the country, and we are seeing a developing teacher scarcity because of this. HB three does now not cope with those important issues, which only makes it harder to retain first-class educators. Without aggressive pay, better sources, and significant aid, the system will keep to conflict with attracting and keeping the educators our students need.

I urge you to reconsider helping HB 3 and as a substitute support legislation that prioritizes meaningful investment in instructors, students, and public education. Texans deserve an education system that values its educators, supports all students, and prepares the next era for success.

Beth Burkhalter, Public School teacher and principal

Citizen of Lubbock, Texas

Lubbock, TX

I do not support HB3. Using public funding for vouchers for educating children outside the parameters of our Texas Public Schools is wasteful spending. Private Schools are unable to be held to the same accountability standards as our public schools. Data driven, research based practices that verify student growth toward measurable learning outcomes must be required to validate monies spent to educate the children of Texas. Investing in voucher funded school programs has not proven to produce this outcome.

Olivia Hennessey

Self

Houston, TX

I demand the house to vote no on this extremely harmful bill. The money should be invested into public schools and used to hire talented teachers and pay them accordingly. I do not authorize or endorse the public's tax dollars to be invested into private organizations while the public schools fail and kids with different abilities and socioeconomic backgrounds etc. get left behind.

Amanda Hadaway

Self

Lubbock, TX

I strongly oppose any ESA/voucher program. Until our public education system in Texas is reformed, fully funded, and educators are supported and respected, no provisions should be made to fund any private education. We need to first fix the the program that was established in our constitution. A program that we the people, by our actions and those we have voted in to office, have failed miserably. Our great state's future relies on supporting the future of our youth and not abandoning a program not working in its full capacity. Until teachers receive the salary they deserve and the benefits/retirement commensurate of other state employees (and yes, we are), we cannot in good faith begin funding something new and unequal.

Theodore Pierce
Self - public education teacher
Van Alstyne, TX

I am against HB 3. As an educator I do not see the upside to this bill. I feel that there is too much latitude given to allow government influence into private and home school curriculum.

Sarah Cameron
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am AGAINST the establishment of an education savings account program. "Vouchers" will not help the underprivileged in our state get an education, the wealthy who are already paying for their improved education will be awarded a gift for continuing to take away from the general public's right to quality, validated education. Keep the money for state funded but improved public schools with highly trained, motivated, well compensated educators who have tools that support their success in the classroom. Additionally, not all communities have access to voucher funded, tax dollar evaporating, unregulated educational facilities. Where do they use their state provided educational "vouchers"? Please respond if my thoughts miss the mark in your plans for educating all of our state's children.

Mark Terry
Self
GRAPEVINE, TX

As a resident and retires elementary school principal it shocks me that the House is seeking to fund private schools at the expense of public schools across Texas. Sure fire way to destroy our rural communities. Stop the madness, vote NO.

Am Smith
Self
Wylie, TX
NO to vouchers!

Raynell Veltkamp
Self
Wylie, TX

I support our public schools! No vouchers!

Evan Dewar
Self - Librarian
Addison, TX

We do not want this for TX. We voted against it last year and are still against school vouchers. This will have a lasting negative impact on education not only now, but well into the future when the pension fund no longer exists because there are not enough teachers to fund it. You run the risk of destroying public education to the detriment of millions of children, present and future. Please do not accept this excuse to fund families who don't even need the support. There are so many students who could benefit from more funding, and we could help bring TX to the same funding level as other states, which would in turn support student outcomes. We are one of the lowest scoring states in regard to student outcomes and that has a definite correlation to per student funding as seen in other higher performing states.

Jason Wang
Self
Southlake, TX

Just improve public education in Texas. This is not needed or wanted.

Laura Vega-Martinez

Self

El Paso, TX

As a Texas citizen, mother, and educator I am speaking against HB3. Our educational funds were established to educate children through public education. Our society cannot move forward if our youth is not educated. If parents want their children educated in a private setting, then they should provide the funds as they always have. We cannot make this type of legislation because all it does is regress us to a time when education was not equal. Our legacy must be that we stood for all children and that to educate them to the best of our ability so that they can be successful in their community. I am not against a religious upbringing, I was brought up with a religious upbringing, but that part of me didn't cross into the public academic realm. Public funds should not be used for any type of faith-based learning.

David King

Self, John Deere parts sales

Gainesville, TX

I am against HB 3

Melanie Jackson, Mrs

Self

Richardson, TX

Vouchers have no place in Texas.

Loyce Engle

Self

Georgetown, TX

As a Texan Texas college graduate, mother of three, I implore you to vote against my tax dollars paying for private school education. This would only benefit wealthy people while further depleting funds for public schools. Would we ask tax payers to pay for private parks if someone did not like the public ones? Why does a millionaire from the east coast who sent millions to Governor Abbot have such influence? If you vote for this, you are confirming that only he wealthy have power

Meghann Latimer

Self teacher

Converse, TX

The voucher system is a sham to put money in the hands of wealthy Texans. It will undercut the public school system and the only people to thrive will be the wealthy. Teacher retirement will also be significantly impacted and as an educator of over 20 years that is simply unacceptable. The fragile populations such as 504 and sped will also not be serviced correctly because private schools and public schools are held to different standards. Private schools can choose whether or not to have your kids and they always choose the easiest kids not the ones that need the public monies. As a taxpayer I want my money going towards public schools and let the ultra wealthy pay for their private schools on their own as they can afford to. Please vote no on the voucher program and save Texas education and educators i. The process. Thank you

Jeff Howard

Brownsboro ISD / Self

Brownsboro, TX

As an educator for 34 years in Texas, my question is why now? Why is pushing students to private schools now such a high priority? If private schools are so much better at educating kids then why not restructure public schools using the private school model? I strongly disagree that public funds should be used in private organizations. The separation of church and state has been drilled into us to the point that we don't even feel supported to talk to a kid about Jesus but know you are giving funds to private schools that base their whole existence off of religious freedom. Again, I ask if private schools are great then let's use their model to restructure public schools to match and then public funds can stay where they belong.

Jamie White
self
MAGNOLIA, TX

I am registering my opposition to any bill that establishes any type of voucher or ESA. The claim that these offer school choice is misleading. They do not offer any choice that doesn't already exist. This merely is a subsidy to private vendors and nothing more. \$1 billion of taxpayer money directly to private school owners/operators. Texas' 5.5 million public school children continue to be adequately funded, even with pittance that has been promised (although Texas governor and legislators are not to be trusted. I am sure you will receive plenty of numbers from the thousand of people who hate what you are trying to do. My advice is don't be afraid of Abbott. Parents who believe you are intentionally harming their children have long memories. All I ask is that those of you who realize that this is a scam to enrich private schools and politicians, vote our conscience. Do what is right for you state and its children. That, after all, is why you were elected.

Kathryn Avery, Reverend
Self, clergy
Burnet, TX

Support our public schools! Educating all children is the best way to ensure responsible citizens in the future. VOTE NO ON THIS BILL

Brent Wehner, Dr.
PTA, Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX

OPPOSE VOUCHERS/ESAs

Angela Halbert
Self
Houston, TX

We don't want vouchers. If you dead set on passing them then put a limit on how much you can make. Under \$100,000 fine you can get vouchers. The rich shouldn't be able to get them. There is not one state that has vouchers that are successful. Quit lining your pockets with this deal.

Jennifer Turner
Self
Humble, TX

I do not believe we should use tax funds to establish education savings accounts or vouchers or whatever you want to call them. Public monies should only be attached to things that are accountable to the public. Private schools and homeschools are not accountable to the public and therefore should not receive public monies unless they agree to all regulations that hold public schools accountable. Since that isn't on the table, I am against them.

James Villegas
Self
N Richlnd Hls, TX

The public spoke, now listen.
No Vouchers!
No Educational Savings plan

Heidi Tournoux-Hanshaw

Heidi Tournoux Studios

Mansfield, TX

HB 3 is a detriment to our communities, let alone our public education system. It will do nothing for the majority of families in Texas, especially in the areas where there are few options for education other than public education. I urge all of our representatives to sincerely weigh the impact that this funding shift will have on our communities, and research using facts and statistics from areas where education savings account programs have been implemented. I am absolutely opposed to the establishment of an education savings account program, and will use my future votes accordingly. This is not a solution to solving Texas's education system, and will cause our state to sink even lower in the nation on education levels, it will increase the need for mental health services because our teachers will be asked to do more with less resources, and the children will ultimately feel the impact. It is disgraceful to think that our government is making a decision to fund a program that ultimately will only be beneficial for the financially top tier set of individuals that are already able to afford private schooling for their children, and will give even more flexibility to private schools to not meet the educational standards that our state has in place. HB 3 needs to be defeated.

Ilene Blumberg

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I'm against this bill. Keep public funding with public schools. Private schools are already called private schools for a reason. Fully fund public schools and teachers

Angela Sherr

Self/Teacher

Richardson, TX

I want to go on record as being opposed to HB 3.

Annette Montgomery

Self

Memphis, TX

Please put on record that HB3 will hurt the Public school system in Texas especially rural districts that are barely scrapping by as it is. I oppose HB3.

Geoff Sanders

Self

Houston, TX

“Vouchers use public money to fund less transparent and less effective educational options....

Texans know that giving public money to private schools and companies with no oversight, no accountability, and no student and parental protections for educational services is more about profit than parental control.”

Adrienne Conyer

Self

Wylie, TX

Fund public schools not private!

Lindsay Crites
Self
McKinney, TX

Private school tuition in Texas is astronomically high. This voucher will still not allow me to send my child to a private school because tuition is between 20 and \$50,000 per student per school year. This is just giving a break to the people who can already afford these private school tuition. We are not actually given a “school choice” in this matter, YOU are choosing to send my child to an underfunded public school. Our public school or something to be proud of in Texas.

Beverly Woodson
Self, Educator
Frisco, TX

I am adamantly opposed to this bill. Public education is the great equalizer, as we work to provide a free and appropriate education to ALL students. The schools in Texas have already been vilified by this administration, and the trickery and back room meetings that have allowed this bill to even be considered are reprehensible, as well as the people who have participated in this. If you would just take a day to visit public schools and see the amazing work that is being done, you would be forced to change your mind. Do what’s BEST for the students of Texas! Vote against vouchers!!

Cynthia Jones
TRS
Lavon, TX

Former educator. Vote no! Bad for Texas and struggling public schools

Brian Fink
Self - Retired Teacher
LA FERIA, TX

School choice vouchers will be detrimental to public schools. It would serve wealthier families who already have their kids in private schools. If this bill is passed, too many small rural schools will lose money and face the possibility of closure in the future. Greg Abbott serves only a small minority of Texans. Special education will also lose ground. School choice also opens a can of worms that many school UIL programs will face because of illegal recruiting of student-athletes and academics. Superior athletes and gifted academic students will be recruited by private and other public schools. I believe school choice vouchers are not school choice since they will serve only a few students in the state. This is Greg Abbott's agenda and it is NOT representative of a huge majority of public school educators or the general public. A HARD no to school choice!

Diana Riha, Retired
Retired teacher
Canyon, TX

It is blatantly obvious that a huge majority of Texans does not want school vouchers. They are only for the privileged few who want only for themselves. It is immoral & unethical to favor one child over another, and that is the bottom line for Abbott’s greedy push. If any elected representative votes in favor of this while his/her constituents are so opposed, then that is a prime example of cowardice! You weren’t elected to follow such a disgusting push of entitlement.

Taylor Hall
Self
Spicewood, TX

Opposed to the voucher program for private school attendees. Our public schools, which are the only option for most, will decline without proper funding and attendance

Zachary Wright, Mr.

Texas AFT

San Antonio, TX

This will eventually bankrupt the public school system. Rural school districts will also suffer from public school funding. Rural communities need their public school football team, baseball team, etc. Because the public school anchors the community. Vouchers are as bad an idea as in implementing tariffs on consumer goods. Terrible idea.

Sandra Rivera, Ms

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vouchers would harm our system of equal education for all. Please stop this. We need our kids to be able to compete in this tough society. Please NO VOUCHERS

Lisa Dews

Self

Abilene, TX

Look, I may be one of few citizens who has both attended and worked for both public and private schools. As a 32 year classroom teacher, I retired and worked on the Admin team at a small private school in our town. I watch numerous families apply and not get accepted because their children to meet our requirements they need accommodations or their reading level was too low. Or their parents credit score wasn't high enough. I watched twins kicked out of the school because they weren't potty trained. However, whenever they wet their pants they were sent home so they decided to what their pants every day so they would get sent home every day till they were finally kicked out and all of their parents money kept I watched Our school principal hide all of the details of hiring a child molester. There was no transparency. She still fighting the fact that she didn't turn him in and follow state law. Because she wasn't even an educator. She hadn't majored in education or studied it later in life. I left that private school because there was no information. There were no rules. They did what they wanted. They accepted who they wanted. They charge what they wanted. Certain people got certain privileges. I returned part time to public schools. I spent 32 years taking care of whatever kid came in my room, whether they spoke English or not, and I speak French, which is just useless in Texas. I took kids who were autistic, special ed, 504, or simply dealing with things that most lawmakers have never dreamed of. I've taught classes where there were more kids with special needs than there were regular students in my classroom and yet I met roughly 20 IEP's to help every kid become successful. You aren't gonna make schools more competitive. You're gonna take the privileged and reward them, and you're gonna continue to take and take and take from your public school teachers and students. I don't know why you're thinking of this. I don't know why you wanna punish public schools and students to support the few wealthy they go to those other schools you're not even going to hold them to this same standards. Most of them take achievement tests, which are a joke when compared to studying author's craft and graphing parabolas in high school math? My two years spent at a private school showed teachers that were paid next to nothing. They couldn't even get a home loan because their teachers were paid so little. Teachers without degrees or teaching programs. Please look at the even greater more expensive inequitable system you are creating before no person will go into education because you have criticized the valiant job your public school teachers have been providing for years even though you don't provide enough funding for it.

Monica Briones, Mrs.

Self/teacher

San Antonio, TX

I am a special education teacher employed at NISD. I have dedicated 12 years of my life working at Title 1 schools and have seen the daily challenges that students less fortunate face. The fact that I am also part of the community and live in the area make this initiative that Abbot is pushing extremely infuriating. My husband and I are home owners and the fact that he thinks it's ok for our taxes to go to wealthy families to help pay for their choice of sending their already wealthy kids to private school is a slap in the face to the middle class. My sons are full grown adult men and I absolutely disapprove of my tax dollars going to people who don't need these funds. He has held up funding for public schools for the past 5 years and now he wants to further erode our public education system by sending our tax payer dollars to wealthy families is one of the most stupidest things that POS has done since he's been in office. That ass that does NOT CARE about anyone unless you are a wealthy donor that has you in their pockets. I am so disgusted by him and those that align with his values. His fake religion is on par with the fake preachings he gives about God and Jesus. What a bunch of fake ass hypocrites he and all the POS republicans are.

Barbara Kubiak, Teacher
Texas AFT and all teachers in Texas
Houston, TX

Why are we trying to ruin education for our state. Many students that I teach could not afford to go to private school even with a voucher. I have had students transfer to our school from private schools that are behind and we have to work hard to catch them back up to where our students are. This is only going to benefit the rich. Our state needs to consider the amazing students that are poor and will do way more in the future than the rich kids that are handed everything. Please stop trying to bankrupt or school system.

Jeffrey Rodriguez
self
Fort Worth, TX

PLEASE VOTE NO ON SCHOOL VOUCHERS!

Liz Williams
Wylie ISD PTA
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Rachel Alle
Wylie ISD Council of PTAs
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3. Why would we funnel public funds to private schools before we fund public schools? Most areas in Texas do not have access to private schools. Texas state Legislature makes public schools jump through hoops just to get the funding they are already owed. Public schools have to prove attendance in order to receive funding instead of basing it off of enrollment and you require public schools to take the STAAR test for funding as well. But you are willing to hand over money to private school children, not track their attendance and not require them to take standardized testing. How does that make sense? Why are you holding public school money hostage, so you can get this voucher scam passed. I personally know multiple multi-millionaires in the Tulsa, Oklahoma area that now use the voucher system, because why-not, it's available. They take \$10,000 per private school kid in a state that is already ranked 50th in public school education. How is that not a scam? Why do you really want Texas to follow suit?

Simi sandhu
Self
Murphy, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS' & "NO TO HB3

Cynthia Paslay
Self
Arlington, TX

I am opposed to using public tax dollars to support private schools. These resources need to be dedicated to improving our public schools and providing high quality educational opportunities to all Texans. The quality education of all Texas children is imperative to the future economic well being of the state.

Samantha Rupp
Self - case manager
Katy, TX

As a Texas mom, I am deeply concerned about HB-3 and its attempt to funnel public tax dollars into private school vouchers. My child, like millions of others across our state, depends on a strong public education system—one that should be fully funded, not systematically undermined.

A voucher program does not “expand choices” for families like mine. It drains critical funding from our already underfunded public schools, leaving the vast majority of Texas children with fewer resources, larger class sizes, and less support. Vouchers benefit private schools that are not held to the same standards, do not have to accept all students, and are not accountable to taxpayers. Public dollars should remain in public schools, serving all children—not subsidizing private institutions that can discriminate based on income, ability, or background.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing not just education but meals, special education services, and essential programs that support children from all walks of life. If lawmakers truly want to improve education in Texas, they should focus on fully funding our public schools, increasing teacher pay, and providing the resources students need to thrive—not diverting funds to a program that primarily benefits wealthy families and special interests.

I urge Texas legislators to reject HB-3 and any effort to implement a school voucher system. Parents like me are counting on them to protect public education—not dismantle it.

suzanne mabe
Self, Retired Medical Technologist
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly oppose using tax money to provide vouchers for private schools. I want my tax money to support public schools and Texas students

Vanessa Munoz
Self
San Antonio, TX

I disagree with vouchers because there are no protections against discrimination at private schools and private schools are not available to many of Texas’ rural areas. I believe by implementing these vouchers, money for public schools will be limited and funding for accommodations will as well. The vouchers only benefit wealthy who can already pay for private schools. Public school funding is vital to education in our state.

Amanda Sneed
Self - Pharmacist - Business Owner
Arlington, TX

Please know that I, as a voter and a parent of a HS aged student who attends public school, am absolutely against the school voucher program. This program would ravage our Public School system leaving marginalized and even middle class students without access to adequate education. It is clear that this bill and the voucher program are a blatant attempt to have tax payer dollars given to wealthy families whose children already attend private schools. The amount of the voucher will not be enough for the average family to send a student to a private institution. Additionally, most rural communities don't even have private schools to attend. So, in short, I am against this bill.

Suzette Wooden-Buswell
Self
Weatherford, TX

I am Against school vouchers. It does not benefit all students. It limits the resources of the public school system.

Claire Barnett
Self
San Antonio, TX

As a parent of children in Texas public schools, I strongly urge members to vote against this bill. Families have ample choice within our current public school system and the choice to spend our own funds for private education. Using tax payer dollars for private schools will undermine the financing of our public system by diverting public moneys to private institutions that have no requirements to meet the same accountability standards or to equitably serve our communities.

Rodney Fausett
Former School Superintendent
Round Rock, TX

No! It does not benefit students of Texas

Paulina Clendennen, Dr
RRISD Spicewood PTA board member
Austin, TX

I'll skip introductions and niceties. This bill is theft. We are robbing the children in Texas of their right to a good public school education. Vouchers for \$10,000 do not help a rural student with no private school near them. Vouchers do not help the struggling families everywhere who cannot afford private school. I acknowledge the voucher program can help some middle class families get enough supplemental funds to send their children to private school. But more than anyone, this bill helps the already affluent families. They already send their children to private schools. They will just have a coupon now. Help the families that really need it. Help the students that the Texas education system already proudly serves. Make the right choice. Vote against vouchers.

Brandi Cantarel, PhD

self

Richardson, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3, which I believe will divert my tax dollars to fund private schools. As a Texas taxpayer, I expect public funds to support public schools—institutions that are held to clear standards of accountability and accessibility.

Private schools do not have the same regulations as public schools in key areas, including:

1) Curriculum and Educational Standards

* Public schools in Texas must follow the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum, ensuring statewide consistency and accountability.

* Private schools are not required to follow TEKS or any state-mandated curriculum. They have full autonomy over what they teach, which can lead to disparities in educational quality and content coverage.

Source: Texas Education Agency (TEA) – TEKS Curriculum Standards

2) Services for Children with Physical and Mental Disabilities

* Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), public schools must provide free and appropriate education (FAPE), including individualized education programs (IEPs), special education services, and accommodations for students with disabilities.

* Private schools are not required to provide the same level of services. If they accept students with disabilities, they may offer limited support, but they are not legally obligated to provide IEPs or specialized instruction.

* Many private schools can deny admission to students with disabilities if they decide they cannot meet their needs, whereas public schools must serve all students.

Source: U.S. Department of Education – IDEA Regulations; Texas Education Agency (TEA)

3) Testing and Accountability

* Texas public schools must administer the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), ensuring students meet state educational standards.

* Private schools do not have to administer STAAR or any equivalent standardized test, making it difficult to measure student performance across private and public schools.

* This lack of accountability means private schools receiving public funds may not demonstrate the same level of academic progress as public schools.

Source: Texas Education Agency – STAAR Testing Requirements

Why This Matters for HB 3

If private schools receive public funding but are not subject to the same standards, taxpayers would be funding schools that:?
Have no obligation to follow the state curriculum? - Are not required to serve all students, particularly those with disabilities? -
Do not have to participate in state testing or accountability measures

This creates an unequal system where public funds support schools that do not have the same responsibilities as public institutions.

If tax dollars are being used for education, they should support schools that serve all Texas students equitably. I urge you to oppose HB 3 and ensure that public funds remain dedicated to strengthening our public schools.

Laura England

Self

Dallas, TX

Respectfully, I oppose HB 3 as written. I feel that public funds used for private schools goes against traditional conservative principles. This appears to be a redistribution of wealth and not a means of supporting all families. Texas already has school choice. The solution is to fully fund public schools!! Thank you!

Rachel Schnitzius
self / Interior Designer
Farmers Branch, TX

I strongly oppose any voucher/education savings accounts and implore the House to fully fund our public schools. The children and families in our great state deserve better than the treatment we have received at the hands of the governor and his supporters on this matter. Your constituents are watching and our children, the future voters of this state, are watching. If public schools in Texas crumble, the governor's plan to lure in companies from California will die along with it. Great public schools will always be a selling point for corporate relocations and right now this mess is a detriment to that effort.

Lori Peska
Brinker Elementary
Plano, TX

Please stand with Texas families, not special interests. We are not in favor of ESAs or Vouchers.

Joe Parker
Self Retired
Jacksonville, TX

Vote No on private school vouchers

Jennifer Wagner
self
Fort Worth, TX

I stand in opposition to HB 3 and ask my Texas representatives to take action to prevent it from becoming law based on expert testimony and the fiscal note in HB 3 showing that it will hurt Texas public schools. I am a proud registered nurse and Master of Science who was educated in Texas public schools. I'm raising 3 children who are currently educated at Texas public schools. I'm active in the PTAs and am an on campus volunteer. My children will be able to thrive in almost any educational environment, but our representatives must ensure sound funding for PUBLIC SCHOOLS so that children without the benefit of engaged, involved parents can also thrive. As a FWISD parent and Texas citizen, I reject HB 3.

Heather Barron
self
Texarkana, TX

Vote no for school vouchers! School vouchers are not the answer to a system YOU have broken. Too many state tests and too many teachers having to teach to the tests are the problem. Defunding public schools by sending money to private schools will only shift where the money goes, not solve the problem. People already have a CHOICE on where to send their kids to school when they choose the location of their home. Let's consider low income families who must choose homes in lower income neighborhoods, will the private schools have buses that will pick them up? Will the private schools feed them breakfast and lunch? Will the private school take them home? In my area, private school do none of that. In my area, most schools are open enrollment anyway, therefore allowing parents to choose. Increase teacher pay, increase funding for public schools, and reduce the emphasis on standardized tests and you WILL see improvements.

Cindy Howes
self retired
Gary, TX

The money for the child should be the money that the state would spend in the public school. All that money goes to where ever the child is being educated. This should not cost the taxpayer any more money. Use what the state already has earmark for the child.

cassandra posey

self

waller, TX

In favor of HB3

Debra Lewis, MSgt

Self

Lewisville, TX

I am not in support of this bill. I would like to see my tax dollars remaining where there is accountability and funding to public schools should be increased for all students. There is no oversight for private schools and the funding should not be higher for those students. The parents made that choice I should not have to pay for their choice to home school or send their kid to a higher private institution!

Trina Dorrah

Texas PTA

Round Rock, TX

Please invest in public education. Kids who graduate from public education are essential for our future. We need it to be as strong as possible. Even with vouchers, most people who aren't already wealthy can't afford the price of private schools. Take the money and invest in public education. If people can afford private school, they are in the 1% so paying all of the cost of a private education is easier for them. Keep all state money in public schools.

Erin Johnson

Self/My Kids/My School District/Future of Texas Schools/etc

Frisco, TX

Please vote AGAINST this bill!!!

Michael Reince

Self property management

Fort WORTH, TX

I support

Dawn Abbott

Parents

Allen, TX

Don't refund our schools!

Christopher Coates

self

Fort Worth, TX

I urge you to support House Bill 3. House Bill 3 is a critical step toward expanding educational opportunity for Texas families. By establishing Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), HB 3 empowers parents to choose the best learning environment for their children, whether that be a private school, homeschooling, or other tailored educational solutions. With declining student achievement and growing concerns over one-size-fits-all education, this bill offers a lifeline to families seeking better outcomes. Texas students deserve access to an education that meets their unique needs, and HB 3 ensures that funding follows the child, not the system. It's time to put students first and pass HB 3.

Jana Heady
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools. I strongly believe that every child in our state has the right to a high quality education, which can only happen when there is appropriate funding for public schools. This bill will directly result in less funding to public schools, which will decrease the quality of education for many students. Education is a public good, and should be viewed and funded as such.

sara marshall
Set
Colleyville, TX

KEEP FUNDING IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. No vluchersnm

Praveenkumar Bhaviriseti
Self , software engineer
Austin, TX

Texas public schools are under attack and I am deeply concerned about the future of our students and educators. Instead of diverting funds away from schools , we need prioritize investments in education , teacher pay , and student resources . I urge you to support policies that fully public education, respect and retain our educators and ensure every child has access to education . Please stand firm this .

Courtney Parker-Ignagni
self - elementary school principal
Rowlett, TX

As an elementary school principal in Forney ISD, I am deeply concerned about the devastating impact HB 3's proposed voucher program will have on our schools, students, and community. Public schools like mine are already stretching every penny to provide quality education, yet this legislation threatens to divert \$6,968,887 from Forney ISD alone. That's the equivalent of losing 130 teachers, pushing class sizes higher, and raising the student-teacher ratio by 7.25%. At a time when our students need more individualized support, not less, this loss would be catastrophic.

The financial burden of vouchers is staggering. By 2030, the program's cost is expected to balloon to \$4 billion—money that Texas simply cannot afford to gamble when public schools remain underfunded. Texas already ranks in the bottom 10 in per-student funding, yet instead of strengthening the schools that educate 5.5 million students, HB 3 threatens to siphon resources away to subsidize private education for a select few.

In my own school, we've worked tirelessly to provide innovative, engaging learning experiences despite financial constraints. We've prioritized hiring interventionists to support struggling students, providing mental health resources, and maintaining extracurricular programs that keep students engaged. But with the funding cuts from vouchers, we would face impossible choices: Do we eliminate crucial support staff? Cut enrichment programs? Increase class sizes to levels that diminish learning?

Public schools serve all students—regardless of ability, income, or background. Vouchers, however, prioritize a select few while leaving the majority of students in underfunded schools with fewer resources and opportunities. Private schools are not held to the same accountability standards, meaning taxpayer dollars could fund institutions that do not have to meet state curriculum standards, provide services for students with disabilities, or even accept all students.

The development of a costly voucher program will not create better educational outcomes; it will only exacerbate inequity, inefficiency, and waste. Our public schools are the backbone of our community, and they deserve investment, not divestment. I urge you to reject HB 3 and focus on strengthening public education for all Texas students now and in years to come.

Erika Medrano
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools

Monica Muñoz
PTA-Parent
Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS! It's a detriment to our children and families!!!

Abigail Johnson
Self
Wylie, TX
No school vouchers

Melverta Gumper
Self
Georgetown, TX

I am a native Texan and taught in the Texas Public Schools for 26 years. All three of my children were also educated in Texas. I am against HB3.

Ashanti Davis
Self/ military
San Antonio, TX

How does this affect those families struggling to keep up with school fees, meals, and program fees that do not qualify for state assistance? Also, will this include more cultural difference awareness programs. We have been here going on two years and teachers and administrators have demonstrated racist actions, allowed bullying, and often take harsher actions out on African American students than causation and for Spanish descent. Lastly, who will be eligible to apply for program and who will determine what happens to funding? After attending plenty of PTA meetings and seeing the HOA fees increase with school being in the neighborhood, I've noticed plenty of misuse of funds.

Christopher Nichols
Self
Highland Village, TX

Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) is a direct attack on public education, disguised as “school choice.” It diverts taxpayer money from public schools to private institutions that lack public accountability, can discriminate, and do not meet the same standards as public schools. This violates the Texas Constitution’s mandate to provide a free, public education for all children.

Proponents claim Texas can afford HB 3 due to a budget surplus, but this is shortsighted. The state is also pushing teacher pay raises and property tax reductions, all of which rely on temporary funds. Economic downturns or declining oil revenues could erase the surplus, forcing cuts to public school funding, teacher pay, or tax hikes to sustain the voucher program. Once public money is committed, it is difficult to reverse without harming schools.

Other states show the risks. Arizona’s voucher expansion cost taxpayers hundreds of millions more than expected. Florida and Wisconsin saw ballooning expenses that benefited wealthier families while draining public school resources. If Texas follows suit, the result will be underfunded public schools, larger class sizes, and fewer resources for students who rely on them most.

HB 3 will not help the majority of Texas students. Vouchers disproportionately benefit families already in private schools. In Ohio, 88% of voucher users never attended public school. In Florida, most were already enrolled in private education. Vouchers do not create opportunities for most students—they subsidize private tuition for families who can already afford it.

Texans have rejected vouchers before. Proposition 2 in 1997, which sought to use public funds for private tuition, was overwhelmingly voted down. More recent efforts have failed due to bipartisan opposition, particularly from rural Republicans who understand that taking money from public schools will devastate their communities.

Yet HB 3 is being pushed through, fueled by out-of-state billionaires like Jeff Yass and Texas billionaires Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks. These donors have spent millions to unseat GOP legislators who opposed vouchers, proving this is a scheme driven by big money, not public demand.

If HB 3 is such a great idea, why not let Texans vote on it? This bill effectively amends Article VII of the Texas Constitution, which guarantees public education. The fact that its supporters are avoiding a direct vote shows they know Texans would reject it again.

HB 3 is reckless, fiscally unsound, and deeply unpopular. It undermines public schools while benefiting a privileged few. Lawmakers must reject this bill and defend Texas students, teachers, and communities. Public funds should support public education—period.

Gabriela Neale
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Gwen Ratheal
Self - special education teacher
Stamford, TX

I do NOT support this bill and I haven’t talked to a single person that does!!!

Juanita Frambach
Self
Azle, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Benjamin Utter

self, buyer

Keller, TX

I am in opposition to HB3 by Buckley. I do not support educational savings programs or vouchers. I will vote out any representatives who support this.

Patricia Baust

Self

Northlake, TX

I am against the bill for school vouchers. It's welfare for the wealthy. Fund local public schools now!

Kate More

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 3

Jason Kallansrud

self, IT specialist

San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't be used for private schools, especially without accountability.

Gabriela Neale

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Kelly Tortorich

Self - Parent and Independent Contractor

Murphy, TX

We already have school choice, this bill will not aid in that, it will hurt our public school systems that are already in need of more support. If you want to save money, you should remove the STAAR testing and reevaluate the insane amount of testing that our children are subjected to on multiple levels and figure out a way to utilize more efficient testing methods that allow for less time spent testing and more time on actual education. It has been repeatedly proven, in part because of the ridiculous pressure that STAAR puts on them to make the grade so that the adults keep their jobs and the schools maintain their funding, that these tests are not accurate evaluations of how well a child is doing or how they are actually performing in the classroom.

I do not support this bill or STAAR testing, both need to go ASAP!!!

Misti Sanders

Self

Mabank, TX

I have been a public school educator for 22 years. Twenty one of those years have been in high poverty areas that deal with drugs, violence, etc. These are the students that our government leaders are fixing to steal from and these are the students that and parents that don't know to fight. Our school is already running at a 1.3 million dollar deficit budget this year because the state has refused to give the students what they need. Please, for the ones that can't fight for themselves, vote against this bill and put more money in the public schools. Not only will this have an immediate impact, but it will have a great impact in the future when these students become your workforce. Thank you for your time.

Sharon Noack

Self

Boerne, TX

Please fully fund our public schools by raising the per student allotment by \$1500. Please say no to HB3 to help prevent more than \$4 million amount of funding loss to my district (using the don't defund number) because it will mean the loss of 83 jobs (again provided by the don't defund website). These job losses translate into lost opportunities for students because class sizes will balloon and there will be less programs to support our students which are the key to Texas's economic future.

Melinda Payne

Retired Educator

Kilgore, TX

Totally against this bill. We have school Choice in Texas- homeschool, private and public. Teachers will lose jobs in public schools, private schools do not pay the same rate. Not to mention trs retirement will be impacted by this bill. What about sped students? Are private schools really going to accept all students? They will not. Also I am worried about pop up schools as vendors under the unregulated private schools. Just so many issues and a big NO to SB3

karen Ward, Ms

Teachers

Katy, TX

No Vouchers

Pamela Scates

self Chief Appraiser

Canadian, TX

I oppose HB 3 and fully & adequately fund public education.

Lisa Ziehe

Self, Budgets and Grants Specialist

Benbrook, TX

Vouchers are a scam. Here's what they tell you: it's about parental choice. That's a lie. Private schools, on average, cost over \$10,000 annually. Add the cost of books, uniforms, school lunch, fundraisers, gas or other transportation costs and you're looking at closer to \$15,000. Per year. Families who can afford this already send their kids to private school. All this will do is give them a rebate. This will not help families who cannot afford private school.

Do you really think private schools are excited about welcoming our children, or do you think they'll simply raise tuition to keep them out while also cashing your voucher?

Leaving aside all the benefits of public school versus private, for now, did you know that in Texas, homeschooling counts as a private school? When you realize that, it all becomes crystal clear, doesn't it?

Proponents of vouchers aren't pro-private school, they're anti-school in general. They support homeschooling as a way to contravene the foundational ethics and morals learned in a public school - lessons about interdependence, the value of all of our freedoms, and the shared experiences that build empathy with and for people whose lives are very different from our own. Homeschooling is not the enemy here, but it is the reason that vouchers are being proposed - to siphon money OUT of public schools and into the hands of individuals, who will not turn around and enroll their children in private schools, contrary to what they're telling us. The facts on the ground reveal that statement as a lie: there aren't enough private schools for all the children who will ostensibly take advantage of these vouchers.

Don't be fooled - destroying public education is the goal here, and vouchers are simply a tool in service of that goal, which serves the ultimate goal - weakening and destroying the fabric of our democracy. Public education is worth protecting. Public funds belong in public schools.

Macy Lane

self-writer (former public school educator)

Livingston, TX

I **STRONGLY** oppose vouchers for Texas public school students. I support funding public education for ALL, supporting teachers through pay raises, and providing equitable education for every family in Texas. **NO TO VOUCHERS.**

Elizabeth Schenkel

self, engineer and mother

Houston, TX

I, on behalf of myself and my children, am strongly opposed to HB 3. I believe that the school voucher program will negatively impact public schools in Texas and disproportionately negatively impact low-income and marginalized students. Public schools are the foundation for our society. When public schools are properly funded and performing well, our society as a whole benefits. I grew up in New Orleans and have seen first hand how removing funding from public schools causes permanent damage to the community. I am proud to live in Houston, and I love our neighborhood schools. I want to see our public schools appropriately funded for both my kids and the community's kids.

Susan Wright
Self/Social Worker
Fort Worth, TX

Greetings Esteemed Representatives,

As a social worker who has a deep understanding of what is necessary for the emotional, psychological, and physical development of successful, focused, hardworking, and well-educated citizens, I care deeply about this issue and ensuring that these resources are fully available to all Texas children--not just those whose parents can access private education. Proper development can only come with basic necessities and enrichment opportunities being provided. These opportunities cost money and the public education system in Texas is the most logical and appropriate place for those funds--not education savings accounts.

To begin, I am concerned that proposed amounts of funds to be directed into these ESAs will not help low or even middle-income parents choose private schools. Growing up as part of the middle class, my parents (with three children) would still have been under severe financial strain and potentially even debt for this "freedom" of school choice, which does not honor my father's dedication as a civil engineer in the FW water department or my mother's work in the public education system herself. If lower or middle-income families in Texas decide, rightfully, that it is not worth it to use those limited funds, what will happen to that money? Will it just sit untouched when it could be benefitting our state in another way? If we are truly concerned about the efficient use of funds, that alone is a reason to be highly suspect of these education savings accounts.

Private schools are valuable because they meet a need for the families that pursue them, but it is one thing to appreciate their existence and another thing entirely for me--as a constituent--to be funding them with money meant for public schools. Additionally, knowing that private schools are not regulated or held to the same standards of transparency in their use of funds, it concerns me that these state funds could be used without concern for efficiency or providing a truly good education. Also, for those students in rural areas where there are no private school "choices" to speak of, what use are these educational savings accounts? These children should not be punished and deprived of quality education because of where they were born. As a state who has gained so much from what is produced and extracted from rural areas, it would be a disservice to not take care of those who live there and weaken their access to quality public educational resources--let alone private ones.

It is my most fervent hope that I can count on those in the Texas legislature to oppose this bill on behalf of the hard working lower and middle class families which populate this state. Texans already have the choice between private school education and public school education. There is no need for these separately designated funds and they will be more harmful than helpful!

Maren Phillips
Self
Universal City, TX

NO for school vouchers

David Bernard, Mr.
Self
Boerne, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded. Public funds shouldn't go to private schools especially without sufficient oversight or accountability, and without ensuring that special needs children will have sufficient resources to facilitate their growth as well.

Ava Wehner
PTA, Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX

OPPOSE VOUCHERS, ESAs

Jannie Eggleston, Dr.

Self/educator

Austin, TX

Vouchers could overwhelm non-public/charter schools. Also, non-public/charter schools have choice too. Is that changing? What happens when a student uses a voucher and is later dismissed to their local public school? Does funding follow the student?

Susie Fowler

Self/artist

Spicewood, TX

Public education must be fully funded. Private education can and should be funded by those who use these wealthy schools. Public school must be provided for all who are big school age.

Kim Zeman

Self

Amarillo, TX

I am writing to register my strong opposition to HB3. It is just incomprehensible to me that a party that purports to be fiscally conservative could support a bill which could potentially explode the state budget. Other states which have gone down this road have found voucher programs to be a massive boondoggle. Additionally, how on earth can you justify taking public funds and giving them to private schools without the oversight required of public schools? This proposal would be especially devastating for rural schools, where there are few private school options. All you are doing is draining funds from the already unconstitutionally underfunded public school system. I urge all members of the Legislature to vote no on any sort of voucher or "educational savings account" schemes.

Beverly Beauchamp

Self

McKinney, TX

I oppose vouchers. I want my tax dollars going to public schools.

Sheri Reiter, Mrs

Self

El Paso, TX

I am a public school Speech Pathologist. By this legislature establishing this so called education savings account program, you are stealing monies that should be going to public schools and NOT a voucher scheme for all the your wealthy donors and families. By creating this program, you will deny most children access to an education because of poor funding. As is, we are working as hard as we can with little money. The reason that we are 49th in education is sitting in his wheelchair. By denying public schools a decent allotment of money, you are part of the reason that we are struggling. Together with the fact that this government does absolutely nothing to combat gun violence, poverty, or abuse does not bode well for Texas. It is time to put your boots on and say NO to these crazy vouchers, fund public schools appropriately and work on the real reasons that children are not reading or able to perform math calculations. Please listen to what I am saying! Do not be fooled by these grandiose vouchers.

Maritza Neutze

Hidalgo County WIC

Edinburg, TX

School choice bill please approve it.

HOLLY Ashby

Self

Arlington, TX

Please do not take mo ey from our public schools. Every penny is needed for the children that attend public schools!!

Adriana Blessing
Bulverde Creek Elementary PTA
San Antonio, TX

An education savings account program will not help or public schools. You represent the public, so please put public schools first and vote against education savings accounts and voucher programs.

Norma Hackler
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose the school voucher bill. I am a Senior citizen who pay taxes. I only want my taxes going to public education per the Texas constitution. Students in rural areas will be left behind. There are no regulations on private schools compared to public schools. If a parent chooses private schools, that is their business and their monetary responsibility. NO to the school voucher program.

Allison Grider
Self
Houston, TX

I do not support this bill- public tax dollars should not be spent on private education. Use public tax payer dollars to fund public education and the nearly 6 million children who are in the public school system. To support this bill is to destroy the future of this state and the future of millions of students' education.

Katie Smith
Self
Lubbock, TX

Please vote no on school vouchers and education savings accounts. The Texas state government should prioritize increasing funding for our public schools and educators over their financial dependence on their campaign donors. Our children deserve representation that has their best interest at heart, not Tim Dunn's, Farris Wilks', or Jeff Yass' culture war games.

Be better.

Leigh Henry, Mrs
Texas PTA
San Antonio, TX

I'm a parent and a longtime PTA member with 2 children - 1 who graduated from public school in May 2024 and 1 still in high school. I believe our public schools need more funding and HB3 does not do that. I oppose HB3 and believe our tax dollars should go towards public education and not to private schools. This bill does not support all the children in Texas. Many low income families or those in rural areas will not benefit from ESAs. Also, private schools are not held to the same standards and accountability as our public schools. If they receive public funding they need accept anyone, have TEKS and the same end of course testing as our public schools.

Jade Blakey
Self/Teacher
Sugar Land, TX

I am against HB3. Public schools are held to accountability standards where private schools are not. It is not logical to send our tax dollars to unaccountable entities. Also, the states who have used this model are hemorrhaging money. It is not a fiscally responsible choice. Texas is the best state in the nation. It deserves to have a robustly supported public school system so all Texans have access to excellent education. We should not rest until every public school is well staffed, well funded, and well resourced. I have experienced staff and budget cuts for the last 5 years. Let's say no to ESA and move to better fund the excellent public schools we have!

Laura Thorp

Self

Plano, TX

I opposed HB 3. Please protect funding for public education in Texas.

Cathy Hooper

Self

Henderson, TX

I am opposed to HB3. I have noticed my representatives of this fact as well. Our public schools are not perfect, but taking away students with concerned parents, and funding by the state will not fix the issues. I feel strongly that my tax funds should fund public schools and not private. If private schools take state funds they need to take every child who wants in, pass the same standards, etc... which would essentially make them public schools. So what is the point? I strongly suspect someone is going to make some money off this deal. Why else would rich investors from other states back candidates in support of this. In my experience 98 percent of the people I know are opposed to this.

Sabrina Montelongo, Mrs

Self-retired teacher, taxpayer

Angleton, TX

As a taxpayer and a retired teacher I would like to express that I am against HB 3 - voucher program. In my community there is only one private school. We live in a community that is a 5A school district. The private school would definitely be limited on how many students it can take. How do you know they will choose the lower income students? They can pick and choose the students that they want to take. How will the special education students be served. They do not provide transportation or offer free lunch. They are also required to wear uniforms. How will these parents make up for these extra costs? As a taxpayer I do not feel it is right for you to take money away from the public school. When I pay my taxes it says the money goes to AISD. That is where I expect it to go. To provide for those teachers and those classrooms. To help with programs like theater, choir, sports and other programs. I am fine with parents having a choice but I am not fine with taxpayers paying for it. These people choosing private school know that is going to cost them a certain amount to keep them out of public school. As for the lower income they are offered scholarships and grants. I know this because we were offered one for my son. But because I worked for our local district how could I send my son to private school. He received a great education, including the chance to compete in UIL with other students in our theater program.

The parents can already choose and they are already paying. Who will this program help? I know not the poor because they won't be able to afford the extras and who knows their student might not get accepted, the help they need or get kicked out. Then where does that money go?

Vote no on school vouchers or let us vote!

Jammie Horton, Mrs

Self - Public school teacher

Springtown, TX

Vote NO to vouchers PLEASE

Gerardo S Galvan
China Spring ISD trustee
China Spring, TX

As a school board trustee for a Texas public school, I am appalled that our legislators are still considering passing vouchers (ESA). Mountains of research* regarding vouchers in other states show it's NOT the solution we need in Texas. What we need is for legislators to get off their high horses and fund public schools properly.

As a Republican, I am embarrassed by my representatives and governor. You should all be ashamed of yourselves for not listening to the public, who's resoundingly opposed to this legislation. For not listening to school districts, who are begging for funding help since we have not had a basic allotment increase since 2019....but the cost of everything has gone up, and for not listening to parents; parents of public school students as well as parents of both private school and homeschool students, who are overwhelmingly opposed to this bill.

To quote one of your testifies yesterday, "This bill is a skunk we're trying to pass off as a kitty cat." Please, for the sake of ALL children in Texas, do not pass this skunk of a bill, or any other voucher or ESA bill, and PLEASE fund public schools appropriately. Put an end to the madness of the governor holding public schools hostage because he hasn't succeeded in getting what he wants in a voucher bill. Show teachers, parents, and school districts across the state that you want Texas to be amongst the very best education systems in the country by funding public schools properly, saying no to vouchers this session.

Research and articles addressing the many issues voucher programs are fraught with in other states:

<https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/no-accountability-vouchers-wreak-havoc-states>

[https://time.com/6272666/school-voucher-programs-hurt-students/#](https://time.com/6272666/school-voucher-programs-hurt-students/)

* https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3376234

Lundy C Atkins
Self
Gonzales, TX

I am against vouchers. Public money should not go to private schools. Vote no!

Brandi Garrett-Grimsley
Self
Arlington, TX

Parents in Texas already have school choice. Parents can already send their children to private schools. We as Texans give parents choices, however we do not want to subsidize someone's choice. Private schools can reject students and do not follow the same standards as public schools. Either Private schools should have to meet the same standards as public school, or all standards at public schools should be removed to make these 2 systems comparable. Giving tax dollars to subsidized private school for 100,000 students seems ridiculous for a state with over 5 million students enrolled in public schools. Local tax money pays for public schools, do not force Texas Tax payers to subsidize private schools.

Please vote no no HB 3 .

Kathryn Dodd

self (parent) / occupation - construction

Northlake, TX

Hello,

Thank you for taking my letter. I am a parent of two daughters who attend public school. The closest private school to me is Liberty Christian in Argyle TX. I have friends who CHOOSE to send their children to that school. They pay approximately \$28,000 a year for high school for each child. The voucher would give me a \$10,000 discount. If I took my voucher to that school, I would pay \$18,000 a year for four years. That is a total of \$72,000 for a high school education. I have three children making it a total of \$216,000 (for high school only). My children are in fifth grade, first grade and pre-k. I won't worry about doing the math if I wanted to make that switch before high school because I already know it isn't an option for my family. Next year, my oldest will move to middle school about twenty minutes away and I will have to rely on the bus system to get my child to and from school. Liberty Christian does not have a bus ride to offer (I don't know of a private school that does). Although this voucher plan has a gimmick of helping special education and low-income students - it does not. These vouchers will only help wealthy families that can already afford to attend private schools. If you truly wanted the vouchers to go to low- and middle-class families you could put a cap on income allowed to use them to prevent taxpayers' money to benefit the wealthy (but that has not been done).

I would like you to know that both my daughters are in the GT program at their school. Last week Northwest ISD announced budget cuts which will include cuts to the GT program. It will also increase class size for Elementary – High Schools. You are holding public school funding for ransom to pass a voucher bill and that is shameful. I love my children's school. I love the teachers who support my children. I am asking you to vote no on HB3. I am asking you to fully fund public education. Thank you for your time,

Bennett Cunningham

Self

Cibolo, TX

I am a current 7th grade public school student. I am against the voucher program for many reasons, but most of all because it hurts students, doesn't fix the issues in public schools, and will be another tax burden on us as we get older. Please vote no.

Aisha Stewart

Self

Humble, TX

School choice has always existed. We have been told for decades in Texas that if we want better for our children, we need to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and give them better. Now you want to essentially gift money to those who already decided that public schools were beneath them. Further, you have attempted to starve public schools by freezing the BAS at 2019 rates while collecting property and sales taxes on goods, services and personal property that have skyrocketed in price. All of the access has gone to wooing mega corps, while intentionally starving and punishing areas that disagree with you ideologically.

If you cared so much about students and education, why not put that money towards making more services available? You have moved the goalpost repeatedly on STAAR while withholding where said goalpost is. Public education has to tap dance even though it knows it's fighting a losing battle. The outcome has been predetermined. And to say high performing students will qualify for funding, but underachieving students need to stay in the same environment is crazy. Perhaps they are the students who need access to the smaller class sizes and unorthodox teaching allowed for private education institutions most. But the intent is to increase the divide between the haves and the have-nots. If only this much effort was put into developing better outcomes for public education, Texas would be far better off.

Monica DeLeom

Uvalde

Uvalde, TX

McLaughlin, please represent the majority of your constituents in voting no to the education savings account. Take Uvalde's best interest at heart and spend time on supporting and funding our school district than dedicating your position to anything Abbot requests. You are a strong candidate who has dedicated your time to support Uvalde county and I believe you can do right by our district and our children. Our district is in dire need of funding so that we can be well rounded. Choosing to place money into private education rather than public education serves the rich and private school employees. Our public dollars cannot be filtered into private education regardless of anyone's explanation that is does otherwise. Imagine the support you would have to standing up for what is right.

Janine Henry

Self

Fort Worth, TX

My husband and I DO NOT support this bill. We support funding public schools and not using tax payer money for private schools. As a public school teacher and a parent of children who attend public schools, we need to focus on adequately funding (raising the funds allocated per child) to public schools and not provide money to private schools.

Also, it is insulting to want to provide more money per student (\$10000) for private schools than what is currently provided (just over \$6000) to public schools (if a child attends everyday - because kids never get sick).

melanie allen

self

Austin, TX

I'm writing to express my opposition to public school vouchers. It's absolutely disgusting to think that any public school funding could be reallocated to help pay for private or home education. Taking money from schools that are already struggling and giving it to those who are ALREADY wealthy and PRIVILEGED enough to attend private schools or be home schooled. Sickening to think of how negatively this will impact already drastically underfunded public schools, which are the majority of schools in this state. Do not pass this bill.

Kristen Ashlock
Self, Educator
Cedar Park, TX

As a dedicated public school teacher in Texas, I am writing to urge you to vote NO on House Bill 3. This bill, while claiming to offer solutions to improve education, does not provide the adequate funding and resources that Texas public schools desperately need.

As an educator who sees firsthand the struggles our students face due to chronic underfunding, I can confidently say that House Bill 3 is a step in the wrong direction for our state's education system. Our public schools are already stretched thin, and many districts are unable to meet the growing needs of their students. The reality is that many schools do not have the resources to provide the quality education our students deserve.

The funding disparities between school districts, especially in low-income and rural areas, are alarming. These disparities impact the quality of education students receive, contributing to achievement gaps that will affect them for the rest of their lives. Public education should be an equalizer, giving every child the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background or zip code. But without proper funding, we are failing our students, and the consequences are long-lasting.

As a teacher, I see the direct effects of underfunding every day. Our schools are unable to offer enough counselors, mental health resources, extracurricular programs, or even essential supplies. Teachers are forced to dig into their own pockets to cover classroom materials, and many are leaving the profession because the support and resources they need to help students succeed are simply not there. It's heartbreaking to watch students with immense potential not receive the education they need to succeed because our schools lack the necessary funding.

Texas has one of the fastest-growing student populations in the nation, yet our public schools continue to face inadequate funding. We cannot keep cutting resources and expect different results. Instead of passing bills that only provide short-term fixes, we need a long-term, sustainable investment in public education. Our students' futures depend on it.

I urge you to stand up for Texas' future by voting NO on House Bill 3 and advocating for meaningful investments in public education. Fund our schools. Support our teachers. Give every child the opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,
Kristen Ashlock
Texas Public School Teacher

Meredith Wright
Self / communications
Fort Worth, TX

I do not support vouchers. Parents already have choice in educating their children and tax dollars should not be funneled to private schools.

Tracey Blake
Self/Public education teachers and students!
Childress, TX

Public schools deserved to be fully funded, vouchers and ESA accounts will do the exact opposite and cause our public schools to struggle. I am the principal of a rural elementary and we do AMAZING things each day with amazing staff and students who deserve more funding. ESAs will only ruin our chances at adequate funding more and with private schools having no accountability it makes it very unfair.

SHARLA LITTLEFIELD

Self/ teacher

Lubbock, TX

Leave the money with the schools and fund public education appropriately. I work in a title 1 school and most would use the savings account, due to transportation or eligibility into the private schools. They would not qualify. Give public education education funding to hire teachers for lower class sizes. This particular group (low socioeconomic) needs the smaller group teaching to get them on grade level to be successful after graduation.

Karen Rich, Mrs

Self

Abilene, TX

Oppose vouchers

Yolanda Rascon

Self/retired Principal

Nolanville, TX

Public funds should support public schools! No to choice funding!

Mark Saffer

Self

Houston, TX

Please take this notice as my opposition to HB 3. I generally have republican views, but this bill hidden by the name ESA is simply the destruction of public education. The funds that are being allocated to this bill should be spent on the improvement of public education. Governor Abbott has done so much good for Texas, but this Bill has separated him and many of Congress from my support. Please note that a support for this bill is not favored by me.

Jeri Ross
Self/Retired Public School Teacher
Wimberley, TX

I want to be clear where I stand as a Texan. I oppose any attempt to implement private school vouchers in Texas. I oppose any voucher program, including a tuition tax credit, education savings account, or any other program that would direct public funds to private, home, or for-profit virtual schools.

Instead of wasting time on unpopular and expensive voucher programs that invite fraud, I urge you to support public education by funding our schools and the teachers and staff who work in them. There is no way that a charter, a private, or a home school can offer opportunities that a unified public school system can offer students through their magnet school programs when public schools are given proper funding. What private school can offer choir, orchestra, band, dance, engineering, medicine, construction academy, architecture, communication arts, multiple languages, computer science, visual art, and every sport imaginable? Talk about school choice! And what choices do our rural school districts have? Where are their private school choices? Vouchers will diminish them without compensation. Private schools offering all of the above options don't need government funding. For their wealthy patrons, money is no object. Government subsidies will not make these schools accessible to all students unless they are held to the same standards as public schools. What would be the point, even if the state insists on certified teachers, TEKs, and a requirement to accept all students?

As a public school teacher, I saw our students bounce between schools thinking that they would have the opportunity to get a pie-in-the-sky education. But parents of these students didn't realize that there were unwritten qualifications for entry. Their children were accepted, then rejected, only to return to our neighborhood public school six weeks behind their peers in their academics. This is hard on teachers as well as students. Spreading our education dollars too thin will do nothing but dilute the quality of our excellent, professional system, condemning our public school children to a mediocre education at best no matter which system they attempt. Give Texas a proper, fully-funded education system, and let private schools continue as they always have, giving scholarships to needy students who want to attend, through the support of their communities. Public schools need an increase to the basic allotment of at least \$1280 per student to account for inflation. To avoid a failed public education system increase per student funding fairly; do not give funds to teachers who are not certified and who are not held to the same state standards as public schools. If we don't fund public education adequately, we are condemning it. It is a waste of our tax dollars to try to fund side-by-side education systems, the same as it would be silly to fund two competing municipal water systems. Private, religious, and home schools will divert needed funding from our public education system.

Brooklyn Richardson
Self, Youth and Children's Minister
Arlington, TX

My name is Brooklyn Richardson. I am a youth & children's minister, a mother of two public school-aged children, & a deeply concerned citizen who believes in the power & promise of public education. I strongly oppose school vouchers in Texas, a policy that will harm our already struggling public education system.

School vouchers do not offer choice. They divert funding from public schools to private institutions, many of which lack oversight & accountability. Texas public schools rank 47th in the nation. Teachers are leaving due to low pay & impossible working conditions. Schools lack resources. This is not just bad policy—it is a moral failure.

Texas public schools have been underfunded for decades. Instead of significantly increasing the basic student allotment, the state offered a meager \$200 increase—far below inflation. Schools are forced to stretch every dollar, cutting programs & staff while still expected to improve outcomes. Vouchers will worsen this crisis. Rather than addressing chronic underfunding, they strip resources from the system that serves the vast majority of Texas students. This creates a two-tiered system: families with means can supplement their vouchers, while most Texans are left with even more depleted public schools. This is not choice. This is abandonment.

Texans overwhelmingly support strong public schools. Parents & educators have spoken at town halls and hearings, urging lawmakers to increase funding. Yet some lawmakers take cues from an out-of-touch governor & wealthy donors playing political games with our children's futures. Lt. Governor Dan Patrick recently said, "From our vantage point, we are doing what we think is best for our students and schools." That statement is tone-deaf. The communities, teachers, & families experiencing these hardships know the real "vantage point." When lawmakers are too far removed to see the harm they cause, the situation becomes truly dangerous. Ignoring the voices of constituents is unacceptable. When elected officials stop listening to the people they serve, democracy suffers.

As a youth & children's minister, I see how public schools shape young lives. They are more than educational institutions; they are community hubs where children learn kindness, teamwork, and perseverance. They provide stability for kids who may not have it at home. Defunding public schools through vouchers is a moral failure, abandoning our responsibility to ensure every child—regardless of zip code or income—has access to quality education. It betrays the very values we claim to uphold as Texans: fairness, opportunity, & commitment to the common good.

Texas is at a crossroads. We can continue neglecting public education, or we can commit to properly funding our schools. Public education is the foundation of our democracy, economy, & communities. We must stop political games and invest in Texas' future. I implore you, as lawmakers, leaders, & fellow Texans, to do what is right.

Carilea Duncklee
self, medical coding educator
Spring, TX

I don't think H.B. 3 is a good bill. I'm writing you to tell you to VOTE NO on H.B. 3 today!

I am VERY concerned that instead of simply returning our property taxes to us that currently go to fund our local schools, H.B. 3 would create huge opportunity for government oversight of homeschooling.

The most economically vulnerable parents – whom the bill is purported to help -- would be forced to comply with oversight of their curriculum choices, and more. Instead of the freedom to homeschool, these homeschoolers would be shackled with NEW REGULATIONS.

This bill leaves the door WIDE OPEN for regulations for ALL homeschoolers in the future. For example, if all homeschoolers are required in the future to use "approved vendors only" then there isn't true autonomy for parents to choose curriculum, or to switch curriculum mid-school year if we find that the teaching style does not match our child's learning style.

Please vote no for HB 3!

Laurie Baus
Self
The woodlands, TX

Please do NOT vote to support this bill.

William Wilkinson
Self - Bartender
Fort Worth, TX
Strongly Opposed

Gennie Westbrook
Self
Cooper, TX

The Texas Constitution Article 7 requires the legislature to provide funding for support and maintenance of public education. The legislature has not done so for many years, leaving the task of supporting public schools to local initiatives and funding. (See Paul Colbert testimony.) I oppose HB 3 by Buckley, relating to establishment of an education savings account or any voucher system by any other name. Until public schools are adequately funded, the legislature has no business even discussing schemes to public money for private schools.

Sarah Cordill
Self
Mckinney, TX

I urge you to stand with Texas families, not special interests. This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. It comes with a hefty price tag and zero accountability to the state or taxpayers!

Rachel Mitchell
self
Allen, TX

I strongly oppose any public funds going to private schools, private charter schools or home schooling. Vouchers do not address many needs of low-income, at-risk students such as transportation, free and reduced-priced lunches, textbooks and other instructional materials, assessment of special needs, access to additional remediation programs, and full cost of tuition. Vouchers are disproportionately accessible to students living in urban areas due to limited access to private schools in rural Texas. Private schools choose which children they will accept. They are not required to meet the same standards as public schools - teacher certification, special education, standardized testing, A-F accountability ratings, etc. In short, unless ESAs/vouchers have the SAME requirements as public schools, I am 100% against them!

Tiffany Anderson Ahmad
Self
WYLIE, TX
I OPPOSE HB3

Justin Carrier
Tibbals Elementary PTA
Murphy, TX
I OPPOSE HB3. Don't mess with public school funding.

R F

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Lawmakers,

My name is Riley, and I'm 9 years old. I'm a third grade student in Austin ISD, and I have dyslexia. I am considered twice-exceptional. I have scores and abilities beyond my grade level or the average, but districts need more funding so students like me can be more than just average—or worse, fall behind because dyslexia programs are scarce and expensive.

Learning to read is really tough for me and I notice I don't read as well as some of my friends. I love reading. Even though I try my hardest every day, it's still hard. I love my school and my teachers who help me. I want my teachers and reading instructor to be paid what they are worth and I want my school district to be able to afford to teach all kids to read.

I'm pretty good at math already but I don't know the numbers that will help my teachers and my friends but I know \$220 is not a lot of money and my mom tells me we need at least \$1300.

I hope you increase the basic allotment for schools, give teachers raises, and give more money to special education. Schools need more money to help kids like me and my friends who need extra support. I don't want to just get by—I deserve the chance to be great, not just average. Without more funding, it's hard for us to get what we need.

My mom helped me write my testimony but I told her what I want to say. I have made testimony before to our SHAC (Student Health Advisory Committee) and to our school board. I love public speaking but I have the flu and I won't be able to make it to the Capitol tomorrow.

Please do what's right and give public schools the money they need to help kids like me and my friends be successful. We deserve it. Oh and I'm tired of my mom being mad about schools not getting the money they need. So please help with that. Thanks,
Riley

Teresa Rios
Self/Family
Liberty Hill, TX

Dear Legislator,

I am in opposition to HB 3. I oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

If the reason for vouchers is truly schools choice, then additional accountability measures must be added to the bill.

Measures such as:

1. No elected official past, present or future nor any family member by blood or marriage may financially benefit from the ESA program in any way, direct or indirect.
2. No family with a child currently enrolled in an education entity other than a Texas public school may use an ESA. They already have choice and they use it.
3. No education entity may deny admittance to a child choosing to use an ESA
4. No education entity admitting a child via an ESA may dismiss the child during the current school year
5. Any education entity that dismisses or denies continued enrollment to a child using an ESA before 5 years or graduation must fully refund the state plus a 25% penalty
6. Any education entity that accepts a child via an ESA must abide by the same rules, policies and procedures as every public school.

To be clear, I oppose HB 3.

Emily Jelen
self
Dallas, TX

Please keep your support in the public schools. We pay taxes and live in a neighborhood we chose because we like the public school. I am on the PTA board in order to take part in my children's education. My son has the support he needs in public school, thanks to the 504 program, for his ADHD. His teachers are incredible. My daughter has no special needs but we appreciate the team of teachers, counselors, and administrators who make their education possible. Without enough support from you, the legislature, public schools cannot do this. The PTA has had to help the school pay for both reading and math programs to help support students have fallen behind, simply because the legislature has not increased funding in too many years. Support public schools by increasing the spending for them! Private schools DO NOT need your help, and they have scholarship programs for those who cannot afford to attend. Keep public funding with public schools.

Jack Noteware
self
McKinney, TX
Oppose vouchers

Karis McQuinn

Self

Friendswood, TX

As a mother and an educator, I am adamantly opposed to HB3. Texans are clever and creative- we have too much strength of mind and heart in our great state to adopted a system that has failed students countless times in other states. We can do better! We are better than this! All of our littlest Texans deserve a strong public education system that will develop them into mighty Texas leaders. We are capable of fixing our public education system together- but HB3 is the wrong approach.

Stand with parents and children, vote NO to HB3.

Thank you for your time, Karis McQuinn

Mandy Blackmon

Texas PTA - Clear Creek ISD

Houston, TX

I am deeply concerned about the future of my children's education if this bill passes! How is this bill going to affect public schools not just now, but in the future 10 years? Parents already have school choice through a number of avenues in the state of Texas. Public dollars should stay in public schools! We need to fund public schools first, and let private citizens fund private schools. I do not agree with my tax dollars going to this program. The Texas people should be allowed to vote on this issue so that you can make sure you are serving your constituents. Take care of our public schools who are working so hard to take care of our children and their future!

Cindy Horn

Self

Clifton, TX

I am a retired educator. I remember when our principal came around to our classrooms to inform us that there would be no more discipline in the classroom. Two weeks later, the children were becoming masters of disrespect. This mandate and a few other disastrous changes made by the talking heads started the destruction of public education. Five simple rules handwritten on a half piece of poster board taught respect, responsibility, conflict resolution, and kindness. Two weeks later, it was gone. This was not on Texas teachers. Technology, although it plays an important role in education, has robbed children of their ability to memorize. Technology has robbed us all of social skills. Children don't know how to handle disagreement or disappointment. They usually react with violence. The government did this and now you want to scoop up choice students and provide them with an education while leaving the rest to do the best they can. Unless it's changed, schools of choice don't have to follow the same rules as public education. Government has made such a mess of education that they believe it can't be fixed. I am hurt for the students of Texas and quite embarrassed that my state would do this to it's youngest citizens...shame:(

Ana Maria Beats

Individual

Rockwall, TX

Do not want vouchers

Michelle Jackson

Self

Round Rock, TX

Please say NO to HB 3. It does NOT put choice in the hands of parents. It offers no accountability for taxpayers or the state. It is fiscally irresponsible and is not sustainable. We all want smaller classes, neighborhood schools, better enrichment opportunities, highly skilled teachers, and parent engagement opportunities, so PLEASE do these two things: 1) invest whatever you were going to spend on ESAs (or vouchers) into our public schools, and 2) start trusting our public school educators by giving them the same freedoms you are so willingly handing over to unknow private entities. Thank you!

Antoinette Dereska
Self
Highland village, TX

Please do NOT vote for vouchers, we have amazing public schools that need to be fully funded.

Angie Baldwin, Principal
Self
Amarillo, TX

The voucher system or school choice is not what it seems. Tax payer money should fund public schools that all children have access to. If a family chooses to educate their student in private school, tax payer money SHOULD NOT fund that.

Lindsay Gibson
Self/Counselor
Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS' & NO TO SB3

Monica Muñoz
Wylie ISD Council of PTAs
Wylie, TX

Please make sure that ALL children are well taken care of by saying NO to vouchers!! This is more harmful than it is helpful!!

Sandra Frioni
Self, legal assistant
Wylie, TX

No to Vouchers. No to SB3.

Randi Kellenberger
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I do not support the establishment of an education savings account program as there are no benefits for average constituents. This will only benefit those that can already afford private education/homeschool for their students AND take away what little the public education systems currently have. There are better, more cost efficient, ways to serve ALL students in the state of Texas. This program has already been shown to be unpopular with constituents across the state and should not be approved.

Erika Raga
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Claire Miller
Self
Mansfield, TX

I'm a mother of four from Mansfield, Texas, zip code 76063. After listening to several hours of the comments and interviews yesterday, I'm concerned about the aspect, especially of religious freedom, that state money would be funding schools that are allowed to prioritize those in their own religion over others that are not. This is a direct violation of the separation of church and state for all Americans. Please vote no on sb3.

Raegan Perry
self/ Custom Network Liaison
Wylie, TX

No to vouchers and no to SB3

Bill Coker
Self
Arlington, TX

Vouchers are not going to help children in Texas. The full funding of public schools will be the answer. If you provide \$10,000 per child for private schools then put up the money and provide \$10,000 per child to the public schools with no strings attached like you are wishing to provide to private schools. Vote no on vouchers. The public will be watching and will vote accordingly the next election.

Ramon Aguilar
Self
Fort worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Heather Fisk
Self
Waxahachie, TX

When both sides of the political and schooling spectrum are opposed to a bill, it's probably a bad bill. Don't take money from public schools to give to schools without accountability. School choice already exists. Please don't bow to your out of state donors and punish your own constituents in the process. Vouchers (even if you aren't officially calling this vouchers) haven't worked anywhere. Why would we repeat the same and expect anything different?! Invest in Texas education and put your money where your mouth is.

Chad Jones
Self
Pearland,, TX

By name, Private schools are PRIVATE! Public schools are public and govt funded. If you want private schools, you should pay for it. This is the equivalent of saying the public pool isn't good enough, the govt should pay my country club fees! This will destroy public schools. Please don't cater to the wants of those wanting private schools without paying! Please fund public schools appropriately.

Sincerely, a 29 year public school educator.

Andreia Waggoner
Self
Wichita Falls, TX

NO!!!!!!

Adrian Portales, Mr
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Vanessa Cardwell

Self

Austin, TX

As a proud tax paying resident of Austin, TX in Travis County where my property taxes support round Rock ISD, I'd like it to be known that I DO NOT SUPPORT HB3. The taxes I pay are to support public education at public ISDs. I do not support the use of TX funds for private education. To do so would SEVERELY impact all TX districts. If passed, it's likely HB3 will lead to program cuts, school closures, and teacher/administrator layoffs and will severely impact the TRS. I implore you to vote NO to HB3. It's not good for the good of all Texans.

Lastroski Douglas

Self

Anna, TX

Against this bill

Cesar Mejia

Self

Hutto, TX

Oppose

Sierra Jacox

Myself

Montgomery, TX

I do not support this is voucher/school choice/education savings plan. First, if part of the reason this is being pushed is the performance and quality of public schools do not give money to private schools, give the money to public education to make it better. Private schools DO NOT have to accept children with disabilities and most DO NOT have transportation. This puts a large amount of families unable to use the "education savings program". The families that will benefit most from this are the already affluent/high middle class while the rest of the population deals with already under funded public schooling. Overall your Texas constituents do not want this. Listen to them. This will not improve Texas education it will hurt it and hurt the ones who need public schooling the most.

Peggy Brooks, Ms

Self

Mesquite, TX

I'm against school vouchers. A free and public education is not attained through paying for school. School choice is present when you opt to choose free public school or pay for private school. I'm a retired educator and feel the choice to send your child to private school is not a taxpayer obligation. I have always voted Republican but this has me seriously considering my choice to vote the other way.

Gayla Noneaker Stefan

Self - retired teacher

Pflugerville, TX

I'm a retired math teacher.

Although public education isn't perfect, it's better than private education.

Maybe Elon Musk needs to come help us streamline public education?

Jonathan Buck

self, attorney

Austin, TX

I am an attorney and parent of a 2nd grader in public school. I write to express my strong opposition to HB 3, which would create a program that diverts critical funding from Texas public schools while failing to provide adequate accountability. 1. Financial Impact on Public Schools - HB 3 proposes an initial \$1 billion in ESA funding, ballooning to \$3.2 billion in the second year and potentially \$8 billion over two years by 2029. Texas public schools already face funding shortfalls, with many districts struggling to provide competitive teacher salaries, classroom resources, and special education services. Diverting additional funds away from public schools will worsen these inequities and disproportionately harm the majority of Texas students who remain in the public school system. 2. Lack of Accountability & Oversight- Unlike public schools, which are required to meet strict performance and financial transparency standards, private schools receiving ESA funds would not be required to administer STAAR exams or follow the same accountability measures. This creates a double standard where taxpayer funds can be used without clear performance metrics, increasing the risk of fraud and misuse. Arizona's ESA program, for example, uncovered \$700,000 in improper spending due to weak oversight. Texas should not follow this path. 3. Disadvantages for Rural Communities- Rural Texans would see little to no benefit from HB 3, as private school options are extremely limited in these areas. Unlike urban centers, where private schools are more prevalent, rural families would still rely on underfunded public schools while taxpayer money is funneled into a voucher system they cannot use. This policy fails rural Texans and weakens their local education infrastructure. 4. Harm to Students with Disabilities- Public schools are legally required to provide services to students with disabilities under federal law. Private schools, however, are not obligated to accommodate special needs students and can selectively deny admission. If ESA funds are diverted from public schools, children with disabilities will face fewer resources and less access to necessary services, further marginalizing a vulnerable population. 5. Risk of Public Fund Misuse- ESA programs in other states have demonstrated serious risks of fraud and misallocation. Without strict controls, public funds could be used for unapproved or non-educational expenses, siphoning money away from true academic support. Texans deserve strong fiscal responsibility and transparency when it comes to taxpayer dollars. Conclusion - HB 3 is not a true school choice initiative—it is a backdoor defunding mechanism that will harm over 5 million students in Texas public schools already reeling. Subsidizing private education without oversight is not a prudent use of public funds. I strongly urge you not to advance this bill.

Jennifer Cunningham, Mrs.

self

Austin, TX

This bill is detrimental to public education at its core. This bill is designed to take money from public education and put it into the coffers of people who want to fund their private education. This would be like taking money from the parks fund and putting it towards my own country club membership. This is robbery. This is not fair and nowhere else in the state of Texas budget do we have private proponents trying to take from public funding. I am completely opposed to this bill as a Texas resident as a Texas mother and a Texas educator.

Irma Escobar, Retired Teacher of Texas public Schools

Self

San antonio, TX

I strongly urge you to oppose school vouchers. As a Retired Educator it is our duty as resident of Texas to Educate all our Students . If everyone in Texas pays Taxes then those funds should go to all students in Texas . These voucher scheme does not and will not accommodate all students of different ethic and race . We have seen the outcome from other states that have Tried this and it has NOT been effective but for only a few . Texas students should not be have to be played with . If every Texan pays for public school then those funds should be used for public students

Travis Marmon

Mexia ISD

Mexia, TX

This bill is meant to destroy public education and line the pockets of our governor. We vote representatives into congress and the house to give the public a voice but if this bill passes they are completely ignoring the people that voted them into office. It's a sad time in our state when greed has taken over the well being of the people and the state. We must vote no on HB 3!

Laura Bow

Self. Educational diagnostician

Happy, TX

I am an educational diagnostician ins rural SSA. Prior to that I taught special education in a rural elementary school for 14 years. I am against HB 3 because it truly leaves out rural students and students with special needs. The bill is being represented to the public as something that will help all students in all areas of the state. Students who enter private schools give up protection under IDEA and are not protected. Private schools do not have to admit or serve them. Rural schools rarely have private schools close enough to attend. Low income families that are supposed to be helped most likely can't afford the remainder of tuition, will not have transportation to get to a school, or won't be able to afford extra fees and lunch. Our public schools are hurting and need help to keep up with rising costs and all the unfunded mandates that keep being passed.

Please listen to constituents and stand up to the big money that is pushing vouchers for whatever reason. Our schools are the lifeblood of our rural communities and are frankly at a near breaking point because of funding issues.

Thank you for your time.

Kevin White

self

Stamford, TX

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our thoughts on ESA's (vouchers). I would first like to state that I am all for fair and equal choice for parents and students. But anyone with any financial common sense or educational background understands that vouchers are nothing more than a scheme for State Representatives lobbyists and donors. Public Education is held to so many checks and balances with every penny. Private schools may have some accountability added if they accept a voucher students, but the bottom line is they do not have to accept any. No matter rich, poor, Special Ed., 504, etc. Private schools still control their cliental. Public schools are held to Federal Standards such as IDEA. Private schools will not take a chance on accepting such students if it adds burden to their enrollment or staff. Private schools will not be audited by TEA in the same form as public schools. It is beyond me why our legislators would back such a bill and supporters such as Abbott or Buckley in this matter. They may need to ask themselves these questions.. Is this what the tax payers want? If they believe so put it on the ballot for voters to decide. If I back Gov. Abbott will he even be here come November or will he move on to DC or get pushed out by the mass teacher votes that are against this bill? As an educator for 28 years I am saddened that Buckley, Patrick, and Abbott would hold public school funding hostage to blackmail votes for these bills. Abbott has proven he is fixed on I will get my way or you will not get a penny from the tax payers dollars. Please take note that the majority of voters in the state of Texas are Against Vouchers that do not have the same accountability to the crossed T as Public schools.

Melissa Rhoades Rhoades

Self-29 year veteran Texas public school teacher

Argyle, TX

Members of the committee,

Please take into consideration the amount of your constituents that oppose this bill! There are too many holes & inconsistencies to pass this bill. Firstly, it is unfair. Why is more money going to private school students when the majority of Texas children are in public schools? Please increase the allotment to reflect our current economy. I work in a very financially sound district & yet we are closing five schools! If you're going to have vouchers, make it the same amount as public school children get! Another aspect that makes it inequitable is the fact that there are very few requirements for vouchers. Public schools money is based on attendance & testing requirements among other things. This money will be abused! It is also frustrating that the vouchers will primarily provide a financial break for the wealthy parents that can already afford private schools. The vouchers will still not cover the tuition & other fees required in most private schools.

I am a product of both private & public schools in Texas. I do believe private schools are already a choice & are needed, but please make the funding equitable!

As a teacher soon to retire in the next few years, it breaks my heart to see so many teachers leaving the profession & less & less going into it. This is going to be a major crisis soon & is not only hurting teachers, but the children of Texas. Please start looking for ways to pay teachers more & work to retain them!

I urge you to vote against HB3 & work with educators, students, school districts & private schools to find better solutions!

Thank you,

Alejandro Moreno

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose HB 3. It is much more important to provide adequate and much needed funding for public education. Rural public schools will suffer greatly as a result of this bill.

Cynthia Brennan

Self

Georgetown, TX

I served as Coordinator of Title 1 and Bilingual Education in Conroe ISD. I saw firsthand how federal funding benefited students of all backgrounds and nationalities. I am strongly opposed to school vouchers knowing that too many kids would suffer under this useless law.

NANCY MCGRAW

Self

San Antonio, TX

I do NOT agree with this.

Sarah Sorensen

Self

San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB 3. It is a taxpayer funded subsidy for wealthy Texans who can already afford private school tuition. I oppose spending public dollar for private schools that do not have to meet the same accountability standards as public schools and can discriminate against students and families for any reason. Research shows that the minority of voucher users who are from lower income households have poor educational outcomes because they end up in poor performing private schools that charge tuition that matches the state reimbursement rate. Public tax dollars should go to public schools.

Corina Garcia

self

Skidmore, TX

I have been an educator for 25 years and a school administrator for 8 of those years. I vehemently oppose HB3 as it will not help students in rural Texas or our special needs population. Our school has had to adopt a deficit budget in hopes of retaining our hardworking staff. We are a TIA district, but unfortunately some of our hardest working staff will never have an opportunity to earn the distinction or the money. Do better. Support our public schools, and vote NO to HB3.

Beth Robb
Self, retired
Coppell, TX

As a parent of 2 public school grads and 1 private school grad, I can assure you that people who send their children to private do not need vouchers. We all know this won't truly help the disadvantaged as there is no transportation provided and private schools can be very selective in admissions. A study into our friends in AZ and other voucher states will show this program does not do what it proposes to do.

Public schools deserve more! More funding for the basic allotment and funding for mandated programs like SpEd and safety and security. Any monies allocated to private should be matched for the per pupil allotment for public at a minimum. The thought of private and charter schools receiving state funds without the same testing and program requirements is ridiculous. Why would those schools not be held to the same accountability measures as public schools?

My 3 children graduated several years ago, but as a taxpayer, I am very distressed by the proposed bills regarding education in this state. We should be supporting and building up our public schools, not forcing them to close campuses and cut programs and teachers.

My children all graduated from universities with more than 50% out of state students and the competition is fierce! We are hurting our students' abilities to compete with those from other states and putting them at a disadvantage when we force districts to cut programs that enhance their educational experiences at the K12 level.

My family believes in public education and strongly opposes vouchers in Texas. IF this program is passed, the very LEAST should be to allocate the same amount for the per student allotment for public students and require ALL state funded schools to adhere to the same laws, standards and accountability. To do anything less is grossly negligent.

My recapture tax dollars have helped create the overwhelming budget surplus in Texas. How about giving some of that money back to the districts from which it was taken in the first place? Districts would be in good shape and not forced to close schools, over-extend their teachers and increase class sizes if we had those funds back.

This education system in Texas is broken! However, vouchers will only worsen the problem. It is not a viable solution! For once, I would love to see my elected officials do what is in the best interest of children...ALL children!

David Cameron, Mr.
Self
Lubbock, TX

Public school education programs and teacher pay is not adequate as it is. I am against using state monies for private school education. Concentrate on increasing monies to local public school school education. Private schools and home schools are a personal choice and government money should not be given to them. Money should not be used for "chaplains" at public schools either! Separation of church and state.

Melissa Higginbotham
Self-parent, citizen, employed as an administrative assistant
Dallas, TX

I oppose adding ESAs to our educational system in Texas. Keep private schools private. Allow my tax dollars to continue to fully support the education of the majority of children in our state who attend charter and ISD public schools. Make Texans proud of how we work to preserve our future through raising well-educated kids across all socio economic sectors, not widening the gap between the haves and have nots.

Delaina Sims
Myself
Wills Point, TX

I am firmly opposed to HB3 on school vouchers. Public tax dollars should not be used for private schools in any form. Our public schools need more funding. This bill takes much needed funds away from public schools. It harms children and communities.

Amy Denton
Self-Teacher
Houston, TX

I am a 20 year teacher & I am 100% for school choice.
The vast amount of money given to school districts is wasted on administrative nonsense long before it ever reaches the classroom. The only way to make sure students receive a solid education is to remove the power of spending money from the school districts. The city I live in, Houston, has done so well educating students that the TEA had to step in and take over running HISD. This was decades in the making.
My family MOVED OUT of Houston to Missouri City way back in the 80's because HISD was so poorly run.
My question to those who oppose school choice is why are you afraid of choice? It's not the school district's money, it's TAXPAYERS MONEY! Why is it okay to waste it?
Thank you.

Krista Taylor
Self
Wichita Falls, TX

If HB 3 is passed, it will drain \$5,271,758 from the Wichita Falls ISD which is the district my 7th grade son attends. We are a district that is already lagging in technology and building improvements. Our district cannot afford to lose money. Analysis of vouchers in other states has proven that vouchers subsidize wealthy families that can already afford private school. Please don't defund public education. Vote NO on HB 3.

Beckett Hills
James Nolan Construction
Austin, TX
VOTE NO VOUCHERS

Emily Bentley
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am writing to express my concern about the provisions in HB3 that would create a voucher system for school choice. While I understand and respect the desire to create more school choice options for families, I believe that this system will have a detrimental impact on public schools and the families who depend on them. By diverting funds to a private school through a voucher system, this bill would take much-needed funds away from our already underfunded public schools. Public schools are already facing budget shortfalls, teacher shortages, and growing class sizes. A voucher system will only serve to exacerbate these issues. As a parent of a child who will be starting kindergarten in the fall, this issue is of utmost concern to me and my family. A huge factor in our decision to move to Round Rock was the excellent public schools in Round Rock ISD which contribute to a thriving and vibrant community. I feel strongly that a voucher system will have a negative impact on my child's education as right now, we feel that the local public schools provide the best education compared to charter or private school offerings. In addition to being a parent, I am also a former educator with a master's degree in Education. While I am concerned about my own child's educational prospects, I am even more worried for children from low-income families and those in rural communities where there are not an abundance of alternatives to public school. A voucher program will pull funds away from the only schools available to many children across this state. Additionally, a voucher system does not guarantee better educational outcomes for all as many private schools lack the educational oversight required in public schools and they often do not serve all children equally. As a former private school teacher, I can attest that many private schools do not, for example, provide adequate support to students with disabilities or those requiring special education. I believe that a voucher program would only serve to create an even greater divide between various groups of students including the wealthy and the poor, the able-bodied and the disabled, the gifted and those with intellectual disabilities.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to participate in the democratic process by submitting these comments and I hope that all who read this will seriously consider amending the provisions in HB3 that would create a voucher program and instead focus on adequately funding public schools in order to help all Texans thrive. Respectfully, a mother and educator.

Jason Janning
Self
Southlake, TX

Vouchers are wrong for Texas. Vote NO

Sandra Graham
Self
Roscoe, TX

So no to vouchers! As Texans, we voted on this a few years ago and we voted no! Abbott was not a happy camper two it was voted no in the last session. There was surplus money to help people schools and give teachers raises. He acted like a baby! He had opportunity last session and this session to help public schools and teachers raises with surplus money. All he is interested in is himself and help the rich get richer. He could care less about public schools or teachers. He is a disgrace to the state of Texas!!!
VOTE NO ON VOUCHERS!!!

Andrew Atlas
Self - semi-retired
Austin, TX

I am righting to express my opposition to HB 3. As shown by data from other states where they have been implemented, education savings accounts will act as a subsidy for affluent parents who already have the wherewithal to send their children to private school, they do not guarantee access to private schools for the children of parents without the financial resources to send their children to private schools since \$10,000 does not cover tuition at most private schools, so it discriminates against children in low income families. Children with special needs would also likely be unable to access these funds in any meaningful way, so it also discriminates against them. Most rural areas do not have private schools, so this bill discriminates against kids in rural areas. This bill will defund public education, thus exacerbating the educational disparities that already exist between the wealthy children already enrolled in private schools and the 5.5 million (94% of kid enrolled in grades K - 12) children enrolled in public schools. This bill is a reverse Robin Hood plan that will do permanent harm to public education, just to benefit wealthy parents who can already afford private school. Honestly, it's shocking that it has even come this far! Please vote no on HB 3.

Evelyn Melendez

Self

Mckinney, TX

Please keep it the same, no changes we do not want the HB 3

Iskra Payne

Self - managing director

Austin, TX

I am against the school voucher bill

Raul Padilla

Self

El Paso, TX

This bill should not got through. Please think of another way to fund schools. Private schools are a for profit business with owners. Instead, pump that money into private schools with less restrictions on teachers and admin. How about move students that don't follow rules to private schools and let public schools educate the top kids. No to Vouchers!!

Gillian Amaro

Myself

New Braunfels, TX

Please vote against this HB 3. Our students and teachers deserve better than this bill which will take money away from students and give yet ANOTHER tax cut to the wealthy. We already have a choice- we can choose to pay for private school, or we can move into a different district. This will further polarize the haves from the have nots. It is a step back in our state and I urge you to side with the majority of Texans and NOT vote for this bill. We need more resources for ALL Texans and LOWER student:teacher ratios. This one initiative (lower teacher:student ratios) would make a world of difference for all Texas students. Please listen to your constituents and vote no on this. Thank you

Daniel Ramirez

self

Houston, TX

I am a concerned educator who currently instructs students in a school in the inner city. Many others and I oppose this bill because there are too many unintended consequences, if passed, that would ultimately harm the students whom I teach on a daily basis. This bill does nothing to eliminate the real-life problems that many students like those who attend inner-city schools like the one I work at. This money would instead go to the families of students who never face these real-life problems. Public schools like the ones in the inner-city need this funding now more than ever. The members of my community and I ask that this committee not divert these funds into the hands of those that are not in need of them. Instead, continue to fund public education to those who truly will benefit.

Ramon Telles Jr.

Self

Austin, TX

I would like to state my opposition to this bill. Our public school system needs more funding. We should not be taking money away from our children and giving it to private schools. Parents already have school choice. They can choose to send their kids to a private school. I chose to send my kids to public school. I shouldn't have to pay for those parents' decision. Public education is guaranteed in our state constitution. We need to safeguard it.

Theresa Moffitt, Mrs

Self - Parent

Arlington, TX

I would like to express my opposition to educational vouchers. Public schools have long been expected to provide so much more than education and are being penalized for caring for their most vulnerable. They seek housing for students living in cars with their families. They provide meals to students that would otherwise go hungry. They provide counseling to students of all ages facing adult issues at home. If vouchers are going to be offered, then all schools that receive them should be required to provide the same. Public schools serve EVERYONE, and any school receiving State funds should be required to do the same. There should be an equal opportunity for every child with a voucher to be enrolled in any school that accepts them, or how is this helping the State education system as a whole?? The vouchers that are being proposed will not help students from low income families that can not afford to pay the remaining balance of private tuition. Neither will they help most students with disabilities. Vouchers WILL help those that are already able to afford private school. This is not how public funds should be used.

Jeremy Gatlin

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am against vouchers and educational savings accounts of any kind. This bill as proposed will harm our public education system and divert funds away from public schools.

Vouchers of any kind will take resources away from already underfunded public schools. This will force public schools to do more with less. This will have a negative impact on the states most vulnerable population, our kids.

Private schools receiving voucher funds are not subject to the same level of accountability as public schools. They do not take state assessments, there is no oversight, and they are not required to take all students.

The state of Texas and our legislatures have an obligation to provide a free and appropriate education to all students in the state. You should ensure that ALL

Texas students have access to a high-quality education that is fully funded. Vouchers will prove to be a costly mistake for state, both at the expense of our children and our tax payers!

If you believe this is what all Texans want, I urge you put this bill as it's written to a public vote.

Dana Minney

self, educational researcher

Austin, TX

I stand with the thousands of local elected officials, school educators, and administrators serving in towns, cities, counties and school districts across our great state in strongly urging you to oppose a statewide school voucher program, as created in Senate Bill (SB) 2 and

House Bill (HB) 3. For over 30 years, state legislators across the political spectrum have continually voted against vouchers for two key reasons:

1. Texas schools are already among the most chronically underfunded in the country, with 91 percent of Texas public school students attending inadequately funded schools everyday. Passing a school voucher program would siphon even more funding away from our public schools, essentially deserting Texas schools, educators, and students.

2. A statewide school voucher program would be detrimental to our state's rural public schools, and our state leadership cares deeply about our rural communities. Our rural schools would be forced to strip their budgets down to just the necessities – that means teacher shortages, no football teams, no career or technical programs, no bands, no special education, no after-school programs – the list goes on.

This bill would devastate Texas' economy and prohibit young people and families from moving here. Why would anyone move somewhere that their child wouldn't be guaranteed a good education. This bill is atrociously bad and unimaginably harmful to everyone in education and to the children and future workforce of Texas. Please do not sign this death warrant for our state.

Melissa Albus

Self- teacher

Roxton, TX

I encourage you to stand up and represent what the people want- fund public schools like they should be funded. All children can benefit from services offered by a public school, but few will benefit from vouchers. We all know public schools are in dire straits because of the lack of funding we've received in the last few years, but the mandates keep coming. Our schools are full of hardworking educators who can't do their jobs because of all the state demands. Please do what is right for Texas children!

Laura Maverick, Ms.

self

Austinq, TX

Please do not call this an "education savings account". This is government money - my money - for people to spend on religious schools and to try and bankrupt the entire education system. This makes no sense. This is a scam - that is what it is.. The children of Texas have suffered enough. Why do we continue to punish children for being born poor and reward the connected and wealthy?

Laura Victoria Potocny-Krider

Self

Georgetown, TX

I wanted to take a moment to connect with you as someone who teaches in your district. I respectfully ask that you vote no on any voucher bill, including HB 3.

As a member of the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE), I'm part of the largest community of public educators in Texas. What makes ATPE special is that our legislative positions come straight from educators through our annual House of Delegates. We don't just follow what leadership says — we actively shape our priorities. The ATPE Legislative Program, which was created through this democratic process, clearly states that we oppose "any voucher program, including a tuition tax credit, education savings account, or any other such program that would direct public funds to private, home, or for-profit virtual schools."

Thank you for taking the time to consider the perspective of educators serving in your district.

Orsi Ficsor

Self

San Antonio, TX

Private school vouchers divert public funds away from already underfunded public schools. This program would primarily benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition at the expense of working class taxpayers who would be largely left out the program as private school tuition is unaffordable for most working class families even with the voucher. Unlike public schools, private institutions can discriminate based on income, disability, or religion, making education less accessible to all. Additionally, there is little evidence that vouchers improve academic outcomes. This program is a misuse of valuable tax dollars that could instead be allocated toward improving public education that benefits all Texans. Instead of subsidizing private education, we should invest in strengthening public schools, raising teacher salaries, and expanding resources for all students. Public money should stay in public schools, ensuring every child has access to quality education, regardless of their background.

Tracey Bleakley

Self- public school teacher

Georgetown, TX

Please vote against vouchers and ESAs in any form. Parents already have school choice and public money should not go towards private schools. The majority of Texans, no matter what their party is, do not want vouchers. Vouchers/ESAs will hurt public schools who are already struggling due to being underfunded. Instead focus on raising the student allotment by \$1500 and giving teachers a much deserved raise. With inflation we are making less now than a few years ago. Teachers shouldn't have to have multiple jobs to make ends meet.

anne Sigler
former teacher
Manor, TX

"While I acknowledge that families want more educational choices, this school voucher program does not create real choice for families. There are certainly many issues with our public education system that prevent it from effectively serving students, but funneling money out of this system and into private institutions through vouchers is not the solution to our problems. A strong public education system is integral to our democracy, and vouchers undermine public education. Additionally, these programs as implemented in other states lack proper accountability, exacerbate inequality, engage in exclusionary practices, fragment communities, exacerbate segregation, and decrease academic achievement. Instead of diverting funds to private institutions, perhaps you should focus on strengthening our public schools to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality education. This issue matters to me and I vote. Thank you."

MELINDA MANINGER

None
Fort Worth, TX

I am appalled at the possibility of the voucher scam, which has been funded by Texas oligarchs, passing in the great state of Texas. As a retired special ed teacher (dyslexia) in a title 1 school, I know FIRST HAND the disabled and/or impoverished students who would absolutely fall through the cracks with this horrible legislation that has been disastrous in other states that are trying it. The winners of the scam are primarily the wealthy Texas residents who can ALREADY AFFORD to send their children to private schools. (In states with this legislation, it has been well-documented that the majority of families using the vouchers were already there. It just gave them an unnecessary discount, while the needy students were largely unhelped or even hurt by the scam voucher system.)

PLEASE STOP THIS BILL from robbing the most vulnerable children in our state!

De Winn
Self
Wylie, TX

I feel house bills would be bad for public schools. It would take from students that have great need. Public schools deal with the most difficult children with the greatest needs which private schools will never take. Please fund the public schools so all kids are taken care of.

James Mitchell, Mr
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am strongly Opposed to the State of Texas establishing a Savings Account Program utilizing state resources.

Chris Lairscey, Mr.

Self

Del Valle, TX

I am writing to express my unequivocal opposition to school voucher programs that siphon taxpayer dollars away from our already underfunded public schools. Texas public schools have not seen a general allotment increase since 2019, despite rising costs, inflation, and increasing demands on educators. Instead of fulfilling your duty to properly fund and support the backbone of our communities—our public schools—some legislators are pushing a voucher scheme that promises choice but delivers nothing but harm, particularly to rural families.

Voucher programs are a betrayal of Texas students and taxpayers. They divert public funds to private institutions that lack accountability, transparency, and accessibility for all students, including those with disabilities or specialized learning needs. These programs do not expand opportunity; they exacerbate inequality, leaving behind the vast majority of students who rely on public education.

Rural families stand to lose the most. In communities where the local public school is the only option, vouchers will strip away funding, weaken programs, and accelerate school closures. When a rural school shuts its doors due to financial starvation, there is no nearby private school waiting to pick up the slack. This is not “school choice”—this is an abandonment of responsibility to the children of Texas.

Public schools should be thriving, not barely surviving. The solution is not to funnel money into unregulated private education but to fully fund our public schools, increase teacher pay, reduce class sizes, and invest in the resources students need to succeed.

Texans deserve strong public schools, not empty promises and destructive policies. I urge you to reject school vouchers and instead focus on fully funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Kirk Wilson

Self

Austin, TX

Vote against this disaster. We don't need vouchers. We need more pay for public school teachers and more support for public schools.

Meredith Cole

Self/ middle school counselor at TISD

Temple, TX

Please vote no to school vouchers. This will not be beneficial to public schools in Texas. We are desperately trying to provide the best education for our students and need the appropriate funds to do so. As a middle school counselor, I have only seen an increase in the mental health needs of our students. Please show your support of public educators in Texas by saying NO to this bill. Kind regards, Meredith Cole

Jason Scott

Self

Gladewater, TX

Please do your job and give the money back where it is promised, public schools. As an educator and administrator for 22 years, this money is needed more than ever in public schools and not to be used as discount program for the rich.

Blake Powell, Attorney and Rancher

Powell Ranch

Kempner, TX

I oppose HB 3 because vouchers will weaken our public schools.

Brenda Gutierrez, Mrs

Self

Mabank, TX

This is a flawed idea that benefits wealthy people and or in large cities. Rural area school districts will lose money which they cannot afford to have happen since they are already underfunded. Please DO NOT pass this bill. You will be making public education worse than it already is. Another point is that you say that students get to choose where they go to school but that isn't the full truth. The school must still accept the student or not. You are misleading people into thinking this will be a good thing when in fact it may not be for them. There are very few private schools in rural areas so choices are limited anyway.

Peggy Harris

self

The Woodlands, TX

I am part of a large group of local residents who strongly oppose the use of ESAs or school vouchers to give parents large sums (\$10,000) per student to attend a private school. Many/most of these charter schools are not independently monitored for compliance with state educational standards and the funds they receive reduce the amount of money to support our public schools which have been struggling for years to accommodate surges in enrollment and lagging state reimbursement. Please be sure that HB 3 uses public funds wisely, does not allow the wealthy to partake in these vouchers, provides certification and accountability from the private schools, and increases the basic allotment for public schools to offset the impact of inflation and the new program.

Erica Stremlau

Self, mom, veterinarian

Austin, TX

I am completely against this bill. Please fully fund our public schools instead.

Duy Le

Self

Keller, TX

Public schools are already struggling with funding. I do not appreciate using our tax dollars to fund private schools. This is an irresponsible way of spending tax dollars

Sarah Carson

self/homeschool parent

Aledo, TX

I am writing regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3. As a home school parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment. I would like to ask the committee to please join a large constituency of home schoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3. Thank you!

Lisa Ford

Self

Pearland, TX

Please do NOT vote yes for the Texas school voucher program. It will destroy the public schools, where most of you got your own education. It's not fair for middle class and working class families. The wealthy can afford private schools and there is no need to destroy the public school system in Texas.

Colyn Brown
Self
League City, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 (HB 3), which proposes reallocating funding from public schools. This bill threatens to severely diminish the quality of education provided to students across Texas and will have long-term negative consequences for our state's educational system.

Public schools in Texas already face significant challenges. Reduced funding, large class sizes, and inadequate resources have made it increasingly difficult for teachers to meet the needs of their students. HB 3 will only exacerbate these issues, further weakening our public education system. The reallocation of funds proposed in this bill will undermine the ability of schools to deliver the high-quality education that every Texas student deserves.

The most direct consequence of HB 3 is the reduction of resources available to public schools. This bill will force school districts to do more with less, which inevitably means fewer educational opportunities for students. From textbooks to classroom technology, extracurricular activities to essential support services, the reduction of funding will deprive students of the tools they need to succeed.

Teachers, who are already underpaid and overworked, will be forced to stretch their resources even thinner. Larger class sizes, fewer instructional materials, and diminished support services will reduce the ability of teachers to give students the individual attention they need. The result will be a decrease in the overall quality of education provided to our children.

I urge you to reject HB 3 and prioritize funding that supports high-quality education for all Texas students. Our children's futures depend on the strength of our public education system. Let us not take a step backward by passing a bill that threatens to lower the standard of education in Texas.

Raequel Rogers
Self
Caldwell, TX

Please vote no. Our children are our futures. We need them to be educated to help lead us to a brighter future. Please I encourage people to start acting from our hearts. Thank you

LINDA TEZENO
Self
ARLINGTON, TX

Dear Representative Jake Ellzey,

As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want an Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) Program. I pay my public tax dollars and, therefore, want my money to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Public school funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had inflation of over 20%. Our children and all the educators, and staff, deserve to have the funding. To be clear, I want to reiterate the following:

- I do NOT want vouchers/ESAs.
- I support an Increase of the Basic Allotment.
- I support Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Again, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.

Sincerely,
Linda Tezeno

Louise Deretchin

Self

The Woodlands, TX

To the detriment of public education, this bill will help people who already can afford private education while harming public education. Public schools are essential to our democracy in creating opportunities for all to rise up. People who think they can afford the rising costs of private education with a little help may be in for a surprise.

Grant Phillips

Veteran

Temple, TX

Stop trying to segregate our schools

Tim Rabroker, Mr.

Self

KILLEEN, TX

I would like the Public Education Committee to know that I am opposed to the education voucher plan. There is ample data from other states that have attempted to implement this type of plan with disastrous consequences for their public education systems. Arizona is the most recent state to attempt this and their public schools are having to be propped up with millions of unbudgeted funds with negative outcomes for thousands of students. The bottom line is that this will hurt local districts and communities, most of the time, the most vulnerable. The families that want private education either are already sending their children to these schools or historically find a way to send their children to these schools. Numerous organizations provide scholarships or have partners that they work with to enable students to afford to attend their institutions. This appears as nothing other than a plan to funnel funds to wealthy donors pet projects (some from out of state- Jeff Yass) and fill the coffers of religious institutions that already have tax exemptions. The school voucher program will further divide our state into haves & have-nots. If the state is serious about improving public education, it will adequately fund our public schools and make student-teacher ratios lower. If you take a moment to speak with any educator lowering class size and reducing the emphasis on standardized testing is what the priorities should be. Why don't we listen to our professional educators and follow their lead instead of wealthy mega-donors who want to continue to cause division based on their own culture war issues. This decision will haunt our children for generations if we ignorantly pursue this voucher scam. I beg our legislators to please think about our children's future, and not pursue what they think is best to further their political careers to make donors and their extreme base happy.

Maureen Kursh Reister

Self

Frisco, TX

establishing an "education savings program violates the fundamental importance of public institutions, public schools in this case, that provide opportunity for everyone.

This bill is not about 'school choice'; it's about schools choosing which students they want to serve. This legislation creates a two-tiered system:

- For the wealthy: It offers a taxpayer-funded discount on private school tuition, a benefit they hardly need.
- For the vast majority of Texans, especially those in rural areas: It offers nothing. In counties where private schools are nonexistent, this bill simply diverts vital public school funding, further disadvantaging students who already lack resources.

This program isn't about expanding opportunity; it's about exacerbating existing inequities. Private schools often lack the same accountability and transparency as public schools. They can cherry-pick students, exclude those with disabilities, and operate without the same rigorous standards. This undermines the very purpose of public education: to provide a quality education for every child.

this is not 'school reform,' it's 'welfare for the wealthy.' It takes from the struggling public system and gives to those who already have more.

Instead of subsidizing private schools that serve a select few, we must invest in our public schools, the cornerstone of our democracy. We must:

- Ensure equitable funding that keeps pace with inflation and the rising cost of living.
- Provide resources to support all students, regardless of their background or zip code.
- Strengthen accountability and transparency in public education.

If your oath to serve the people of Texas means anything, reject this divisive and harmful bill. Prioritize the education of all our children, not just a privileged few.

Jennifer Jorns, Mrs.

Self

Dallas, TX

I encouraged my adult children to purchase real estate in the Dallas ISD area of Lakewood so my grandchildren could receive an excellent public school education without squandering money on private schools. I assured them that they needed to start saving money for college expenses now. One of the reasons is Lakewood has the luxury of being subsidized by the Lakewood PTA with an approximate additional \$450,000 yearly. It is sad that many schools must deliver daily without extra resources from parents who will not be able to afford private school with or without vouchers. With respect to my children's situation, I fear their real estate investment that is heavily based on quality public schools will lose their value when public schools are even more starved of funds because of vouchers. A possible motivation for vouchers that has been mentioned, is shifting children to private schools where there is no oversight of what can be taught, primarily as it refers to religion. Teaching a child religion should be the responsibility of the parent or church they choose to attend. That was and is the source of religious teaching for my children and grandchildren and it is free to anyone that considers it a priority. I feel that the real purpose of these vouchers is not being clearly presented by its backers, because it really makes no sense for Texas to further starve its public schools. It's time to encourage kids to go back to their neighborhood public school. So kids can live, play and go to school in the same neighborhood. Parents can stop spending so much time driving kids all over town to different schools and sporting events. Siblings don't always get accepted to the same school. If you really want to help families, adequately fund public schools. No vouchers.

Martha Hoey
Self— retired teacher
Coppell, TX

Please stop this bill. Our public schools need the funding and flexibility to meet the needs of our students and teachers. At the very least, all schools receiving funding should meet state standards. Please do not tear down our public schools with this bill!

Alexis Willingham
self
PROSPER, TX

I am not in support for my tax dollars funding private schools. I do not support the school voucher programs.

Diane Havlik, Mrs
Self
YOAKUM, TX

Please do not pass HB 3 that is tailored for the rich and will hurt private schools as follows:
It will call for fewer teachers
It will change the teacher to student ratio & increase class sizes
There will be less funding for public schools, ie, necessary texts, basic supplies, libraries
The bill discriminates against rural areas that have no private
The need for adequate public schools far exceeds the needs of private schools

I humbly ask you to vote against HB 3.

Thank you

Gerri Maxwell, Retired Professor
Self
Riviera, TX

As a lifelong public educator in both K-12 & university settings, Texas should fully fund public schools. I have written and had funded thirty plus million in TEA grants over my career to help supplement rural high need school districts. If public schools were fully funded in the first place, there would be less need for these grants. Moreover, as a parent, now grandparent & taxpayer, I do not support use of our tax dollars to support elite private educations. This proposal to do so is a travesty and failure to wisely spend taxpayer dollars.

Meredith Valach

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1. Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
2. HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
3. Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
4. We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Jennifer Garoutte

Self

Pearland, TX

I oppose school vouchers.

Rachel Tai

Self

Manchaca, TX

I urge you to vote NO on HB3 and stand with Texas families, teachers, and communities against school vouchers. This bill would take millions from our already underfunded public schools and funnel it into private school subsidies, with no accountability or transparency.

Here's what's at stake:

?? Defunding Public Schools – Vouchers divert critical taxpayer dollars away from public schools, which serve 90% of Texas children. Rural communities, where private options are scarce, will be hit the hardest.

?? Higher Taxes, Bigger Deficits – Voucher programs in other states have led to massive budget shortfalls and increased local taxes to compensate for lost education funding. Texas can't afford the same mistake.

?? No Accountability, No Standards – Private schools receiving taxpayer money don't have to follow the same academic, financial, or anti-discrimination standards as public schools.

?? Hurting Our Future Workforce – Texas needs strong public schools to prepare students for college and careers. Weakening public education weakens our economy.

HB3 is a bad deal for Texas families. Please vote NO and protect our children's education and our state's future.

Elizabeth Pavelka

Self - Former teacher/coach

Friendswood, TX

As a former public school educator and current parent with a child in public school, I can easily say that school vouchers are not what the state of Texas needs. You have to consider demographics, families with less, families with more, children with special needs, children with 504's, transportation needs - just to name a few. Our public schools aren't being awarded the money they so desperately need to begin with, adding school vouchers will be a detriment to families in Texas. Thank you.

Samantha Young

Self/disabled community

Cleveland, TX

As a disabled and autistic female with ADHD who had an IEP in school, the passing of this bill would be devastating to those who need a little more help in school. By passing this bill your leaving out the rural and small town schools who need help the most!! Not private schools! By refunding public school you are leaving kids in a disadvantage area of proper schooling, that's safe with security, updates classrooms and equipment, supplies for teachers and free lunches for kids who really need them, when school or free/discounted lunch is sometimes the only time kids get fed! And food fuels the brain for proper learning so please do not pass this bill!!!

Katherine Fulkerson

Self - Coordinator

Lantana, TX

Dear Representative Buckley,

As a dedicated professional in special education, I urge you to support an increase in the basic allotment for public schools and to oppose school vouchers. Our schools are facing unprecedented challenges—rising costs, staffing shortages, and increasing student needs—yet funding has not kept pace. Without adequate resources, schools struggle to provide essential services, particularly for students with disabilities who require specialized support.

Vouchers divert public funds to private institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards and are not required to serve all students. This shift disproportionately harms students with disabilities, low-income families, and rural communities, where public schools are the only viable option.

Increasing the basic allotment ensures that every child has access to a quality education, qualified teachers, and the resources necessary to succeed. Investing in our public schools strengthens our workforce, our economy, and our communities. I urge you to prioritize public education by increasing funding and rejecting policies that undermine its foundation. Our children deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

Katie Fulkerson

Josie Kline, Mrs.

Self

Spring, TX

I am asking you to please oppose HB3. As a mom to an autistic young man who went to Texas public schools, I can personally tell you that MIRACLES happen in Texas public schools. My son went to Galatas Elementary. He had a paraprofessional, Mrs. Kahn, kinder through 4th grade. She worked with him each day. She was critical in his development and progress. She was safe, loving. She advised him and reminded him. She was like a second mom and a guardian angel. She helped him out of his shell. My son is 22 now, he's more successful and social than we could ever have imagined, and I know that it was Mrs. Kahn that worked with him in his formative years that helped with social skills and confidence. I will never forget Mrs. Kahn and the miracles that came from Galatas Elementary. Public Schools are already stretched so thin. If you strip money from Texas public schools, young people with autism, like my son, are less likely to get the miracles they need. Please fully fund our wonderful public schools. Make miracles more likely for all out students, not just the wealthy one. Please oppose HB3. Thank you so much, Josie Kline

Dianne Brooks

Self Retired

San Antonio, TX

I am against the private school voucher bill because it is essentially a tax credit for the people who choose to send their children to private school, many of whom already have the discretionary funds to afford the tuition. Private school admission is not available to every child and many rural areas have no private schools so this is not equitable. In addition, this would erode the very foundation of public schools. Public schools and its teachers have been maligned, disrespected and underfunded for too long. This is really all about putting money in the pockets of For Profit private school businesses and also removal of the separation of church and state. It's all about for profit money and power which has no place in the education of our children.

Lindsay Olinde, Dr.

Self, Civil Engineer

Austin, TX

I am a parent with two daughters attending in elementary school. I oppose any legislation that takes away from public schools. Defining the poverty line at low-income as 500% of the poverty line is absurd. Taking funds away from our public schools will harm our teachers, and ultimately the economy and readiness of the workforce and community that our children will enter into after graduation.

Do not divert any funds from public schools. It will harm generations of future Texans.

Shari McCarley

Self retired teacher

Bryan, TX

I am a conservative Republican and a retired teacher. I taught in a Title 1 district as a high school math teacher. Our campus graduated many students who went on to success in college and success in many different trades. So the blanket statement that public schools are all failures is not an accurate statement. I am very unhappy that this bill, including all the specifics, was not placed on the November ballot for all Texans to vote on. A vaguely written proposition 11 was included only in the Republican primary in 2024, a bit of a Trojan horse. Allocation of taxpayer funds to a private school is unacceptable. This proposal will only be available to less than 2% of Texas children, so this isn't about true school choice. Private schools do not have to accept all students, don't have to provide transportation, and don't have to provide services for students with disabilities. A voucher in most cases won't cover all of the private school tuition so parents have to pay the difference. Many rural areas of the state don't have a private school. If you're a good student and can get a scholarship for the balance of the tuition, that's good for you. If you're an OK student but can't get a scholarship for the rest of the tuition, then you can't have a choice. If you need transportation to school, you don't get a choice because private schools don't provide transportation. If you're a student with disabilities, you don't get a choice because private schools don't have to provide special education services. You are turning your backs on helping all Texas' students with HB 3. This is pandering to big donors and giving taxpayer money to people whose children are already in private school. Elections are not that far away for many of our elected officials. I will be voting for people who want to improve our public schools to help all students in Texas. Sincerely, Shari McCarley

Katie Acevedo

Self- teacher

Midland, TX

As an educator and a mom, I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. I beg of you to properly fund public education so my child has a chance to receive free and equitable education and I have a chance to provide a roof over her head and food in the pantry because my district like many others are currently increasing student to teacher ratios and laying off "non essential" employees to combat inadequate funding. As a Texas teacher I am SCARED for the future of Texas education.

Douglas Young

Self

Stephenville, TX

I'm all for school choice. We have it currently. You cannot tie funding for public schools to attendance and offer vouchers. You need to fix the problem of how public schools are funded first.

Homeschoolers and private schools see this as a government takeover of private schools/homeschools. This is anything but a conservative approach.

The constitution is clear on who bears the responsibility of funding public education. The State of Texas has that job. The state's job is not to fund private schools.

Iris Garcia

self

Arlington, TX

Dear Representative,

As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want an Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) Program and I do not support any form of vouchers that takes funds away from Public Schools. Please prioritize properly funding our public schools instead, taking into account inflation. Our public school teachers and students deserve better.

Elaine Gay

Self, Teacher

Hutto, TX

Hello. My name is Elaine and I am a public school teacher in a rural district in Central Texas. I am writing to voice my disapproval for any voucher system in the state of Texas. Not only will vouchers redirect funds from all students to the wealthiest (who can already afford "school choice"), but you will drive teachers away in droves. If you want any educators at all, public or private, this is not the way to do it. Lyndon B. Johnson, the finest president to ever come out of Texas, would be appalled at the fact that this is even being brought to the table. He knew the value of public education for all Texans and all Americans. Public education is a key component of the cure for poverty, and he knew it. I truly believe you are spitting on his grave and disrespecting his legacy by pushing for vouchers. You are telling poor Texans, black Texans, Hispanic Texans, disabled Texans, and more that you don't believe they deserve equal access to education and educational resources. You are telling children that they don't matter as much as your tax dollars. That is a horrendous position to hold, and I can't imagine any god in any religion wanting children to be valued by the dollar.

Vouchers reduce children to numbers on a spreadsheet. Vouchers are theft. Vote NO on HB3. Vote NO on vouchers.

Maria Hudson

Self

Little Elm, TX

Please vote again HB3. School vouchers are a detriment to overall public education. Please listen to constituents and not large \$ donors.

Kegn Hodges
Self
Grand Prairie, TX
Strongly opposed

Tara Furiani
Self
Georgetown, TX

Stop what you're doing right now and get your comments into public record now AGAINST HB3! It doesn't take long. It's for the kids!

NO to VOUCHERS
funding to PUBLIC SCHOOLS
\$1300 Basic Allotment per child.

Michelle Perez
Self, Document Control Manager
Spring, TX

The answer to our children and students falling behind academically is not to further rob our public education system by using taxpayer funds to prop up private schools.

Private schools are allowed to discriminate against students and families who don't align with their theological background. Additionally they are not required to provide an accessible education to special needs students. They lack in transparency and accountability. This voucher scheme is literally taking money vitally to the health of our public schools and lining the pockets of for profit private schools. This is absolutely unacceptable and I'm urging everyone to vote against this. Be brave, be wise, and take a stand! Future generations of Texans are counting on you all to ensure that they have access to robust and well funded public education.

David Sloan
self
Georgetown, TX

I am opposed to the bill as currently written. Public schools are critical to the future of our state and nation. Texas has been starving our schools of much-needed funding to address inflation and the setbacks from the Covid pandemic. In addition to underfunding our school districts and our classroom teachers, state leaders have disrespected our teachers and set them up for failure. They have also substituted biased materials to push partisan ideas instead of balanced curricula. After starving the public schools, they then push vouchers for private schools to further their ideological agenda at the urging of wealthy donors. Polling continues to show this is not what the parents or voters want for Texas. Fund our public schools for all our children like our future depends upon it. Texas can afford to have excellent schools that are funded consistently with the wealth available to our state.

Ashly Cochran

Self

Garland, TX

Members of the State Senate,

I urge you to vote NO on HB3 and reject school vouchers. Public tax dollars belong in public schools—schools that serve every child, not just a privileged few. Vouchers drain resources from already underfunded schools, leaving students with fewer teachers, larger class sizes, and diminished opportunities.

This bill does not create choice—it creates inequality. Private schools can reject students, while public schools must educate all. Rural communities will suffer, and students with disabilities will be left behind.

Protect our public schools. Say no to HB3. Say no to vouchers. Our kids deserve better.

Georgianne Hewett

Self

Georgetown, TX

The Governor's deeming this bill an "emergency" while withholding funds that hardworking taxpayers have paid to fund public education for Texas' 5.5 million public school students is unethical. It is also immoral to do so after receiving financial investment from billionaires determined to see this bill pass. Do you know what Texans want? They want the children in their community to receive a good education. They want their tax dollars to be used wisely. They want their neighbors who work in the schools - the teachers, librarians, aides, cafeteria workers, staff, coaches, maintenance workers to be paid a decent wage. They want strong, safe, peaceful neighborhoods. This bill undermines all of that. You are creating a problem (by underfunding schools) to create another problem (dissatisfaction with the underfunded schools) to solve a problem (looking for a better option) that won't solve the problem except for a small percentage (who can get accepted and pay the difference between the voucher and tuition and fees) and will undoubtedly create even bigger problems (deepening public school budget deficits, creating a state budget problem, and widening the gap between the haves and the have nots, which will ultimately cause our communities to be less safe). And, at the end of it all, you won't have even addressed the goal, which should be high quality schools for all. We should want to fund public schools because strong successful schools means strong vibrant communities. You all are smart. Deep in your Texan heart, you know that you cannot realistically draw a line between billionaire donors and the public good. Kill this bill.

GARY BALLARD, HB3

Public school children of Texas

Dripping Springs, TX

I support public schools and am against any public money being used for vouchers used in private schools. Tax money going to private schools is not right and to date has had very little success in states (Indiana) where their legislators have so designated tax monies.

Debbie Schmittou

Retired public school educator

PLANO, TX

Vouchers are not good for public schools. Public schools accept and educate ALL children. Schools are closing all around us. Mr Leach, this is specifically for you. You graduated from PSHS and I learned today that your children go to public school in Allen. If that is true, shame on you for supporting this. Hard working public schools educators need your support. I have not talked to a SINGLE parent that is in support of vouchers. We don't care what other states are doing! Please listen to the people in the trenches every day. Say no to vouchers!

Marcia Connors

Self

Dallas, TX

HB3 is not the solution to public education challenges, fund the schools.

Melissa Vittas
Self, parent
N RICHLND HLS, TX

Nope nope nope. Hard no. Full stop.

Ramon Chavez, Mr.
self, retired educator
Buda, TX

I have been an educator for more than 30 years, having taught at several public educational institutions throughout my professional career. Throughout that time, I was fortunate enough to be recognized for my work by being awarded three separate national teaching awards. I have seen first-hand the excellent work being done by public schools in Texas and in other states. I am deeply concerned about legislation that will serve to take away valuable funds from our public schools in favor of a school voucher program that will, in the long run, disproportionately benefit the wealthy. Texas legislators need only look at the state of Arizona who implemented a school voucher program for private schools that produced devastating consequences for the public educational system. Take a look at Arizona to see what the future holds for Texas if the legislature passes this harmful bill. Please listen to the experts, the public-school educators and administrators, rather than uninformed and self-serving government officials who seek to undermine public schools in our state.

Laura Payne
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

I am against school vouchers of any kind that would take my tax dollars away from the children in public schools in my school district, or any school district in Texas. An educated public is a necessity for our society to thrive and grow. Keep our tax dollars educating ALL children in public schools. Thank you!

Madi Pope
Self, Teacher
Nixon, TX

As a Texas public educator, I strongly oppose House Bill 3 and any school voucher programs. Public school teachers in Texas must meet rigorous certification requirements, including coursework, exams, and ongoing professional development to ensure they are qualified to educate our students. Private schools that receive voucher funds, however, are not held to these same standards—many do not require teachers to be certified at all. This creates an uneven playing field where taxpayer dollars are funneled into schools that are not accountable for teacher qualifications, curriculum standards, or student outcomes.

Additionally, I believe in the separation of church and state. Voucher programs often direct public funds to private religious schools, forcing taxpayers to support religious education that may not align with their own beliefs. Public funds should be used to strengthen our public schools, which serve all students regardless of background, ability, or faith. Instead of weakening public education, lawmakers should invest in our certified educators and ensure every Texas child has access to a well-funded, high-quality public school.

Rebecca Faulk
Self. Former Montessori teacher, mom who has homeschooled, sent children to both public and private schools. Current Grandmother to a 3-year-old who will be starting kindergarten in 2 years
Sugar Land, TX

I am opposed to a state school voucher system that would take MORE funding away from our public schools. Fort Bend ISD alone could lose up to \$32million with this. Private schools do not have to accept children with learning differences, provide transportation, or accountability. All children in our state should be provided with quality public education options, supported by the state in addition to the local communities. Our future depends on an educated citizenship.

Julie Hinaman

self

Cypress, TX

I oppose HB3. ESAs lack the academic and financial accountability and transparency expected by TX taxpayers. Fund our local public schools as required by the TX state constitution instead of using taxpayer funds/general revenue funds to subsidize private school tuition. Please do not create more bloated bureaucracy (\$30M to comptroller + \$50M to vendors + 42 FTEs). School choice already exists in TX. Please listen to your constituents, not billionaire donors.

Matthew Spitsberg

Self (clergy)

Lubbock, TX

House Bill 3, which seeks to establish “educational savings accounts” or school vouchers in Texas, is not the solution its supporters claim it to be. While it is being marketed as a way to expand educational opportunities, the reality is that it will divert public tax dollars away from our neighborhood schools to private institutions that are not held to the same standards of accountability, transparency, or inclusivity. This bill will not serve “the least of these.” Instead, it will further disadvantage the students and communities who rely most on a strong public education system.

Texas has long prided itself on local control and responsible stewardship of public funds. HB 3 undermines both. Public schools are the heart of our communities, serving every child regardless of background, income level, or learning ability. They are accountable to parents, taxpayers, and elected school boards. Private schools, however, are not bound by these same requirements. They can choose which students they accept and are not obligated to provide services for children with special needs or those from low-income backgrounds. A voucher system does not create true choice; it simply shifts public money into private hands while leaving behind the students who need the most support.

The Texas I know—one shaped by hard-working families, committed educators, and community leaders who invest in the next generation—does not want this bill. We want to strengthen our public schools, not siphon resources away from them. We want real solutions that address teacher shortages, increase funding for underserved schools, and ensure every child has access to a high-quality education, no matter their zip code.

HB 3 does not reflect the values of fairness, responsibility, or care for “the least of these” that Texans hold dear. It is a step toward dismantling public education, not improving it. If we truly want to invest in our children’s future, we must stand against this bill and instead commit to fully funding and supporting the public schools that serve all Texans.

Sheron Wechsler

Self

Corp Christi, TX

Vote NO to vouchers or education savings accounts. Taxpayer money should only go to Public Schools. No to the voucher scam that will hurt our public schools.

McKenzie Finch

Self

Longview, TX

I do not support this bill. As it stands, my freedoms remain in tact, but years from now, I do not trust that politicians will uphold my rights, unhindered, as a home educator. This is a first small step towards giving people back money they already paid out in taxes to local school districts. I’d rather see a solution where the taxes are not even paid in the first place unless you opt to public school your child. This ESA, to the best of my knowledge, will only impact a small portion of families in Texas. I find it silly to gamble my freedom as a homeschooler on such a short-reaching bill.

Morgan Moran de Sanchez

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose the school voucher program; tax dollars need to stay in public school systems only, not routed to private education.

Livia Salinas, Mrs

Self

Spicewood, TX

Public schools are the life of our communities. Our kids have the right to education. Tax payer money is not needed for wealthy families who already have their kids in private schools. Public schools need more and all funding as they are the pillars to our society and future of our kids. Public schools keep our communities engaged, active and productive. Kids who graduate from public schools come to appreciate their peers, respect their paths and are more likely to live happily in a diverse environment. There aren't enough private schools to keep all kids at a standard level. Rural communities will suffer deeply from budget cuts as well as local economies. No to school vouchers.

Allison Kennedy-Pickens

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Stop using my public tax dollars to support private institutions. Public funds belong in public school. There is a separation of church and state in this country and I don't want my tax dollars supporting religious institutions that spread hate and propaganda. I support everyone's own right to worship and financially support the organizations that are meaningful to them and their faith. Please don't muddy the waters of faith and education. Don't steal money from my children's already financially burdened public school to give to rich people to send their kids to private school. Only a small, elite group benefit from this bill and your job is to provide education to all children in this state. Leave our schools alone. You are supposed to be the party of small government.

Vanessa Nunn

Self Retired

Arlington, TX

I am against HB3. When my three children were school age they attended a private school through 8th grade. I did not expect the state to support my school choice. I think it is a travesty that this program will take funds from public schools. The visits to private schools instead of public schools to drum up support for the bill indicates even more so that this bill has very little intention of supporting comprehensive school choice. It is a bill to allow those in private schools to receive a discounted education at the taxpayers expense with none of the oversight required in public schools. Private schools will continue to accept who they want to attend their schools and increase tuition if necessary to further exclude unwanted students.

John Moon
Self, Teacher
Arlington, TX

This is a shameful attempt to commit theft of the futures of generations of Texans. Vouchers/ESAs have not worked anywhere they have been implemented, the data from numerous states have been presented to the House, and you continue to ignore it. Testimony from budget experts on the matter have told you as much. They are unsustainable. But still the House ignores the facts and opinions of their constituents. PTA groups have come to Austin to speak with Reps, such as Cook and King, and were told this is the Governor's pet project, and they won't stand in his way, though their voters expressed they don't want them. Many of the supporters of this bill have been backed by vendors who are the only ones who will benefit from this bill, at the detriment of our children. Public education is the cornerstone of our democracy, but the House seems to have forgotten or been paid to forget this. Abbott has withheld critical funding for our schools, changed criteria to lower school ratings without informing districts of the changes, and used false narratives in an effort to further discredit the teaching profession. There have been teacher shortages in the majority of districts across the state due to the lack of support at the state level. ESAs won't stop this, and will likely make more teachers leave the profession, especially with their retirement endangered by HB3. When you set an institution up for failure, such as withholding funding, then that failure does not belong to those who are trying to fight it. Take ownership of it Gov. Abbott and Lt. Gov. Patrick. Those who support vouchers are derelict in their duties of supporting the future of our state and nation. The state is watching the outcome of this bill, we will see who truly believes in the rights of every child to receive a fair and meaningful education, and those who choose do not. We will not forget who is responsible for the failure of Texas education.

Amy Brown
Self, Texas public educator
The Colony, TX

The people of Texas do not support this bill. It is nothing more than a coupon for the wealthy, at the expense of our already underfunded public schools. Our representatives are supposed to represent the people who voted in our elections, not the billionaires who try to buy them. If you believe this is what the people want, let us vote on it!

Mary Tiernan
self
Austin, TX

Just say No to Vouchers! (or ESAs or whatever you want to call them!)

This whole voucher concept is a scam and is bad for so many reasons. Parents in Texas already have lots of school choice. Private schools do not offer the same opportunities as public schools (and we need public schools to continue doing so!) A \$10K voucher is not going to significantly open private schools to anyone who is not currently attending.

I am the parent of a public, high school student, and I already have plenty of choice in where he goes to school. We currently have our public schools, a myriad of charter schools and homeschools. There are already so many choices, it makes my head spin. My son has dyslexia and other learning disabilities, and traditional academics are not his strength. He would not be accepted to most private schools, as his entrance exam scores would reflect his learning differences.

In our public school, he has started the CTE track for welding. He has the possibility to earn an Associate's Degree in Welding as well as industry certificates in welding before his high school graduation. He is excelling in his CTE class, and it motivates him to learn. This is his path to becoming "Career ready" and graduating from high school. None of the private schools provide this type of opportunity. Unfortunately, with our district's current budget deficit, I live in fear that this will be one of the programs cancelled. I'm sure you are aware of the need for certified tradespeople. Destroying public education will further limit the pipeline of workers. How is our Texas economy going to remain strong without an educated, diverse work force?

A voucher is not going to give a family a choice of private school, it is only going to subsidize parents who are already sending their children to private schools. A quick web search for private high schools in the Austin area reveals that tuition at St. Dominic Savio is \$17k, Regents is \$21K, St. Michaels is \$30K, St. Stephens is \$43K, Hyde Park Baptist is \$28K and Rawson Saunders is \$43K. That does not include any of the required parent "donations", bus service or uniforms. A meager \$10K voucher is not going to make a difference for the vast majority of families.

A billion dollars is a huge sum of money. As other states have shown, this amount will only increase in subsequent years. If you are determined to give \$10K grants to parents of school age children, at least do what Jesus would have done- give it to the needy, not the wealthy.

Please say No to Vouchers!

Adrienne Coburn

Self- Analyst

Mansfield, TX

Dear Representative, I am a parent and a taxpayer in the State of Texas. I do NOT agree with vouchers or an education savings account program. I am an advocate for Public Education; in fact, my child is receiving an excellent Public Education that is robust and rigorous. It is inconceivable and irresponsible that the State of Texas has neglected its fiduciary duties and responsibilities to our children and educators since 2019. Since then, the cost of living has increased, and inflation is over 20%. Representative, you took a promised oath to the people of Texas. I am advocating for the following: ? an increase of the Basic Allotment and ? Funding for Public Schools in Texas, including the inflated amount of over 20%. Again, Representative, I want you and your colleagues to know that our children and the staff deserve to be treated with dignity and respect by Funding Public Schools in Texas. Sincerely, Adrienne Coburn

Julie Rolf

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Public money should stay in public schools. Our children deserve fully funded, fully staffed schools that are safe and modern. No to vouchers or vouchers by any other name. No to billionaires from who knows where and their opinions about where Texas' money should go. Fully fund our schools.

Dugan Taylor, Retired Teacher

Teachers

Schertz, TX

Please support public schools

Not vouchers Teachers have suffered enough!

Shae Montandon

Self/stay at home mom

Lubbock, TX

I am strongly against HB 3 and the education savings account otherwise known as vouchers. I do not believe the vouchers program will be beneficial to anyone except those that are already attending private schools. It will hurt our public education and as a mother I am sickened at the thought of putting the upper class ahead of the rest. Every child should have access to quality education and the only way that is truly possible is to fully fund our public schools. Texans already gave school choice and can take their children to any school that they would like. This voucher program will not change that. It does not give us more freedom. It only incentivizes people to leave public schools and cripples our public school system. NO TO VOUCHERS!

We love our public school in Lubbock Texas and we love the teachers. Do not hurt the schools and teachers that we love!

Torey Sparkman

Self

Quanah, TX

The school voucher program will not represent the majority of the students in Texas. It will end up costing our students a quality education. Please vote no for School vouchers!

Amanda Ahr

Self

Houston, TX

Public education is lacking the funding to improve. As a taxpayer, I do not want my dollars going to for-profit private schools, especially those with any religion-based curriculum or mission. Only those who live in wealthy areas with private schools would benefit from the discounts, which is absurd. Texas should put taxpayer dollars into improving public schools, providing more resources, hiring qualified teachers, and increasing teachers' pay.

Megan Field

property tax payer and parent

Austin, TX

I am against school vouchers or ESAs as you like to cleverly call them. This is a system that has failed in numerous states. FULLY FUND public schools before you even consider this option . How dare you claim schools are "failing". It is your the legislators who are failing the children of Texas. I do not want my taxes in numerous counties going elsewhere. And what about rural kids? These is a scam. You all should be ashamed of your actions. Texans do not want this; if so, then leave it up to the voters.

Mario Adame

Self

San Antonio, TX

What is it going to take to put the ESA on a public ballot to vote on? The governor claims most parents want what he wants. Why not let this democracy speak and find a way to place public education on a ballot?

Lisa Clark

Self

Texas City, TX

Vouchers do not allow parent choice for lower income families. This bill would take funding from free public education and give it to wealthy families. Vote against this bill. I am a registered voter who votes in every election since 1984. America is seeing the turmoil, recession, etc., caused in DC. We will remember how current politicians vote on this issue especially but all the others as well. 4 years? 6years? 2 years?

Binyomin Medetsky

Self/ Real Estate investor

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Angelique Urquidez

MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

Aledo, TX

This bill, if passed, will be done so at a detriment to the children in public education. Do your job correctly and realize how this will hurt so many children, the future of our country! DO NOT PASS HB3.

Sydney Pitt

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education

Jana Kennemer
self - music therapist
The Colony, TX

I would like to speak out against HB 3. I'm a proud public school employee of 25 years, I have given my life to working with students who have special needs. I have watched my school district make cut after cut, increase class sizes, sacrifice things like substitute teachers, and not give raises this year because of a deficit budget. Ultimately this has lead to the decision to close five amazing schools in my district. These schools are thriving and are the heartbeat of their neighborhoods, it is gut wrenching to see them close in order to save money. My big ask is that public schools are fully funded. We are currently operating on the 2019 student allotment rate. Have your been able to run your household budget on 2019 funds? If ESAs are unavoidable, I ask that you level the playing field and give public schools their fair shot by fully funding them. I can't think of a better investment than the investment in our beautiful Texas public schools. We should be the shining gem in the nation, but we are near the bottom in funding. We owe Texas children and their families more than bottom of the barrel school funding. Texas is better than that!

Arlis Miles
Self
Houston, TX

The voucher program will be a disaster for public schools. The majority of Texans are against it. Please vote no and do not support vouchers.

Tamara Crawford
SELF
Spicewood, TX

I am a Texas resident, parent, and strong advocate of public education. HB3 is extremely detrimental to our public school system and is overly flawed. This "voucher" program is aimed at helping the rich at the expense of the less advantaged. I urge our lawmakers to strongly oppose this bill and focus instead on working to improve our current public school system. You owe it to your constituents to listen as the majority of Texans are in opposition of this bill.

Jen Tsou
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill.

rajka smiljanic
self teacher
Austin, TX

I oppose school vouchers. They divert public funds to private schools, often reducing resources for public education and increasing inequality. They are a threat to public education in this state.

Peggy Redmond
Self
Hutto, TX

I oppose this bill. I will vote against any and everyone who passes this bill. Put it to a public vote. Or are you too scared because you know the voters will oppose it? Happy last term if you vote this through. Happy last term for whoever passes this. Let the voters decide

Kimberly Boettcher

self retired Texas public school teacher

Cedar Park, TX

I taught in Texas public schools for almost 30 years. Who could work with our Texas children and not love them? Removing funding from public schools which serve ALL children is not love. We are not EVEN near states like Massachusetts academically, and yet the masquerade to give parents 'choice' to educate their children to be competitive in job markets will only help a select few who were making the choice of private schooling in the first place. I grew up in Sweetwater, Texas. The town is ruby red republican. There are no private schools in that town nor any other rural towns just like it. So if helping only the people of the republican party is a goal, this will hurt the children of the people who did vote for you. During my 30 years in Hurst Eules Bedford ISD, I became keenly aware of the haves and the have nots in public school. Most days I felt like I'd done everything I could to teach, to reach and to pull out each child's quiet potential. There are so many ways our legislators could actually help our children if that truly were the objective. If the saying is "you're only as strong as your weakest link," taking money from underfunded public schools to give to private schools will produce a lot of weak links. Guess what undereducated people will give the state of Texas: more people needing government assistance unless that is all cut- and then what? They die? It is already difficult for young people to get jobs that make a livable wage without extra resources in the state of Texas. Texas has made sure of that. Many of our children, and I use the word children to address all the kids in public education- if you are a parent, you'll understand. So many children come from single parent families or other home situations that don't even allow those parents to enter the conversation regarding private school. A \$10K voucher is like finding the golden ticket torn in half. It's a nice dream. If you've attended or put your children in private schools, then you know this. There was a time I truly wondered about teaching in private school instead of public. The focus on standardized testing as opposed to actual children became disheartening. Public schools accepted all children, even the difficult ones. Believe me, I know. Private schools have more choice in who is accepted. Private schools don't have to jump through the obstacle courses of standardized testing that public schools do. And on that note if your clientele is carefully selected then chances are the performance is controlled as well. Can you just imagine if our public schools in the state of Texas were a priority? Not a priority to destroy, but to fix, fund and to build up little Texans that grow into adults that have a competitive academic edge with other states. All Texas children deserve to be educated to the best of our abilities. I believe that is self preservation- that sees self as our great state of Texas- not self as in I and me. Vote NO

KELEIGH FELDER

self

HOUSTON, TX

Voucher bills were first proposed in Texas in the 1950s as a reaction to Brown v. Board of Education as a means to avoid racial integration—and they've been rejected time and time again. We must stand together and make our voices heard! Billionaires that donated millions to our governor to push vouchers shouldn't have the final say in decisions that impact our schools and communities. Our voices matter. Our votes matter. Let's make sure our representatives hear us loud and clear! Keep public money in public schools. Fully fund our schools! Texas is the second richest state, yet we rank 46th in the nation in per-student expenditures. Our kids deserve better!

Diane Evidente
self
Carrollton, TX

I want to state my objection to HB3 and any voucher bill.

We already have school choice in Texas. Parents can choose between public, charter, magnet, academies, early college, specialty CTE programs, homeschooling, and, yes, private schools.

I pay some of the highest school taxes in TX for Lewisville ISD. We have excellent public schools that my child attended. I do not want my tax money paying for a private school education for the elite who already send their kids to private schools. This has been the class in every state that has adopted this wealth distribution scheme AZ, WI, and NH all have at least 75-80% of the voucher money going to families already attending private schools. My tax dollars should not be used for an unaccountable private (mostly Christian) system.

This is not a conservative way of government. You want to create a multi-million dollar program that adds to the already bloated bureaucracy. How is growing government now a Republican priority? Republicans should be shrinking government. Are you receiving money from the Christian Nationalists (Dunn, Wilks, Yass) like our dirty governor is?

You are charged with funding public education as per the Texas constitution. Yet, you and your republican buddies have been withholding funds since 2019. We need the per-student allotment increased by at least \$600 per student (it should be doubled).

As a conservative and Republican voter, I am appalled at what you and your cohorts are doing to public education. If you have money to throw at vouchers - then you can fund public education.

Kate Smith
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Kate Smith

Kathy Lollar
West Texas Music Academy
Odessa, TX
No vouchers

Beth Malcolm

Self

Austin, TX

Abbott is a Yass man! This is not good for our kids! Look at the charter school problems. Unvetted educators let near our kids and moved around like the priests were to abuse more.

Stop making our kids a commodity.

No vouchers! We will vote you out.

The people do not want this.

Lisa Timmons, Dr.

Self, educator

Plano, TX

As a parent whose child will start Texas public school in the fall, I believe this bill is indirectly detrimental to the public school system. It encourages students to abandon public education for homeschooling or private schools. While it is parents' right to determine what is best for their children, this is not really the way to make that choice accessible to more families. I would love to be able to afford private school for my child, but the actual tuition at private schools in the area of DFW where I live has schools with tuition ranging from \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. This does not include transportation or other related costs, which means including an ESA/voucher, I would still spend more than I currently do on child care for my child to attend one of these schools. As a full-time working parent, I cannot reasonably homeschool my child. I cannot afford to quit my job to do so. Furthermore, the school district I live in just announced they are closing the middle school my daughter would have attended in the future. Instead, she will be zoned to one of three other middle schools that are twice the distance from our house. People are already leaving the public school system if they can afford to do so and this bill would result in fewer students, thus lower funding and fewer teachers in public schools. My story is just one example. Over half of the counties in Texas do not have a single private school and many parents who might opt to homeschool are most likely not qualified to do so from the standpoint of educational background. In fact, the poor performance of public schools in Texas touted as a reason for this bill can probably also be at least partially attributed to the shortage of highly-qualified certified public school teachers, low teacher pay, and ongoing disrespect towards the public school system and its existing teachers. The current bill would serve a very small percentage of the millions of Texas students with \$1 billion, an amount that is set to increase in the future. While there are claims that this does not affect public school funding, there is a limited amount of money in the Texas budget and allocation to one cause means that money cannot be allocated elsewhere.

Lastly, public schools provide services to students with disabilities such as 504 plans and IEPs through federal requirements such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Private schools are able to easily reject students with disabilities by claiming they do not have the infrastructure to implement this programming. Therefore, the idea that this bill or "school choice" benefits students with disabilities is likely false.

Alison Pittman

Self, educator

College Station, TX

I am an educator living in College Station, Texas and I oppose how to spell three. Texas needs to learn from other states who have enacted such bills. Taking funding away from public schools will further deteriorate the quality of public education in Texas. Vouchers do not cover the full cost of private education, and many families have returned to public education and do not stay in voucher programs long-term. This program puts vulnerable students at risk, including students with special medical needs and students in rural areas in a highly rural state. Please stop kowtowing to lobbyist groups and do what is best for Texas children. The Texas State Constitution outlines the duty Texas has to make suitable provisions for and maintain an efficient public education system. Do better.

Mary Wischkaemper

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am against spending a billion dollars for vouchers.

Why don't you spend that billion on public education?

Mary Anderson
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

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4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Jennifer Donato
Pleasanton ISD
Poteet, TX

Look at other states to see if it has worked.

Emily Chow
Self
Austin, TX

I am a parent of two children attending public school in Leander ISD who opposes HB 3 and any private school vouchers. Our kids and teachers deserve fully public funded schools. Tax payer money should be for public schools and not given to private schools and without any accountability.

Heather Rosenquist
Self/School Psychologist
San Antonio, TX

As a school psychologist working in a lower income district, I'm very concerned about resources for special education students.

Kayla Mary
Self
Gatesville, TX

I, Kayla Mary M.S CCC-SLP, oppose the establishment of school vouchers/ESA's, as a constituent of Brad Buckley. I am a public school based speech language pathologist. I do NOT support "diverting" funds from public schools, and potentially giving tax payer dollars to students who can already afford private schools. I do NOT support ESA policy reform that has already failed in many states. I DO support raising the basic allotment higher than what is being purposed in a separate education funding bill, and denouncing the ESA scheme that is ROOTED in segregation (See Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County, and Brown v. Board of Education). I do NOT support Greg Abbott's education policy agenda, or the agenda of his billionaire donors including Jeff Yass.

Ann Heller
Self
Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3 as written. I believe Public Schools should be fully funded. I believe Tax Payer funds should NOT go to private schools!! Especially without accountability!!

Becky Warren
Self
Woodway, TX

As a retired public school teacher and daughter of a public school teacher, I demand that our legislators follow the request of a huge majority of your constituents by opposing cuts to our state public education budget. No one wants taxpayer dollars to go to the wealthy. This voucher bill is not only ridiculous but dangerous.

Lauren Brauer
Self, PTA
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and the voucher proposal. Public money should go toward public education and have public accountability- the same standards and testing and oversight. Other states with these voucher programs show that the grand majority of the money goes to families with incomes who could afford private education anyway. Vouchers do not improve educational outcomes and would funnel money away from public schools if their enrollment drops because of this. Keep public funds in public schools.

Garion Taylor
Self Retiree public school teacher
Lufkin, TX

I am against any bill that includes any type of “school choice “ which actually means vouchers . Parents already have school choice . I do not want tax money going to private schools .

Carole Haynes, Dr.
Self
Waxahachie, TX

While I support school choice, HB 3 is not the solution. It fails to align with the interests of Texans but rather with the state and more government control that is undermining true learning. How the program is being funded is a fraud. Rather than creating competition for the public school, this bill, along with other proposed increased public school funding, will vastly increase the budget for government schools by a staggering total of \$13 billion. Instead of using tax credits, this bill is being funded by tax dollars.

HB 3 does not allow the parents freedom over what and how their children learn. Forcing “pre-approval” of expenses through “pre-approved providers and vendors” is not choice but more government control – exactly what parents are fighting to end.

Forcing families to use accredited schools and certified or accredited tutors and teaching services is not choice but more government control. Forcing families to purchase books, curriculum, and online courses from pre-approved vendors is not choice but more government control.

HB 3 is not what Texans have called for. It is a sham and Texans will soon find out, that once again, they have been shafted.

Wendy Fenn, Reverend

PCUSA pastor

Dallas, TX

I am a Presbyterian minister, one who greatly values education. My deepest values support the education of all people, in this case, all Texans, which will be under mind if you pass this voucher bill.

Please stand up to all the money that has been poured into this campaign, And support our right to education for all children.

Thank you, Wendy Fenn

Mario Campo

Self

Houston, TX

Make public schools better instead. That's all. That's what we need.

Jenna Jackson

Self

Clifton, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers

Rachel Taylor

Self

Woodway, TX

This is wrong and will take so much from our public schools and their already depleted funding. Our kids deserve better.

Julie Blair

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am against school vouchers. I am originally from a small farming community in Texas and without state funding, this school, like many others, would cease to exist. The nearest private schools from my hometown is 25-45 miles away and the majority would not have the remaining funds to attend. School vouchers cause a bigger divide in society.

Daisy Michalson
Self, project manager
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
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- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Anna Bauereis
Anna Bauereis/ Homeschoolers
Austin, TX

A little background: I am a mother of five children who have been educated in a variety of settings—public schools, private schools, alternative schools, and homeschool. Additionally, I spent over fifteen years working with children who struggled in all types of educational environments. However, my concerns about HB3 are not based solely on personal experience but on fundamental principles.

Fellow conservatives, while we all champion educational freedom, HB3 introduces an expansion of government that directly contradicts the principles we hold dear.

First, this bill establishes a vast new regulatory structure for private education. Any private school that accepts these funds will be subject to government oversight—testing mandates, reporting requirements, and layers of compliance measures. We have long resisted the intrusion of government into education, yet this bill extends its reach into our private institutions.

Second, we must consider the financial consequences. HB3 creates a new entitlement without corresponding budget reductions elsewhere. The long-term cost is projected to reach billions, with administrative overhead potentially exceeding 8%. Is this responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars? Historically, government programs grow—they do not shrink.

Third, this bill disrupts free-market principles. It imposes government-set pricing, limits on how providers can structure their services, and artificial financial mechanisms that interfere with natural market forces. This is not true school choice—it is a government-controlled marketplace.

Fourth, we must recognize the precedent this sets for government interference in private and home education. Wherever government funding goes, regulations inevitably follow. By inviting this level of involvement now, we risk increased oversight and restrictions in the future.

Finally, what happens when future legislatures add more conditions, restrictions, or regulatory burdens to these funds? Once government control is introduced, it rarely retreats.

We must remain steadfast in our commitment to limited government, fiscal responsibility, and authentic educational freedom. There are better, more principled ways to support families and expand educational opportunities without growing government intervention in private education.

Let's hold fast to the ideals that have long guided us and seek solutions that empower parents without compromising our principles.

I Humbly ask you to remove Homeschoolers from this Bill

Karlsson Salek

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

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Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Karlsson Salek

Toral Patel

Myself and the Town of Flower Mound

Flower Mound, TX

We need funding for our public schools that we pay taxes on!

Sarah Martinez
Self, educator
Round Rock, TX

Thank you all for your service to our community. I appreciate the time and effort you are giving for these important issues.

Here in Central Texas, we have lots of school choice already. I was able to put my children in a public school district where I work rather than where I live. This allows me the flexibility of picking them up immediately after school or allowing them to stay later for tutoring, extracurricular activities, or school-wide events. Without school choice, I would have to rely on bus transportation and they would be home alone after school instead of engaging in activities at school that will enrich their educational experience and help them improve academically. I work long hours, but because their school is near my office I can attend their theatre performances and art shows, pick them up from school in a timely manner when they get sick, and be engaged in community functions at their school. School choice already exists, and many of the options are free or have minimal costs. Parents can choose to put their child in their local public school, another public school in the same district, a public school in another nearby district, a virtual public school, a public charter school, or they can homeschool.

The proposed legislation to provide an education savings account will do nothing to create school choice for many Texas families. Over half of Texas counties don't have a single private school option for parents to choose from. Private schools are not typically located in lower income or rural areas. They frequently reject students who need accommodations because they have special needs, behavior issues, or they are below grade level academically. The local public school must accept every student in their attendance zone. In addition to being tuition-free, they provide transportation to and from school, and many children receive free or reduced meals through the National School Lunch Program. Many private schools do not offer these services. The only way to improve the education available to EVERY student is to adequately fund and support our PUBLIC schools.

The basic allotment provided by the State of Texas for each public school student is \$6,160 and has not been increased since 2019 despite significant increase of costs to operate a school. I appreciate that House Bill 3 proposes to raise this by \$220, but that is not enough to keep up with inflation. Additionally, the Texas Legislature passed new school safety laws in 2023 without providing the funding for districts to make them happen. Budgets are being cut again and again, teachers are losing their jobs, and class sizes becoming too large to be effective.

The Texas Constitution Article 7 says it is "the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools." Please join the bipartisan support to meet our constitutional obligation to adequately fund PUBLIC schools.

Katie Haby
Self - Manager
Hondo, TX

I am opposed to ANY bill that has school vouchers in ANY FORM. I want the Representatives to focus on fully funding public schools, as the residents of Texas and school superintendents have nicely asked them to do for the last few sessions. I want Texas to work to have the best public schools in the USA and to get our funding per student where it should be. I want them to do the right thing and do what the majority of the residents want, not what the Governor wants for his select few rich donors. Texas is better than that.

Coelle Deaton
Self
Fort Worth, TX

School choice is not a choice unless it is a choice for everyone. As a mother of a student with a disability, the voucher program will only hurt him and students like him. Money doesn't give us a choice as the schools who take money won't take him as a student. To take my taxpayer money and give it to schools that discriminate against my student is wrong. To take money away from public schools- the only schools that are required to serve students with disabilities- and give it to schools who serve only privileged students is wrong. Do the right thing and fund public schools which will serve every student- including the most vulnerable. If you would take the time to check in with the people you have been elected to serve, you will find that the public is overwhelmingly opposed to this bill. Make the choice to serve those people and vote against this bill and for public education.

Stevie Otto

Self, Higher Education Administrator

Plano, TX

While I applaud your attention to creating options for education in our state, this approach takes away from the majority of citizens in Texas and will not improve our public education system. My son currently attends the only IB public school in our area. We should be using this money to create more opportunities like this that are available to all children. Public charter schools can have a positive impact on a community. Public academies create a college-ready population who will become our next doctors and nurses, and public trade schools can develop the next generations of electricians and plumbers. ESAs are only going to cause private schools to inflate their prices in order to maximize their revenue. We have already seen this happen in higher education. Please invest in our public schools. We should be leading the nation in innovative methods and funding ways to better help those who need accommodations to make Texas even better. You're not only investing in our children and their future, but the future of Texas's workforce and our economy.

Lynda West

Self retired

Austin, TX

Texans and our Governor like to brag on how great Texas is and on the categories where it is First in Class. There is one area where Texas is near the bottom and that area is most important for success in the 21st Century, the Information Age—school funding. School funding sits at 41st among states, many of which are underfunded, 44th if adequately funded. The pittance of an increase proposed in per pupil funding for public schools may keep the starved patient alive, but it won't restore him to health. Vouchers further limit public school funding, taking vital school dollars and putting them, for the most part, in the pockets of the wealthy.

Three states which are recognized for the quality of their public schools are New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut. They fund public schools in the nineteen to twenty one thousand range. Let's compete for the top, not race to the bottom.

Linda Allee

Self

Meadowlakes, TX

I don't support any tax money going to support private schools. Fully fund public schools!

Kristen Cooley

Myself

Spring, TX

School Vouchers will only defund Public Education and give rich people money they clearly do not need.

Betsy Howerton

Self

Arlington, TX

This bill will be so harmful for public education and will hurt the many students across the state who cannot afford a private school even with a voucher. Please consider our future and vote no!

Bruce Krajewski

Self

College Station, TX

Taxpayer funds are for the public good. Thus, public schools. Private parties started private schools & private parties can fund those with their own money. Tax dollars should not support vouchers for private or religious education and dilute the support for public schools. Separation of church and state has already been established in law (Everson v. Board of Education). Teachers in public education in Texas are still paid poorly (not even in the top 20 in the nation for average teacher salary), to the point that Texas has lowered the bar -- alternative certification -- for who can teach.

Janice Maxey
Self/ software engineer
Mckinney, TX

I profusely opposed this bill, we need more budget into our public education system not take it way. I have 3 kids and have no intentions on putting them in a private school. I already got an email from McKinney ISD about cutting programs and position due to state funding, this voucher will just make it worse.

Heather Brandon
Swlf
Frisco, TX

As a parent of two school aged children, I am against the establishment of ESA's. These accounts are nothing more than grabbing public dollars to fund private enterprises. You cannot level a playing field if the fields are not the same. The ONLY way a bill like this, or any other where vouchers are concerned that should be considered is if it must adhere to the same guidelines expected by public schools. Must accept and keep all that apply, must transport children that live more than two miles away, must adhere to the teks and required testing standards, must follow UIL guidelines, must be a part of the Texas rating system, must take daily attendance to receive funding, must follow book and curriculum guidelines the same as public schools, teachers must be certified in the subjects they teach, school must be in session for at least the minimum number of minutes per year required by the state, must have an elected governing board and have financial documents made available. No public dollars to these enterprises without the EXACT same expectations, regulations, and guidelines.

Brandon Cox
Self
Lakeway, TX

I am against the education savings account program. This does not serve the Texans fairly. This hurts our public schools.

Georgia Viertel

Self, nonprofit specialist

Haltom City, TX

“Those who advocate for vouchers are not advocating for parents’ rights. Texas families will have fewer opportunities to find out what’s happening inside their child’s school because private schools are not required to comply with state accountability and assessment standards, open records laws, special education rules, or curriculum requirements.

Of the 5.4 million public schoolchildren in Texas, nearly 950,000 live in rural areas, where options other than their local public schools are few and far between. It’s disingenuous to claim that vouchers will give these families more choice when that means driving dozens of miles every day to a private or religious school. It’s not a realistic option for hard-working Texas families in rural areas of our state.

That’s precisely why Texas’ rural lawmakers have long opposed voucher programs. They know that vouchers would weaken their local public schools, which for generations have rightfully been the pride of their communities.

Texas has nearly 200 public Early College high schools designated across the state, giving students a way to graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate degree.

More than 1 in 5 Texas public school students in grades 11 and 12 took at least one AP or IB exam in 2019-20, helping ensure college readiness.

More Texas public students are taking Career and Technical Education classes than ever before, with nearly 60% enrollment in 2019-20, up from about 21% in 2009.

Nearly 40,000 Texas public high school students graduated with an approved industry-based certification in 2018-19, meaning they were qualified for everything from construction to health sciences.

Across the state, 1,118 campuses offer dual-language immersion programs that give students the opportunity to be bilingual and bicultural.

School districts across the state are offering innovative courses in more than 150 disciplines, including maritime sciences, sports medicine, pipefitting, engineering design, and aviation, giving students the opportunity to learn real-world skills while earning their diploma.

public schools have always been the leaders in school choice and a source of innovation in designing new programs that respond to what their communities need, what their families want, and what children deserve.

Diverting public tax dollars into a voucher scheme that doesn’t follow the rules of open government will certainly diminish the voices of parents in favor of subsidizing corporations and private entities.

Let’s keep public tax dollars where they can benefit the public good. Texas families don’t need vouchers to get the best education for their students — they already have that choice among the 1,026 public school districts in the state.”

Tasb.org

DENIS MIKHAYLOV

Self/Quality Manager

Houston, TX

My family currently homeschools as the schools we choose to send our children to are too expensive and we support having the option of sending our children to a school that would benefit our values.

Lindy Cooper

Brownwood isd. Teacher

Cross plains, TX

Please vote no

Jana Hernandez

Self- Speech-Language Pathologist in Public School
San Antonio, TX

As a Speech-Language Pathologist with over 26 years experience, 23 of which is in public schools, I am advocating for the following:

-Include speech-language pathologists and audiologists in any pay increases offered to teachers and other public school staff, such as in Texas Senate Bill 26.

-Support funding for public education as necessary to provide students with an adequate and equitable education as required by the Texas constitution.

Support legislation that promotes adequate funding for special education programs by urging full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Working in the public schools, I have provided evaluation and speech therapy for free for hundreds of students enrolled in private schools or homeschools. These service are not available to parents at the home or private school.

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the public school setting provide critical services to students and students with special needs across the state, including: be

-Preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders;

-Providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids;

-Identifying, assessing, and treating speech, language, and cognitive communication disorders, including, but not limited to difficulty pronouncing sounds, stuttering, understanding or using words, and communicating with teachers/peers;

-Supporting students to acquire language; and

-Enabling people to recover essential skills to communicate about their health and safety, and to have sufficient attention, memory, and organizational skills to function in their environment.

According to data from the Texas Department of Licensure and Regulation, in the state of Texas there are over 20,000 Speech-language pathologists (18,761) and audiologists (1,607). The American Speech-Language Hearing Association estimates that 53% of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) work in the public school setting, which would equate to over 9,940 SLPs working in Texas public schools.

Speech-language pathologists go through rigorous training and require a masters degree plus a year of clinical fellowship. Audiologists complete a doctoral degree in Audiology. Both must pass an exam for licensure.

Given the role that speech-language-pathologists and audiologists play in the lives of special needs students around the state of Texas, we respectfully ask that they be included in any legislation that provides pay raises to employees in public schools, such as teachers, librarians and school nurses.

Linda Smith

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote down this bill. It only gives to rich.

Heather Gann

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

HB3 takes money away from public schools regardless of what they claim. Teachers moving to private will hurt TRS, regardless of what they claim. I've never considered voting Democrat, but I will if this passes.

Connor Towns
Self
San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose the passage of HB 3, as it creates precedent and establishes a formal system to move further tax dollars away from Texas students as a whole. The only parties that will benefit from this bill are the administration and ownership of costly private schools that will see a boost in enrollment and revenue from Texas tax payers. As a conservative voter, know that the passage of this bill will change my party lines, and I will make it a personal goal to advocate and remove all those who betrayed their constituents in this vote.

Maria Meade
self
Harlingen, TX

I do not want my tax dollars going towards private vouchers. As it is private schools can be exclusive as to who they will accept and are not made accountable like public schools. Our current governor is starving our public schools in order to get this bill passed and I can't for the life of me understand why anyone thinks this is acceptable. This is a scam so private individuals/owners of these private schools can make money off these vouchers - public schools are for EVERYONE.

Steven Fleming
Self
Dallas, TX

As a tax paying homeowner in Texas, I demand our state reps to vote NO on school vouchers. I will not subsidize any private school with my tax dollars. Nor should any tax payer of this state. Vote NO on this bill!

La Don Horsford
Retired school employee
Abernathy, TX

This is disgusting, and it's not true. There is school choice now. Parents do know what's best for their children, and they have the power to act accordingly. Calling it "school choice" is a scam to trick people. They think we are stupid. That's the bottom line. I have nothing against private schools, but they should not be funded by the government for many reasons. One, teachers do not have to hold any type of certification to teach at a private school. Two, they have zero accountability (no state testing which our government is currently shoving down public schools throats). Three, they do not have to serve all children. They can deny whoever they want without cause.

I'll just leave this data right here:

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Texas ranks 4th in student achievement. That's not because of state funding—it's because of the passion, resilience, and dedication of our incredible public school educators. Yet, Texas ranks 45th in school funding and 29th in teacher pay. Imagine what our schools could achieve if they were actually supported.

Shraga Senft, Rabbi

Self - Teacher

Plano, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Brittany Fisher, Ms

Self/Patent Examiner

Liberty Hill, TX

I am a staunch "NO" for vouchers/ESAs. Absolutely against. The state needs to release the reserve funds back to school districts so public school teachers can be paid appropriately and services can be properly funded. It also seems quite inappropriate that at least one of our elected officials appears to have a clear conflict of interest, with his wife being on the board of directors for a new school that is slated to open in Dripping Springs. The ethics rules that I have to abide by as a public servant are clearly far more stringent than those of the public servants in far higher positions of power than myself. There appears to be an egregious abuse of power in place, and anyone in my district that votes for these "education savings accounts" will never get my vote.

Ari Levi

Self, Nursing Home Administrator

Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

KATHARINE BOOTH

SELF

ALLEN, TX

Regarding HB3: Please do not take funding from public education by approving vouchers for private schools. Creating an educated electorate is critical to the functioning of our democracy and the wellbeing of all our citizens. VOTE NO ON HB3!

Jenni Jones

Self - Higher Education Admin.

Lake Jackson, TX

NO! Public funds should stay with public education. Texas families already have school choice. This is not a conservative approach to education, and will harm public schools, students, and our budget.

Devon Subia

Self

Odessa, TX

Vouchers are a scam. If you don't think the public school are do the job, then fund them and stop putting obstacles in the way of the teachers. This bill will hurt Texas.

Elizabeth Penque

Self

Austin, TX

As someone who grew up with parents who were dedicated public school teachers in rural areas, I have witnessed firsthand the immense value that public education provides. My parents served in rural public schools, where they worked tirelessly to ensure that every student, regardless of their background, had access to quality education. I attended public schools myself and received a wonderful education that set me on the path to university. I also had the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities like sports, which played a crucial role in my personal growth and development. These experiences helped shape who I am today.

Texas is a state where public schools serve as a cornerstone of our communities, offering every child, regardless of background, a fair shot at success. School vouchers threaten to undermine this by diverting funding from public schools, potentially leaving many students—especially those in rural areas—without access to the same resources and opportunities that allowed me to thrive.

Please oppose school vouchers. It's not Texan.

The public school system in Texas needs continued investment, not privatization. Students across our state, from urban centers to rural towns, deserve the same high-quality education that helped me get to where I am today. We must protect and strengthen public schools, ensuring that every Texas child, no matter where they live, has the chance to succeed. Vouchers could create inequalities that limit opportunities for many, and we cannot afford to risk that future for our children.

Selena Martinez

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Vote NO to school vouchers. Vouchers will only reach a limited number of students while investing in public education will reach many, many children. We need to invest in educating ALL of our children and not just the ones whose parents can afford to send them to private school.

Jackie Dracoulis

Self

Round Rock, TX

I do not approve of vouchers.

Ashley Temple

Self Teacher

Ovilla, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Peggy Gentry
Self/Retired
Austin, TX

This is the 2025 Legislature's Robin Hood Plan: Steal from the poor and give to the rich. A good public education system is the bedrock of a strong country and a strong economy. Vouchers are in direct conflict with that objective.

Eunice Seifert
Self
Argyle, TX

I'm completely against vouchers for school. Let's not make our future generations of Texas the example of illiteracy in America.

Erin Nimetz
Texas Teacher
Wichita Falls, TX

Please vote "no" for HB3- ESA!!!

Cassandra Oliphint, Mrs.
Mothers of Texas
Fort Worth, TX

I am strongly not in favor of school vouchers. I have three children and they have all been educated in the Fort Worth public school system. I was proud of our system and volunteered heavily throughout their times in school. This program only creates a system that will weaken our public schools that already need MORE funding- not LESS!!! This program will weaken education in rural areas where the opportunities to send students to private schools are limited. Anyone with half a brain can see that this system is designed to make public education weaker. Our public schools and TEACHERS NEED MORE SUPPORT AND SALARY INCREASES— The people of Texas do not support the Christian Nationalist agenda that Governor Abbott is working to create. No! People working to implement this plan can wrap it up in all kinds of darling bows, to make it appear that you're putting parents in charge of their children's education, but you are not disguising the reality of your agendas. This only gives parents who can already send their children to private schools more of our tax dollars to fund their education. Cut the crap!

Gina Daly
Self/Retired
Lantana, TX

I am not in support of vouchers/ESA because the research I have done shows the damage to public education in other states. Our tax \$ need to go to public education as is required in the Texas constitution. The cost of this esa/voucher program should go towards increasing the allotment for PE so that they can properly meet the needs of all students especially those in special education. We need to properly pay our education staff and continue to attract well qualified personnel All tax money needs to stay with schools that follow the educational requirements that we have set ie accepting ALL students not just those that fit in their belief system. Every provider who educates children should be held accountable by testing them not just the students.

Perri Horton Leavelle
Self
Mineral Wells, TX

I am against vouchers and government oversight in our private schools. While giving private school students my tax dollars- including my own child who attends private- seems attractive, I believe this bill is half baked. For years I would have thought it was unfair to tax me for public school when my child was unable to benefit. However I am much more concerned in a rural community that has an obligation to educate everyone and has special programs that my private school does not offer will suffer. More money in private schools will not manifest more qualified teachers. You need to deal with the TEA bologna that is crippling public schools.

Justin Harrison
Self Physician Assistant
Buffalo Gap, TX

I am writing on behalf of myself, fellow public school educators, parents, and concerned Texas citizens. As a husband to a public school history teacher, a taxpayer, a voter, and a deeply invested community member, I urge you to oppose HB2&3 and any other school voucher programs that threaten the future of public education in Texas.

Governor Abbott and the Senate have presented a misleading narrative regarding public school funding, but my administration and local school board can tell you a much different story—one that reflects the real struggles our schools face. HB2&3 would be detrimental to Texas public schools, redirecting taxpayer dollars away from public education to fund private institutions with little to no accountability.

Where is the oversight for private schools receiving these funds? What standardized assessments will their students take to ensure academic progress? How does this bill address concerns about the separation of church and state when public dollars are funneled into private religious schools? These are fundamental questions that remain unanswered.

The truth is, this bill does not serve the majority of Texas children. It primarily benefits families already attending private schools, while public school students—especially those in rural and lower-income communities—will continue to suffer from underfunding. There is no significant evidence that vouchers will lead to a large-scale shift of public school students into private schools. Instead, HB2&3 will divert crucial funds from the public education system, leaving teachers, students, and schools with fewer resources and greater challenges.

Public education is the backbone of our state, and it is our duty to protect and strengthen it, not weaken it with ineffective and inequitable policies. I urge you to vote against HB2&3 and any voucher program that prioritizes politics over the well-being of Texas children. Instead, let's focus on fully funding and improving our public schools, ensuring every child receives the quality education they deserve.

Thank you for your time and dedication to serving the people of Texas. I hope you will stand with educators, parents, and students by opposing HB2&3.

Sincerely, Justin Harrison
Abilene, TX

Greg Brown, Superintendent

Perryton ISD

Perryton, TX

Statement Opposing House Bill 3 – Education Savings Accounts

Chairman Buckley and Members of the House K-16 Education Committee,

I write to express my opposition to House Bill 3, which seeks to establish Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) in Texas. While proponents argue that ESAs expand educational choice, the experience of other states demonstrates that these programs primarily benefit students already enrolled in private schools rather than expanding access for new students. In the majority of states that have implemented ESAs, the majority of funds have been used by families whose children were already attending private institutions—effectively subsidizing private education with taxpayer dollars rather than increasing choice for lower-income families.

Proponents of ESAs argue that increased competition will improve educational outcomes, as competition is generally seen as a mechanism for driving improvement. However, without applying the same academic, financial, attendance, and enrollment accountability measures to private schools that receive ESA funds—or alternatively, removing these burdens from public schools—this does not create true competition. Instead, it creates a significant advantage for private schools, which would receive public funding without being subject to the same requirements, undermining the fairness of the system.

Furthermore, House Bill 3 creates an entitlement program that could place significant strain on the state budget in economic downturns. By establishing an ongoing financial obligation, the state will be forced into difficult budgetary decisions when revenue declines, potentially reducing available funding for public education, infrastructure, and other essential services.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to oppose House Bill 3. Texas should focus on strengthening public education, ensuring accountability for all schools receiving public funds, and maintaining responsible fiscal stewardship.

Respectfully,

Greg Brown

Superintendent, Perryton ISD

Melanie Palmer

Citizen

Austin, TX

No to vouchers. Support our public education system, don't dilute it.

Amy chumbley chumbley

Self /first grade teacher

Wolfforth, TX

As a teacher at title one school campus, I implore you to please vote no for house bill 3. In the small rule area in which I am from there is not a private school with 30-45 minutes. This bill does nothing but pocket the wealthy and take money from schools with families that so desperately need it. I can assure those that vote yes will be losing their seat come next election time.

Jennifer Martinez

self- juvenile probation officer

Lubbock, TX

Instead of setting up funding for the wealthy, and continuing to line the pockets of the wealthy use the money to adequately and fund our public schools that are available for all of our children. Setting up a voucher system will only continue to erode our public school system and the knowledge of our students. These students are the future of our state and our nation. Very few of the children I work with through my profession would have access to private school even with a voucher, this would leave them in an even more stressed education system where they would have an even lower chance than they currently do to break the family cycles many of them are in. Say NO to vouchers (in whatever way you want to phrase it!) this is bad for our children, bad for our teachers and bad for our state!

Dorothy Lundy

Self, grandmother

Brownwood, TX

I do not want school vouchers. Support should go to public schools NOT private schools. School vouchers will have a bad effect on public schools. The majority of TX students are in public schools and that is where all of our support should go. Our state representatives should listen to and truly represent their constituents. Vote No to HB 3. No to school vouchers for private schools. Support TX students and TX public schools. Our children need and deserve good public schools.

Tanner Fellows

Self

Mineral Wells, TX

Good morning. As a father and a former student of the public school system, I strongly support HB3. Growing up, my parents had no school choice. We were assigned to schools based on our zip code—schools that were underfunded, overcrowded, and lacking in basic resources. Our teachers worked hard, but there were simply too many students and not enough support. My parents couldn't afford private school or to move us to a better district. They had no options.

Now, as a father, I find myself in a similar situation. I want my child to have access to a quality education, but I'm deeply concerned about what's happening in many public schools today. Beyond old buildings and crowded classrooms, I see political agendas being pushed and inappropriate topics like sexuality and gender identity being introduced far too early, often without parents even knowing. As a parent, I believe I should be the one deciding when and how these conversations happen—not strangers.

I want to homeschool my child because I believe it's the best fit for our family, but we are a single-income household, and that makes it difficult. HB3 would provide the funding we need to make real school choice possible.

This bill gives working- and middle-class families like mine the opportunity to choose what's best for their children's education—something wealthy families have always had. Our kids deserve better. Please pass HB3 and give parents real options for their children's future.

Natasha McComas

self

Conroe, TX

Do not sell out our kids to wealthy donors—Texas families are watching, and so are your own children and grandchildren. Vote NO on school vouchers and stand for strong public schools, not corporate interests.

Scott Wilcox
Self/Management
Cedar Park, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher program costs accelerate quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education please.

Shanese Walker
self
Allen, TX

I am against vouchers and taking funds away from public schools

Elida Madrigal
Self/Educator Librarian
Helotes, TX

I have prided myself on working for a public school district for 24 years understanding the difference in public vs or private schooling. Public school is funded by the public. Private school funded by the families who choose to send their students there. I believe in parent choice, but I do not think public funds should be used to allow parents to send their students to private schools. If we want school choice, then demand districts create their own school choice system within their public schools. Use public funds to pay for transportation to support school choice. Use public funds to hire more assistants and teachers to support classrooms. One huge draw to private schools is class size. Provided public funds so that our public schools do not have to have overcrowding. Take what you think is "better" with private schools and fund it to our public schools so we can create even better public schools. I grew up in public schools and have taught in public schools and everyone of you including Gregg Abbott needs to visit public schools in all areas to see just how amazing they really are and realize they are offering way more programs than any private or charter school.

Keep public funds going to public schools.

Keep private schools funded by those families that choose to attend. Private schools should be offering their own ways to allow more students to attend. In my 24 years, I have never heard of them doing that. They don't need our public money to run their schools.

Pay ALL school employees a better wage. Take care of the employees that are working effortlessly in your Texas public schools. Every employee from custodian to bus drivers to office staff to assistants to counselors to librarians to teachers to principals deserves better wages. Use public funds to help raise wages.

Texas is a great state. Be an example of greatness by funding public schools and increasing school employee wages. Don't be an example of abandoning your own.

Kate Lookabill
Glen oaks PTA
McKinney, TX

Please DO NOT pass this bill , it's terrifying that this is even on the table . We are a hard working family that moved to Texas because of its great school districts . This bill will

Only take away much needed funds and resources from its already overburdened teachers and staff . The administrators , teachers , and staff care greatly about their community and this is disgusting that you would think this would be a good " opportunity for the State of Texas " I'm very sad that this is on the table and am appalled that a bill to hurt our schools is even up for debate. Please feel free to contact me if you should need any further support against this bill . Please for the benefit of our children DO NOT PASS this bill .

Ian Mader
Self
Bryan, TX

Please pass education vouchers. As a police officer our family cannot afford private school. However it is not safe to subject our children to the retaliation of attending school with family members of those I have put in jail. Additionally vouchers will enable money to support the children and not blindly sent to public schools. Just because we live in a school district should not mean that district should get my tax dollars. It is my tax dollars and the school lobby argues that it is their money being taken. The money should go to where the child is being taught. Whether that is at home, private school, or charter school. No more wasted money on public schools which are not doing their job in the first place.

Holly Richards, Ms.
Self
League City, TX

I am against HB3. As a Texan, I have enjoyed and benefited from the attendance of public schools. Giving taxpayer money away from public schools to rich families to take their kids to private schools is wrong. For those representing Texas, do better.

Amy Cunningham
Self
Arlington, TX

Please do not allow vouchers to destroy our efforts of providing FAPE!

Joanna Graham
Self
Houston, TX

Dear legislators. I want to express my strong lack of support for vouchers. Texas is in the bottom of the nation in public school funding and should be the only priority for our state until it is resolved. Our taxes are too high for the reserve we sit on. Our focus should be paying staff and teachers more and expanding support to lower classroom sizes more like private schools and offer more specialized support to keep all public students strong. Our state is required to substantially fund public education and has not done so. No vouchers until you do your job first.

Danielle Ramirez, Dr.
GISD Parent
Georgetown, TX

While we acknowledge the intention behind school vouchers to provide more educational options for families, it is important to carefully consider the broader impact on public education. Redirecting public funds to private institutions could potentially reduce the resources available for public schools, which serve the majority of students across the state. Public schools are held to rigorous standards of accountability and oversight, ensuring that all students receive a high-quality education. In contrast, private schools that accept voucher students may not be subject to the same level of scrutiny. Additionally, while vouchers aim to increase school choice, the availability of private schools is often uneven, particularly in rural areas, which could limit meaningful options for many families. It is essential that we strike a balance that ensures all students, regardless of background or location, have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

Jami smith
Self
Fairview, TX

Vouchers hurt public education & line the pockets of politicians. Fully fund public education & let parents who want to send their kids to private school...pay for private school. Tax dollars should never go to places of worship or schools associated with them (private Christian schools). SAY NO TO VOUCHERS

Kim Walthall

Self

Sachse, TX

I'm writing to express support for public education. I am incredibly grateful for the public school education I received in Texas and am thankful that high quality public schools were available for my children. I fear for my grandchildren's education as the state appears unwilling to increase funding for public schools to keep up with inflation, even as the legislature is poised to give taxpayer money for private schools. This will inevitably decrease funding for public schools and, as we've seen in other states, send taxpayer money to families that are already sending their children to private schools. It will have little impact on families that can't pay the difference between the voucher and the total cost of private school tuition. I urge you to put public schools first in Texas, so that future generations can benefit in the same way that my generation did.

Erin Evans

Self

Plano, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Sammie Anders

Self. Retired teacher

Abilene, TX

Please save our public schools. We are being bullied into this by our governor and it is not fair to average hard working families.

Matt Worsham

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Molly Carter
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
I respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Reed Bilz, Ms
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Vouchers are a bad idea. They siphon off tax dollars and give money to rich parents who already can afford to send their kids to private schools.

Vote NO on SB 3 and keep public money going to public education.y

Denelle Van Osten, Mrs.
Self
Cedar Park, TX

As a proud former public school teacher who was taught by public schools and raised to amazing daughters who graduated from public schools I believe that we should not give public tax funds to private schools. Private schools do not have requirements to certify their teachers or have accountability to teach students at a high level with standard testing. Private schools are not required to take students especially special needs. One of my children is special needs and her public schools are went above and beyond to make sure she was educated and had what she needed to move on to university, Both of my children have made straight A's at university and have been prepared for the diversity of higher education and life.

Emily Schultz, Mrs.
Myself and my family
Dallas, TX

As parents of small children we are quite frankly begging you to not pass vouchers. We stand by public education and believe in the good it can do... finding a way to weaken it does not make Texas strong.

Bridget Williams
Spring Branch ISD
Houston, TX

Vouchers are not what WE THE PEOPLE of Texas want. Everyone knows this is a political play, pandering to big money donors. It's not what's best for Texas, Texas children and our education system as a whole. Think I'm wrong? Then put it to a vote and let the PEOPLE decide. Knowing that is purely political, I know that won't happen. At the very least, schools, whether private or charter, that receive voucher funding (i.e., taxpayer money) should have the same accountability standards as public schools. The amount of money given per student should also be the same (\$10,000.) This proposal as it stands now will NOT help economically disadvantaged students. \$10,000 is about a quarter of what private schools cost in major cities. Many rural areas don't even have a private school option. All in all, it's an unfair, poorly thought out proposition and Texans know that. Shame on all y'all.

Tom Epley, Mr.
Self
Friendswood, TX

Vouchers provide an excessive amount to voucher schools. It is unbelievable that the State would provide an amount significantly higher than for public education. It is also not acceptable that the State has neglected its duty to public education by letting the per student rate not increase with the cost of living and remaining at an a totally inadequate amount. It is up to this legislature to insure we do not allow our educational system decline at a time it is needed most.

Adrienne Conyer, Mrs.
Self
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Edie Booth, Professor
Myself and my extended TAX PAYING FAMILY!!!
Canton, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS!@! THE MAJORITY DIES NIT WANT THEIR TAXES GOING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS°! PERIOD!

Lyndsay McKnight
Myself
Mount Vernon, TX

I have been a public school teacher for 24 years. I want the best education for all Texas kids. However, I don't believe that this bill has been well thought out.

We should work together to make ALL schools great places for kids. I have questions...

1. If parents take the ESA money and it doesn't work out for the kid at the private school or home school, will they be accepted back at the public school that they left? And will the money return with them?
2. How do we have enough data to support that private schools are "better" than public when private school students don't have to take the STAAR test? I understand they take other tests, but it's not the same.
3. Do the private schools have to accept any kids (including those with learning disabilities and behavior issues)? Or can they choose to deny a student for any reason?
4. What percent of Texas students can realistically make the move to a private school taking into account the allotment and the availability of schools? If not, who pays for new or renovated facilities? How do you get teachers? As a teacher, I wouldn't want to take a pay cut and not be able to add to TRS as an employee of a private school.

Nancy Moore
Self
Dallas, TX

Vote NO on HB 3. I oppose House Bill 3.

Ricardo Vilardell

Self

El Paso, TX

Please vote NO on vouchers for private and charter schools. Passing this bill will only hurt public education more. Vouchers are meant to steal from the ordinary family and give to the wealthy, since they are the only ones able to afford private schools. In addition, private and charter schools have no accountability. They are not tested and do not rely on attendance for funding. How is that fair? If Abbott is so concerned about education, then why not turn the tables around? Let the public schools have the \$10,000 per student, without having to account for attendance or have their students be tested!! Testing only gets in the way of critical learning anyway since so much time and energy is spent on the specifics of passing the STARR exam instead of having a more complete learning experience. I am a retired teacher and I know what it is like to be in the classroom. The same goes for my retired wife and my son and daughter, who are currently teaching. I also have many years of experience in industry as a manager, so I also know what kind of students are hitting the workforce. We need to improve our public education system and not defund it by taking money away via vouchers.

As a passing note, it has been suggested by some individuals that there is more going on behind the scenes between certain politicians and those lobbying for vouchers. IF vouchers do pass, then I'm pretty confident that someone will find that connection and make it public.

Susan Lares

Self retired

Lubbock, TX

If school choice would have been available my daughter would have been able to receive more individual help than what she got in public school

Roger Ward

Self

Wylie, TX

This is an absolutely terrible idea. The goal should be to best educate all of the children of Texas. If you feel the current public school system does that then you should look for ways to accomplish that goal. Giving parents a voucher does not guarantee that. Freedom of choice is important with regard to many things but there are things of which parents do not have enough knowledge. And even if they do, the current bill does not provide enough money to pay for that for every child in the state.

Emily Hobbs

Alliance AFT

Wylie, TX

NO to school vouchers! Fully fund our public schools!

Carrie Duck

Self/Tax Payer

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Ann Lin
Self
Plano, TX

Public tax dollars should only be allocated to the already stretched thin public school. As a parent of three public school students in Plano Independent School District, I have been so proud of how our tax dollars have supported the fine arts program and education. In order to stay competitive and enhance our education system in Texas - we MUST keep funding in the public school system. If we truly believe it's about school choice, logistically this can only help a few if it's truly about school choice and not another masked policy to fund to the wealthy. If you really care about the lower income students or students with special needs, then allocate the funds for the lower income schools and or special education programs. Let the school choice be for choosing enhanced public schools. I live in an affluent neighborhood where there is a big population that do choose private schools and even if we go that route, I do not think public tax dollars should ever be in the private sector.

Please do the right thing. You have already ignored your voters enough. We will remember you.

Diann McCabe
self retired
San Marcos, TX

Our public school serve the majority of Texan children. They and their teachers deserve the support of our lawmakers. Parents can choose private schools but the number of children able to attend them is very small compared to the number of children who attend public schools. Vote NO to vouchers!

Lyndsey McCoy
Self
Center Point, TX

The voucher system is a terrible plan that will extremely hurt our public schools. No voucher system should be considered until adequate funding has been provided to public education. Public education is not failing. Our legislature is failing us and our students. Vote no on HB3!

Tish Langland
Self
Sachse, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3!!

Please keep all funding in the Public Schools system where it belongs. These kids deserve it...THEY ARE OUR FUTURE!!

Mary Catherine Holcomb
Self
Houston, TX

NO!

Theresa Daniels
Self
PARIS, TX

As an educator, I do NOT support school vouchers. It is not appropriate to create a vendor bill to take away public funds from our public schools. Texas MUST do what is right and fully fund public schools as is required in our Texas constitution. Parents are free to choose private schools but should not use tax payer money to do so. Our public schools are under attack by our governor and now our national government. Without funding, our schools in Texas will continue to be behind, at the detriment to our children's future. As an educator and parent, I cannot and will not support vouchers that take funds from already struggling public schools. I urge you and all involved to care about and fully invest in our public schools.

Norma Jost
Austin Retired Teachers Association
Austin, TX

Thank you for taking public testimony. I have been so proud of the testimonies I have been able to hear so far. I am the President of the Austin Retired Teachers Association (who support retired & active educators in Travis County), a dedicated retired public educator (in Austin ISD; Mathematics), and have had 2 children complete their K-12 education in wonderful public schools. I am APPALLED at the influx of money from BILLIONAIRES Yes, Dunn, & Wilkes to DISABLE public education and our TRS Pension. How dare they buy our Governor, and other henchmen to do this to our great state of TEXAS. While this has been a quest of many nefarious people in power for over 30 years, the current political climate has stoked the fires of the takeover of our excellent public education and TRS pension.

We have such a strong public education system when we are FULLY funded. We have not been funded for too long now and are doing all we can to meet the needs of all students. Our pension is one of the best in the world. Why do you want to destroy it through privatization?

It truly disturbs me that there have been many presentations to show everyone how bad vouchers are, especially when the voucher program had accountability to show the disparity of student data. It just totally blows my mind that 'adults' in charge aren't using the data that spells it out: Fund fully public education, as it should be by law, and you will have the future of our state, fully educated. Pay educators a living wage and they will stay in education.

I speak from experience – I was an electrical engineer at Motorola and I became a mathematics teacher in Austin ISD. I dropped my salary in half and became a public school educator. Please do what is right for Texas: raise the student allotment, and give active educators a raise.

If you had a vote statewide on this voucher scam, it would lose. Pass this bill and just see what happens. I hope this hits the ballot box for all of you who vote for this bill. You're being bought by billionaires money. I am so happy this is being made public.

Jodi Peterson
HEB schools
Arlington, TX

Support public education and not propped vouchers

Carrie Vipperman, Mrs.
Self, retail sales
McKinney, TX

Please vote no for school vouchers.

Shawn O'Donnell
Self
EL PASO, TX

No to vouchers!!

Cheryl Klager
Harrison PTA/Watkins PTA
WYLIE, TX

I oppose HB3

Brittany Trinite
Compose Yourself LLC, self, music therapist
Round Rock, TX

Please fully fund public education. Vouchers do not provide needed resources and services for at-risk and special education students. Taking funding from public education is a disservice to any marginalized families.

Danielle Chavez

Self

Beaumont, TX

I support HB 3 because ESA's would allow there to be educational options for every child, not just the ones that can afford it. Every child deserves a PROPER Education, not necessarily a PUBLIC education. - Please vote for this Bill as this is the future for our children and we want the BEST for them!

Autumn Fuselier

Self, parent, nurse practitioner, assistant professor, first responder fire family

Salado, TX

As a proponent of public education, I believe strongly that the voucher bill is yet another "Jim Crow" effort to marginalize certain populations and empower others. I taught in Title I schools believing education is one of the most important ways to fight poverty. This bill widens the gap between the "have" and "have not" citizens of our state. Data from Arizona has proven this ideology and its implementation detrimental. I implore you to put politics and political favor aside and vote NO for HB 3.

Veronica Diaz

Self

Flower Mound, TX

I am against educational savings accounts (vouchers). As a mother of 3 public school students, one who receives special educational services, I am pleading with you that you use your energy to fully fund public schools.

Stephanie Garza

Social workers

Mission, TX

I would argue that HB 3 would be incredibly damaging to public schools and I hope that my elected officials oppose it. Do more to invest in public and teachers, do not pass the vouchers bill.

Brian Tucker, Mr.

self

Houston, TX

I agree with the anti-voucher/pro-public education witnesses that testified that privatization will hurt our state and our kids.

Carl Hehmsoth, MR

self

Austin, TX

73% of all Texas school districts are underfunded and 17% are severely underfunded. HB-3 further reduces funding for public schools, and it uses public taxpayer dollars to fund private school tuition.

Tammie Marberry, Dr.

Self

Hardin, TX

I oppose any bill that creates a system that puts public money into private or homeschools that are not held to the same accountability expectations as Texas public schools! Parents currently have a great deal of choice in how their children are educated without adding any other option. If you are concerned about what is being taught, discuss that with the Governor and his appointed commissioner who make the rules we work under. No district I have ever been a part of take part in the crazy things that has been painted for the public while you try to support this narrative to take care of wealthy families/private businesses.

Nora Soto
Self
Dallas, TX

Hell No to school vouchers!

Theresa Bastian
Self - real estate broker
Austin, TX

Please vote against this bill. We need to be supporting public education for ALL not subsidizing private school for a portion of our kids.

Stacy Collins
Self, Accountant
Rowlett, TX

I strongly oppose this bill because it prioritizes private school funding over public school accountability and transparency. Texas taxpayers deserve responsible spending that supports all students, not just those in private institutions. Our public schools need more resources, not funding cuts disguised as 'choice.' Please vote NO to protect public education and ensure fair opportunities for all Texas children.

Korinna Muliadi
Self, director
Dallas, TX

I am asking you to vote no to the school vouchers bill. Our tax dollars should stay in our public-school system that serves all Texas children, including the kids that need it the most. It ensures they have access to the kind of education that grows the Texans of the future. Neighborhood public schools are the glue that helps hold our communities together and funding them only serves all of us versus the select few.

Robert Gentry
Self, Accounts Receivable
Wylie, TX

No to vouchers, I oppose HB 3

Meredith McBrayer
Self
Frisco, TX
HB 3

Angelica Estrada
self, Special Education Teacher
Sachse, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Justin Harris
Self
benbrook, TX

I do not support this bill.

Marci Miller
Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX
Vote NO

Belinda Colombo
None
San Antonio, TX

Keep public funds in public schools or no on vouchers!!

Andrea Sanchez
self
Leander, TX

School vouchers are not the answer to improving education in Texas. Instead, they threaten to harm public schools, hurt rural communities, and deepen inequities for students who need the most support.

Public schools are the heart of our communities, especially in rural areas where they often serve as centers for education, social services, and community engagement. Voucher programs divert taxpayer dollars away from public schools to fund private institutions, leaving public schools with fewer resources to serve students. Rural communities, which already struggle with limited funding and access to resources, would be disproportionately affected. Many rural areas lack private school options, meaning vouchers offer no real choice for families while draining critical funds from their local public schools.

Additionally, voucher programs lack accountability and equity. Private schools are not required to follow the same standards as public schools, such as serving students with disabilities, providing transportation, or adhering to state curriculum guidelines. This leaves vulnerable students—particularly those from low-income families, students with disabilities, and English language learners—without the protections and support they need.

Vouchers also worsen educational inequities. Wealthier families, who can afford to cover the gap between voucher amounts and private school tuition, are more likely to benefit from these programs. Meanwhile, families in rural and underserved areas are left with fewer resources and fewer options. This creates a system that prioritizes privilege over the needs of the majority of Texas students.

Instead of investing in voucher programs, we should focus on strengthening public schools. This means fully funding public education, addressing teacher shortages, expanding access to early childhood education, and ensuring every student—regardless of their ZIP code—has access to a high-quality education. Public schools serve the vast majority of Texas students, and they deserve our full support.

Let's reject school vouchers and work together to build a stronger, more equitable public education system that serves all Texas students and communities.

Whitney Wedel
Self/Educator
Wichita Falls, TX

To whom it may concern,
I wholeheartedly do NOT support school vouchers, an education savings account program, or anything else that resembles such travesty. Gov. Abbott obviously has tunnel vision, and is not listening to the many Texas voters who are opposed to vouchers. Please listen to your constituents. I hope the House is listening. If HB 3 passes, then be prepared for the consequences. Those who vote yes, will be voting for their own removal through the public vote. Please vote no, and listen to the public educators, principals, staff, superintendents, parents, and maybe even students. Vote no, and be open to bringing those who work in our public schools every day to work together with lawmakers and build a plan to find realistic solutions to the problems in our public school system. No, it is not a perfect system, but it is free to EVERY student and where EVERY student is welcomed. Thank you for your time and considering the public's comments on HB 3.

Harry & Cindy Cole
self - Manufacturers Rep
McKinney, TX

My wife and I would like to make our opposition known to HB3 School Voucher program. Our children went to private schools and colleges, 100% funded by our own funds, as it should be. We urge you to heed the wishes of your constituents and oppose this bill. We vote, and we donate politically.

Jacquelyn Neylon
Self
Dallas, TX

We need to support PUBLIC education and NOT pass HB3. Every child deserves a free good public education! Vouchers will destroy public education. Do NOT vote to implement vouchers. Show each Texas kid respect by allowing public education to be fully funded.

Morgan Anderson
Self
Alvarado, TX

We already see enough gaps in education depending on the location of the school. Public funds should not go to private schools that do not have the same standards to be funded. We have strict rules that we need to abide by to receive funding. We are already underfunded. We have to pick and choose what we can afford because of the underfunding. How will this affect teachers and their retirement pension? Teachers are already worried we will lose funding from the federal government. If we lose this funding too then everyone will be trying to survive rather than have the means to make everyone successful. If you vote yes it is a vote to make the lives of students harder in school. There is a reason Texas is ranking in the bottom of education. We are also one of the states that spend the least per student. If we lose funding state and federal level then public education is never going to recover.

Matthew Early
Self
Allen, TX

I am 100% against school vouchers and ESAs. I want our public school fully funded by state tax dollars.

Mara Bim
Self, pastor
Plano, TX

I, like most Texans, are opposed to vouchers. 94% of Texas students are enrolled in public schools. Rather than public funds being diverted to vouchers, the money should go to public schools. The Texas Constitution is very clear: Article 7 Sec. 1. **SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM OF PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS.** A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools. Even section 2 which was amended in 2011 states c) The available school fund shall be applied annually to the support of the public free schools. Article 5, Section 2 C goes on: (c) The available school fund shall be applied annually to the support of the public free schools...The permanent school fund and the available school fund **MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATED TO OR USED FOR THE SUPPORT OF ANY SECTARIAN SCHOOL....**The available school fund shall be distributed to the several counties according to their scholastic population and applied in the manner provided by law. Further, in the Bill of Rights Sec. 7. states: **APPROPRIATIONS FOR SECTARIAN PURPOSES.** No money shall be appropriated, or drawn from the Treasury for the benefit of any sect, or religious society, theological or religious seminary; nor shall property belonging to the State be appropriated for any such purposes.

This same "savings account" scheme was just attempted in South Carolina and was overturned by that state's Supreme Court. The right-wing Institute for Justice is attempting to appeal and one of its attorneys, Arif Panju, provided "expert" testimony before the Senate's education committee assuring them that this scheme would work here in Texas. This is against our constitution and will be challenged (I'll be first in line to challenge it on behalf of my 2nd grade public school student!)

Vouchers have been on ballots 17 times since 1967 and each time voters have rejected vouchers - most recently in Kentucky, Nebraska and Colorado (even in counties that went heavily for Republicans).

This idea of choice is choice only for the schools - not the parents. Schools are not required to accept students. Vouchers are just a way for them to fill their coffers from families who already have the means to send their children to private schools.

Repeated studies of voucher programs across the country show that they do not improve student academic achievement and can result in worse test scores (see Louisiana's 2015 study, Indiana's 2016 study by Brookings Institute, Ohio's 2016 study by Fordham Institute, D.C's 2018 and 2019 studies by the US Dept. of Ed., Milwaukee's 2010 study by the Univ. of Arkansas, Cleveland's 2006 study by Ctr. for Evaluation & Ed. Policy at Univ. of Indiana.)

FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND STOP TRYING TO DISMANTLE THEM. These efforts harm poor and rural students.

Sara O'Connor
Self
Austin, TX

I want to urge lawmakers to stop pandering to the wealthy. There is no overwhelming support for school vouchers from Republicans or Democrats. In fact, finally, we've found an issue we agree on, **FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.** Educating kids is a non partisan issue, as it turns out.

Make our schools the crown jewel of the state. There's nothing 'great' about a state that doesn't look after its children. If we want to be The Great State of Texas, y'all act like it.

Sandy Deupree, M.Ed, LDT, CALT
Public school teacher, Licensed Dyslexia Therapist, CALT
Paris, TX

School vouchers will only serve to take money away from public education. If we could put that money into public education to reduce class sizes in the primary grades, performance would increase drastically. Private schools are not held to the same standard as public schools. In public schools we educate everyone. Private schools have the option of denying students with discipline problems. They aren't required to take standardized tests, have IEPs and 504 plans. Please give our public schools the funding that we need to recruit the best educators, reduce class sizes, and provide books and facilities that will maximize student learning. I am against using public money for private schools. Only the wealthy will benefit from this. The underprivileged children won't benefit. Their parents won't have the means to provide transportation or pay for books and tuition. Private school parents also don't want the government regulations that are bound to be tied to the funding eventually. Please vote NO to vouchers.

Nicole H Truesdell

Self/owner, Knowledge Keepers Bookstore

Gainesville, TX

I am a lifelong Republican voter in Texas, and a second generation homeschooler. I oppose HB3 for the following reasons: Both the Christian and classical liberal perspectives oppose School Choice via vouchers, ESAs or increased funding because it (a) violates the scriptural jurisdictions of individual, family, church, and state, (b) brings more children and families under the authority and control of the state (civil government), (c) increases taxes, (d) ignores the fact that research shows families do not need tax dollars to choose private education and for their children to do well in life, (d) forces citizens to promote the values of the state education system through forced taxation, (e) forces citizens to promote the values that any private school or homeschool teaches through forced taxation, and (f) further entangles church (philosophical/religious values and beliefs) and state. Christians and classical liberals embrace a statist worldview if they embrace government funding of education. Christians and classical liberals should instead be putting their thoughts, collaboration, energy, and money into expanding education that is free from civil government control, privately funding education for all children, and reducing, at every turn, government control over and the forced-tax funding of all education.

I strongly oppose this bill.

Curtina Wilson

Charlene McKinzey Middle School PTA

Arlington, TX

My name is Curtina Wilson, and I am a parent of two children in Mansfield ISD—my daughter is enrolled in the Fine Arts Academy, and my son is in the STEM Academy. I am writing today to express my strong opposition to HB3, as it threatens the opportunities that public schools offer to students like mine. If my public school is not fully funded, as this bill proposes, and if additional mandates are imposed without the necessary funding to support them, I fear that the educational programs my children benefit from will be reduced or even eliminated. The programs in which my children are currently involved, such as fine arts and STEM, are not just enriching—they are life-changing. They represent the opportunities public schools provide to all children, regardless of their financial status or learning abilities. My daughter, who is 14 years old, has been able to thrive in the Fine Arts Academy. She plays five musical instruments, an accomplishment she achieved through her public school education. Her band, in 6th grade, competed in UIL and scored higher than many middle school bands. She has danced since she was 3, and public school has allowed her to continue her passion through an hour of dance every day instead of PE. She was even able to apply for and be accepted into the National Honor Society for Dance Arts—an opportunity that could have been out of reach had our school not supported her in applying. Similarly, my son is a proud participant in the STEM Academy. He is involved in a club sponsored by Washington State University that focuses on space and missions. As a result of this program, he will soon have the chance to visit NASA as part of his 6th-grade trip—an experience that would be impossible without the resources provided by his public school. These are just two examples of how public education in Mansfield ISD has transformed my children's lives and opened doors that we could never have afforded privately. Public schools offer a level playing field where every child—regardless of background—has access to the same opportunities.

If HB3 results in cuts to public school funding, these programs will be the first to suffer. These cuts would not only harm my children's educational experience, but they would also disproportionately affect students from lower-income families who rely on public schools to provide opportunities they cannot afford elsewhere. Public education must remain a priority for every child, and we must ensure that schools have the resources they need to offer these life-changing opportunities.

On a personal note, my daughter had the privilege of attending a PTA trip to Austin recently. As we traveled home, she asked me, "Why am I not as important as a private school student?" As a parent, I was at a loss for how to answer her. How do I explain to my child that the opportunities she has worked so hard for might be taken away simply because she attends a public school? I urge you to please reconsider HB3.

Kathy Halpin

Self

Allen, TX

I believe that all children should have the same educational opportunities. By providing \$10,000 vouchers to certain students impacts the funds available to public schools. Add that money to the public schools so that it may positively impact public school children.

Deborah Edwards

Ms. Deborah Edwards

Kerrville, TX

As a retired teacher I solidly oppose HB 3 for a myriad of reasons. I have decided to select one negative that few people are talking about: education -related jobs in small rural townships. Think about the number of support jobs (bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodian, etc.) that the public schools provide. This is just one aspect of negative results from reducing the numbers in public school rolls.

Lisbeth Meehan

Myself

Plano, TX

I DO NOT support vouchers for private schools.

Mike Alexander, Mr

Self- Head Football Coach / Lifetime Educator

Grapevine, TX

This bill isn't the answer to any problem we may have in public education. When dealing with any problem it is more appropriate to dig in and find the root of the problem. Any problem we have in public ed needs to be identified and addressed. This hasn't been done. Nobody wants to look honestly at our issues. However, we are willing to take even more funding away from public school by introducing this bill. Please wake-up. As soon as you hand out a voucher every private school in the state 's tuition will increase to by whatever the voucher amount is. Private schools are private for a reason. Public schools educate everyone. This a monumental mistake that will further destroy public schools.

Matt Kimball
self, educator
Sunnyvale, TX

Honorable Representatives,

Thank you for your service to Texas. Your decisions and leadership impacts many generations. I am a 33 year Texas public schools educator. I have worked with countless colleagues during my career who have devoted themselves to helping students succeed. The state comptroller has recently said that Texas would have the 7th or 8th largest economy in the world if it were an independent country. A robust economy depends on a quality education system. Texas is blessed to have a strong public school system. While not perfect, it is producing highly qualified graduates. I encourage you to continue to support public education in Texas.

While I do not support educational savings accounts or vouchers, my main intention is to share some thoughts for you to consider as you debate HB 3. There must be accountability. Accountability for the taxpayers' funds be used, and accountability for student outcomes. Public schools have an accountability system connected to the STAAR test. We have FIRST, the financial accountability system. Accountability must be a part.

Many have said educational savings accounts will create competition which will make all schools better. If competition is desired, the playing field must be leveled. Public schools have a plethora of mandates and requirements that private schools do not have. For example, the STAAR test is required for public school students. What will be required of private schools? Competition should be based on fairness. If you really want to create competition, make it fair for all.

Please consider fully funding public education. The buying power of the basic allotment set in 2019 is over \$1300 less today. Inflation has decimated public school budgets. Before considering setting money aside for a educational savings accounts, please address public school funding.

In closing, thank you for your service. I do not support HB 3 as it currently stands. Please consider the feedback from me and others who are concerned about this bill.

Sincerely,
Matt Kimball

Lisa Semper
Public educators
Cedar Park, TX

Please vote NO for vouchers.
Please support public schools with more funding.
Vote YES for \$1300 more funding for each public school student.

Jonathan Vo
Self
Humble, TX

The funds appropriated for public schools should only be used to support the operations of the public schools. Public schools accept all students living in their communities without costs. Costs are covered by taxpayers. If parents prefer sending children to private schools, it's their discretion and they must pay for the costs. Vouchers should not, must not, be used for this purpose. Taxpayers pay school tax whether they have children attending school or not. Again, public funds for public schools must be used to support the operations of public schools only, not private schools.

Julia Paske
Self
Lamesa, TX

I am against House Bill 3 because it provides support for finding private schools when public schools need major funding for students and teachers that has been withheld in order to force this bill through. The playing field is not level for public schools. There is no accountability equivalent to the STAAR test for private schools and no requirements that substantially protects the rights of the disabled student. Also there are no certification requirements for educators in private schools. If you want parents to have the right to choose give them an option to transfer to another public school, not a for profit school. The law is also inequitable because there are no private school options in many areas. The majority of students are not helped by this bill.

Jamie Gutzler
Self - Account Manager
Frisco, TX

Vote NO to using our tax dollars for the school voucher bill and fund our public education! The people of Texas do not want this and have been vocal about it - Republicans and Democrats alike. Listen to your constituents! The wealthy do not need this break and it hurts the rest of us and our children. No to vouchers!

Patsy Johnson
Self
Spring, TX

I am a retired second generation Texas public school who taught 32 years. My children are successful public school graduates & my grandchildren attend public schools. Parents already have the choice to send their kids to public school and this bill takes money from our public schools. Our state benefits from a well educated society, most of which will attend public schools. Public schools are held accountable to state standards and are required to educate every child that comes to them and to accommodate every child that comes to them. Private schools set their own standards and pick and choose who can attend and can remove students at any time they want. Additionally, many in our state do not even have a private school near them, especially those in rural areas so this is not an option and their schools will have less money to support their children. While I hope this bill dies if the committee moves it forward, I implore them to consider the following:

- lower the lottery priority qualifications for low income families to 185% to match the qualifications for free and reduced lunch
- additional funding for special education students, especially ones in rural districts that would likely have to travel significant distances to find a private school they may attend
- reduce the allotment by \$4000 to match the per student allotment in public schools

Lucas Leinberger, MAJ
Self
Burke, TX

I support H.B.3. because having an ESA would give all five of my Texas based military children the opportunity to succeed. I pay over \$7k/year in property taxes to support our Texas children willingly, but having some help with my kids would be amazing. For example, we pay \$700 every six weeks for my son's welding classes, while children in local high schools pay little to none. My son was removed from Texas public schools due to physical assault and bullying in Corsicana, TX, and suffers PTSD from this. Now, all my children are homeschooled, seeking the educational environment that will allow them to succeed at their own pace. Thank you for your consideration.

Elgrie Hurd III, Professor

PTA

Cedar Hill, TX

Education is too important for accountability not to happen. I do not think this bill that is for a voucher program is beneficial for most Texans. It's not beneficial for people who need special education; it's not beneficial for people in rural communities... It's not beneficial because there is no accountability process. The standards that private schools have are not necessarily standards that lineup with TEA guidelines and yet there is a request for tax dollars to go to these schools. This is not okay; this is an injustice and criminal use of taxpayer money.

Kristi Thronburg

Self

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Charles Williamson

Self

Farmers Branch, TX

I oppose House Bill 3. Don't take money away from public schools!

Katie Redden

Self- Public School Administrator

Woodway, TX

Vouchers will hurt public schools. Please do not give public tax funds to private schools that are not held to the same standards or accountability as public schools. This will hurt public education.

Sarah Lewis

Self

Kerrville, TX

I'm asking that you vote no on HB 3.

William Chapman, Dr.

London ISD

Corpus Christi, TX

I am the superintendent of London ISD and a taxpayer in Corpus Christi ISD.

I am in opposition to HB3 - The Education Savings Account Program. As a conservative, it is hard for me to see public funds be diverted to private schools. In addition, if these vouchers must pass, they should never exceed the amount that a district receives. London ISD receives a total amount of \$8677 per student of ALL Federal, State, and local funds! If you look at state funds only, we receive \$8,127 per student.

If vouchers pass, there needs to be a level playing field in regards to finances, accountability, and oversight. The rules and money needs to be the same for all parties.

Tanya Fulton, Mrs.

Self

Tyler, TX

No to school choice, ESA, vouchers or whatever you want to call it. Fund our Public Schools. I do not want my tax dollars going to private schools. Why are you not listening to your constituents?

Robert Caughey

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Amy Killgore

Self

League City, TX

Vouchers are not the answer to improving public schools. Holding administrators accountable is but reducing funding to already underfunded schools will only further cripple education across the state.

Toni Contreras

Self

Waco, TX

Please say NO to HB3. Public education was created to educate all children. There are many successful individuals who were educated through public education. Please vote No for vouchers.

Denise Chavez

Self

Garland, TX

NO VOUCHERS!! Pay teachers more!

Jan Realini, Dr.

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am opposed to HB3 because it is bad policy. It will result in severe starvation of the public schools that Texas is constitutionally required to provide to the children of this state. Allowing taxpayer funds to go to private and religious schools is wrong because it funds religion, which is not constitutional per the U.S. Constitution. Please oppose this bill and any voucher-like scheme. Thank you.

Carol Demler

Self

Dallas, TX

Vouchers are not in the best interest of children, schools, or the state of TX. Implanting vouchers will cripple public education by taking funding away from the programs and constituents who need it most. The voucher system will create a greater divide between socioeconomic groups and lead to an increased risk of ignorance and crime. I am NOT in support of the voucher system.

James Schampers

SELF

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3.

THIS IS A SCAM TO STEAL TEXANS' PUBLIC SCHOOL TAX DOLLARS TO BENEFIT ONLY THE RICH! PRIVATE SCHOOLS CAN AND DO EXCLUDE PEOPLE BASED ON ANY NUMBER OF FACTORS. THE IDEA THAT EVERYDAY MIDDLE CLASS OR WORKING CLASS TEXANS WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS IS LAUGHABLE. ABBOTT AND ANYONE SUPPORTING THIS BILL ARE NOTHING MORE THAN THIEVES!

Vicki Johnson

Self

Converse, TX

Public education should be increased in funding.

Kimberly Hoover

Self

Fairview., TX

No public funding for private schools. Fund our public teachers and support public education with tax dollars. I can afford private but CHOOSE to stay public. Do not give tax dollars to wealthy. Fund public education with all public tax dollars.

Jean Robinson

Self

Fort Worth, TX

My school taxes are designated for public education for all students without regard to their race, gender, disability or socioeconomic status. Taxation without representation is unconstitutional at the state and federal level. Public money cannot be used for religious or other private sects. Our nation was built for equality for all not a select population. Please vote against HB 3 and for the right of free education.

Deanne Marlow

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3. Public education funds should not be used for private education.

Carrie Schweitzer

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose public tax dollars being allocated for voucher programs for private schools. (I refuse to refer to this as an "education savings account" because no family is asked/required to save via this scheme.) Right now, parents have "choice" in educating their children. They can send their children to many different types of schools, home school, etc. This is not about choice - this is about a trend to privatize and dismantle public education, the bedrock of American democracy. This is about denying years of accumulated data from other states that have legislated education voucher schemes; data that indicates children do not perform better. Plus private schools do not have to accountability measures or guardrails in other states OR In THIS BILL! I call this bill "welfare for the wealthy" because - as data shows - the majority of families that end up with these vouchers already send their children to private school. I live in the Dallas Independent School District. DISD has developed a system of "choice" for families via magnet schools, academies and specialized curriculum focuses at elementary – high schools across its district. The educational options are varied, rewarding and award-winning. Students achieve at the highest levels. School communities are strong and parental support is outstanding. I APPROVE of this CHOICE, and my daughter thrived in this system. She is now a PhD student at a top university.

Natalie Childress

Self, Proud Public School Principal

Fort Worth, TX

The House Bill as it stands will disrupt public education in order to privatize a public good. Texas Public Schools are the best way to preserve access to high quality education for all students.

Northwest ISD, like all Texas public schools, is already underfunded by the state. Since school district funding is primarily based on student enrollment and attendance, if current students were to leave for private schools or homeschool, the financial impact could be even greater. In NISD alone, a 1% decline in student enrollment could result in an estimated \$2.5 million loss in funding. This loss grows significantly with higher percentages—approximately \$7.6 million at 3% and \$12.6 million at 5%.

At the campus I currently lead, we see a high number of students return to public education after their homeschool, charter school, or private school experience, often mid year. How can we plan to support all students when funded inadequately or the funding is still in the coffers of a private school who never intended to support all students?

The ESAs are not the solution to providing school-choice for families in areas where choice exists. The ESAs are not the solution to providing funding for schools that already exist and are serving students well. The ESAs a privatizing a public good and devaluing the investments Texas has in our public school system.

Please consider the concerns of so many Texans regarding the ESAs and vote no.

BRANDI Jackson

self

Dallas, TX

I know these savings accounts will only benefit those with means to currently afford private school and strip money from much needed public education. Why would we want to live in a society where most children are uneducated? It would be less peaceful for every individual. We must educate ALL children. Do not restrict education by supporting education savings programs that don't benefit all children.

Avalyn Balliet

self / US & TX History teacher

Farmersville, TX

I oppose HB3. Actually I vehemently oppose HB3 as a public school teacher of 31 years all in the great state of Texas within Irving ISD and Wylie ISD. I vote regularly in state, local and national elections. I am more of an Independent but regularly vote in the Republican primaries and hence registered as a Republican who is fiscally very conservative and slightly less conservative on social issues. I am very Texan -- native born and never lived anywhere else. After 31 years as a master teacher winning national (Milken National Educator 2000), state and district awards, I have been through many changes in education and policy. This HB3 is a travesty against the children of Texas! I cannot believe how our legislature is laying down against our governor who is selling us out to PAC money and rich donors in Pennsylvania and West Texas. Never has Abbott pushed for any issue so feverishly when his constituents and faithful supporters are so clearly against it. While he and his PAC money have come after those valliant legislators who stood against his voucher scheme last time, many of us watched and re-elected those who supported public schools, i.e. Jeff Leach and Keith Self. We will do it again. And what our current governor is not weighing in this political equation is that Texans REMEMBER! ("Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!") While he may have been re-elected himself in the last race, he is shooting himself in the foot for the next election! Perhaps he wont run again and this is his swan song to pad his retirement from state politics and gain political capital toward aspirations for a federal post. But what will that do FOR YOU, our legislators who are supposed to represent the People of Texas and our children. WE are the voters! We will remember who fought for OUR principles against big money donors. Don't be fooled -- the VOTERS in Texas are not fooled! We have choice to send our children where we want for school -- many districts are open districts, cities usually have private school and charter school options. Many rural towns do not. Even homeschool parents do NOT want this HB3. I teach economics and free enterprise, and while i understand some folks trying to say that competition helps increase quality, that is not always the case in publicly funded initiatives. What it will do is increase prices for homeschool products (especially through restricted vendors -- follow the money on this one), and it will increase the prices for private schools. With an influx of public tax money vouchers, private schools will increase their tuition! This is the law of free enterprise that definitely will happen. Fix our public schools so that all children can learn. Fund our public schools so we can meet the needs of all kids. Please don't make us do more with even less. I am in the trenches serving all children with all types of needs. We dont have enough because Abbott will not increase our funds above 2019 standards. It is time again to take a stand.

Whitley Rothe

Self

Rockwall, TX

I oppose the voucher program because it unfairly redirects public funds to private institutions, further straining our already underfunded public schools. Texas is sitting on a massive budget surplus, yet instead of adequately funding public education, the state is shifting the burden onto middle-class families who are already stretched thin. Parents and communities are left scrambling to fill funding gaps—paying out of pocket for needs at schools, extracurricular programs, maintenance items, equipment, and much more —because the state refuses to properly allocate tax dollars to public education.

Rather than pitting public and private education against each other, Texas could afford to support both—fully funding our public schools while allowing families to choose private education if they wish. However, the current voucher push does the opposite. It siphons money away from public schools, forcing districts to make drastic cuts that directly harm students, teachers, and communities. This approach will only widen the gap between well-funded private institutions and struggling public schools, leaving middle-class families to bear the consequences.

If the state continues to withhold necessary funds, we will soon face tough choices that negatively impact public school families. The priority should be clear: public tax dollars should first and foremost go to public schools, ensuring every child has access to quality education, regardless of zip code. Texas has the resources to do this without gutting our public education system in favor of an unproven voucher program that primarily benefits private interests.

We need a funding solution that works for all Texas families, not just a privileged few. Our legislators must prioritize fully funding public education before entertaining policies that divert money away from the schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children.

Governor Abbott has spent years campaigning to bring businesses to Texas, offering incentives that have driven population growth, skyrocketed home values, and increased the demand on our public school system. While this economic boom has benefited corporations and investors, it has placed an enormous strain on our schools, which are now struggling to keep up with the rapid influx of students. Districts are forced to either build new schools to address growth or cram more students into oversized classrooms—often with no corresponding increase in funding or teacher pay.

Jamy Colleen Black McCole

Self. Inactive Occupational Therapist

Fort Worth, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3. I Do Not want my tax dollars to be taken from public schools & given to private schools and private vendors. Public schools serve all children including ones with needs for accomodations in how they learn or physical accommodations. The majority of voters are opposing HB 3

Ashley Porterfield

Self

Royse City, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3

Susan Muzny

retired HS teacher - self and Texas Impact and AFT

Livingston, TX, TX

NO to vouchers

Our public schools need all of your support.

Ashly Wilbourn

Self

WOODWAY, TX

I firmly oppose HB 3 and the corruption surrounding the voucher scam.

Sandy Underwood, Retired teacher

Texas public school students

Wichita Falls, TX

I am against HB3. Why would the state of Texas give our tax dollars to schools that are not held up to the same high standards our public schools are expected to attain.

Carrie Mays

Self, Director of Programs and Resources

Round Rock, TX

Please, please, please reconsider this bill that you are pushing. With all of the research that has gone into it and proof that it is currently not working in the States that have adopted this position. So, why are we pushing so hard for ESAs or vouchers when we know that it will not work as promised and only hurts the infrastructure we already have in place. Please release the funds our public schools need to do the job they were asked to do. Thank you.

Carla Hall

TRS

Universal Cty, TX

I am against using my tax dollars for private school vouchers I read the info from Arizona and 75% of the students receiving vouchers were already in private schools. It doesn't work

Jennifer Pollard

Self- Substitute Teacher & Mom

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Katlin Derrick

Self

Kerrville, TX

I strongly oppose SB2 and HB3, which would divert public funds to private schools through education savings accounts. These bills threaten to undermine Texas' already underfunded public schools, taking away critical resources from the majority of students who rely on them.

Taxpayer dollars should be used to strengthen our public education system, ensuring every child has access to quality teachers, well-funded classrooms, and necessary support services, not subsidizing private institutions that lack accountability and can selectively admit students.

Rather than funneling money into a program that benefits a select few, Texas should focus on increasing teacher pay, improving school infrastructure, and expanding educational opportunities within public schools. Our priority should be to invest in the success of all Texas students, not just those who can afford private tuition.

I urge lawmakers to reject these voucher programs and instead commit to fully funding public education for every child in our state.

Erica Rheume

self, Teacher Wylie ISD

Sachse, TX

I oppose HB 3. Public schools need funding to pay teachers and provide resources and facilities for students. Private schools charge tuition for funding. Sending a child to private school is a choice, and it creates socioeconomic bias for funds to be taken from public schools where families that cannot afford private school send their children.

Charlie Seaman

Self

Cypress, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. As a husband to an educator and two children who've been raised in public schools. I see frequently the struggles they haven't providing care with the fifth of him given. With the proper amount of funding, the Skye is the limit as to what the schools could teach. private schools are selective and do not care about those less fortunate or those special needs. They can choose to not provide services to them purely for the paycheck. Do not pass this bill for the sake of our students.

Traci Rowley

Self, Associate Creative Director

Austin, TX

I come from a long line of teachers. My grandmother taught for 40 years. My mom is a special ed teacher who just retired. My sister was a teacher. While I have never been a teacher, I have benefitted greatly from a high quality public school education. As a student, yes, and also just as a citizen of Texas. Public school helps us all. It builds our society. Private school vouchers are taking from the poor to give to the wealthy. It's welfare for the rich. Rural and poor students will be left behind. Even the rich students will just see their tuition go up \$10,000. Terrible quality private schools will also sprout up. Private schools are held to no standards and many could provide subpar education. So these public funds are just lining the pockets of the private school owners. It is incredibly unfair and morally reprehensive. Please, please consider underprivileged children who will bear the brunt of greedy decisions. We don't have to do this. We can still work to improve Texas education in smart ways, and that is not through school vouchers. Thank you.

Erica Thompson

Self, parent

Richardson, TX

Vouchers serve only those wealthy enough to pay the difference between tuition costs and the voucher amount. Further, vouchers disadvantage students in rural counties and school districts. If vouchers must be a part of education funding in Texas, then the per-student value should match exactly the per-student amount applied to educate each public school aged child in Texas and should only be raised if public school funding per student is raised. Vouchers demonstrate the ever farther reaching grasp of Texas Republicans.

sally hunt
self
Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3, the largest and most expensive school voucher scheme ever proposed in Texas. This bill takes taxpayer dollars meant for public schools and redirects them to private schools that lack transparency, accountability, and equal access for all students.

Public tax dollars should support public schools, which serve every child, regardless of ability, income, or background. Texas lawmakers have not increased the basic per-student funding allotment for public schools since 2019, despite rising costs, inflation, and a record budget surplus. If there is money in the budget for education, our priority should be fully funding public schools first—ensuring teacher raises, better resources for students, and improvements to school infrastructure—before sending tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

Furthermore, HB 3 does not even prioritize the students who need the most support. It allows families already in private schools—including those making over \$200,000 per year—to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers. Wealthy families will get a discount on private school tuition while public schools lose funding, harming the vast majority of Texas students.

This bill also fails students with disabilities. While HB 3 offers larger voucher amounts for special education students, private schools are not required to accept them or provide the necessary services. Public schools are legally required to serve all children, yet HB 3 shifts funding away from them to schools that are not obligated to meet these needs.

Texas public schools educate more than 5.4 million students—far more than private institutions ever will. If we truly care about education, we should be investing in strong, well-funded public schools that serve everyone, rather than subsidizing private schools that can pick and choose their students.

HB 3 is bad for Texas families, bad for students, and bad for our public schools. I urge legislators to reject this costly and irresponsible voucher scheme and instead invest in fully funding public schools, raising teacher pay, and ensuring that every Texas child has access to a high-quality education.

Sincerely,
Sally Hunt
Austin, TX 78739

Katy Allred
self - archivist
Houston, TX

I strongly oppose my tax dollars being used for school vouchers. Our public schools are the ones that need funding, and public money shouldn't be used for private schools. This opens the door for corruption and misuse of funds. I also oppose my tax dollars potentially funding private religious schools, because while freedom of religion is an important tenant of our government, I shouldn't have to bankroll a religious agenda I oppose being used in private schools to misinform and indoctrinate them. Defunding public schools is part of an infuriating trend on the right to gut the few social safety nets we have left - the postal service, libraries, Social Security, etc. - in order to find a way to profit off these services. The government isn't supposed to profit off EVERYTHING. We pay taxes so that these services will be provided! There are some public services you are supposed to provide us with the tax dollar we pay you, and that includes public education! Well-resourced public schools will make Texas stronger. School vouchers are not the answer; funneling tax dollars into private schools at the expense of Texas students having access to good public schooling is wrong. I strongly oppose this attempt to once again undermine and defund public schools. Texas wants well-resourced public schools!

Kristi Arredondo

Self, Supervisory Director

New Braunfels, TX

I respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 I support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you for remembering you work for the people and not for private schools.

Autumn Lass

Self

Lubbock, TX

This bill is unpopular with public educators and home schoolers. It does not address the real concerns about education and instead puts public education and educators at an even bigger disadvantage. This bill in no way improves education or education access. Instead, it will continue to widen the gap between those who can afford private schools and who cannot AND widen education quality gap as public schools receive less and less funding. This bill will destroy the public schools of Texas - a system that most Texas children use.

Cammy Rais

Self

Coppell, TX

As a resident of Texas and the mother of Texas public school elementary student, I am strongly and irrevocably in opposition to the school choice voucher bill. Backed by millions of dollars from out-of-state billionaires, Greg Abbott ceaselessly pushes this idea on the residents of Texas, despite overwhelming opposition from the people who live here. School vouchers will not equalize anything. Private schools have no mandate to accept student who require extra support or special education services. Families who are barely getting by will still be unable to afford expensive private schools. Less than 100 counties in Texas even have a single private school. This scam is nothing more than an attempt to give yet another financial break to those who don't need it, and to backdoor our state back into segregation. This is disgusting and unacceptable.

Rather than passing an unconscionably expensive program that the state does not want, release the surplus of money that the state government is sitting on that is meant for our public schools. Fund our public schools. End of story. Pay our teachers, support our students with additional needs, help students in every county and every ISD flourish, no matter their economic status.

Shame on every representative who is pushing to pass this nightmare of a bill. The Texas education system is already near the bottom of the list for the nation; passing this bill will ensure that our quality of education does not rise anytime soon. Other states that I've passed these voucher scams should be proof enough of that.

I urge anyone with a conscience or even simply a mind for common sense: oppose this bill. Protect our students. Fund our public schools.

Craig Campbell

Retired self

Austin, TX

The program says it is only \$1 billion, but according to the Fiscal Note in five years it will be around \$7-8 billion.

The question about its impact on the Teacher Retirement Fund has been sketchy at best. It is unclear as to what the assumptions are and how they were arrived at. Previous Actuarial Impact Statements were carried out for 30 years in order to discourage the awarding of a COLA. In this case the powers that be did not want to show the impact over time, so they vaguely discussed there might be some impact in five or seven years. The major assumption is that there will be no more COLAS going forward. There are a half million retirees who have seen as much as 40% of their purchasing power eroded because of the lack of COLAs throughout this 21st century until last session. There are more steps to keep retirees off of food stamps and not one bill has been heard on this issue because retirees aren't billionaires.

It has been reported that we have a surplus, but in Washington there is a move to destroy the Department of Education. Around 20% of the funding for public schools comes from the Department of Education. This extra money may be needed to keep our schools open.

I don't know if you can vote on this by secret ballot or not, but please vote as if it were by secret ballot so that you are not voting because of fear of retaliation.

Susan Toombs

Self/retired

Victoria, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

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This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

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This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Thank you.

Lansing Brown
Self Teacher
Cypress, TX

No to Vouchers. We need to fully fund Texas public schools.

Nicole Lewis
Self
Pearland, TX

I'm a public school teacher, and this bill will only help help families who can afford it and will default public education. The majority of the families that will benefit from this bill is already in private school. The rich will get another break and our working class Americans, Texans will suffer. Please don't pass this bill.

Kevin Haubrick, Dr.
Self
Cypress, TX

If going to pass school vouchers, either raise the allotment to fund per pupil equal to the 10k or lower the value of voucher program to equal that of the allotment per pupil. The two should be equal. In addition, if the voucher is using public/tax funds, hold schools that receive public funds to the same academic requirements and standards ti that of public schools.

Justin Mintzer
self
Austin, TX

Dear Education committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I recommend the following changes:

1. Increase the basic allotment to \$7,500. This would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. Determine funding by enrollment, not attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively.
3. Tie funding to inflation. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. Ensure funding for all current and future mandates. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Justin Mintzer

Charley Rejsek
Self, CEO of BookPeople
Austin, TX

AGAINST HB 3. Please fully fund our public schools.

Heather Medley
Self
Shallowater, TX

Support our PUBLIC schools. They are for everyone. Do NOT support this bill

Melinda Kizer
Self/retired educator
Allen, TX

I'm against school vouchers. I think the public is being misled on the implications of this HB on both sides. As a citizen we are entitled to a free public education. Already stretched school budgets will have to make even more significant cuts to vital services, weakening our workforce. A voucher will not pay a full tuition, most people seem to misunderstand this. Our family paid for private school for one of our children because we thought it was best for him at the time. It was a struggle, but it was our choice. We didn't expect anyone else to pay for it, I went back to work full time to support the expense. At a time we need to band together, I feel this will separate us. I am strongly against this Bill

Lisa Mayo, Ms.
Ingram Elementary ISD
Comfort, TX

Parents already have school choice. This bill is to provide for the parents that already send their students to private schools. Meanwhile, you will take money away from the public system. Texas already ranks in the bottom 10 in per-student public education funding. Lawmakers should focus on improving the funding disparities in our current system before implementing a new, private system. If a voucher is passed, our district will lose \$532,915, meaning we would have to cut nine teachers, raising the student teacher ratio by almost 6%. As a 40 year Texas educator, I have watched students leave the public school system for private settings and, in most cases, returned to the public system farther behind. Our staff members meet students where they are and work hard to grow everyone. We have already lost staff members because funds have been withheld from the public setting. What a shame for kids?! Please do not vote for the voucher.

George Economos
Myself
Austin, TX

Vouchers are a waste of resources. Rural and urban alike, Texans want to see funding go to our public schools. God bless our great state.

Lysbeth Miller
self
Austin, TX

school vouchers are something we cannot afford and this will come at the expense of public education. Public education should be supported by government and should be good enough to appeal to all of society. An educated population is more productive. There would be a marked reduction in public school students, increasing the cost of public education even further.

Stephanie Genzer
Self: public school teacher
Jersey Village, TX

I am NOT in support of this bill. No vouchers.

Kenneth Williams

Self

San Antonio, TX

I think it is a waste of resources on this voucher plan. Why are we subsidizing the prominent few who will be able to utilize them. Even with vouchers the poorest among us still won't be able to have enough resources to pay the rest. The only time the private schools want the poor is to have them on the field or the courts. Instead put those resources into avenues that help the masses. This is a supplemental scheme for the wealthy financed by the masses. Why are the powers that be trying to destroy the educational domains of the ones that need it the most? The hate on the average citizen is shameful. Those are my thoughts but we know you cajole and manipulate the system until you get the outcome you desire and the rest of us have to maneuver and survive as best we can. If you fix the schools correctly and put equal beneficial assets for all there would be no reason for vouchers. This bill is just a gift to those that already have enough.

Catherine Begley

Self

Lewisville, TX

Hello, my name is Catherine Begley. I live in Lewisville Texas. I am a mother to two children, ages 1 and 3. I am already thinking about two years from now and sending my oldest to Kindergarten and am terrified at what that may look like as of right now if public school funds are siphoned due to the passing of HB3. It should be a gleeful and exciting time to think about - I had the most amazing education and schools growing up in Austin, Texas. So many of my favorite childhood memories are centered around my elementary, middle, and high school. I so desperately want that for my children as well. They deserve that. And that means having the funds to properly educate them.

I am AGAINST HB3. I wholeheartedly think that public schools need the maximum funding allowed to ensure the proper and rightful education of our children. My children's and so many others future and education depends on it!

I implore the committee to oppose this bill. Thank you so much for your time.

Signed,

A concerned mother who wants the best possible public school life for her children in 2 short years.

Catherine Begley

Kathryn Lawson

Self

Krum, TX

I homeschool and am OPPOSED to this bill.

Michael Casarez

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this attack on public education. Fund public schools, keep private schools out of taxpayer funds.

Karen Kaspar, Dr

Self

Bryan, TX

I am against the education savings account. I also realize that it is likely that it will pass. In the event that public tax dollars go to the education savings account, then ANY and ALL schools that accept the funding should follow the same accountability and expectations that public schools are held accountable for. Additionally, schools should provide all services that public schools provide - special education and bilingual. Schools that accept the students with ESAs should not be "kicked out" for discipline reasons and should provide DAEP placements and interventions as public schools are required. Any security measures that public schools have been required to put in place with very limited, insufficient funding should also be required of schools that accept funding.

Public schools need current day funding. The same funding has been in place since 2019. We would happily just take an increase equal to inflation. Funding should also be based on enrollment and not attendance. We have to have all of these services in place and we don't alter what is provided based on our attendance rate.

It honestly just doesn't make sense why government representatives would treat public schools the way they do. The better our public schools, the better our communities will be and the better our next generation will be to continue keeping Texas the best state in the nation.

Faith Johnson

Self

Abilene, TX

Vote NO

Allyson Roylance

Self

Conroe, TX

This is against everything education should be. I will not have my taxes be sent to more billionaires. You have defunded schools and now you expect us to fund religious and private schools? Absolutely not. My taxes are meant for secular public schools. Pay your teachers more. Stop forcing religion onto our children. Do your job and protect every single child's right to education.

anna cutter

self, recruiter

austin, TX

I oppose the bill. I do not want school vouchers

Shana Strange

Self

Silverton, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Kara Jackson

Self, Registered Nurse

Austin, TX

As a former public school teacher and current mother of two children (one of which attends a public school here in Austin), I have strong feelings regarding vouchers. I strongly oppose this bill. There's just a blatant disregard for what Texans have said they DO NOT WANT multiple different times. We have voted it down and now we are being forced into it anyway. Any time someone (a Democrat) tries to advocate for reasonable amendments that at least even the playing field somewhat for public schools, it's just a hard pass with no explanation. You want to give MORE money for students to go elsewhere than a student in a public gets? Texan children have been robbed for years of funding. Then y'all (Republican law makers) turn around and are saying "Oh, look, our schools are failing. Let's refuse to invest in our kids further and give our money to private companies." And then y'all are blaming teachers! I get that y'all think that you're smarter than the general public (you're not smart, you're conniving) and you can just do whatever and say that you're doing what you were elected to do, but it's clear that essentially nobody except Republican law makers want vouchers. Teachers don't want them. Parents don't want them. Taxpayers without children don't want them. I know exactly zero people in my personal life, professional life, family, friends, strangers at school pick-up, friends with children currently attending private school that have said vouchers are an idea that they support. Texans do not want vouchers. We have voted on it. We don't want it. I can't say it enough, Texans don't want our money spent this way. None of us. I'm tempted to just keep typing Texans don't want vouchers until I hit the character limit on this comment, but y'all get the point. I would be interested to know if there are actually people writing in with passionate messages supporting this scam. I have seen none, so I'm guessing there aren't any. Because TEXANS DON'T WANT VOUCHERS.

Shelley Newton, Mrs.

Self

Azle, TX

VOTE NO TO VOUCHERS!

Lindsey Herring

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

Stop the Voucher Scam—Protect Texas Public Schools

Legislators, vote NO on HB3 (ESA Bill). Texans have been sold a voucher scam—one that won't help most families but will hurt millions of public school students. With 5.5 million kids in Texas public schools, only a fraction would even qualify for a voucher, and even fewer would get the full amount advertised. Meanwhile, every public school will suffer as funding is drained away.

Vouchers Are a Bait-and-Switch

This isn't about "school choice." Parents already have choices—charter schools, transfers, homeschooling, and private schools. But vouchers don't guarantee access to a better education. Instead, they:

- ? Only benefit a select few—most families won't qualify
- ? Don't cover full tuition—leaving parents to pay thousands out-of-pocket
- ? Let private schools reject students—turning away kids based on income, ability, or beliefs
- ? Have zero accountability—no academic standards, no taxpayer transparency

If public schools are required to educate every child and be held to strict accountability, why should private schools get public money without the same rules?

Public Schools Serve Every Child—Private Schools Don't

Texas public schools must:

- ? Accept and educate every student
- ? Follow state curriculum standards
- ? Report academic progress
- ? Provide services for students with disabilities

Private schools taking vouchers can:

- ? Pick and choose which students they accept
- ? Ignore state curriculum and testing
- ? Keep their finances hidden from taxpayers
- ? Deny services to students with special needs

Voucher programs claim to help kids with disabilities—but private schools aren't required to serve them. If a child with special needs takes a voucher, they lose their federal protections under IDEA, meaning they can be expelled or denied services at any time. That's not a real choice.

The Real Solution: Fully Fund Public Schools

Instead of wasting tax dollars on unregulated private school handouts, Texas should:

- ? Increase teacher pay so we can keep great educators
- ? Reduce class sizes to help students succeed
- ? Fund mental health services to support kids and families
- ? Invest in strong public schools that serve all Texas students

Vouchers don't fix education—they weaken it for everyone except a privileged few. Texans deserve better. HB3 is a bad deal for kids, families, and taxpayers. Vote NO.

Brenda Speed

Self

Plano, TX

Public school teacher here, everyone is entitled to a free education. What you are doing to public education is shameful. Y'all who support this need to be voted out ASAP.

Robert Dennison

Self

Houston, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 3 and can't believe any individual who truly cares about public education in Texas would ever vote in favor of this bill. I, and thousands of my friends, will work as hard as possible to make sure anyone voting in favor of this bill is never again elected to office in our great state. And conversely we will strongly advocate in favor of those who vote against HB3. Please fulfil l your duty to ALL students in Texas and vote against HB3. Thank you.

Terry Thornton

Myself

Farmers Brnch, TX

The voucher program would decimate public schools and my special education students-I have 2- would suffer even more. Please don't do this

Bridget McDaniel

Citizen

Magnolia, TX

School vouchers fund public education. I am against it his bill. Please defeat this bill and vote for the good of all of our children in T x

Stacy Arnold

self

San Angelo, TX

I think the voucher program for private schools is a terrible idea. Especially since it'll still short change low income families.

Audrey Bauer

Self

Rockwall, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a Texans, whose children are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Barbara Passmore

Self

Austin, TX

Keep funds for public education at public schools. Texas kids deserve to learn in safe environments and stripping their schools even further will do nothing but harm now and for decades to come.

Minda Lopez

Self

San Marcos, TX

I do not support the vouchers program that is proposed in this bill. It is not in the best interest of Texas. It will negatively impact our future and the strong public education system that is key to society. Keep church and state separate. Do not give my tax money to religious private schools..

Carol Glover
Self retired
Olney, TX

I strongly oppose Education Savings Accounts, Vouchers, School Choice, Parent Choice, or whatever is the buzzword of the day for taking my tax dollars and giving them to private and charter schools. In my rural town there is no private/charter school, ONLY a public school to which I want my tax dollars to support. The Texas Constitution requires the state to adequately fund the public schools. I expect the governor and legislators to do that. Our public school is the heart of our rural town of Olney. Don't hurt our school and our town. Thank you.

Alisa Saavedra
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

This misuse of taxpayer dollars drains resources from public schools, reducing funding for teachers, special education programs, and critical services that support all students. Every Texas public school should be a place of excellence, not just those in affluent areas. Establishing educational savings accounts and expanding voucher programs will only deepen the divide between wealth and opportunity, further disadvantaging the students who need support the most.

Bonnie Downing
Self
Dallas, TX

As a 7th generation Texan, product and supporter of public schools, and parent of children with different talents, abilities, and needs that are served well in their public school, I beg you to vote against this measure that would take much-needed funds from the public schools that must serve every child and give it to private schools that can turn anyone away.

Eileen Tollett, Dr.
Self
Allen, TX

Absolutely against this bill. Terrible misuse of funds.

Isabella Guevara
Dickinson High School
Dickinson, TX

I'm a senior at Dickinson high school, yes this may be my last year but still I would like my younger sibling and other people to get the education they want and need. If they defunded our schools then we are in big trouble and I will be very VERY disappointed in my representatives for not fighting to keep our schools funded. Teachers don't get paid enough for their hard work and having to deal with hundreds of kids every single day. Please fight for what's right, and keep funding schools.

Suzy Hunter
Self
Cypress, TX

We do not want vouchers! We want fully funded public schools with librarians and transportation. We want to educate all Texas children.

Eleine Vence
Cornerstone PTA
Houston, TX

Dear Members of the House,

I respectfully oppose to this bill. I believe in strengthening public education as a democracy tool. We should keep people in Texas educated and assure prosperity. Please keep our public school funded. That's the way to help the vast majority of your constituents. I hope you do what's better for us.

Thanks,

Eleine Vence

Naphtali Buchwald, Rabbi
self
Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Kimberly Klepcyk
Self
New Caney, TX

As a retired educator and a lifelong advocate of public schools I urge you to oppose these bills. These bills do not provide an adequate increase in the basic allotment to even keep up with inflation. Instead, the bill will divert the funds that should be going into our public school system in to a voucher / ESA system that diverts our public tax dollars into private schools. This is not a fiscally conservative bill. It is opposed by the Republican majority that makes up our school districts' constituency. I object to the premise of public tax dollars going to fund private institutions. It would be absurd for me to ask that my public tax dollars follow my child to pay my country club membership because I prefer that over the public parks, and it is equally absurd to expect that public tax dollars be allowed to flow to private institutions because that is what an individual taxpayer prefers. That's not how systems that benefit the public good work, and you all know that. It is clear that in the last few legislative sessions, the legislature has neglected to adequately fund our public schools in favor of this voucher scam supported by the Governor and his wealthy donors. Texas Republicans and Democrats alike oppose these vouchers. I dare say that if you all don't find the courage to oppose this, it will be at your own peril.

Gina Jerram
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Kimberley Wheeler
Self
Bonham, TX

Do not pass.

Quinita Ogletree

Na

Houston, TX

Please vote no to ESAs. Vouchers will not help promote public education.

Marie Hill

Self

Allen, TX

I am against school vouchers. Use the excess money in the rainy day fund to invest in the Texas school system and teachers. Our goal should be a state in the top that has the best education system. Vouchers are not fair. How many private schools do you see in low income areas or small towns. Vouchers will only benefit the wealthy who already have the money to send their kids to private schools. Why can't the voters of Texas vote on this item?

Holly Bianchetta

Self

Anna, TX

I cannot and do not support this bill. It takes critical funds from our public schools and gives it to a limited number of private school families that DO NOT NEED it. Furthermore, many districts and counties in Texas do not even have a private school "choice" so it actually would not be a choice for many, many families.

Colleen Ketchum

Self

Austin, TX

Good public education is the bedrock of America. I was a public school kid and my life was immeasurably changed by having kind, passionate teachers. Texas should be doing more to ensure the maintenance, support, and preservation of our public schools and workforce. This starts with better pay and benefits for teachers, administrators, and staff. This also means investing in technology and infrastructure resources. There are critical budget shortfalls in districts across the state, and we are wasting time and money with this voucher scheme. Private school families can continue to send their children to private schools, but public schools should not be shortchanged under the guise of "school choice". We urgently need to fund public schools to improve access to quality education for ALL students, regardless of geography, income, or other factors.

Anna Jackson

Self

Shallowater, TX

As an educator with 33 years of experience married to another educator with 38 years, I strongly oppose HB3 and the shifting of public funds to private education. This system will negatively impact the students it should serve. Shifting tax dollars to subsidize private or home-school education leaves fewer resources for public schools, widening the gap in educational opportunities. It will negatively affect vulnerable students who rely on public education the most. Programs for students with special needs will not receive the resources necessary and private schools will have no obligation to serve them.

It has been stated the TRS system will be unsustainable which is a concern for a family of educators who have served diligently. Lack of accountability for private, charter, and homeschools is a concern especially in light of the overemphasis of this in public schools.

Public dollars should be used to 1) equitably fund public schools, 2) increase teacher salaries to help address teacher shortages (and TIA that only serves 25,000 of over 300,000 educators is NOT the solution), 3) invest in special programs to service students well.

Finally, evidence from other states does not demonstrate this system to be the positive solution we need to educate our most valuable resource.

There is not the high level of public support that the politicians continue to claim. The masses rather than the elite wealthy (especially not even from our state) should drive this decision. In fact, I fear that approval of this bill will actually jeopardize the future of our red state as 1.25 million current and retired educators express their displeasure in future elections.

Crystal Gillespie Kinsley

self

Arlington, TX

As a Texas public school graduate, as well as the parent of a Texas public school graduate, I am both appalled and ashamed that this is even being considered. This bill greatly benefits families who already have the money to pay for private school, and will hurt our public schools. Welfare for wealthy Texans.

JoAnn Jolley, Mrs.

Self

Amarillo, TX

I believe in public education. No public funds should go to private schools.

Catherine Van Der Kar

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose the establishment of an education savings account program that supposedly allows school choice. I do not believe allocating funds towards private schools is appropriate or beneficial to the majority of children in public schools. This is robbing much needed funds from public schools. It will not equally benefit all Texas students, especially those who have no access to private schools such as those in rural areas. This is a scam to benefit the few who can already afford the private tuitions and does nothing to help the majority of students who rely on their public schools for education. I cannot agree with sending funds to private institutions before funding our public schools which need better facilities, more educators, more tutoring programs and better pay to support the hiring of good teachers and maintaining the teachers currently employed.

Maria Young

Self , hairstylist

Mcallen, TX

I am a Texan parent very disturbed, disheartened and angry by this voucher program that this new administration is attempting to pass. No public schools are going to thrive without the federal funding that instead will be provided to the private schools. The majority of Texas kids attend public schools. We demand that our kids get the education they deserve. No,No, No!!!!

Stacy Bristow, Teacher

Self/Teacher

Clyde, TX

Please consider those who have dedicated their lives to educating students in the public school system. Most public educators have not received an increase in salary for quite some time. In addition, this profession in the state of Texas is one of the lowest paying but requires a degree(s).

With the current state of the economy, many educators are working additional jobs to provide for their families. Those who have student debt have that additional expense. There are wonderful educators leaving a profession they felt called to just so they can pay their bills. It is disheartening!

I fear the option of school choice that is being considered would be a disservice to both educators and students. Funding would not be sufficient in either option and our children's education would suffer. I fear parents may choose to homeschool their children but the lack of accountability would result in students not receiving a quality education. The choice of private school is limited to certain areas and the additional cost of tuition will be the responsibility of the parents (many who would be unable to pay). I am concerned that these options have not been presented in a way that exposes the various impacts to education as a whole. If vouchers pass it will have a negative impact on all forms of education due to inadequate funding. PLEASE vote no vouchers!!!!

Megan Villarreal, Mrs.

Self

Georgetown, TX

I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH HB3.

I am a former public school teacher. I stopped working to have my children. I taught 9 years all in title 1 schools. Do you know how many of my students this voucher scam would benefit? ZERO!! Do you know how many it would HARM? 100%

*Private schools can deny service to anyone and don't have to accommodate anyone they don't want to.

I am a strong Christian and believe this voucher is the most Un-Christlike thing to do. We are to serve and fight for the "least of these."

I plan to go back to teaching in the next year and feel called to the classroom . I obviously am not doing it of the money. Teachers are paid a small amount for what we do.

If this bill passes it will bankrupt our already underfunded schools.

TEXANS ARE NOT FOR VOUCHERS!!!!

Renee Joyal

Self

Georgetown, TX

OPPOSE!

Shannon Mickelson

Self and Family RN Educator

Buda, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the constitution law.

Jessica Gorman

Mother

Austin, TX

I'm strongly opposed to this voucher bill because it will take away much needed funding from our public schools. I have three children who attend a public school and we've been very happy with the teachers and principal. They are so dedicated to the children and we feel that their resources are too limited as it is. Texas is 49th in the nation in terms of dollars spent per student. That is unacceptable. Please do not defund our schools and then propose taking even more money from public education as a solution to the problem that the legislature created.

Ouaes Jamali

self

Boerne, TX

I strongly oppose any attempt to dilute the public education system in Texas. The lawmakers need to be supporting public education system by increasing the funding and also increasing the pay for the teachers in the public schools who are the foundation of academic excellence in our state.

Stephanie Hyde

Self

San Antonio, TX

VOTE NO!!

Suzanne Glaser

self/teacher

Austin, TX

I am a Texas public school educator and my child attends public school. I am morally opposed to my tax dollars being used to fund private education and 100% do NOT support the voucher bill. Additionally, public schools are bound by a wide range of rules and restrictions, and if we feel that these rules and restrictions are important, then private schools should be bound by them as well in order to receive public funds. If these rules and restrictions are NOT important, then they should be optional for our public school districts to follow. Thank you for your time.

Erika Collazo

Self

Seguin, TX

This bill is complete nonsense. Parents have always had a choice. My parents chose to send me to Catholic school and they paid for it because it was their choice. If vouchers go to private and charter schools then those children should get the exact amount the public schools get for each child. They should have to take the STAAR test like public schools and abide by the same rules and regulations. This should have been put on the ballot and let the people actually decide, but Abbott knows it would not pass so he is doing whatever it takes to get it passed. Got to keep those donors happy.

Lauri Wiss, Taxpayer
 Self,retired
 Commerce, TX

Hunt County	Enrollment	Total Revenues Per student/State	Expenditure Per student/State.
Bland.	794	15,633/ 8649 (55%)	12,373
Boles.	529.	20,853/14,658 (70%).	15,136
Caddo Mills.	2,227.	14,446/ 6,707 (46%)	10,488
Campbell.	287 .	19,066/. 9,759 (51%).	14,835
Celeste.	524.	18,433/ 10,612.(58%).	14,348
Commerce.	1,559	26,912/. 7,567 (45%).	15,589
Greenville.	5,418	25,218/ 4,649. (33%).	13,251
Lone Oak.	1,146.	16,251/. 8,343 (51%).	16,578
Royse City.	9,371.	13,501/ 5,808. (43%).	10,520
Quinlan.	2,889	13,967/. 6,142. (44%).	13,062
Wolfe City.	720	17,334/ 10,541 (61%).	22,228

Total revenue is the combined federal,state and local revenues with the per student share given by the state, The percentage shows what the state share is out of the total student share.

Total expenditures per student share of total expenditures.

The fiscal data is from the National Center of Educational Statistics,

National Center of Educational Statistics (Fiscal Data 2031-2022)

The chart above shows what the State of Texas paid as its share of the revenues for a school district.

The expenditures show that \$10,000 will not be sufficient to keep the school district running.

There is no cost of living either.

The chart shows that without the federal and local share, the districts can't pay basic bills.

HB 3 is devastating to the public school district. Inflation has hit the school districts and it is hard to do more with less.

Consider what will replace the TAAS/STAR test. What test will show the categories of knowledge needed to receive a high school diploma? If an SAT/ACT is used what is considered a passing score?

Is special education ungraded?

Lauri Wiss
 5307 County Road 4705
 Commerce Tx 75428.

Kendall KROHN

Self

Plano, TX

This bill only benefits the rich. Not everyone even has access to a private school whether they could afford it or not.

Corey Seifert

Self, engineer

Austin, TX

Education savings accounts are another ploy at taking critical funding by from public education. Private schools are not required to admit any students, including those with learning disabilities. Moving funding from schools that must educate all, to schools that can choose to only educate some is in no way parents' choice which y'all have been touting as "school choice". You are giving MY choice as a parent to schools that make their own rules. If our legislators appropriately funded public schools instead of filling their coffers in the name of "recapture", perhaps this wouldn't be such a problem. But you are bleeding our neighborhood schools dry, depriving our children of the education they deserve. It's shameful.

Eleasia Lewis

Self

Dallas, TX

NO to savings accounts to allow public tax dollars to be used for private schools!!! It's a scam and is not beneficial to the public good!!!

Anna Buford

Mclaughlin Strickland Elementary Carrollton and Self

Farmers Branch, TX

Public school students matter. Us parents in DISD, PISD, RISD, CFBISD and many more don't want school vouchers. Our kids matter. All public school students matters. School vouchers area form of discrimination and will hurt our Texas students, teachers and families.

Alexis Kamen

Self

Austin, TX

No vouchers for Texas! They hurt our public schools. Taxpayer dollars for public schools.

David Husen

My self (staff engineer) and my children

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Benjamin Vargas

Self

Conroe, TX

“Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As Taxpayer and supporter of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.”

Katherine Forrest

Public school teacher - Whitehouse ISD and parent

Tyler, TX

I do NOT support this bill! The fact that you all are having to PUSH and PUSH should tell you everything you need to know. When an ESA account will only be available for a tiny fraction of the millions of students in Texas, there is nothing you can say to me that doesn't make me believe this HAS everything to do with donor money and NOTHING to do with truly caring about Texas families, students, and communities. The outright nasty and horrible picture you all have happily helped paint about public schools and teachers is vile! PUBLIC SCHOOLS and their teachers work tirelessly for little to no thanks from the state. We are made to look like villains for your political gain. You all stand there and SAY nothing to support or refute those statements. As a public school teacher with many students transferring from private schools, all we see are students so far behind. Not better. Not more prepared. Not given nearly the resources or programming we offer to our students freely!!!! I have been an educator for almost 20 years. My whole heart, life, and purpose has been to teach. Improve my community. Be everything my students and families need. You want to give money to send them to a school they cannot afford even with the voucher. You know this. I know this. All of this will absolutely negatively affect public schools - the real backbone of communities.

Jessi Heiner

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose vouchers. Please vote no to HB3. As a long-time volunteer in Houston ISD public schools, the takeover of HISD has already done irreparable damage. Absolutely no public tax dollars should be used to subsidize the wealthy to attend private schools while our public schools are underfunded and starving for resources. A more educated society is a thriving society. A rising tide raises all boats. The better our public schools are, the better all of our quality of life is, including better health, lower crime, and a better economy. Please don't fall for the voucher scam. Save public schools. Vote no on HB3.

Kayla Parker
Self
Sugar Land, TX

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This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Heather McCarthy

Self- teacher

Dripping Springs, TX

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This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Amy Zuniga

Self

Garland, TX

I am not in favor of vouchers as public money should be spent on public schools who must offer an education to all students, by law, and who are held accountable by standardized testing. I support a bill that fully funds our public schools so they have the resources to educate texas students.

Sara Hemenway
Self
Round Rock, TX

The voucher program is not a boon to our state. It limits the resources and values of the majority of our citizens. Many of us have given our working life to public education and have also worked in private/charter schools. We value the community impact of public education and the ability of public schools to welcome all students and their families in our doors. We need better funding in public education, we don't need private entities who get to make rules up on the fly. The education savings account program will strip our state of valuable resources and put us even farther behind. Vouchers are bad for communities and worse for students. Effectively it passes, you're telling generations of Texans all their work and dedication was pointless. Fund public education and the values of our state.

Hoimonti Pal
Self
Austin, TX

As a voter and a parent, I want public funds for public schools. I pay taxes not for private education but for public schools. In fact the majority of Texans do not want the vouchers to pass. This is stealing if it passes.

Stephanie Murphy, Mrs.
Self, Home educator
Conroe, TX

Texas don't want vouchers, we want more robust funding for public schools and more pay and support for educators. Over half of all Texans live paycheck to paycheck and vouchers wouldn't be enough to give them the school choice they claim it would. As a home educator, I am concerned how the establishment of an ESA program would affect my freedom to school as I see fit. I don't know a single Texan on either side of the aisle who wants this. I urge you all to listen to your constituents and not pass this ridiculous farce of a bill.

Loretta Valdez
Self
Mission, TX

I support this bill

Lauren Lee
self - quality assurance analyst
San Antonio, TX

Texas educators and Texas families will not benefit from this bill

Cathy Hollenbeck, Mrs.
self
Cedar Park, TX

I Do Not support HB 3 and respectfully ask that the Texas legislative branch votes No for HB3. I am a retired public and private school teacher who has served the Austin community for years and passing this bill will hurt both public education and future TRS retirement payments. The wealthy, private school families and schools do not need or deserve vouchers. They made a choice to education their children elsewhere and with that choice comes additional expenses. Please Do Not take money away from public education to subsidize private schools/education.

Jessica Brooker

Self/Texas Public School Teacher

KELLER, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 and vouchers, and education savings accounts, in any form, by any name. I want the legislature to vote to fully fund Texas public schools.

Caitlyn Scrogin

Self

Wimberley, TX

I fully support a parent's right to choose the best education for their child because no one knows a child's needs better than their own family. However, diverting public education funds to expand 'school choice'—especially when private school tuition often exceeds \$10,000 per year—is deeply flawed. Many children rely on public schools simply because they have no other option, whether due to geography, special education needs, or other circumstances.

Public funds should be used to strengthen public schools, not subsidize private institutions that can set their own admission criteria. Private schools should remain privately funded, ensuring that taxpayer dollars serve all students, not just those who can afford to supplement a voucher.

Stephanie Durbin

Self, Teacher Assistant

Austin, TX

Vouchers, or "Choice" would be a huge downfall to our public education system.

The current teacher retirement system depends on current teachers supporting retired teachers. As more public schools close so people can take advantage of government handouts to move to private schools, fewer teachers will be paying into TRS, destabilizing it for current and future retirees.

Vouchers silence parents

Vouchers are a sleight-of-hand, trading some pretend idea of Choice for our actual Voice. Parental empowerment is about having a Voice in our child's education. They're ignoring that and pretending parental empowerment is about Choice. But we already have Choice and private and religious schools are the ones with choice when it comes to taking our children. The only education system where parents have a voice is the public one. We elect our school board, we have input on their decisions, and we have a voice on our campuses and districts through our advisory committees. Vouchers are an attempt to silence parents, not empower them.

Nallely Aparicio

Self

Donna, TX

I support School choice!

Alejos Salazar, Dr.
Self-superintendent of schools
Harlingen, TX

As the superintendent of Lasara ISD, I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3 due to its harmful impact on public school funding. Proponents claim that Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) do not divert money away from public education, but this is simply not true. HB 3 redirects \$1 billion in taxpayer funds that could and should be invested in Texas public schools—where over 5 million students are educated.

Public education in Texas is already underfunded, and this significant loss of funding will directly affect the resources available to our students. These diverted funds could be used to support teacher salaries, student intervention programs, special education services, mental health resources, early literacy initiatives, and college and career readiness programs. Instead, HB 3 proposes to shift those dollars to private education providers that do not serve all students and are not subject to the same accountability standards as public schools.

Furthermore, Texas public schools serve every child, regardless of their economic status, learning needs, or geographic location. When public schools lose funding due to policies like HB 3, it exacerbates inequities and disproportionately harms students in rural and lower-income communities—where private school options are extremely limited or nonexistent.

Rather than diverting essential resources, Texas leaders should focus on fully funding our public schools and making targeted investments that have a direct impact on student success. Ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality, well-resourced public education should be the state's top priority.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3 and instead support policies that strengthen, rather than undermine, our Texas public schools. Thank you for your time and your commitment to the future of our students and our communities.

Donna Bowles
Myself
Lubbock, TX

Funding should only be for public schools. Private schools who take state funding are sellouts to their patrons. GET RID OF TESTING. LOCAL SCHOOLS KNOW WHAT TO DO. Retired Texas Principal.

Katherine Strickland
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3. School choice will undermine our already underfunded public school system. My mother worked as a public school teacher for over 30 years. She was a dedicated teacher and had a positive impact on many Texas children's lives.

We need to protect the public school system that makes Texas a great place to raise.

Christina Baugher
Self
Austin, TX

OPPOSE THIS BILL. DON'T TAKE MONEY OUT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND GIVE TO THE WEALTHY.

Anthony Saenz
Self - Educator 6-12
Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Gittel Francis

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Stephanie BROWN

Self - parent of two public elementary school students

Austin, TX

I am a parent of two elementary school children attending public schools in Austin ISD. I am against HB3. This is not school choice. Parents already have the option to apply for their child to attend private schools and receive financial aid from the school if needed. This does not provide any student a greater opportunity for a quality education. Instead it removes funding from already underfunded Texas public schools that are currently educating 5.5 million Texas children. Research on vouchers have shown a drain on state budgets, increases in classes sizes and a decrease in resources including counselors, nurses and books in public schools. If the goal is to truly support Texas children and their education, Texas lawmakers should be prioritizing funding public education. This includes, at a minimum, adding state funding to get Texas up to 2019 spending levels (taking in account the end of Covid funding). I hear lawmakers say how rich this state is, yet we fund our children's education well below the average in our country. Below average. 73% of Texas school districts are underfunded. If you truly want to provide a quality education for Texas children and support educators, increase the basic allotment to increase teacher retention and have smaller class sizes and a safer classroom. Do not give this much needed funding to private schools with no transparency or requirements to serve all children.

I ask you all to not support this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Santiago Hernandez Jr., Mr.

self

Austin, TX

Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) have been marketed as a solution to expand school choice in Texas, but in reality, they threaten the state's public education system. While proponents argue that ESAs empower parents by allowing public funds for private schooling, homeschooling, and other educational expenses, the policy raises serious concerns about funding equity, accountability, and long-term consequences for students and communities. Instead of improving education for all Texas students, ESAs risk undermining the very foundation of public education by diverting resources, exacerbating inequality, and reducing oversight.

Instead of using taxpayer money to subsidize private education for a few families, Texas should strengthen its public schools by increasing teacher pay, investing in classroom resources, and expanding student support services. Public education is meant to serve all students, and diverting funds to ESAs only weakens its ability to do so effectively.

Rather than fragmenting education, Texas should focus on strengthening public schools so that every child, regardless of background or zip code, has access to a high-quality education. Policies should be centered on improving teacher retention, expanding academic programs, and addressing funding disparities—efforts that benefit all students rather than just a privileged few.

John Bailey
Self retired
Ben Wheeler, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Jessica Kilgore
Self
Carrollton, TX

I have kids in Texas public schools and am a product of Texas public schools, and I am extremely discouraged and angry about HB3.

For too long, the leaders at the state level have done nothing to help public schools. It is insane to me that there has not been a per-student allotment increase in state funding since 2019, considering the amount of inflation that has occurred in the last several years.

And now, another attack on public education by our state leaders. Instead of adequately funding public schools, the state wants to provide money to those making a choice to not send their students to public school, at the expense of our public education system.

I have several issues with the new bill.

First, I am extremely uncomfortable with the number of billionaires that are supporting this bill and contributing money to our governor to get the bill passed, even some who do not live in our state. Some of these billionaires own companies that could potentially serve as administrators of the voucher funding. This is a huge conflict of interest, and should be investigated.

Next, there have been several states that have moved to this voucher system, and are now having issues with funding the program. The costs have ballooned out of control. And in these same states (such as Arizona), it has been found as many as 70% of students benefiting from these vouchers were already attending private school, and could afford the cost without the voucher. It does not seem fiscally responsible as a state to fund a program that will cause our state to eventually not be able to afford our expenses.

Next, 158 out of 254 counties in our state do NOT have a private school option. So, how is this bill really promoting school choice when it's only available to the population in less than 40% of the counties in our state?

Based on the State's own actuarial report, the school voucher program is putting our Teacher Retirement System funds in danger. Teachers are already saddled with low salaries and terrible (yet expensive) insurance. I have never understood why teachers cannot have the same ERS insurance benefits that other government employees are provided. And now, with this bill, their retirement is in danger. If you want to know why GOOD teachers are leaving the profession in Texas, it is because the state continually acts in ways to devalue teachers.

All around in our state, public school districts are having conversations about hard choices for next year -- whether to close schools, increase classroom student numbers, and reduce staff. Yet, the leaders in our state do NOTHING to help any of these situations. Instead, they want to pass vouchers that will only harm public education, and refuse to fully fund our public schools. Just look at our low student funding numbers in comparison to most other states. It is embarrassing. We should value Texans more than that! Clearly the public doesn't want this bill, but at least do right with funding.

Sofia Barreto
Self
Highland Vlg, TX

The tax money should go to public education only

Katie Fargen
Self
Allen, TX

School vouchers will make education a for profit system and public schools will suffer. TEXAS ALREADY HAS A LOW EDUCATION RATE. DONT MAKE IT WORSE. LOOK AT STATES LIKE MASSACHUSETTS FOR REFORM!

Amy Foster
Self
San Saba, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. In my rural area, there will be no benefit to the students of San Saba, Texas based on this bill, and a potential for a huge amount of harm. The legislature has already failed to fully fund Texas public schools and the impact of that poor public policy decision can already been seen; for example, San Saba ISD did not fill the position of high school librarian after the prior staff member retired. It is a sad state of affairs for a school not to have a school librarian. Several times in the past few weeks, I've heard Chairman Buckley speak about Oak Creek Academy, a private school in Killeen, Texas, as an important option for students with disabilities - ignoring the fact that Oak Creek Academy does not require certified teachers, does not have a curriculum, places students with vastly different age ranges in the same classroom (such as a 6 year old with a 13 year old) and is located in a building closed by Killeen ISD due to the age and decrepit status of the elementary school. OCA would not be required to accept any given applicant, and does not have to meet any state assessment testing requirement or follow any accountability measures. It is deceptive to claim that this is an improvement or even a similar setting for any student. It is fine for a parent to make that choice, but it is inappropriate and poor public policy to use our tax dollars to do so. I am also deeply concerned about the aspect of this bill that would continue to require ISDs to provide the initial evaluations for consideration of a student to qualify for services under the IDEA, and the requirement that public schools would have to conduct the ARD meetings to craft the IEPs in order to determine the amount of services allocated up to \$30,000. It is very easy to see the impact of this provision: then the ISDs would still be responsible for the evaluations, and the voucher amount for each kid would be determined by the amount of services the ARD committee would allocate for FAPE up to \$30,000 - which means parents would be coming to public schools and fighting like hell for more services to run up the cost of the voucher amount, regardless of the actual needs of the student.

So, a lot more work without funding for special education staff to hold ARD meetings for kids not enrolled, and the check on abuse on the amount of funding would be contentious ARD committees refusing to allocate extra services at parent request to justify a larger voucher payment. Either districts draw a line for the public good, and at the bare minimum have to hold extra meetings, but also likely will also spark more Independent Educational Evaluation requests, complaints and litigation, or just school staff will agree to whatever the parents want and let the worst people with no morals get away with basic fraud. While I wholeheartedly believe this entire concept is bad, this in particular is a poorly considered provision. Fund ISDs first, then maybe pursue vouchers.

Tresa Hawkins Fedornak
TRTA
Wolfforth, TX

I am a retired educator and teachers as well as support staff in Trxas do not make enough and this voucher bill will only take away from that. If people want to go to private school let them pay their way. Governor Abbot is wrong to take money for himself to push this agenda. Say yes to Texas Public teachers and support staff and retirees.

Gonzalo Salazar
self
Brownsville, TX

Texas boasts the 7th largest economy in the world. The qualified post-secondary ready workforce and good citizens we produce in our Texas Public Schools is what makes this possible. Those of us who have answered the call work with our hearts in our hands and champion the cause for our students each day. While we are working hard to produce the results that lead to a stronger Texas, the legislature is considering ESAs that send public dollars to private institutions and as a resident and taxpayer of this state, I respectfully submit the following:

Key Points and Implications of Sending Tax Dollars to Private Schools Through ESAs:

1. **Lack of Accountability:** Private schools are not subject to the same accountability standards as public schools. This means that taxpayer dollars could be used to fund schools that do not meet educational benchmarks or provide quality education.
2. **Limited Parent Choice:** While the proposal is framed as promoting parental choice, it is important to recognize that private schools ultimately retain the power to accept or deny students. This undermines the notion of true choice for families, especially those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
3. **Economic Barriers for Disadvantaged Families:** Many economically disadvantaged families cannot afford the tuition differential between what the ESA covers and the actual cost of private schooling. This creates a situation where only those with sufficient financial resources can truly benefit from these programs, further entrenching inequality in education.
4. **Ineffectiveness Evidence:** Numerous studies from other states that have implemented similar ESA programs indicate limited success in improving educational outcomes. Many students do not experience significant academic gains, raising questions about the efficacy of diverting funds from public education.
5. **Diverting Funds from Public Schools:** Redirecting tax dollars to private schools can lead to underfunded public schools, which serve the majority of students. This not only harms those students but can also exacerbate existing inequities within the education system.
6. **Potential for Increased Segregation:** Private schools may reinforce social and economic segregation by selecting students based on various criteria, leading to a less diverse educational environment that does not reflect the broader community.
7. **Transparency Concerns:** Private schools often operate with less transparency than public schools, making it difficult for taxpayers to understand how their funds are being spent and whether they are achieving desired educational outcomes.
8. **Long-term Impact on Public Education*:** The shift of funds away from public schools can have long-term repercussions on the quality of public education, leading to a cycle of decline that ultimately impacts all students, including those who remain in the public system and have the potential to negatively impact the Texas economy. **STAND UP FOR TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS!**

Elizabeth Nash, Rev.
Self, retired minister
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill in the strongest possible way for two main reasons. First, it will irrevocably harm public education in this state by diverting public funds to private hands. Public education is crucial to maintaining an educated population, without which our state and country cannot maintain itself economically and as a democracy. Second, I pay a substantial amount of taxes to maintain our schools, not only in the district where I live but also where about half of it is sent elsewhere in the state. The school taxes I pay, in whichever district they end up, are subject to local public accountability through school boards and highly visible and accountable public servants. It is outrageous to me that the government of this state would take the thousands I pay every year and hand at least part of that to private citizens who will in turn pay it to private schools with no public accountability for how that money is spent, what is taught, etc. No no no. If you vote to do that, you will provoke the anger of taxpayers all over the state who want decent public schools in districts accountable to the taxpayers who fund them.

Lisa Benjamin

Self

Dallas, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Crystal Ybarra

McCormick middle school PTA

BUDA, TX

We do not support giving public money to private schools

Jessica Pany

Self

College Sta, TX

The voucher problem will only exacerbate the difference between the haves and have nots. Private schools/charter schools do not offer supports for students with deficits in learning.

Approving vouchers may help a few Texans, but not the majority. And within a few years, this will be a violation of Civil Rights and in fact further segregation and promote discrimination.

Stacey Setzer

Self and McKinney ISD parent and teacher

MCKINNEY, TX

Opposing House Bill 3: A Parent and Educator's Plea for Texas Public Schools

Dear Members of the Texas Legislature,

As a parent of children in McKinney ISD and a teacher in the district, I am deeply concerned about the devastating impact of House Bill 3 (HB 3). This bill threatens to strip essential resources from public schools, increase class sizes, reduce access to vital support services, and weaken the quality of education for Texas students.

Larger Class Sizes, Less Individual Attention

Cuts to funding will force schools to consolidate classes, leaving teachers with more students and fewer resources. Larger class sizes mean less individual attention, especially for students who need additional support. Special education students, English language learners, and those requiring academic intervention will suffer the most.

Cuts to Personnel Will Harm Student Success

HB 3 will force districts to cut counselors, interventionists, paraprofessionals, and support staff who play a crucial role in student achievement. These professionals provide mental health support, behavioral intervention, and academic assistance. Without them, students will experience longer wait times for services, increasing stress on already overwhelmed teachers.

Loss of Resources Will Negatively Impact Learning

Texas teachers already spend personal funds on classroom supplies. HB 3's funding cuts will only worsen shortages, leaving students without necessary materials. Public education should provide students with the tools they need to succeed, not force teachers and parents to shoulder the burden.

Increased Behavioral Issues

Without counselors and behavioral interventionists, more students will struggle with emotional and disciplinary challenges. Teachers will be expected to manage these issues without proper support, leading to a disruptive learning environment for all students.

Threat to Teacher Retirement and Retention

Texas educators rely on the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) for future security. HB 3 weakens this system, making it harder to recruit and retain quality teachers. At a time when Texas faces a teacher shortage, this bill will drive more educators out of the profession.

Texas Students Deserve Better

If the goal is to improve education, the Legislature should fully fund public schools, ensure smaller class sizes, increase teacher pay, expand mental health resources, and provide targeted assistance to struggling districts. Instead, HB 3 diverts resources away from students who need them most.

I Strongly Oppose HB 3

As a parent and educator, I urge you to reject this harmful legislation. HB 3 is not the answer—investing in public education is. As a citizen who has voted in every local and state election I can say with confidence this is not why you were elected.

Stacey Setzer

Parent and Teacher, McKinney ISD

Hailey Ramsey, Mrs.

Self

Lubbock, TX

As a homeschool parent, this bill is very concerning. This opens the door for government oversight into our private schools, which was established by Leeper many years ago. We all know that government does not turn a blind eye if they have the opportunity to engage. Please do not pass this bill. The vouchers will not help anyone afford private school either and many of our rural communities don't have the option for private school access. This bill does not address the issues happening with the shortcomings in our public schools and it definitely does not have the support of any constituents that I know.

Catherine Haedge

Rev and Mrs

Garland, TX

I want to register my strong opposition to vouchers and the use of ESA's as a means of funding education. These divert resources away from public schools. I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education: 1. Increase the basic allotment to \$7500. 2. Determine funding by Enrollment and not Attendance. 3. Tie Funding to Inflation. Thank you for your work on behalf of our State government. Cathy

Audrie San Miguel

Texas Public Schools

Austin, TX

I strongly OPPOSE this bill and am OPPOSED to school vouchers. Greg Abbott has been bought and paid for by out of state millionaires and is motivated by lining his own pockets. Shame on him.

Cynthia Zeplin

Self

Yoakum, TX

As a parent and a volunteer at public schools please vote no on HB3. I benefited from both a public education and private school education. I want our leaders to start investing in public schools. When you invest in public schools, you are investing in our teachers, children, and our Texas families. Say No to HB3.

David Gewirtz

Self - School Administrator

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Kathy Bell

Self

Mansfield, TX

I'm opposed to HB 3. Please vote against this. Our public schools should be funded first.

Rebecca Embler

Self

Dallas, TX

Vouchers will hurt our lost vulnerable students, and will render teaching more difficult than it already is. It also has the possibility of destroying the teacher pension system, which our selfless public educators have paid into for generations. This will only serve to subsidize private school for those who already attend, who do not need this money! It will do so by stealing from our children who aren't already in rich families. This is damaging to working class families in favor of the rich.

Ricardo Degollado

Self

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Chana Liba Braun

Chabad Lubbock

Lubbock, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

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Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Nancy Friedman

self. retired

Houston, TX

My husband and I believe that every TX child has the right to a decent education so, although we don't have children, it's our duty to fund public schools with our tax dollars. It is not our duty, nor is it the state's, to fund a parent's choice to send their children to a private school instead.

The vast majority of private schools are religious. Every school that Gov. Abbott has appeared at to support vouchers has been a Christian school. Using public money to support religious schools violates art. 1, §§ 6 and 7 of the Texas Constitution and violates my freedom not to support a school that advances religious beliefs or discriminates based on those beliefs that I don't share. Some claim that a church or religious organization suffers from discrimination when they are not afforded the same benefits as a secular one. One of our country's and Texas' foundational principles is that the state should not give a church or religious organization a benefit or advantage that secular ones don't have.

We should learn from other states' experiences with vouchers. Studies have shown that vouchers don't work – they don't improve educational outcomes, they don't help children who couldn't otherwise afford private school since the amount provided is a fraction of the total expenses, there aren't enough qualifying schools in some areas. They end up helping families whose children are already in private schools and costing much more than expected. Look at Arizona.

Please instead invest in public schools. That's where public money should be spent and where you, as legislators, should focus – morally, constitutionally and practically. If public schools were properly funded, schools and programs wouldn't be closing, teachers wouldn't be leaving, and more parents might feel comfortable keeping their kids in public schools. We—Texans and Texas--owe our children that.

Kristen Gardiner

Self, social media manager

Allen, TX

As a constituent with three children in public education, I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 3. I have a child in special education and it is incredibly important that all funds stay dedicated to keeping public schools strong rather than diverting them to private schools via vouchers. My child relies on services in public schools, and Allen ISD has already announced staff reductions related to special education and testing due to current funding problems, and this will make it worse. It already takes SO LONG to get testing and services. Public schools need MORE funding, not less!

Samantha Camacho

Self, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, Kami

Plano, TX

I disagree wholeheartedly with school vouchers. School vouchers serve the wealthy. Everyone is worthy of a good education. Our society and our government should invest in public education for all.

KatyAnn Zimbelman

Self- parents of public education

Austin, TX

I oppose diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Karla Barfield
Self
Liberty Hill, TX

I don't want my school tax dollars used for vouchers. Now or ever. Please support our public schools. Not Charter schools.

Mark Lugo, Pastor
SA Impact Ministries
Lytle, TX

My name is Pastor Mark Lugo of SA Impact Ministries and I'm writing today in favor of HB 3. I have one son out of school and another is currently a senior in high school. I remember my wife and I being at a crossroads 6 years ago with continuing our son's education through private school and coming to the conclusion that it just wasn't in our budget with increased prices. I wish we had school choice as an option so we could've continued our son's private school education. We went back and forth throughout the years with homeschooling and private school but couldn't continue it through high school. School choice is an amazing approach to give families more options to choose what's best for our children. I vote YES for SB 3.

Candace ankenbruck
Retired teacher
Pearland, TX

As a retired public school teacher of 30 years, I know how difficult a teacher's job is to individualize instruction for all especially ESL and low socioeconomic students. Private schools will not be able to offer these students everything that will meet their needs like free lunch, transportation, IEPs, certified teachers, and the list goes on. Upper and middle class students will probably be ok, but don't we want an educated society making decisions and possibly taking care of us when we're old? Please vote NO to vouchers! Thanks you??

Tina Wehner Hickman, Dr.
Self/school psychologist
Converse, TX

I am a Texan, and I am appalled that this bill exists. There should be zero disagreement or political divide over the right of all Texas children to be educated. No righteous person should be saying that only rich people's children deserve education, but here we are. It is reprehensible. The expectation of many in this state is that Texas should be expanding and fully funding public education in order to create a vital workforce for the future, not to hand money to people so they can go buy a new boat or whatever.

I work in a public school with special education students. I see every day how a public education can change a life for the better. Public schools have vocational programs, for example, that allow students to graduate and go to work. It is amazing, and should be celebrated, not strangled by some rich guy who gave our governor a bunch of cash. There is not a single shred of valid research that supports this bill or demonstrates that it will improve educational outcomes for the majority of students. Why waste money on this travesty? Where is the return of investment on this? There is none.

Instead, let's fully fund public education. Instead of a measly six thousand per pupil, make it 10 thousand per pupil. Fully fund public education, and there will be a benefit for everyone. Thank you.

Sonja Phillips, Rev

Self / Pastor

Seguin, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns. The community where I serve as a pastor is considered rural. There are limited private schools. Public Schools are at the very center of my community. From the research I have done vouchers will do little to help my community especially since there are limited funds for public schools already. How is this plan going to help my community? Research has also shown that low income families will not benefit from vouchers due to the high cost of private education. A\$10,000 voucher will do little to make a dent in \$30,000-40,000 tuition costs. Why is the state not considering the negative impact of low public school funding has had on many public schools in Texas. It is sad and embarrassing we rank 47 nationally for public education. More needs to be done to compensate our educators and staff. Above all more needs to be done to ensure students in our public schools receive a well funded comprehensive education that will allow them to succeed. I did speak with my representative however, they were unable to explain how vouchers will benefit my community. They are in support of vouchers. Thank you.

Morgan Garner

Self

Shallowater, TX

As a proud Texas public school teacher and parent I stand against vouchers. Strong public schools are integral to our small town Texas communities and life. The lack of teacher pay raise has caused current teachers to struggle financially or leave the profession, while new and qualified teachers are hard to find. Every family is welcome to their personal school of choice, but it is wildly unreasonable to value private school students worth more than public school learners.

Yisroel Sternberg, Mr

Self

Dallas, TX

Please pass this bill we are bleeding financially

Vicki Flenniken

Shallowater ISD

Shallowater, TX

Texas does NOT need a voucher program and saying all these other states have one so we should too is like telling your momma all my friends did it so I did too, even though you knew it was wrong.

This voucher program will strip much needed funding from our public schools. If you want your child to be in private schools, then fine, but the public school system shouldn't pay for it.

Samantha Cast

Self

Houston, TX

-I strongly disagree with HB3.

-private schools are fine for those who can afford them, but they do not provide real choice for all Texas residents..

-Private schools can deny admission to any kid for any reason they want.

-The majority of counties in Texas do not have a private school.

-All this will accomplish less funding for our already struggling schools and give a discount to already wealthy families.

-Private schools do not have to provide transportation nor do they have to provide special education services.

-HB3 will bankrupt our public schools. you will be using tax dollars of hard-working families to fund benefits for the already wealthy.

-I am a strong Christian and firmly believe this is the most UN-Christlike thing we could do. Our children are "the least of these" as Jesus said, and you need to stand up for them.

-please vote NO for HB3 and vote yes to raise the basic allotment

Robin Allen
Self/Educator
Canyon, TX

This bill hurts Texas students. It is designed to help wealthy Texans, not education for all students. It also has the potential to defund TRS. Stop giving handout to those that don't need it. Support public education, not vouchers.

Julia Odelowo
Self
Austin, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Julia Odelowo

Christin Casebolt
Lewisville ISD
Argyle, TX

Fully fund public schools!!

Kathryn Albright

Self / retired Development Director and Grant Writer

Kerrville, TX

Please vote NO to the establishment of an education savings account program. The public education system was created to ensure that ALL children, by law, will have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential by being educated. The establishment of an education savings account undermines public education by using tax dollars to support private schools who do not operate under the same level of accountability as public school systems. Private schools do not have to meet the needs of students who need accommodations to learn. Private schools do not have standardized academic oversight and metrics. Private schools do not have to meet curriculum standards that define content. Private schools do not have to admit students that they deem as "unacceptable". Rural communities do not have enough private schools to accommodate their school aged population. Vouchers will further decimate the public school system leaving many kids with a "bad choice" instead of "school of choice". Public schools are neighborhood epicenters. Our tax dollars should be pumped into public education systems to create the best schools in the nation. Instead, this voucher system serves to undermine our Texas children by taking away their chance to become educated. The voucher system undermines our entire state by under-educating our young people. Vouchers have not worked in other states and they are not going to work here. Please vote NO to HB 3. Your youngest Texans need you to keep THEIR best interest deep in your heart.

beverly deutsch

self

austin, TX

School taxes are for PUBLIC SCHOOL; this proposal diverts public tax \$ from public schools to PRIVATE schools; therefore harming public schools, which are in dire need of funds.

Kaitlin Kelsey

Self (Public School Parent)

Uvalde, TX

How can you support the Governor in this bill when he purposely and deliberately withheld public school funding for years just so he can get his voucher passed?

Sandra Musanti

Self

Brownsville, TX

I wholeheartedly oppose this bill. This bill will defund public education and will only benefit privileged families. The ultimate intent of this bill is to privatize education and favor for profit companies.

Mary Stacey Allen

Self/ Public School Teacher

Allen, TX

This is absolutely wrong! Vouchers take money away from public education and put it in the hands of for-profit private schools which completely goes against our state constitution as a majority of Texas private schools are sectarian. See Article VII Section 5. As a tax paying, voting Texas resident and mother of two children who attended and one currently attending public schools, I DO NOT support vouchers (my vote reflects this). If a parent chooses not to send their child to free public schools, then it's on their dime... end of story! Fix the system's policies and procedures; don't create a separate unethical and illegal one! Fully fund Texas public schools and vote no against vouchers, please!

Evelyn Miller

Parent

Kerrville, TX

I am against the voucher system because poor parents cannot afford The extra tuition, transportation is not provided and poor people only have one vehicle so no way to get the kids to the school. The schools are not located in Porter neighborhoods. Special ed is not provided they don't have to accept anyone they don't want to so anyone with poor behavior would be eliminated, is comparing apples to oranges, since they only get to select the very best students But the schools are required to take everybody. They don't provide free breakfast and free lunch. Therefore, again poor students will not attend so in the end, you only have the ridge brightest kids going at our taxpayer funds when their own parents can afford to send them themselves.(poor, not porter—it won't let me correct)

Janet Lockhart

Self/retired

Corsicana, TX

I am against vouchers!

Jenni Herzberg, Mrs.

Self

Mansfield, TX

If a student starts at private school and then moves to public school part way through the year, what happens to the money? Does the private school get to keep the entire ESA value? Is it pro-rated and part goes back to the public school? If the full pot of ESA money isn't utilized because of how many private schools don't want to accept the ESA because they don't want to be under your purview, what happens to the remainder of that money?

Daniel Melendez

Self

Arlington, TX

No!

Megan Crowl

Self

CONROE, TX

I'm communicating my opposition to HB3, SB2 and any other voucher scam bill. This will ruin public education in Texas. The states that have passed vouchers and have been referenced as "thriving" due to competition rank lower than Texas in quality of public education.

Elsa Guimbarda

self

Austin, TX

Vote NO to HB3, and support increases to Public School funding instead! Respect separation of church and state, and do not undermine public education for all by further declining student population numbers given how public schools are funded through daily attendance rates. I also fear that the needs of special education students will not be served given non compliance of mandates for special needs students. This proposal is a slap in the face of educators, who work very hard to educate all children to reach their potential, as well as poor families who would not have sufficient income to even consider a private education for their children. PUBLIC EDUCATION IN TEXAS IS FOR ALL CHILDREN IN ALL AREAS OF TEXAS! DO NOT SABOTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION!

Sheri Palmer

Self

Austin, TX

Chairman Buckley, I am Sheri Palmer. Born in Texas and attended public schools. I am here to oppose HB3. Vouchers / ESAs will bankrupt public schools. Vouchers are a welfare scam for the wealthy - subsidy for parents who already use private schools. Vouchers will lead to segregation and discrimination. Show Texas you believe in their future; FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS and VOTE NO on any voucher/ESA bill. Thank you, Sheri Palmer

Starlite Folley

Self

Schertz, TX

Vote NO.

Esther Trevino, Ms.

Self (and my grandchildren)

Uvalde, TX

If you think this will help ordinary students you are Wrong. If people could afford to send their children to private schools don't you think they would? Instead parents have to pray that underfunded public schools can prepare their children for higher education. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves, this will only benefit all ready rich people that can send their kids to private schools. Fund public schools and pay v teachers what they deserve to be paid!

Danica Schieber

self

Spring, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I moved my family to Texas, and all of my children are products of the excellent public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Angelique Harris

Self

Tomball, TX

I am product of Texas public schools along with my 3 children. I am 100% against this bill. "School Choice" is nothing but a money grab to fund parents who already pay for private schools. Tax payer dollars should also not be used to fund religious private schools. So please do what is right for Texas and vote against HB3

Cynthia Hendricks

self librarian

Taylor, TX

Vote NO on HB3. I have 3 kids that went to TX public schools. I know how underfunded many of them are. Taking money from the public schools to fund vouchers is only going to make things worse. It's such a shame that a state with so much wealth underfunds public schools and then comes up with the idea to allow vouchers.

Kristi Hibler-Luton

representing myself and family

Austin, TX

We do not want vouchers. They take away critical funds from public schools, a great equalizer in our society. When all Texans are educated through a strong public school system, we strengthen our economy and ability to innovate for the future as Texans. Vouchers will only fuel for-profit schools and benefit those that can already afford private education.

Michelle Kimball

Self

Coppell, TX

I strongly oppose the implementation of school vouchers in Texas. Redirecting public funds to private schools undermines the public education system, which serves the vast majority of Texas students. This policy risks increasing inequality, as vouchers often don't cover the full cost of private education, leaving low-income families behind. Instead of diverting resources, we should focus on strengthening our public schools to ensure every child in Texas has access to quality education.

Abigail King

Self

Austin, TX

No public money for private education!

Karla Cantu

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose school vouchers and Gregg Abbott's current plan and lack of support of Texas public schools.

Emily McLoughlin

Self

Carrollton, TX

As a constituent, I am OPPOSED to Bill HB3 by Buckley

School vouchers have many disadvantages, including:

Undermining public schools

Vouchers take funding from public schools, which serve most students, and give it to private schools. This can hurt public schools that are already struggling.

Discrimination

Vouchers can discriminate against students with disabilities, and can exacerbate racial segregation. Private schools can also discriminate in admissions, discipline, and employment.

Lack of accountability

Private schools are largely unaccountable to taxpayers. They can pick and choose who to serve and how they serve.

No evidence of academic benefit

There's no reliable evidence that vouchers improve student success. In fact, some programs have shown to have a negative effect.

Undermining democracy

Vouchers can erode democracy by giving tax dollars to private schools that are far removed from the electorate.

Diverting attention from reforms

Vouchers can divert attention from needed reforms, such as smaller class sizes.

Creating corruption opportunities

Private schools with little accountability could lead to corruption.

James Dickey

Self

Arlington, TX

I oppose education savings accounts (ie. voucher system). It is a horrible idea. I do not want my tax dollars going to those who send their kids to private school. Texas is already #47 in education funding per student. This bill will make that even worse, by taking money away that should be going to public schools.

Angelique Gonzalez-Page

self

Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Angelique Gonzalez-Page and I am a no for HB 3. First, I'd like to thank the lawmakers for thinking of the children in our great state of Texas. I see you and your efforts. They are appreciated.

I could tell you all the statistics on why and how school vouchers are a bad idea but instead I am going to be vulnerable and share something that happened to my family. It really tested my faith in the public school system. Then I will explain why in the end I decided to keep my kids in public school.

My children started kindergarten after attending a private Montessori school in south Austin this past fall. A month after school started, I was notified that my child had been sexually assaulted by a fellow 5-year-old in class. Honestly, so many thoughts and emotions raced through brain all at the same time. No one tells you that when you have children you get relive all of your childhood traumas as well as feel theirs. So, this happening to our daughter brought a lot of previous feelings of powerlessness and shame crashing down on my husband and I. We are both trauma survivors. It was a tough time for my family. Luckily, I had a parent coach that helped my family through this time, but we are the exception not the rule. In the end, I was able to advocate for my child and her abuser was removed from her classroom. Currently, I am providing her with therapy to help process what happened to her and our school is going through great efforts to keep the children separated. Even though the school did everything right, my trust in the public school system had been broken.

Naturally, I started looking into private and charter schools. I took tours and asked a lot of questions. Ultimately, it all came back to the fact that these schools and their staff were not adequately trained to deal with children that are other. You see, my children are neurodiverse. One of my daughters has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and my other has ADHD as well as being low needs autistic. Private and charter school staff are not trained to deal with neurodivergent children nor are they required to take them. There are a few private schools that focus on neurodivergent children, but these are rare, and the wait list is long to attend. During my children's tenure at their private Montessori school, I constantly had to counsel the staff on how to work with my children so they could be successful in learning and in playing with others. Public school has the properly trained staff so their transition was smoother. They understood the needs of my children. Public schools can provide 504 and individualized education plans (IEP) to help neurodivergent children succeed in the classroom and in life. In the end, I decided to stay at our public school. Public school isn't perfect, but it deserves the budget and resources to help these children, my children succeed. Let's fund our public schools.

Thank you for your time.

Rachelle Park

Self

Houston, TX

Vouchers are terrible for our children. I understand some lawmakers have received money to vote and push this bill. That is not ok!!!! Public education is for all. Those private schools discriminate against so many. I know, my child has been in private school. He is back in the public education system where he is taught critical thinking and has friends from different backgrounds. Do not take education away from all to help a few! This is shameful that this is even a bill. Stand up for ALL CHILDREN!!!

Peggy Keefe-Lopez

self

Austin, TX

I am a parent of two students in Round Rock ISD, with a younger sibling who will join them in 2026. It means a lot to me to see our local public schools thriving. Right now our elementary school has a teacher shortage. One class has had rotating substitutes all year and my oldest's class lost their teacher a month ago with no replacement. This is a school that I truly love - they have a lot of great teachers and a great community. But seeing these hardships this year has made me nervous for what the future would look like with even more of a budget impact.

Who is actually FOR this plan? Besides the billionaire architects and our corrupt governor? I have seen numerous posts on the handful of parent groups I'm a part of on social media and out of hundreds of comments from people across the spectrum - from public school parents to private school parents to homeschoolers, and only two liked the voucher plan. How is this moving forward when so many of us are against it?

Please please listen to your actual constituents and not just Abbott and crew. You are doing our whole state a disservice by moving forward on this when there is more than adequate evidence from other states that vouchers are harmful.

Anne Marie Pearson

Self

Spearman, TX

I do not support public funds going to support private education. The Texas Constitution charges the legislature with making "suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools". If the legislature was to pursue funding that went to private schools, then those schools would no longer be private and would need to comply with all regulations that the public schools are obliged. Further, the lack of compliance with the directive of the Texas Constitution has created a crisis in our public schools. Our schools are now being judged under a system that refuses to acknowledge their part in creating the problem. We support our children. Our children attend public schools. We support our community. We work together to support our future. We ask that you as legislators to understand and respect our needs as the majority being represented and come to a solution that supports our public school system in way that everyone can thrive.

Janabeth Cook

self

Houston, TX

"I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education." I am a retired public educator as were both of my parents and sister. I was raised by dedicated educators and these people make a huge difference in our societies overall! I do not believe that vouchers will be beneficial to students, teachers and families!

Michelle Gowler

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Vouchers will primarily benefit families already able to afford private education, while draining desperately needed funds from underfunded public schools. I urge you to vote against the voucher program and instead fulfill your duty under the Texas Constitution to fully fund public education — for our children and our future.

Brittany Sloan

Self

Pantego, TX

A public hearing at the Texas Capitol is happening on the school voucher bill (HB 3). Use the link below to ensure your opposition is on record. Not a drill.

Here's what I said:

“Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future.

Keke ONeil

Self, stay at home mom

Richmond, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Cyndi Beggs

Self

Rising Star, TX

I am against the education account program.

Elaine Herrick, Mrs.

Salado Area Republican Women

Salado, TX

As a retired educator who taught for 50 years in public, private, and higher education, I know from first-hand experience the value of school choice. Parents know their children's strengths and weaknesses and should have a choice in choosing the most appropriate means of education for them to be successful. For some, this may be in a private school setting where there are smaller classes, more emphasis on teacher-student interaction, and more time for follow-up. Other children may thrive in a public school setting that offers extra-curricular activities and encourages competition. Frankly, I believe school choice should not only be a privilege but a right.

Cara Hartquist

self

Seguin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3. This will only benefit families that can already afford private education and take away from already poorly funded public schools. My husband is a teacher in one of these schools and none of his coworkers agree with this bill.

Kandi Darnell

Self

Devine, TX

Don't do this to rural students and schools. The other side must be held to the same standards expected of public schools.

Debbie Blatt Greene

Self/National Council of Jewish Women

Dallas, TX

I firmly oppose HB 3. As an educator for 40 years in both public and private schools as well as at UNT, I know that vouchers, by any name, are a horrible choice for Texas children. You will have heard a multitude of reasons, already, opposing vouchers. The rationale for vouchers is deeply flawed. Parents already have the ability to choose their children's schools within their local school districts and, in some cases, in neighboring school districts. There are magnet schools available as well as other schools with specialized programs within many districts. 90% of Texas children are enrolled in public schools and quality private schools don't have to admit every child who applies nor do they necessarily have space for additional students.

In addition, many existing schools simply don't want to and don't need to accept vouchers. In addition, a voucher program adds another layer of administration to both the state and the private school. Texas needs a well educated workforce and underfunding public schools will prevent students from receiving the kind of education they are entitled to.

I wonder who the real beneficiaries of a voucher program are. It's certainly not our children.

Mariel Stotts

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no on ESAs. I don't want my tax dollars paying for private education vendors.

Lori Espinoza

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) introduced in 2025, which seeks to expand school vouchers in the state. As a concerned citizen and advocate for quality education for all Texas students, I believe this bill will harm public schools and undermine the core values of equity, fairness, and opportunity in our education system.

Expanding school vouchers would divert much-needed funding away from public schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children. Public schools are the cornerstone of our education system, legally required to accept all students, regardless of background, abilities, or socioeconomic status. By funneling taxpayer dollars to private schools, HB 3 would severely weaken the resources and programs available to students in public schools, especially those who rely on them for a quality education. This move would disproportionately impact students in low-income and underserved communities, who are already facing significant challenges and disparities.

Instead, I recommend increasing funding per student, as research shows this approach has a proven impact on academic performance. A 2023 study from Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research found that increased funding directly improves student outcomes, including academic achievement, behavior, and future employment (source: Rice University Study: <https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/when-it-comes-education-outcomes- we-get-what-we-pay>).

Hispanic, Black, and other marginalized students face disproportionate financial barriers due to systemic racism and historical inequities in education. Increasing per-student funding would help bridge this gap, offering these students greater opportunities for success. A 2021 study from Rutgers University calculated the cost of bringing the average test scores of the poorest 20% of students in each state up to the national average. The study found that in Texas, \$12,682 per student annually is needed to close this performance gap (source: Shanker Institute Study: <https://www.shankerinstitute.org/sites/default/files/The%20Real%20Shame%20of%20the%20Nation.pdf>).

While the gap in funding is substantial, it is not insurmountable. By prioritizing alternative legislation that invests directly in public schools, we can ensure all students receive the quality education they deserve.

Elizabeth Reagan
Harlingen CISD
Harlingen, TX

Public schools need funds! Vouchers defund accountable regulated schools which require certified professional teachers. This voucher at max can help 100,000 of our nearly 6 million school age children. Putting those funds into public schools helps far more children directly. We are 38th in per pupil student funding, and all research indicates more funding dollars into public schools directly translates into increased achievement. With one of the largest economies in the country, there are no excuses for not having world class education to prepare students for employment in our critical STEM and health industries.

Stop holding teachers, students, and public schools hostage with inadequate funding bills that require us to choose between additional safety dollars and living wages and up to date textbooks and materials. Our children deserve better, and funding PUBLIC schools adequately is the answer. Vouchers won't even pay the full amount of a private education, and my taxes should not be paying for someone else's choice to homeschool or get an unregulated private education.

I have worked in both charter and public schools in Texas, and achievement outcomes, pay, safety and student wellbeing were far higher in a public setting. As a proud Texan public educator, I now earn \$15,000 more than I did working in charters. I have access to far better ongoing training and curricula. I have excellent resources for students struggling with adhd, autism, dyslexia, depression, and intellectual disability and can get them effective resources and assistance far quicker in a public setting. I am also safer, as I experienced harassment from admin and colleagues in a charter school that valued comradismo more than a dedicated experienced teacher with a Master's degree IN education. Countless dollars get wasted in charters like this, and teacher and student wellbeing are far lower. Statistics are manipulated so that 100% graduation rates look amazing, when in reality students with any diagnoses are kicked out and underperformers aren't allowed to graduate without being accepted into college first. Public schools educate ALL students and support high needs instead of demonizing difference.

If our Legislators want healthy, supported, intelligent, career driven students then INVEST IN THEM. We must show accountability for all dollars spent, achievement growth, and prepare and grow knowledgeable educators. Charters do not and until they must follow ALL regulations for a free and appropriate education for ALL students, vouchers will waste taxpayer dollars on ineffective and unregulated education.

Vote NO on this bill, fund us, respect us, and grow ALL 6 million students of our state.

Melissa Puga
Austin ISD and family, school administrator
Austin, TX

Instead of school vouchers we need to revisit the funding formula for public schools. Recapture takes 5 billion taxpayer dollars from our public schools. This should be the focus. Vouchers are harmful to families and students already marginalized by income, ability, and systemic oppression. The voucher system will create a class system that limits and influences an individual's life opportunities based on income levels. Upper class will have access to quality education, while students with disabilities and those who are limited by income will be left with underfunded schools. Students will have no rights or protection to access an equal education opportunities. Children will be at risk for poverty, health disparities and limited to working class jobs. This will be terrible for our economy, we will see the impacts widespread and end up paying for this decision through the downfall of our economic system and greater culture. Say no to vouchers and rewrite state school funding formulas.

Jennifer Beavers
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Why is Donald Trump Jr. a relevant witness for the voucher bill? Surely he's not here based on merit...was he chosen because he is rich, white, and related to the president? This is a DEI speaker if Ive ever heard one.
Stop the steal and FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!!!
Drain the swamp, and please stop allowing unelected, wannabe billionaires to influence Texas public school funding. This is shameful.

Paulett McCowan
SELF
MANSFIELD, TX

Dear Representative,

I am a taxpayer in the State of Texas, so I want it to be documented that I do NOT support vouchers nor an education savings accounts (ESAs) program. In fact, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools in Texas. We have had inflation of over 20% since 2019, the last time funding was provided for Public Schools in Texas. I want it to be documented that I support the following:

an Increase of the Basic Allotment, and
Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflated amount of over 20%.

Representative, we must support our Public Schools with the proper Funding necessary.

Sincerely,

Melanie Masten
Self. Software Developer
Cypress, TX

I oppose HB 3. Similar programs have been implemented in other states and they fail to achieve the goals of "school choice" We should be investing in public education not funneling money away from it. We are only as smart as we educate our children and this bill will effectively reduce the funds to public schools and reduce the quality of education all children deserve to have access to. Keep Texas smart, vote no to HB 3.

Sandra Wright
Self
Lubbock, TX

Vote No!

Grant Tait, Mr.
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

As a working Texas tax payer, I say no to vouchers. I want all resources already going to public schools to stay as it is and I'd like to see the state improve funding to public schools.

It is simple. Texas needs to improve school funding and stop trying to skew the data to meet the wants of a few Texans. Instead, Texas needs to strengthen its majority through public school education and programs. Strengthen our future.

No to school vouchers and no to diverting funds away from public schools.

Do the job you have been elected by the majority to do.

Heather Lloyd

Self

Buda, TX

An ESA would be the first step to dismantling our public education system. HB3 is negligible, unconstitutional, and discriminatory. Please consider fully funding our public education system by increasing the per student funding to \$1500. Pulling money away from public schools through the use of ESAs would force the further decline of our public schools. The data in other states that use these voucher programs has not proven to help our education system in this country. Illinois ended their program because it cost tax payers way too much and Arizona, the first state to implement a universal voucher program, has the worst ranking public school system in our country. Please look to options that will strengthen our public education system rather than the one that will inevitably be its demise. Texas children and teachers deserve better.

Camryn Mincey

Self and moms everywhere!

Austin, TX

Public schools cannot afford ANY type of funding going elsewhere. I voted for Abbott and have always voted conservative and this is absolutely asinine. The lack of ethics behind this is extremely disheartening and this will change how I, and moms all across Texas, vote moving forward. Don't mess with our kids. We are not loyal to a political party when it comes to our children. What a complete disgrace!

Melissa Hall

Self (and my children)

Cypress, TX

“Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.”

Samanda Miller

Self

Rowlett, TX

Vouchers will do nothing to improve educational outcomes of Texas students, particularly the most needy students. Vouchers funnel taxpayer money intended for public use to private schools and will bankrupt the TRS fund. Public schools need to be fully funded at levels that take inflation into account as well as the possible loss of federal funds.

Beverly Vandegrift

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is NOT in the public interest or the interest of the future of the State of Texas. This will only help the wealthy and will decimate our public schools which are already under intense financial pressure due to the low level of funding already from the state. It's a vicious cycle. Look at the data from other states who have gone to vouchers - test scores and learning declined. Students suffer

Sheila Taylor
LEWISVILLE ISD
Highland Village, TX

Writing as a parent in Lewisville ISD and as an elected school board member. Vouchers (ESAs) will hurt our districts that are already struggling to survive and many parents including myself do not support this. Our district already has school choice; we have an open district and accept transfer requests from parents that want their children to attend schools they are not zoned for. We request that our public schools be funded, as we are paying 2025 bills with 2019 funds. The basic allotment of \$6,610 per child has not been increased since 2019 but costs (insurance, property maintenance, gas, electric, water, etc.) have skyrocketed. Our teachers deserve a livable wage but with recapture and the basic allotment being stagnant, we are struggling to even give them cost of living wages. Our students deserve opportunities and programs and schools that do not close along with our teachers deserving to be paid their worth. Please take the surplus that is being used for vouchers and redirect that money to the public schools where it belongs. We are doing some great things in Lewisville ISD - please do not hurt our schools with this bill. As you know public schools take every child but private schools do not. They will also not have the same accountability with standardized testing and other metrics. We do not want vouchers. We want the proper investment into our public schools. Thank you for reading my comments!

Wendi Aarons
Self
Bee Cave, TX
NO VOUCHERS

Ariel Rocha
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Sara Hatfield
Self
Austin, TX
No to vouchers

Brad Dieringer
self
Austin, TX
Representatives,

I implore you to vote NO on HB3. Diverting funds from public education to private schools will only harm students from underfunded and small school districts. My brother, sister, and I graduated from a 3A high school that gave us the foundation to study engineering in college and go on to careers in industry. Stripping more funding from small Texas schools will weaken the education of our current students while also providing fewer job-ready candidates for the industries we work in.

My sons are thriving in public schools, but that is often in spite of the funding shortages. We see the turnover of experienced educators leaving the profession for better paying opportunities or early retirement. Parent booster groups have to fund raise for basic supplies we received in athletics and band 30 years ago. This is opposite of Texas leading the nation in education.

Thank you for your consideration,
Brad Dieringer

Roxann Morris
Teachers
Shallowater, TX
No vouchers

Julianan Campbell
self/ business development coordinator
Buda, TX

I am a mother of three children, one with disabilities- autism, adhd. Our public schools are already severely underfunded, the staff underpaid. Vouchers continue to discriminate against students with disabilities, strip away students' human and civil rights, and exacerbate racial segregation. These vouchers do not even provide enough for low income families to even consider a private school. They are at least 10k SHORT! That same amount 10K per student should be applied to each student in public school. Why are they not worth the same amount of money? Investing in our public schools is a true investment in community. Taking PUBLIC funds away that should go to THE PUBLIC and support students with disabilities, low income, give them an equal chance at a fair education. Vote NO, please. From all the mother's of special needs kids, that want all kids to thrive in our community.

Joyce Giblin
Self taxpayer, grandparent
College Station, TX

I do not support HB3 or any form of school vouchers/schol choice scam. The evidence is clear throughout the country this does not work. Fully fund and support public education and our teachers for ALL CHILDREN of Texas!!

Erica Martindale
Myself, clerk
Austin, TX

I work at a school. I see how much the teachers are doing. Kids deserve support for themselves and their teachers. Please fund public education! Vouchers are not needed or wanted

Jose Trigo
Self
Edinburg, TX

Vote no on vouchers! Don't let billionaires steal from the public!

Catherine Harris, Licensed Specialist in School Psychology

Self

Highland Village, TX

I have major concerns about the impact of this bill on the vast majority of Texas children and families. I am not against the idea of encouraging parent choice and even incentivizing new private schools to open, however, the bill as currently written is problematic for several reasons. First: the voucher amount is not enough to make private school tuition affordable for most families, so with the exception of a small amount of upper middle class families, the beneficiaries will be families who are already able to afford private school tuition. Second: even if many families found a way to afford private school tuition with the vouchers (perhaps by taking out loans), there are not enough private schools in Texas to handle an influx of new students. Third: private schools that accept public funding through vouchers should be required to meet the same accountability requirements as public schools. Things like state testing, attendance requirements, etc. Fourth: the additional allotment of voucher money for students with disabilities is woefully insufficient. No private school would choose to offer support to a child with increased learning or behavioral needs with the amount of voucher money included in the current bill. And finally: public education is an investment in the long-term economic stability of our country. We should want an educated population. We should want to give children whose families are of limited financial means the opportunity to fulfill their potential. In order for the next great thinkers, leaders, and entrepreneurs to emerge, we need to give all children a baseline foundation of skills that will allow them to unlock their potential and be contributing members of our society. This voucher bill will leave so many children behind, and our state will ultimately suffer as a result.

Michelle Bell

Self, teacher

Roanoke, TX

Texas House Bill 3 proposes an Education Savings Account (ESA) program that would allow public funds to be redirected to private schools, including religious institutions. While framed as expanding "school choice," this bill undermines the core principles of public education, threatens funding for public schools, and lacks essential safeguards for equity, transparency, and accountability.

Public education is a cornerstone of democracy, designed to provide every child—regardless of background—with equal access to quality learning. HB3 diverts taxpayer dollars from public schools to subsidize private education, which can exclude students based on religion, disability, academic performance, or disciplinary history. This undermines the very idea of equitable access and leaves the most vulnerable students behind in increasingly underfunded public systems.

Private schools that would receive ESA funds are not held to the same academic, financial, or operational standards as public schools. They are not required to administer state tests, hire certified teachers, or follow public accountability measures. This lack of oversight means public funds could be spent on institutions that do not demonstrate student success or financial responsibility, with little to no recourse for parents or taxpayers.

Moreover, HB3 disproportionately benefits families who can already afford private school tuition. The proposed ESA amount is unlikely to cover full tuition at most private institutions, effectively making this a subsidy for wealthier families, not a meaningful choice for low-income Texans. Meanwhile, rural communities—where private school options are scarce or nonexistent—gain nothing from the bill, while still facing the consequences of reduced public school funding.

Texas public schools are already under strain from rising costs, teacher shortages, and aging infrastructure. Redirecting funding through ESAs only exacerbates these problems. The focus should instead be on strengthening public education for all students through investment in teacher support, mental health services, curriculum enrichment, and facility improvements.

HB3 prioritizes ideology over impact. It promotes privatization at the expense of public good and creates a two-tiered education system that favors a few while harming the many. Texas should reject HB3 and reaffirm its commitment to a strong, inclusive, and accountable public education system that serves every child.

Rachel Myers

Self; finance administrator, homeschool teacher, university contractor

Lubbock, TX

Let Texans vote on this. I homeschool full-time in Texas. Would it be helpful to have what we pay in taxes for public education go to our own expenses? Absolutely. But that's not what this bill is or will do. Use a tax credit and stop trying to manage or tie up people who choose academic freedom.

Holly Gorman
Texas Parent
AUSTIN, TX

I oppose the creation of a voucher system. We should be investing in fully funding our public education system rather than giving taxpayer money to private schools.

Alison Steir
Self
Austin, TX

Please represent all teachers and not self interest. Say NO to HB3 and do not hold student and teacher funds ransom until Governor Abbott gets school vouchers as he has since 2019. If the bill combines ESA and increases in student and teacher \$ - that is cruel and manipulative.
Thank you for truly representing US,
Alison Steir

Ashley Harrell
Self
Dallas, TX

We do not want vouchers- it will take money away from our already underfunded public school system, give a discount to the rich already going to private schools and still allow private schools to take whoever they want. This will not benefit most Texans.
No to vouchers!

Nikayela Lockett, Attorney
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

I strongly disagree with this bill. The effects of this bill could possibly dismantle public education. Texas is already a choice state. Parents currently have many different choices when it comes to the education their child receives. I ask that you vote no, and fully fund public schools.

Amanda Bossert
Self, Compliance Advisor
Katy, TX

The vast majority do want vouchers / school choice! Listen to Texans.

Gloria Lozano
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers is not the way to go. The wealthy of Texas already pay for choice. Plus private institutions get to pick and choose what type of students they want. Public education teaches all. Public education is the way to go. Give public schools the funds they need.

Kevin Wulff
Self
San Antonio, TX

Do not pass this theft of public funds. Our public schools are the foundation of our united American society. This private savings account is unpatriotic at its core!

Roberto Cardenas

self/retired

Austin, TX

This bill should not be passed. Public money should be spent on public schools not vouchers for private schools. If the state properly funded public schools there wouldn't be the push for vouchers. As a product of the public school system as well as my two kids in public schools I got a well rounded education. School districts having to scramble to make cuts in order to make budget is detrimental to the future of our state kids. We need tax dollars spent on teachers, facilities, and kids. Thank you

Gary Campos

Self

Frisco, TX

Put the money for vouchers back into public schools. This is welfare for the rich.

Angela Aramburu

Self

San Antonio, TX

As a strong advocate for public education and a community-engaged leader, I stand firmly against House Bill 3 and any efforts to divert taxpayer dollars away from our neighborhood schools to fund private school vouchers.

Public schools are the foundation of our communities, serving all students regardless of background, ability, or income. HB 3 threatens to undermine this foundation by redirecting critical resources from already underfunded public schools to private institutions that are not held to the same accountability and transparency standards.

Vouchers do not expand choice—they weaken the choices available to the vast majority of Texas families who rely on public schools. Instead of prioritizing an unproven voucher system that primarily benefits a select few, we should be investing in proven solutions: reducing class sizes, increasing teacher pay, and improving student resources.

Our students, teachers, and families deserve better. I urge our legislators to oppose HB 3 and stand up for Texas public schools.

Craig Campbell

Retired self

Austin, TX

This is a terrible idea brought to you by the same people who trying to destroy the US Department of Education. It will materially hurt public schools and public school children. The billionaires who are pulling the strings so that they can turn the education of children over to Wall Street bankers and Christian Nationalists. It is welfare for the rich, like providing vouchers for housing. Eligibility for housing is limited to 200% of the poverty line, but this bill provides a 500% threshold.

Jessi Tuomala

Self

Leander, TX

Hi, I am Jessi from 78641 and I am demanding the representative vote NO on HB3. Vouchers will harm public education in Texas by taking away money from public schools and funneling it to private schools that aren't held to the same accountability standards by the state. Parents in Texas ALREADY have school choice as many districts offer open enrollment, there are charter schools, and parents can also choose to send their children to private schools. Public tax dollars should NOT fund private education. Please show your support for public education, Texas students, and teachers by voting NO on HB3.

Robert Blain
Self - Educator
Houston, TX

This bill is bad for cities. This bill is bad for school districts. This bill is bad for rural areas. All it does it take money that should be going to public schools, cities, counties, farmers, and every other entity and putting it in the hands of donors. Voting for this bill is selling your soul and your integrity to donors for the sake of that cushy \$600/month. My integrity and my students are worth more than that.

Jessalyn Woods
Self; Counselor
Abilene, TX

Texans do not want Education Savings Accounts. You'll never admit it, but this is welfare for the wealthy. Most of the families that could use ESAs won't have access to it, and most of the families that will have access to ESAs don't need the money because they're already paying for a private school education for their child(ren). If you want your child to have a private education, scrimp and save and make sacrifices within your family to make this happen. I went to public school K-12 in Abilene ISD and benefitted greatly from my public education. I also have the private and public school college experiences; Bachelors for Abilene Christian University (my family and I scrimped and saved and made sacrifices for me to attend ACU) and Masters from Angelo State University. Now, I have worked in public schools for 12 years and can say we are terribly underfunded. ESAs will destroy public schools but that's what Greg Abbott wants for Texas. I should also mention that Cecilia Abbott is on a private school board... this private school doesn't need our public funding. Texans don't want ESAs! Keep public dollars in public schools!

Erin Gray
Self- USPS Management
Sunnyvale, TX

Texas House Bill 3 is a direct attack on public education. Instead of properly funding our schools, supporting teachers, and ensuring students have the resources they need, this bill pushes a voucher scheme that siphon taxpayer dollars away from public schools to fund private education with little accountability. Vouchers are NOT the answer—they divert critical funding from already underfunded schools, widening the gap between privileged and struggling students. Even with bipartisan opposition, Greg Abbott is forcing this through, ignoring the will of the people and the lawmakers who know this bill will do more harm than good. If we truly care about the future of Texas education, we should be strengthening our public schools, not dismantling them for political gain.

Terri Adams
Terri Adams, Teacher
Canton, TX

Vote no on vouchers. Please listen to the May of Texans who oppose this bill. I'm sure I'm you're aware it is not wanted by most Texans. Support public education.

Jessica Watkins
Self
Dallas, TX

This isn't the answer. Public schools need funding. The vouchers are not the answers. Private schools are not held to the same standards that public schools are. All children are entitled to public schools and that is where all the funding should go. Strengthen our schools and make us better!

Loraine Martinez
Self
San Antonio, TX

I oppose this legislation.

Courtney Bailes

Myself/teacher/parent/wife of former state representative

Shepherd, TX

I am in strong opposition of this bill. I know first hand the political games that our Governor is playing and the threats for primaries for Republican opposition. I've experienced its wrath. I also experience the reward of being in a rural classroom teaching everyday and I know what's at stake if this bill passes. The potential of these children is much greater than than the risk of losing your 'position.' Do what is right by your constituents, do what is right by children. Sleep well without selling your soul.

Kari Blalack

Teacher

Castroville, TX

Say no to vouchers!

John Buchanan

Self

Sanger, TX

I am writing to oppose HB 3. This bill will grow government and increase the burden on taxpayers. It will create more government employee positions and grow government spending.

Our government should be focusing on returning local control to districts, increasing the basic allotment, and increasing teacher pay. Instead, this bill focuses on proving subsidies to private schools.

Justin Michaelsen

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Anyone regardless of party or If liked them before that votes for a school "choice" or a voucher program will never understand any circumstance receive a vote from me again. I'm basically a 1 issue voter now.

Kaitlin McDermott

Self

Farmers Brnch, TX

Education Savings Accounts will take money away from the public education system that hasn't been fully funded since the last session. ESAs will not give parents choice bc private schools choose kids. There is no open enrollment at private schools. Additionally, ESAs advantage the rich who already send their kids to private school. There are few private schools that cost less than \$10k per year, so parents who don't have disposable income will still not be able to afford a private school. On that note, this will also open up the doors for unregulated, cheap, private religious schools to open. They will not provide the high quality education our students deserve. Focus on legislation that will help fix the existing public schools (like teacher pay, high quality instructional materials adoptions, teacher training programs) rather than giving a gift to the rich.

Finally, most rural districts don't have a private option for kids to attend. Therefore, a focus on fixing the existing system would benefit kids regardless of where they live.

JAMES GALLAGHER

self

JONESTOWN, TX

"House Bill 3 represents a fundamental shift in how Texas funds education, and its financial implications reveal a stark contrast between the value placed on school choice versus the value placed on public education.

Under HB 3, parents who opt for private school vouchers through Education Savings Accounts will receive approximately \$10,500 per student—a figure significantly higher than the proposed basic allotment of \$6,380 per student for public school. Public schools would receive over \$4,000 less per student than families choosing private education. And the money provided to private schools has virtually no-strings attached while the public school money comes with a boatload of state mandates.

To put this in perspective, take two typical families, each with 2 school age children and each family pays \$4000 in local school taxes per year. Joe Private's family would receive around \$21,000 from the state in an ESA to attend private school, whereas, Joe Public's family would get \$12760 from the state towards their public school. But that's not quite accurate since public schools never achieve 100% attendance. So let's shave a few percentage points off that for a more realistic \$12000 per year. So the Privates get \$21000 and the Public's get \$12000. That's a whopping \$9000 difference per year. Over 13 years of schooling that over \$115000 more for Joe Private's family.

This is not a fair system of state funding and I doubt that anyone of you can argue otherwise, not honestly anyway.

The question taxpayers and lawmakers must ask is: If Texas can afford to invest \$10,500 per child for private school tuition, why does the state continue to fund public school students at a much lower rate? HB 3's numbers make clear that 'choice' is valued at a premium, while public school students are expected to receive significantly less from the state. Local jurisdictions will have to continue to raise taxes on themselves to make up for the lack in state funding. And the state will claw back more and more of those local funds via recapture to use on private schools.

To level the state funding playing field, allow parents to use their ESA for public or private school options. Put all choices on the table equally. You may say making HB3 fair is not affordable. The state cannot afford to pick up the full funding tab across the board. I say to you then, go back to square one and look at what the Texas constitution requires. Texas courts have repeatedly ruled that the school finance system must be equitable and adequate. There is no constitutional requirement to fund private education at all and certainly not at a rate higher than the state pays for public schools. HB3 fails by creating a double standard, one for private and one for public. It gives preference for state tax dollars to private education at the detriment of public education.

Miriah Sachs

Self

Houston, TX

I as a homeschooler vehemently oppose HB3. Taxpayer-funded voucher programs as detailed by SB2 and HB3, create a new welfare/subsidy program, creating administrative overhead, and shifting control away from parents and towards bureaucrats and vendors for profit.

Voucher programs jeopardize the unique freedoms currently enjoyed by homeschoolers in Texas. Families should have the autonomy to educate their children according to their own values and beliefs, without government interference including strings such as being limited to curriculum or materials approved by entities who are not the parent, and testing that has absolutely no benefit to the child at a high administrative cost that does not truly indicate knowledge.

Even though many Texas “school choice” advocates say that homeschoolers will “only” be subject to accountability measures – such as accreditation or standardized testing – if they opt into the ESA program, those are still government regulations that take autonomy away from families. We know that government programs never reduce in size or scope, and homeschoolers in other ESA states are already having to fight to differentiate themselves from those who do take the government money. Texas is unique in their current homeschooling freedoms, and we are not willing to risk those by acquiescing in the name of “accountability.” Thus far, proposals in Texas have not been about freedom of education choices, but about funding of educational choices.

I encourage the Texas legislature to explore alternatives to ESAs, such as tax exemptions that allow families to use their own money to choose the educational options that best suit their needs. This gives ALL Texas children more options without growing government or loss of freedom. A No Child in District Tax Exemption would give everyone access to choice and let parents truly decide how to direct the education of their children

Kayla Lain

self

Godley, TX

My name is Kayla Lain, a parent of three. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of “parental empowerment.” I would like to ask Representative Kerwin to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing “school choice” legislation like HB 3. This bill is overreach of government. We do not want the strings like tracking of college and career readiness, mandatory state assessments, and pre approved curriculum providers. Please vote no on this bill which violates the republican plank 84 of no strings attached school choice. Thank you!

Kendall Harrison

Self

Buffalo Gap, TX

Dear Texas Representative,

I am writing on behalf of myself, fellow public school educators, parents, and concerned Texas citizens. As a mother, a public school history teacher, a taxpayer, a voter, and a deeply invested community member, I urge you to oppose HB2&3 and any other school voucher programs that threaten the future of public education in Texas.

Governor Abbott and the Senate have presented a misleading narrative regarding public school funding, but my administration and local school board can tell you a much different story—one that reflects the real struggles our schools face. HB2&3 would be detrimental to Texas public schools, redirecting taxpayer dollars away from public education to fund private institutions with little to no accountability.

Where is the oversight for private schools receiving these funds? What standardized assessments will their students take to ensure academic progress? How does this bill address concerns about the separation of church and state when public dollars are funneled into private religious schools? These are fundamental questions that remain unanswered.

The truth is, this bill does not serve the majority of Texas children. It primarily benefits families already attending private schools, while public school students—especially those in rural and lower-income communities—will continue to suffer from underfunding. There is no significant evidence that vouchers will lead to a large-scale shift of public school students into private schools. Instead, HB2&3 will divert crucial funds from the public education system, leaving teachers, students, and schools with fewer resources and greater challenges.

Public education is the backbone of our state, and it is our duty to protect and strengthen it, not weaken it with ineffective and inequitable policies. I urge you to vote against HB2&3 and any voucher program that prioritizes politics over the well-being of Texas children. Instead, let's focus on fully funding and improving our public schools, ensuring every child receives the quality education they deserve.

Thank you for your time and dedication to serving the people of Texas. I hope you will stand with educators, parents, and students by opposing HB2&3.

Sincerely,

Kendall Harrison

Abilene, TX

Beverly Henderson

self, teacher

Richmond, TX

Providing state money to schools that do not have to follow state guidelines is wrong. Any school receiving any type of state funding should have the same requirements - all state testing and required student enrollment. Private school have the ability to make choices which improve learning that a public school does not have. If I did not have to teach to make sure my students are successful on a test, I would be able to teach to the individual needs of my students. I do not get to choose who is in my classroom and yet the expectation is that every student show growth. Until there is an even playing field, no state funding for private schools.

Cynthia Hendrickson

Self

Kingwood, TX

I am a retired public school teacher and request no vouchers! Vouchers will not benefit our students. Our State needs to fund public schools, not give money to private schools!

Michael Owens
Self
Mt Enterprise, TX

I strongly oppose using public tax dollars for private schools. Our money would be better spent fully funding public schools. If public money is siphoned to private entities, all of the rules, education code, and STAAR testing should follow the money so that taxpayers can hold those entities accountable.

Monica Trevino
Self
Allen, TX

No to Vouchers!!!

Jania Nicholson
Self
San Antonio, TX

No to vouchers!!!!

Sarah Kate Miller
Self
Richardson, TX

I do not support this bill or any form of education savings accounts. Increase the basic allotment for public education with the money that is set aside for this bill.

Kyandra Greene
self- Program Coordinator in Higher Education
Bryan, TX

Urging my representative to vote NO on HB3 due to its harmful impact on public schools and to communities within the school environment.

Amber Hallows

Self

Hitchcock, TX

Opposition to Texas HB3 – Protect Public Education

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas House Bill 3, which would divert public tax dollars to private schools through a voucher system. This bill is a direct attack on our public education system and would harm the vast majority of Texas students.

Texas already has school choice—parents are free to enroll their children in private schools or homeschooling if they choose. However, using taxpayer dollars to fund private education, which is not subject to the same accountability and transparency as public schools, is not only unfair but also fiscally irresponsible.

HB3 would primarily benefit families who can already afford private school tuition while taking away crucial funding from public schools, which serve the majority of Texas children, including those from low-income and rural communities. Instead of funneling money away from our public education system, we should be focusing on increasing teacher pay, improving school infrastructure, and ensuring that all students have access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to vote against HB3 and stand with Texas students, teachers, and families who rely on strong public schools. Please prioritize policies that support public education rather than dismantling it for the benefit of a privileged few.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Amber E. Hallows

Ellen McCollum

Self

Richardson, TX

As a retired TX Special Ed teacher, I am opposed to HB3, vouchers. I believe this bill will eventually harm public schools by dwindling funds, & especially now that Trump is closing DoEd. I believe in public education, for the greater good, especially for the at-risk kids from poor homes whose folks won't be able to afford private schools, even with vouchers. Siphoning off funds from public school programs which specifically target these kids will be catastrophic. Please continue to put ALL TX public school kids first!

Alyssa Stiglets

Self

Dallas, TX

Why is the amount of basic allocation so much less for public school students than for private school students? Are my children really worth that much less to the state of Texas? Increase basic allotment to MATCH any voucher for private school students.

Amy Moore, Mrs.

Self, bakery owner

Houston, TX

Please oppose HB3. This is not a feasible plan for Texas education and will bankrupt the program like it has done in other surrounding states.

Clare Stratmann
Self
Temple, TX

I am adamantly AGAINST a school voucher system. It does not help the most vulnerable students, it does not help our public schools.

Daniella Lopez Valdez
Brownsville ISD
Brownsville, TX

According to Don't Defund My Schools, implementing a large voucher program would drain \$15,192,173 from Brownsville ISD, diverting critical resources away from public schools to private institutions that lack public accountability. That could mean as many as 283 fewer teachers for students, 303,843 fewer library books, and a projected increase in student-teacher ratio of 7.29%.

HB 3 does not provide for parental choice, because it allows private schools to reject students based on their disability, race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Specifically, Section 29.368 of the bill gives private schools unprecedented autonomy, including the ability to reject any student for any reason. Many private schools will likely turn away students who are already struggling in public schools. All students deserve to have equal access to quality education and the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of their background. Texans would be better served by increasing funding to our community schools, which accept all of our children regardless of their background, ability, or identity.

Texas already offers school choice through inter-district transfers in BISSD and other districts, as well as numerous public charter school options. Vouchers Do Not Equal "Choice."
— Thank you for all you do.

Victoria Herdman
Self
Austin, TX

I am a public school teacher in Round Rock ISD, and I know that school vouchers will hurt public schools. It gives money to people who can already afford private schools, and that's not where our money should be going. Kids need school supplies, things like tissues and new desks and tables. I believe in parents having choice of where they send their kids to school; that includes public school. School vouchers will take funding from schools who really need it. There are areas in Texas that have no charter schools; if their public school loses their funding, where will those students go to school? I believe that everyone deserves an education, and school vouchers doesn't help make that happen. It is the job of our government to serve the people; I'm asking you to serve the people by keeping public schools open. I'm asking you as a teacher, as a constituent, and as a proud Texan.

Elizabeth Hooten
Self
Greenville, TX

There is nothing right about my tax dollars going to provide a private education for a student. The money should go to improving the teachers salaries, the schools and the out of pocket expense the teachers are required to take out of their own pockets just to have what is needed to run a classroom. Keep my tax dollars where they belong in the public schools. Pay teachers better, add more assistants to help, supply every item needed to teach. I in no way support giving vouchers to pay for a private education for anyone.

Heather Goodgion
Self & family. Retired
Galveston, TX

I am a mother of two who has always had the option and means to send my children, and now grandchildren, to private school but chose, instead, to have them educated in the diverse, inclusive environment provided at public schools while being taught by credentialed teachers. The solution to providing a well-rounded education for all children is already in place. Simply fund our public schools.

I'm asking that Representative Leo-Wilson, as well as other representatives, please take into account the overwhelming opposition to this bill and vote accordingly. I, like most others, do not want my tax dollars used to fund private schools. I thank each of you for your hard work, and I beg that you please remember that you were elected to represent your constituents.

Heather H Goodgion

Jill Davis
School social workers
Richmond, TX

I work in the school system. There are hardly any private schools locally and most are religious based. We have no local transportation available to take kids to schools faraway. We already do without funding and teachers are overworked and stressed out because running the dept of education from the federal level and state level no nothing. There are no choices locally that anyone can choose from. This is all about the people who can already afford private school. This will exclude kids with learning differences, this will exclude families who work a job schedule that doesn't allow them the ability to take and pick up kids from school. This is about supporting the rich. This is not about supporting everyone. The government is picking and choosing. We already rank pathetically low in our schools compared to other states. We often have to buy our own paper and supplies. People will

Leave education because there will be nothing supporting education. How can anyone feel good about this voucher system when it takes so much away from the majority??? How do you live with yourself and wake up knowing what you are really creating? It's disgusting and demeaning to everyone who lives in the state of Texas. I have no pride in living in this state. I am only embarrassed and looking at how I can move. You don't represent all of us, only the rich and you all should be ashamed of yourselves. You only want to line the pockets of your donors.

Allison Brim
Self
Dallas, TX

I am against this bill. I am a public school parent and do not want any of my tax dollars going toward private schools.

Jessica Swan
Self
Temple, TX

Vouchers should not be awarded to private schools. It's Our children's right to a fair and free education. Private schools pick and choose who they allow in their schools. Leaving out the majority of the population. No special education, teachers don't even have to be certified to teach. People with children in private schools have the resources already to pay for their child's education. Vouchers are welfare for the rich, and we already know how the rich feel about welfare.

Public schools and teachers need all, and more, of the money the state and federal government gives them. NO TO VOUCHERS.

Erica Yarger, Mrs.

self

Cypress, TX

I strongly oppose Texas House Bill 3 and the establishment of an education savings account program. Public funds should remain in public schools, ensuring accountability and equitable access to quality education for all students. Diverting taxpayer dollars to private entities undermines our public education system and the communities it serves.

Please vote against HB 3 and prioritize strengthening public schools instead

Allison Crow

Self

Austin, TX

House Bill 3 (HB 3) has raised serious concerns, and I am angry that it has made it this far. I strongly oppose it for several reasons:

1. Government Overreach & Unfunded Mandates

HB 3 places unnecessary and burdensome requirements on school districts, particularly in terms of security measures, without providing adequate funding. This forces schools to either divert money from essential educational programs or scramble to find alternative funding sources.

2. Strain on Public Education

Our public schools are already struggling with teacher shortages, lack of resources, and budget constraints. Instead of addressing these pressing issues, HB 3 adds another layer of bureaucracy and financial strain, making it harder for schools to focus on their primary mission: educating students.

3. One-Size-Fits-All Approach

The bill imposes security mandates that may not be practical or necessary for all schools, especially smaller districts that lack the infrastructure to implement them effectively. Local school boards and educators should have more control over decisions that impact their students, rather than being forced to comply with rigid state mandates.

4. Political Posturing Over Real Solutions

HB 3 appears to be more about political optics than meaningful change. If lawmakers genuinely cared about school safety, they would ensure that schools have proper funding, mental health resources, and the flexibility to implement security measures that best fit their needs.

5. Ignoring the Root Causes of School Safety Issues

Throwing unfunded mandates at schools does not address the real challenges affecting student safety, such as mental health support, social services, and gun reform. Instead of a comprehensive approach to school safety, HB 3 offers a narrow, reactive solution that fails to consider broader systemic issues.

In short, HB 3 is a poorly designed, underfunded mandate that places an unfair burden on schools without delivering real solutions. I believe in policies that empower educators, prioritize funding for education, and genuinely enhance school safety—not politically motivated legislation that does more harm than good.

Amanda King-Schultz

Self

Austin, TX

All children deserve access to exceptional public education, regardless of socioeconomic status. All children deserve the opportunity to succeed. Vouchers undermine public schools by diverting funds, leading to decreased services and unequal educational opportunities. Voucher programs increase the cost of educating students who remain in public schools, while benefitting higher-income families paying for private schools. Private school tuition is out of reach for most low-income families, regardless of available vouchers. Using state funds to help wealthy families pay for private school tuition is wrong. Please do not support this bill. Please do not hurt our children by working to dismantle public education. All students should have access to a free and equal high-quality education without discrimination.

Kelly Roquet

Self

Temple, TX

Wrong for Texas. Wrong anywhere. It undermines public schools, discriminates against students, accountability lacks in private schools, there's proof that this doesn't improve students' achievements, this only benefits the wealthy, it hurts public transparency, DOES NOT MEET THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, completely undermines public education, and does not solve any real issues that parents want resolved in schools. This just aims at providing options for the privileged while education is a RIGHT! Most importantly, this VIOLATES the First Amendment of the Constitution. Separation of Church and State was what America was founded on.

Sabia Siddiqi

self

Austin, TX

Please give more funding to our public schools and do not move forward with vouchers in any form. Vouchers are not the answer to creating a well-educated population. Please support our hard working parents who can't afford private schools, even with vouchers, and who believe every child is entitled to an education.

Megan Dear

Self/Parent

Austin, TX

I am against the establishment of a public savings account for schools in Texas. Not only does it deny funds that are better served to bolster our public education system, it gives my tax money to people who do not need it and can already afford to send their kids to private school. The total allotment neither covers the entire cost of attendance including tuition, uniforms, or supplies required by these schools, nor does it do anything to prevent private schools from then raising their prices after the voucher has been put into place. There are already scholarship programs that are readily utilized for the few they want to include in their programs. Many rural counties don't even have private schools available to them within a reasonable distance, making it impractical or even impossible for them to attend. Where is the choice in that? Furthermore, public schools are given money based on daily attendance and enrollment, so assuming this program actually did what you claim it will (which it won't), it will further remove money from our public schools which are already sorely underfunded. This bill is outrageous in its blatant move to privatize public education, further a religious agenda to erode the separation between church and state, and garner more power and money for those that already have it making the divide between those that have and have not even greater.

John Dickson

Self

Dallas, TX

If you vote to pass this bill it means one of two things, either you aren't very intelligent or you don't care in the least about the people you are supposed to be taking care of. Either way if you vote yes and this bill passes you need to be replaced with someone with a modicum of intelligence and an actual sense of decency. Quit kissing Abbot's ring, actually consider what's best for the people you are supposed to serve and Vote NO!

Amanda Bossert

Self

Katy, TX

The majority of Texans are opposed to HB 3 or using public taxpayer dollars for private schools. The ultimate effects of HB 3 will only benefit a small percentage of Texas children and deteriorate public school education as well as our communities, which Texans do not want. Please do what is right and listen to us, your constituents. Do not use public funds for private matters.

Jesse Coulter

Self

Georgetown, TX

Taxpayer funds need to go to Public NOT Private Schools!

Our Public Schools have been neglected for 5 years - DO NOT send Public dollars to Private Schools.

Billionaires do NOT dictate how taxpayers dollars are spent. Stand up for the hard-working Texans.

Vouchers HURT our neighborhood schools!

Vouchers HURT our rural communities !

We HAVE choice in our public schools right now! But the legislature is NOT funding CHOICE in public schools!

Texan billionaires just want WHITE, CHRISTIAN PRIVATE schools! We do NOT agree and you need to demonstrate courage and commitment to hard-working Texans and say NO!

We voted you into office to represent US -- say NO to VOUCHERS!

The Texas Senate was bought out by the Billionaire Texans -- the House needs to represent the people of Texas and show more courage!

State government has a constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public schools. Let's start doing that ! 5.5 million children are depending on it !

James Trietsch

Personal

Abilene, TX

I am opposed to the school voucher program. I believe that it is harmful to public schools and urge you to deny the bill's approval.

Molly Hornbuckle

self

Georgetown, TX

We give you our tax dollars for use for the PUBLIC GOOD, not private schools. Vouchers will cripple our PUBLIC schools, especially in rural areas. This is a shameful use of taxpayer dollars and a shirking of your responsibility to serve ALL Texas children!

Gerald Turner, Mr.

Self -retired teacher

San Antonio, TX

The state of public education in Texas is appalling ranked 29th nationally. It is also the 11th LOWEST in spending per pupil. Taking public dollars and giving to private schools is idiotic. If families want a private education let them find private money. The proposed vouchers will actually cause students in public schools to receive a lower rate of tax dollars spent per student in public schools. Vouchers will NOT increase Texas's national rank, it will lower it. Do not pass this legislation.

Henry Culpepper

Cypress Fairbanks ISD

Houston, TX

No ESAs! No Vouchers! Protect my public school!

Sarah Millerhouse

Self

Katy, TX

Please vote NO to any bill that includes vouchers. Vouchers defund public education and will not benefit the students in our state. Vote to fully fund public education, and do not allow the governor to continue holding our public school funds hostage. Vouchers are not about what is good for our kids...vouchers are good for Abbott's bottom line and his own pockets. Vote NO.

Tiffany Rabe

Self-physician

Dallas, TX

Taxes are paid to go to our public schools and should stay in public schools. By funding private schools, money that would never have been spent by the state is now bolstering the profits of schools that are already full. There aren't enough private schools to even hold a fraction of the people that have private schools in their district so it would only mean giving money to private schools that previously would not have had free government funding. In Dallas the private schools are located in the richest areas of town, far from any people that could potentially benefit from private education. The money should be used to help the schools in low income areas have more parent involvement, more enrichment programs, and higher teacher salaries to recruit the best teachers to these areas. Private schools aren't going anywhere and don't need tax dollars for funding.

Katie Dahlquist

Self

Austin, TX

Public money should only fund public schools. Vouchers will take money away from public schools so that the rich can spend less money sending their kids to private schools. I have an MEd and taught at inner city schools that had been underfunded for decades because they rich voted down every school bond because they sent their kids to private schools. I've seen what happens when public schools are defunded. We don't need this in Texas. Every child deserves a great education. If the wealthy want to send their kids to private schools, let them — but not with my tax dollars. Furthermore, few private schools can meet the needs of disabled students or children in rural counties.

Jamie Pickerell-Brock

Self

Dallas, TX

This is welfare for the rich! Stealing money from public schools to give it to private schools who have no educational standards that they need to uphold. This will starve rural schools of resources and force rural students to travel much further away to get an education.

Nora Saavedra, Dr.

Myself, pediatrician

Manvel, TX

Please support public schools and not a voucher program. This only benefits a few rich families and neglects the majority. You will harm Texas kids and our educational gap will widen. Stop harming children please. Support public schools. Fund public school teachers.

Shay Webb

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I oppose school vouchers. They will only benefit the wealthy. Poorer areas can't support private schools so they will see no benefits. They will also hurt our communities that are built around our neighborhoods schools.

JoAnn McKenzie, Ms.

self

Austin, TX

I oppose vouchers for many reasons: (1)

Taxpayer-funded programs should have strong accountability and oversight, but private schools taking voucher money won't be required to follow the same rules as public schools. They won't have elected boards, transparency requirements, or standardized academic assessments. That's a recipe for fraud and waste.

(2) Texas' Constitution clearly says public money should not fund religious schools. If a voucher program is passed, taxpayer dollars will flow into religious education, raising serious constitutional concerns. Not only that, but every religion—including those that some Texans find objectionable—will have to be funded. This is not the conservative approach to education.

(3) You know the financial realities of public education. When a student leaves for a private school with a voucher, the local public school still has to cover its fixed costs—salaries, buses, building maintenance. Losing funding without reducing costs puts schools in financial jeopardy.

Please vote against any measure that defunds our public schools, that spend public taxpayer dollars on private unaccountable schools, and that violates Texas values, constitution, and the interests of most Texans.

Tamara Archer

Self and Special Education Teacher

Justin, TX

I am asking you with all that I am as a teacher, for an increase of \$1,340 bringing the basic allotment up to \$7,500 (from \$6,160). Raising the basic allotment by \$220 is simply not enough. It represents an increase of only 3.58% during the same time in which inflation has increased 23%. We cannot educate our children in the way they deserve with such a low increase. What the state is doing to education is pitiful. Please increase the basic allotment to what it should be. Listen to your voters. Better yet, let us vote. Thank you.

Lindsay Snider

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I oppose the school voucher program. Data does not support that this increases "school choice" for lower income students.

Carin Adermann

Self, Director of Testing and Former Principal & Teacher

San Antonio, TX

Thank you for your attention to public education. However, I write to you with a deep sense of urgency and concern as an educator with over 30 years experience. As a district director struggling to cut my budget by 15% due to our district's staggering \$93.8 million deficit, I see the real-world consequences of underfunding.

Principals are expected to do more with significantly less, grapple with a severe shortage of qualified teachers, and endure the constant strain of increasing mandates and community demands without the necessary funding or support. This isn't just a matter of numbers; it's about the well-being of our educators and the future of our students.

While the proposed \$220 per student increase in the basic allotment is acknowledged, it is woefully inadequate. It fails to address the escalating costs of inflation and the burden of unfunded mandates. To truly support our schools and students, I urge you to consider a minimum increase of \$1,000 per student, with built-in adjustments for future inflation. This investment will provide the stability and resources our schools desperately need.

We are not just asking for more money; we are asking for the ability to provide a quality education for every child in Texas. Please, listen to the voices of educators on the front lines and take meaningful action to address this critical funding crisis.

Maneesha Asundi

Self

Plano, TX

Fund my school programs

Lindsey McClelland

Myself and fellow Texans including students

Justin, TX

No to educational savings accounts (vouchers) until the rules apply to everyone including testing, security requirements, full day prek, special education services, curriculum oversight, and the list goes on or none of these things should be imposed on public school either. Make it make sense. Texas does not want this. You are elected to represent the people, including the 5.5 million in public school. Do your job and support those students and staff by raising the basic allotment to \$7500. This number is what is needed to keep up with inflation since 2019. Stop hiding public school money, and stop listening to your funding giants that do not live in Texas. Do what is best for Texas!

Kimberly Tucker

Self, Senior Analyst

Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 3 which would create a voucher program. Vouchers take taxpayer dollars from local public schools to subsidize private education for the wealthy few. Vouchers do not improve our children's education, but they do give wealthy parents a discount on their private school tuition.

Vouchers will raise property taxes. Texans pay more in property taxes than California, Florida, and 41 other states because Greg Abbott has systematically underfunded our public schools for years. To stop the bleeding, local school districts are forced to raise property tax rates. Vouchers will take even more money away from our classrooms, forcing school districts to raise our tax rates even more. With vouchers, we would pay more — for less.

Vouchers are backed by billionaires, not Texans.

Sophia Johnson, Former teacher

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Jake Odom
Self
Palestine, TX

Over the past ten years, there has been a noticeable decline in state support for public education. Despite a growing student population, per-student funding has not kept pace with inflation and the increasing needs of our students. This underfunding has led to larger class sizes, reduced resources, and diminished support services, all of which directly impact student learning and achievement.

The state's reliance on property taxes to fund public schools has created disparities between districts, often leaving schools in lower-income areas, like ours in Palestine, under-resourced. The "recapture" system, intended to redistribute funds from property-wealthy districts to less affluent ones, has not adequately addressed these inequities. Instead, it has placed additional burdens on districts already struggling to meet their students' needs. ?

Challenges with Standardized Testing and Curriculum

In my tenure, I have observed a troubling trend: while standardized testing has become increasingly rigorous, our students' reading skills have declined. The emphasis on high-stakes testing has shifted the focus from holistic education to test preparation, narrowing the curriculum and stifling creativity in the classroom.

The recent adoption of the Amplify scripted curriculum, approved by the state, exemplifies this issue. While standardized programs aim to ensure consistency, they often fail to account for the diverse backgrounds and learning styles of our students. In my experience, Amplify does not meet our students where they are, making it challenging to engage them effectively and address their individual needs.

As a dedicated educator committed to the success of my students, I implore you to reconsider the implementation of HB 3. While the goal of improving educational outcomes is noble, diverting funds from public schools to establish ESAs is not the answer. Instead, we must invest in our public education system, address existing challenges, and ensure that every student, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality education.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I am hopeful that, together, we can work towards meaningful solutions that benefit all Texas students.

Michael Meyer
self
Grapevine, TX

Article 1, section 7 of the Texas Constitution No money shall be appropriated or drawn from the treasury for the benefit of any sect or religious society...the permanent school fund and the available school fund may not be appropriated to or used for the support of any sectarian school. Please uphold the Texas constitution and vote no. Protect our public schools for the good of ALL Texans, especially our rural neighbors.

Dana Rushing
self
Austin, TX

I am against private school vouchers, as they take away from public schools and line the pockets of the billionaires who plan to open private Christian schools.

Charlyn Dominy Elliott
Self
San Angelo, TX

Don't sign!!! Our public schools need a complete reform, not this bill

Ashley Helmbrecht
Self, nurse practitioner
San Angelo, TX

I do not support this bill. Please vote no.

Paul Bourquin
Self
Amarillo, TX

I do not support the voucher bill and ask that my representatives do not vote for it.

Martha Burks, Ms
Self, retired teacher
Holly Lake Ranch, TX

Please fully fund our public schools. I am NOT in favor of vouchers. If money is the issue, which of course it is, then do away with or limit the mandatory testing. If standardized tests are eliminated or reduced, there will be ample money to fund public schools. Let's get back to teaching instead of testing our children to tears and penalizing our teachers with paperwork. NO TO VOUCHERS!!!! Testing and vouchers are not the answer. The parents that send their children to private schools do it to avoid the standardized tests.

Eugenia Bopp
self, retired
Houston, TX

Please support our public schools and vote against HB3. Use the money to increase teacher pay and strengthen rural education.

M Henley, Mrs.
Self
San Angelo, TX

As a public educator, this bill is offensive on many levels. We can not seriously be considering this.

JENNIFER BEALL

SELF, PARENT AND VOLUNTEER FOR KLEIN ISD SCHOOLS IN KLEIN TEXAS
SPRING, TX

I am a parent have dedicated thousands of volunteer hours and personal dollars in my students' public schools in the acclaimed Klein Independent School District in Spring (NW Houston). Our certified teachers give excellent education to a broad range of students, including mine. Please do not take funding away from our public school districts to give it to private enterprises who do not require certified teachers, allow irregularities in background checking for hiring (Harmony charter Schools in the Houston area). It is the obligation of the state to offer educational opportunities to its citizens. ESAs offer a false choice for education, giving a price break to few wealthy families who would already pay for private education while taking funding away from public schools that serve the rest of the children for whom private school will still be out of financial reach.

Experiences in the other states has shown that Universal ESA voucher programs fail to achieve improving educational outcomes for students. In fact, research shows vouchers have substantial negative effects on academic achievement: For example: Studies in Louisiana, Indiana, and Ohio found that students who attended private schools using vouchers performed worse than similar peers in public schools. These negative effects persisted over years, meaning they were not a temporary result of students' transition to a new school.

Studies of voucher programs in Washington, D.C., and Alabama found no significant improvement in student test scores. Vouchers fail to deliver even on non-academic measures. Parents do not report greater satisfaction with schools, nor a greater sense of safety, with the use of vouchers.

Indiana's program has been described as the poster child for the segregating effects of vouchers

Claims that vouchers improve academic performance are simply false

Furthermore, vouchers harm under-resourced rural public schools and their communities, with no benefit to those rural students who cannot find any private schools.

Voucher programs drain millions of dollars from public sources but are subject to virtually no public accountability—a fraction of the requirements imposed on public schools. Unregulated, unaccountable voucher programs are a waste of taxpayer dollars.

It has also been shown in the other states that:

Vouchers are more expensive than public schooling

Vouchers shift education expenses to the parents

Vouchers subsidize private education for students who would not otherwise have attended a public school

Voucher programs do not change the fixed costs in public schools

Vouchers cost taxpayers money to subsidize private education – often for the more wealthy

Vouchers create new subpar education vendors to suck up the increased demand for profit sake

Question:

School vouchers (establishment of an education savings account program) will lead to diminished educational success for Texas across all demographics, including those choosing private schools.

Abigail Chaplin Kyzer

Self/piano teacher

Corinth, TX

I write today to ask you to vote NO on HB 3. Texans do not want taxpayer funded vouchers to pay for the unregulated education at private schools. Our public schools are drastically underfunded because the legislature continues to deny funding increases to the basic allotment and yet still passes mandates that go unfunded. Our public schools, our teachers, and our students deserve the best and that costs money. I want my tax dollars to be used for public programs like my neighborhood school. My daughter's elementary school currently operates on a budget of less than \$40,000—this is all the staff has to work with to purchase supplies, replace and maintain equipment, fund our art/music/library/PE programs, and ensure quality professional development for teachers and staff. Our school serves around 550 students. Maintaining and supplying the copiers alone runs slightly over \$10,000 annually—those copiers make sure our kids have activities and exercises to teach and refine writing, reading, and math skills. There isn't any additional money to update or replace books in our literacy library where we stock classroom copies of books of all levels for teachers to utilize in their classrooms. If something expensive like a copy machine or smart board breaks, there isn't money to replace or fix it without eliminating funds from another part of the budget. Texans want public schools to be a viable option for our kids—a safe place where they can learn from highly trained professionals who have the best materials and environment to support them and help them grow. The basic allotment MUST be increased to at least \$1300 per student MORE than the current amount just for schools to pay overhead costs and properly fund their staff. I'm not interested in paying for rich people's kids to go to private school—if a family wants to make that choice, they need to find a way to pay for it themselves. Funding a second education system when the Texas legislature won't even properly fund the system we currently have is disgraceful and a poor use of the taxpayer's money. It is obviously a way for owners and trustees of private schools to line their pockets with tax dollars while public schools languish and our children—the future work force of Texas!—pay the price. Stand up for our children and your constituents, not the billionaire backers of Greg Abbott who have their foot on your neck threatening your seat. We will remember how you vote in the next election and will cast our ballot accordingly.

Rebekah Rivisto

self

Belton, TX

I am in favor for an education savings account program and hope our leaders vote in favor of it.

Carole Somers-Clark, Rev.

Self

Dallas, TX

Your vote against School Vouchers indicates your commitment to an education for all children in our state. You support children regardless of race, gender or ability. You will honor individual freedom to learn regardless of church or religious affiliation. You choose to make Texas stronger by voting down vouchers and protecting our public schools.

Christina Cummins, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

I am not in favor of HB 3. Our already underfunded public schools should not lose out on any funding to private schools. If our public schools are lacking we should be looking at ways to improve them. Public schools in this country need major improvements but this is not helping at all. We should be looking to states with the highest education outcomes for a playbook.

Darren Bogus

Self

Round Rock, TX

I do not support HB 3, the school voucher or school choice bill. Ultimately, this bill will cause more harm than good for Texas families and schools. I urge all Texas lawmakers to withdraw support. There is a reason this bill failed previously.

Karen Conyngham, Mrs.
Self Employed Researcher
Austin, TX

I totally oppose SB 2 and HB.3 - NO school vouchers for Texas!!

Texas needs to be vastly improving budget support for public schools. For every child who leaves public school, neighborhood schools lose money and the cost-saving benefits of operating at scale. This leads to larger class sizes, cuts to extracurricular programs like football and band, and school closures. I live in the Eanes district and we are already going to loose one elementary school next fall and we are a community of young families!

According to the website dontdefundmyschool.com*, Eanes would loose \$3,172,893 in funding under a voucher system.

[*See: <https://tinyurl.com/mssdukdw>]

The school funding bill proposes to invest less than half of what is needed to restore the losses from past budgets, mainly due to inflation.

Rural communities would be especially hurt by vouchers because they rely on public schools for jobs and other services. Few of them even have access to private schools, let alone the ability to afford those schools.

According to WalletHub's 2024 report, Texas ranked 29th out of 50 states and the District of Columbia in education expenditures. That is shameful. By the way, Gov. Abbott seems aware of this. A recent Houston Chronicle (Feb. 13, 2025) reads: "Texas Gov. Greg Abbott says vouchers could lead to less funding for public schools".

Vouchers will also have a negative impact on the Texas Teacher Retirement System - money diverted to paying teachers in private schools mean those teachers do not pay into TRS.

It is fine for people to choose private school for their children but I do NOT want my tax dollars going to support them. Our property taxes are already high; public education should be the focus of our taxes NOT the victim.

Please reject these two bills.

Amie ONeal
Self
Belton, TX

I am opposed to this bill. I fear its repercussions on public education and public schools would be detrimental. I do not feel that state public funds should be used for private organizations. I feel that this bill should have a pilot program to demonstrate its effectiveness, and that there are a lack of accountability measures tied to the funds. I feel that private organizations will refuse to admit certain students, and will not be held to the same standards and scrutiny that public schools have been held to. I would like my tax dollars to make public schools the shining beacons of learning that tie communities together as they should. Our schools should be a place where opposing views meet and grow together- ESA's will lead to further division and isolation of groups and stagnate our growth as a community and state.

Cathy Pool
Educator/Self
Cedar Park, TX

As an educator for over 30 years, I am ashamed to say that I teach in Texas. Schools and teachers are so underpaid. School districts are being choked with allotments that have not changed since 2019. I say being choked because a few people with money are keeping allotments from the school districts so that the school districts will only teach what those few people want. The districts have to accept the "Bluebonnet" curriculum to get the extra money to help students learn. This curriculum has only been vetted by a few people and one agency. This is going back to the one room school house. Texas is already so low in all education rankings, now we will be even lower. Now these few people who are controlling Texas with their money are wanting vouchers (no matter what you call them they are vouchers). They are being pushed on the public as a parent's choice. I am a parent and I have always had a choice on my daughter's education. I made the choice to take her out of a very high rated school district and put her into a charter school (not a charter ran by a business). I decided to do that because that school district did not meet her needs, the charter school did. I could have homeschooled her but I wanted to keep her in a social environment. Again, this was my choice. The school district that I now work for accepts students from other districts as transfers. Teachers are already underpaid and leaving education in a great amount. How many are going to stay when TRS goes under? TRS can not keep going when private school teachers are added to the retirement system without providing funding for them. Please focus on funding for schools and teacher pay raises. Public money needs to stay with public schools and NOT vouchers (or whatever you change the name to).

Marissa Hampton
Self
Aledo, TX

Our public school children need our support. Parents already have their choice of where to send their kids to school. Why are we putting the needs of a smaller wealthier community over the masses who don't have the luxury of attending a private school. Please help those that need it the most!

Mark Muller
Self / Patent Attorney
San Antonio, TX

Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) are long overdue in Texas. I've taught in the Texas private and public systems. I've attended private Texas schools where 75% of the students' families were below the poverty level, struggling to be there, because they believed it was worth it to choose a better way. Texas parents (I am one of them!) pay taxes to support a system of education, and they should be able to take a more active part, to have some say about how those funds are distributed - especially when it comes to their own children. Putting ESAs in place gives parents a chance to have a say in what is valued with respect to the education of their children. And it will provide a great indicator to everyone else as to where those values lie. Finally, families that are struggling to provide their kids with a better education via the private path will have a MUCH easier time if ESAs are available. I know many of them, and it would make a HUGE difference in their lives. Moreover, when the public system schools find out where the money goes, maybe they will decide to make some real changes, competing to provide the kind of education parents actually want, without spending so many dollars on administration, or sports. Obviously we need both of those things to some degree, but really - to the degree we have now? This is your chance to make a dramatic change for the better in Texas. To give Texas parents some real power. And a real choice for their kids. In 20 years some of those same kids will be sitting where you are. Wouldn't it be great if they gained that power and privilege via an ESA? Please give this your kind consideration. We, the parents in Texas, and our children, are counting on you!

Cynthia Rangel
Self
Duncanville, TX

The voucher system is a direct threat to public education, funneling taxpayer money away from schools that serve all students and redirecting it to private institutions that operate with little oversight. While advocates claim that school vouchers promote “parent choice,” in reality, they allow private schools to receive public funds without adhering to the same federal and state educational standards required of public schools. This creates an uneven playing field, where public schools are expected to meet rigorous accountability measures while private schools can operate with far less scrutiny.

One of the most alarming aspects of the voucher system is that most private schools do not require their teachers to hold a state-issued teaching license. In public schools, teachers must meet certification requirements that ensure they are qualified to educate students effectively. These licensing standards help maintain a baseline of quality in teaching and protect students from unqualified instructors. Without such requirements, there is no guarantee that students in private schools receiving public funds are being taught by trained educators.

Furthermore, private schools have the luxury of selecting their student body, whereas public schools are legally required to educate every child, regardless of ability, background, or special needs. This selective admissions process allows private institutions to exclude students with disabilities, behavioral challenges, or lower academic performance, creating a system where only certain children reap the benefits of state funding. Public schools, on the other hand, provide essential services such as special education programs, mental health support, and free or reduced-price meals for students in need. These services are crucial for student success, yet they are at risk of being underfunded when state dollars are redirected to private schools through voucher programs.

Public schools already face significant financial constraints, stretching limited resources to provide quality education for all students. Removing even more funding from these schools through a voucher system will only exacerbate existing challenges, leading to larger class sizes, reduced resources, and fewer extracurricular opportunities. Research consistently shows that when public schools are adequately funded, student performance improves. Instead of diverting money to private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards, we should be investing in public education to strengthen learning outcomes for all children.

Our state already ranks among the lowest in education performance nationwide. Rather than weakening our public school system further by pulling away much-needed funding, we should be working to fully invest in our schools, provide better resources for teachers, and implement policies that enhance student achievement.

Lorraine Stehn
Self
McAllen, TX

Absolutely no support for school vouchers. By any name this program will deplete public school funding and thus is unacceptable.

LISA FAULKNER-DUNNE
self
Dallas, TX

I am against vouchers, as it will diminish public school funding, and is especially unfair to rural districts. Please do not vote for vouchers. The negative effect on thousands of students is not worth giving wealthy people a kickback in their private school tuition. That's their decision to attend private school, but the rest of taxpayers should not supplement their fees.

Victoria Lind
Self
Pearland, TX

I am against this bill.

Damon Leard

Self

Tyler, TX

Please, please vote against this bill. I truly believe this to be the undoing of decent public education in Texas. Thank you.

Jason Geron

self, disabled

San Angelo, TX

This bill is not good. 'nationalized' healthcare is not good and neither is education, even on a state level. This bill does not cover all Texas children. It creates a limitless 'by funding' capacity for government spending and waste. It introduces additional oversight on parents. It is in all ways not correct. The correct way to allow school choice is to stop taxing for schools and return the money to the taxpayer, as well as all other educational state expenses. The parents can then decide where and how to spend that money/funding without oversight. PS - get rid of tax surpluses. These should be refunded to the taxpayer, instead of looking for ways to spend it.

Alexandra Torres

The Texan students

Conroe, TX

The vouchers are scam pushed by Greg Abbott. Every voucher program that has passed has always failed. It will only further the divide between students. A huge education reform needs to happen but not this way. Texas ranks very low in education. It needs to change and to not include bibles. If you include one religion, include them all. Vouchers only make the rich richer. Let the citizens of Texas vote on this bill at the very least.

Richard Redden, Mr.

self, retired teacher

San Antonio, TX

Vote no on any voucher bill, including HB 3! As a member of the Association of Texas Professional Educators, I encourage you to oppose any voucher program, including a tuition tax credit, education savings account, or any other such program that would direct public funds to private, home, or for-profit virtual schools.

Carolyn Brown

Self

Austin, TX

I have been advocating for Texas public schools since I graduated from one in 1999. I have seen them from all sides, parent, teacher and student. I now have the incredible opportunity through my work to visit and work with about 100 Texas public school campuses and over 83,000 students each year. I see our public schools. I see all the incredible moments that those inside the dome with the pen-tune out. Our public schools are doing such good and important work. Our educators who are certified in their field to prepare for their careers and continue their education through PD training work make such a difference in our schools. Our teachers are incredible but our kids are the pulse of our schools. Vouchers will hurt Texas students. I have no doubt. I have also had the opportunity to visit charter and private schools over the years. Some are great and I'm so glad for those families, some are absolute chaos and my heart breaks for those kids. Public schools serve the majority of Texas families. I want an educated future. Our public schools are with fighting for. Our Texas students are worth fighting for. Vouchers will be a disaster and the students will be the ones that suffer.

I ask you to LISTEN to the teachers, parents and students in the state. Vouchers are NOT wanted.

Courtney Fryman

Self / Advocate

Fort Worth, TX

As the parent of a public school child with an IEP, daughter of a public school teacher (35 years, retired), and the product of public education, I heavily question who is benefiting from the establishment of an education savings account program. The information sessions I've seen advertised have all been held at local PRIVATE schools, and though I'm sure we could attend, there were no invitations or advertisements offered to the thousands of public school families in Tarrant county. My family chooses not to send our daughter to a private school for a variety of reasons. We believe that public schools have more to offer our child than being surrounded by people just like her. They challenge her to view the world from different perspectives and help her to grow into a better citizen and human. School is not only about the education you receive, it's also about the array of friends you make and the activities you are involved in with those friends. She has learned to love reading, and does so with confidence despite her dyslexia. This is not something that would have happened outside of her public school and the laws that allow her a equal education. Parents often look at the idea of a private school education, and think that will change their child's life, but imagine what could happen if the funding for this program was instead put into the public school system? If public schools were fully funded, every child in every district would have the opportunity to change their life.

Moira Lail

self

Houston, TX

My name is Moira Lail, I am a parent in Spring Branch ISD in Houston and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical educational programs that serve my two children and all students in SBISD.

Our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

For example:

Special Education: The state allotment for special education in 2023-24 was \$31.5 million, but actual expenditures reached \$53.5 million, leaving a \$22 million shortfall. This gap is projected to be \$20.3 million in 2024-25. Without adequate funding, students with disabilities may not receive the legally mandated services they need to thrive.

Safety & Security: In 2023-24, the state provided only \$0.9 million, but the actual cost was \$8.9 million, creating an \$8 million deficit. For 2024-25, the gap is projected to grow to \$10 million, putting school safety measures at risk.

Transportation: The 2023-24 state allocation was \$1.5 million, while the cost of maintaining transportation services was \$10.4 million, leading to an \$8.9 million shortfall. In 2024-25, the gap is expected to be \$8.3 million, making it difficult to ensure students have reliable and safe transportation to and from school.

Pre-Kindergarten: This critical early childhood education program faced a \$3.7 million funding gap in 2023-24, with an estimated \$3.2 million shortfall in 2024-25. Underfunding pre-K limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities that set children up for future success.

Our educators and administrators are doing their best with limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with the actual costs of running these programs. This includes:

1. Increasing the Basic Allotment at a MINIMUM of \$500 - \$1,000

Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.

Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.

Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.

Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation for academic success.

I urge you to prioritize public school students by closing these funding gaps. Texas schools cannot afford to keep operating with such large deficits, and our children and all residents of our state deserve better. Thank you.

Cori Feldman
Self
Richardson, TX

I do not support this bill which is NOT school choice, but a discount for people who can afford private school. Public schools need appropriate funding and this bill diverts that funding away from providing an excellent and free education for all children in Texas to private companies private education that is not regulated and held accountable. All our children deserve the best education available no matter what they can afford and no matter what their family income, background, or special needs are. Our public schools are terrific and our teachers the resources and salaries to continue to teach all children in Texas.

Mary Alice Castello
Self and ATPE, teacher
Muldoon, TX

I ask you to prevent further deterioration of our public school systems by voting no to HB3 and any other bill proposing education vouchers for private schools. As I look at the proposed bills, I do not understand the justification for a private school receiving more per student than a public school (\$10000 v \$6600). Vouchers will not balance the educational system.

Further, ATPE opposes any voucher program, including a tuition tax credit, education savings account, or any other such program that would direct public funds to private, home, or for-profit virtual schools.

Catherine Bruno
Self
Leander, TX

My child is autistic and has adhd & will not benefit from HB 3 for the following: 1. Lack of Specialized Support in Private Schools: Many private schools do not have the same resources or staff trained to support children with disabilities like autism or ADHD. Public schools, on the other hand, are required by law (through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) to provide accommodations, specialized education, and therapies for children with special needs.

2. No Guarantee of Adequate Support: Even if a private school accepts a child with autism or ADHD, there's no assurance that they will provide the specialized services that the child needs, such as speech therapy, behavioral therapy, or individualized education plans (IEPs). In Texas, private schools are not bound by the same federal mandates to provide accommodations for students with disabilities as public schools are.

3. Financial Burden: While the voucher system offers some financial assistance, it may not cover the full cost of private school tuition and services for a child with autism or ADHD. Families may still face significant out-of-pocket expenses to access the appropriate support and care.

4. Limited Accountability: Private schools may not be subject to the same oversight and accountability as public schools, particularly in terms of ensuring that students with disabilities receive the services outlined in their educational plans. If a private school does not meet the child's needs, it could be challenging to find another school that does, and there may be limited recourse for families.

5. Disruption to Stability: For children with autism or ADHD, routine and stability are crucial for their development. Transitioning to a private school that is not equipped to handle their specific needs could cause anxiety or behavioral setbacks, making it harder for them to thrive.

6. Possible Exclusion: Some private schools may have admission criteria or practices that unintentionally exclude students with autism or ADHD, or may not have the capacity to provide the tailored, individualized support these children need to succeed.

7. Limited Public School Options May Be Lost: Public school systems often offer more specialized programs designed to support neurodiverse children, including specialized autism or ADHD programs. If public school funding is reduced due to the voucher system, these programs may become underfunded or unavailable.

8. Lack of Peer Support: In public schools, children with disabilities often benefit from peer support programs where they can interact with and learn from students who have different abilities. Private schools may not have similar programs in place, which could affect a child's social development.

In summary, while school choice may be appealing, the lack of specialized services, limited oversight, financial burden, and potential lack of stability make the Texas public school voucher bill a less viable option for a child with autism and ADHD.

Amanda Moulton

Self

Leander, TX

I strongly disagree with school vouchers. They will be detrimental to all children and will take a huge toll on our already stretched thin public schools. Please vote NO to HB3

Karla Sarmiento

self

Austin, TX

Vote NO on school vouchers!!!! I strongly oppose the proposed education bill for vouchers. Public education funding is already severely limited and this voucher program will further lead to unequal educational standards for students. Furthermore, the program's limited scope and lack of availability in many Texas districts makes it an ineffective solution. Prioritizing robust public school funding is essential for ensuring equitable educational opportunities for all Texans, not just a select few.

Nathaniel Pancost

Self, Texas parent, Professor

Austin, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. We need to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. Virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas.

Jane Fowler

Myself

Roanoke, TX

Please do not defund or underfund Texas Public schools. It will hurt far more children than it will help. We are only as strong as our public school education. We should want parents to opt into public schools, not out. There are many counties in the state with no private schools, where no child will be served. The vast majority of private schools in Texas cities cost much more than 10K per year. We don't want a legacy of destroying public education, but making it the best in the country. Texas children don't deserve to have their futures be part of a political agenda.

Susan Hostetter

Self

Weatherford, TX

Children today are facing so many obstacles. Let's not take away their basic education. They need to be smarter than the rest of the world. Not the other way. Fully fund the public school systems and stop diverting money to private schools. Vote no on HB3.

Erin Lambert

Self - admin

Belton, TX

I am AGAINST HB3. Your constituents have vocalized that they do not want it. Put it to a vote.

Rob Gearhart, Mr

Self

Austin, TX

Vouchers for private schools are a terrible idea. Please do not vote for this option. Private charter schools have been proven by multiple studies to not improve education. There is a clear pattern that develops, where initially the school does well, but within short order of 3-5 years, those schools begin to degrade in their effectiveness. Charter schools and private schools are not sustainable. These options are designed for a small group of the population, not for the large majority of children. Not to mention that vouchers won't even cover half of the cost. Even with vouchers, most people cannot afford this option. Giving these vouchers to the rich people who can already afford private school is a scam that will collapse the more effective public school system. The whole point of this bill is to make money for those who want to run these schools. Say no!

Janet Love, Rev.

self

Austin, TX

Please keep state funds in public schools. Taking money out of public schools to give vouchers to private schools, many of which are religious and do not have to provide special education is not appropriate. Further, giving more money to private schools is not equitable. Perhaps if the entire per student funding proposed for private schools were given to public schools without regard to student attendance they would do much better. Providing 60% of the funding offered to private schools to public schools is not acceptable. Public schools are required to serve the public, private schools are not.

Debra Dickenson

self

Dallas, TX

Please vote AGAINST HB3 and the School voucher bill. I have supported you in the past, but will no longer do so if you vote for HP3.

HPISD will lose students and \$\$ and we are already paying a lot out of the District for Robin Hood funding.

Marilyn Mutchler

Teachers, students, parents and taxpayers

Crowley, TX

Please do not vote for HB3. The bill will take funds out of public schools and give a taxpayer coupon to private schools. It is not going to give all students choice. It will pull money from Public schools and leave low income, special education and those with learning disabilities stuck in underfunded schools. Private schools get to choose their students and won't take students that need special services. If you are so sure that all parents support HB 3, lets the citizens vote. Fix the system we have and support all students.

VALERIE HOUDEK

Self, insurance

Allen, TX

I oppose HB 3. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy.

Adele Martel

Self

Houston, TX

Public schools need more funding! Private schools have the supplies and resources that they need to offer great education to their students and have the ability to raise money from their tuition fees to cover any future items/programs. Public schools rely on taxpayer funding to provide everything from textbooks to desks and chairs to air conditioning for their students. If the money can be appropriated in a way that will not harm any other existing public support programs, then it should be allocated to public schools so that those students can access better education (to meet the standard of private schools). In addition, of the 254 counties in Texas 150 do not have private schools, meaning that students in those 150 counties do not have the option to attend an over-funded private school even if they wanted to/could afford it. Access to good quality education in this state should not depend on where that student is living. We need to focus more on bringing sub-par institutions up to snuff than on raising the standards of the fee elite. This bill only serves the students and children of the wealthy and leaves every public school student behind. An administration focused on "merit" in the workplace should have the same aim at the educational level, and this can only be achieved by providing equal access to education, not by choosing to only fund the future of the elite.

Lakshmikiran Nandula

Self

Prosper, TX

I don't agree with the vouchers of this bill.

Stephanie Lyle, Mrs.

Self

Carrollton, TX

I strongly oppose this voucher bill. Our public schools need our support and funding now more than ever. To give private schools tax funds is taxation without representation. I ask that we give these funds to public schools in need instead.

Esmeralda Perez-Gonzalez, Dr.

Austin ISD

Kyle, TX

Dear Representative, WE are not in support of education savings account program because we are not parents and do not wish our tax dollars to go to fund someone else's child's choice of schools. Please do not burden those of us who do not have children with sending out tax dollars elsewhere. If it is so much about choice, then let us as the tax payers, those who do not have children decide where my monies should go. This is not fair to us who do not have children. Please do not support ESA program. Thank you! Best, Dr. Esmeralda Perez-Gonzalez, NBCT

Brittany Boldt

Self, stay at home parent and attorney

Carrollton, TX

I am a product of Texas public schools. I was afforded incredible opportunities in school and still have fond memories of teachers from each school I attended. Those same schools are under attack because of the so-called education savings accounts proposed by this bill. Fully funding public education is the right thing to do. I strongly oppose HB 3 and ask the House members to vote no on this and any other voucher bill. Thank you.

Sarah Cox, 78757

self

Austin, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and fully fund Texas public schools. This bill diverts taxpayer dollars from our public schools, which educate over 90% of Texas students, to private institutions with little accountability. Our schools are already facing teacher shortages, rising student needs, and are being forced to cut programs, increase class sizes, and limit services due to not being fully funded and having to make do with less and less every year. Public school investment has not kept up with inflation.

Private schools are not required to serve all students, follow state curriculum standards, provide performance data, or maintain financial oversight. If public money is being spent, there must be transparency. HB 3 lacks accountability.

While promoted as a "school choice," HB 3 benefits only a small group of families. Vouchers do not fully cover private school tuition, leaving many working-class and rural families unable to access private schools: IF there are even private schools near them. Meanwhile, our public schools who are required to serve any and all of our Texas students will be forced to do more with less.

Folks claim that we live in a meritocracy and think that means talent and effort alone, but there are additional components to what we think of as merit. They are: investment and opportunity.

We undermine our state's future when we underfund our public schools. We must invest in all of our students, our public schools, and our teachers. If we raise the amount of money per student that our public schools get to the amount that the state is proposing to give to private and homeschooled children, our public schools could surpass even the best private schools in performance.

If we use state funding to provide more opportunities in our public schools, we can give our children, our state's future, the life experiences and connections that make up the fourth leg of merit. They can meet and connect with more leaders, they can explore more career opportunities. They can be challenged with more interesting projects, field trips, and classroom resources. What starts in Texas could change the world, but only if we give all of our students those opportunities, if we find the diamonds in the rough and invest in them and give them opportunities.

This state used to raise presidents. Now, we're in a race to the bottom of national achievement due to cuts in public school funding. This must change. Vouchers will just take us to the bottom faster: we can see that in every single state that has implemented them.

Strong public schools help create strong communities. When schools suffer, property values decline, businesses struggle, and workforce development weakens. Texans of every stripe have consistently rejected voucher schemes, recognizing that public funds should support schools that serve all students. Being anti-voucher is a non-partisan issue.

I appreciate your time and efforts to protect Texas public education from this voucher scam.

Michelle Bolton

Self

SULPHUR SPGS, TX

Please consider fully funding public schools and support ALL children. I would ask you to vote NO for the education savings account.

Kenneth Moore, Mr.

Self / Retired

Pearland, TX

I want to share with you my early years of school and draw some conclusions.

Bearing in mind, at 67, my memory of those early days is a bit foggy, this is my best recollection.

I started 1st grade in 1963. Almost immediately I began having problems. I was having headaches and had trouble staying focused on my work. I started dreading school and would throw tantrums on school mornings.

I finished the 1st grade with the minimum number of days required. I never finished the 2nd but had completed enough to be allowed into the 3rd grade. I never finished the 3rd grade and never set foot in the 4th.

When I was 10 years old my parents took me to the Remedial Clinic in Beaumont where I was diagnosed with dyslexia. The clinic also ran a school for special needs children which I attended for one semester. I was making good progress but my parents could not afford to keep me there. I was pulled from the program and returned to public school where I finished out the 5th grade. I started but never finished the 6th grade. I don't recall ever setting foot in the 7th grade. I seem to recall being allowed into the 8th but never finished.

About this time my mother passed away – I was 14.

My father moved us to a school district with a special ed program where I was allowed to enter the 9th grade – high school freshman. The teacher was young and inexperienced and came to class often smelling of alcohol. But, I managed to finish high school and completed a two year degree at a junior college.

While in high school I took vocational courses in machine shop and mechanical drafting. I made a career as a machinist from which I retired 5 years ago.

As I entered my mid teenage years, I came to understand my condition better and began to figure out my ways to deal with it.

- The slurred speech was dealt with by spending hours speaking into a tape recorder, playing it back to myself several times – adjusting my mouth and tongue each time to make it clearer.
- I handled the tendency to stutter by learning to speak one syllable at a time.
- Taking notes off a blackboard was a major challenge because focusing back and forth between my paper and the board caused my eyes to burn and water. So I sat in the front row and kept my eyes focused for the blackboard. I would look down just to see I was not writing over notes already written.
- Many skills like Trigonometry and the code language for CNC machines were self taught.
- I taught myself how to write computer programs in BASIC.

I have no complaints about the way my life turned out

But I often wonder what would have become of me if I could have stayed in the clinic and received the help I needed when I was young. This program would have given my parents the resources they needed to do just that.

Adelina Jimenez

Self

San Antonio, TX

Redirecting public funds toward private vouchers will inevitably diminish the financial resources available to public schools, particularly those serving students with special needs who rely on extensive support. This reduction in funding will have a direct and measurable impact on staffing, leading to fewer teachers and support staff in classrooms that are already stretched to their limits. As a result, student-to-teacher ratios will increase, making it more difficult to provide individualized attention and accommodate diverse learning needs. The strain on educators will intensify, potentially leading to burnout, higher turnover rates, and diminished overall quality of education. Additionally, the loss of funding may force schools to cut essential programs, specialized services, and critical interventions that help students with disabilities, behavioral challenges, and other unique needs thrive academically and socially. By diverting public dollars to private institutions, we risk exacerbating educational inequities and undermining the fundamental mission of public education: to provide every child, regardless of background or ability, with the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

Sam Wing, Vice president of data science

Individual

Allen, TX

I live in Allen Texas and I support school choice. Furthermore, with the low number of vouchers being proposed, I support those available to be limited to low-income families. I volunteer on the board of a private school that serves a low-income community in Irving Texas. This school struggles with enrollment and even it's very existence because the people in that community can't afford tuition that is less than \$8,000 per year! Wealthy people already have access to private schools. Low-income people do not because of the percentage of their income that must be spent on food, rent, and electricity. Please continue the work towards school choice to benefit low-income families. Low-income family should have a choice, too.

Josue Martinez

Self/Public Schools

HASLET, TX

This proposed ESA/voucher program would divert crucial public funds to private schools, weakening the financial stability of Texas' public education system. By allocating up to 85% of per-pupil funding to private institutions—even for students already enrolled in them—the state would dramatically increase education costs without expanding access to quality education for all. Public schools, which are legally required to serve every child, have not seen an increase in base funding for five years. Yet, this program would funnel taxpayer dollars to private schools that can selectively admit students. Instead of investing in a system that benefits only a few, Texas should prioritize strengthening its public schools to support all students equitably.

Sophia Chang

Self

Frisco, TX

I oppose this bill as the entire state should not be paying for a small percentage of private school attendants so they can get a tuition break. Majority of students are in public school, where tax payer money should be supporting. Taxes paid to the state should be offering public services and accessible to amthr general public. Private schools are inaccessible to the majority nor are they economical, and clearly not regulated by state standards. Private school isn't cheap, which means it's inaccessible to the majority. If anyone has the financial means to pay that much money for private school, they don't need a voucher to cut them a break. Why should the majority that relies on public schools for an education with standards pay for a small percentage of wealthy population that sends their kids to private school? I'd rather my tax money go support public schools with underpaid staff that deserve higher pay, low income students that deserve to eat that need aid in having their meals covered (full or partially). Those that send their kids to private school chose to do so, then they also choose to pay for the cost of private school. I choose to send my kids to public school, and I choose my taxes paid to go towards public school funding. More people benefit when the educational fund goes to public school systems. Less people will benefit from the voucher system that only benefits a small percentage of people that send their kids to private school. Again, this is the population that doesn't need financial support as is.

Susan Nurre

Self, Consultant

Dallas, TX

Passing this bill will wreak havoc on an already-struggling public school system. Use the money to strengthen the public schools and their special programs. VOTE NO.

Glenda Walker
Self - Retired
Mineral Wells, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Jennifer Harris
Self
Lumberton, TX

I am against this bill. It is too costly and benefits such a small number of students.

Brenda Yanez
Self
Spring, TX

This bill will defund our public schools. Our public schools have suffered enough since the state has refused to fully fund them since 2019. Parents already have choices. If this bill is really for the middle class then there should be an income cap explicitly stated. Even if parents try to apply for private schools they are not guaranteed a spot. If the private school doesn't work out the student will return to public schools that are being defunded. If this bill is in the best interest of all Texans then it should be voted on by the people of Texas. Stop pushing something that a very minimal percentage of Texans want. We need our public schools to be strong again and fully funded. New programs should be implemented for discipline problems. Teachers should be adequately paid and trained, this would greatly impact teacher retention. Truly do what's best for all students.

Brandy Geiman
Self
Alvin, TX

You MUST VOTE NO on HB3! This is a scam and only benefits the wealthy that can already afford private school. You must support what the MAJORITY of your constituents want and that is NO VOUCHER PROGRAM. How about funding the vastly under funded public school system. Quit holding public school funding hostage and pay our hard working teachers the raises that they DESERVE! There is nothing positive about this voucher program and you must VOTE NO!

Alisa Golson
Self Homemaker
Austin, TX

I am opposed to the creation of school vouchers. We should increase funding for public schools instead.

Mabel Loaiza

Self

Hutto, TX

Vouchers are welfare for the rich. We demand to keep our public schools properly funded. NO TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS.

Mike Tiner

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill, I really think you should be properly funding public education in Texas, not taking money away from public schools. Make the public schools better!

Ryan Lovell

Self

Amarillo, TX

HB 3 is not in the best interest of Texans or the State of Texas, and watching testimony before the House Public Education Committee has only further entrenched this belief.

One testifier represented an organization that was started by Milton Friedman. The stated goal of Friedman was the end of publicly funded education, and this bill is a stepping stone to that ultimate goal.

Our public schools must be valued and fully funded. This bill will not fulfill that goal.

This bill is also misleading in its ultimate goal of "school choice". Testifiers supporting the bill ultimately admitted that schools receiving vouchers could turn away special needs students, students of different religions, or students of single mothers who had their child out of wedlock. By no means is this in the best interest of the state.

Joseph Navarra

Constituent

San Antonio, TX

No school vouchers. Fully fund public schools.

Jason Wiederstein

self/Construction safety director

Santa Clara, TX

Vote no on this nonsense.

Christi Speer

Self

Harleton, TX

I oppose the establishment of education savings account in Texas. Please listen to the people. Your constituents do not want this.

Luz Acevedo
Self
Missouri City, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1. Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
2. HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
3. Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
4. We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill.

Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

William Wylder
Self Electrical engineer
Fredericksburg, TX

I am appalled that the state is attempting once again to underfund our public school systems in deference to wealthy Texans who wish to send their children to private charter schools. We have a great public school system here. The teachers and administrators work very hard to provide a quality education and already struggle because the state ignores their needs. Some rich kid who wants to go to private school can have their daddies pay for it. My taxes are not meant to underwrite the wealthy, it's insulting that you're even trying to get every day working Joe to pay the tuition for a school they will never be able to afford for their own children. It's wrong, plain wrong, and my vote for my representatives will be based on how they address such an important and socially unjust bill. No to underfunding our schools, no to school vouchers, no to rich kids getting access to schools on the tax payers dime. This isn't some outlier opinion, I don't know any middle class parents who agree with this garbage.

Grace Essex
self Teacher
Austin, TX

I received an excellent education and graduated from Texas public schools. I am now a public school 2nd grade teacher and feel that teachers like me and my students have suffered from lack of proper funding of public schools for the last few years. Please do not further erode Texas schools with public school vouchers by using public dollars for private education which will be a further drain on our public schools.

Adam Stiles

Self, National Accounts Coordinator

Austin, TX

I am writing to voice my disappointment and displeasure at the idea that the great State of Texas will accept a voucher program to fund private education. I am a part of a deeply rooted and well-educated family, all proudly part of the public education system of Texas. For MULTIPLE generations. We cannot allow this precious funding to go this route. The diverse population we are known for depends upon an education that should rival other states in the Union, not dwell toward bottom feeder. I am the grandson and spouse of public educators. I have seen what their devotion to the trade and civil service has brought to benefit. Still, you gut their resources, under appreciate them (while mouthing praise), and throw your allegiance to the wealthy minority. Standardized testing is a joke, a joke our public system has thrown back at you in spite of your efforts. And you will NOT hold the private system equally accountable. Why, because it does not suit your donors and the rich who seek a discount for private education! Consider funding \$1300 per individual student instead. Consider utilizing our rainy day surplus in this most drought ridden of times. Consider what we were chartered upon when Texas was born. Consider your conscious if indeed you have one

Sadie Diaz

Self

San Angelo, TX

we need to lower the superintendent's pay this is bs that our schools, our teachers, community suffer over you selfish careless inhuman people.

Robyn Lively

Self. Retired PUBLIC school teacher.

Austin, TX

I support PUBLIC schools and am opposed to HB 3. I vote!

Holly VanHouten

Myself

Houston, TX

Please vote no on school vouchers or educational savings plans. We need to fully fund our public schools. These school vouchers and educational savings plans will take money from public schools and provide money to private schools. Public schools provide free education to ALL students despite socioeconomic status, physical or mental abilities, and provide the necessary support services. Public schools are also held accountable. We know that private schools do not have to meet the same requirements as public schools and they will not open their admissions policies to serve all students. This is robbing from the public tax dollars to give a discount to rich parents who were already sending their kids to private schools. VOTE NO on HB3.

Chuck Davidson

self

Chester, TX

As a retired public school teacher (Houston ISD), I strongly oppose any ESA or voucher bill that allows rural public school districts to lose both money and students. I have volunteered in the Chester ISD for several years and while only one private school exists at this time in Tyler County, Chuck Davidson

Elizabeth Hedden, Dr.

self

Houston, TX

I am highly opposed to this bill. The school savings account would benefit the wealthy who already are accessing alternatives to education. The poor could not afford to make alternative choices as it is unlikely the payment per student would be sufficient to cover costs. There are no alternatives available in many part of the state as well. It is apparent that this is going to benefit the wealthy in urban areas and private schools. Public schools would suffer as they would be out the funds from the state. Also it is well known that support for vouchers or education savings account program has come from forces outside our state. We are Texans and as such should conduct or business and make our laws independently from outside concerns and money.

Bill Perkison

Self

Georgetown, TX

I am totally against this bill. It does nothing to improve education, siphon funds from public schools and is ineffectual in providing education to the children who need it most while financially aiding those who need it least. I don't pay taxes to enrich the rich.

Lauren Hart

Self / Speech Language Pathologist

Grapevine, TX

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB3 and reject any efforts to divert public funds to private vendors through school vouchers. HB3 is not about helping students—it is a vendor bill that prioritizes profits over education. This is government overreach and irresponsible spending that hurts students, taxpayers, and our local communities.

Our district is already struggling due to inadequate funding. We see the effects firsthand—larger class sizes, fewer resources, and overworked teachers. Instead of addressing these urgent needs, HB3 would siphon money away from public schools, violating the Texas Constitution's guarantee of a free and efficient public education.

Public dollars belong in public schools. Texas taxpayers should not be forced to fund private and unaccountable education programs while our neighborhood schools continue to suffer. I urge you to stand with our students, teachers, and communities—vote NO on HB3 and say NO to vouchers.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to Texas children.

Sincerely, Lauren Hart

Audrey Davis

self, homeschool curriculum representative

Hurst, TX

I and every parent whether they believe in God or not has the sole, God-given responsibility in determining how they raise their children. This includes the education of their children. Public funding brings the family back under the purview of the state legislature via the mechanism of good fiscal responsibility.

Good fiscal responsibility requires both transparency and accountability for the public expenditure, both of which compromise parental autonomy.

I have firm beliefs built upon God's Word that will not change. Knowing I am in opposition to my money being used to fund curriculum choices that are in direct opposition to my beliefs, it is only fair that someone who carries a view or faith in opposition to mine would not want their money going to fund my choice in curriculum. Using public funds for individualized education compels taxpayers to fund diverse ideologies that could violate their own deeply held convictions. As this bill has passed through the Senate and is now being entertained (again) in the house, I am beyond disappointed that the representatives encouraging this bill to pass are listening to organizations more than actual constituents. Texas Home School Coalition has had a voice of support for this bill and they are dead WRONG. They do NOT represent the whole of home schooling families. They do NOT represent me. School choice takes away the choice and representative form of government. "Taxation without representation." I more than urge you to not pass HB3. Texas does not need to succumb to the newest national fad of control over education. Please vote NO.

Kimberly Cohen

Self

Austin, TX

No to a bill that uses taxes payers money for private education and will lower Texas Public school attendance which impacts funding. This is a dangerous bill that's proven not to work in other states. No!

Lisa Blackwell

self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose providing taxpayer funds to private schools that are not held to the same standards as public schools, who do not have to provide special education, accept students needing services, or children from different backgrounds, religions, etc. Many Texas counties don't even have a private school available and it's not fair to ask so many Texans to pay for a benefit their children are unable to access.

Monique Cogburn, Mrs.

None

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 3 by Buckley; and, would like to see it voted in.

Juan Campos

Self

Garland, TX

As a Texas public educator for over 11 years, I am opposed to HB3. Not only will this bill NOT raise the allotment sufficiently to keep the doors open on our public schools, but ANY kind of voucher (ESA) would siphon essential funds away from public schools, ensuring more ISD's in Texas will not receive the adequate funding they need. In addition, HB3 will create another layer of administrative bloat in the managing of these funds and incentivize for-profit schools to be made without any kind of oversight or accreditation, which will promote discriminatory practices against our most vulnerable Texans. Not to mention, as ISD's close due to lack of funding, and more "voucher schools" suck the financial blood away from public schools, more teachers will retire early and/or leave the teaching profession, less public school teachers will be hired, which will ultimately drain the Teachers Retirement System, and make it collapse, per Gov Abbott own TRS findings. In short, vouchers (ESA) are nothing less than a scheme to destroy public schools and transfer more wealth to already wealthy families and create a new wealth by transferring public funds to private companies, in addition to the financial profiteering that will occur in the administration of these accounts. HB3 is not conservative and it is NOT TEXAN. No to HB3.

Erika W Rodriguez

Self

San Antonio, TX

I disagree with the voucher program and I oppose.

Susan Clowe, Ms.

Self and the children of Texas

Mesquite, TX

In no way is this fair to the children of Texas. I am a Christian and resent that my tax money would be used to aid in the mixing of church and state. We came here from England to escape this. Our governor has received over 18 million dollars from a PA man—Yass. We know the truth about our governor selling out to this person. **WRONG. WRONG. WRONG!**

Ralph Jackson

Self autobody

Belton, TX

Pass this

Jane Corley

self

Dallas, TX

VOTE NO, EARLY AND OFTEN!

Eric Skiff

Self - Worker

Crowley, TX

I'm writing to ask you to oppose HB3 because I believe it's a direct attack on public education. As a [parent/teacher/community member], I want to see our schools properly funded, not gutted by a bill that diverts money to private institutions while leaving public schools struggling.

The idea of giving families a \$10,000 voucher sounds good in theory, but in reality, it's just a backdoor way of cutting funding for public schools. Most private schools charge far more than that, meaning only wealthier families will benefit, while lower-income students—who rely on public schools the most—will be left behind. We should be investing in public education, not siphoning money away from it.

Another big concern is the requirement for armed security on every campus. School safety is critical, but adding more guns isn't a real solution. Many educators and parents worry this will just turn schools into high-security zones rather than safe learning environments. Instead of spending money on security officers, we should be funding counselors, mental health programs, and teacher salaries—things that actually make schools safer and more supportive for kids.

I know school safety and quality education matter to everyone, regardless of political affiliation. That's why I urge you to vote against HB3 and push for real solutions—like fully funding public schools, raising teacher pay, and addressing mental health support in schools. Please stand with Texas families and fight for our public schools.

Lucy Frost, MS
Self. Consultant
Manchaca, TX

Vouchers offer choice at the cost of public schools. I'm the child of public educators -- an elementary school principal and a 1st grade teacher. We saved all kinds of supplies for my mom's classroom -- like oatmeal boxes so my mom could make drums for Thanksgiving plays. My dad spent hours with the Kiwanis Club as they raised money to stock the school library at the school in a low-income area where he worked. He later was the principal of the first elementary school for gifted & talented kids in our community. They'd be turning over in their graves now to think the State of Texas was taking desperately needed funds away from public schools in favor of private schools. We've seen what most voucher programs do in other states. Let's don't let Texas make the same mistake.

Saran Snelgrove, Retired teacher
Self
Jefferson, TX

Vote YES to voucher system. The voucher system will require low performing schools to compete for funds. Low performing schools ,JeffersonIsd, do not worry about any regulations from TEA. They do not make sure the students receive the Texas teks. Tea has an innovation plan and strict steps on filing complaints that does not help parents. Now, Tea does not rate the schools. If Tea cannot help parents with low performing schools and can't rate the schools then redirect the funds to rural CTE centers. Texas should not pay for Tea and the STAAR test without ratings.

Since Texas schools can decide whether they want to work hard or not on students receiving the Texas teks parents should be given choices too. Parents can not receive help with low performing schools. We are told just to move to a better school with our tax dollars still going to the low performing school. Time to change the system for the students. The world is too competitive for students to have to stay in a school with protected adults not doing their job. Thanks.

Jessica Sutton, Mrs
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB3 as I have let all of the Reps know multiple times. Texas taxpayers do not want the expansion of funding private education.

Lori Stenger
Self
San Antonio, TX

NO VOUCHERS. This is a scam. Vote No!!

Laura Ruffino
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I live in cedar park Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Laura Ruffino

Josue Flores
Self
Round Rock, TX

I'm against the school voucher bill in Texas because it takes money away from public schools and gives it to private institutions with little oversight. Our public schools, especially in rural and lower-income areas, are already struggling with funding, and this will only make things worse. Instead of pulling resources away, we should be investing in our public schools—supporting teachers, improving facilities, and making sure every student has access to a quality education. Vouchers don't fix the problems in education; they just make it harder for the schools that most Texas families rely on.

Beverly Price
Self, retired
Houston, TX

Besides cutting funding to Public Schools, this bill will give parents 10 times more money than what they contribute to public education, all paid for with our tax dollars. If someone wants to send their child(ren) to a private school, paying for it is THEIR responsibility. This is nothing more than welfare for the wealthy.

Carroll Strane
Self
Edna, TX

I urge you to VOTE NO for HB 3. I am a registered Republican voter from Edna Texas. I have lived and worked in and around Jackson County my entire life. I have been a chemist, a public school teacher, a basketball coach and a school board member. I know that for too long the State of Texas has given our public school system and our teachers too little support and funding. Still, I am shocked and truly disgusted at the latest stunt to rob the public school system of the funding it needs. If you are unaware of how many of our students in small towns and rural communities don't even have access to private schools, you should. If you are going to pass legislation affecting education, leave your office and go meet the teachers and students you are robbing of resources when vouchers by any name take funding away from public schools and teachers. I have no problem with private schools or parents who choose them. It is their right and responsibility to make that decision AND to make those payments. Tax payer dollars should go towards providing an excellent education for all Texas students, especially those whose families have no access or realistic ability to pay for a private school should they have one near enough to attend. Public schools can provide greater opportunities for students to access diverse programs with a focus on STEM, the arts, current & future trades as well as special education. A well educated populace can supply the workforce talent for a wide range of jobs and industries. Quality public education is essential for a prosperous state with opportunities for a great quality of life for all Texans. Thank you. PLEASE VOTE No for HB 3

Colleen Lyon
Self, Librarian
Austin, TX

I am writing to ask you to vote against the voucher bill/education savings account program. Our public schools are one of our greatest strengths as a state, and using public funds for private schools does a disservice to the majority of Texans. Private and charter schools are not required to accept all students and are not required to provide the same level of support as our public schools. I know this as a parent of an elementary age student who has an IEP. Like all parents, we wanted the best possible education for our child, so we briefly looked into private schools. That's when we discovered that the range of accommodations and support she gets related to her IEP would not exist in a private school. We also discovered that the private schools weren't interested in enrolling our child. Thankfully, our child's public elementary school has fully supported their learning. Our child is even in the Gifted and Talented program in part because of the accommodations that allow them to fully participate in school. This bill does not include requirements that these schools have to support kids with IEPs, and it does not include transportation options to these schools. So, it seems like it would really only benefit families with students already enrolled in private schools, those kids who do not need additional support, or those who are well off enough to have reliable transportation. I want all students to be able to attend good schools. If there are public schools that aren't meeting the mark, then we need to improve those schools - not disinvest from public schools. Please protect our wonderful public education in this state and vote against vouchers. Thank you.

Kimberly Stephenson, Dr.
self - Director of Education
San Antonio, TX

This bill will boost wealthy families by supporting them in sending their children to private or parochial schools, while distilling the "have nots" in public schools that are held to higher standards. The wealthy do not need this support. Rural families aren't as able to use this support. Urban and suburban schools benefit from students learning alongside peers of different backgrounds, races, and religions and need this funding to continue to supply quality instruction.

If the government truly wishes to improve student experience and outcomes, you can fully fund the public schools.

Mimi Barreras
Self
Magnolia, TX

I am vehemently opposed to HB3 as a homeschool parent, a certified teacher, as a private teacher, and a homeowner and taxpayer, of which I have been all over 34 years. This bill adds burdens to legal private school entities via testing requirements and curriculum oversight. It is particularly inequitable toward homeschoolers, but I can tell you that most homeschoolers will not comply with the oversight. It is concerning to me also that I have chosen to keep my children home for 30 years to educate and at the same time I hv paid heavily into the local isd for 25 years - this past year to the tune of almost \$9K. It's like being penalized and double taxed. In addition, this bill is big spending and even more big spending in future that is unknown for 100K kids, .02% of the school population in texas. That's a ludicrous waste of \$\$\$\$\$\$.

A huge concern has been the utter lack of concern by every Rep I have approached that this is a bill no one I know wants. I do know people indifferent to it, but homeschools and public school teachers are vehemently opposed. No one seems to care. You need to care! You do nooooot want to make the homeschool community angry. No one is more educated and politically active than homeschool moms.

All I can see is the \$ behind this bill. Why have Texas reps suddenly given over to big donors instead of listening to their constituents? It's baffling.

Celeste Jones
Self
Lindale, TX

Please vote NO to HB 3. The future of Texas education relies on what happens with this bill. It will ruin all education in Texas, if this bill is passed. Lets use these funds to better public education, and pay teachers a wage they deserve.

Laura Stanczak, Ms
Self/retired Texas teacher
Salado, TX

I urge you to vote NO to vouchers! Vote NNO on SB 2 and SB 3!

Recent reporting by ProPublica found that Texas private schools are significantly whiter than their surrounding communities, with white students making up more than double the enrollment of public schools: 55.6% to 26.4%.

Voucher schemes offer families no real choice, as private schools control all enrollment decision.

There are no accountability standards to ensure taxpayer dollars are effectively spent and no evidence that private schools improve educational quality.

Texas voucher would eventually add billions of dollars to the state budget.

Texas public schools, where the vast majority of students will continue to be educated, are underfunded, a increase of 220.00 will not catch to inflation.

Private schools are not accountable to families or communities.

Their boards are not elected, and frequently not even in the same state and private schools are not required to exceed or even meet public school standards.

The universal voucher plan that Gov. Abbott supports has been used in other states to funnel tax-paid subsidies to wealthy parents who already were sending their children to private schools, while many low-income families, even with vouchers, can't afford private school tuition. The income level of 140,000 per family in no way should be considered "low income"

The implantation of vouchers will defund the Teacher Retirement System. Vouchers will cause TRS to no longer be actuarially sound . This is from Jerry McGinty.

Fully fund Public Schools and vote NO for vouchers.

Gina DeBottis Metts

Self - retired
Houston, TX

Texas has not adequately funded our public schools for years. The last update to the SBA (student basic allotment) was in 2019. In order to just get back to that level of spending, the SBA needs to be increased by at least \$1400/student to account for inflation. Although that number will still keep Texas students below the national average and keep Texas in the lower 10th percentile in public school support, it is significantly more beneficial to our students than the paltry \$200/student cited in HB2. Other dedicated funding (e.g. for school safety) should not count towards the in-classroom funding tally. Quality public schools are essential to providing a competent and competitive Texas workforce for the future. Our public schools must be well funded to achieve this objective.

Rhea Liq

Self
Dallas, TX

As a parent of 2 public school students, 3rd and 6th grade, I have seen firsthand the struggles our public schools have faced. Reduced funding year after year has caused parents to have to pay for more for our children. This includes simple upgrades to the school, field trips, and in one case, saving our assistant principal from losing his position. In addition, my children have had teachers leave mid school year multiple times, making the transition of learning extremely difficult. Last summer, my 3rd grader lost his classroom teacher and his gifted and talented teacher. He was assigned to a new class with a teacher whom he was afraid of, and a class filled with more than the limit of 22 students per class. My 6th grader receives special education services where the service has deteriorated due to lack of available staffing. Our public schools cannot suffer any more losses and focusing on a private school voucher program will only create more private schools who do not meet standards or private schools who will not admit students from the public school system. This further divides and separates the different economic groups but also reduces funding for our students. There has been no increase in per student funding since 2019, and this bill will only increase funding per student by \$220. This doesn't even match the rate of inflation. The education savings account program will continue to siphon dollars from public school funding, making it difficult for those of us who will continue to use public schools as the subsidized education account will not help pay for a full private school tuition. As a result, I am against HB3.

Beverly Sylvester
Self/Retired Educator
Fort Worth, TX

I am against passage of this bill and it to fail!

Jan Sawyer
Self
Plano, TX

I am a retired schoolteacher of 47 years. There is a reason why we have public and private schools. It's all about money. We pay a lot of money (taxes) for public education. It is not right to take part of this money and give it to private institutions. Let them do their recruiting and fundraising. Public schools are having their own problems of closing down schools for lack of students. Think about your bill. Every student is allowed so much money, when money is taken away from a local school district, that money has to be "made up". How is that done.....MORE TAXES. Please don't approve this bill.

Caroline Werner
Self
PLANO, TX

I am a parent of a gifted child with a significant behavior disability. She has three special ed teachers and a gifted teacher who help her thrive in the general education environment. There are ZERO private schools in the DFW metroplex who would accept her. She needs fully funded public schools to thrive. School vouchers will not help her (because there are no private schools who meet her needs) and will harm her because it will defund her school district, making it more difficult for her to access services and supports she needs. Her behavior has improved significantly with the supports and staff that a fully funding school district can offer, and she is working 3-4 grade levels ahead. Without the level of special education supports she has, she would be in a self contained classroom.

Elizabeth Clark, Mrs.
Private citizen
Georgetown, TX

Taxpayer funds need to go to Public NOT Private Schools!
Our Public Schools have been neglected for 5 years - DO NOT send Public dollars to Private Schools.
Billionaires do NOT dictate how taxpayers dollars are spent. Stand up for the hard-working Texans.
Vouchers HURT our neighborhood schools!
Vouchers HURT our rural communities !
We HAVE choice in our public schools right now! But the legislature is NOT funding CHOICE in public schools!
Texan billionaires just want WHITE, CHRISTIAN PRIVATE schools! We do NOT agree and you need to demonstrate courage and commitment to hard-working Texans and say NO!
We voted you into office to represent US -- say NO to VOUCHERS!
The Texas Senate was bought out by the Billionaire Texans -- the House needs to represent the people of Texas and show more courage!
State government has a constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public schools. Let's start doing that ! 5.5 million children are depending on it !

Julie Avary
Tax payer; grandmother
Colleyville, TX

School choice Vote NO. Our public schools need that money in Texas. We don't know the possible fraud that would take place if HB3 passed. Kids should go to the school in their neighborhood. Teachers should be paid on their merit. School tests like the STARS TEST, must be eliminated.

Trina Bailey
Self (Attorney)
Lucas, TX

As a mom of three kids—twin boys with dyslexia who attend public school and a daughter in private school—I see both sides of the education system. We have school choice. My family is evidence of that. I don't believe taxpayer dollars should fund private education. That's why I oppose HB 3 and the voucher program.

First, the bill doesn't do enough for public schools. The increase to the basic allotment is too small and doesn't keep up with inflation. Public schools are struggling to cover rising costs—teacher salaries, classroom materials, and student support services—but this bill barely moves the needle.

Meanwhile, HB 3 would give \$10,000 per student for private school tuition. As a parent with a child in private school, I know firsthand that private schools set their own rules which is why we don't send our dyslexic twins to the same school as our daughter. They aren't required to provide special education services, and they don't answer to the same accountability standards as public schools. My family made the choice to pay \$40k annually for private school, and I don't expect taxpayers to cover that cost. Public funds should support public schools, where the vast majority of Texas kids learn.

Another issue? Unfunded mandates. If the state requires schools to provide something—like security—it should also fully fund it. Right now, schools are being forced to stretch already-tight budgets to meet these mandates, taking resources away from students in the process.

Finally, special education funding remains inadequate. My twins have dyslexia, and I know how critical support services are. But the state's SPED reimbursements don't even come close to covering the real cost of educating students with special needs. Schools are left scrambling to fill the gap, and kids don't always get the help they need. I asked lawmakers to fix this, but HB 3 doesn't do that.

I value both public and private education, but they are not the same. Public dollars should be invested in public schools, where they benefit the most students. HB 3 fails to do that, and I strongly oppose it.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Alicia Taylor
Self
McKinney, TX

Against!! The proposed voucher program will negatively impact the services and support my autistic son receives through public special education.

Jamie Roberts
Self
Austin, TX

Please say NO to the voucher bill. As a public school teacher, I know the power and inclusion within our schools. Texas should do everything in its power to support public schools rather than to take money to give to private schools via vouchers. The reality is that most students that are not able to afford private schools on their own will likely still not be able to attend because of the high cost of private school tuition or because they cannot provide their own transportation. I have also seen many students have to come right back to public school because they got kicked out of private school for minor behavior issues. Please prioritize our public schools.

Lisa Robertson, Mrs.

Self- Special Education Coordinator Leander ISD

Liberty Hill, TX

Hello, I am submitting this to urge you to vote “no” to HB3. I strongly oppose the use of public funds for private school. As a Special Education Coordinator in public Texas schools (over 24 years experience) and as a parent of a student who graduated in 2023 with and IEP for Autism and a daughter who currently receives accommodations as part of a 504 plan, I have had unique experiences and knowledge in this area. This proposed funding allotment for private schools is problematic in a number of ways, #1 being that it set up our public schools even further towards failure. The funding per pupil would be off balance, in favor of the few selected students who actually are selected for private schools. If private schools are given this money, they should be subject to the same over testing and IEP/504 mandates that public schools must follow. Too many families of children with special needs are not accepted into these private schools, or are forced to leave (still keeping their \$) only to return to public school. This is also the case for families leaving to homeschool, with no plan for meeting learning needs of their students- only to return further behind to public school. We need your support to raise the funding in public school by keeping local dollars local. We have had no increase since 2019. The other concern that occurs with HB3 is the increase of disproportionate populations no going to private, who will further make services unequal in public schools. There was a statement about the success of other states in the SEC going private- have you looked at what public schools have turned into in states like Alabama? Any family with income send their kids to private. They are not much further along than when schools were segregated. I worry that this will be our future in Texas. Families here have always had choice! It just does not need to be funded with Taxes. What about people with no children? Next we will say they do not need to pay their share either. We invest in public schools for the good of our communities. The children are our future! Please invest in them! We have exceptional services here in Texas. As a special education coordinator I am proud of the services we provide! We need funding for teacher training and recruitment. We need support for teacher pay and less focus on state assessment, a system that takes our funding with no return. Say no to vouchers! Last year when teacher pay was withheld due to vouchers failing, was a slap in the face to all educators. You have kept public schools deprived of funding that is available, needing to be released. My own child is attending a trade school and had learned so many amazing skills through his special education services and career and tech classes in high school. This balance of programming is also not available in private schools. Please say no to HB3!! I am happy to provide any other information that maybe useful! Thank you!

Angelica Knickerbocker

Self

VICTORIA, TX

As a Texas mother, we do NOT want this 'savings voucher' scam.

This is bullshit.

Greg Abbott does NOT have the best interest of public schools in mind for Texas families.

Samantha Price
Self, Teacher
Sandia, Texas, TX

As a mother, taxpayer, teacher, Conservative and concerned citizen of this great state - I strongly oppose House Bill 3. As a teacher, I've had the privilege of working in both public and private schools. I've seen the chokehold that standardized testing and state mandates (many unfunded) have on our public school system. Through no fault of their own, the hardworking teachers and administrators in our public schools are bound to these ridiculous, developmentally inappropriate assessments as a determinant of their "success".

As a parent, one of the sole reasons I am considering private school for my own children is to avoid the STAAR test. It seems as though the state government is actively working to take away the option of a private school free of government interference, under the guise of "school choice". Requiring students who use ESA's to take an assessment not only affects those students, but the school as a whole. As we've seen in public schools, teachers are forced to teach to the test in order for students to perform well.

Aside from that, as a taxpayer, it's appalling that the government would use taxpayer money to pay for private schooling. Just as many conservatives widely agreed that federal student loans should not be forgiven on the taxpayers dime (because taking out those loans/going to college was a CHOICE), private school tuition should not be funded by Texas taxpayers. That is especially true when we consider the fact that this program will benefit less than 2% of Texas children. Will private schools be held to the same transparency standards as public schools when it comes to school finance? Even more importantly, if this bill passes, will the state commit to funding our public schools adequately? 98% of the children in Texas are attending schools that are operating on 2019 budgets in 2025 economic times. Our governor loves to twist the facts and make it seem as though schools are being funded at "historic" levels and that is simply not true.

Lastly, the fact that these funds must be used with "approved vendors" is corruption in broad daylight. Who approves these vendors? What are they looking for when approving vendors? Who is benefitting from this? Why does a man from Pennsylvania have such an interest in Texas' education system? These are all questions that deserve true and honest answers.

Thank you for your time,
Samantha Price

Kyle Click
Self
Abilene, TX

I am writing to voice my disagreement with the establishment of any type of school voucher program in Texas. We should use this funding to fully support our public schools rather than give subsidies to rich families, because make no mistakes, that is the true purpose of this bill. This will disproportionately favor wealthy and religious families, and leave poorer and disabled children behind with substandard education. Please vote against this bill and move to support strengthening our public schools instead.

Jennifer Harrell

Self; Public School Educator and Parent

PFLUGERVILLE, TX

As a parent and educator with 22 years of experience in Texas Title 1 schools, I am very concerned about the impact of school vouchers on the most vulnerable student populations, including special education students, those with 504 plans, and emergent bilingual learners. Potential challenges include:

Limited Access to Private Schools: Many private schools are not required to accept students with disabilities or emergent bilingual students, meaning families using vouchers may not have as many choices as expected. Private schools lack the specialized programs or trained staff necessary to support students with special needs effectively.

Loss of Legal Protections Under IDEA and Section 504: Public schools must comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504, which ensure students receive individualized services and accommodations. Private schools are not bound by these laws in the same way, meaning students who leave public schools for private institutions might forfeit crucial support.

Financial Barriers for Families: Vouchers rarely cover the full cost of tuition, uniforms, materials, transportation, etc. leaving families to pay the difference, which can be a burden for those with lower incomes.

Impact on Public School Resources: When students leave public schools using vouchers, public schools lose funding but are still responsible for serving the majority of students, including those with the highest needs. Reduced funding can lead to cuts in special education programs, dual language, and other services critical to vulnerable students who remain in public schools.

Language Support Limitations: Emergent bilingual students will struggle in private schools that do not offer English as a Second Language programs or dual language. Public schools are legally required to provide language support services and qualified teachers, while private schools are not held to the same standards.

While school vouchers aim to provide more choices, they may not benefit the most vulnerable students as intended. Without guaranteed legal protections, adequate funding, and access to specialized support, students with disabilities, 504 accommodations, and emergent bilingual needs may face greater challenges rather than increased opportunities.

Linda Estrada

Texas State Teachers Association

Donna, TX

HB 3 is a voucher and will funnel taxpayer dollars through education savings accounts to students for private school tuition and related expenses at an initial cost of \$1 billion in state funds for the first two years that should go to our public schools.

That amount will increase in subsequent years, at a growing loss to public education and other critical public services.

State tax dollars must not be diverted from public to private schools. I oppose vouchers and related schemes — including education savings accounts, tax-credit scholarships and for-profit virtual schools — that use tax dollars to pay private school tuition for selected students while undermining public schools where the vast majority of Texas students are educated.

Voucher schemes across the country have proven to be burdensome on state budgets, and a Texas voucher would eventually add billions of dollars to the state budget without an additional funding mechanism.

The universal voucher plan that Gov. Abbott supports has been used in other states to funnel tax-paid subsidies to wealthy parents who already were sending their children to private schools, while many low-income families, even with vouchers, can't afford private school tuition.

I urge you to vote NO to vouchers! Vote NO on SB 2 and HB 3!

Terri Hiaumet

Self

Henderson, TX

I am strongly against HB 3. Any money being put into the voucher program should be dedicated to our public schools. The voucher program does not guarantee all children in this state an education. Children with disabilities, children who live in rural areas and children who come from low income families all have the right to an education and one that is free from religious influence. It is not the job of the state to give religious instruction which would be impossible with the private school vouchers.

Sarah Ruiz

Self, writer

Austin, TX

Please do not pass this bill. Instead of creating school vouchers, Texas should be investing more in public schools to ensure that everyone, regardless of income level or location, can access high-quality public education. I strongly believe that public education is one of the greatest services that our country and our state provides to its citizens. It ensures our economic stability by developing tomorrow's well-prepared workforce, and it provides employment opportunities for teachers and educators. My mother was a dedicated public school teacher for over 20 years; and even now, several years after her retirement, I still hear from her former students about what an amazing teacher she was and what a positive difference she made in their lives. My sister has also been a dedicated public school teacher for over 15 years, and I don't want for her, her fellow teachers, and her students suffering because of efforts to privatize education in this state. Please protect our public schools and give them more funding instead of launching this school savings account and voucher program. Thank you.

Rhonda Miller

Purple for Parents United - Self

Godley, TX

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm writing to you today to address education in Texas and particularly school choice. As I've traveled throughout multiple states helping Americans to understand what has happened to education in America, I always ask the same question. If leaders truly wanted to fix education, why are they not removing the globalist tentacles that control it? I'm asking you that very question this morning. School choice, no matter how you spin it, does not address this problem. In fact, it further expands the globalist control into private schools and homeschool. Let's take a look at just a couple of influencers who are promoting school choice. Jeff Yass has given Governor Abbott over \$10 million to advance school choice. Were you aware that Jeff is connected to the Arabella Advisors network of usurpation of our country? Were you also aware that Jeff supports the Save The Children organization that has been funded by USAID, Gates, Ford, Open Society, Blackrock and the Dave & Lucinda Packard Foundation? These same organizations fund Arabella and Jeff is in their network of influence. Additionally, were you aware that Corey DeAngelis is also connected to the Arabella Advisors network and is influencing Governor Abbott? You can see the connections here:<https://purpleforparentsindiana.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/Texas%20School%20Choice%20Chart.pdf>. You can also see the Arabella Connections here:<https://purple4parentsunited.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/Arabella%20P4P%20Networks.pdf>. We know that the Rockefeller's, Gates, big Pharma and more have all infiltrated education to align it with the United Nations agenda of global control. Bill Gates even admitted such on video when he admitted that the standards and curriculum will all align to the tests. The same people who write the tests also write the standards and curriculum. If Texas truly wants what's best for the future of Texas, it would be in the best interest of the future generations to remove these tentacles from education and get back to the basics of reading, writing and math and watch children flourish. Otherwise, we will see the continued demise of our state and nation. Texas has an opportunity to really lead the way by eradicating the globalists once and for all. I implore you to have the courage that Texas is so widely known for and take such action and not simply expand the globalist grip on the minds of our future leaders. Thank you!

Juliana Gaddis

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose the vouchers

Charlotte Davidson

Self- former educator

Spring Branch, TX

Please do not pass this bill which only benefits wealthy people who already send their children to private schools. I served as a special educator for 30 years in Texas. I have seen first hand how special education students are denied necessary services at private schools. After wasting money and time taking their children with special needs children to private schools, parents would wearily return to public schools to receive the needed services for free. Public schools in Texas need to be fully funded, not defunded. If you would like for parents and students to have a choice, why not offer school choice within the public schools as Garland ISD has done for many years? Please do not pass this bill!

Anna Weaver-Guerra

Self

El Paso, TX

Vouchers are a scam

Stephanie Taylor

Self

Plano, TX

I do not support the school voucher scam that is being pushed by billionaires in Texas. It is theft, plain and simple. ALL Texas children deserve a decent education (which they can't get right now due to extremists banning books and refusing to address rampant gun violence, but I'll save those comments for later), not just the ones with rich daddies or ties to the powerful. We will not be able to fund public education properly with this bill. We can barely fund it now, in spite of exorbitant property taxes and record income from the lottery. We have to stop stealing from middle class Texans to fund tax breaks for wealthy developers and premium education opportunities for a select few of our children. This proposal is unconstitutional and morally reprehensible. Our once great state needs to stop leading the way to the bottom and learn from other failed states instead of repeating their mistakes. The farther the gap between the opportunities for the haves and the have nots, the closer we get to becoming California. Look at what Hollywood and Silicon Valley have done - regular people can't afford to exist there, so the employed ones are leaving and the recently laid off are begging on the streets. Don't California my Texas. Keep public education for the PUBLIC. Manage our money with us in mind, not yourself. Not political operatives or your donors. Not billionaires who don't need another dime from us. Please.

Dolly Rackley, Mrs

Self

San Antonio, TX

I believe it is time to give parents choice on the education of their children. There are many things in the current public school curriculum that is not appropriate or acceptable. Vote to affirm the passage of HB 3.
Thank you for hearing my voice.

Becca Hogan

Parent of Children in LISD - Instructional Assistant

Leander, TX

I strongly oppose the Texas school voucher bill (HB 3) for several key reasons that directly impact the future of our public education system. As someone who is a product of a Texas public school, whose mother was a dedicated public school teacher in Texas, and as a parent with children currently attending Leander ISD elementary schools, I have seen firsthand the value and potential of our public schools. Public education is a cornerstone of opportunity, and this bill threatens to undermine that foundation in ways that will harm our children, teachers, and communities.

The governor's strategy of withholding essential funding from our public schools to push this bill forward is not only harmful—it's a betrayal of the teachers, students, and families who rely on these institutions every day. Our public schools have faced years of financial strain, with funding levels stagnating since 2019. Meanwhile, inflation has skyrocketed, increasing the cost of living for families and the cost of supplies and resources for schools. Teachers, who are already underpaid and overworked, have left the profession in droves. It's clear that instead of addressing these issues, the governor's priority has been to promote a voucher program that will do nothing to help the struggling schools that serve the majority of Texas children.

Furthermore, the evidence from other states that have implemented school voucher programs shows that they disproportionately benefit wealthy families who already have the means to send their children to private schools. Rather than creating equitable opportunities for all students, this bill would simply serve as a tax break for the rich, funneling public funds into private institutions that have no obligation to serve the diverse and vulnerable populations that our public schools are committed to educating.

Our schools need more resources, not less. We need to prioritize increasing teacher pay, improving classroom conditions, and ensuring that every child—regardless of their background or zip code—has access to the quality education they deserve. This voucher bill is a step in the wrong direction, and it will only exacerbate the disparities in our education system.

I stand firmly against HB 3 and urge all Texans to do the same for the future of our children and our state.

Kyle Hogan

Parent of Children in LISD - IT Manager

Leander, TX

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flora gill

Flora Gill

houston, TX

This is welfare for the wealthy with no accountability for those schools. They don't have to take special needs kids. They don't have to take poor kids. Most truly poor kids won't have the extra thousands of dollars available to cover the rest of tuition, transport, and breakfast and lunch. Their family may share a car and really rely on the bus. If they are on SNAP, they may really rely on school lunches. \$164k is not a low household income (my husband and I felt like we had "made it" when we made that much), the median household income in Texas is \$79k, it should at least be below that. Or you could base that on the Federal Poverty line... But you can't do that because neither of those folks can afford the extra costs that will come with private school. My daughter is in CCISD and she is getting a world class education. She's reading fluently in kindergarten and already passed into 1st grade math. Her school builds an amazing community, that my fancy private school educated husband is kind of jealous of - he never had that. She goes to school with kids of all colors, religions, nationalities, and income levels, and you learn about the world from that! During a snowday, we walked to a playdate with a classmate 10 doors down that we would've never known without public school. Public school is one of the few places where you can come together with folks across party and ideological lines and realize that we are in this together fighting in good faith for the future. I know all the republicans Senators and House Members are gerrymandered into never ending power and feel that you should do whatever the big donors say so you don't get primaried. The voters are not your customers anymore, maybe we're your product?... But I think this will backfire on you. There are tons of republicans in this area that do not like vouchers because they know math. In a world where every podcast ad is sayin "we cut out the middle man to save you money" Why is Texas adding in a middleman to skim profit off the top of our tax dollars when they can be so much more efficiently spent as a school district. Why should someone raising 2 kids in a condo on a single mom's income pay for someone with generational wealth in Bay Oaks to go to private school? Studies show this money will go to the kids already in private schools like it did in AZ and LA. This doesn't make any sense. Do not pass the vouchers bill.

Andrea Dirnberger

Self

Austin, TX

Vote no for vouchers. I do not agree with reallocating public school fund to support private tuition when public schools are already underfunded in our state. It is unacceptable that our state has the eighth largest economy in the world but ranks 46th out of 50 in school funding. All children deserve a quality education.

Kathy Powell
Retired
Gonzales, TX

The voucher program uses taxpayers dollars to subsidize affluent families whose kids go to private schools which can discriminate and do not have to admit everyone

Jessica Neufeld
Texas Mom
Austin, TX

I am a working mom of two elementary-aged children in public school. I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools from our underfunded public schools. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. In fact, I've learned the cost of this voucher system would balloon from \$1B to \$5B in just a few years (2030). We don't want any of that here in Texas. This bill will harm our most precious and beloved resource - our children; and dim the potentially bright future of Texas by hamstringing the leaders, innovators, and caregivers of tomorrow. Please fund our public schools by increasing the basic allotment to at least the national average, index it to inflation, and tie funding to enrollment not attendance. Please don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Allan Parker, President, The Justice Foundation
The Justice Foundation
San Antonio, TX

Dear Members of the House Education Committee

We support the school choice provisions of HB3. After decades of innovation and courage by over 35 other states, it is now time for Texas to begin to recognize the power of improvement for all children created by parental involent. We support Hb3 parental school choice plan by the Governor, Speaker Burroughs, a majority of the Texas House, and the Texas Senate in SB 2. This time for Texas history to continue the expansion of "general diffusion of knowledge that is essential to the preservation of liberty" required by our Texas Constitution.

Kathy Riggle
self/retired educator
Pearland, TX

As a Native Texan and retired Educator, I oppose school vouchers and this Bill. I am a product of public school in HISD, college educated, parent and grandparent who has depended upon public schools in Pearland, Friendswood, and Pasadena ISDs, plus a retired teacher. We need to be strengthening our public schools and their focus on providing quality education to ALL students, regardless of their needs and religious beliefs. I also have experience with Private schools in the Houston Bay Area. My experience has been that they value parents with financial ability, so they will accept and mainstream students who should be receiving Special Education that they do not offer. This impacts the student who is not receiving Special Ed, plus the remaining students who must accommodate the slower learning pace that results.

Chelsea Williams
Self
FORT WORTH, TX

Public funds for public schools! Private school children can pay their own way. We already have school choice in Texas and this bill and SB 2 will destroy public education. VOTE NO.

Patricia Merrill

self

Austin, TX

I oppose education savings accounts or vouchers because they would take dollars away from public schools which are already underfunded. Vouchers are backed by billionaires not Texans. Public schools are already deficit spending and losing teachers. Vouchers would cause a greater loss of teachers. We cannot afford to have a shadow educational system, especially one that is unaccountable. Protect public funds, protect public schools, and protect rural areas where public schools are the cultural center of the community.

Linda C Elissalde

self - retired Texas Public School Teacher

Crystal Beach, TX

I am a retired Texas Public School Teacher. My parents and relatives were proud public school teachers. The majority of my instructors from elementary school through graduate school were exemplary pedagogues.

I served 35 years as an elementary educator. I was an adjunct history professor in local junior colleges and supervised student teachers for the University of Houston. Generous professionals shared their skills. Often it was, "By my pupils I was taught".

Most qualified for government aid programs. School personal often paid for needed supplies. Local businesses, friends and family helped out on special occasions. Students became experts at composing thank you letters.

I wrote letters to state representatives. Will private schools serve special needs pupils? What about bus service? Will church schools accept and respect children from different religions? Will private schools use the same TEA curricula, standards and tests as public ones? Not one answered even one question.

My hope is that everyone will support public schools. That would be appreciated by those who place the education of our young as a top priority. I am filled with gratitude for Texas Legislators who support the Texas Public School System so it can meet the needs of ALL Texas students.

Sincerely,

Linda C Elissalde

Marla Johnson

Self

San Marcos, TX

I am opposed to giving tax dollars for use for private schools. We should be building up our public schools which serve all children and which are accountable to meet certain standards. The proposed school vouchers will not actually provide a good choice for most children — there is no transportation, the additional cost required to attend is prohibitive and there is extremely limited availability. Private schools are not held to standards needed to receive public funds. Build up the public schools with every available dollar.

Lisa Herrera

Self - marketing executive

San Antonio, TX

Taxpayers funds should be used to strengthen public education, not for private school tuition. We should increase the per student allotment for public school students to ensure Texas produces well educated citizens who will contribute to our economy rather than funnel money to the wealthy, who benefit the most from an ESA/voucher program. Students like my very bright, dyslexic son are looking at an education with fewer in school resources to acquire at a free, appropriate public education if you pass this bill. Private schools often will not accept children with learning differences and so many more kids will fall through the cracks if you pass this bill. Please consider ALL the kids in Texas, not just the ones who already have financial resources in their favor. We could be a leader in this country when it comes to public education, if we just invested in it. Let's do better.

Valerie Kosa

Self

Tyler, TX

We already have school choice. Many choose their local public school, many choose private school, and many choose to homeschool. Making those choices come with a cost. But it is our cost, not the government's.

Conservative ideals are all about less is more. Less government equals more freedom. When the government steps in, it takes away from our individual rights and autonomy. These are basic principles we learn in government and economics class. These basic principles are throughout our constitution.

Not everyone will qualify for this. How does that make it equitable? Those of us who pay our taxes and pay our fair share may not be afforded the "choice" you refer to in this bill. And this is because we chose despite the odds (both of my husband and I are 1st generation Americans and 1st in our families to graduate from college). We have worked hard for everything we have. We continue to pay ridiculous student loan payments and don't qualify for help or relief due to our income and our jobs. We pay for all of our own educational expenses, and now we are continuously asked to pay for everyone else's. That's not the American way.

We came here for freedom. We will continue to fight for freedom. Once the government steps in and says they know better how to spend our money, there are huge red flags. That is not American. We have choice. We need to continue to allow citizen autonomy to decide where and how we educate our children. We choose to teach our children to think for themselves instead of a standardized test where you have to guess how someone is wanting you to think. We choose to focus and specialize where our children's interests and abilities lie. We choose to teach them about respect and their responsibilities as citizens of a free country and we choose to teach them the basic fundamentals that make our country great.

This bill does nothing to help anyone. It adds oversight and bureaucracy where it doesn't belong. It adds an unnecessary price tag. How is that Conservative? What does it save in the end? Those who cannot participate in the program for various reasons are forced into it even if they opt out because of the regulation it will eventually create.

Education Savings Accounts are not school choice. Anything that takes away autonomy and adds regulation and bureaucracy is not Conservative. What does this bill actually accomplish? What is the end goal? Who will actually benefit? Have you thought this through outside of the talking points of a paid lobby.

Please reconsider your vote.

Michelle Sloan

Self

Georgetown, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 for many reasons. The legislature has not funded public schools properly for at least the last 6 years and now they're proposing to give \$10,000 to families whose children already attend private school?!!

How about rural districts? Public schools are often the largest employer and schools are the hub of these communities (Friday night football for example). How many private schools are there in these rural Texas towns.

Private schools don't have to accept everyone and can terminate a student's attendance when it suits them. And what about special education? Are private schools required to serve these students?

\$10,000 is not enough for your average Texas family to pay for a good private school. Any private school that charges \$10,000 per year won't be much of a school.

How many seats are available at these private schools? I believe that the idea behind all of this is another way for white families to send their children to "good schools". By this I mean to schools that mostly serve white middle and upper class students. We're slowly going back to the days of school segregation. I find this idea to be shortsighted. In today's diverse world we need to learn to get along and work alongside people who look and think differently from us. We benefit from exchanges of viewpoints and ideas.

Finally the idea for these vouchers is just a way for Gov Abbott to satisfy his rich donors who will more than likely benefit from this. More private schools will need to be built and guess who will have the money to invest in this?

I believe the Texas public schools are worth the investment. Let's increase the daily allotment by \$1000 per child, let's pay our teachers like the professionals that they are and let those families who have the means send their kids to private school on their dime. I do not want my tax dollars spent on this.

Thank you

Gina Mateer

Self- owner of Interoceptive Nutrition, LLC

Austin, TX

In your statements today and previously, you have consistently pushed the possible positive effects of this universal ESA program – without a single mention of the downsides.

Experiences in the other states has shown that Universal ESA voucher programs fail to achieve improving educational outcomes for students. In fact, research shows vouchers have substantial negative effects on academic achievement: For example:

1. Studies in Louisiana, Indiana, and Ohio found that students who attended private schools using vouchers performed worse than similar peers in public schools. These negative effects persisted over years, meaning they were not a temporary result of students' transition to a new school.?

2. Studies of voucher programs in Washington, D.C., and Alabama found no significant improvement in student test scores.?

3. Vouchers fail to deliver even on non-academic measures. Parents do not report greater satisfaction with schools, nor a greater sense of safety, with the use of vouchers.?

4. Indiana's program has been described as the poster child for the segregating effects of?

vouchers

Claims that vouchers improve academic performance are simply false

Furthermore, vouchers harm under-resourced rural public schools and their communities, with no benefit to those rural students who cannot find any private schools.

Voucher programs drain millions of dollars from public sources but are subject to virtually no public accountability—a fraction of the requirements imposed on public schools. Unregulated, unaccountable voucher programs are a waste of taxpayer dollars.

It has also been shown in the other states that:

* Vouchers are more expensive than public schooling?

* Vouchers shift education expenses to the parents?

* Vouchers subsidize private education for students who would not otherwise have attended a public school?

* Voucher programs do not change the fixed costs in public schools?

* Vouchers cost taxpayers money to subsidize private education – often for the more wealthy?

* Vouchers create new subpar education vendors to suck up the increased demand for profit sake?

Question:

What makes you think that none of that will happen here in Texas starting next year???

Jenn Wood

Self

Nevada, TX

I think you all already know that your constituents are overwhelmingly opposed to this, even in the reddest of areas. We want to fund public education, not this. Please do not pass this mess and pave the way for Texas to be even stupider.

Billy Cargile, Mr.

Self

Red Oak, TX

I was under the impression that the purpose of this institution was to represent the people of the great state of Texas. Why are decisions being made, based on massive donations that originate from a billionaire that is not even a resident of Texas. This is blatant corruption, and it is our children who will suffer for it. Is there not a shred of integrity left in Texas state government?

Keri Stern
Aisd
Austin, TX
I oppose

Jill Smits
self
Austin, TX

I oppose school vouchers, which will harm our already-strapped public school system!

Mickey Culpepper
Self
Cypress, TX

No vouchers for private schools which lowers funding for public schools

Holden Culpepper
Cypress Fairbanks ISD
Houston, TX

No ESAs and no Vouchers, it's a terrible idea.

Amanda Chumchal
Self
Keller, TX

Texas public schools need more funding, not less. Education Savings Accounts are just another form of school vouchers that divert taxpayer dollars away from public schools and into private institutions with little accountability. Our focus should be on strengthening public education to serve all students, not creating programs that primarily benefit a select few. I urge lawmakers to reject ESA proposals and prioritize fully funding our public schools.

Ashlyn Alvarez
Self
Austin, TX

Kids are watching. They are listening. And they understand when something will impact them. They also react.

Here is a letter my 8-year-old wrote to you, the members of the Public Education Committee:

I don't think it's fair that people are trying to take money away from public schools. And I think our teachers deserve money also. My teachers helped me get better at Spanish and reading. And please do not take books way from young children like me. And listen to what public education teachers want.

I hope we are able to deliver this letter to you in person before this hearing. She even drew a picture of her school with a note that reads, "Vote No to Vouchers."

Please listen to one of your young constituents...vote no to HB3!

Emily Davis
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please vote no on this. I want fully funded public education and not welfare for the wealthy. I want to be the smartest state in the nation and the only way to do that is to educate everyone. I want my children's school to continue to grow and foster their "Leader in Me" program. The only way to do this is to keep public education fully funded. Teravista Elementary is the first in Texas to have achieved the title of a Legacy school, 6th in the world. The voucher program will squash this success.

Michael Garrett
Self
Decatur, TX

All students in Texas deserve to be fully and equally represented and funded. Give every student 10,000 per year, not just voucher students. All students that receive state funds should

Claudia Hurst
Self
Weatherford, TX

A hard NO on education savings accounts, AKA vouchers. The governor is saying the majority want vouchers yet constituents at town hall meetings are shouting NO to their representatives. Time for a NO vote on education savings accounts, AKA vouchers. A fiscal money pit.

Robin Meador
Self retired
Abilene, TX

I am against this bill concerning school vouchers. I have grandchildren who attend public schools, I also own my home and pay property taxes. I live on the poorer side of Abilene, I live in the house my grandparent owned. Unfortunately it is hard to get our streets and public schools repaired or upgraded on the north side of town. I can only imagine how much harder that is going to be with our tax dollars going to private schools. My daughter cannot make up the difference that a voucher doesn't pay. I don't tax dollars going to private schools when public schools will suffer. Please vote no on school vouchers.

Jolene Slama-Saenz
Reilly Elementary PTA
Austin, TX

We oppose HB3 the school voucher program. They are not in the best needs of our public education system. We need to take care of our kids in this public school system, not cater to the ones in private schools.

John Peterson
Self
Leander, TX

On this bill, the Eyes of Texas are Upon You.
And I don't mean that like the University of Texas Alma Mater. Genuinely, everyone is watching to see, will my representative choose to make Texas Education even worse than it already is by approving this Bill? Or, will s/he stand up against the smear, smoke-and-mirrors campaign and agenda Gov. Abbott is pushing? Anyone with half a brain cell knows this Bill is WRONG for Texas. Vote "No". Texas expects it.

April L. Blair, Ms

Self

Dallas, TX

Please vote No! This will not help families that wish to send their scholars to private schools. It will not cover the cost of the private education that this bill is proposing. Therefore the scholar will return back to public education and this may cause a gap in the scholars education because of any missed time.

Carol Watts, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

I wish to voice my opposition to HB 3. I urge representatives to support public education and neighborhood schools and vote NO on vouchers and ESAs. Our neighborhood schools are suffering after 6 years of no increase to the Basic Allotment. Vote no on vouchers/ESAs and vote to fully fund public schools with a \$1500 increase in the Basic Allotment. Thank you.

Janelle Allen-Croxton

Self, self

Bridgeport, TX

I do NOT support this. The Government will not control what I teach Homeschooling my Child!

Connie Rossi

Self

Mesquite, TX

No vouchers. Listen to the people. The governor is holding funding for schools hostage to support his agenda.

Dallas Windham

Self - Retired

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 3. Public funds should not be used for private schools!

Melissa Bryan, Dr.

Self, elementary school principal

Fort Worth, TX

I urge you to fully fund public schools, adjusting for inflation before you even consider adding any type of educational voucher to the budget. Fund our public schools fully.

Paul DeGrove

Self

Garland, TX

Please vote against this bill and any other bill that authorizes an education voucher program. Public tax dollars must be used for public schools, not private schools or home schooling programs. Vote against any bill that create voucher programs and increase funding for public schools which has not occurred since 2019.

MARY COLE

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I ask that you vote against ANY voucher program or other program that diverts funding otherwise intended for public schools.

Brenda Elias

Self/parent

Palestine, TX

I support public schools and I want my hard earned taxed dollars to go towards public schools and not towards private schools vouchers I support public schools and oppose private schools vouchers my kids deserve to be educated and all the public schools need the funding not the private schools.

Amy Monkman

self/ teacher

Cedar Park, TX

As a teacher of 30 years, I am adamantly AGAINST this bill. We need a bill that supports public education. We need to put the needs of students and teachers first. We need public education for ALL students. This bill does not support students with learning differences. Greg Abbott has said that vouchers, which this bill is, take away money from public schools. Please DO NOT allow billionaires to run Texas like they are running our Nation. Vote NO for HB3.

Jean Paulsel, Dr.

Self - Early Childhood Education Consultant

Weatherford, TX

“Texas Constitution, Art. 7, Sec. 1. SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM OF PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS. A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the DUTY of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.” The idea that this plan adequately funds public schools is nonsense. Vouchers are unconstitutional. The founding fathers knew the worth of a public education system. In Europe, only the wealthy were educated. Our public education system was the first in the world and a grand experiment to have an educated populace. Benjamin Franklin said, “The good education of youth has been esteemed by wise men in all ages, as the surest foundation of the happiness both of private families and of commonwealths. Almost all governments have therefore made it a principal object of their attention, to establish and endow with proper revenues, such seminaries of learning, as might supply the succeeding age with men qualified to serve the publick with honour to themselves, and to their country.” He also said, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” An investment in the quality education of ALL our children will, indeed, pay the best interest for our communities, our cities, our state, and our nation. Thomas Jefferson said, (Jan. 14. 1818) "A system of general instruction, which shall reach every description of our citizens, from the richest to the poorest, as it was the earliest, so will it be the latest, of all the public concerns in which I shall permit myself to take an interest." I am appalled to see the leaders of this great state actually WORKING to destroy public education by allowing school vouchers. This will only give wealthier parents more personal wealth as they send their children to private schools. Poor and middle class parents will NEVER be able to use these funds since private school tuition will still be out of reach. Our schools are already woefully unfunded. Ask any teacher how much money they put into their classroom each year. Tax dollars should be used to support public education. Texas ranks 38th in the nation in quality of education (<https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/public-school-rankings-by-state>) or, 29th using another source (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/education>). Whatever the source, we rank in the lower half of the states. How will destroying our public education system help our rankings, and help our children achieve the success they deserve? They are our leaders of tomorrow. Don't you WANT an educated, accomplished generation of children to be able to take the lead when we are all gone? Don't you want to leave this great state in better condition than you found it? Is a wealth/class division actually what you want? VOTE NO TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS AND GIVE ALL TEXAS CHILDREN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL.

Hope Corrales

Public schools

Plains, TX

I believe in public education!!

“I strongly disagree with this bill’s approach to school funding and teacher compensation. It does not adequately address the root causes of educational inequality and may disproportionately impact underfunded districts, particularly rural communities. Additionally, it fails to consider the unique needs of students requiring special services, potentially widening the gap in support for these vulnerable groups.”

Wendy Wu

Self

Plano, TX

I am against HB3 to provide funding for private schools. The majority of families attend public schools. Also those that can afford to go to private schools don't need vouchers. Additionally when someone moves from a private to a public school the voucher doesn't follow. Please vote against HB3. Thanks.

Raymond Root

Self

Manvel, TX

No public money for private schools. This directly violates the state constitution.

Kathy Guerra, Ms

Self-Retired Teacher

Frisco, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers and in favor of fully funding public schools!

Ann Kowalsky

Self

Houston, TX

Going to vouchers will deprive most of the children in Texas of an education. If the voucher is for \$10,000, well we all know that will not pay for a private education. So people that already give their kids a private education based on their personal choices will just get a \$10,000 check subsidizing their choice. Without public education, most children will be out of luck.....as will the state of team as be out of luck if the Texas Governor and his cronies go for private education. I mean, really, how can anyone imagine this is just. Why would anyone want to deprive families of the educational opportunities necessary to succeed in this world. Why does a state that wants to keep women pregnant without offering any assistance for the care of children? Why does this state push women down and also fail to provide the means for children to thrive? Education provides opportunity. What is wrong with you people?

Kelli Reddy

Floydada ISD

Floydada, TX

I am against this bill. I feel it is very unfair to the students in my area. We have no school choice! This bill would take away program funding from our students. Please vote NO!

Lisa Parker
self, homeschooling parent
Cedar Park, TX

We are a homeschooling family, and we DO NOT support school vouchers. We already have choice in Texas.

Any family can choose to homeschool or to send their children to a private school. That's their choice, and they should use their own funds to pay for it - like we do.

I was a public middle school teacher before homeschooling. Public school teachers have to earn licenses and have to continue their education. They are qualified to teach Texas' children. Public schools need and deserve the funds allocated to them.

I DO NOT want my tax dollars to go to a religious school - or another unaccredited private school or another homeschool. Those schools can be funded by simple capitalism. If the school is good, parents will pay for it with their own money.

Vouchers will allow substandard schools to thrive with undeserved handouts.

Please vote NO on school vouchers.

Tammy Estes
Self
Lubbock, TX

Against, property taxes are way too high as it is.

Jeremy Pam
Self / Principal
Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Randolph Bauder
Self-Forensic Engineer
Bryan, TX

The comments related to Texas' position being 44th in the nation are not relevant to this bill in my opinion. This is focusing on status and funding, not on the welfare of the children actually attending school. Many comments like this opposing the bill are focused on money and status, rather than the education of our kiddos.

Amy Richards
Self
Houston, TX

Have political courage, save our public schools and vote no on vouchers. Vouchers will not help children be better educated, and 90% of all Texas children depend on public school education. Private schools can reject any student for any reason, public education serves everyone! Be decent, do the right thing, our future is at stake.

Virginia Essary

Self

Kyle, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Moshe Naparstek, Rabbi

self

Dallas, TX

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Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Jack Nokes

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing in opposition to the creation of the school voucher program taking public tax dollars to underwrite tuition to private schools. This violates a long-held practice that public money should not be spent for private purposes. In addition, this program will further degrade the quality of public education in Texas. Our future depends on strong public education for all our citizens, not just for those who can afford a quality private school. Invest some of our \$30+ billion surplus in public education, not a subsidy for those who can already afford private schools.

Michelle Nguyen

Self

Austin, TX

Hello,

I am a proud graduate of Texas public schools and advocate for a fully funded public school. My son has autism and the establishment of education savings account would defund our public schools and further hinder our special education program. Private schools and vouchers are not parents' choices, it gives a school choice to openly discriminate and decline support for students with special needs. School choice shouldn't mean depriving my child and other special needs children of their chance to be supported and learn in their own way.

Vouchers and education savings account programs benefit rich families by taking funds and support from vulnerable families especially those with special need children. Every child deserves a chance of a high quality education with a fully funded public education system.

Ashley Svenson, Ms
self- genetic counselor
Austin, TX

As a Texan committed to strong public education, I firmly oppose school vouchers. Vouchers divert critical funding away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of students, and instead funnel taxpayer dollars into private institutions that lack accountability and transparency. Public funds should remain in public schools—ensuring that every child, regardless of their zip code or background, has access to a high-quality education. Rather than undermining our public school system, we should focus on strengthening it by investing in teachers, resources, and programs that benefit all students.

Kristen Maurel
Self
AUSTIN, TX

The implementation of school vouchers in Texas would be a costly and ineffective policy that threatens public education, funnels taxpayer dollars into private institutions with little accountability, and violates the principle of the separation of church and state. Vouchers, which use public funds to subsidize private school tuition, have failed in multiple states, providing a cautionary tale for Texas lawmakers. Additionally, the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitution both contain explicit language to prevent government funding of religious institutions, making voucher programs constitutionally questionable.

Several states have experimented with school vouchers, only to see negative outcomes. For example:

1. Wisconsin – Milwaukee has had one of the longest-running voucher programs in the nation, yet it has failed to improve student outcomes significantly. Multiple studies have found that students in voucher schools perform no better—and often worse—than their public school counterparts. A 2019 study from the University of Arkansas found that Milwaukee voucher students lagged behind in academic achievement when compared to students in traditional public schools.
2. Indiana – Under former Governor Mike Pence, Indiana rapidly expanded its voucher program. However, a 2018 study by the University of Notre Dame found that students who transferred to private schools using vouchers experienced significant declines in math achievement.
3. Ohio – A 2020 study of Ohio’s EdChoice voucher program revealed that students who used vouchers to attend private schools performed worse on standardized tests than those who remained in public schools. Furthermore, the program drained millions of dollars from public school districts, exacerbating funding inequalities.

Texas cannot afford to repeat these mistakes. Instead of improving education, vouchers undermine public schools by diverting essential resources away from the majority of students who rely on them.

Publicly funded voucher programs also raise serious constitutional concerns. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution includes the Establishment Clause, which states:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

This clause has long been interpreted to prohibit government funding of religious institutions, including religious schools. In *Everson v. Board of Education* (1947), the U.S. Supreme Court reinforced this principle, stating that the government cannot “aid one religion, aid all religions, or prefer one religion over another.” Many private schools that would receive voucher funds are religious institutions, meaning Texas taxpayers would be forced to subsidize religious education in violation of this principle.

The Texas Constitution is even more explicit in its prohibition of public dollars for religious schools. **THE CITIZENS HAVE SPOKEN- WE DO NOT WANT VOUCHERS.**

Stacie Brown
self
Bluff Dale, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Please properly fund public education.

.”

Allison Winslow, Mrs.

Self

Waco, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Evan Reifman, Mr

Self

Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Courtney Ainsworth

self, public information specialist

Leander, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3. I'm the product of Texas public schools and my children are now enrolled in Leander ISD. LISD has long been a preeminent district in this state, and yet, as state funding hasn't increased in six years, we are facing a \$34 million deficit heading into the 25-26 school year. This will result in decreased staffing, the loss of the district's IB programme, and untold additional impacts. The Texas state government's obsession with passing vouchers instead of increasing public school funding shows your constituency that the ultimate goal is to hamstring public schools and privatize schools. This is one of the few pieces of legislature that I have found bipartisan support for in all my local circles. Republicans do not want this, democrats do not want this. Increase public school funding and vote no on HB 3.

Kyle Swift
Self
Decatur, TX

My name is Kyle Swift, and I am a constituent living in Decatur. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the school voucher bill, SB 2, and to urge you to vote against it.

Local schools in Decatur ISD stand to lose an estimated \$1.2 million under SB 2, which would be devastating for our community. Our schools are already underfunded, over capacity, and teachers underpaid. This bill would exacerbate these issues. As a dedicated volunteer at my children's schools and my wife a substitute teacher, we witness firsthand how underfunded they currently are. We have outstanding schools and teachers despite these issues and they do amazing work at educating students regardless of status or ability.

Public funds should remain in our public schools, rather than being diverted to unaccountable private schools and providing discounts to wealthy families already sending their children to these institutions. It is perplexing that our political leaders support this bill when the overwhelming majority of Texans do not. You claim this is about school choice, but it is not as we already have school choice. I choose to send my kids to public school as it is considerably better at educating my children than ANY private school around. This bill is all about our political leaders and Governor wanting to funnel public funds to private institutions and companies that operate for profit. Most of these institutions view students as mere statistics and a way to make a profit.

The House, Senate, and Governor who support the "Education Savings Accounts" plan may continue to hide behind the school choice and ESA branding, but the informed members of your electorate see through it. This is simply a voucher, coupon, or discount for private school education. The only Texans who favor it are those who stand to benefit from it—billionaire donors, private schools, and private school parents. Please do better for your constituents and the children, teachers, and parents in Texas by keeping PUBLIC funds in PUBLIC schools.

Thank you,
Kyle

Amanda Pritchard
Self
Spring, TX

Strongly oppose HB3 that will decimate TRS for all loyal employees, as well as take needed money from our public schools.

Joshua Goldstein
self, Director of Software Engineering
Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

John Herron
Self
AUSTIN, TX

Please. Do NOT vote for HB3.

Do NOT support school vouchers or sending public dollars to private schools. Decades of PUBLIC schooling has made America great - it's likely what got YOU where you are today. Sure, public schools could be made better, but moving funding AWAY from public schools isn't the answer. Supporters say 'it's about parental choice', but what's just as important is determining how our kids are COLLECTIVELY educated - it's about more than 'my kid'. We should be just as concerned about educating the kids down the street - it's their education that will determine the direction of society, our future economy, the prevention of crime. Privatizing education TAKES AWAY public benefit. I don't want my taxes paying for the private schooling of someone else's kids. And school vouchers will cost too much in long term - it's unsustainable. Be smart, support public schools. Don't break the public school system.

Laura Warden
Self
Austin, TX

No vouchers! The majority of children in Texas use public education; it needs funding !!!!!

Dylan Highfill
Self
Arlington, TX

Fund Texas public schools

Christina Lizaso, Ms.
Self
Carrollton, TX

I oppose spending public money on private education. No states that do this are overall benefiting marginalized students.

Tierney Hubbard
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Please vote no to this bill. Our public schools are desperate for this funding. I choose public school for my children even though I can afford private school. Please don't take away this choice from me!

Jesse Johnson
SELF
Austin, TX

Public tax dollars are supposed to benefit THE PUBLIC. Diverting these funds to private, religious and home schools does not benefit THE PUBLIC.

I am completely opposed to any diversion of public funds for school to anywhere but the public school system. Public school is in dire condition as is and under attack. Diverting money to private/religious/home schooling only dilutes it further, harming those who need the most help. Private schools are not OPEN enrollment. Wealthy private school attendees don't need vouchers anyway. Diversion of public funds to religious schools violates separation of church and state, and also do not allow anyone to attend their schools. Homeschoolers are making the choice not to participate at all and should not get public money as it's no benefit to THE PUBLIC.

Sincerely
Jesse Johnson

Linda Mundwiller, Mrs

Secular Houston

Houston, TX

Vote "no"

Desaray Granzow

Self

Leander, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3.

The diversion of public funding to private entities is fundamentally harmful to both the public and private sector and fundamentally wrong.

This further defunds public education with specific harm to students - like my child - with disabilities. Funneling \$1 billion of public money to a very few individual families does nothing to help the 14% of our public school students receiving special education services. That's almost 800,000 students of which at a minimum 750,000 students would still be in the public system under this legislation. These education savings accounts are completely inaccessible to at least 90% of our disabled students and that's before considering the private schools: 1. Have no obligation to accept students with disabilities. 2. Have no obligation to follow rights protections of IEP's 3. Can and do charge well over their base tuition for students with disabilities even if the minimal services they provide are inadequate. 4. They may expel a student at any point in time and often do once the first test cycle occurs.

In the meantime, while \$1 billion is funneled away from public schools, the majority of students in those environments will suffer yet again as this state refuses to properly fund special education with an increase in the allotment lacking for decades.

In districts like mine that offer robust programming, ever improving models for delivery of services, and access and support for students like my child who require services, this growing pile of unfunded mandates, ridiculous restrictions, and continued restriction of funding, seems purposeful. I would like to think the best of everybody in this legislature, but it's a very hard thing to do when we see legislation like this, and the legislators who refuse to listen to the parent voice and the student voice who are all telling them quite clearly and quite directly that this is bad policy and it is directly harmful to our students

Not only is it harmful to public schools, but it's also harmful to the private sector ideals with more regulations and more restrictions coming toward the private sector — and those proponents are being pretty clear and loud with the fact that they did not ask for this.

It seems nobody really wants this except for a few people with a lot of power in the legislature who are veering away from their public responsibility and from their fiscal responsibility of our public dollars.

I asked everyone take a step back look at the system. Look at the actual finances and the large \$24 billion surplus that our state has and do the right thing for our students and our families.

Say no to HB 3, update the special education allotment / funding mechanisms, fund public education, where you have a duty in the state of Texas to provide adequate public education, and keep public money in public schools.

Elizabeth Henderson

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Elizabeth Henderson

Sarah Schimmer

Self

Richmond, TX

Please fully fund public schools. Oppose voucher system.

Jeff Dyke

Self

Houston, TX

Fully support HB3 and school choice!!!

Amy Stine
Self
Spicewood, TX

I am a parent of 3 children that have wildly different educational needs. I made a choice after Covid to homeschool my youngest, keep my middle son in public school, and my oldest in a small private school. We were lucky to make this decision. All of our kids are happy and in their elements. Since we are paying out of our pocket for my oldest and the curriculum for my youngest, you'd think that I would be PRO voucher, but I am staunchly against it.

I love the freedom that homeschooling in Texas provides and I don't want the government in my business dictating what I can and can't teach. Even though I don't have to apply for a voucher, I feel like this plan will eventually regulate homeschooling.

In addition, I don't want prices to go up for private schools that will be accepting vouchers.

Most importantly, and this is the most obvious reason, I don't want money taken from public schools. Governor Abbott can twist his words any way he wants, but this plan WILL take money away from public schools, and students and staff will suffer. He knows this, yet he continues to lie to the public that it won't affect them.

We know that this plan will only benefit people that are wealthy and already have the means to send their kids to private schools. It should come as no surprise to anyone that many people, including the Governor's wife, will benefit from this plan. There's a large billboard on Highway 71 in Bee Cave advertising the micro school where his wife happens to be a board member. We all know the millionaires and billionaires are behind this awful plan.

There is not a SINGLE benefit of vouchers to public school students. The Governor knows this, the legislature knows this, the people know this, and yet we are fighting tooth and nail to oppose this.

If you read the comments on any of the Governor's social media posts, you'd realize this is not a partisan issue- Republics don't want this either.

Please don't take away from our fantastic public schools to make your friends richer. You will single-handedly ruin this state with this plan.

Brandy Swigart
Self. Homemaker.
Sachse, TX

We do not need coupons for the rich. We do not need to take public funds and put them into private unregulated schools. ESPECIALLY when Abbots wife works for one! Talk about conflict of interest.

Release hostage funds to pay teachers more.

Katharine Hsu
Self
Plano, TX

Rather than providing money for alternate options, use the money to improve the options already available for families in their neighborhoods.

Jennifer Boyd
Self, mother
Shallowater, TX

LEAVE FUNDING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Nobody wants a voucher program. Do not take money away from public schools where the money constitutionally belongs!!!!!!

Ellen Winstead, Ms

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Ellen Winstead

Amy Parks

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Texans do not want this school vouchers. We want our teachers in Public schools to receive a annual pay raise, and our Public schools to receive more funding academically. The vouchers only help the rich and wealthy. This does nothing for the parent who can barely keep a roof over their head and food on the table. Stop Defunding Education.

Jenna Crawford

Self, homeschooler

Hockley, TX

Conservative values focus on limited government involvement. Introducing this program will not benefit education for a vast majority of Texas children. This bill, like many others, is a gateway to collecting data, controlling information that is being taught, and introducing the government overreach into private and homeschools. Homeschoolers should remain free from any government interference whether direct or indirect in the coming years. Look at who benefits the most from this bill- it's not Texas children. It's the companies who will see the contracts for the "approved curriculum" that is being pushed. It's a control of information and dangling money at parents with a multitude of strings attached.

Jeff Furrh
Self
Klein, TX

As a seventh-generation Texan and an educator for nearly 30 years, I am writing to express my strong opposition to private school voucher programs. Education is a cornerstone of our state's future, and I firmly believe that taxpayer dollars should remain within public schools, not diverted to private institutions that are not held to the same standards of accountability and accessibility.

My commitment to education runs deep—my mother was a teacher, I have dedicated my career to serving students, including time in charter schools, and my daughter is currently training to become an educator. I have seen firsthand how public schools strive to serve all students, regardless of their background or needs. Private schools, however, are not required to adhere to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), meaning students with disabilities may be denied the services and protections they are entitled to in public schools.

Additionally, the proposed voucher amounts do little to truly expand school choice for low-income families. The cost of private school tuition far exceeds the voucher amount, leaving the poorest families without viable options while providing a financial benefit to wealthier families who already send their children to private schools. Rather than increasing opportunities for all, vouchers create an inequitable system that favors those with existing means.

Furthermore, public tax dollars should not be used to subsidize private industry. Our tax dollars should be invested in strengthening public schools, ensuring competitive teacher salaries, reducing class sizes, and expanding resources for students, not funding institutions that operate without public oversight.

I urge you to stand against private school voucher initiatives and instead advocate for policies that strengthen our public education system for all Texas children. Thank you for your time and service to our great state.

Sincerely,

Jeff Furrh

Robbie Kuykendall
Self
Lufkin, TX

As the child of two former Educators, and a product of public education, and the parent of a child attending a public school in the state of Texas and a rural community, I would like to make it known that I **STRONGLY** disagree and disapprove of Greg Abbott's "school choice" bill. If the governor or Mike Morath of TEA, who we've yet to hear remarks from, cared about the children and Educators of Texas he would've never held funds hostage and blackmailed his constituents into supporting him. The governor has not supplied Texas district with the funds due to them and has watched leadership, teachers, and students struggle with lack of funding. There is absolutely no way you'll receive whatever Abbott hasn't promised you via Trump or via his donors. Listen to the parents and teachers involved with public education. We do not want these vouchers. I want the resources for my district for my child.

Do your job and vote as your constituent want.

Paul Toler, Mr
Self
Bryan, TX

I am not a fan of private school funding but given the legislature and governor plan to implement such a program, I urge the House to pass a bill that models other states with private school voucher programs. The proposed \$10,000 per student funding is too much. Florida has the richest program at \$8,000 and the other states with private school funding programs range from \$4,000 to \$7,000 per student. Texas first priority needs to be upgrading our overall public school education programs to at least be in the top quartile of the nation in order to continue to attract and retain businesses. Texas currently is clearly in the bottom quartile of public school funding. Whatever the elected Legislature does for private school funding, it should double that public school funding per student. Texas has been trending downward in public education support for too many years. I urge the House to be bold and reverse that trend and make funding public education the #1 priority (where a large majority of the population will be educated) and fund private school vouchers at no more than 50% of per student funding provided to private school vouchers, with income limits closer to 300% of the poverty level.

Oscar Maldonado
Self
Hebbronville, TX

I do not support HB3

Molly McNeill, Mrs.
AISD
Abilene, TX

I am not in support of HB3 and these supposed changes. We need to not make rash decisions on behalf of our teachers and students but consider well thought-out answers to better support our state's EDUCATION. Why are we holding billions of dollars captive and not tapping into those funds FIRST? This is very alarming. I will be forever more paying more astute attention to these bills.

Phyllis Hanvey
Self
Georgetown, TX

No public money for vouchers. Vote No on vouchers. SUPPORT Texas PUBLIC schools. PLEASE.

George Heike
Self/Retired
Dallas, TX

Vote against. This is not a good way to fund education for all.

Angelica Rios
Self
Liberty Hill, TX

I oppose HB 3 and ask my representatives to do the same. Thank you and have a blessed day!

Daniel Alvarez
Self/construction
Weslaco, TX

I believe that this would greatly benefit the child in helping fund the school he/she is attending. Further I believe it will better help those who are financially struggling and will better help them meet their needs in education.

Ryan Angell
Self - Teacher
Tyler, TX

If you want to fix public school, ditch no child left behind, it should be call all children left behind as it forced inclusion of special needs students in to mainstream classes where they couldn't get the attention they needed to be successful without holding the test of the class back. We need to be bold and admit not every student is a mathematician or a poet. And it is proud work to be a plumber or mechanic. Allow students to enter vocational training as an alternative to mainstream education in high school and let the teacher focus on the students who are academically driven and chose that pathway. With the increase in Hispanic and Spanish speaking students, we should invest more in teaching the English and having resources in their native languages for complex ideas and advanced studies. Lastly, caping is an epidemic with young adults, and I respect the harsh stance on discipline mandated for the state- at the same time it is important to acknowledge that it is a addiction and kids will have trouble quitting. AND mandatory DAEP is a lot- especially when those referrals are held against the school's academic rating. Just my thoughts.

Glenda Pollock
Franklin county democrats
Talco, TX

Keep our schools publicly funded. Our children deserve quality public schools. My tax dollars should not be used to fund alternatives. Using our children as pawns to enrich private education, home schooling or religious schools is not right.

Polly McKissick
Self
Center, TX

This is not good for our educational system and favors the wealthy.

Joanna Tarica
Self
Pearland, TX

This bill would be a gross injustice for all school aged children in Texas including those in public, private and home school learning environments. When our elected officials deem the desires of billionaires more significant than the very vocal factions of constituents demanding that they be heard, we know our government is on the wrong path. As a former Texas public school teacher and current parent, I vehemently oppose this bill and hope that common sense will prevail and you will vote NO on BH 3.

Jennifer Crisp
Self
Abilene, TX

I do NOT support this bill. I support fully funding Texas public schools. My local district is increasing class sizes and cutting staff due to inadequate funding from the state. I have seen no evidence that offering vouchers or educational savings accounts improves education for all students. Please vote NO.

Martha Reyna
Jolt Action
Elmendorf, TX

Hello, my name is Martha Reyna and I am a constituent in Elmendorf. I would like the Public Education Committee to say NO to House Bill 3.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them for the future. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our public schools, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private schools. There is no oversight for these private schools and they don't disclose why they choose or don't choose certain s certain students. House Bill 3 diverts tax dollars away from public schools, and those dollars should stay in public education.

I'm a concerned Texan and I ask our representatives to vote NO on House Bill 3.

Ann Locasio, Dr.

Self, Treatment plan coordinator

Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts.

Hillary Benoit

Self

Orange, TX

School vouchers should not be made legal in Texas because they could exacerbate educational inequality and divert crucial funding away from public schools. Public schools already face budget constraints and are tasked with serving a diverse range of students, including those with disabilities and from low-income families. Allowing vouchers would siphon resources from these schools, making it harder for them to maintain quality education for all students. Moreover, vouchers often favor private institutions that may not have the same accountability or transparency as public schools, leading to a lack of oversight and potentially widening the achievement gap between affluent and disadvantaged students. By focusing on improving public schools instead of creating a system that funds private institutions, Texas can ensure that all students have access to a high-quality education.

Kimberly del Angel

Self

Austin, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Jane Woodward

Self

Stephenville, TX

Vouchers take money away from public schools and therefore hurt the quality of education of Texas students - this in turn hurts all of us. Every child had the right to a quality education - that is why we have public schools - do not pass this voucher bill and stand up for all Texas students, not just some.

Debby Schmucker

Self

Rockwall, TX

I vehemently oppose school vouchers for our public education system in Texas. Governor Abbott needs to fund public schools to the level they deserve, pay teachers the salary they deserve- and NOT HAVE IT BASED ON STUDENT TEST SCORES- and allow Districts to use funds the way they need to support the schools in their Districts. Sat NO TO VOUCHERS.

Sarah Randall

Self

Austin, TX

I support voucher program because texas public only teaches the bare minimum and then moves on to supporting high school football which is sexist and misogynistic. There is no academic rigor, nor motivation to maintain high standards. Only ticking some checkboxes. Our kids are not some numbers. Only special ed kids gets extra support, normal kids are packed in a classroom like pigs with teacher to student ratio 1:25. Yes, they show 1:8 ratio including admin and special ed staff but the actual number of a normal classroom is 1:25. Public education should be dismantled completely as it only serves the immigrants who can't afford anything

Doug Killen

Self

Fort worth, TX

I am strongly opposed to school vouchers and not funding public education.

Robin Lockhart

Self

Mesquite, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a Texan resident, practically my entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Mandy Korzekwa

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school vouchers in the state of Texas. Vouchers divert crucial public funds away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas children, to subsidize private and charter schools that are not held to the same accountability standards.

Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education, support, and opportunities to students of all backgrounds. Instead of funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions, we should invest in strengthening our public school system by increasing teacher pay, improving resources, and ensuring every child has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting any voucher proposals and focusing on policies that uplift public education for all.

Thank you for your dedication to the future of Texas students.

Tannya Lee

Self

Cibolo, TX

Please vote No. This bill would be a terrible detriment to the most at-risk population and deeply affect special education. It will greatly affect my job as well.

Vickie Cothran
Retired teachers
Granbury, TX

The passage of vouchers is not fair to the average and lower socioeconomic families. They will still not be able to afford private schools.

I am a retired teacher who is very disappointed in our governor and legislature. I have always been proud of our school system, but it has been hurt by lack of funding the past year and now could possibly be devastated. Private schools will not accept ALL students. Vouchers will hurt our public schools! Vote NO!

Michelle Hernandez
Self - IT Manager
Flower Mound, TX

"It shall be the duty of the Legislature of this State, to make suitable provisions for the support and maintenance of a system of Public Free Schools." This bill does not support the students, parents, voters, constitution or future of the State of Texas. When the legislature expects the Public School system to operation on a paycheck of 6 years ago while facing the bills of today then are not fulfilling their constitutional duty. This is not about school choice, parents have fantastic choices in the public school system. I dare you to educate yourselves about what public education actually offers the students of Texas instead of listening to a few donors. The majority of Texas families, students and voters have been communicating loud and clear.... we do not want education savings accounts, school choice or whatever other branding is tried. Fund Public Education at the levels needed for 2025.

Meer Jumani
Self
Sugar Land, TX

HB 3 is a deeply flawed bill that puts politics over the needs of Texas students, teachers, and families. It threatens the integrity of our education system by restricting educators' ability to teach honestly and support their students effectively. Instead of addressing real issues like school funding, teacher retention, and student well-being, HB 3 imposes unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles that do nothing to improve learning outcomes. I urge lawmakers to vote against HB 3 and stand up for Texas students by prioritizing real solutions that strengthen our public schools rather than weaken them.

Courtney Harris
Self/Teacher
Hilltop Lakes, TX
OPPOSE

Heather Bland-Ho
self; former teacher
Austin, TX

We keep hearing from Gov Abbott and many voucher proponents, “everyone wants this.” But that is simply not true. Texans are not interested in the voucher scam; we love our kids, believe in public school teachers, support our neighborhood schools and want them FULLY FUNDED.

Yet we keep hearing these claims, so I made Public Information Release requests to TX House Republicans, asking them to share tallies of the numbers of their constituents that are FOR or AGAINST the Voucher Scam. Most hid behind a section of gov code in refusing to share that information with me, even though I was not asking for any confidential information- simply tallies that show what Texans truly want- and I feel like we’re owed this information since many lawmakers are running around trying to make this sound like a done deal.

But you’re hearing the truth in the raucous town halls- and the truth is in the tallies, too. Two Reps shared data with me- and it tells quite a story. And to be clear, these reps are in solidly red, heart of Texas districts.

How many constituents want the Voucher Scam? 3%
How many constituents want ESAs? 2%
Even looking at a term like School Choice, how many constituents want it? only 18%

How many constituents are in favor of supporting Public Education and local schools? 100%

Look, I know you’re all facing a lot of pressure to pass this; and we saw what happened when Abbott (with Jeff Yass money) “primaried” lawmakers who stood up for local schools. But we saw the playbook where they didn’t even mention schools and instead painted falsehoods about other issues. We know the playbook now- those of us in this fight would be HAPPY to join you and to tell your constituents how you stood up for them and for your local, public schools and you refused to let the billionaires change our way of life and turn off our Friday Night Lights.

Vote NO on HB 3.

Thank you,
Heather Bland-Ho
Proud Texan, former teacher, mother of 3 public school students (who tried private schools and did not find them better)
Resident of 78746

We keep hearing from Gov Abbott and many voucher proponents, “everyone wants this.” But that is simply not true. Texans are not interested in the voucher scam; we love our kids, believe in public school teachers, support our neighborhood schools and want them FULLY FUNDED.

Yet we keep hearing these claims, so I made Public Information Release requests to TX House Republicans, asking them to share tallies of the numbers of their constituents that are FOR or AGAINST the Voucher Scam. Most hid behind a section of gov code in refusing to share that information with me, even though I was not asking for any confidential information- simply tallies that show what Texans truly want- and I feel like we’re owed this information since many lawmakers are running around trying to make this sound like a done deal.

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Paige Gonzalez
Self/Mom
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the use of school vouchers as it does not offer “school choice” for all but only the select few who are already financially able to afford private school tuition and would be paying it themselves anyway. It completely takes away from those who cannot afford private tuition and casting them aside once more. Everyone should have an equal right to a quality education regardless of socioeconomic status or capabilities and funds should be used to better our public school system while also giving our teachers a livable wage that is most deserving. We need to become a state who leads the nation in public education and no longer look like an embarrassment for falling so far behind for the sake our children’s future- not for political gain.

Heather Sayre, Mrs
Self- public school teachers
Argyle, TX

Please don't take away from students and teachers that need this funding to make school available with LRE.

Jesse Silverman
Self
Austin, TX

This bill will destroy public education and the families who rely on him. Be ashamed for letting this bill get so far.

Al Brien, Mr.
Private citizen
Houston, TX

Texans don't want this, put it on the ballot and let Texans decide.

Timothy Hoffman
Self
Sachse, TX

I have children entering public school in a few years. There is no way this bill can be allowed to pass! It will bankrupt Texas public schools. There is no way you can force private schools to accept certain students so this will only benefit the wealthy at the expense of middle and lower class Texans, especially those with disabilities. This is funded by taxpayer money that should be used to support the education of all Texans. It is not acceptable to funnel it into private schools for the benefit of only the wealthy. This bill must be stopped. Abbott's massive out of state political contributions must be stopped. His scheming to replace Texas lawmakers with his own yes-men must be stopped.

Jennifer Peet
Self
Groom, TX

Public funds should be for public schools. Teachers and schools in Texas are already UNDER funded!!!! My husband has been a HS/JH Math teacher and a coach for over 25 years. We have had a child in PUBLIC school for over 21 consecutive years. My mother was a business manager for rural schools for over 30 yrs., and I have been a business mngr. for almost 5 years. We have some great schools in TX. They cannot all be defined as the same. It us a shame and disgusting watching public education be intentionally financially crippled for agendas that have no intention of supporting public education. Tax compression in 2019 with no plans for offsetting/compensation while surplus sits in the Texas education funds and school districts are bring forced to cut teachers and programs. It is very obvious representatives and officials have no intention of listening to parents in public education, teachers or those who actually support public education. Rural schools have huge impacts on small communities. Pay attention!!!! It is not all about populous mega cities and the private schools avaiable to only those areas.

Orson Guenthner

Self

Joshua, TX

Done. Here is what I submitted.

I am opposed to HB3 for the following reasons:

First - GOP voters voted on Proposition 11 states: "Texas parents and guardians should have the right to select schools, whether public or private, for their children, and the funding should follow the student."

HR3 is opposed to Proposition 11. The money doesn't follow the child. It is not available for all Texas children.

Second- The 2024 Republican Party of Texas Platform states on Page 15, "Parents' Rights — Plank 84. School Choice: We support further empowering all Texas families to choose from public, private, charter, or homeschool options for their children's education and funding which shall follow the student with no strings attached. We oppose regulations on homeschooling or the curriculum of private or religious schools and believe a constitutional amendment should be adopted accordingly. In lieu of funding, citizens may use property tax exemptions."

HB3 does not align with the GOP plank. The money doesn't follow the child.

The GOP asked voters essentially do you want "school choice" by using specific terms for what is meant by school choice. Now the Governor and the legislature are changing the definition and passing it off as "school choice".

In the famous words of Obi Wan Kenobi, "this is not the school choice we are looking for".

The bill also suggests to use new money, possibly even from the "surplus" rather than the funds following the student. That new money would go to private institutions which is possibly a violation of the Texas constitution.

I would ask that this committee require the HB3 to be modified so that it aligns with Proposition 11. If you are unable to do that then you must vote NO because this bill is not what the people of Texas have asked for.

Nancy Kirk

Self / retired teacher

Abilene, TX

Please say NO to these two bills. They will weaken the public schools system. Public money should go to public schools. Please think about the children of our state and not rich cronies!!!

THELMA BOWIE, MS.

TECSD CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

TEXAS CITY, TX

I AM OPPOSED TO HB3 BECAUSE HB 3 WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE AND DISASTROUS IMPACT ON PUBLIC EDUCATION/

Lisa Cooper

Self

Driftwood, TX

I am a mother to two public school children and I oppose this bill. Please vote against it and save our children and public school system.

Natalie Barron

Self

Houston, TX

I wholeheartedly oppose vouchers. What a terrible thing to do to Texas children.

Kayla Kubitza

Self

Mart, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

VICTORIA WALTHER

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I would see the Texas government fully fund public education, ensure our public schools can succeed and thrive and meet the needs of all community students, including students requiring interventions, supports, additional help, before and after care, before attempting to pass out tax payer dollars to privately owned education institutions. The idea that this is what Texans want is ludicrous and offensive. The proposed school choice vouchers are inappropriate at a time where our schools are losing staff, are underfunded and thus underperforming.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Tiffany Wentworth

Self

Round Rock, TX

I do not agree to vouchers being used for private schools!

Thomas Ainsworth

Self

Pearland, TX

School choice is an ABSOLTE MUST HAVE!!!! The way the public education system has been overrun by liberals has no place in TX! School vouchers insures that parents have the ability to remove their children from problem schools and districts. Just today, reported by ABC News, there was a stabbing at a middle school in TX. A PUBLIC middle school. The personal accountability has removed itself from society and thus, our public schools. Teachers should not have to deal with such things!!!! Giving the people the right to choose where their children attend schooling is the only option.

Sheila Shrode

self- Senior Manager Operations Accounting
Spring, TX

Dear House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose House Bill 3, which would divert much-needed public education funding to private school vouchers through Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). As a parent and taxpayer, I strongly believe that taxpayer dollars should be used to strengthen our public schools, not subsidize private education.

Public schools serve the vast majority of Texas students and are the backbone of our communities. Redirecting public funds to private institutions would deplete resources from already underfunded public schools, making it harder for them to provide quality education, retain teachers, and support students with special needs. Unlike public schools, private schools are not held to the same standards of accountability, transparency, or accessibility.

Private schools are not required to accept all students, which means they can and often do turn away those with special needs. Public schools must accept all students, which means they cover the additional costs of the special needs students that the private schools turn away.

Private schools do not have to provide transportation for students while public schools do so again public schools cover transportation costs which private schools don't.

Private schools are not required to take the state mandated STAAR test but the public schools do and have to cover all costs required for teaching and administering the test.

Majority of Texas counties do not have private schools so none of those countries would benefit from ESAs/vouchers.

So why should we be giving public money to private schools when public schools clearly have more costs, are underfunded and serve the majority of Texas children?

It seems to me the only reason the House and Senate are even discussing Education Savings Voucher is because Gov. Greg Abbott is determined to make them pass. It is greatly concerning to me that one of Abbott's biggest donors (\$12 million) is Jeff Yass who is a pro-voucher supporter from Pennsylvania. Why are we allowing someone outside of Texas to have such a large influence on the education of our children?

Texasans deserve a strong, well-funded public school system that benefits all students, not a voucher scheme that primarily serves a select few. I urge you to stand with Texas families and invest in our public schools instead of diverting funds to private institutions.

Please oppose House Bill 3 and any efforts to undermine public education.

Sincerely,
Sheila Shrode

Meredith Connely
Self - Teacher
Cedar Park, TX

I am a 26 year veteran teacher and have worked in public schools my entire teaching career. I absolutely oppose HB 3; I want my tax dollars to support public education, which serves *all* Texas children. HB 3 does not give all families a choice and it's disingenuous to claim that it does. Families already have a choice to either send their children to public school or to send them to private or charter schools. But tax payers shouldn't have to pay for non-public education. Vouchers have been a documented failure in other states who have instituted the program. Why would you try to force that upon us? The truly noble action would be to fully fund our public schools!

pixerelli Sunshine-Fuhry

Self

Elgin, TX

I am against private school vouchers and support fully funded public education. My 2 sons attended public school, and graduated. My 3rd son transferred to private school and it was the best place for him and we chose for him to attend. Public school is a right and needs to be provided for all children. Private schools are a choice. If parents choose to send their child to a private school, they are responsible for paying for it. That is why they are called private schools. Funding has been cut and continues to be cut to public schools, please do not pass this bill that cause them to lose more funding.

Italia Perez de Diaz

Self - Housewife

Humble, TX

I do not support public money to go unaccountable private schools.

Janet Anderson

Self/Retired CPA

Arlington, TX

I am vehemently opposed to HB 3. We need to strengthen our public school system - NOT provide money for vouchers. Taxpayer money should be used to provide for all students - not to supplement the rich who are already sending their children to private school. There are already options available to parents with charter schools. Perhaps if you were to provide sufficient funds to the schools there wouldn't be substandard schools. Education for ALL children is critical. You wouldn't allow citizens to build a garden with public funds from the parks department or build a driveway with roads funds. Why on earth would you think that it is a good idea to fund a private school education? Your verbiage tries to camouflage its real purpose - face it - you can't put lipstick on a pig. Call it what it is - subsidization of upper middle class and rich families who have already pulled their children out of public schools to avoid the wonderful diversity that we have in public schools. Please vote against this harmful bill and make an effort to increase funding to our public schools and teachers.

Deborah Farr, Mrs.

Self/Homeschool teacher

Cleveland, TX

Chairman Buckley and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony. My name is Deborah Farr, and I am a homeschool parent who believes every child deserves an education that fits their unique needs. That's why I strongly support HB 3.

Every child is unique, and a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work for everyone. My children have never attended a public or private school. My husband and I have always homeschooled our six children. Our first child graduated in 2013 and our last two will graduate in 2028 and 2030. We currently have three adult children applying their skills in the workforce, one young adult child attending college, one freshman in high-school, and one 8th grader.

House Bill 3 will help us financially as we choose this educational route that is best for our children. In addition to paying taxes which go towards public schools, we also cover the cost of curriculum, computers, testing, supplies, transportation, and extracurricular activities for our homeschool. The ESA program would be a great benefit for the education of our children. I urge you to support this bill and put the power of education back where it belongs—in the hands of parents. Thank you.

Dylan Ballard
Public Education
Andrews, TX

I oppose HB 3 in regards to an education savings account. My reason for this is due to the impact it will have on public education. The argument is for "school choice," well students and families already have school choice available to them. Families can send their students to a private school or even home school them if they want. HB 3, will also financially harm public education and all of its offered services/programs, maybe not in the immediate future, but it will in the long run. Also, public education teachers should be given a raise without the passing of an education savings account program. Public school teachers have to go through so many things that are REQUIRED by the state in order for our districts to get their adequate funding. We have to teach our students in a way that gets them to pass a STATE mandated test and if we do not meet a certain criteria then our district is essentially shamed by receiving a bad accountability rating. It's almost as if the state wants public education to fail. If the state wants to improve public education, give us the raise we deserve and give us more freedom to actually TEACH our students the curriculum they need to be successful in whatever they choose to pursue.

Blake Wright
Public education
Lantana, TX

Say no to vouchers!

Amy Garrett
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on HB3. I am a concerned parent with two children in Austin Independent School District. Paul Colbert shared his historical testimony with your Education Committee last Thursday. To me, it illustrated the strategic financial suffering of a once effective public education system. Our schools are underfunded, our teachers and staff underpaid, and the TRS has made little adjustments for inflation. Vouchers would be the tipping point and lead to the end of public education as we know it.

My children go to a small school (under 500) and they love it. My son started kindergarten in 2020. Despite zoom learning and masks, he still talks about his K teacher. Our principal at the time, fought hard to keep our community informed and connected. It was the best place for my family to start school during a pandemic no less. I quickly became involved with our PTA. Our school hosts 6-8 family events a year, this includes garden days and dances. We have teachers that have been here 25yrs. Some have retired and still sub here frequently. Several families are '2nd generation', meaning their parents went here. Isn't that incredible? We have no buses because 'zone' is just that small; people walk/bike or take a 5 minute drive. It's a real community! I would do anything for our staff and teachers. When families have struggles, we support and reach out. We organize meal trains and endless play dates. Our playground is full afterschool with because some days we just can't get enough. I mean it! And it breaks my heart to say that this precious community that has worked so hard, is now in jeopardy of crumbling with the looming threat of vouchers.

Teachers have left over the last few years. It's just too expensive to live in Austin when you're not getting competitive raises and benefits are decreasing. Many move home to San Antonio, Houston, or the outskirts of large cities. Teachers have been asked to Do More With Less. My son started 4th grade with a veteran teacher. She left late September abruptly. It was all just too much. He had various substitutes for 3 months. Now he has a brand new teacher, born this century, who commutes 40 minutes and has a job on the weekends. WHAT IS HAPPENING?? A system has been starved of resources. It's like triage in dozens of school districts across this great state.

Vouchers will not benefit a single child at my school. 20% of our students receive special education services. There's not a single school in Austin that will accommodate all 80 of these kids, let alone for \$11,500. They don't have to accommodate anyone. If vouchers pass, the balance will tip at TRS and all these lovely teachers with 25yrs will bail because they have no other choice.

They are walking history books. They've seen it all and are still giving their all to these kids.

Can you believe I didn't know the meaning of true community until I was 40 with a 5yr old? I implore you to absorb the data and VOTE NO!!

Randa Tepfer
Self
League city, TX

I ask that funds not be diverted from public schools therefore I do not support school choice.

Leigh Brown
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I strongly urge you to reject any school voucher proposals that divert public tax dollars away from Texas public schools.

Vouchers do not increase educational choice—they subsidize private schools at taxpayer expense, often with no accountability, no transparency, and no requirement to serve all students. Texas already struggles with underfunded public schools, teacher shortages, and rural districts that would be devastated by losing even a fraction of their funding.

If you truly want to support educational choice, fully fund public schools, raise teacher salaries, and invest in better resources for all Texas students. Public tax dollars should stay in public schools that serve all children—not private institutions that can pick and choose their students.

I urge you to vote NO on vouchers and stand up for the nearly 6 million Texas public school students who depend on you to protect their education.

Angelica Quiroz
College Students
El Paso, TX

This bill negatively impacts public schools. If they would vote to fund public education we wouldn't need vouchers! At the moment public education is understaffed, overworked, and underpaid! Public school teachers are committed to their students to provide the best education. Students are receiving their services. If the state passes this bill it will greatly affect students and educators in the public setting. These "choice schools" do not adhere to the law like public school. They don't have to provide special education. Therefore in October public schools get an influx of students because these "choice schools" tell parents that this is not the "best choice" for their child and they have to take them back to their home school.

Please vote NO on this bill.

Your constituent,
Angelica Quiroz

Steven Vaughn

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 (HB3). While the intention to provide parents with more educational choices for their children is commendable, HB3, in its current form, poses significant risks to the integrity and effectiveness of our public education system. Millions of kids in this state depend on public education.

Implementing the ESA program as outlined in HB3 would allocate public tax dollars to private schooling options. This redirection of funds threatens to diminish the resources available to public schools, which are already facing financial challenges and lack of quality teachers. According to the Texas American Federation of Teachers, such a shift could exacerbate the financial strain on public schools, leading to larger class sizes, reduced programs, and diminished support services for students.

The proposed ESA program could result in decreased enrollment in public schools, thereby reducing the number of active school personnel contributing to the Teacher Retirement System (TRS). A reduction in contributors could jeopardize the financial stability of the TRS, potentially affecting the retirement security of current and future educators.

While HB3 aims to prioritize low-income families and students with disabilities, it does not mandate private schools to accept all applicants. This lack of requirement may result in the exclusion of the very students the bill intends to support, thereby failing to provide equitable educational opportunities. While HB3 aims to provide educational choices, in practice, voucher programs often fail to serve low-income families effectively. The proposed income eligibility threshold for the ESA program is set at \$156,000, which is significantly higher than the standards used for other assistance programs, such as free school lunches or food assistance. This broad definition dilutes the program's focus on the poorest families, potentially diverting funds away from those who need them most.

Additionally, private schools may have tuition rates that exceed the voucher amount, and they are not obligated to cover additional costs such as uniforms, books, and transportation. This financial gap can make it challenging for low-income families to afford private schooling, even with a voucher, thereby limiting their access to the purported benefits of the program.

Laura Malloy

None

San Angelo, TX

Please do not implement vouchers in Texas. Those of us in rural areas do not have access to private school. Increase funding to public schools!!!! Gov Abbott seems to be the only one wanting vouchers. Vouchers are NOT school choice!! Stop calling it that. Abbott has held public education hostage by withhold funds. Now he has bankrolled the candidates that would for vouchers in order to get the bill to pass. Sickening. We need to fund our schools!!!!

Warren Horgan, Mr.

Self/retired

Fort Worth, TX

I'm contacting you today to urge you to vote NO on HB3. Vouchers or ESAs take money from our already underfunded public schools and gives it to private schools with no accountability. Public money belongs in public schools.

Additionally, I'm asking you to fully fund our public schools.HB3 does not increase the basic allotment enough to fully fund our schools or even to catch up to inflation since it was last raised in 2019.

I urge you NOT to support any voucher or ESA bill as these do not align with the priority of Texas voters or your Constitutional duty, to provide public education to children of Texas. The number of students benefiting from voucher and ESA bills is less than 2% of Texas students, while there are 5.5 million students who attend public school! In fact, 150 Texas counties do not even have a private school. How will vouchers improve their schools? Bottom line - Public dollars should stay with public schools, which educate the vast majority of Texas students.

Voucher programs in other states have not been successful and have not shown improved outcomes for students. It seems very short sighted not to consider the failures that other states have seen when considering vouchers for Texas.

So please, fulfill your Constitutional duty to Texas and ensure the success of our public education system. The majority of Texans from either party do not support vouchers.

Vote NO on any voucher or ESA bill. Vote YES to fully fund our public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Warren Horgan

Rose Reeser

self Retired attorney

Austin, TX

Article 7 of the Texas Constitution provides, "A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools. (Feb. 15, 1876.)

Texas public school students are suffering because of inadequate state funding.

Public money should be used to fulfill your Constitutional duty, not to give a handout to parents who choose not to avail themselves of the free, public education mandated under our Constitution. Vote against HB3.

Glenda Walker

Self

Mineral Wells, TX

I am against this school voucher program. Our public schools need the money. This is only going to benefit the wealthy, which is, of course what you seem to strive for anyway. However, there are a lot of good honest people who need a good public education system for their children. Please vote against the school voucher program.

Doug Heick

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Vote no on Vouchers. Support public education by helping all 5.5 million students, not just the select 100,000.

Jeanette Rowsey
Self and family
Round Rock, TX

As a grandmother of two elementary aged Texas public school students, I came to Texas to watch them grow and succeed. Please do not pass this bill that would gut our state's public school system by the time they enter high school. Don't sacrifice the bright future of Texas for the sake of private profits!

Lauren Blitzer
Self
Dallas, TX

Public school is funded by public dollars for the general public. Do you see a theme here? Do not allow public dollars to be spent subsidizing unaccountable private schools that don't have to admit all students, or private education savings accounts. Instead, fully fund our public schools.

Hyojin Han
self/nurse practitioner
Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts that will drain resources from the public school system, lowering educational standard especially in rural schools, resulting in school closures, hiring of uncertified teachers, and jeopardizing Teacher Retirement System.

Katharina Neufeld
Self / homeschool Mom
Seminole, TX

Hello . I am commenting regarding the Education Committee hearing on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment ".I would like to ask Representative Ken King to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice " legislation like HB 3. Thank you !

Laura Perella
Self, baker
Dripping Springs, TX

I do not support the school voucher program, as it directly hurts those that *do not* have school choice, contrary to the rhetoric coming from the Texas government. School choice is pull funding that our public schools desperately need and hand it to those that are already capable of affording charter/private schools. Charter and private schools can also deny any student for any reason and do not require the same standards as public school. They can deny aid to students that require disability assistance and other forms of assistance, such as IEP. I implore the TX government to fund public schools that educate the majority of our Texas students and provide the aid to those in need. Our children are the future of this country and we cannot turn our backs on them in favor of higher earning families.

Debbie Lauersdorf
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose vouchers for charter/private schools. As a retired public educator, I support our public schools that provide an amazing education to ALL students.
Please vote NO to vouchers.
Thank you,
Debbie Lauersdorf

Jennifer Salmon

Self - teacher

Frisco, TX

HB3 - ie:school vouchers will destroy public education. Parents already have a choice. I have taught in Plano ISD for 30 years & we have students from all over Plano in our building (& always have). Home schooling & private education is also a choice. This voucher program takes from the public & gives to private. Look at what has happened in other states. This is not a sustainable solution. You are only helping those already able to afford private school. \$10k only pays 1/2 of a private school. Private schools don't want (& don't have to take) struggling students, leaving them to the public schools where law makers will say we are failing them. Fund our schools so we have the resources to help them. Abbott is a spin doctor selling us crap. I'm a republican through & through, but this is wrong & I will vote against every one of you voting for this! Abbott is holding our tax dollars hostage in order to get his vouchers (which the majority of informed Texans) DO NOT want!

Allison Vanderwoude

Highland Park ISD Education Foundation

Dallas, TX

Funding for public education is a statewide problem. School Districts are shutting down schools or making very impactful budget cuts in order to make their budgets work. This cannot keep happening. Public education in Texas should be a priority, not an afterthought. I feel vouchers are a bad idea for this very reason. Please prioritize PUBLIC education. There is no reason public tax dollars should be supporting PRIVATE schools that are a luxury. I would never ask that state to fund a country club membership or travel club because I didn't think my city parks and public gathering spaces were good enough. That is the comparison you need to really think about. Thank you.

Stephanie England

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no. Do not take public funds away from public schools.

R Stephen Sprowls

Northwest ISD

Ft Worth, TX

This comment refers to Section 29.362 within HB3 and the 5% third-party administration fees. Since HB3 doesn't have a Fiscal Note attached to it yet, I'll use the one attached to SB2. It estimates the financial impact to start at \$1.0 Billion in 2027 and balloon to \$4.5 Billion in 2030. When I add in the 2028 & 2029 dollar estimates, this equates to \$12.6 Billion over 4 years. According to Section 29.362, the TX Comptrollers office will get a 3% administrative fee of the \$12.6 Billion totaling \$378 million. Also within Section 29.362, third party vendors will receive a 5% administrative fee of the \$12.6 Billion totaling \$630 million. When I add the \$378 million and the \$630 million, that's over \$1 Billion in administrative fees. This means the State of TX wants to spend \$1 Billion administering \$12.6 Billion. Make that make sense. When did the Republicans become proponents of a bigger government bureaucracy and wasteful spending? Why can't the Comptroller's office administer this program with their current in-house talent? Or are the third-party vendor fees just a way to reward campaign donors with ties to these companies in other states? Republicans on the Education Committee, please justify the fiduciary necessity of both administrative fees in Section 29.362 of HB3.

Melissa Roberts

Northwest ISD

Roanoke, TX

If you want to push through a voucher, give Public Schools the same amount! Every child is worth \$10,000, not just rich kids whose parents can send them to private school.

Dardon Ann Hayter

Self

Pasadena, TX

Public tax dollars Belong in public schools and should not be diverted to private schools and their upper-income students. A free public education is a constitutional right! Don't destroy public education and the American constitution!

Lisa Ornelas

Self

San Antonio, TX

NO to HB3, we do not want vouchers! Support our local schools.

Mike Stanton

Self - teacher

Allen, TX

As a 28 veteran teacher in Texas public schools, I am firmly opposed to the proposed voucher program. I definitely believe in school accountability. Public schools serve their community and the state as a whole; simply throwing money at them does not guarantee a quality educational experience for students. But, allowing parents to take valuable funds that could be used to improve schools and using that money to fund private schools (that have no accountability measure in the state) is short sighted and leaves the majority of Texas students behind.

Katie Fulkerson, Mrs.

No

Lantana, TX

Dear Representative Buckley,

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued funding and implementation of HB3 to enhance school safety across Texas. Ensuring that public schools receive the necessary resources to protect students and staff is critical. However, I am deeply concerned about efforts to introduce school vouchers, which would divert taxpayer dollars away from our already underfunded public schools.

Vouchers would weaken public education by funneling funds to private institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. Instead of expanding voucher programs, we should focus on fully funding public education, increasing teacher pay, and strengthening classroom resources—all of which are essential to student success.

I urge you to continue advocating for strong public school funding, including HB3 safety initiatives, without diverting money to private school vouchers. Please stand with Texas families and educators by keeping public funds where they belong—in our public schools.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Texas students.

Kristin Fida

Classical conversation McKinney north

Frisco, TX

“Hello, my name is Kristin Fida___. I am calling regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of “parental empowerment.” I would like to ask Representative Richardson to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing “school choice” legislation like HB 3. Thank you!”

Ashley Boyd
Homeschooling
georgetown, TX

My name is Ashley and I want to express my concern for this bill as a mom of special needs child with lots of disabilities. With all due respect I don't want government my child's schooling bc she learns differently then a lot of other kids like her. We've tried public schools they failed her all there concerned about is age no concern for her being behind all the other kids my point I'm making my child learns with one on one and she can't get that anywhere but homeschooling with me as her mother that knows her better then anybody else. The way she has to be taught no teacher on earth could do it nor will she let them bc of the disabilities she deals at no fault of her own. My child education is very important to me and her daddy I would appreciate it very much if government would stay out of my child's homeschooling education with me as her mother thank you

Jonathon Trevino
Self
San Antonio, TX

basic per-student funding allotment, which hasn't been increased since 2019, from \$6,160 to \$6,380 and require that 40 percent of that be used for school employee compensation, teachers and other professional employees as well as support staff. That portion currently is 30 percent. The proposed increase in the basic allotment is woefully inadequate. School finance experts believe an increase of at least \$1,000 is necessary to meet inflationary costs alone.

Krista Lee
Self
Amarillo, TX

I am firmly apposed to school vouchers. They hurt public schools and are nothing but a cash grab for the governor's donors. I will vote against any elected official that votes in favor of this bill.

Sofia Andry
all children
San Antonio, TX

The voucher program is a scam for our public schools and our education system will suffer because of it. What our state needs is to fully fund our schools, better pay for teachers and more support for the 98% of children of Texas. Currently our elementary doesn't have funds for art, music and even paper for teacher copies. We also need our lunch programs fully funded so students can eat every day. Many children are food hungry. Thank you. A mom of three in San Antonio.

Marcus Johnson
Self
Houston, TX

This bill has no benefit whatsoever to the public at large. Gatekeeping funds for the sake of school vouchers adds no benefit to the Texas education system, because it cripples the public school system and keeps it from meeting the needs of the students and staff.

If you truly want to see our future leaders thrive, then support them by killing this bill and freeing the billions of dollars that was meant for public education. Selling public education up the river under the guise of "parental choice" is NOT the answer. People pay for their children to go to private schools for a reason. Properly funding public schools (as well as other measures) will give every child the opportunity to become well-rounded, educated citizens within society.

Again, I respectfully ask...please kill this bill. Thank you.

Chelsea Harned

Self

Carrollton, TX

FUNDING:

Taxpayers want to know that their tax dollars are being well-spent. Vouchers will take public tax dollars to pay for private schools without any accountability, so taxpayers have no way to compare schools to know if their tax dollars are being well-spent.

Taxpayers do not want to subsidize already affluent families by giving them money to send their children to private schools. As currently proposed, the education savings accounts are primarily a tax break for people who are already in private school or can afford that option.

Private schools receiving public taxpayer dollars are highly vulnerable to fraud and abuse. Their governing boards, if they exist do not have to meet in public or disclose how funds are spent. Private schools do not have to meet financial standards and are not measured by the state's fiscal accountability system.

State-funded vouchers will take needed dollars from public schools. Vouchers take dollars from public schools that are already underfunded. Every dollar sent to a private or home school cannot be invested in public schools. Voucher advocates say funding schools and funding vouchers are separate, but in Texas, where "funding follows the student," public schools will lose needed funding as millions of dollars are siphoned to unaccountable private institutions.

The cost of voucher programs accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4,557,317,230 spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program.

SCHOOL CHOICE

Parent choice? Not really. Private schools choose whether or not to accept a child to attend their school. PRIVATE SCHOOLS CAN, AND DO, DISCRIMINATE and accept only those students that fit their academic and social criteria. Public schools cannot discriminate against any student.

The real problem with "school choice" is the creation of yet another education system (traditional public schools and charter schools already exist) that allows students

Melissa Perry

Self

Lufkin, TX

Need help? Try this script:

Phone 512-463-0508

trent.ashby@house.texas.gov

Hello, my name is Melissa Perry and I'm a constituent in Rep. Ashby's district.

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the school voucher scheme, SB 2, and ask them to vote against it.

Public funds should stay in our public schools, not be divvied up to unaccountable private schools. Do not sell out our kids for billionaire donors — Texas families are watching.

I implore the representative to vote NO on school vouchers and stand for strong public schools, not corporate interests. Thank you for your time.

Rachel Barker

Self as a parent and public school teacher in Special Education

Dallas, TX

I am very much against this bill. It is unfair. If you're giving \$10,000 per kid to private, give \$10,000 per kid to public schools. Stop trying to line the pockets of those who can already afford private school, because there is nothing in those schools for my students with special needs, for low income families that cannot afford lunch, uniforms, transportation, and after school care. Put it to a vote by the people. Let us decide.

Katie Paulsen

Self, Software Proposal Manager

Houston, TX

I am writing today to encourage legislators to vote NO on HB3 (against school vouchers). While some people in my metro area of Houston, TX would benefit from this bill, it overwhelmingly is in favor of those who are already in higher socio-economic groups, those who already send their children to private school. Our public tax dollars should not subsidize a this choice made by some families based on their own privilege. Further, the concept of private school vouchers don't even really apply to all across the State of Texas. A fact: 158 out of 254 Texas counties have no private school option. This means that, again, public tax dollars are being sent to cities and communities across our state that already have plenty of educational options for their students. This is a completely disingenuous campaign, initiated and pushed by our Governor. Based on the facts, Greg Abbott has been in office for 10 years, and during that tenure the education system in Texas has only gone backwards. We are 44th in the nation for per student spending. It is shameful that a Governor would withhold educational tax dollars from funding our system. This voucher campaign stinks. Everyone knows it. I am the product of public schools. I come from a family of educators - my sister teaches AP and general World and United States History at a public high school level. My sister-in-law teaches special education in a public high school. My father-in-law and mother-in-law are retired public middle school teachers. I count dozens and dozens of friends and acquaintances across the educational, administrative, and educational support spectrum. 95% of those friends and family are in public schools, and have their kids in public schools. 100% of my social network is AGAINST school vouchers.

I have already written my elected representative (Representative DeAyala) to vote NO, but since he has posed for photo ops with our Governor, lauding the voucher program, I am concerned that he is not listening to the will and urging of his constituents. Vote NO to HB 3 - we do not want vouchers. We already have school choice. Fully fund public school education. Thank you.

Jamie Fredericks

Self

Midland, TX

I am strongly OPPOSED to HB 3, and I have asked my representatives to vote NO on the bill.

DeLana Carter

Self

Houston, TX

Please do not sell out our public schools! Vote NO!!!!

Edith Nordloh

Self

Houston, TX

Voucher systems are welfare for the wealthy. Many Texas communities don't even have a private school program available to them and the \$8,000 proposed would cover less than half of private school tuition. This is a scam that undermines urban communities and steals from small town residents and rural citizens.

Just say, "No."

Do what is right for Texas children and taxpayers and defeat this bill.

Brandi West
Self
Kingwood, TX

Texas does not need to "follow" other states in these failed voucher aka school choice programs. Texas should be the LEADER in properly funding public schools and making sure EVERY school can provide what is needed for students, and teachers. Teachers shouldn't have to turn to Amazon wish lists to supply their rooms. Students shouldn't have to struggle to have wifi access while at the school. Let teachers teach again, and not have to focus on test taking skills instead of teaching our kids to think and reason.
FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITHOUT STRINGS ATTACHED.

Ruben Ramirez, Mr Ruben Ramirez
Self
El Paso, TX

Vouchers will not benefit all students!

Rudiche Welchptak
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am very anti voucher. I don't believe public funds should be used in the private sector. You are the same people who are against student loan forgiveness, because wealthy people don't have to take out loans. You are clearly for welfare for the rich and not the common man.

Tara McBee
Self
Huntsville, TX

Please do not rob the children of Texas. Fund public education. Private schools and charter schools should not be given public funds. Please do not rob our children of an education.

Christy Cobb
TAFT/HFT
Houston, TX, TX

So many teachers have worked their entire lives to face the possibility of having retirement dreams taken away by this bill. Please vote no.

Nina Brodsky, Mrs
self
Austin, TX

Texas schools are already suffering from budget shortfalls. They can't survive with more cutbacks. Our industries depend on an educated populace to hire from. It is what makes businesses strong. We will only need more immigrants to fulfill our jobs if we neglect the education of Texans. Some school districts don't even have private schools. Those that do cost way more than \$10,000 or \$12,000 a year. It will benefit the wealthy and hurt those that are not. It is a disgrace.

Suzanne Bathe, Retired Teacher
Cypress Fairbanks ISD
Houston, TX

We already have school choice. We do not want or need this bill. Step up to the plate for the kids of Texas and fund public education!!

Bobby Duncan
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am a parent of 3 current and 1 future Fort Worth ISD children, and I'm writing to share that I strongly oppose this bill. We should turn our focus to full funding our public schools, and placing the faith of our state government behind a majority of children who will be future leaders of our communities.

Passage of this bill will be the greatest disservice this legislature will have ever brought upon future Texans.

Do the right thing.

Robin Barela
Self/School Counselor
Forney, TX

Please vote no to school vouchers. Our most vulnerable population is dependent on public schools. They are why we pay taxes we do. Or have a future without every child's input and contributions

Alton Biggs
Self, President, Biggs Educational Consulting
Commerce, TX

The Texas Constitution doesn't delineate many duties of the Legislature. I urge to read Article 7, Section 1 because a plain reading does not mention flowing public money to any homeschool, private school or religious school. Parents already have every right to educate their children however they see fit, but they ought not to expect the public to fund their wishes, except as stated by the Texas Constitution.

I know you don't need a refresher on the Texas Constitution, but I'll quote Article VII, Section 1 for you: "A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools."

Therefore I urge you to oppose any adoption of a scheme that diverts tax dollars to such private entities – especially when it clear that more money would go the support of a student in private school substantially more than one in a public school.

I implore you to follow a plain reading of the Texas Constitution and vigorously defend it should the Legislature pass any bill – such as SB 2 – that clearly violates Article 7, Section 1.

Certainly our PUBLIC schools are not presently fully funded. The current budget proposals don't come close to funding the PUBLIC schools. Therefore, no PUBLIC school funds should flow to PRIVATE schools. Additionally CHARTER schools and home schools should NOT be considered public schools until they follow every RULE and MANDADE that public schools do, including requiring the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR).

Thank you in advance for your service to Texas and our citizens.

Emily Goulet
Self
Austin, TX

No to school vouchers. Save public schools.

Mark Choate

Self

The Woodlands, TX

The bill as stated is a misappropriation of funds because the public will be funding the private schools education and private schools are not required to adhere to the same public school standards agreed by the texas legislature, such as teachers don't have to be certified, don't have pre-approved curriculum, don't offer special need services, nor require state assessments. Therefore the bill is avertly providing incentives for parents to use an education system that is not monitored nor controlled by the texas legislature, which can lead to further unattended consequences in the future, such as teaching that don't follow the voted texas statewide curriculum. Furthermore, the amount of each voucher is greater than the amount funded per head in the public school system. Therefore, there is misappropriation funds to an education system that was not voted by the texas legislature. If we provide vouchers we need to ensure 1)the amount per student is equivalent, so all kids have the same opportunity whether they choose private/public and 2)private schools should be held to the same standards as agreed by the voters through the texas legislature.

Amy Spiro, Ms

Self/writer/consultant

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the private school voucher plan that is on the table. In fact, I oppose private school vouchers in any form however, this plan is ridiculously expensive and will create a monstrous bureaucracy that Texas simply can't afford and definitely doesn't need. Let's invest in our local public schools.

Lindy Frazer, Mrs.

Self

Round Rock, TX

I would like to submit a comment against HB3 or a rewrite of HB3. Public funding is the backbone of public services. With those services, tax payers require accountability, standards and oversight. When we fund public schools the oversight and mandates are extensive. HB 3 gives taxpayer money to families to subsidize their student's private school tuition. There is no oversight of the services that taxpayers are paying for. No expectation of curriculum, certification/training, outcomes or fiduciary responsibility. It's just "free money" without any oversight. Not only is this a private school entitlement, it will siphon money away from our commitment to public schools. I hear that this is "school choice", but we already have school choice. Parents may enroll their student in their home school district, in a magnet, in a charter, in a private school, in an online public school or in a private school. There is no limitation to a parent's right to choose the best educational fit for their child. However, the public tax payer money should not be used to pay for this personal decision. If I have private security - should I get a rebate from what is being paid into our police force? If I buy my own books, may I siphon money from our public libraries? If I have my own fire fighting equipment.. again should I not have the choice to use it and get a rebate back from the fire department? The choice to use a private business, rather than a public one, belongs to the tax payer. However, the choice to siphon money away from public services is not. This is a give away. I am a financial conservative. This is not financially responsible. This is not partisan. To support and fully fund public education is the backbone of our democracy. We make our country great, by offering and giving a high quality public education. Not by giving money away to private or homeschools who have no mandates for educational outcomes, responsibility to serve all students or financial oversight. Please make the right decision and either stop HB 3 or add oversight and responsibility to the private or homeschools who will benefit from the tax payer subsidy.

Thank you,

Lindy Frazer

Parent of two public school children for K-12

Also.. a parent of the same two children at Baylor University (private school). I believe that private school can be an excellent choice for students and one that families pay a premium for, but do not anticipate a subsidy.

Vicki Luu
Self
Houston, TX

I began homeschooling my then 4th grader and 6th grader in January of 2020. My son needed one-on-one attention and public educators were not able or possibly not willing to provide the 401 accommodations I was told he would give. The homeschool choice was an easy one. But it is one that we saved up for and chose to invest in. It was easily affordable for us. I work part time while my husband works full time. We are already FREE to make any choice we have. This "Saving Account" will raise taxes and force tax payers to pay for people who choose to use a very expensive private school or spend their money on legos for Christmas, like friends of ours do in Arizona. The "no strings" attached line, is not acceptable for reasons mentioned above. Texas is THE FREEST State in our Union. This "free" money will is not free, nothing is free! It comes from Tax Payers. What is the purpose of this bill? Is it to help fund public schools? Because public schools have used their funds for sports stadiums, performing arts buildings, too many administrators who have no idea how to teach in the classroom, and much more. What public schools fail to fund with these moneys includes, but is not limited to special needs students, discipline problems, and teacher training in these areas. Public schools don't need more money. They need to use the money appropriately. This savings account will only raise taxes and force ME to pay for someone else's expensive education, toys, or trips they justify as "education." These are easily accessible already to those who want and need them. **DO NOT TAKE AWAY OUR FREEDOM!!!** The consequences of this bill far outweigh any benefits it supposedly will bring. Thank you for your time and deep consideration.

Laurie Higginbotham
Self/Lawyer
Austin, TX

Please vote against school vouchers. It's against the Texas Constitution. Most Texas counties do not have a private school. This will defund public schools. Moreover it will not cover even half of the cost of any private schools. It's welfare for the rich because no middle class or low income family can afford private schools. Please do not destroy Texas public schools by defunding them. What makes America free is our education of all children. Private schools can reject children and will not accept children with disabilities, and will discriminate against children based on religion and gender. This is not an acceptable use of tax dollars. Vote NO! Over 70% of Texans do NOT want vouchers!!! No corporate welfare.

Stephanie Garcia
Self
San Antonio, TX

HB 3 will take money from public schools and communities that need the funds. All it will do is provide a coupon for the wealthy to attend the affluent private schools that they already go to. We need to make sure that ALL students are afforded a Free Appropriate Public Education. I'm a public school educator, and we need our schools to be fully funded. Stop trying to keep the poor poorer, while making the rich richer. That's all HB 3 will do. It's not okay.

Bunnie Twidwell, Mrs
self - non profit board member
Austin, TX

Do not take our tax money to fund private schools. Tax money is for public schools only! My taxes SHOULD NOT support unregulated private for profit schools.

Tim Carrasco
self
San Antonio, TX

School vouchers are a “misguided policy” that redirects public education funds and puts them into the hands of private institutions, leaving taxpayers and public school students to deal with the fallout. Supporters of this bill claim that vouchers provide families with more choices, but they fail to mention the steep cost paid by ALL tax paying families and the public school system itself.

First, property taxes do not decrease under this “misguided policy” which means taxpayers see ZERO relief.

Second, the benefits of vouchers are LIMITED to families who can afford private school tuition that far exceeds the voucher amount.

Third, this creates a system where the majority of students in public schools, suffer from underfunding and wealthy private school owners reap the rewards of reappropriated public funds.

For lower-income families, vouchers are not a meaningful solution. Parents who cannot afford the remainder of private school tuition are left behind, and transportation challenges only add to their burdens. At the same time, public schools are forced to stretch their already limited resources even thinner, leading to larger class sizes, reduced programs, overworked public teachers, which all leads to less support for students. This system amplifies inequities and erodes the principle of education as a public good for all. We should do what “Jesus” would do and focus on strengthening our public schools to ensure EVERY child has a fair shot at success.

In closing, please do not support this "reverse Robinhood" tactic of funneling public money into private interests which only deepens educational divides.

Thank you.
Tim Carrasco

Anita Hebert, Dr.
Shallowater ISD
Shallowater, TX

I am the Superintendent of Shallowater ISD and write opposed to HB3 which would allocate state funds for vouchers for school children for private schools or other types of schooling. First, my district is operating within serious budgetary constraints while the challenges we face have only grown. We face head-on the accountability measures leveled on us by the state and used as weapons by some in government office to say we are “failing.” I challenge this notion as I lead a high-performing school district with kids with high values, high levels of parent engagement, and great care for our students in poverty and our students with special needs. We had great hope when we were funded more appropriately in 2019 and given policies that that our schools could build on. Since then we have received no increase in the basic allotment, and the behavioral challenges and the vast inflation we face have forced us to make very difficult decisions in our budgeting, particularly reducing staff at a time when we need all hands on deck. No proposals for funding our schools provide anywhere near the \$1345 level needed to get us back the the level of 2019. The \$1B set aside for vouchers are funds that could be used to support our public schools rather than short them.

In addition, the first level of prioritization for vouchers is earmarked for special education students. I want to give you our experience from the past few years. We have had some special education students with significant challenges academically and behaviorally. Some were at the level where our school, with our lack of funding and training, were beyond our capability to manage. We sought private schools who might be equipped to provide help to these kids. They were refused admission in every school or program we reached out to—even when we offered to pay.

I have 43 years of experience in public education and have seen some of the best and worst moments it has to offer. I know our teachers are ready to rise to any occasion. But we need your support—not sending the lifeline elsewhere. Please say no to the voucher fallacy that it will improve Texas. We have too much at stake. Fund AND support your public schools to be the best in the land!

Sandra Castille

African American Cultural Soc

Port Authur, TX

Relating to the establishment of an educational savings program

Lacey Camp

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Vote NO for school vouchers. Represent ALL Texans, not just the elite!

Kelley George

self - Procurement Manager

Pflugerville, TX

The Texas school voucher bill, which proposes using taxpayer dollars to fund private school tuition, raises several concerns regarding its impact on education, taxpayers, and rural communities. School vouchers shift taxpayer dollars from public schools to private institutions, reducing funding for already underfunded public schools. Public schools serve the majority of Texas students, and reduced funding could lead to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and lower teacher salaries. Texas public schools rely on state funding based on student enrollment, so losing students to private schools through vouchers directly affects their budgets.

BABITA DAWARE

self

TROPHY CLUB, TX

Texas should ensure the constitutional obligations to public education are fully met and funded before implementing an ESA/voucher program (Texas Constitution, Article 7).

Removes \$1 billion from the state's budget that could otherwise fund Texas public schools.

Creates a new budgetary commitment in the state that will increase. SB 2 is projected to reach \$4.6 billion in four years.

ESAs allow tax dollars to be spent without transparency or accountability. Private schools/students choosing vouchers should be subject to the same financial and academic accountability.

Comptroller has the sole ability to select five organizations to run the program, opening the door to political favoritism, lack of transparency, and a structure that benefits vendors and their pocketbooks rather than students.

Fund schools first.

- Ensure the state's constitutional obligations to public education are fully met before considering or developing any private-school voucher or Education Savings Account program. The Texas Constitution, Article 7 provides a commitment to support and maintain public free schools.
- With more than 90% of students in Texas in public schools, those students deserve full funding for their schools before any discussion of diverting taxpayer money for private school subsidies. They are Texas' future workforce.
- A voucher or Education Savings Account program would create a significant new financial commitment for the state while Texas public schools remain underfunded.
- Voucher programs in other states regularly grow well beyond their projected costs. In Arizona's universal voucher program, the cost grew from a projected cost of \$65 million to an actual cost of \$900 million in two years – an increase of 1400%.
- Private schools can pick and choose which students to admit while public schools proudly welcome all students with all needs.
- Education savings accounts and similar voucher plans allow tax dollars to be spent without transparency or accountability. Texas public schools adhere to state-mandated academic and financial accountability standards. Private schools are not required to meet the same academic standards as public schools, and they do not report test results, graduation rates, and other performance measures to the public

: Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500.

- To keep pace with inflation, the Basic Allotment should be increased to \$7,500 to keep pace with inflation, an increase of \$1,340.
- The Basic Allotment, the base funding mechanism for all Texas public school districts, has not been adjusted from its current amount of \$6,160 since 2019.
- Establish a formula-driven increase to the Basic Allotment based on the rate of inflation so it does not have to be manually adjusted.

Fully fund full day Pre-K. • School districts currently receive only half-day funding for providing full-day Pre-K programs for qualifying students.

- The state is requiring all school districts to provide full-day Pre-K programs for qualifying students

Mary Ann Quintana Mary Ann Quintana

Self

Tomball, TX

Texans do not want vouchers! Parents, public school teachers, private school teachers, homeschoolers are all speaking against this. I don't understand why Abbott is pushing so hard for something none of his constituents want. It will hurt children. That is all that needs to be considered. Kids.

Jenny Hooper

Self

Austin, TX

I have worked in Texas public schools since 2006 as an educator and cannot support any legislation that would potentially take money away from schools serving all students, with accountability systems in place and transparency in their curriculum/instructional materials. Private schools do not have the same safe guards that public schools have to make sure all student get what they need. We should be funding our public schools better so that we have inclusion teachers, teachers have time to purposefully plan for needs in their classrooms and time to communicate with parents. A voucher system will not lead to a better educated workforce—students ready for college, career, or military service. The political show isn't worth gambling with student outcomes and the future of Texas.

Kathleen Serff, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

I feel my tax dollars should be used for public education with teachers meeting public standards and accountability for students.

Tracy Colon

Self / Human Resources

Florence, TX

Opposed

Brandie Metzger, Ms

Self

Dallas, TX

The education of our populace is important to our future state. Our ability to provide that education to the general population relies on tax dollars that should be equally distributed among all school districts to provide for the best education our state can offer. By allowing private schools to receive funds, that money is being misallocated to a minority of the population and decreasing the ability to properly provide education services to the majority thereby providing even more of a mediocre education system than we have today. Our focus should not be on stripping funding from public education, but instead on propping up our education system to ensure more of our youth receive an education that allows them to be successful for their sake, and our own.

Paul Serff

Self

Austin, TX

Against the bill

Alison Jefferies

Self

Houston, TX

I am against vouchers for private and homeschooling. I am for more money for public schools due to inflation, not enough money for special needs students and unfunded mandates. Please vote against vouchers.

Tad Wychopen

Self

Pharr, TX

I think having a education savings account for a school choice program would be a very helpful tool for underprivileged families in our area. South Texas has some of the lowest education and graduation rates in the state. It would be a blessing to many families to have funding to be able to send their kids to private schools or whatever school they choose. I am in favor of the school choice bill.

Victor Vedia
Self
San Antonio, TX

While the voucher program may provide benefits for some children, it is not a universally effective solution for all students. The implementation of this program raises significant concerns regarding its overall impact on students, families, and communities.

One primary concern is that voucher programs often redirect public funds from already under-resourced public schools to private institutions, which may not be held to the same accountability standards. This can result in decreased funding for critical services, including special education support, speech-language therapy, and other essential resources that public schools are required to provide under federal and state regulations. Consequently, students with disabilities, those from low-income backgrounds, and English language learners may face even greater educational disparities.

Additionally, private schools that accept vouchers may not be equipped to serve all students, particularly those with special needs. Many private institutions are not legally obligated to adhere to individualized education programs (IEPs) or provide the same level of support that public schools offer. This exclusionary practice can leave vulnerable students without appropriate services, forcing families to either seek alternative options or return to public schools that may now have fewer resources due to voucher-related funding shifts.

Beyond the financial and accessibility concerns, the program's overall effectiveness remains questionable. Research on voucher programs has shown mixed results, with some studies indicating little to no academic improvement for students who utilize vouchers. In some cases, students who transfer to private schools through voucher programs experience declines in academic performance compared to their peers who remain in public schools. This raises concerns about whether the program truly enhances educational outcomes or merely serves as a mechanism for diverting public funds without clear long-term benefits.

Moreover, the potential socioeconomic and community impact cannot be overlooked. Public schools serve as vital community hubs, providing essential services beyond education, including meals, counseling, and after-school programs. When funding is diverted, these services may be reduced or eliminated, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities that rely on public education as a cornerstone for opportunity and stability.

Given these concerns, while a voucher program may be beneficial for a select group of students, it is not a comprehensive or equitable solution. Instead, efforts should focus on strengthening public education, ensuring adequate funding, and implementing policies that support all students, particularly those who are most vulnerable. A robust public education system benefits the entire community, fostering equity, access, and long-term academic success.

Jennifer Henderson, No vouchers
Self
Frisco, TX

vouchers pose a risk to state budgets, students and families, rural schools, and special education students. Without strict regulations, regular audits, and transparent reporting of student academic results, ESAs can misuse public funds and harm students' potential for learning and achievement. Rural Texas in particular could suffer if funding is removed from public schools, the lifeblood of many small communities, as well as a major employer in many areas. private schools and vendors are under no obligation to accept or serve students with special needs. And even if a student with special needs attends a private school with a voucher, they will likely forfeit the protections they have under federal law.

Jenny Christie
Myself
Fort Worth, TX

Say no to school vouchers. Fully fund public schools.

Benita Miller, Ms
Self; retired teacher
Waxahachie, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers, school savings accounts or any attempt to use state funds for private school use. Public education is the bedrock for an educated citizenry and needs and deserves our support now more than ever. Promoters of vouchers for private schools are misleading parents when they loudly proclaim parents should have a choice. It's a compelling emotional appeal but an empty promise.

Negin Mirhosseini, Dr.
Self
Edinburg, TX

Ensure that funding for public education is prioritized first.

Erika Aigner-Varoz
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution. DO NOT pass this bill, because it will devastate our school and show that you are more loyal to the powers that be, than to your constituents who voted for you.

Dorothy Mallona
Responsiveed
Lewisville, TX

I teach at Founders Classical Academy of Lewisville, TX. I moved out here 8 years ago from Central Florida where we had no options for school except public school or to pay for private. My 4 children were floundering. My oldest got involved in illicit drug use and sales. Meanwhile, the education was sub-par and not readying them to be prosperous individuals in a free society. I moved my entire family to Texas so we could have better choices. I have been thrilled with Founders and know each day my children are being taught to seek after the good, the true and the beautiful. I am so grateful for the teachers and administrators that pour themselves into my children every day. I want this opportunity to be available to every parent in the state of Texas. Please vote YES for school choice. Thank You, Dorothy Mallona

Lyka Walton
Self
Wichita Falls, TX

This is a waste of taxpayer money. This bill does not guarantee every child will have the same access and will exacerbate the educational gap further. Shame on you for trying to pull one over on the people.

Marisa De La Rosa-Alvarado, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

I am a Texas public school teacher, a very proud Texas public school teacher. I'm also the daughter of two retired Texas public school teachers. Education has been my life. I grew up in public schools. I am a product of the Texas public school system. The same public school system that gave me opportunities to succeed and to graduate and attend The University of Texas at Austin. With that Texas public education, I was able to succeed at UT and graduate with a BA in History as well as Texas State University with a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction. It's the same system I returned to and have poured my heart and soul into the last 17 years of my life. I have taught over 2000 students and have seen them also succeed. One of those students is a graduate of Duke University and now, my colleague. Public schools are not failing students, Greg Abbott and the Texas Legislature are failing students. Greg Abbott would rather give our tax payer dollars to the 100,000 students that already attend private schools instead of fully fund our public schools that serve 5 million students. You refuse to give teachers pay raises so districts can attract the best and brightest as well as keep those successful veteran teachers to teach our students. Fully funding our public schools would give us the resources we need, the time, and the means necessary to make our students successful. Vouchers are not the answer as they would only help those few already attending private schools instead of ALL our students in Texas. You are taking funding away from the majority and what service does that do? Our students DESERVE better than to give tax dollars to private schools that don't have to follow the same rules as our public schools do. It's time to do your jobs and listen to your constituents. Fund our public schools and say no to vouchers.

Tom Murphy

Self

Pearland, TX

No school vouchers. No public funding for private education.

Karen Byers

Self, nurse

Navasota, TX

Please vote no to school vouchers. Increase the basic allotment for public schools. Use state taxpayer money for public schools only, or require private schools to follow every law that public schools do. Level the playing field, make everyone do the same or use tax money for public schools. The basic allotment is still from 2019 and it is not \$15,000, it's barely over \$6,000. Stop with the lies and support public schools. We are not failing. Say no to school vouchers for rich people.

FRANCES LOFLEY

Self - Facilitator

Lubbock, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB 3 as this will negatively affect a huge disproportionate of lower and middle class families in all of your communities as it would require them to make up the difference in tuition for sometimes multiple children, and the vouchers provided. Rural and suburban communities have a limited amount of options, with most of them lacking any other education options at all.

Alice Butterick

Self

Austin, TX

School Vouchers are an unnecessary financial supplement to the wealthy, and upperclass citizens; and funds private schools which at their core are private or religious businesses. A much better use of that money would be to try to make Texas public education the best that it could be for ALL students. A solution would serve ALL Texan students, isn't the Texas Government supposed to work for ALL TEXANS?

Earl Dyke
Self Wealth Management
Houston, TX

Please support House Bill 3 establishing education savings accounts for Texans.

Monica Huerta
Self/ Physical Therapy
San Antonio, TX

I don't agree with this bill regarding vouchers for private schools. We pay taxes for public schools for every child to attend. Private school is a choice for parents who want and can afford this privileged type of education. Therefore if they cannot afford it they should send their children to public schools instead of using more of our tax money for something that is a choice.

katherine merrifield
self
WYLIE, TX

I do not support this voucher system, as a parent to 2 children with vision disabilities, the funds that are allocated from property taxes needs to remain in the public school district. Let the private schools remain private, and allow families to deem how they want to get there children there without the deterrent to the existing public school system that is in place to provide for the children. If a private school is looking for state funding that is a huge red flag that the allocation of funds from the tuition or prior alumni support is being misused.

Wendy Clark, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

I am firmly against the voucher program. I support public education and do not want any of my property tax payments diverted to private schools through this scheme. This is not the way to fix school funding or improve education for Texas' children.

Angela Groves
self
Fort Worth, TX

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE 7. EDUCATION

Sec. 1. SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM OF PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS. A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.
(Feb. 15, 1876.)

Sec. 7. APPROPRIATIONS FOR SECTARIAN PURPOSES. No money shall be appropriated, or drawn from the Treasury for the benefit of any sect, or religious society, theological or religious seminary; nor shall property belonging to the State be appropriated for any such purposes.
(Feb. 15, 1876 .)

No to vouchers !

Cynthia Rives

Self

Denton, TX

The State of Texas should not have vouchers or ESA. We should not use public money for private use. We should stop withholding funds from our public schools. We need strong public schools and well-paid teachers. The public schools bring our communities together and we need to support them. Don't let greed ruin our communities. We don't need private school companies to come in the Texas to make money and ruin our public schools. Dont tell me Arizona's voucher program are a successful. I know better. We don't want to go the way so many states have gone and know now it was a mistake. No vouchers! Spend the money on public schools and pay our teachers well! It will help the whole state!

Michael Schultz

Self

Austin, TX

I'm a product of the public school system and I turned out all right, but I'm deeply annoyed with how the state of Texas won't properly fund public schools. Robinhood is a failure. We need to fund the public schools fairly so that each student can get the same excellent education. We do not need private schools. And we certainly don't need to be making it easier for people to abandon public schools for private ones. If people are unhappy with public schools, then we should focus on funding them properly. And we should stop being so obsessed with testing, especially if the private schools don't have to worry about tests.

Aaron James, Precinct chair 4204

Myself

White Settlement, TX

We don't want an expansion of government and that's what school choice is. If we pass this bill, this is an invitation to globalism. We need to teach basic curriculum to the students and get them away from the devices. HB3 is a vendor bill.

Carmen Merritt, Ms.

Self, employment specialist

Waco, TX

I do not support this voucher system. It will destroy public education!

Brendan Kennedy

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill as a lifelong Texan, soon-to-be parent and public education supporter. If this bill passes, it will continue to strip resources away from public schools in favor of private education that benefits the wealthy. My family will have to strongly consider leaving the state to another which supports its public education system. Please vote no on this bill and fully support public schools.

Clare Joachim

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill as a public school parent in Austin Texas.

Kathy Warren

Texas school

Dimmitt, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 3, vouchers, and the creation of education savings accounts.

Marshall Romero

Students Engaged In Advancing Texas

Houston, TX

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marshall Romero, and I am a student from Alief Early College High School. I am here today to strongly oppose school vouchers because they divert crucial public funds away from the schools that need them most—schools like mine, where students rely on every single resource available to receive a quality education.

I attend a public early college high school, where I am working toward both my high school diploma and an associates degree. The opportunities I have now are thanks to public funding, yet schools like mine are already underfunded, understaffed, and overstretched. If we implement a voucher system, we are effectively abandoning students who rely on public education. Private institutions are not held to the same accountability standards and often exclude students based on income, ability, or background. Proponents argue that vouchers provide “choice.” But what kind of choice is it when private schools can turn students away based on disability status, English proficiency, or financial constraints? Public schools do not have the luxury of exclusion—they are public and they serve EVERYONE. Instead of sending taxpayer dollars to institutions that can pick and choose who they educate, we should be investing in the schools that uplift all students, regardless of their ZIP code or economic status.

I also want to emphasize that many low-income families, like mine, cannot afford the gap between what a voucher provides and what private schools actually charge. The reality is that vouchers overwhelmingly benefit wealthier families who already have access to private education. They do not serve the majority of Texas students.

I urge this committee to stand with students like me: students who believe in the power of public education to uplift communities and create opportunity. Do not let school vouchers take away from public schools, the backbone of Texas. Education is the bedrock of this county, and we are entitled to consistently well-funded and equal education by the Texas Constitution. Fund our public schools, invest in our teachers, and support the future of every Texas student, not just of those who can afford it.

Chris Donofrio

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I oppose this bill.

Please let it die in Committee.

Our taxpayer money is better spent on strengthening our Public schools and teachers.

I oppose HB 3. Please let it die in your Committee. Our taxpayer money should be spent on improving our Public school educations of their students.

John Lee

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

School vouchers are taxpayer-funded subsidies given to private schools and vendors without transparency and accountability for results.

Private schools are not required to accept all students nor assess alignment to state curriculum to track student progress. Private schools do not have reporting or accountability for the use of taxpayer funds or student performance. Private schools do not have to provide special education services for students with learning differences or disabilities.

For these reasons, I oppose this bill.

Jennifer Smeby

Self, teacher

Mansfield, TX

No vouchers! Fully fund our public schools. Our tax money should not belong in private schools.

Kitty Woo Ham, APRN, FNP

Self (family nurse practitioner), my kids, and my community
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. I do NOT want school vouchers.

John McGlothlin Jr

Self
Austin, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

Dear Education committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

P.S. Did you know that private schools can exclude students with disabilities? Or throw them out if they don't want to provide special education services??!

We truly need to support our public school system!

There was a story/article about this in Sunday's Austin Statesman . I'd read about it in a Coalition for Texans with Disabilities legislative brief as well.

That ALONE should eliminate vouchers!!

Julie Hinaman

Self
Cypress, TX

Please listen to your constituents and vote NO to HB3. Almost 70% of the people testifying at the 21.5 hour hearing are AGAINST vouchers/ESAs. WHO do you serve as a TX Representative...your constituents or the Governor's donors?

Jenna Groves

Self - healthcare staffing

Eules, TX

ESA's are a false sense of choice for Texas students and parents. Every family already has the right to choose how they want their children to receive an education in the state. Over the past 30 years, we have watched the decline of public education under Republican leadership due to the underfunding of Texas public schools, not paying our teachers what they are worth, the out of touch STAAR test that does not measure actual learning progress and so many more policies that have led us to this moment. We reject out of state and in state billionaires paying for votes so they can make more money as vendors and push an agenda that the MAJORITY of Texans do not want. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy.

Amber Schmidt

Self

Windcrest, TX

This Bill is disgraceful and disgusting. ALL Texas school children deserve a chance at a quality education, not just a privileged few! Fund public education - Do Your Job! Texans are angry about this bill. We don't want this bill! Throw it out once and for all. Tell Abbott NO!

Sean Loraas, MR

self

Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB3 and any legislation that diverts public education funds toward private school vouchers. As a [concerned citizen/educator/parent], I believe that public funds should remain dedicated to strengthening our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students and are a cornerstone of our communities.

Using taxpayer dollars to fund private school vouchers undermines public education by reducing resources available for teachers, special education services, and essential programs that benefit all students, particularly those in rural and underserved areas. Unlike public schools, private institutions are not held to the same accountability, transparency, or non-discrimination standards, making vouchers a poor investment for Texas taxpayers.

Instead of diverting funds to private interests, I urge you to focus on fully funding public schools, increasing teacher salaries, and ensuring that every child in Texas—regardless of ZIP code—has access to a high-quality, equitable education. Our students, families, and educators deserve policies that support and strengthen public education, not ones that weaken it.

I strongly urge you to vote against HB3 and any similar measures that prioritize private interests over the future of Texas public schools.

Anita Cobb

Myself

Buda, TX

Oppose!

Abigail Johnson

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Jennifer Torres

Wylie ISD PTA

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3. Support public school in TX and fully fund our schools! Do not send public money to private schools!

Debbie Berry
Self - retired
Allen, TX

No. Do not support. Put money into our public schools, support our teachers and provide a good education to our kids!

Lisa Cockerell
Self/Teacher
Stamford, TX

This bill will take money away from public schools and redistribute it to wealthy people. I will vote against anyone who votes in favor of it.

Katharine Holding, Mrs.
Self
Pflugerville, TX

As a citizen of Texas it pains me to see that this legislation is being considered again. We know that Greg Abbott has received over \$12 million dollars from a megadonor in Pennsylvania for the sole purpose of getting vouchers in the Texas Education System. He used this money to attack fellow Republicans in primaries (not about this though) and get in place those that he know will do what he wants, not what Texans want. This is NOT what our government should be about. I am sickened that he interfered and that we are now truly considering this program without strong exclusions. You want vouchers for those that qualify for free/reduced lunches...great! You want vouchers for students with documented Individualized Education Plans...great! What I do not want to see is families that are 400% ABOVE the poverty line receive these tax dollars for private schools they already attend. I have heard that it is "their tax money so they should decide how they want to spend it for their child's schooling." Well, what about my tax dollars for roads I don't use, state parks that I never go to, or services I don't utilize. I don't receive that money back to use for my personal trips, nor do I want to because it is about the betterment of the whole. You say that you aren't taking away from public education because this is a different pot of money - well why can't that pot be directed to ALL students in education and not the 100,000 it might serve? We know you have continued to underfund public education as a state and have pushed those costs to the tax payers through higher property taxes so that you can build this huge surplus. If this bill passes, then I lose hope that this government is really about "for the people" and instead it is about "for the rich that can pay us through lobbyists so that legislators (and the governor) can make the most amount of money possible." I urge ALL that truly care about education for children to vote NO to HB 3 or to rewrite it with true limitations on who it serves.

Charles McCollum, Mr.

self

Austin, TX

House Bill 3 (HB 3), currently under consideration in the Texas Legislature, proposes the establishment of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) to facilitate public funding for private schooling. While proponents argue that this measure enhances educational choice, a critical analysis reveals that HB 3 could significantly undermine the financial stability of public schools, thereby affecting the quality of education for the majority of students who remain within the public system.?

Financial Implications for Public Schools

The introduction of ESAs as outlined in HB 3 would divert public funds to private institutions. This reallocation poses a direct threat to the financial resources available to public schools. Public education in Texas has historically faced funding challenges, with the state ranking in the bottom ten nationally for per-student funding, despite a student population that is over 60% low socioeconomic. Even with recent funding infusions, including the passage of previous bills like HB 3 in 2019, Texas remains approximately \$4,000 behind the national average in per-student funding. ?

Raise Your Hand Texas

Implementing ESAs could exacerbate this funding gap. As students leave public schools for private alternatives, the funding that accompanies them—often calculated on a per-pupil basis—would also depart. This reduction in funding does not proportionally decrease the operational costs of public schools, which still need to maintain facilities, pay staff, and provide services. Consequently, remaining students may experience diminished resources, leading to larger class sizes, reduced program offerings, and deferred maintenance, all of which can negatively impact educational outcomes.?

Impact on Special Education Services

The potential effects of HB 3 on special education services are particularly concerning. Approximately 780,000 students in Texas require special education services. While ESAs might offer these students more schooling options, many private institutions lack the necessary resources or willingness to accommodate them. This situation could leave special needs students with limited or inadequate educational support, undermining the intent to provide equitable educational opportunities. ?

expressnews.com

houstonchronicle.com

Equity and Accountability Concerns

HB 3 raises significant equity and accountability issues. Public schools are mandated to adhere to state accountability standards, ensuring a baseline quality of education and equitable access to resources. In contrast, private schools receiving public funds through ESAs may not be subject to the same rigorous oversight. This discrepancy can lead to inconsistent educational quality and a lack of accountability for taxpayer dollars, potentially widening the educational attainment gap between different socioeconomic groups.?

expressnews.com

Conclusion

While the goal of expanding educational choices is commendable, HB 3's approach through the implementation of ESA

Maureen Dobyms

Self/ Project Manager

Tyler, TX

VOTE NO ON HB3! I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL!

Sylvia Garza
Self
Edinburg, TX

Please do not fund vouchers. They will not help our public education students. The impact they will have will be devastating to our communities and school children. Thank you for your consideration.

Samady Garza
Self
Austin, TX

Please prioritize funding for our public schools. We have seen across many states the inefficient use of vouchers and how they have not addressed any needs of our most vulnerable students. I do not want my tax dollars sent to private schools. I beg that you instead grow your investment in public schools that are serving the majority of students in Texas and can support the hard working teachers of Texas. We owe it to our kids to give them the best investment in their futures.

Michelle Porter
Self/ OTA
Red Oak, TX

This Bill takes away funding that should have been allocated for public school education. Vouchers have failed in other states over and over. Texas does not need to be another state. Many of our students if they have a private school near them won't be able to take advantage of the voucher because of the overall cost. Give the same guidelines for both with acceptance, money, class size, teacher qualifications, transportation, nutrition etc. then offer the Bill. This is only helping the wealthy few as it stands right now. If Abbott believes in this so much it should be on the ballot and let Texans decide at the polls.
Thank You

Timothy Buchanan
Self
Aledo, TX

Dr. Bucket, I am opposed to HB3 because I do not believe it will improve education in our Great State. You and I both know that the private schools are not going to accept the public school students who are low performing nor will they accept the ESL students. What I see happening is public schools losing their higher achieving students to private schools making public schools struggle even more. I would not be opposed if HB3 stated that vouchers must go to the low performing students and/or ESL students and the private schools must accept these students. Thank you for your service,
Tim Buchanan
Killeen HS
Class of 1979

Gabe Kirchner
Self
Austin, TX

This state doesn't need private school vouchers. The state needs to be a leader in educating the next generation of Texans and Americans by opening up access to 1 quality public education system. Competing systems has been tried in Arizona and even in Sweden and it has been a failure. It's a giveaway to private, wealthy interests. This country was built by investment in public education and we are tired of the lies and distortions and fear mongering of our elected officials. You aren't acting like leaders in any sense of the word. The eyes of Texas are upon you.

Madeline Vanek

Self; therapist

Austin, TX

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

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4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Kellie Vugrincic

Self - Chief People Officer

The Hills, TX

I oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background.

Michelle Corey

Self

Flower Mound, TX

I am against any vouchers of public for private schools. As a taxpayer, I have paid enough over the many years of my life and refuse to help the rich put any voucher towards private schools!

Deidre Summers

self

DeSoto, TX

Hello,

My name is Deidre Summers I am with the DallasISD .I am a Public school teacher.I am against the school vochers. This would not benefit the low economics students.

Most of them would not have the extra money to attend a private school , nor transportation to get there. Also it would take money from the public schools that is badly needed to provide the necessary resources need for those students .I would like the committee to oppose this bill. Thank youthe opportunity to voice my concerns.

Elizmen Ghim

self/Teacher for Homeschool Students

Double Oak, TX

As a homeschool graduate and now teacher for homeschool students' classes, I urge you the House, to NOT PASS HB3. I have personally experienced the benefits of homeschooling and the freedoms parents have, to choose education for their own children. While this bill may appear to provide parents with "choices," it actually violates their freedom to choose. There's no such thing as a "free lunch." In exchange for any money, the state government gives to families, there will be regulations and monitoring. This only opens the door to the slippery slope of surveillance and tyranny, not choice. Texas has been a state of freedom for families who love their children and want to provide what they believe is the best education. I know families who moved here to be able to enjoy this freedom. To support this bill, is to take away parents' rightful freedom to educate their children and to inhibit the growth and best interests of our next generation. Most of all, don't forget that God Himself is the One Who gives you the power to lead our state. You must follow His design for how families, education and government are to run. He has given parents the ultimate responsibility to educate, not the government. Please honor Him, by opposing this bill and SUPPORTING PARENTS AND THEIR FREEDOM INSTEAD!

Rhonda Frazier

Self, SLPA

Lubbock, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Elisha Holmes

Myself and my children

String:lubbock, TX

I am requesting that my voice be heard and that my representative, Dustin Burrows vote "NO" on HB3.

Clark Laughlin

Self

Houston, TX

I do not support or want an education savings account or voucher program. I believe this to be harmful to public education and I insist, rather, that public education in the state of Texas be fully funded. Texas should not be funding private school education.

Selynda Vizena

Self

Taylor, TX

I opposite HB3, as a registered republican, I will ensure that I don't vote straight party ticket and will vote for those that support public education and our public education teachers.

Penny Thorne

Self, educational interpreter for the deaf

Arlington, TX

We need public schools and the funding to give the best to out students.

Lesli Hullum
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I'm opposed to vouchers as they will rob any student with a slight disadvantage of an equitable education. Whether dyslexic, physically disabled, English-language-learner, socioeconomically disadvantaged, or learning disabled, America was founded on principles that give everyone the chance to succeed. This program would rob students of that chance gutting public education for the benefit of private schools who would rather fund the benefit of the wealthy. It's the most unAmerican policy that we could institute.

Students with disabilities fundamentally cost more to educate, but this bill would stifle those students from receiving an equitable education in public school, with the current federal legislation under SPED with public schools being on the hook to accept every student and educate them every day. If we are using the bulk of public school funding to educate those who have been rejected from private schools due to the burden of educating struggling students, we won't be able to provide a reasonable education for those who simply don't have the means to attend a private school (bussing, transportation, minor disabilities or language barriers).

I have 20 years in public education and I can't imagine a more crippling political movement than this current bill.

Annette Lewis
ATPE/ Raise your hand texas/Air Force mom
Paris, TX

All Texas School children deserve to have a great education, Not just I select few. You all have a responsibility to Make sure all Texas children Have access to that great education, not just a select few. Take an active part As a texas leader. DO What it takes, put the Committees together To solve the problems in the texas education system. Make the statement be bold In doing so Take a stand for all Texas school children. Finally,Let's make Texas a place that draws great educators After all we are Texas the best of the best. Vote no On HB3

Jennifer Jefferson
Self
Austin, TX

Dear Committee Members,
I write today as a public school parent. I urge you to vote against establishing an educational savings account program. Public schools in Texas are underfunded. Taking money that could be provided to schools that are accountable to Texas citizens and open to all to provide for accounts that go to private schools with no accountability and can be restrictive to students is not an appropriate use of funds. I strongly oppose all measures to create savings accounts that will not benefit all students.

Christina Bishop
Self (Public School Teacher)
Weatherford, TX

As a 10 year public educator, I strongly oppose HB3. Texans deserve a fully funded, transparent public education system that benefits all children. HB3 does not accomplish that goal. We need increased transparency for where property taxes are going and increased regulations so monies paid to school districts stay in public education. For these reasons I ask you vote no to HB3 and any other bills with school vouchers attached.

Laura Crockett
Self/manager
Shavano Park, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Derick Smith
Self - Attorney
Katy, TX

Vouchers are only intended to give money to rich families. Vouchers steal money from public schools. Public schools are doing amazing things for our kids. Poorer people cannot afford private schools with the amount of money in the voucher bill. The voucher bill is a scam. Vote against HB3 and vote against vouchers.

Savanna Polasek, Mrs.
Self, entrepreneur and communications specialist
Cedar Park, TX

I am deeply disturbed by the lack of funding for public school students in Texas. A single cent taken from public school funding is a travesty. Although my family continues to impact and stay in the Texas economy, if we feel that our children are not being cared for academically we will leave this state. You are going to lose professionals and you are setting yourself up for the gutting of your future economy, citizens and workers. Every dollar you cut now will mean more people in prisons, less people able to read, less people able to contribute to this great state. Defunding teachers while every other industry has risen with inflation just means they will leave to another career and we will continue to have non credentialed, ineffective, teachers. Until Texas is first in the nation in education spending and outcomes, you have no right to take our tax dollars and use them to subsidize wealthy private school attendees. And to think that after Santa Fe and Uvalde you would not fully fund school safety but make blanket laws without funding is despicable. The blood is on your hands. What you are doing is hideous .I hope at the end of your life you remember when you sold our future for your own and I hope your children and your children's children never forget it. Let me be clear, I don't support vouchers under any form or circumstance. Allow innovation and funding for operations, salaries, materials, transportation, and schools will succeed. Keep class sizes low. Follow the research on learning. Then maybe you won't get booted out next term. Good luck and do the right thing.

Lorri Wright
Self
Fort Worth, TX

ESAs are not going to help the majority of Texas school children. They will hurt our public schools and the Falkland communities that depend on them. Fund our public schools fully. Let the wealthy continue to send their kids to private schools. They don't need a handout. Keep our tax dollars away from the wolves that are chomping at the bit to pocket these precious dollars and use it to open subpar private schools. Please don't allow this to go forward. Show communities that you care.

Krisa Payne
Self
Idalou, TX

I disagree with this bill! It will hurt our public school, teachers and administration. Not sure why there is even a bill to be passed or looked at such as this. Please be better.

Julie Judd
Self/ accountant
Lucas, TX

Vehemently against school vouchers!! Fund our public schools, NOT private ones!

Janet Counts, Teacher- Retired

Self

Glenn Heights, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Lakshmi Ananthakrishnan

self

Irving, TX

I thank you for your work in addressing the important issue of school funding so we can ensure that our teachers and school staff have the support that they need to operate successfully. I am writing to express concerns that the current increase of \$220 for the basic allotment in HB2 is only \$220 is not sufficient to adequately fund the increasing needs of our public schools. I ask that you amend the bill to fully fund our public schools via a basic allotment increase of \$1340 per student. To keep up with inflation since 2019, we need an increase of \$1340 per student, as noted by Fund Schools First. I also ask that you allocate funding based on enrollment, not attendance. Lastly, I fully oppose vouchers; I support taxpayer money going to public schools, not private schools. However, if vouchers were to remain on the bill, private and charter schools that accept vouchers should be held to the same accountability standards as public schools, with regards to STAAR and other standardized testing, reporting benchmarks, and other requirements and standards that public schools are held to.

My child's excellent public school, McCoy Elementary, is closing due to budget deficits in Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD. Insufficient funding is deeply affecting our BEST public schools. We need your help. We have stellar teachers throughout CFBISD; we need adequate funding to enable them do their jobs. Please fully fund public schools.

Dominique Cruz

Self

Conroe, TX

I urge you to oppose the expansion of school vouchers in Texas. Public schools are essential to our communities, providing equitable education to all students, regardless of their background or income. Vouchers, which redirect public funds to private schools, would undermine this system by diverting critical resources away from public schools, exacerbating challenges such as overcrowded classrooms, teacher shortages, and inadequate funding.

Expanding vouchers would:

1. Increase inequality by mainly benefiting wealthier families, while leaving low-income students in underfunded public schools.
2. Undermine accountability, as private schools that accept vouchers aren't always held to the same educational standards as public schools.
3. Weaken public schools, further diminishing resources, programs, and teacher support for students who need them most.
4. Reduce local control, as private schools receiving voucher funds are not accountable to local communities.
5. Shift focus away from improving public schools, instead of investing in solutions like better funding, teacher pay, and specialized programs for students in need.

Rather than diverting resources from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve them for all students. Please prioritize the future of our public education system and oppose school vouchers.

Gloria Vela, Ms.

Self

San Antonio, TX

It will be difficult for a single parents to drive their kids to a private school and make it to work on time. Do they even have before and after school care?

In Texas, we have public schools that meet the needs of kids with different capabilities. The public schools have regular pre-ap and AP classes. We have charter schools and magnet schools. The public schools meet the needs of kids who need special equipment and special teachers.

Michelle Fink, Ms

All students in Texas

Forney, TX

This is the most lawful and American way to give education choices to all children and tax payers!

Melissa Hernandez

Self

Corp Christi, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars.

Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas.

We will ALL remember how you vote on this.

Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda?

Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"?

Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor?

These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people.

VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!

Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few!

Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children.

Susan Sabo-Wagner

Self

Cypress, TX

I have two sons in public schools, I have a 17 year-old in CyFair ISD as a junior, and a nine-year-old as a third grader. I have been nothing but pleased with our public schools until this last year went so much has been taken away due to the fact that our state government has chosen to argue over the fact that private schools or voucher systems may be better for our children. I work in an area in healthcare where I know far too well that the state of Texas is far too large with far too few private schools within reach from many of our rural areas to know that this is not an acceptable avenue for all of our youth. I was raised in a public school. My children are raised in a public school, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with public schools. To give more funding toward private schools and elite schools that are out of reach for many of our Texans is completely out of touch with constituents in the entire state. It is time that we start listening to the people that we represent. It is time that we start to live and empathize with the people that actually elect us into office. Rather than look to our leaders in government who threaten that we meet their own choices, made by party lines only I implore you to look into your deepest heart and understand what's actually best for our children in the state of Texas that we love so much.

Ashley Howard

Self

Cypress, TX

Education savings would take money from public school which affords educational opportunities to all students, not just elite and well educated students. This should not even be a discussion until public schools are fully funded, allowing schools and educators to prove what they are actually capable of, providing a future and real choices for every student. Putting additional dollars towards private school and homeschooling would be a detriment to the multitude of students being served by the public education system every day.

Cathy Nichols

Self

Centerville, TX

I strongly oppose these bills. Public education and other public funded entities need the expertise of lobbyists who research and know the workings of the Capitol.

Andrea Cervantes

Self

Austin, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a social worker who has worked in Title I schools across Central Texas, I have seen firsthand the impact of underfunded schools on students, families, and communities. For the future of all Texas children, I urge everyone to vote against the creation of a voucher program and to fund our public schools. Thank you.

Doreen Martinez, Dr.

Self

Katy, TX

I am a public educator with 30+ years of experience as a teacher and an administrator and I am a product of public education. I am opposed to any type or form of a voucher that will take away funds from public schools. The majority of our Texas children are in public school. We educate every child who enters our school, irregardless of the learning levels, abilities, disabilities, discipline issues, and more. We need our public funds to educate our children. I ask you to please vote no on HB 3 and/or any bill that will negatively impact the future of our public school children. Please don't defund public education! Our Texas children deserve a high quality education from our public schools. The vouchers will not be able to cover the total cost of a private school and these schools do not welcome every child to attend their schools. I urge you to please stand tall and fight for our Texas school children!!!

Kayla Keese

Self

Corinth, TX

I am a product of Texas public schools, and currently a teacher in Denton ISD. My son attends public schools. I am a lifelong conservative voter who is OPPOSED to this bill and to vouchers in Texas. Our public schools can thrive with the proper funding, and I have seen what vouchers do to public education, and education in general. The people of Texas have spoken loud and clear on this, and they will not forget the Representatives who chose to not listen to their constituents. Do the right thing and vote NO to vouchers, and fund the great public schools of Texas fully!

Charles Allen

Self

Houston, TX

I am a father of three homeschooled children and I oppose this bill.

DONNA K WRIGHT, Retired teacher

Self

Murphy, TX

I am strongly against vouchers

Kirsten Hogan

self, florist

Austin, TX

As a former public school teacher, I oppose HB 3. I worked in a property-poor school district and saw the inequity that my students encountered because of the circumstances they were born into. Parents who worked multiple jobs just to barely make ends meet, single parent households, and non-native English speakers comprised the majority of my students. They rely on public schools and their resources (school busses, after school activities, etc.) to care for and educate their children. They deserve to send their kids to schools that have equitable access to resources and well-paid teachers.

Only public schools are charged with the responsibility to provide ALL children access to a free and equitable education. However, because of underfunding, public schools in rural and property-poor districts experience vast inequity in their public schools in comparison to wealthy districts.

Parents should and do have the right to choose where their children get educated, taking money away from public schools is NOT the answer. I urge you to oppose HB3 and vote no, because pulling any money away from public education will only widen the gap of inequity.

Erin Thompson

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose HB 3 as well as any other bill that creates Educational Savings Accounts. Please fully fund public schools so that ALL children in Texas have access to a quality education.

Lee Whitley

Self

Austin, TX

Against school vouchers and HB3. Why not just increase the standard amount per student or give our surplus budget to schools. The choice is couched language and if passed should be for those at or below the national poverty line not 200% more.

Alicia Olshanski

Self

San Angelo, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Mary Ann Baltzer, Mrs.

Self

McKinney, TX

There is no evidence that Education Savings Accounts, or vouchers, are an effective way to educate students. They help religious schools and wealthy students who can afford to attend expensive private schools. They do nothing for middle and low income students or special needs students who can't not afford the additional tuition and transportation to private schools. Those schools often will not accept the average Texas student. Stop trying to benefit your wealthy donors who stand to profit from ESAs. Show the public the fact based research that proves ESAs will work in Texas.

Matt Menefee

Self - Teacher

Waco, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As Taxpayer and supporter of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Elizabeth Jordan

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please do not pass this bill out of committee. Texas students deserve fully funded public schools. This bill will only provide people who can already afford private schools a kickback to make that choice more affordable for them. School choice means the schools choose not the parents. We must fund our public schools so that ALL Texas students have access to the next possible education.

Justin Calvert, SGT.

Self - My occupation is not necessary.

Willis, TX

Tax funds should not be used to pay for private schools. Private schools are selective of who they enroll, whereas public schools are unable to be selective due to being funded publicly. I should not have to pay for schools that are selective of children they enroll.

Amy Saylak

Self-retired

Bryan, TX

I urge lawmakers to NOT use any taxpayer monies to fund any kind of private school education without accountability to the state as to test scores, teacher pay, students served, etc. unless and until this state FULLY funds our private schools through teacher pay raises, etc.

Donna Beavers

Self

Rusk, TX

I am against school vouchers

Carin Champion

Self - independent contractor, Student Affairs Assistant, & retired K-12 educator

Austin, TX

As a retired educator of 28 years in the state of Texas, I am firmly against, and deeply concerned about the proposed school voucher program. This would be detrimental to most students and families across the state, as well as public schools. I am very familiar with how school funding works, and know that this would cause much harm to students and families in our state. We all know that vouchers are not truly school choice. Most people hoping to benefit from school choice would not be able to afford the tuition of a private school, even with vouchers. The people who would ultimately benefit from the voucher system would be people who can already afford to send their children to private school, so it is actually only choice for those who are already well off. Not only that, it would raise every citizen's taxes, since public schools would be forced to raise taxes in order to make up for the further deficit of our already poorly funded education system in Texas. If you truly care about children of this state, you would find a way to fund public schools in order to improve them, rather than taking more funding and support away. If this passes, it becomes clear to everyone that the purpose is solely to dismantle public education, and not to assist families seeking better education for their children. Many of us already know that this seems to be the plan, but constituents who do not truly understand how it works, will find out the hard way, at the expense of education of their children. Though as a public servant, my main concern is for students and families, I must also point out that many retired educators like myself, and future retirees, would suffer, as the Teacher Retirement System of Texas would be affected by the passing of this bill. Fund our public schools and stop the nonsense. Your constituents are profoundly unhappy with the proposed school voucher system.

Ana Sosa

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please don't hurt Texas children. We learn empathy for different people through adversity. Keep funding public schools!

Leslie Smith

Self

Aubrey, TX

This bill is not in alignment with what Texans want. We want to be the best, we want to have the best, and we want to offer the best. This only removes options and opportunities from our children. How embarrassing to take pride in such a strong economy and then spend so little on our future in the way of our children's education. This is not Texas values.

Davis Payne

self

New Braunfels, TX

Public money belongs to public schools! No to school vouchers. It is already a choice. If you can't afford it then go to public school.

Jennifer Meyet

Self

Round Rock, TX

I do not believe that tax payer dollars should be used for private schools. I feel this is a great injustice to our public schools and also violates the separation of Church and State as established in the first amendment of US Constitution. As such, I believe that any voucher scheme, or savings accounts which are to be used for private education is a violation of the very principles our founding fathers stood for. They believed it so important that it's in the FIRST amendment. Please do not pass these bills which strip public dollars for private schools.

Jenny Anderson, Lead SLP

Self

Victoria, TX

I Oppose HB 3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Brenda Percastegui

Self

Del Valle, TX

I do not support giving public funding to private schools.

Mandy Menzer

self

Austin, TX

I am a Texas parent with two kids, who are very different from each other in personality and interests. My kids have attended both public and private schools throughout their education and we are fortunate to have had positive experiences with all of the schools that we have been involved in. Even as much as I enjoyed our private school experience, I am strongly opposed to school vouchers for a wide range of reasons. However, the primary reason is that public schools are bound by a wide range of rules and restrictions. If these rules and restrictions are important, then private schools should be bound by them as well in order to receive public funds. If these rules and restrictions are NOT important, then they should be optional for our public school districts to follow. Thank you for your time.

Briana Kerner

Self

Spring, TX

I homeschool and I oppose this bill.

Cindy Babcock

Self

ATHENS, TX

This bill is full of misinformation and deceit. Texas students need quality education and for the most part, receive it in our wonderful PUBLIC schools despite the lack of constitutionally mandated support. Texas teachers deserve at least a \$10,000 raise across the board with no caveats. This GOP controlled committee and the Texas legislature with just a few exceptions seems to have no desire to learn about our public schools and our excellent teachers. As a Texas teacher with 38 years experience, I am disgusted by the lack of accountability and support which I'm seeing from our elected officials. For once, do the right thing and your duty for the teachers and students of Texas instead of your donors.

Trish Orgis, Mrs.

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Sincerely,
Trish Orgis

Emily Chen
Self, engineer
Austin, TX

Public funds should be used to fund public schools, NOT private schools. Vouchers are a subsidy for wealthy families who already attend private schools. Public schools are already hurting budget-wise and the voucher program will only exacerbate public school budgets which are already spread too thin.

Craig Rogers
Self/atty
Corpus Christi, TX

No vouchers.

Melinda Savoy
Self
Magnolia, TX

I am NOT in favor of this bill, any bill related to it, and request a vote of NO to ESAs, vouchers, or school choice. As a tax payer with grown children who benefitted from public schools supported by local funds, Texas funds and federal funds, I feel this bill hurts the millions of students in Texas who couldn't afford private schools supported even with financial assistance. The backbone of a free society rests in the strength of its educate members. Public schools need to be strengthened through more funds being distributed to public schools and not to private. I am horrified at the many ways politicians and others working behind the scenes with shady and overt political financing and threats to politicians that individuals wanting to divert public funds to private schools who have no oversight. I fear the money diverted from public schools, and given to private entities and owners of private schools and would be squandered on pushing even more political agendas instead of educating children. I ask for better and more funding, be directed to public schools to strengthen our entire society, including those who cannot afford private education, even with assistance. It has been repulsive to watch representatives like Cecil Bell Junior vote for people and support bills like vouchers, this one in particular HP three, and realize that he's being paid or threatened to support vouchers. Please, in the name of all Texans and the right to a free and public education, do not vote in favor of HB3.

Travis Faulds
Self
Austin, TX

Stop trying to cripple public education. These scams Abbott and every other Republican in this country come up with just to kill public education are sickening. As long as they keep coming up with "creative" ways to dismantle our children's futures, myself and others will be there to RESIST. STOP SCAMMING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Holly Boyter
Self
Duncanville, TX

Public education needs to remain public and allow ALL students to receive the same amount of investment. Vouchers will adversely affect rural schools and schools in underfunded districts. Properly funding ALL schools is what the focus should be!!

Birdie Carter
TSTAHB3
College Station, TX

As a retired educator, I am not in favor of the bill. It is unfair to the public schools in Texas. Every school should be held to the same standards in Texas. It is not fair to the public schools. It will destroy the public schools in Texas.

Bree Rolfe
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I have been a public educator in Texas for almost 20 years. I taught for 17 of those years. I have a masters degree. I'm a published author. I mention this not to brag, but to highlight that I am a product of the Massachusetts public school system. A system that spends almost triple the amount per student than Texas. I was valued in my schools and so I spent my adult life doing the same for my students. I chose to live and teach here in Austin Texas because I believe in this community that gave me the gift of being a teacher.

I'm here today to talk about my students who don't have the choices this bill will give. I left the classroom two years ago to support students in temporary living situations including homeless, foster, and since we keep mentioning them, military connected students. There are currently over 1300 families experiencing homelessness in Austin ISD and some of those are homeless, unaccompanied minors. Most of my job is removing barriers for these students and this bill is full of barriers.

If schools are properly funded they can be a place of magic and transformation. I have helped students sleeping outside find housing through LifeWorks stabilizing them enough to attend college. I have advocated for the special education rights students who were sleeping on benches who didn't have a parent who was capable of advocating for him. I am the person who provides emergency clothing and food when a family is evicted or their house burns down.

The students I serve will never benefit from this voucher system. They are rarely considered when people are making decisions. But they are for sure the people who will be harmed when you remove funding from public schools and shovel it into private schools with no little to no oversight. They are the students who charter or private schools accept initially and then toss out when they realize the needs are too great. You claim "school choice," but it's the schools who will be choosing. My students rarely have choices. My niece is a former foster child. My two best friends were both in the foster care system and experienced homelessness in their childhood. Without public schools, they would not have survived. And they remind me of this every time I call them and express hopelessness or frustration in my job. They remind me that one person can be the difference in a child's life. And I know what will be lost if public schools lose funding for positions like mine. Private schools will not accept or support my students. They will not let their parents shower on campus or send the kids home with food because they aren't required to do the hard things that we do in public schools. And caring for ALL students in all situations is hard. I am grateful to be there for families in their worst moments. But I am asking that you understand that a public school is a sacred community space. Removing funds from our public schools will be devastating for the students who will never be "chosen" by a school.

Janet Barberee
Self
Mansfield, TX

I strongly support our public school system and oppose the voucher system.

Kacie Beaver
Self
Fluvanna, TX

Please do not take any funding from public schools! If we need to service different learning styles in the public school system then increase funding for public schools but sending money to the private sector is not the answer!!!

Joanna Shabat, Mrs.
Self / Mother, queen of all jobs!
Houston, TX

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Texas can be just that more awesome of a state to live in!!

Meagan Brooks

Self

Frankston, TX

I am writing to express my deep concerns about HB3 and its private school voucher proposal. As a parent of a child with disabilities, I urge you to oppose this bill because it threatens students who rely on Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and special education services.

Public schools are legally required to provide support under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), ensuring that students with disabilities receive the accommodations, therapies, and specialized instruction they need. Private schools, however, are not required to follow IDEA, and many do not provide adequate support. If a student leaves the public school system using a voucher, they may lose their right to these essential services.

This issue is personal for my family. My son depends on an IEP for academic success, and our public school is legally obligated to follow it. If we were to use a voucher, we would be left without the same protections. Many private schools deny admission to students with disabilities or refuse to implement IEPs, leaving families responsible for thousands of dollars in extra costs for special education services. The reality is that a voucher won't cover these expenses, making private school an unrealistic option for many families.

Beyond special education, HB3 will harm public schools statewide by diverting taxpayer funds to private institutions that lack accountability. Public schools serve all children and are required to provide high-quality education, yet HB3 would take away funding, forcing larger class sizes, program cuts, and fewer resources for students—including those who rely on special education. Meanwhile, private schools receiving voucher funds are not required to meet the same performance, financial, or accessibility standards as public schools, meaning taxpayer money could fund schools that exclude students based on disabilities, learning challenges, or behavioral needs.

The impact of HB3 is even worse for rural communities, where private school options are scarce or nonexistent. For families in these areas, vouchers provide no real choice—only a loss of resources for the public schools they rely on. Without public school funding, rural students will suffer the most.

While HB3 is framed as expanding “school choice,” the reality is that students with disabilities will have fewer, not more, options. Instead of shifting funds away from public schools, we should be investing in smaller class sizes, increased support staff, and better funding for special education. Public schools serve the vast majority of Texas students and provide critical services that private schools are not obligated to offer.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of HB3 and the harm it will cause to students and families across Texas. Please stand with Texas families and oppose this bill to protect students with disabilities and the integrity of public education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kristina Bloskas

Self

Anton, TX

Please do not pass school bonds

Shamik Jani

self - corporate strategy

Austin, TX

My kids used to attend private school and there is certainly a need for private schools in Texas. However, their funding should not come from our property tax dollars as they are needed for public schools. My kids attend Eanes now and the district gets ~\$8K/student and needs every cent + significant donations from the community.

Vote no on HB3.

Kim Kozmetsky

Self - Mother

Austin, TX

Say NO to VOUCHERS! The majority people of your state do not want this. You will DESTROY public education. Listen to your constituents. This should have been on a BALLOT. Vote No. do the right thing for this great state we love. The kids deserve better.

William Eudy

Self

Goldthwaite, TX

I strongly disagree with this bill's approach to school funding and teacher compensation. It does not adequately address the root causes of educational inequality and will disproportionately impact underfunded districts, particularly rural communities. Additionally, it fails to consider the unique needs of students requiring special services, potentially widening the gap in support for these vulnerable children. In addition, the way it has been proposed and communicated has lacked integrity and is beneath the standard of excellence that should characterize our state.

Elizabeth Hightower

Self - VP of Operations

Ricahardson, TX

As a Texas parent with two elementary school children and a toddler, I am deeply invested in the future of our public education system. I strongly oppose the proposed school voucher bill, which I believe is a harmful policy that will divert much-needed funding away from our already underfunded public schools.

Vouchers do not offer real choice for most families—only those in the right location, tax bracket, and with the right educational needs will benefit, while the vast majority of Texas children will be left with even fewer resources. Instead of siphoning money away, we should be strengthening our public schools to serve all Texas students.

I urge you to stand against this bill and fight for real investments in our public education system. Our kids deserve better.

Amy Dulock

Self - homeschool parent

Gainesville, TX

As a homeschool parent, I am strongly opposed to this bill. The freedom that we have enjoyed as homeschoolers is something that we have watched get stripped away by other states' school choice bills. On the outset, the bills all seemed to be opt-in, with strings attached to those opting in. However, as we have witnessed time and time again, the execution of the bill never stays the same for long, and requirements have been amended and added. In most cases, those requirements have expanded beyond those homeschoolers who opt in to the voucher program. The freedom to educate my children as I choose is one that sets Texas apart from the majority of homeschooling states, and I am opposed to this bill because of its long-term effects on my family.

Cindi Jennings

Self

Grand Saline, TX

Putting money in the pockets of the wealthy while stealing money from public education is such a scam. The vast majority are against it, so do the right thing and vote NO!!!

Elena Ansley

Self

Houston, TX

I am a homeschooling mother and am opposed to HB 3.

Margaret Goodman, Blanco County Chair

Self, retired

Blanco, TX

I am opposed to an education savings account or vouchers. These monies

would fund private schools and take money away from public schools. Public schools have not received a state operating raise that meets

inflation. 2/3 of Texas Counties do not have a private school, and lower, working class families could not afford them. Private schools do not have requirements and tracking like public schools. EVERY Texas child deserves access to a fully funded, quality education! If you pass this HB 3, then please fund public schools at the same level.

Regina Pires

Self

Cypress, TX

We do not want this. We do not want school vouchers. We want fully funded PUBLIC schools. Not welfare for the wealthy.

Rhiannon Kutzer

North Houston Charlotte Mason Homeschoolers

Houston, TX

I am a conservative and I reject HB-3. Having homeschooled in a handful of states during my husband's Navy career, a big part of why we settled in TX is that Texas has one of the best homeschooling laws in the country currently. Please reject HB-3 and keep homeschooling free. Our freedom is our success. The pursuit and maintenance of freedom is why our family chose military service. My oldest graduates our homeschool this year and is attending his top choice university on scholarship. What we do works. This law would change that.

HB-3 will raise costs and decrease quality of all educational options even for those who don't participate. Taxpayer-funded ESAs create a captive market. Instead of educational curriculum providers having to compete with money I might spend on my grocery bill (which causes them to make the best product possible for the lowest possible price to me) they have a captive market of dollars that can only be spent on educational products.

The bill redistributes wealth and decreases competition. Parents will choose to spend taxpayer money via ESAs on approved vendors rather than their own non ESA money on unapproved vendors. This will eliminate smaller competitors and consolidate monopolies amongst vendors. This is the opposite of the touted "competition." In Arkansas, for example, a similar law resulted in a 700% increase in extracurricular prices. Seven HUNDRED percent. That's not a typo. This immediately prices anyone who doesn't want to participate out of the market. This is a very similar process to what created the student loan crisis in higher ed. The government got involved in "funding" via student loans, and all the colleges raised their prices. There are now only a handful of schools able to stay independent of taxpayer funds and the associated attached strings. This is an innovation killer and a race to the bottom. Freedom from regulation is the way to increase competition, innovation, and therefore success. True conservatives don't grow government, squash competition, or increase regulation.

Statistically, homeschoolers academically outperform their public and private school peers, and turn out grads that are more civically engaged than their peers. They also currently 1) don't cost Texas any money at all, and 2) pay property taxes which support their local public schools. We pay for education twice, and the price of freedom is worth it. Leave us alone. We'll continue benefitting our communities and costing nothing.

For more on why homeschoolers reject this bill please see this Scholé Sisters podcast episode on school choice titled "Freedom Isn't Free:" <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/schol%C3%A9-sisters-camaraderie-for-classical-homeschooling/id1078113453?i=1000696743744>

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to reject HB-3

Rhiannon Kutzer

Amy Diehl

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB 3

Gloria Otto

self

KYLE, TX

I'm a parent of a child in private school here in Texas. We work hard and apply for scholarships to send him there. But if TX public schools were in better shape, maybe we wouldn't feel the need for private school. Texas COULD boast of the best public schools in the nation if it committed the same amount of time and energy giving ALL kids the best as it does to passing a voucher scam. We are homeowners, we are both employed, we pay taxes, but we do NOT want tax dollars to help us pay for our kid's private education. The simple facts of the matter are that there are many districts in Texas and families in Texas for which vouchers do NOT increase their school choices. School funding should be equally applied to all schools and all districts, and Texas is already failing at that metric before adding in a stupid voucher program, which will take ADDITIONAL state funding to run and implement. This is a waste. I urge you to vote no.

Emily Dieringer

Self / Parent

Austin, TX

Hello.

I'm commenting today as the proud parent of two public school students in Austin ISD. I have seen firsthand the amazing work that our district and its teachers manage to do with limited resources. I often find myself wondering what our public schools and the students in them could accomplish if the State of Texas were to FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. The possibilities are endless. But, instead, we keep beating the dead horse of vouchers.

Vouchers (aka education savings accounts) have been rejected by Texans time and time again because the majority of Texans agree that our public taxpayer funds should not go to private schools. I'm all for the freedom of parents to choose where they send their children to school--but if that choice involves a private school, then the parents need to bear that financial burden. Vouchers would be especially harmful to rural schools, given that most rural counties--which account for the majority of all counties in Texas--do not have any private schools.

Nebraska and Illinois have tried vouchers and are ending them. Voucher programs in Florida and Arizona have been economic and academic disasters. Studies have shown no improved academic outcomes in states with vouchers. Let's learn from the mistakes of other states and abandon the idea of vouchers in Texas. I implore you to say NO to vouchers and YES to putting \$1,300 per student into the basic allotment. It's past time to fully fund our public schools.

Sincerely,

Emily Dieringer

Jinny Castoldi

self - recruiting operations manager

Dallas, TX

I am a parent of two children who attend public schools and am urging you – please **DO NOT PASS THIS BILL**. Our public schools are already working on tight (and often underfunded) budgets. The money should go back into our schools. We should have more transparency where all of this funding is going to (in detail!) line by line. Abbott has already created a disaster with our public schools, and now instead of fixing it, he wants to defund them even further. This is all obviously to benefit HIS agenda and make Texas education worse.

At minimum, allow the voters to have their say on this vs. making the choice behind your desks. This is bipartisan **NOT WANTED**. Especially rural TX – they will be hurt the worse with this bill.

Save our public schools – pay our teachers more, fund the programs to benefit our children, and make Texas proud.

Laura Dehart

Self

San Antonio, TX

As a constituent whose children are enrolled in public schools and as a former public school teacher, I implore you to vote against HB 3, to vote against the establishment of a school voucher program. Public schools are already underfunded; vouchers will siphon money away from public schools who desperately need funds to pay teachers and staff decent, living wages; for school supplies and facilities maintenance; to assist and feed low income families; and to fund other educational programs such as special education, sports, fine arts, and STEM. Families already have school choice options; private, charter, and magnet schools, if they do not feel their local public school as a good fit for their child. I'm also concerned about how school vouchers will affect TRS that so many teachers and school staff rely on. Please fund Texas public education for our children and our future according to the Texas constitution.

Sincerely,

Laura Dehart

Cathylynn Brown

Self

Austin, TX

I am adamantly opposed to vouchers. It will decimate public schools A vibrant public school makes for a vibrant city

Jennifer Jefferson

Self

Austin, TX

Good afternoon. I am a parent with a child in a Texas public school. I oppose establishing an education savings account program, particularly when our schools are underfunded and there is no accountability for the public money that will be heading to private schools. Public schools have to demonstrate how they use funds AND have to provide an education for all. Private schools that would receive this public money would not be held to the same standards. This approach would take money from schools, hitting rural and urban areas particularly hard. Please do not privatize public funding.

Linda Ann Rodriguez

self

KYLE, TX

All Texas children deserve the best education and teachers. They are **ALL OF OUR FUTURE**. Please do not hurt our public schools by voting for an education savings account program. This is tantamount to a discriminatory policy that will hurt all Texans.

Abigayle Hoeft
self— medical student
Houston, TX

I am appalled by the action of the Texas GOP to take funding from our already struggling public schools in order to funnel taxpayers money into private schools. Firstly, there are over 5 million students in Texas, and just over 1200 private schools in the state. These schools are aggregated in large cities, such as Dallas and Houston, but leaves Rural communities behind. The schools charge steep tuition, upwards of \$10,000, more than the voucher programs would provide, ensuring only the wealthy will benefit. Finally, the schools can deny students based on disability. The schools are not required to provide accessible options and 504's to students. Therefor, this program will not only leave being millions of Texas Children, but it will specifically discriminate against low-income, disabled, and rural students.

Carolyn Qualls
Carolyn Qualls
Greenville, TX

I have three children that went thru the Texas public school system. Now I have five grandchildren in the public schools , the last two both need speech and dyslexia programs. The problem with the vouchers will cut funding needed to continue improving these programs. The wealthy families can already afford their private schools and will hurt our funding to public schools. This is not the way I want my property taxes to be spent! My taxes are already too high and the school tax will increase if this foolish and wrong bill is forced onto our taxpayers! The surplus that Abbott has been withholding from our public schools should be used for teacher pay and improvement to our schools! I am against this bill and hope it fails, the citizens of Texas should get to vote!

Michelle Tharp
self
Austin, TX

Please do not pass this bill. Privatizing education is NOT the way to fix education. Please listen to educators in the classrooms and work to meet the needs of ALL students. Pulling money out of the public school system is NOT the answer. Money should be invested in the system. Allowing districts to hire and retain certified teachers is a starting place. When teachers can not make a livable wage, they leave education to find a better job. Schools are desperate for teachers so they are hiring people who are not trained and certified. Thus diluting the quality of education. Start by rewarding quality teachers in all disciplines, not just core classes. Invest money throughout the school not just in career tech. Public education is a very broken system that will only worsen with the voucher system.

Sarah Montgomery
Self
Sunnyvale, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I am a native Texan and went to public school - as did my mother, my uncles, my brother and my husband. My children are in public school in Texas now. The fact that Texas public schools have been underfunded while the state sits on a huge surplus that was allegedly intended for public schools is devastating to the educators and children in Texas. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas Constitution.

Camille Gilliam
Self
Lubbock, TX

Completely opposed to the use of tax dollars to be used for home school or private school. If tax dollars are used for private school, they should be required to accept any child who applies.

Tanya Belk
Moms
Pflugerville, TX

My name is Tanya Belk and I live at 18813 Pencil Cactus Dr., Pflugerville, TX 78660 and wanted to write to express my deep **OPPOSITION TO PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS**. We need to support our public schools and giving folks who already have enough money to send their kids to **PRIVATE** schools is deeply unfair. They do not need a voucher/coupon to do so. This is taking funds away from our public schools. Many of the counties in Texas don't even have private school options and therefore those kids would not even have access to this. Public schools provide every child with an opportunity to succeed and I am committed to supporting that with our tax dollars. Education is the great equalizer and it is our duty to create educated citizens that can serve not only our country, but the world, for all of our benefits.

Thank you for your consideration in considering my opposition to these private school vouchers.

Have a great day!

Amanda Edens
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Matt Dodds
Self
Round Rock, TX

I support public schools and strongly oppose HB3. If we have money for vouchers, we have money to fully fund public schools first!

David Pooley
self - scientist
Austin, TX

As a parent of three children in Texas public schools, I have serious concerns about the school voucher program shifting funds away from our public schools and over to private schools that aren't even held to the same standards. These vouchers will serve as a nice discount for families with children already in private schools, i.e., those who can afford to send their kids there. Private school tuition would still be expensive and out-of-reach for many Texas families even with these vouchers. The country's largest voucher programs in Florida and Arizona have had poor results both financially and academically, including massive state budget and spending issues.

For the 6 years I've had kids in public schools, we've endured constant budget shortfalls locally due to school funding issues. The recapture system of school funding already takes exorbitant amounts of money away from our schools in Austin, leaving us with chronic budget issues. I'm greatly disturbed at how much of my "Austin ISD" tax payment leaves our area entirely, even as the district is constantly needing to make cuts. Funding is insufficient to pay teachers what they deserve, making it hard to attract and retain the talent needed to instruct our next generations. Texas is already one of the worst-funded states in the country when it comes to education. This is embarrassing, and our kids and teachers deserve better. The proposed voucher program will only serve to exacerbate all of this by taking more money away from our public schools.

If public schools are so broken that you think families need an alternate choice, then it is incumbent upon you - the Texas legislature, Greg Abbott, TEA - to focus on **FIXING** those problems by providing appropriate funding, at least \$1500 additional per student vs. the inadequate \$220. It is a moral and practical responsibility of the state of Texas to provide a quality public education to all our students that will prepare them for the future.

Heather Pate

Self / Investor, Philanthropist, Retired Engineer

Austin, TX

My name is Heather Pate, and I am a graduate of Texas public schools. I am also a parent of two children currently enrolled in Austin ISD, and an involved school volunteer. I have seen firsthand how continued yearly budget reductions have impacted our students.

I invite you to come inside our schools to see what underfunding schools looks like. The middle school sports uniforms are woefully old. Our schools have ongoing maintenance needs that increase each year. Supply costs continue to increase, as due training and curriculum. Our PTAs try to bridge gaps, but that isn't sustainable.

My child's math teacher left during the middle of the year to relocate and transition to a non-teaching job, as the cost of living in Austin became unaffordable on a teacher's salary. Teachers at both of my students' campuses have left for similar reasons. Underpaid and overworked in a high cost of living city. Losing teachers because they haven't been adequately financially compensated for the job they perform doesn't make sense if we are working towards a goal of having a top educational system in Texas. In corporate America, we pay people for performance and adjust for inflation.

Vouchers have proven unsuccessful financially and academically in states such as Arizona, Florida, Nebraska, and Illinois. My 8th grade public school teacher taught us that we learn history so we don't continue to make the same mistakes. So let's learn from voucher history in other states, and not repeat history. Data in other states has shown that voucher students with great financial need aren't using vouchers, but rather students that were already enrolled in private schools. The comprehensive cost of private schools in most areas is still cost prohibitive for low income families. This voucher is not about school choice for all. It is funding for those who can already financially afford private school.

In smaller towns, private schools aren't even an option. My sister and her family live in West Texas, where she is a proud small district middle school (and formerly high school) educator and administrator. The school is the epicenter of their small community. The school feeds the students and provides stability. There are no private school options within 45 minutes of the school, which makes private schools infeasible as a school choice. Withholding taxpayer dollars for school vouchers in these small communities doesn't make sense. Fully funding the public schools to meet today's budgetary needs does.

I am asking for this Committee to increase the funding for our public schools by at LEAST \$1300 per student to account for inflation since 2019. In reality, Let's help Governor Abbott achieve his goals of making Texas's educational system the BEST in the country by funding the public school system we already have. Making this investment is important, not only for our students, but for future business and commerce growth. Let's focus on using public funds to fully fund public schools.

Stephanie Frye

Self and Texas families

Sweetwater, TX

Say no to vouchers, vote to fully fund public schools. Taking care of our state and the children in schools is important. Please say no to vouchers.

Thomas Lindholm

Self

Austin, TX

I am against this.

Anne Heard, Mrs

Self- retired special ed teacher

Buda, TX

I do NOT support school vouchers! These will take even more money away from public schools!!

Kristy Hill
self - librarian
Fort Worth, TX

I am the mother of three public school children that are now adults (or almost adults). My oldest son attending a public school system that I graduated from and was able to take advantage of their center for advanced learning to gain invaluable skills in audio/visual production, as well as take dual enrollment courses in high school. My son had severe anxiety as a young child and into high school. There were days we didn't think we'd be able to get him into the school building because his anxiety was so high. The access to highly qualified, empathetic school counselors and highly motivational curriculum in the AV courses were what got him through. He graduated from college with his BA in Media Studies from the University of North Texas this past December. Without his individualized education he received from teachers (not an IEP- just teachers who cared enough to expend a lot of personal time and energy on each student) he is now embarking on his career of choice.

My middle son took the same advanced learning courses in AV as my oldest. He also found his place in musical theatre. He participated in UIL for One Act and was the first student from our school district to advance to state for the UIL Film Festival. Because of public education and all of the opportunities it afforded him, he received a full ride scholarship to the University of Texas in Austin and is in the Radio, Television, and Film program. He's now a college sophomore.

My youngest son has autism and is a senior in college. When he was three years old he was nonverbal and noncompliant. We were incredibly lucky to live in a school district with an early learning center where children his age could receive public preschool and special education. Because of this early intervention my son is now a thriving high school student in all general education classes, has been accepted into the University of North Texas media program, and will begin there in the fall.

I spent 22 years working in public education as a teacher and a school librarian. Our governor's and representative's hostility toward public education and librarians made it unbearable for me to continue working in a public school environment. I'm watching fine arts programs, libraries, and special interest course options disappear from my school district. For the first time in the 46 years I have lived and worked in this school district, the children attending are receiving a worse education than I did because of the moves of political actors determined to end public education and hold funding hostage. Parents already have the right to choose where and how to educate their kids. Our public school need to be fully funded. Our taxpayer dollars should not be going to religious and private institutions that do not have to accept all children of all abilities from all socio-economic demographics. Please vote 'no' on house bill 3.

Liza Sanchez
Self Doctor mom
Austin, TX

I opposed the bill. I do not want school vouchers.

Michael Kinser
Self
Houston, TX

I am TOTALLY against HB 3 for too many reasons to list here. But it is not comprehensive nor fair to ALL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS!! PLEASE VOTE AGAINST HB 3!!

Justin Howard
Myself
San Antonio, TX

This bill is worse than a reverse Robin Hood. It takes from everyone to give a handy rebate to wealthy people already attending private schools. Those schools can deny admittance to kids whereas our public schools cannot. It's a money grab, a giveaway to wealthy religious zealots.

Laura Kinser
Self
Houston, TX

I am FIRMLY against HB-3 for too many reasons to list. Please vote NO!!

Laura McNeill
Self;Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Carrollton, TX

I am a native Texan. My father, my children and myself all attended public schools in Texas. My mother was a teacher for 22 years. I want my tax dollars to support public schools and teachers. Private schools should not get my tax dollars. Build up our education system instead of tearing it down. Stop listening to the big money donors and listen to the citizens of Texas. We do not support this bill. And shame on the politicians lining their pockets instead of doing their job.

Evelyn McAdam
Self
Huntsville, TX

These vouchers are a step towards instituting Christian nationalism, which is anti-American and egregiously unconstitutional. One in five adults read at a 6th grade literacy level and these vouchers are only going to make that percentage worse by keeping the less privileged less educated (which is damaging to society as well as our economy).

Vickie Utley
Self
Grapevine, TX

I oppose the school voucher bill

Lee Graham
self
Galveston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

I respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 I support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you for remembering you work for the people and not for private schools.

Kindly,
Lee A Graham, PhD

Erin Castle, Dr.

Self (educator)

Lubbock, TX

I have worked in the Texas public education system for 14 years, and I have been continually disappointed in our state's abysmal funding for the services provided. Every year, funding has decreased while expectations increase, and we educators are asked to do more with less. Every year, as teachers have quit, I have watched those positions get cut while class sizes increase. If legislators take the time to examine how education savings account programs have impacted states that have already implemented vouchers, they would be able to see how harmful the measure is for public schools. Instead of infusing money into private schools, which maintain the right to deny anyone entry, voucher or not, and to raise their tuition at will, why does Texas not put this kind of energy into properly funding public schools and giving teachers raises that are not attached to test scores but to covering cost of living more adequately? No one is stopping students from attending private schools or stopping private schools from offering scholarship opportunities. Parents can opt to send students to high performing public schools when their zoned school is underperforming. Many districts allow for open transfer anyway, where students can choose their destination based on specialty programs. We have school choice. This legislation is masquerading as school choice that already exists, and it will allow for further depletion of public school funding.

Matthew Stotts

Self, GIS Analyst

Round Rock, TX

Please vote this down! I do not approve of a single penny of my tax dollars going toward ESAs. The State is being stiff armed into a voucher system that ONLY benefits the wealthy, instead of directing funds where needed to improve public education in Texas. The number of hearings the legislature has held on this matter is disgraceful.

Tu Ngo

Self

Richardson, TX

Parents who can afford private school do not need additional tax dollars for enrollment. Public funding needs to stay within the public education system.

Amrita Starche

Self, parent

Austin, TX

Thank you for doing your best to ensure that Texan students have access to the highest quality education available to them. This is so important, because a well-educated population benefits every single person in the state.

That said, any shortcomings in the public school system can and must be resolved before public funding should be used for private school education. Any dollars taken away from public schools and given to private schools have a significantly shorter reach and far less buying power in terms of number of students assisted. It's much more fiscally responsible to invest our public dollars in public schools, where they can serve many more of our 5.5 million students in Texas.

Chairman Buckley spoke earlier about not knowing whether this bill would cause any students to leave public schools. What is the point of this bill if it is only going to be used by families whose students are already in private schools or homeschooled? They have already made their choice and can afford the cost of that choice. Pouring \$1B into families who do not need the funds with no oversight on student learning seems to be an irresponsible and unnecessary tax break for the wealthy.

Our public school students can succeed and have access to the best education possible- in fully funded public schools.

Instead of wasting public funds on ESAs, please increase the basic allotment by at least \$1300 and tie school funding to enrollment rather than attendance. Please vote NO on HB3.

Lauren Freeman
Sed
Georgetown, TX

I am against this bill. Please do not support.

Sarah Bown
Self
Austin, TX

My son has autism 1 and was put on an IEP. He is now THRIVING at his public elementary. I couldn't afford private school even with a voucher so you're just taking money away from my amazing and smart son who deserves as much of a chance as anyone else. Now that he has a good start and will get a good public education he can become a productive member of society!! We were really struggling before!! He lost his Medicaid for 8 months because I filled out one form incorrectly and it was a NIGHTMARE without his therapy. I finally got it back and he's doing so well. This is all to say that all of these programs create a great start for kids!!

I am so grateful for my son's public school. And for those wondering, no, no one is "indoctrinating" children in public schools or talking about being gay or trans or whatever lies are being told on Newsmax. This just ISNT HAPPENING!! My son has assembly every morning where he says the pledge of allegiance to our flag. He's come home so many times with pictures of our flags, so proud of his country. Vouchers will take over \$29m from our district. Please don't hurt school children.

Katherine Brown
Self, homemaker
Buda, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill and the devastating consequences it will have on our public schools.

Angelic Guillory
Self
Nederland, TX

"Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution."

Kelly Decker
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I do not support vouchers. I live in Fort Worth Texas. I am a business owner and I have four properties. I have three children and I am against this. 1. It will kill our budget and 2. It will destroy public schools. Budgets are needed to be responsible to tax payers and public schools are needed to develop our citizenship and society. Both are critical for making Texas a pleasant place to live.

Anne Armstrong
Self, Teacher
Plano, TX

The public outcry against this bill has been huge. Constituents feel they are not being represented by elected officials. To supplement non-public school with government money is unconstitutional, and is not support the common Welfare by ensuring that every student has an opportunity to a free an appropriate education. Please listen to your constituents and vote against the voucher bill. Thank you.

Sharon Ciccarelli, MA CCC/SLP, Retired
Self - Speech-Language Pathologist (Retired)
AUSTIN, TX

This is a protest against passage of HB3. As a retired public school speech-language pathologist I know from experience that students with special needs frequently do not receive the services specified in their individualized education plan (IEP) once they leave the public system.

I frequently had families transfer to a private/charter school that promised some service that their neighborhood school could not provide due to lack of state funding. Most often this was an after-school program; our parents worked long hours typically at low-paying jobs and needed a safe place for their child until they were off for the day. I made sure each family had multiple copies of the child's current evaluation and IEP so that they could provide them to the new school at enrollment for continuation of services. Many, many times I would later see those parents and hear how their child was either not receiving services at all or at a reduced frequency for their educational needs. Often those minimal services were not even being provided by licensed and certified personnel.

Voucher programs have been tried in other states with less than stellar results. Graduation rates and test scores do not go up. Businesses in those states report difficulties in finding qualified job candidates. Let's learn from their experiences and take a better path.

The governor's obsession with school vouchers is simply another gift to his wealthy friends and funders paid for by hard-working people. Although he claims that students with special needs will have "priority" the reality is that allocated funds will not cover the cost of private therapies and private/charter schools do not have to meet the stringent standards for special education that public schools do. We have made significant gains in providing inclusive and supportive services for special needs students and such legislation will erase this progress. Texans most certainly know a con job when they see one and this one does not even require glasses!

Use our tax money to fully and equitably fund our public school districts so that they can hire the best teachers and licensed and certified support personnel, build and maintain up-to-date facilities, provide necessary materials and maybe provide "extras" like afterschool programs that will actually support working Texas families. Doing so will provide all Texas children, not just those with wealthy parents, access to the very best education we can offer.

Maggie Stern
Our Schools Our Democracy
Austin, TX

We are concerned with potential problems for our public education system with HB 3's impact on open-enrollment charter schools.

First, we are concerned that this allows a charter school to game both the accountability system and the school funding system.

Accountability system – A charter school with a related taxpayer-funded private school could conveniently shift its lower-performing students to its taxpayer-funded private school right before STAAR time.

Funding system – Some public charter schools, paid monthly, have related private schools, which can be paid quarterly under this bill or which can require parents to pay tuition upfront at the beginning of the year. What is the plan to prevent fraud and games that could double fund the same student who moves between these two schools? Can a private school take a quarterly (or full) amount of tuition upfront, bank the state's money, and then kick the kid literally downstairs to the charter school where the money comes in monthly?

Also, we recently learned about \$870,000 compensation to a Texas charter school leader, and TEA already has little oversight of this type of waste of our tax dollars. How much more “off the books” compensation commingled with taxpayer-funded for-profit institutions could this bill generate?

Second, HB 3 makes charter school defaults more likely to harm the Permanent School Fund (PSF). Charter schools can get a PSF Bond Guarantee for their bonds, and that designation means the corpus and income of the PSF will be at risk in case of default. However, to get a PSF guarantee, charter bonds (not approved by any Texas voters) can be barely investment grade and generally are entirely dependent on rising or stable student enrollment. Vouchers will fuel major volatility for charter schools' enrollments. The Texas PSF currently guarantees about \$5 billion in charter bonds, including several “charter junk bonds” whose underlying ratings already have slid to below investment-grade. In fact, one PSF-backed junk bond charter with declining enrollment and other problems recently closed, with its bonds defeased as another charter took over its properties. As charter school enrollment declines, more charters could have PSF-backed “charter junk bonds” that put our PSF at risk.

Joanna McBride
Self
Austin, TX

Vote NO against school vouchers and increase basic student allotment to \$7500.

Marisol Berrios
Self
Houston, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, as well as a public school teacher for almost ten years, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Alicia St.Germaine
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

Why are we not looking into making public school more equitable with more funding instead of trying to increase the already egregious gap between public and private schools? Public schools have created and WILL continue to nourish brilliant minds and everyone should be eligible for those resources.

Allison Masaki

Self: program director

Sugar Land, TX

I am very agains HB3. I attended two private schools (Fort bend Christian in Sugar land, The Village School in Houston), and two public schools (Clement's high school, Texas Tech University) in my educational career. I now work for a Tier 1 university. My son is now in grade school on the public path. I believe that I am qualified as a life long student of both education styles and resident experience of both the Texas Panhandle (13 years), and Texas Gulf Coast (27 years). This bill will hurt our students. Most private schools worth their salt are at least 30k a year in tuition. What type of accreditation standards for private vouchers is the State going to find worthy? The whole point of private school is so the school doesn't have to adhere to the state's educational dictation. How will the overall health of educating students be addressed? This feels like a flipped version of the Robin Hood Law from the 2000s. Take from the poorer and rural ISDs and give to the larger privatized educational circuits. Taking from kids to help other kids didn't work 25 years ago and will not work now.

TRS will be affected. I've been working in higher education for 7 years. If public schools loose attendance, then districts will cut teachers, thus less individuals will be paying into TRS. Shouldn't we be bolstering our public funding, look into district spending, build better programs that attract students and teachers alike, creating jobs, and filling a retirement infrastructure that *could be the envy of all?

We already have school choice: a parent can choose to move their child to a private or charter school. A parent can choose to move houses/apartments to a different zone. As a parent, I have full control over where my son has the potential to attend school. If the "savings program" allows parents to take "their" tax dollars and spend it in a different educational realm, then could I take the same \$10k and designate it to my ISD, or will the ISDs still be underfunded if Abbott doesn't get his vote....again?

I care deeply about our current students. What is going on isn't working, but allocating funds away will not work either. Robbing Peter to give to Paul has always been an idiom used to describe pointless movement of a temporary solution that never really solves any problem. That is what the Robin Hood Law was 25 years ago and that is what Voucher Programs are today.

Kathy Shrader

Self

Cedar Park, TX

While I acknowledge that families want more educational choices, this school voucher program does not create real choice for families. There are certainly many issues with our public education system that prevent it from effectively serving students, but funneling money out of this system and into private institutions through vouchers is not the solution to our problems. A strong public education system is integral to our democracy, and vouchers undermine public education. Additionally, these programs as implemented in other states lack proper accountability, exacerbate inequality, engage in exclusionary practices, fragment communities, exacerbate segregation, and decrease academic achievement. Instead of diverting funds to private institutions, perhaps you should focus on strengthening our public schools to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality education. This issue matters to me and I vote. With great respect for public education! Thank you

Ronnye New, Mrs

Self

East Bernard, TX

Ian a second generation Texas educator; teaching for 33 years in a rural 3A school. I am opposed to the voucher bill. It is not a bill to level the playing field for all students. It will create the haves & have nots further separating the education opportunities of students. This bill is not in the best interest of ALL Texas students, as well as it will devastate rural, small school districts and TRS. I am opposed to the bill & will use my vote to remove the public officials who push the bill through.

David Wohlberg

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Vanessa Camacho

Self

El Paso, TX

As the mother of public school children, I stand strongly AGAINST the establishment of an education savings account and strongly FOR fully funding public schools. This bill will take taxpayer money away from what they are intended to fund just to please Governor Abbott's wealthy donors. Please consider the devastating impact this bill would have on public schools.

Liz Kent

Self

Austin, TX

Against vouchers.

Kellie Lewis

Self

Austin, TX

HB3 makes some positive steps for school funding, but does not raise the allotment nearly enough to account for inflation, nor does it raise additional funding for serving bilingual students. Please oppose this bill.

Rebecca Seabrook

Self

Houston, TX

Ten years under Abbott have resulted in little more than underfunded, and in some cases, severely underfunded schools. This latest stunt, meant to appease donors and not Texas students, will only exacerbate this. I ask you to vote against this bill.

Donna Reagan

Self

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Cori Feldman

Self

Richardson, TX

Please oppose HB 3 as it is proposed. Diverting funds to private school vouchers instead of the many many other opportunities available to better the public education system is a disservice to ALL Texas families. Please hear and give weight to the loud vocal majority of the people YOU were elected to represent who oppose this bill.

Abigail Johnson

Self

Wylie, TX

No vouchers

Ashley Canfield

Self

Georgetown, TX

I was homeschooled my entire life. Home educated my children for 6 years. Married a teacher who gave 10 years to private education. He is now 15 years in public education. I'm vehemently against Public funds going to private institutions. Public education is already grossly underfunded. The least of these are at a disadvantage.

Private education is a luxury. But more important private institutions are not given the same requirements.

Public institutions offer transportation, technology, free/reduced cafeteria, theater, choir etc. not to mention staff with college degrees and teaching certificates. I could go on and on. AGAINST

Michele Dierschke

Children of Texas

San Angelo, TX

The solution is simple. Let the people vote. Senator Charles Perry's vote was not a vote based off input from his constituents. The people cannot trust our senators and representatives to vote for us anymore. The governor has threatened, enticed, and corrupted that avenue and the weak have been sucked in to his plan.

There are many reasons vouchers are a bad idea. You have heard all those reasons so I won't reiterate. Bottom line is that HB 3 will hurt children enrolled in public schools.

Let the people, not politicians looking for personal gain, settle this matter. Put it on the ballot.

Roseline Arihi Akwukwah

Self

WYLIE, TX

'NO TO VOUCHERS' & "NO TO SB3"

Rebeca Ciavarino

Self

Azle, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

kelly Elverum

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I OPPOSE this proposed House Bill.

Texas needs to support PUBLIC Schools and not divert money away from well established century old institutions. If Texas desires to assist lower income families with the ability to send their children to good schools, then increase funding to public school programs! Breaking up community connections, increasing traffic congestion and making kids get up earlier to travel and wait longer after school to get home is irresponsible and unnecessary! Do not pass this bill!

Jennifer Marvel

Self - teacher and homeschool parent

Lewisville, TX

Thank you for considering my comments.

I am a teacher working for a virtual public school serving students all across Texas, and a homeschool mom. I STRONGLY OPPOSE the use of public funds for private schools or home schools. Public money should support public schools, period. I support the rights of a parent to choose the school that best fits their needs, but that choice already exists. Students can attend their local public school, with all that entails, for free. Students can attend a private school, IF IT EXISTS in their area and meets their needs. Students can attend a charter or virtual school, such as my school, at no cost, but with the restrictions and oversight (such as attendance, teacher certification, STAAR testing, etc) that go along with a public school. Students can be homeschooled. All of these constitute robust school choice. Adding voucher money does not truly increase school choice - the exact same options will still exist. The only difference is that a specific subset will receive funds and students who need it most will likely not be able to access it due to physical location, special needs, acceptance by selective private schools, and so on.

I choose to homeschool because I want the freedom to make decisions, determine curriculum, assess progress, and so on in the best interest of my child and based on my own judgment. There's only two possibilities here with the proposed 'education savings account': either I will receive public money without additional oversight and control, or I will have to accept oversight and control from the state. The first is unacceptable because public funds should never be spent outside of public oversight, and the second is unacceptable because it destroys my freedom of choice, which is the primary reason I choose to home school. That limits my choice, rather than expanding it.

Please listen to your constituents. I am a conservative Republican voter and have consistently supported my local Republican candidates. I cannot continue to support representatives that choose to disregard the clear and obvious opinions and desires of their constituency. I am highly active in my local community, serving on several boards and volunteer organizations, and we have had many discussions on this topic - and NONE of my peers, neither Democrat nor Republican, have expressed support of this bill. We do not want it.

Again thank you for your consideration and I do hope to see the desires of the citizens of Texas shining through in the decisions you make this session, rather than the personal preferences of the Governor. Stand strong.

Jennifer Marvel

Christy Watley

Self-educator and administrator

Woodway, TX

I oppose HB3 as it does not level the playing field but advances our already school choice option to private schools, again widening the gap. How can you take public money and give to private for profit organizations. Yet our public school children are being neglected by with holding money that was already supposed to be given to them. You are stealing from public school children again Robin Hood of taking from the most deserving and giving to the wealthy. So sad and unfair.

Angelique Weaver, JD

Self

Shallowater, TX

I fervently oppose HB 3 and want you to fully fund public education.

Angela Averhoff

Self

Decatur, TX

Parents have the right to choose the education for their child. They do NOT have the right to use public funds in order to do that

Melanie Young

Self

Bryan, TX

I am a public school educator. As a professional who is held accountable to state standards, I truly struggle to provide the education our students deserve while trying to meet the parameters set by the state. We strive to do this with minimal funding. As an administrator, I see educators feeling overwhelmed, overworked, and underpaid due to the lack of funding. Adding in this program to allow more funding to go to private schools instead of public schools is not meeting the needs of our students and educators. Taxpayers' money funds public schools and this program will not help allow school choice to students in middle or lower income families, it will simply provide a less burdensome tuition to families who are capable of funding their student's education with or without the savings account funding. Our taxpayer dollars need to stay with our public schools, educators, and students. This money can be better utilized to reach more students and provide them an even better education than the current funding is providing.

Cynthia Meridith

Public Schools

Lewisville, TX

I as a Lewisville Texas resident m against any voucher system. This will only hurt our public school systems and make it difficult for ALL children a good education

David Templin

Self

Austin, TX

So the state is calling vouchers, savings accounts now? This only benefits private schools, starving public schools of funding. It also fails to cover full tuition of said private schools keeping poorer families from being able to send their children to private schools. Perhaps the state could try to actually fund public schools adequately. Ultimately if your unable to do anything but funnel tax money into a select few private business perhaps it is time we have new representatives in the state government.

Chris Stokes

Self - Sales

Wylie, TX

Taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund private schools. Stop forcing this on the everyday American, we don't want it! Fund the public schools so great teachers will stay in the education field where they are meant shine!

Michelle Alvarez

Self - stay at home mom

San Antonio, TX

Representatives, please remember ALL of the children and families in the state of Texas that you are supposed to be representing and looking out for. Spending money on vouchers is not serving the majority. Fully fund public education!

Janice Faught

Self

Robinson, TX

As a life long Republican, I will NEVER vote again the any Republican that supports this bill!

Janette Moline, Mrs.

self retired

Murphy, TX

No to vouchers

Kristi Palm

My self and my kid

Leander, TX

Not fully funding public schools in Texas while redirecting public money toward private school vouchers for less than 1% of students risks causing significant harm to the education of ninth graders and all public school students. Public schools serve the vast majority of Texas students, and underfunding them jeopardizes their ability to provide quality education, adequate resources, and support services. Redirecting funds to private school vouchers leaves public schools with fewer resources, resulting in overcrowded classrooms, outdated materials, and reduced extracurricular and enrichment opportunities. These factors disproportionately impact vulnerable student populations, widening educational disparities and limiting opportunities for success. Until public education is fully funded, prioritizing private school vouchers risks leaving the vast majority of students, including ninth graders, at a disadvantage and undermines the public school system's ability to provide equitable and high-quality education for all. Public education must be strengthened and supported as the foundation of a strong society. It is important to educate ALL the children, not some of the children. Please listen to the many constituents who are affected by the loss of appropriate funding to our public schools.

Sandy and Bert Stevens

Resident of Texas. Retired educator

Portland, TX

We say and vote NO to HB3. by Buckley. We want our opposition recognized by congress.

Konise Millender, Mrs.

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am not in favor of school vouchers. I am especially not in favor of my tax dollars going towards vouchers without a comprehensive plan to return any monies requested by families for a voucher if they return to traditional public school. Charter schools were started in response to "school choice". Families have more choice than ever. Many of the larger districts offer a choice of magnet and specialized programs. Even our rural schools have started offering more choices. Parents and children can choose from the nearly 1000 charter school offerings in the state of Texas. Parents can also send their students to private, online and other parochial schools. There is more choice than ever. In addition, parents who can already afford to send their children to paid or private schools should not have the option to cash in on vouchers. Removing funds from public school for a child who is already enrolled or intends to go to private school denies resources from the students who attend public school.

Mark Buchanan, CPA

Self

Lavon, TX

I'm very strongly against this bill. We should not be taking any money away from an already struggling public education system. It's a disservice to our children to allow parents to use public monies to pay for a private education. Parents who choose to pay for private education do so out of their own pockets. Money from the Texas government should not, in any circumstance, be used to subsidize that private education. If anything, our PUBLIC school teachers deserve more pay and more funding.

Angela Lund, Principal

Self

Sour Lake, TX

As a public school principal, I see firsthand the great need our students and families face. Please, please do not take additional funding from them, from us. This would directly impact our community. We need our schools to thrive for our students. I am counting on you to not let us down. Properly fund our schools so we can provide quality teachers and staff and give our future leaders every advantage to pursue their education and dreams.

Alanna Park
Self
Tomball, TX

No school vouchers. Tax dollars go to public schools

Lisa Henson
self
Cedar Park, TX

I am vehemently against HB3! Vouchers are a horrible idea for public schools as they will drain funds away from them and they are already underfunded! The total school choice theme is a scam as many students will not be accepted at private schools. The poor will still be segregated from the rich in the voucher scenario. If your child has special needs, their need will not be met in a private school setting. Private schools do not have to accept students and I don't think parents understand that. Parents also need to know that \$10,000 is not enough to cover private school tuition at most schools. That along with having to provide transportation, laptops and school uniforms adds even more money! Please do not let some billionaire dictate to the voucher decision. Please support ALL the students of Texas!

Ivy Ellis
FORT WORTH ISD
Benbrook, TX

Vouchers are a thief to education and all students! Please vote no to vouchers! The future of Texas needs students to remain in public education and be supported! My four sons will be an excellent addition to our state and their public school experience is a major factor!

Kendra Taylor
Self
Glen Rose, TX

I am against HB 3. As a Republican, I believe we should not be giving tax payer money to private entities. Instead we should fully fund schools instead of relying in federal assistance and property taxes. The federal government is cutting funding across the board. School choice already exists. I can put my kid in a private school, but it is my responsibility to pay for it if I choose to. The state should not subsidize the wealthy, and let's be honest, that is what this bill is aiming to do.

Cheryl Moses
Self
Stillwater, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Hilary Handy
Self, Clinical Social Worker
Lockhart, TX

I oppose HB 3. I have worked as a school social worker in public schools, my mother just retired from teaching and my children benefit from special programs including 504 and gift programs. I support a robust public education program and firmly believe that all children have a right to quality, free, public education. The voucher program threatens the stability of the public school system and is not equitable in the proposed funding structure. Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a social worker who has worked in Title I schools, I have seen firsthand the impact of underfunded schools on students, families, and communities. Privately run schools that wish to benefit from public funds and be held to the standard of public schools already have an avenue through the charter school program. It is unfair and unreasonable to pay families directly for school choices with no accountability for where those funds are spent and no oversight for the quality of education the state is funding. Further there is no requirements or protections in private schools for students that require special programs to be successful. For the future of all Texas children, I urge everyone to vote against the creation of a voucher program and to fund our public schools.

Judy Stokes, Mrs,
self
Garrison, TX

I do not support this bill you are going to hurt our public schools! These private schools are not going to help educate our special needs children or those who cannot afford private school you will be hurting 90% of our children for the 10% please do not vote against our kids

Nathaniel Fenster
SelfHB3
Plano, TX

I do not support this bill.

Christine Wong
self/illustrator
Denton, TX

I oppose HB3

Emily Freeman
Self
Austin, TX

Please increase funding for public schools. Allow our kids to complete with other states. We love Texas and we love our kids. Please support their education by increasing funding for all public schools before you adopt a voucher program

Ann Loeffler
Self
PLANO, TX

If you truly value Texas educators and education as has been claimed, this voucher bill cannot be passed into law. It will destroy TRS and public education as we know it. The future of this state depends on all areas of education to fully function. Please stop undermining public education and the secure future of educators that have served selflessly their entire career. Thank you.

Jackie Weems
self / homemaker
San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB3

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds should not go to private schools.

Glenda Bee, Ms.
Self/ public school teacher
Beaumont, TX

I am a public school teacher, and have been for 33 years. My career has been working mostly with low income students, that include special Ed, dyslexic, and 504 students. Many of these students are economically disadvantaged. Vouchers would not help these students. Vouchers would only help the already rich and powerful, and leave the economically disadvantaged, who could really benefit from vouchers (but won't be able to afford, even with vouchers), by the wayside. Please, VOTE NO to vouchers!! We could only be better off with help, and not sabbatoge of the public school system. Thank you.

Erika Aigner-Varoz
Self
San Antonio, TX

NO!!! I support public education only! I do not want my money or any public funds to support private and/or for-profit schools. Our country and education system should not be bought and/or sold to the highest bidder. Please STOP this now. Education is a necessity and right for all people--not just rich, white, Christian, straight, and able-bodied males. The campaign to do this is classist and bigoted in every way. NO!!!!

Laura Ybarra
self
Georgetown, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Patricia Bendurski
Self- Hospice worker
Fort Worth, TX

I do NOT support vouchers. I do NOT support vouchers. VOTE NO ON VOUCHERS!!!
Public education is a founding principle of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.

The Founding Fathers, including Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, believed that public education was essential for a functioning democracy and the preservation of liberty. They advocated for systems of public education to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their background, could be informed and capable of self-governance, viewing education as a fundamental duty of the government.

Vouchers are a scam. And, they are used to promote Jim Crow era education policies.

I do NOT approve of taxpayer dollars to be used at Private and tax exempt Schools.

I have lived in Texas all 43 years of my life. Thanks to Texas Public Education- I was the first in my family to graduate from College. 2/3 of my nieces also attended TX public schools K-12 and they are now college graduates. One is an elementary teacher in TX public schools, and a new mother.

What we need are more funds devoted per public school student, free lunches in all TX public schools, more DEI training for our teachers and more funding for liberal arts which enhance reading and math proficiency as well as Social and Emotional skills.

We do not need to prop up already wealthy private families and schools. Not to mention their overpaid administrators.

VOTE NO TO HB 3

Jennifer Maddox

Self - Educational Diagnostician

Temple, TX

I have been in education for 30 years and would like to express my disapproval for HB3. Taking money away from an already struggling public education system is ludicrous. The state hasn't funded public education in years but wants to spend extra money on a small number of people at the expense of the entire public school student population. I work in special education and know that many of the students would never be accepted if they are severely physically handicapped (needing medical attention or personal care services) or any behavioral issues. If the state gives money to these institutions they should accept ANYONE who wants to go regardless of religion, inability to fund the delta (leftover cost between tuition and voucher/ESA), location (should provide transportation), or educational needs.

If you take money away from the public school, who is responsible for making up the cost to fund the public schools? It's the local tax payer through their property taxes. Nothing should be done without the guarantee that ALL kids who apply are accepted but since it's a lottery, that it cannot be guaranteed. It's gambling with the economic stability of our public education system.

Again, I am opposed and would sincerely hope that those who are for vouchers would listen to the many of us taxpayers AND educators that will ultimately feel the financial and emotional effect that will come from the passing of this disastrous plan.

Dianne Powell

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am against school vouchers that drain funds for public education and serves to focus on specific groups of families. Education should be equally and equitably available to all children. Please reconsider this important education component of our state.

Diana Dominguez-Medin

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Public school is the cast majority and thats where we need our funds not private sector which is a CHOICE NOT A NEED

Marilyn Whitney

self

Mansfield, TX

I strongly oppose ESAs. Private schools don't have the room for public school students. Private schools are not held accountable for reading and math scores. Private schools are not required to hire "highly qualified" teachers. Private schools can't transport students from across the district. The ESA will NOT cover the needs of low income students. As a 33 year public school educator, please do NOT allow ESAs to pass!

EDITH GILLEN-HALL

Self retired

Fairfield, TX

Please vote against vouchers, or at the least allow the citizens, the tax payers, to vote on them. Gov. Abbott says everyone wants "parental choice". Allow the people to actually have their voice.

Tesslyn Mustain

Self

Houston, TX

Absolute no to vouchers, euphemistically dubbed ESA's or Parent Choice. No matter how you label it, it still reeks. Only purpose it serves is to benefit a small % of Texas kids in private school at the detriment of the 5.5 million kids in public school. Especially our most vulnerable kids in special education and English language learners. States who adopted vouchers blew massive holes in their budgets, while 75% of the users never attended public school. They want a discount but obviously managed the tuition without it. Vouchers will lead to even less funding for public education which has seen impacts from inflation like everyone else. But no increase to the basic allotment, \$6120, since 2019.

You math isn't mathing. If this bill moves forward, we'll remember at the voting booth, that your priority is not your constituents

Jennifer Martin

Self

Commerce, TX

Please protect our PUBLIC school funds. To make an example, what is I would like to have a road built on my private property for my private use. Why can I not use public funds for this?!?! Because those funds are for public roads that EVERYONE has access to and can utilize. It's the same principle that you are using to strip money from our public school funds. Overwhelmingly, the ones who will benefit from this are the wealthy. The statistics from other states support this. Your constituents are loudly calling you out on this issue, and WE will voice this in the next election!!!!

Stephanie Duncan

Self

Austin, TX

No vouchers

Claudia Sandoval-Sosa

Self, bilingual special education teacher, 14 years

Round Rock, TX

K

I am submitting my testimony that vouchers/school choice is not meant to benefit the vast majority of Texas children. While children at large would lose out on funding for their school, students with disabilities are especially often left in the dust whenever changes to funding are made. Very few private programs exist that can provide the FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION that these students require and deserve. When students attend public school, we have to figure out how to best serve their needs; we cannot simply "invite them to not return" like private institutions can.

In addition to being admitted to a school that can meet the needs of the student, private institutions do not exist widely enough to support rural areas of the state. This automatically disqualifies students from having any chance of accessing anything other than their local, public school.

It is my belief that the good of our main is to have an educated public; a public that can think analytically, can process information, and can make decisions based on facts rather than accept whatever headline or half-truth is being shared. I acknowledge that some people do not wish to have an educated population. That is a sad way to go through a career, build on shell games rather than appealing to reason.

As a public school bilingual special education teacher of 14 years and as a parent of a student receiving services, I appeal to the committee to fund public schools so that they can serve the community, provide supports to help students succeed, and continue preparing students for their future, whatever option they may choose from a wide array because of the diverse possibilities presented to them.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Laura Tovar

Self

Sachse, TX

Vouchers will NOT help Texas students. Please do not allow them to become another thing we Texans are ashamed of.

Adrian Munoz, Mr.

Self

Ysleta Del Sur Purblo, TX

No vouchers for public schools

Julie Duckett-casey

Self-Educator

Port Lavaca, TX

This bill will be DETRIMENTAL to a district like ours. Our district is already required to give MILLIONS of tax dollars back to the state due to Robin Hood. Now, we will be forced to give even more tax dollars away. This bill could potentially cost our district \$1,451,168, as well as the inability to fund 27 teaching positions and increase the student to teacher ratio 7.06%. Public education has been underfunded for YEARS!!! It is not fair to continue to punish the children whose parents CHOOSE to have their student enrolled in private school. PERHAPS, if it is so important to help fund private schools, you all should consider funding amounts to be equal for each child whether they are enrolled in public or private.

D'Arcy La Rotta

Self

Houston, TX

Please vote No to the "Establishment of an Education Savings Account Program" aka "school vouchers." Instead, please fund public schools properly. Vouchers have been a failure everywhere they've been implemented, resulting not just in lower academic scores for children overall, but also for the large cost to taxpayers. States like Arizona have had to take money budgeted for other things to continue sustaining the voucher system. Texas cannot afford to support two sectors of education...no state can.

We already have school choice (my two daughters attend a dual language school that we are not zoned to). Subsidizing private schools where the schools have the choice of who gets to attend is taking away choice from parents...especially because public schools will have fewer resources and either provide a lower quality education, or be forced to shut down.

The people who profit from public schools are primarily the private school owners. The ones who suffer are children, Texas' economy and your taxpayers.

This is very unpopular and if you were to put it to the people to vote, both republican and democrat Texans would overwhelmingly vote no.

tge guardrail put in to offer this only to parents whose children are not in private schools already is not sufficient. At most schools the amount of the voucher won't cover the full tuition.

One other thing to consider is that many rural areas don't have private schools.

Please vote NO to HB 3.

Angela Fogo
SELF
Lubbock, TX

Dear Legislators,

I urge you to vote no on the proposal for school vouchers. Instead of supporting a system that diverts public funds to private institutions, we should focus on strengthening and fully funding our public schools, which serve the majority of our children. School vouchers only exacerbate inequities and drain vital resources from the schools that need them the most. All children, regardless of background, deserve access to quality public education, and we must prioritize policies that ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed within the public education system.

Sincerely,
Angela Fogo

Caitlin Gabor, Dr
Self
Austin, TX

Do not defund public schools. School choice just means people are selected against and or don't have enough money to go to private schools. We need public education for all.

David Wedemeier, Mr
Self
Fort worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools

Raychel Faulkner
Self
Higgins, TX

Say no to school vouchers! We already have school choice in Texas! Tax money is for PUBLIC not private!

Jacqueline Luplow
Self/retired teacher
Houston, TX

I taught in the suburban Houston area for almost 30 years starting in 1994. I have watched as more importance was put on state testing as classes such as home economics, shop, and languages (French and Spanish) were reduced or outright replaced with more time in tested subjects. I continued to teach my students the required concepts using a variety of materials so that I could help as many as I could to understand and be able to use their new knowledge. Soon, what I could use became limited. Administrators were encouraged to micromanage the staff and admonished for disciplining the students. I retired because it was no longer teaching for me, it was monitoring students progress for testing. This state has done a horrible disservice to the citizens of Texas by dismantling public education slowly but surely. Teachers have been holding it together for far longer than politicians thought they could. They made it through Covid with no guidance and fed their community during the summer, when the government did not. You say our system is broken. Yes, but by your own hands. It's as if you had something to gain by the downfall of public education. The Texas Constitution declared that free public education was a priority. Make it a priority. Our civil construct has us paying for public education to be free for all students. Vouchers for private school does not follow that construct. Paying Texas tax money into private schools or even homeschooling, does not follow the Texas Constitution. This bill is not a mandate from the masses, it is a push from politicians with wealthy backers who may or may not have a vested interest in the outcome of this bill. Please do not allow the gaslighting of Texas residents to continue with the passing of this bill.

Annette Montgomery

self

Memphis, TX

I would like to go on record as opposing this Bill. It is a failure of the Texas government which will harm generations to come.

Betsy Greenberg

self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers as these benefit parents who choose to send their children to private schools and hurt public schools. Please vote NO on HB 3 by Buckley.

Rebecca Forrester

Self

Cat Spring, TX

I am opposed to HB3. No public funds should go to private vendors. I live in a rural area and there are no private school options near me. My choice is for my public school to be fully funded. Take the billion dollars and either put towards our public schools or give us some property tax relief. This bill is not conservative!

Angela Groves

self, Educator

Fort Worth, TX

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 7. EDUCATION

Sec. 1. SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM OF PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS. A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.

mia stuart, Ms.

self

Sachse, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS

Ariana Hernandez, Dr.

Gonzales Primary Academy

Gonzales, TX

As a principal, Texan American, I am deeply against school vouchers for the following:

1. My district is projected to lose \$1,041,234! That could mean as many as 19 fewer teachers for students, 20,824 fewer library books, and a projected increase in the student-teacher ratio of 6.58%.
2. The long-term financial implications of vouchers are concerning. The cost is expected to skyrocket to a staggering \$4 billion by 2030. Texas, already struggling with underfunded public schools, cannot afford such a risky experiment. Texas ranks in the bottom 10 in per-student public education funding.
3. Our students, the future of Texas, deserve more. Let's do the right thing for them!

I urge you to vote against HB3. Please, for the sake of Texan students, let's protect our public education system.

Erin Knippa
Self - Teacher
Helotes, TX

Vouchers take away from children in public schools. They are discounts for the rich. Please focus on putting your focus on public schools and funding public schools. REJECT VOUCHERS.

Stacy Croft
Self
Galveston, TX

I am strongly against using a BILLION dollars being directed to provide vouchers for less than 2% of Texas students. What kind of crazy math is that?! There is no equitable way to provide the very limited number of vouchers to Texas families. Not to mention how unfair it is to the millions of rural families with no access to a nearby private school! ALL Texas students deserve quality education: public schools should be fully funded. Period.

Patricia Roundy
self
Forney, TX

This bill is not for the people and children of Texas. The state government has been purchased by "christian" nationalists. They can afford to pay their own tuition for their kids and do NOT need to steal money from my grandchildren's education. this is just a money grab by rich "ministers" If you want to subsidize them, then tax them and their churches. Not like they help anyone but themselves. And of course, "elected" officials

Kelly Inman
Texas Public School Teachers
Sulphur Springs, TX

I have been a teacher/administrator in Texas Public Schools, both large and small districts as well as urban and rural communities. I have first-hand knowledge that refutes any claims by proponents of HB 3 and school vouchers. If the school voucher program passes, it will destroy the Texas Public Education system which may be what y'all want. And, it will cause smaller communities to fold and move to more urban areas which would hurt many other auxiliary industries like farming and agriculture. Again, that may be what you are looking to accomplish. It feels like Texas is becoming another California, Oregon or Washington. If you would spend any length of time in a school classroom, you would find out just how amazing the faculty and staff of the districts are and how hard they work. Rural schools are communities with less than 5000 people living there...just fyi.

Shannon Wu
self
Allen, TX

I want to say I am frustrated by this bill and believe that money shouldn't be set aside for vouchers and we should fund our schools. My daughter is in 10th grade, she had 4 teachers quit mid year on her last year. Some they were able to replace, other classes she had long term subs. The teachers left for higher paying jobs. Public schools won't get the teachers we want, if we don't treat them with the respect and pay they deserve. Also, we already have school choice. I choose to send my kids to public schools, i have friends who choose to send their kids to private school, and I have friends who homeschool their children.

Leslie Hartman
Self
Muenster, TX

Vote No to HB 3! I do NOT support HB 3. I do not support distributing state dollars to private learning institutions. I do NOT think HB 3 has Texans best interests at heart. There are not enough characters available for me to list all of the issues that can be found in HB 3. It is the very antithesis of small government and Republican values. Invest in our public schools instead!

Kate Yarbrough
Self
Friendswood, TX

I do not want vouchers to pass!

Debra Axum
Rockwall ISD Council of PTAs
Rockwall, TX

Please DON'T PASS VOUCHERS!! Thus will devastate our already stressed public schools! That money needs to go to public districts so they can keep their doors open. Private schools are for the rich and they don't have special programs available for SPED students. We need this money poured into public schools!!

Pamela Hanf
Self- retired nurse
San Marcos, TX

I see no excuse to provide tax dollars to private schools. Our public schools need more support, our students need more support, our teachers need raises. Do not give my tax dollars to private schools! I can't even imagine how wrought with fraud these programs will be. You will bankrupt public education

Lee Ann Risner
Self
Ben Wheeler, TX

I feel HB 3 would be detrimental to Texas education. Any money allocated for education should all go the public schools. If there is so much money available for so called, school choice, then it should have been going to our kids already. This is a very sad and bad idea!!!

Leigh Ann Artho
Self
Argyle, TX

I am a parent of nine children. I have utilized homeschool, private school, hybrid schools, and public schools in educating my children. I strongly urge you to listen to parents who oppose the ESA program. We have school choice and it is a parent's responsibility to decide and invest in the best fit for a child. ESAs will inflate private school costs, require unwanted and unwarranted government overreach into homeschools, and devalue our Texas public schools. The top indicators for student achievement within schools are teacher quality and low student to teacher ratios. It is imperative that our state INVEST tax dollars into these priorities by fully funding our schools. Give local control back to districts and allow them to create the choices within their schools that best meet the needs of their student populations. Do not create another government entity; protect the ones already created.

Brayden Pond, Mr
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Shaina Weisgerber
self- substitute teacher Canyon ISD
Amarillo, TX

Voucher are not the answer. Listen to the thousands upon thousands of educators in this state for once.

Lex Seifert
Self
Grapevine, TX

Against this bill. Please represent the overwhelming public opinion to stop vouchers.

Miriam Jackson
Self
Austin, TX

Dear Members of the Public Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB3 and any effort to divert public funds to private school vouchers or education savings accounts. While I attended private school as a child, I wholeheartedly support public education because I have seen firsthand the immense value it provides to all children, regardless of background or income.

My own child is thriving in our public school, and we are incredibly grateful for the dedicated teachers and staff who create a supportive, enriching learning environment. Public schools are the backbone of our communities, ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education, resources, and opportunities that prepare them for the future.

Redirecting public funds to private institutions weakens our schools, leaving fewer resources for students and educators who need them most. Unlike public schools, private schools are not required to serve all students, including those with disabilities or those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Public tax dollars should remain in public schools, where they can benefit every child—not just a select few.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting HB3 and instead investing in policies that strengthen our public school system. Our children deserve a well-funded, equitable education that benefits all students, not just those who can afford private schooling.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Texas students.

Julie Treaster
Self medical technologist
Springtown, TX

I live in a small rural town where private schools are few and far between. I believe these vouchers are going to do more harm than good. I want our state education tax dollars to be used where ALL students in Texas will benefit, not a select few. I know governor Abbott thinks this is such a good program and tells us all these other states have implemented this voucher program. However there has been nothing but problems and the very people that the voucher system was supposed to help, actually did not help them at all. Please please please Vote NO on the voucher bill, HB 3!!!!

Jill Ritter
Self, retired
Houston, TX

This is another to take money away from public schools. The main goal is to have more children in "private" schools so that they can indoctrinated with right wing racist homophobic beliefs. Republican control of Texas government have ruined what was once one of the best public school systems in the country.

Shawn Kastanos Frisbee
Self
Houston, TX

I am a parent of a seventh grader and I absolutely do not want school vouchers. Please do not be bought by these corrupt losers. Say no to vouchers, they are preposterous, and you know it.

kimberly handy

self

wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS NO TO HB3

Marie Chang

Self/ Small business owner

Harlingen, TX

As a small business owner who doesn't make enough to afford private school tuition for my child, I am wholeheartedly supporting HB 3 because it offers a transformative solution for families like mine. This bill's establishment of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program provides us with the flexibility to choose the best educational options for our children, regardless of our financial situation. HB 3 is a game-changer for families who strive to provide the best educational opportunities for their children but face financial barriers. It levels the playing field and ensures that every child, regardless of their family's income, has the chance to succeed.

Kelly Soter-Gunn

self

Fort Worth, TX

Legislature, please do not establish a ESA/voucher program. Once again I am voicing my opposition to this program. Parents of students are free to spend their money wherever they wish. If they wish to pay tuition instead of using the public school, they can do that. But don't spend taxpayer money on this concept. We all know how the math works. Private school tuition exceeds the voucher amount so low-income students are not going to pay for private school with this program. Wealthy families will simply get a discount.

Sally Ann McClain

Self

Livingston, TX

As a proponent of public education, I believe strongly that the voucher bill is yet another "Jim Crow" effort to marginalize certain populations and empower others. I taught in Title I schools believing education is one of the most important ways to fight poverty. This bill widens the gap between the "have" and "have not" citizens of our state. Data from Arizona has proven this ideology and its implementation detrimental. I implore you to put politics and political favor aside and vote NO for HB 3.

Kristine McNutt

Self

Argyle, TX

My name is Kristine McNutt, and I am a resident of Lantana, Texas. I am writing to express my concerns regarding House Bill 3 and the proposed school voucher system. I do not support House Bill 3, as I believe it undermines the public education system that serves the majority of Texas students. School vouchers divert much-needed resources from public schools, potentially leading to reduced funding for schools that serve the most vulnerable children. This shift in resources could widen the educational inequality gap in our state. I strongly believe that this important decision should be left to the voters of Texas. Allowing citizens to vote on this bill ensures that the will of the people is heard and respected. I respectfully urge you to reconsider supporting House Bill 3 and allow Texans the opportunity to vote on such a significant issue. Thank you for your time and for considering my viewpoint. Sincerely, Kristine McNutt

Marsha Hayes

McMillin J H

Wylie, TX

I do not support this bill. I kindly request that you vote no on this bill.

Raquel Beattie
Self
San Antonio, TX

Texas should focus on funding public education. Vouchers/school choice is a misappropriation of taxpayer funds. NO to vouchers.

Rebekah Hastings
self
San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 and its plan for Texas education. Education savings accounts are a scam sold to families who just want what's best for our kids but will only benefit private companies and those to whom they give kickbacks. They will not benefit my 3 children who live in a low-middle income household— vouchers won't cover enough tuition to make a private school affordable. They won't help my neighbor's kids who live below the poverty line and rely on school transportation while mom works. They won't help the wealthy families at church because private schools will just raise tuition to offset the voucher amount. It won't help the kids in my own school who need special education services, because private schools can choose not to offer them.

In fact, the so-called education savings account will actively harm the educations of all of the children I've mentioned, because they will further draw funding away from public schools the Texas State government is already underfunding. So what will help TX children? Fully funding the public schools that we have.

Virginia Sandoval
Self
Carrollton, TX

Please do not pass a voucher/school savings bill under any name or any circumstances. I don't agree with any of the lies that have been stated to cover the true purpose of this bill.

D shindler
Retired pre-K/ special ed teacher
Bay City, TX

Vouchers are so wrong, especially in a small town. I live in Bay City, Tex. There is only a Catholic school Pre-k -5th! We need to keep strong early educators that will get children ready to learn...Pre-k has proven itself over and over again! I loved 30 years with this age group and helped so many parents getting an early start on school. Please don't take money away from Public School.....I can think a a millions reasons why this is a bad idea but I know you won't read it!

Arthi Rajagopalan, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

Our public schools are the one of the main pillars of our society. Any efforts or money spent for our future generation will help shape our society's future.

Peggie Hobbs
Self
Chireno, TX

This is the most ridiculous thing to come down the pike in a long time, and is an ivert attempt to please the evangelical right so that their pocketbooks stay open. I VOTE NO!!!

Michelle Christie, Dr
self- Child Neurologist
Coppell, TX

My name is Dr. Michelle Christie and I am a proud product of the Texas Public School System. I attended public school in Katy ISD, collage at UT Austin and earned my medical degree at UT-Houston. It was the excellent Texas public schools that taught, encouraged and readied me for a challenging career in Child Neurology. I am honored to serve our Texas Children and now practice in Dallas Texas. I am so proud of the education I received from Texas public schools that I now trust the Texas Public Schools to educate my own children. My oldest child attends elementary in Coppell ISD and my youngest will start Kindergarten in Coppell in the Fall. My oldest receives services from the Texas Gifted and Talented Program and without it he would not be successful due to his advanced level learning needs. As a family we rely on the special GT services offered by public schools. Private schools do not offer GT services or the rigorous curriculum needed for the beautiful minds.

As a child neurologist I have the honor of working with many children who need special education services. I have worked with many families that have had to leave private school systems so that their child's physical therapy, occupational therapy and learning disorders needs can be met. Private schools have no mandate to care for these wonderful children with special needs. Please do not leave these children behind. Please keep funding and providing the services they need.

I am so proud to be a Texan who was educated by our public school system and who now gets to serve our Texas Community. Please help us continue educating all Texans.

Please fund Texas Public School System to meet the needs of all children and say NO to Vouchers.

Megan Oracion
Self
ABILENE, TX

Please vote no.

Mary Roszel
Self
Marble Falls, TX

Vote no! Our children deserve a proper education. They do not deserve to give it up to help the wealthy. What will you do when children do not have food and cannot read or write?

Barbara Leonard
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Teresa Taylor, Mrs.
Self
Sachse, TX

I don't believe this bill will help the majority of students in Texas. Many counties in Texas have no private or charter schools and the vouchers aren't large enough to fully cover most private school tuition, so it doesn't help lower socioeconomic students. We need to fully fund our public schools if we want to provide a quality education for all. Thank you!

Margarita Panzer

Self

San Antonio, TX

As someone who has had my children in both public and private schools with a household income, putting me in the top 5%, I oppose the use of taxpayer funds for this purpose. School choice isn't giving people who can afford private tuition taxpayer funds. Using the money to assist low income and at risk students to better afford college education and trade school is true school choice, not to mention would break the cycles of poverty, abuse, unemployment, crime, and unplanned pregnancies while saving billions in government assisted programs. School choice is education breaking the chains of poverty, inequity, and inequality.

Stacy Martyak

Self

Austin, TX

This program would be bad for Texas kids and bad for Texas.

Mariola Schmid

Self

Frisco, TX

Absolutely no vouchers.

Melissa Day

Self/mother, higher education administrator

Denton, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 (HB3), which proposes the establishment of an education savings account (ESA) program in Texas. I urge you to vote against this bill in the upcoming session to safeguard the integrity and effectiveness of our public education system.

Financial Implications

Implementing an ESA program as outlined in HB3 would divert essential funds from public schools to private institutions. This reallocation threatens to exacerbate existing financial challenges faced by public schools, including budget deficits, campus closures, declining enrollment, expired pandemic relief funds, inflation, and teacher shortages. ?

Lack of Accountability and Transparency

Private schools receiving public funds through voucher programs are not held to the same standards of accountability and transparency as public schools. This discrepancy can lead to inconsistent educational outcomes and a lack of oversight in the use of taxpayer dollars. ?

Public Opposition

A recent bipartisan poll indicates that a significant majority of Texas voters oppose school voucher programs that utilize public funds for private education. Specifically, 65% of voters are against such programs, with opposition spanning across political affiliations: 95% of Democrats, 72% of independents, and 42% of Republicans. ?

Potential for Increased Segregation

There is evidence suggesting that voucher programs can lead to increased racial and income segregation in schools. This undermines the goal of providing equal educational opportunities to all students, regardless of their background. ?

Risk to Teacher Retirement Funds

The proposed voucher system could also jeopardize teacher pension funds. As public school enrollment declines due to voucher programs, the reduced workforce could destabilize the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, threatening the financial security of current and future retirees. ?

Conclusion

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB3. It is imperative that we focus on strengthening our public education system rather than diverting funds to programs that lack accountability and public support. Our commitment should be to enhance the quality of education for all Texas students within the public school framework.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A concerned mother & Texas resident

Julie Retersdorf

Sodalis Senior Living

Austin, TX

I am against this bill as i feel to takes away from the wonderful Texas public education my children received. I feel people who want private education have already decided their budget and can afford. I would hate Texas to become the new Kentucky in standards

Beth Reuben
Self
Georgetown, TX

I am a retired, but passionate 40 year public school teacher:
Taxpayer funds need to go to Public NOT Private Schools!
Our Public Schools have been neglected for 5 years - DO NOT send Public dollars to Private Schools.
Billionaires do NOT dictate how taxpayers dollars are spent. Stand up for the hard-working Texans.
Vouchers HURT our neighborhood schools!
Vouchers HURT our rural communities !
We HAVE choice in our public schools right now! But the legislature is NOT funding CHOICE in public schools!
Texan billionaires just want WHITE, CHRISTIAN PRIVATE schools! We do NOT agree and you need to demonstrate courage and commitment to hard-working Texans and say NO!
We voted you into office to represent US -- say NO to VOUCHERS!
The Texas Senate was bought out by the Billionaire Texans -- the House needs to represent the people of Texas and show more courage!
State government has a constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public schools. Let's start doing that ! 5.5 million children are depending on it !

Deena Crawford
Self
Hurst, TX

I am a parent of young children who are benefiting from Texas public schools. I am also a former Texas public school teacher, and will continue to support the work our Texas public educators do each day.

I am against this bill. Public dollars should NOT be going to private schools. While I have nothing against private education, public money belongs in public schools. The ESAs will only benefit a small amount of Texas students, many who already attend private schools!

ESAs provide very little benefit to the vast majority of students in Texas, and will do nothing but divert needed resources from our public schools.

Public schools serve ALL children, including special education students, bilingual students, and students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. These are the students I want my taxes to support, and I want that support to be in our public schools!

I urge the House to vote against the creation of ESAs and I, instead, urge them to keep our tax dollars in the public school and increase the basic allotment by at least \$1400. Our young Texans deserve it!

Donna Gregory
Self - Retired
Dallas, TX

I am writing to oppose school vouchers/ESA's. Studies show that high-risk students who get vouchers for private school often have worse outcomes and end up back in the public schools with learning loss. It has been found that around 75% of students who received vouchers were already in private schools so it ends up being welfare for the wealthy. Private schools aren't required to accept all students like public schools. Why not improve the public schools and provide more choices under the public school umbrella instead of splintering into different organizations.

Courtney Sumner
Self Accountant
Cedar Park, TX

I'm against this Bill! I vote No to HB3!

Amanda Davis

Self

Coppell, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House Public Education Committee,

It is no secret that Governor Abbott is unethically advocating for the passage of this bill. His out of state donor, Jeffrey Yass, is expecting his quid pro quo. But repeatedly, nonpartisan constituents across the state have rejected ESAs and vouchers. Please listen to us and vote NO on HB 3.

Thank you,

-Amanda Davis

Elizabeth Ekstrand

Self

Carrollton, TX

As a parent of children in public schools, in a district where schools are closing due to insufficient funding, I strongly oppose HB3 and ESA / Vouchers. This is not what the people of Texas want and many have made their voice known about this. If you are so confident in its success, put it to a ballot wide measure so ALL people can chime in on it. I know for a fact that my elected officials in my district do NOT represent my opinions and values on this matter. I encourage you to vote NO on vouchers, ESAs as it is a scam and is not what is best for Texas or our children in public school.

Katelyn Price, Teacher

Self teacher

Douglass, TX

This bill will ruin public education and will destroy the ability for our most vulnerable sub pops to get an equal opportunity education. Stop this nonsense!

Claudia Ramming

Pearland Community

Pearland, TX

I'm writing to express my VERY strong opposition to the school voucher scam, SB 2, and ask that my representatives vote against it. I live in zip code 77581.

The local public schools in Pearland ISD stand to lose as much as \$8,657,817 under SB 2, which would be a devastating loss for our community. Public schools were created for all students to attend. Every child, no matter what their parents' economic status is, has the right to attend school and not just the privileged few. If those individuals and families that make \$160,000 plus a year want to send their children to a private school, then that is their choice. Everyone else, including those on a fixed income and lower economic status, should not have to pay for their choice, Period!

The way to make our country and this state great again is to put our tax dollars into the public schools so that everyone, and I do mean EVERYONE, has the opportunity to a good education and from there a higher education, if they so choose. While education may not be a "fundamental right" under the Constitution, the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment requires that when a state establishes a public school system (as in Texas), no child living in that state may be denied equal access to schooling.

Not to mention that there would be no accountability or oversight for these private schools and their instructors. These institutions would be allowed to patrol themselves. When in all of history has that worked for the benefit of the whole, and not just for the few? The fact is.... it hasn't worked! Which is why we need our public schools and we need to do more to strengthen the core values of the public school system. The fact is we need to do more to support the public school system we have in place now, and work on reforms to make this system better, so that EVERYONE can benefit, and not create another system where just the privileged few benefit and the rest of us have to pay even more for those privileged few. I should think not!

Public funds should stay in our public schools, and not be divided up to unaccountable private schools. Period!

Emily Hart, Dr
self (chemist)
Spring, TX

As a proud parent of 2 children in Klein ISD in Houston, I strongly oppose HB3. There has been no increase in classroom spending for public schools in Texas since 2019, and we all know that the cost of EVERYTHING has increased since then. The Texas Lege should fully fund public schools, NOT establish a fund for private schools that will drain our amazing public school system of all funding! Private schools are not subject to the same standards as public schools; they do not have to accept students with special needs or disabilities; and funding private religious schools with taxpayers' money violates the separation of church and state. Over 50% of all counties in Texas DON'T EVEN HAVE A PRIVATE SCHOOL. A quality, FULLY FUNDED public education that is available to ALL STUDENTS makes our communities smarter, wealthier, and safer!

Mallory Davidson
Self
Ponder, TX

I am writing to ask you to vote no on HB 3.

I am a parent of two kids. My oldest is in first grade at our local public elementary school. My youngest will be enrolling in kindergarten there in a couple of years. We live in Ponder - which is a rural town in the DFW area. We currently live a mile and a half from the elementary school, which takes us 6 minutes to drive to for drop-off and pick-u - as long as there isn't a train blocking traffic at the one stop light in our town.

As you can probably guess, we don't have private schools in our town - and my kids have two working parents who work standard business hours. Our family can't add hours of commute time to and from a private school in another town or city. On top of that, tuition at private schools in the DFW area can range up to \$38,000 per year. Families, like mine, who can't afford that would have to settle for private or religious schools well outside of top tier of schools - and find a way to make up the hundreds or possibly thousands of dollars of tuition costs. That's not even including registration fees, entrance exams, enrollment fees, computer fees - or additional expenses like books, uniforms, athletics, extracurricular activities and other miscellaneous expenses.

My point is - this school voucher scam is presented as "school choice", but it does not actually provide choice to my kids and millions of other Texas children like mine. The real choice is given to private and religious schools who choose how much tuition to charge, which students they admit and who they want to expel or turn away.

The data from voucher scams implemented in other states is clear. School vouchers fail to improve student achievement and often result in less desirable outcomes. School vouchers divert taxpayer dollars to unaccountable private and religious schools, while cutting funding for public schools.

We need our state leaders to focus on providing public schools the full funding they need. Our school district, like many others, is struggling to make ends meet with rising costs and no significant increase in funding. We will be moving to a 4-day school week next year in an effort to attract teachers because our schools can't offer competitive salaries. Instead of our child being in school, learning five days a week - we now have to pay of pocket for childcare while we work. We will literally be paying for the failures of our state leaders to prioritize public education.

For all these reasons and more, I am urging you to vote no on HB 3. Please have the courage to stand up the Governor and his donors and stand with the people of Texas.

Please stand up for our children by voting no on HB 3.

Please stand up for our public school teachers by voting no on HB 3.

Please stand up for our families by voting no on HB 3.

Please invest in the future of our state by voting no on any school voucher bill and instead fully funding our public school.

Leslie Farmer
Self - Software Consultant
CARROLLTON, TX

Dear Mr. Buckley and committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3). As a constituent and parent, I am deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts of this bill on our public education system. We recently had to close 4 schools in our district due to lack of adequate funding over the last few years.

HB 3 proposes to divert public funds to private institutions through Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). I believe this will undermine our already underfunded public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students. Private schools are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools, and I am concerned that this bill will lead to a decrease in the quality of education for all Texas children.

I urge you to prioritize the funding of public schools and oppose HB 3. Our focus should be on strengthening our public education system, ensuring that every child has access to a quality education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Leslie Farmer

Veronica Wallace
Self - consultant
Fort Worth, TX

I'm a proud graduate of a Texas public high school and am opposed to HB 3. Please vote against this bill as it will only hurt the Texas public school system.

Faithe Guerrero
Self, homemaker
Harlingen, TX

As a homeschool parent, I am for HB 3 and look forward to the future of what this bill can do for families such as mine.

Leah Matocha, Mrs.
self, retired teacher
Seguin, TX

I am commenting on the voucher bill. Establishing a voucher bill will drain the public school system of needed funds. I know you have heard all the negatives about this bill so I won't repeat them. Why not take funds and make our TX school systems one of the top notch in the country? Study, research, and implement. There is nothing more important than dreaming of children who are taught highly effective skills and knowledge and schools that implement these strategies. Imagine what neighborhoods could be like with positive influence from the schools!! Vouchers have been implemented in other states with no success. Please remember ALL students. Everyone has the possibility to reach their potential! Vouchers only help a select few and leave our public schools drained and drowning.

Erin Mancil

My children in public school with disabilities/504's

Cedar Park, TX

I strongly oppose ESA's and urge you to focus on supporting public schools. ESA's directly hurt students with disabilities who receive special education services in public schools in the state of Texas. Diverting 1 million of my public taxpayer money to private schools who do not acknowledge IDEA, do not follow IEP's, and only provide services when they are negotiated/Compromised, and then charged back to parents is the theft of services and money to the most vulnerable population in Texas. 14% of the 5.4 million public school students receive special education services. These ESA's are completely inaccessible to 90% of our disabled students and that is before information about the lottery acceptance, whether they will be able to be served, or retained! in the private school setting. There is no accountability. Even if all ESA spots go to disabled students receiving special education services, that still leaves a minimum of 700,000 students with disabilities in our public schools who are underfunded and understaffed. This causes direct harm to our students. It is our duty to protect these vulnerable students in our state. HB3 is unacceptable. There is not enough accountability, parent and student voices are not respected, and I am asking you to have courage to say no to ESA/vouchers and fund our public schools properly.

Thank you,

Erin Mancil

Britney Taylor

self/Assistant Principal

Forney, TX

I believe that public educators are angels sent from God and they have been helping children become productive citizens since the beginning of time. Public school funding should be used for public schools and not for school vouchers.

Judy Webb

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

Vote NO

Mark Juelg

self, retired school teacher and academic assessment developer

Spring Branch, TX

HOLD OFF on HB3 until we get a Constitutional Amendment protecting private and home schools from state and federal infringement. To that end, YES on HJR52 and HJR136.

Margaret Grill

ATPE

Bulverde, TX

As a retired Texas teacher, I am opposed to any voucher program including a tuition tax credit, education savings account, or any other such program that would direct public funds to private, home, or for-profit virtual schools. Public schools are already way under-funded and would suffer greatly under a voucher system. It is a system set up primarily for those already having students in private schools. I am opposed to vouchers also because private schools do not have to accept ALL students, do not require teachers to be CERTIFIED and are not subject to state testing. NO SCHOOL VOUCHERS PLEASE.

Sincerely,

Margaret B Grill

Gracie Sukach
Public schools
Kingwood, TX

Looking across the Houston skyline seeing the buffalo bayou wane through this great city, I know I'm blessed. The public education I received through college has granted me opportunity to work, play, and worship among this amazing Houston skyline. I would like these opportunities to abound for the future generations in my city and state. Opportunities to prosper in a career of their choosing where dreams of home ownership, business creation, and charity can be realized. As a low income student all this was at my disposal but if vouchers are allowed to go forward kids within low income neighborhoods will be denied these dreams. Their job opportunities will be slim without a college education action or technical training. I ask that give more funding to public schools and let the private schools do their own fundraising. They are not held to the same standards so they should be given the same funds, actually more funding. Texans deserve the best free educations and you must do all you can to preserve this great tradition of excellence. If public vouchers go through, you will have failed the next generation of Texans. I know Mr Cunningham knows how beautiful the schools are lined with trees and nature throughout my neighborhood. Schools will close and these neighborhoods will empty as the draw for good schools will be filled by other more well funded states. You decide your legacy on this vote. Vote against vouchers and for public education. Thank you

Tamarra Kebbeh, Mrs.
Self
DeSoto, TX

I wish to state that as a staunch supporter of public education and the lower/middle class, this proposed voucher program gives an undue advantage to already privileged households. My family and I do NOT support this bill and urge you to vote against it!

Courtney George
Self
Haslet, TX

As a tax paying parent I am AGAINST this bill as it will take away funds from our local schools which would affect my job as an elementary school professional as well as my own 3 childrens futures. Please do not fund this bill and consider all sides to this prior to moving forward. Look at the facts from surrounding states who have previously funded vouchers.

Catheryn Smith
Self
Weatherford, TX

This can not be passed. It takes valuable funding away from public schools, that are essential to children of all economic backgrounds. The proposed amount of \$10,000 per child would only be cutting a break for those who can generally already afford private schooling. This would cause the gap between rich and poor to become even greater. Please vote no against house bill 3.

Lisa Chambers
SELF/24 year Educator
Dublin, TX

Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) are detrimental to public schools, as they divert much-needed funding away from the already under-resourced public education system. By allowing parents to use public funds for private schooling or other educational services, ESAs exacerbate inequality and create a system of education that benefits only those who can afford additional resources. This undermines the mission of public schools to provide equal access to quality education for all students, regardless of their background or financial situation. Furthermore, the implementation of ESAs leads to a fragmentation of the education system, weakening the community-based support that public schools offer while failing to address the root causes of educational inequality. Instead of strengthening public education, ESAs divert resources that should be used to improve schools, support teachers, and enhance educational opportunities for all.

Take care of PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!! Take care of all the Texas students K-12!!!! Take care of educators!!!!!!!!!!

Elizabeth Scanlon

Self

Austin, TX

Please remember, our taxes, OUR schools. Do not hollow out Texas public schools for ALL, in order to benefit few. It would be irresponsible, disingenuous, and counter to the values and promises of this country. Vote NO to establishing a voucher system, and yes to a fair, accessible, supported public education system for all.

Jennifer Perry

Self

Houston, TX

This HB is not what the people of Texas want! We know it will weaken our public schools by starving them of funding meant to go to our kids from our property taxes. Private school is not school choice! The money funneled to private schools from taxpayers is not a way to improve school choice for Texans. Private schools will not take kids with and learning differences or who have any learning differences. Many kids will be cheated but his bill and ot will leave I lay those kids with no other choice or families that. Cannot transport them independently to school or afford the difference in the voucher amount and private tuition at public schools. Our kids don't deserve to be sorted and separated based on socio economic abilities. Only those with money will continue to be able to attend private school or that don't require any special accommodation or teaching supports.

I am against this HB and what it would mean for our public schools and the children on our community. In Texas we are not a have and have not society- we are all proud of our heritage and come together as a state to protect and support each other. This bill is one sided and puts money in the pockets of those already able to afford private resources while stripping it from an already underfunded public schools system. We have been surviving on a fraction of the allocation we are supposed to be receiving from the state to fund our schools and this would decimate the school districts.

And not only will it hurt the school districts and communities that rely on this education for its people, it will hurt the teachers. TRS relies on a majority and numbers of teachers to contribute to the current pension structure for it to be successful and further support all teachers in the program. By weeding out kids and greatly reducing public school demand, you will no longer have the number of teachers projected in order to allow for the pension program to be self sustaining for future retirees. Private school teachers do not contribute to anything related to the state.

This is a very one-sided bill and meant to benefit one class of people. I have 4 in public school and believe in its value to our community. Our tax dollars should not be given to private interest schools and also used to further divide our student population. Dwindling enrollment is a reflection on the changes the state has made to our doctrines and curriculum not on the quality or benefit a well funded public school can provide. FUND our public schools adequately and do not subvert money to private interest supporters.

Vote NO on HB3! Save our schools!

Dora Saldana

Self, Customer Service Representative

Austin, TX

As a proud Texan, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. I believe private school subsidies are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair.

Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Public schools in Texas are underfunded by billions of dollars every year. The Comptroller is projecting a large increase in state revenue over the next two years compared to the past two years, and that money should go to fully funding public education. Public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students, serving all the students in their boundaries. They build the workforce that powers the Texas economy. We can't afford to underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future.

We elect legislators to represent the interests of their communities. Responding to their communities, Texas legislators have rejected private school subsidies time after time.

In the face of increasing pressure from special interests, I pledge that I will stand with my legislators in opposing vouchers. When they vote against private school subsidies, I will make sure all their constituents know they did the right thing.

Emery Lawson

Self

Denton, TX

I do not support vouchers for "school choice". Public funds should support Public Schools. My children do attend public school and that is where the taxed funds should go. Vouchers will only help a small group of student, but will hurt the majority of students in Texas. Please consider this fact and vote against providing funds for "school

Choice"

Thank you

Emery Lawson

Danny Ringo
Self
Weatherford, TX

Why Texas Should Reject School Vouchers (Education Savings Accounts)

As your constituent concerned about Texas education, I urge you to oppose school voucher legislation currently under consideration. These programs would undermine our public education system while failing to deliver on their promises.

Financial Impact on Public Schools

Texas already ranks in the bottom 10 states for per-pupil funding, with many school districts facing deficit budgets. For each student who leaves under a voucher program, schools lose approximately \$10,000 in funding while fixed costs remain unchanged. Analysis shows a 5% student exodus to vouchers would cost the state an estimated \$2.25 billion. Districts like Conroe ISD, already operating with an \$11.92 million deficit, would lose an additional \$29.6 million if 5% of students departed.

Lack of Accountability

Private schools accepting vouchers would not be held to the same standards as public schools. They would not need to comply with state assessment standards, open records laws, or curriculum requirements that ensure educational quality. This lack of oversight creates SIGNIFICANT RISK for mismanagement of public funds.

Who Actually Benefits

Evidence from other states reveals that between 75% and 89% of voucher recipients were already attending private schools. With average private school tuition in Texas at approximately \$11,340, voucher amounts typically fall short of covering full costs, effectively creating a subsidy for higher-income families rather than helping those most in need.

Poor Academic Outcomes

Research consistently shows voucher programs, like the one being proposed, fail to improve educational outcomes. Studies in Louisiana, Indiana, Ohio, and the District of Columbia found students attending private schools with vouchers performed worse than their public school peers.

Conclusion

I urge you to oppose the education savings account legislation. The evidence demonstrates these programs harm public schools, fail to improve outcomes, and primarily benefit those who least need assistance. Texas students deserve fully funded (and improved) public schools that serve everyone in our communities. The education of our youth and the future of Texas depends on it.

Masaleen Ohama
Self, Office Manager
Jonestown, TX

I oppose any bill that takes funding away from public schools and into private schools. Please take care of our invaluable public education system, rather than punishing those who cannot afford to send their children to private schools even with vouchers. Teachers and other employees in public education are already suffering with the low budget they have. It should be in our country's interest to have the highest quality of FREE education to every child. Thank you.

Nicole Watson
Self - commercial auto claim adjuster
Argyle, TX

I am against vouchers. We have seen them destroy other school systems. Vouchers are a scam!!! Please do the right thing and fund our public schools. Our teachers deserve raises!!!

Tyler Simpson, Mr.

Self

Lucas, TX

I am a conservative voter that is staunchly opposed to this bill. Universal ESAs/vouchers are not conservative policy. They are a new welfare system that will balloon in size over the years and impact the state's ability to handle other priorities like public education. Plenty of other states have experienced this problem already. Please focus instead on making Texas public schools the best they can be. If Texas has so much excess tax money that can spend \$1 billion on private schools, it should, instead, give that money back to Texas in the form of a tax cut. There is no reason that people without kids should be forced to subsidize the desires of others to send their kids to private schools. My parents (who do not have any school aged children) deserve tax relief just as people who have kids in public schools now. Moreover, the notion that Texas would subsidize the private school choice of parents who already send their kids to private school is terrible policy and will result in private school inflation. Vote no on this bill.

Robert Prewitt, Mr.

self

GRAND PRAIRIE, TX

I oppose the creation of school vouchers using taxpayer money for this ill conceived idea. Our Texas Public Schools deserve better and this bill will only harm those public systems. If parents want to send their children to private schools, then they can do so without having to use Taxpayer funds.

Lorraine Minor

Self

Georgetown, TX

Vouchers hurt public schools. Taxpayer funds need to go to public NOT private schools.
I am a retired school teacher and I believe in public schools .

Stephanie McCugh

self, public school teacher

Bowie, TX

I am AGAINST the voucher program being proposed. Again. I'm tired of politicians with agendas pushing these vouchers. There is a reason the voucher program isn't being brought to a vote by common Texans, politicians know that it wouldn't pass. So instead they keep trying to push it through the legislature where votes have been bought and threatened. In my small town, the public school is the heart of our community. My students do not have the ability or means to attend a private school. We live over 30 minutes from the big towns and this bill would not benefit our students. It will take money from my school. It affects the ability to provide what we need for our students. Our schools are already under-funded. This bill would make it worse.

Shannon Bohn

Self/special educator

Rockwall, TX

I oppose funding private education. Our representatives need to work to reflect Texas School Boards outcry to fund education mandates including school safety and it is imperative that the state invest in public education. Increase the funds allocated per student to reflect inflation since 2019 and increase teacher pay across the board state wide. As a Special Educator, I face a teacher to student ratio of 1/20. The best practices recommendations from TASB guidelines impart that a 1 to 7 ratio is needed to support student needs and growth. We need to avoid cuts in staff due to budget deficits and reduce the student to teacher ratios as a signal to taxpayers and voters that Texas cares about its future; Our Children!

Cortney Evans
Self, Educator
Plano, TX

Please do not pass this bill. Public money should not be given to private businesses. These education savings accounts or vouchers will do more harm than good for Texas residents. As the 7th largest economy in the world, we need educated citizens to work in our economy & help Texas thrive. Giving public taxpayer money to businesses under the guise of education is not the way to ensure we remain a leader in the world economy; we need to invest in teachers and public schools.

Monty Exter
Self
Austin, TX

As a Texas parent and tax payer I oppose this bill!

Christina Huerta
Self
Cypress, TX

It is criminal to not adequately fund education in Texas and then try to give the limited funds available to unnecessary causes. Private school attendees are doing just fine without vouchers. Public schools are not doing well now, nor will they be any better off after. At least be honest, say you're racist and want segregation back in schools because that is all vouchers will accomplish. Improving education is paramount to the future success of Texas. Removing opportunities for disadvantaged scholars for the sake of lining your pockets is a shame. I pray that God open your eyes and hearts to the whole of people you were elected to serve regardless if they voted for you or not. That is what is required of a true leading representative. Students can get a great education in public schools, if only you'd support them.

Kent Reynolds
Self, nonprofit CEO
Belton, TX

I am strongly opposed to school vouchers. I don't want my tax dollars used to subsidize private school tuition for families making \$150,000 per year. Also, \$10,000 is not enough to cover tuition at most private schools, and most families don't have the extra funds to make up the difference between private school tuition and the \$10,000 voucher. According to US News at <https://www.usnews.com/banking/articles/2025-financial-wellness-survey> , 42% of Americans don't have an emergency fund, so they sure don't have the funds make up the difference between private school tuition and the \$10,000 voucher. Finally, I don't want my tax dollars used to send a student to a private Muslim school, so I shouldn't expect a Muslim to have their tax dollars used to send a student to a private Christian school.

Anna Mishlan
No-Cones Public Ed Leadership Project
Houston, TX

This is a bad bill! Bad for ALL Texans! Most importantly, tacans voted it down when they had the chance and there is an overwhelming super majority of your constituents - those who put you in office and gave you the honor of representing Texans - who do not support this! It is Bad for public schools, private schools, and homeschoolers, students, parents, and the community! It will bring us farther away from a state of educated Texans by dumbing down education, bankrupting the school system and the state of education. We will all be harmed. These children will one day run the state - you will be old and relying on uneducated Texans, who are less educated because of you - to take care of you in your old age! How do you think they will treat those who destroyed their public schools?! VOTE AGAINST ESA!! They are bad for all and will bankrupt our state! Just because you weee once a student does not make you an expert in education - just the opposite - you don't know the first thing about what's best for students or teachers! I am married to a public school leader of 20 years, she is an expert and will be the first to tell you this is NOT what's best! The research is clear on that point!

Sheryl Pace
Self-Stay at Home Mom
Kingwood, TX

My son is classified as a special needs child and has an IEP. He is currently in 7th grade and thriving due to the accommodations and wonderful support staff the school offers. Prior to receiving support, he was a struggling student. I am very proud to say he is now a straight A student and recently was inducted into his school's first National Junior Honor Society! That would not have been possible just a few years ago. I am very concerned about this HB3 bill proposal. I don't see how taking Monday from a fund to support public schools will benefit those like my son. Even if he gets "priority" to apply to a private school, the cost is still extremely high, locations are few and far between and most importantly, he would most likely NOT receive the card and support as a SPED student. There's is no accountability. Please do not support this bill. It is from the wealthy for the wealthy and those kids that are already in the private system. It's it a parent choice program!!

Matthew Hargis
self - reseller
Austin, TX

Tax money should be used for the benefit of all. Therefore our tax money should not flow to private schools, especially not when our public schools need it so much more. Private schools have every right to exist - as long as they rely on private funding!

Melissa Flowers
Self/sales
N Richlnd Hls, TX

ESA program will not support the majority of Texas families, this is not a conservative ideal in any way, taking public money to invest in private enterprise with little to no mandates.

Mark Garrison, Dr.
Self
Amarillo, TX

Research shows that vouchers don't work – in fact, they have been proven to lower achievement since their inception. Is a disservice to the residence of Texas to fund such an initiative traditional public schools should be supported and funding should be increased.

Ann McDonald
Self
Livingston, TX

I strongly disagree with this voucher bill. We are not stupid! Parents have choice already! You are hiding behind a bill that only helps the rich with tuition. Give me a break. Gov. Abbott is threatening house members if they don't vote for it by not funding their schools in their districts. Shame on him!!! It's not a savings account unless it's you Abbott.

Kathie Thompson, Retired Superintendent
Self
Bogata, TX

Vouchers are not in the best interest of all kids in Texas. If it is not good for All kids it should not pass.

Timothy Reynolds
Self
College Station, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers. Our public school teachers and administrators do a fine job and taking public funds from them to underwrite private schools is neither encouraging of the good work they do nor a fiscally responsible use of tax dollars.

Scott Meeks
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Dear Legislators:

Please don't take my tax dollars and give them to private vouchers or private/parochial schools!!! You will be harming the future of this state!

Remember when you got mad that Biden paid off school loans with tax dollars??? You will be guilty of much worse — your law will become an unending maelstrom.

Autumn Goodwin, Mrs.
Self Public Educator
Austin, TX

Dearest House Members,

I am a mother of two wonderful young Texas men, the wife of their father. We have a traditional family. My husband works in data analytics and I am a Provider of Dyslexia Instruction at a Central Texas high school. I have taught English I, English II and other various reading and writing courses. I care about all of the students in my community. I don't have any agenda other than teaching kids how to read and comprehend the information. I only teach from district and parent approved books and I encourage students to be kind and aware of the world around them. I can say with certainty that academic learning is the goal of all teachers in Texas.

With that said, Education Savings Accounts will not be helpful to Texas students. In fact, it will hurt the majority of them. With the price of private tuition being at minimum two times the ESA amount, only families with wealth would be able to afford to use them. Furthermore, telling families that this is about choice is a lie. Texans already have choices for education. My district, for example, has different career focuses at our many secondary campuses. If a student from one area wants to study automotive technology, they would be able to apply and attend the school I teach in. Our district provides also provides programs in music, arts, animal science, culinary, engineering, biomedical sciences, and many more.

On another note, ESAs would take away from small towns like Rocksprings, Tx. They have an average of 15-20 kids per graduating class. The school already struggles financially and doesn't have a private school within a 100 mile radius. The teachers are paid the minimum salary for the state and the school struggles to keep their staff.

Passing HB3 would only succeed in taking away from our Texas Public Education, which before republicans took over, was the most envied system in the nation.

Every time republicans complain about our system and how they perceive us teachers as failing students, remember that they have been in control of our education system since January 17, 1995 and since that time has chipped away at our funding and our ability to freely access resources and teach our students. They are the ones that brought in Lucy Culkin's reading materials killing literacy rates for over two generations.

Kill HB3 and fund our public schools. Doing so will achieve a better educated population, lower property taxes, lower rates of homelessness, and so much more.

If HB3 is passed more money would flow from those of us that work hard for every dollar we earn and put it into the pockets of the billionaires that have benefited from our labor.

An educated Texan is a happy, productive, prosperous, loving Texan who will be more likely to keep their tax dollars in the state.

Thank you for your time, leadership, for a small portion of you, your support,

Mrs. Autumn J Goodwin

Dennis Holt, Mr
Self
Denton, TX

I am against HB 3 for a number of reasons. I find this bill goes against my conservative values in that it creates more government with the oversight that will be needed. It will be a waste of funds to pay for these people and there is no transparency and too many avenues for fraud and no detailed plan on the “what if’s” of this bill. I am against any state funding of private schools that might be affiliated with religions such as Muslim schools as well as private schools started for LGBTQ students and their families. I am against our public schools having to provide any special educational services to students who are in private schools or home-schooling. The educators, diagnosticians, and therapists are employed by the public schools so why should they have to service students not enrolled in public schools. This makes no sense to me. I do not feel it is right that public funds follow students into private/parochial schools and/or homeschooling when these alternatives do not have to administer state mandated testing or follow state approved curriculum. Get rid of any mandated testing and other state requirements that private schools do not have to follow and thus level the playing field for all involved. At this time after hearing and reading both sides of this issue that ESA’s are just a scheme ripe for fraud and a waste of money that will only enrich a privileged few and the donors who will benefit monetarily from these bills.

Lois Kochie
Retired teacher
Houston, TX

Please do the job you were elected to do instead of just trying to please Trump.

Jeanne Lott
Self
Benbrook, TX

Please vote against HB3. I do not support vouchers. I am in my 29th year of working in public education and sent my child to parochial schools PreK-8th so I am aware of both sides of this issue. We cannot lose more money in our schools, we just cannot. Please keep public money in public schools. I am also very concerned about the funding of TRS as I will be retiring in the near future. If vouchers go through, it is inevitable that TRS will lose money and I am quite honestly terrified that I will lose my retirement money that I have worked all of these years for. Please vote NO to vouchers. Thank you for reading my comment.

Kristina Czekaj

self, teacher and parent

Keller, TX

I am in opposition to HB 3. This program will bankrupt the state - other states like Arizona are spending so much money on their ESA programs that they had to decline money for water infrastructure improvements in order to pay for their ever-growing school voucher program. And the data repeatedly shows that the majority of people using it are those whose children already attended private school before the ESA programs started. It is coupons for the ultra wealthy.

Instead, please fully fund public schools by adjusting the amount spent per student to match inflation. This alone will be a huge help to districts. Then fully fund all mandates passed referring to special education and safety for schools. These improvements will help ALL STUDENTS.

The Texas Constitution requires you to set up an 'efficient system of public free schools,' but you have yet to do that until you fully fund our public schools. Then and only then, if things aren't working, should you be considering alternatives. These programs are a scam that are just redistributing the wealth to people who are invested into educational programs, and families will not see any benefit.

Please picture your children, and your grandchildren. You cannot choose who they will be, or what abilities they will have. They might have special needs in the classroom. If so, they will not be able to get the help they need to succeed in school. Why? ESA programs will take away public funds from public schools and these programs will be some of the first to have to stretch their means (they already do). Private schools do not and will not take these students because they are not equipped with staff or space to help them.

Picture the thousands of students in your district right now who are wheelchair-bound, have a crippling disease they did not choose, struggle to speak or think clearly, and so many others who are currently receiving these services. Are you ok with reducing/stopping their services because you voted for a program that will bankrupt their current schools?

Please picture the families who cannot afford to send their kids to private school, and their children are struggling at their current school. Even an ESA of \$10,000 will not help them attend a \$15,000-25,000 a year private school (even if private schools don't raise their tuition, which many will).

Once you factor in the cost of transportation and other expenses (and that many families have multiple children in school), you can see how this does not help families in need.

This ESA program affects ALL of us, even people who do not have children at home. When this program bankrupts the state budget, everyone will suffer as all types of necessities and improvements will be stopped. Do you want to be responsible for the program that bankrupts Texas' economy - one of the largest in the world? I don't think your children or grandchildren would approve. Please vote in opposition to HB3.

Thank you, Kristina Czekaj

Trina Church
Self Employed
New Braunfels, TX

Texans overwhelmingly rejected this voucher scam being peddled as "school choice" during the last legislative session. Proponents of this scam know full well that voucher experiments in other states have been an utter failure. This will blow a hole in the State budget as it did in Arizona. It will defund public schools. It will leave children whose parents cannot afford private school tuition in these already-underfunded schools. This will have net negative long-lasting and far-reaching implications to public schools in Texas.

Private schools have no accountability to the State for scores, curriculum and admission criteria, among other things. This means they can essentially discriminate with respect to admission. The discussion of "prioritization" is smoke and mirrors-prioritization is NOT admission. Private schools have demonstrated in other States with voucher scam programs that they will raise tuition in response, making it even more unaffordable to many in our State.

Parents who make \$500,000 are not entitled to taxpayer funds to pay their children's tuition bill, and Texas taxpayers ought not to be asked to shoulder that burden as a result of Greg Abbott taking donations from special interest groups to promote this nonsense as "parental choice".

This is a wealth transfer of public taxpayer dollars into the hands of private school owners, and Texans do not support it regardless of the AFT and other Heritage Foundation's propagandistic dog and pony show.

NO to vouchers. NO to billionaires Jeff Yass, Tim Dunn and Farris and Dan Wilks forcing students into this position. We already have school choice. Parents may opt to homeschool their children. They can send their children to magnet schools. They can send their children to any parochial school they prefer. They can send their children to any private school they choose. To say that this is "school choice" is absurd and nothing more than deliberate disinformation.

NO TO VOUCHER SCAMS IN TEXAS.

Alexis Gross
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose vouchers in all forms and demand that you use public money to fund public education. Do not funnel our tax dollars to private schools and home schools.

Stephanie Vandine
Self
Lufkin, TX

I am against vouchers, and I am against giving more money per student to private schools. Support our public schools!

Jennifer Weidenbach
Self, Licensed Specialist in School Psychology
Denton, TX

I oppose HB3 on so many levels. What I can tell you is that over the last 30 years the Republican Party in Texas has been planning this, vilifying public schools and teacher, defunding traditional ISDs while promoting charters and private schools, but only holding traditional ISDs accountable for things like special education, English Language Learners, McKinney-Vento, etc. This bill, and the similar Senate bill, do nothing except take more money away from traditional ISDs and put it in the hands of wealthy private school owners and boards. I won't even say the money is a tuition break for parents because we all know the private schools will just raise tuition to account for this influx of money. And one of the beneficiaries of this will be none other than Governor Abbott's wife. As a public school employee, a parent of a public school student, and a Texan I OPPOSE THIS BILL.

Hadley Hollingsworth

Self teacher

Houston, TX

You know this is bad for poor families and families in rural areas. You wouldn't have had to buy elections from people in your OWN PARTY that had the integrity to stand up to you otherwise. Private schools are not sufficiently regulated. Most schools aren't big enough to offer quality education for less than 10,000 a year. Private schools can turn students away for whatever reason they want. They don't have to provide for students who are disabled. This is what people vote for who want an uneducated populace.

LeAnn Wilkins

Self

Hico, TX

As a recently retired teacher and grandparent of public school kids, I am vehemently against HB3. This will cause a greater divide between the socioeconomic gaps. There is no way around that. The rich will get all the resources and the poor will be left picking up the crumbs. On a personal note, I have four grandchildren. Three of these kids are in public schools. One isn't old enough to be in school. Of the three in school, two are in their school's gifted and talented program, and one is on the autism spectrum. Any private school would take the GT kids, but they would not take my sweet baby who is on the autism spectrum. Public schools teach ALL CHILDREN!! We do not handpick who we think is deserving of our services. This bill is so wrong, and it makes me extremely sad that anyone would think this is good for ALL of our kids. Please, say no to HB3.

Paloma Alaniz

Self

Round Rock, TX

The future of our State's workforce depends on a strong population, empowered with knowledge and opportunity. Investments in education show their return for many years, most significantly when children who grew up within households dependent on government assistance become earners that pay into those systems. As the cost of living rapidly increases from year to year, the need for a strong middle class will keep our State afloat. A move to vouchers will essentially be a reversal of a Robin Hood situation, stealing from the poor to give to the rich. This state is great because it has been the home of countless success stories of ascent. We cannot take that opportunity from Texas learners who depend on their classrooms in public schools to grow the wings needed to take flight and find their own success story. The teachers who foster this growth already do so much with so little. Taking even more from them will certainly impact their willingness to continue to serve. Teachers and our children deserve our best, not less.

esmeralda tijerina

self/ homemaker

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose vouchers for private school. Pay the public school teachers and programs that have continually supported our Texas children through COVID, school violence and lack of support with gun laws and who are some kids only relief from tough home lives. The vouchers will only make private schools increase their tuition and create a large disparity between the financially privileged and the financially disadvantaged. I also strongly believe the Texas constitution was established to create a state so great that every citizen, regardless of race, privilege, or gender would be allowed access to an education as great as Texas itself. Please act in accordance with these values and end this voucher nonsense.

Maria Borrego, mrs.

self

Pflugerville, TX

I am opposed to this bill as it is not going to benefit the majority of people and school districts across the state will have to lay off staff which will harm our children and their education.

Mary Cato, Ms
self/retired
Arlington, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers and favor fully funded, high quality PUBLIC education.

Chrystal Hayes
self accounting
Denton, TX

Public schools have been slowly stripped of funding for the last four decades. Teaching to the test has made it worse. Teaching higher order thinking was removed while my child was still in Junior high. We are no longer delivering educated graduates & the stripping of funding to shift to vouchers will make it even worse. Republicans keep saying they are there to fix things but they have been in charged for the last forty years & it has gone from bad to worse. Vouchers look more like the last straw before completely breaking our education system. We need to fully fund our schools & educators and start teaching how to think again. All the current legislature seems to want are mindless sheep that just follow what they are told. We are worse off for this. We need thinkers to advance as a society both at home and on a world stage. Stop stealing our children's future one underfunded school at a time.

Leslie Ward
Westside Elementary PTA
CEDAR PARK, TX

I live in Cedar Park Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Matt Maudlin
Self/business
Spring, TX

As a parent of 2 school aged children, I have ALWAYS had educational freedom/choice/rights, where their education is concerned. There has been a lot of misrepresentation, to the citizens of Texas, that voucher bills will allow parental choice for families. In particular to those families with limited income, in public schools. The governor has pushed this narrative time-and-time again, especially when visiting only private schools. If vouchers are truly designed those particular students, why has he not visited a single public school? Here's your answer. The vouchers will simply become a subsidy for families who already have children in private schools. Students with limited resources, that could receive a voucher, still would not have the means to attend a private school. They would be required to provide their own transportation, informs, meals, technology, and more. These cost are well above the proposed voucher amount. Public schools are required to accept all students, while private schools are able to select desired students. In its current form, HB 3 is not a sound bill that must not be moved to the full Texas House.

Carolyn Nuessen, Chair
CoryellcodemocraticParty chair
Gatesville, TX

Children of low income, Disabilities and Family stress/trauma should receive \$\$\$. Rich should have grants but there should be a limited amount especially in rural area.

Linda Guajardo
self (retired)
san Antonio, TX

I am against vouchers for education.

Judy Gradford
Self
Austin, TX

Vote no on HB 3. Vouchers are a scam to make us all dumb. Please fund public schools for everyone.

Jennifer Kruppa
Self
Houston, TX

The establishment of ESAs in Texas will erode our valued public schools. It is unconscionable that the government would give \$10,000 per child to attend private schools, which are not held accountable to TEA standards and STAAR testing, when children in our Texas public schools only receive the basic allotment of \$6,160 per student. Additionally, private schools are not beholden to citizens. They may pick and choose students to enroll as they wish. They are not required to provide services to autistic and dyslexic children and may deny them admission. Where are these children supposed to go? Their only option will be the underfunded Texas public schools. Additionally, it is unfair to the children in public schools that they are subject to STAAR testing and all of the pressure that goes along with that, when children in private schools will be receiving even more state funding, but not be accountable to take the STAAR tests. Finally, the argument that \$10,000 is enough to fund a private school education is ridiculous. Any half-way decent private school in Houston is at least \$15,000 a year, most are more than \$20,000. The money needs to be put into public schools to make them stronger. Every Texas legislator that is selling their constituents out, especially the children they are elected to represent, should be ashamed of themselves.

Nola McKey
Self
Austin, TX

I urge my elected representatives to reject school vouchers in any form. You don't have to be a schoolteacher or a TRS recipient to know it's simply not right to take monies away from already underfunded public education in Texas to give to individuals who want an alternative education for their child. We need to be increasing funding for Texas public schools rather than undercutting them!

Sincerely,
Nola McKey

CYNTHIA BOWEN
MY HOUSEHOLD
AUSTIN, TX

VOTE NO ON VOUCHERS! HORRIBLE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES, HORRIBLE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN, ONLY BENEFITS THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS, GIVE MONEY YOU ARE WASTING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!!

Carrie Rickman
self
Kingsville, TX

Hello, I am in opposition to HB3. The government should not make education savings accounts (ESA) available. This bill, while it may appear as though it is doing a service to the American people, it will only increase the division between social classes and allow unnecessary regulations to be put in place for families who already have the freedom to choose alternative education opportunities. Furthermore, implementing ESAs would cause an economic inflation making the American people more dependent on government funding. Homeschooling families already have opportunities available that allow them to choose from a variety of curriculum options as well as freedom to teach their students through the lens of their own worldview. There are numerous resources online and curriculum is widely available to serve families. If a family requires additional support, their own community can provide that support. As a homeschooling mother of over fourteen years, I have learned that my community is my biggest support system. Used curriculum fairs, homeschool meetups and a variety of homeschool extracurricular programs have provided opportunities for my children and myself throughout the years. Additionally, my church and work have also provided support and guidance along the way. Funding from the government would only complicate things for families making them dependent on government handouts rather than empowering them to provide the best education for their children by modeling for them how to research and strive to succeed.

Government funding for private schools also provides a false idea of reality. While it may seem that these "free" funds will help families have opportunities that were not afforded to them before, the funding does not guarantee the family these opportunities. As with the history of inflation, when money is provided from the government, economic costs increase. This has been the case anytime government funds have been handed out to the public. The American public will have funds to attend the school of their choice until the cost of said education increases to such an extent that these families are not able to send their child to the school of choice. Instead, families can utilize other resources for funding their child's education, such as their church, work, or community. When families are in need, communities pull together to make things happen. When the government steps in to provide funds, community backs off, and economic inflation happens.

I urge the House not to push this bill through. If the government wants to help the people, then do so by empowering them to be independent from government funding and search out ways to provide for their child's education.

Keith Kirkpatrick
Texas Educator
Rockwall, TX

I oppose HB 3 and am opposed to vouchers and ESA's in any form. Texas parents and children already have school choice and 290,000 students are already exercising options other than public schools. 5.5 million Texas children need for their schools and districts to be appropriately funded and not used as leverage to appease billionaire donors. It is incredibly unethical that Governor Abbott is refusing to appropriate fund Texas Public Schools until a voucher type program is passed. Welfare for the wealthy is not what's needed for our Texas schools. Appeasing a handful of billionaires, a few of whom don't even live in Texas yet donate tens of millions of dollars to Governor Abbott. I strongly oppose HB 3.

Cheryl Higdon, Mrs.

Self - teacher

Kerrville, TX

Please vote no on all voucher bills, don't take money away from public education. Until longitudinal data can be presented showing how students showed more growth over time in voucher states, how parents were effectively monitored regarding spending (all school funds spent on educational supplies and activities only), how the vouchers will be monitored over the school year (as in, the parent took the voucher to homeschool and in October changed their minds, then tried to re-enroll in public education), how public schools aren't going to lose what little funding we have, and how this is actually in the best interest of all school aged children - including rural (where there aren't private schools available anyway), then you should vote no. There isn't data to support the loss in funding for public education and frankly, our students can't handle the loss of education they will experience if they aren't given quality education during their time away from public schools, only to dump them back into public education with even less funding than we have now. This does not help the children. No data or evidence has been produced that shows the vouchers being successful over time, only that parents took advantage of the "free" money and wasted it on things like trampolines and Xboxes, only to re-enroll their children in public education because they wanted their free babysitter back or because they didn't know how to be a teacher to their child. Homeschooling only works if you treat it like a school setting, where the expectations are to work during school hours, where you are qualified to teach your child, and help them understand why they got things wrong. Teachers go through years of training and it's not because any person can just wake up and say, today I'm going to be a teacher. Please protect our children, please protect their education. We can't afford to take funds away from public education.

Ludie Hyppolite

Self/ Nurse

Temple, TX

School Choice!

Heather Vacek

Leander ISD

Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Heather Vacek

Courtney Poole

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I'm writing to implore our elected officials to vote NO on the House Bill 3 concerning school vouchers. Public funds and taxes should only be used for public schools. We should be funding our public schools and districts, not choking them of finances. Allowing public funds to go to private institutions is not an acceptable use of tax payer money and will decimate our public education system. Please listen to your constituents and vote NO on this bill. Thank you for time.

Marilyn Hartman

Self, Retired

Austin, TX

I AM VERY MUCH AGAINST THIS BILL! TAXPAYER FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE USED TO SUPPORT PRIVATE SCHOOLS, WHETHER NON-DENOMINATIONAL, PAROCHIAL, EVANGELICAL, OR OTHERWISE. This bill should be considered unconstitutional in that it flies in the face of separation of church and state in the case of religious-oriented schools. There is no oversight of any private schools; they can set their own standards, select the students they want and not admit others, and discriminate against children and families in terms of race, religion, gender identity, disabilities, and other categories. Whether any of us have school-age children or not, we all support PUBLIC schools, and we should continue to support them through our tax dollars; choice should be more prevalent through the ability to choose a public school outside one's own district that best fits one's child. In addition, school vouchers (education savings accounts) take tax funds away from public schools, which are already under-funded. If anything, tax funds for public education should be increased and fully used to IMPROVE public schools and the QUALITY of dedicated teachers in them. FULLY FUND AND IMPROVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PAY TEACHERS IN ORDER TO GET THE BEST EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN THROUGH PUBLIC EDUCATION. WITH FULL FUNDING, WE CAN BRING STANDARDS UP IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO BE COMPETITIVE WITH THE EDUCATION IN OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES -- RIGHT NOW THE UNITED STATES LAGS.

How many low-income students will be able to afford private schools, even parochial, with the education savings amount? It won't cover the tuition at most or all private schools, so does the family have enough to pay the difference? When this pool of low-income kids can't take advantage of these vouchers, the bulk of the funds will go to people who are already sending their kids to private schools, or personally have the means to do so -- I STRONGLY OBJECT TO SUPPORTING THOSE CHILDREN WITH MY TAX DOLLARS, and other Texans do as well.

Furthermore, it is wrong that Texas proposes to give more for each voucher than Texas pays per student in public school funding, by several thousand dollars. Where's the equity in that?

If this scheme is to indoctrinate more of our students in specific, conservative curriculum and thinking, this is shameful. This subverts critical thinking, which is necessary more than ever in this complex world.

PER POLLS, THE MAJORITY OF TEXANS ARE AGAINST TAX-PAYER FUNDS GOING TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS OF ALL KINDS. IF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE PASSES THIS BILL, THEY ARE OUT OF TOUCH WITH CONSTITUENTS AND SOMEHOW OUT FOR THEIR OWN GAIN. PLEASE VOTE THIS BILL DOWN -- IT IS VERY WRONG FROM MANY PERSPECTIVES!

Dorothy Mundy, Dr

Self

Dallas, TX

Stop stealing our taxpayer money to fund rich people to send their kids to private schools. You want to do something useful work on making our public schools and public teachers better. You complain about inflation and don't pay teachers!! This is aimed at Morgan Meyer who is a traitor to our schools in HPIISD. Stop supporting the billionaires that are buying our elected officials.

Kayla Meadows

Self

Mckinney, TX

No to vouchers and give our public schools the funding that has been withheld since 2019!

Donna Beto

Self-Retired Teacher and Lifetime Member of TSTA

Bryan, TX

I am a retired teacher with 36 years experience teaching in public schools. It seems to me that you are turning a blind eye to Texas voters and especially teachers who keep telling you that giving taxpayer money to private schools is all wrong and very unfair to most students except those already enrolled in private schools. Texas Legislators should instead be increasing funding for public education and giving Texas teachers a substantial pay increase. Listen to your constituents and vote "NO" to the savings account voucher program.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Beto

Polly Walton
Self - Retired Texas Teacher
Arlington, TX

Please do not vote for HB 3 that would approve vouchers and take money away from my Arlington ISD school children. The Arlington ISD has choice for all students. Students may go to any school in the AISD they wish to attend. HB 3 would take millions of dollars away from our fine public schools. AISD schools have not seen an increase in student allotment funds since 2019.

Our private schools do not want vouchers and the bureaucracy that comes with the voucher money.

Please do not vote for HB 3.

Thank you,
Polly Walton

Rod Joseph Rodriguez, PhD
Self
Austin, TX

I am a Texas taxpayer and also a public school teacher with 30 years of experience.

We need to keep public education for the PUBLIC and accessible by all to serve ALL children, adolescents, and families.

We need public education that includes special education and other learning support programs and services for all Texans.

Texas private schools remain un-accountable to families and civic communities — their boards are not elected, and frequently not even in the same state — and private schools are not required to exceed — or even meet — public school standards and accountability systems.

In fact, there are no accountability standards to ensure taxpayer dollars are effectively spent and no evidence that private schools improve educational quality for students and families.

Moreover, private schools, like many charter schools, do not report student learning progress nor participate in state assessments that reveal to the taxpayers the student learning goals and outcomes achieved and met. Moreover, private school teachers--and many charter-affiliated staff--are not part of the State Board for Educator Certification as professional teachers and administrators.

Overall, the voucher plan that Gov. Abbott supports actually funnels tax-paid subsidies to wealthy parents who already benefit from exclusive private schools that do not uphold state and federal requirements for access, while most working-class families, even with vouchers, cannot afford the exclusive private-school tuition.

I am against school voucher schemes in Texas and urge you to Vote NO on SB 2 and HB 3. Thank you.

Kristen Mallery
Self
Parker, TX

Please vote no. This will only further advantage the wealthy and disadvantage the poor. If a parent wants to choose the school for their child, then they can do so through choosing the neighborhood they live in, or pay for private school. Taxpayer funds should not be going to private schools.

Lily Schmitt

Self

Allen, TX

Vote NO on HB 3. I have 3 kids in public schools. I need you to vote NO on HB3!

Alejandrina Gonzalez

Self, Retired Educator

Cypress, TX

I am deeply disappointed that this legislation is still insistent on school vouchers or “education savings account program” that will hurt all students regardless of whether they attend public, charter, or private schools. Public schools have long educated the brightest students and even those with limitations. Every one of them had a desire to succeed. Yes, some were more vocal than others but they tried in their own ways. As a retired middle and high school educator that taught in several public school districts in Texas I was fortunate to witness their accomplishments and their disappointments. Look at the National Merit Scholars across the state. Excellent example of success in public schools. The most industrious students with the greatest challenges were often those students that you want to penalize with these school vouchers that will be paid for by our tax dollars. I have taught students at risk, regular classes, honors, gifted and talented, college bound and vocational classes. Social economic status was never known. Parents that have their children in private schools can afford to pay but not all children want to attend these “private” schools. It always amazed me when students would share that they had attended a private school and hated it and were happy to be in the public school sector for many reasons. Often those schools pay teachers even less and many of their personnel are uncertified teachers. I have experience in a private school as well. I tried to have my own children in a catholic school and the priest was known to favor parents that contributed above and beyond the usual donations. Knew his donors and their children by individual name. Corruption is everywhere when it come to money, isn't it?

I stand against school vouchers because they discriminate against children with so much potential that need a free public education to survive in this vastly changing world. Money is the root of all evil. Don't you agree? Every child needs to feel welcomed and to be educated by standards that are clear and achievable, regardless of the economic status of parents. School vouchers will further promote the idea that children will be judged not by their achievements but by their ability to buy a high passing grade. When do we ever hear of a private school student by name to highlight an achievement? Yet, there are ample examples of children in public schools that did the impossible. Many of these public school children grow up to be successful adults because they value their education. Some of these children might be in your chambers today, glowing representatives of a public school education. Now I realize that most went on to college but did a public school education stop them from achieving their goals? Not at all. Will vouchers make a difference? Only to the unfair treatment of all children.

Therefore I urge The House to say No to HB 3 by Buckley. It is unfair, unsustainable, and just wrong.

Thank you.

DAWN Baranowski

self

Cat Spring, TX

I oppose both these bills that will fund school vouchers or school choice This will not be good for Texas especially in rural districts and counties. The people already have a choice if they want to home school. If they have a private school option those school aren't required to provide some reverting a public school does or even to accept the student. I have four grandchildren in two small, 4A school districts in my county their parents are happy with the school and what all they offer. Again I oppose Both House Bill's 2 and 3!

Sarah Spencer

Self foster parent and substitute teacher

McKinney, TX

As a Texas foster parent I have seen firsthand the damage of privatizing public services. There are roughly 30,000 children in Texas experiencing foster care. Of those, a majority will never have the option of private school. And there are millions of Texas children that will still be attending Texas public schools with or without vouchers. We have failed these children already through privatizing foster care and withholding school funding. At our title 1 school I have been amazed at what the teachers have been able to do with reduced funding. But I have also seen the toll on teachers and students. There are good teachers leaving where students will continue to have no choice but to stay. Yass, Dunn, and Wilkes are not elected officials and should not be influencing educational policy. This vendor bill is unacceptable government overreach, irresponsible spending that is sure to cost more than budgeted, and a moral failure. This will further fail thousands of children experiencing foster care and millions of Texas children whose constitutional rights include education. And with such a pro-life legislative body, the education, healthcare, and school lunches for foster children and children in low economic situations should certainly be considered a top priority unless your prolife stance is performative only.

Katherine Bacon, Dr.

self; professional counseling

Houston, TX

I oppose this education savings account program in Texas. The \$1 billion in funding for this program could instead be used to fund mental and behavioral health programs in public schools. Thank you, Dr. Bacon

Kerry Davis

Self/ Counselor

Plano, TX

Due to the dire state of mental health and behavioral health programs in our state. I believe the funds would be better served to fund programs in this area. We are woefully unequipped to address the needs of Texas Families and funding this program will add extra weight to an already faltering poor mental health system.

Courtney Harper

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I strongly oppose House Bill 3 and ask that you do not pass this bill. I am concerned that the money used for the ESA's are not going into public education when public schools, unlike private schools have to serve ALL students. As a parent of a special needs child, I want public education adequately funded and it is way underfunded right now in Texas. These ESAs will just be coupons for the wealthy. Additionally, many rural districts ONLY have public schools. Please vote no on this bill!

Karen Verell, Mrs

Leander ISD PTA

Round Rock, TX

NO

REBECCA JOHNSON

Self, Activity Director

GARLAND, TX

I am firmly against this bill which robs middle and lower class children of a decent public education. It only benefits wealthy people by underwriting private education for their children. It's a wrong spirited piece of legislation. Do not vote for it.
Thank you

Chantell Francis

Self

Silverton, TX

I believe this will harm our public schools which by law should be fully funded by the state. I don't understand if you are paying for this bill with surplus money, why can you give it to our schools. You say that anybody in Texas would be able to use these vouchers to attend any private school in their region/district. What you don't understand of people who could afford private schools would already be attending them. You give the vouchers to the low income families but that will only cover a percentage of private school. Private schools require out of pocket payment on extracurricular activities and don't provide transportation, Sped services or have any accountability like public schools do. If you are going to allow tax payer surplus to be used for school funding it should be used for public schools. Make an investment in our children and do better by public education which by law is free for everyone regardless of race, and educational needs. Private schools cannot and will not provide that for our children.

Noelle McSherry

Self - Operations Admin Coordinator

Houston, TX

I oppose HB3. Our public schools need to be fully funded. Furthermore, I can't understand how people who consider themselves to be fiscally conservative are willing to give tax dollars to private institutions with no accountability. Vote No on HB3.

Megan Peterson

Self

Austin, TX

Say no to the school voucher scam

Julia Mickenberg

self: parent, concerned community member

Austin, TX

Greetings, Chair Buckley and members of the Public Education Committee. I am writing in opposition to HB3 because vouchers are a giveaway to the wealthy that will undermine our communities, raise our taxes, lower property values in communities that will no longer have quality public schools (after their funding is diverted to private schools that are not accountable to anyone). In states that have passed voucher bills money is going to people who are already wealthy and the states are being bankrupted by rising costs. Let's make Texas great by adequately funding public education: right now our public schools are some of the most poorly funded in the nation, and now bills are being introduced to divert public funds away from them? The additional funding proposed is totally inadequate, and the proposal to give MORE money per student to private schools than to public schools is especially damaging for kids in rural areas who only have one option, but it also hurts all of us who depend on having a well educated workforce and citizenry. I don't understand the logic of privatizing everything but I do know that it will hurt us in the long run. Thank you for your service.

Jill Lanman, HR Director

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I received an excellent education and graduated from Texas public was a public school teacher as was my mother. I have several friends who are public school teacher in Texas. They and their students have suffered from lack of proper funding of public schools for the last few years. Please do not further erode Texas schools with public school vouchers by using public dollars for private education which will be a further drain on our public schools.

Scott Campbell

Self

Austin, TX

Our family has experienced first hand the difficulties of education children with special needs. We have been told explicitly by multiple private schools that they were “not equipped” to handle the challenges of our children. Currently our children go to an amazing public school, required by law to provide access for all. The educators at their school are well trained and exceptional. Under certain very specific circumstances ESA’s can clearly help individuals where the public school system is unable too, but redirecting money away from public schools puts vastly more students at risk, with families left to negotiate multiple bureaucracies and no guarantee the schools will admit them or have the proper services.

Chris Hendrickson

Self

Boerne, TX

Strongly oppose school vouchers. Fund our public schools.

Heather Gatlin

Self

Lubbock, TX

I believe that diverting public funds to private schools, whether directly or through education savings accounts, will severely harm our public education system

Vouchers will take resources away from already underfunded public schools. This will force public schools to do more with less, leading to larger class sizes, fewer resources for students, and a decline in overall educational quality. Many districts around the state are closing schools and laying off staff (both teaching and support). This has a direct impact on our students.

Private schools receiving voucher funds are not subject to the same level of oversight and accountability as public schools. They are also not required to teach the same curriculum or even standards. Moreover, private schools retain the right to selectively admit students, including the right to deny enrollment to students with disabilities. This creates inequities between the two systems (public and private).

Furthermore, states that have passed similar bills have not seen improvement in student outcomes and in many cases, student performance has actually declined. In addition to draining resources from public schools, many states have found that this type of program costs tax payers millions of dollars more than what was originally anticipated.

Texas has a constitutional obligation to provide a free and appropriate public education. Our Texas legislatures should focus on investing in and strengthening our public schools. This allows all Texas students have access to a high-quality education, not just those that can already afford private schools. Vouchers represent a costly and misguided experiment that will harm our public schools and our students.

Texas families already have school choice. They have the right to choose between public schools, charter schools, private schools, online schools, or homeschool. Public funds should stay in public schools where there are accountability measures in place. I urge you to reject any legislation that would create voucher or ESA plans in Texas. Instead, you should focus on fully funding public schools. This ensures that every child has an opportunity to succeed.

Randy Sedlacek
Self, Director of Operations
Denison, TX

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong opposition to HB 3, which is not only unconstitutional but also an unethical attempt to dismantle Texas public education. Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution requires the Legislature to maintain an efficient system of free public schools, while Section 5 ensures that the Permanent School Fund is used exclusively for public education. Furthermore, Article 16, Section 6 prohibits public funds from being diverted to private entities. HB 3 violates these provisions by funneling taxpayer money to private schools that are not accountable to the public.

Beyond its legal issues, HB 3 is not about helping Texas students—it's about serving special interests. Out-of-state billionaire Jeff Yass has spent millions to push this voucher scheme, despite overwhelming opposition from Texans—especially in rural communities like Grayson County, where public schools are the backbone of our communities. Texans should control the future of our schools, not a Pennsylvania billionaire with no ties to our state. This level of outside influence is unethical and should be illegal.

Our education system is broken—not because of our schools, teachers, or students, but because former lawmakers have spent decades dismantling it through excessive, expensive, and ineffective accountability tests and unfunded mandates. HB 3 does nothing to fix these systemic failures; instead, it further drains resources from our schools while leaving behind the vast majority of Texas students.

Our children deserve better from us. Instead of selling off our public education system to the highest bidder, we should be focusing on fixing the damage already done—eliminating wasteful testing, cutting bureaucratic red tape, and ensuring schools can actually meet the needs of students, not political agendas. HB 3 is a shortcut to privatization that fails Texas students and betrays the constitutional responsibility of this Legislature.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 3. Texans demand real solutions, not political payoffs.

Respectfully,
Randy Sedlacek
Grayson County Republican Precinct 202 Chair

Rebecca Branch
Self
Grapevine, TX

Please I beg you as a mother of two kids in school DO NOT PASS THIS!!!!

Eva Christopherson
Self
Hondo, TX

I emphatically disagree with the Governor's decision to force this ridiculous bill on our state. There is no proof in the other states that have this type of voucher program to be successful. Public funds should go to FULLY funding our Texas Public Education System. Our teachers and students deserve better!

Jo Keena
Self
Bellville, TX

This bill is not only terrible for all of Texas school, but it is especially terrible for rural schools. Our district already runs lean. We simply cannot absorb the additional loss of tax dollars while still providing a similar level of services to our students. Please do not pass this bill. Support public education.

Ricky Shafer, Educator

Self. Educator.

Lubbock, TX

Please support public schools. My tax dollars shouldn't be used to promote religious schools that don't the same rules at public schools. No state testing. They don't have to admit all students. This hurts special education. Please vote with the poorest kids in mind, and don't pretend that this supports them. Empirical evidence from other states suggests otherwise.

Dylan Segundo

Oglesby ISD

Oglesby, TX

No good for public schools

Jo Milam

Self

Waco, TX

Please vote no on vouchers. This is a thinly veiled attempt to kill public education. You know that rural areas will be hurt the most. You know that many many students even w vouchers will not be able to attend private schools. You know that the public schools will start to fail just as they have in other states like Arizona. Yet you still want to kill public education which has and should still be the backbone of our country. Shame on you

Omar Valenzuela

self, restaurant cook

Austin, TX

Relying on school vouchers for education will only reduce the quality of education further in the state ans make it more difficult for the underprivileged in the state to receive education.

Nick Nguyen

self

Addison, TX

Dear Representatives,

As someone who is a son, a brother, an uncle, and previously a student of the public education system, I am strongly opposed to the "School Vouchers." The Texas Education Code's primary goal is to "ensure all children have access to a quality education that enables them to achieve their potential and participate fully in the social, economic, and educational opportunities of the state and nation." If School Vouchers are implemented, this will create further inequality in the lives of our children. You will be robbing many children of opportunities while still handing the upper class a paycheck.

For starters, even with an extra \$10,000, many working class families that are struggling to meet basic needs will still not be able to send their kids to private schools. In states where school voucher systems have been implemented, private school tuition has often increased, which renders school vouchers useless. Assuming \$10,000 is sufficient, private schools are not even required to provide transportation for students. For working parents, this poses a significant challenge in Texas. Commuting is a huge issue in nearly every city in Texas as our road and highway infrastructure is designed so poorly. In rural Texas, many areas lack private schools entirely, making transportation even more of an issue.

Secondly, private schools can choose who to admit, so children with learning disabilities or those who do not fit the school's culture may be turned away. Many private schools are based off of out of touch Christian values. Which may further discriminate against children coming from different cultural backgrounds, sexual orientation, or religion. Public schools, however, are required to accept all students and are committed to supporting them. As someone who went through the public school system as a minority, it has really opened my eyes to how important it is to be around people who have interacted with other cultures and walks of life. There is so much that is learned from being exposed to people of different backgrounds. Empathy is often a skill that is not taught directly, but experienced. I believe that many people do not develop empathy due to the lack of exposure to different cultures and people when they were growing up.

Finally, under the voucher system, public funds would be diverted to children from wealthier families, who often already have access to private schooling. This would further widen the societal gap between the wealthy and everyone else. Schools should be setting every child up for success regardless of their background. Studies have proven that in states with voucher systems, over 75% of funds go to families already enrolled in private schools.

The solution is not school vouchers, because it would only deepen the economic and racial divides. If you truly care about ALL Texans, you will vote to improve public education and unlock opportunities for all children, no matter who they are.

Sincerely,

Nick N

Letty Tomlinson

self

Cedar Park, TX

No to HB3.

Public money for public schools. It shouldn't be that difficult.

HB 3 does not benefit rural students, nor students with disabilities or higher attention needs.

HB 3 would use Texas taxpayer money to subsidize the boutique education of kids whose parents can at least partly afford private tuition.

HB 3 would facilitate the spending of public money in religious education institutions with no consent of the people and against the time-honored tradition of the first amendment separation of church and state.

HB 3 paves the way for wider disparities between the most fortunate and wealthiest of us and those of us not fortunate enough to have the means for and access to private school.

HB 3 would benefit a small portion of students at the expense of the overwhelming majority of Texas kids.

HB 3 is un-American and un-Texan.

Do the right thing!

VOTE NO ON HB3.

Brenda Gonzalez

Self

Brownsville, TX

Our public schools need adequate funding as it is today, and passing vouchers would impact students, teachers, and public schools tremendously.

Matthew Booth

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please do not give our tax dollars to individuals. Our families, students, and educators deserve the best public schools that serve all for free regardless of where they live. The state bears a constitutional responsibility to the citizens of Texas to provide a free and appropriate education. Our state should brag about all of our public schools instead of only a few small schools that do not serve all students. We deserve a say in where our tax dollars are spent.

Harold R Reynolds

Self

Nocona, TX

Public schools need to be adequately funded. There are not private schools in my area. Those that want to go to private go but let them pay. Put enough resources in our public schools so they would be the .school of choice. I am afraid private schools are there to make a profit for its investors

Live

James King, Mr.

self / Computer and Technology Management

Austin, TX

I am against HB3 since it in effect starves public education of funding while redirecting the funds to those that need them the least. Public education is an investment in Texas that will allow it to further grow and Texas and Texans to further succeed by developing its own resources.

Johanna Brubaker, Mrs

Self- educator

McKinney, TX

Public schools are supposed to provide free, appropriate, and equal education under the law. HB3 removes support funds that public education needs in order to meet the needs and demands of state requirements to ensure high quality education, highly qualified certified educators, and research proven resources to support ALL student needs. Public school is for all. HB3 creates a divide amongst the state's families and sets up situations that are take away supports and resources. This includes your gifted students, students with dyslexia or 504 needs, or special needs who are not required by private schools to be served or won't provided the proper supports by ill qualifed teachers or materials. HB3 does not provide protections to ensure all students have equal opportunities nor does it ensure students or educators will be held accountable to rising standards. Vote no to vouchers-protect our public schools by releasing the proper funding to create the support systems needed to rise and grow. Without funding, belief and support you will fail our students and our students will fail to take the lead.

Donald Lammers

self

Dallas, TX

I am opposed to using public funds for private schools. Private schools are not required to provide services to all students. Poor famlies will not be able to afford the real cost of private schools. It only helps moderate to high income families. Furthermore it will disproportionately reduce funds to small rural schools. Finally, it will destroy Texas high school football.

Bailey Steffek

Self, public school teacher

Houston, TX

I am a dedicated public school teacher in Aldine ISD and I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3, the proposed school voucher bill.

As a teacher deeply invested in the success of all students, I have serious concerns about the detrimental impact this legislation would have on our public education system. HB3 would divert crucial public tax dollars away from already underfunded public schools and towards private institutions, many of which lack the same accountability and transparency as public schools. This siphoning of resources will inevitably leave public schools with fewer resources to serve the vast majority of students.

Holly Dillahunty, Retired Texas Teacher

Self

Lufkin, TX

I am against vouchers.

Nicole Scott

Self

San Antonio, TX

Texans do NOT support school vouchers. Do not pass HB3. Use that money to properly fund public schools and teachers. Our children deserve it.

Thomas Stratton, Mr

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

I urge you to oppose HB3 for the following reasons:

1. Vouchers don't improve student outcomes. Extensive research shows that voucher programs do not lead to better academic performance. Texas' economic growth depends on a well-educated workforce, and public dollars should go toward strengthening public education, not diverting funds to private schools with no proven benefit.
2. HB3 is not about school choice—it's about private school selectivity. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill doesn't expand options for families; it funds private schools' ability to pick and choose which students they accept. That's not choice for parents—it's choice for private institutions, funded by public money.
3. Public money demands public accountability. Any school or entity receiving taxpayer dollars should meet the same standards as public schools. That means following the same mandates, testing, and accountability measures—not receiving public funds with no strings attached.
4. Texans deserve a direct vote on vouchers. Public dollars should be spent with public input. Some lawmakers claim Texans already had their say during the primary election, but the measure on that ballot was vague and didn't outline the lack of oversight in voucher proposals. Put vouchers on the ballot so Texans can decide for themselves.

This bill isn't about helping Texas students—it's about giving public money to a select few without accountability. I urge you to reject HB3 and instead pursue policies that strengthen all Texas schools.

Thank you.

Emma Connolly

Self

Houston, TX

As a Texan who believes in educating all our children, I strongly oppose HB 3. In the long run it will not help any students. The damage done to a child's education in a voucher school is permanent. I believe the best way to support our children is to pour more funding into our public schools and public programming that all children are able to use and learn from. The school savings account is a bad idea and many Texans are opposed to it.

Please vote no on HB 3

Yosef Goldberger

self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Corinna Crockett

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill, HB 3!

Kathleen Petersen

Self

Lufkin, TX

I am opposed to giving more money to voucher students than public school students. That is called discrimination.

Julie Mahan

Self

Lantana, TX

I am against vouchers and want public schools fully funded.

Karen Anderson

Self

Red Oak, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill. Thank you for your time.

Brian Galaviz

Self

Lubbock, TX

Vouchers hurt public education by siphoning much needed funds into private schools. Private schools don't have an obligation to serve everyone. Public schools do. Public schools are already starved. We should be fully funding the school choices that accept all children to ensure all children receive top notch educations

Andrea Hernandez

Self, homemaker and substitute teacher

Leander, TX

Say no to school vouchers. I want public schools fully funded with at least \$1300 base allotment per student.

Cassandra Garza Peña

Self

San Antonio, TX

This bill does nothing to improve education in Texas. We need to fund PUBLIC schools fully, provide adequate pay for public school educators, and resources for children of ALL needs and backgrounds.

This school choice scam is exactly that...a scam that will only harm our children. Put our tax dollars to use by fully funding our public school system, where children of ALL backgrounds and needs are accepted and cared for.

Celeste Williams

Self

Georgetown, TX

I strongly oppose HB3, the proposed "School Voucher" bill, and urge the Public Education Committee, especially Chair Rep. Brad Buckley, to reject this harmful legislation. While vouchers are touted as providing "choice," they primarily benefit wealthier families and ignore the reality of access for all students.

Texas has over 1,300 private schools, but many of these institutions are selective, using admissions processes that often involve fees, entrance exams, and interviews, which limit access for low-income students and those with special needs. Unlike public schools, which must serve all students, private schools are not required to accommodate students with disabilities or offer the same transparency and accountability standards.

The core issue with HB3 is the inequity in tuition costs. Private school tuition in Texas ranges from \$6,000 to \$20,000 annually, depending on the institution. While HB3 proposes vouchers worth up to \$8,000, this amount often falls short of covering the full cost of tuition, leaving families to pay the difference. As a result, only families with sufficient resources can afford the remaining balance, meaning the voucher system deepens existing inequities by making "choice" available primarily to wealthier families.

Moreover, Texas public schools already face a significant funding gap, with a shortfall of over \$10 billion annually. Diverting these funds to private schools only worsens the underfunding crisis. Public schools are inclusive and serve all children, regardless of their background, academic ability, or special needs, making them a cornerstone of equity and democracy in Texas.

Rather than diverting funds to private institutions that do not serve every child, we must focus on fully funding and strengthening our public schools. I urge the committee to reject HB3 and prioritize policies that support public education for all Texas students. Public schools are the foundation of our future, and we must ensure every child has access to a quality education. Thank you.

Nina Martinez

Self software developer

San Antonio, TX

I do not support HB 3. If public schools are not a good fit, then let's use this money to make the public schools better. I do not want my tax money spent on private schools!

Brittany Deen
Self, registered nurse
Mansfield, TX

How much of that private schools acceptance number INCLUDES private schools that only take kids with disabilities such as the Notre Dame school in Dallas? That would skew the acceptance rate for children with Disabilities. I want my child INCLUDED with typically developing peers.

Kimi Bradshaw
Self- customer support
Spring, TX

Vouchers disproportionately benefit wealthier families who can already afford private education. Low-income families may have difficulty accessing private schools even with vouchers, as they may still struggle with additional costs such as transportation and other fees.

In rural or smaller communities, private schools are often limited or nonexistent. Vouchers could result in urban families accessing resources while leaving rural districts to shoulder the full financial burden of educating students without the same level of support.

Private schools can have selective admissions policies and may discriminate based on factors like disability, religion, or academic performance. Vouchers could exacerbate this issue by enabling public funding to flow to institutions that do not have to comply with the same anti-discrimination laws that public schools follow.

Private schools are not always equipped to handle the diverse needs of students with disabilities, and vouchers could force public schools to bear the cost of educating these students without adequate resources, as many private institutions do not have the special education programs required by law.

School vouchers take decision-making out of the hands of local communities. Vouchers divert funding to private institutions that may not reflect the values or needs of the community, reducing local control over how education is delivered and funded.

As it stands, this proposal is inequitable in terms of the funding public schools would receive. Additionally, there are no safeguards in place to address situations where private schools refuse to accept students or where a student is expelled and sent back to a public school. In such cases, it is unclear who would retain or control the funding.

Mindi Penrod
Self
Houston, TX

I am against this bill. We do not need ESAs in this state. It will bankrupt public education and our current budget. This is nothing but a way to segregate the haves and have nots. This is not the way to invest in our future, this money should be put back into public education to support it, not a break for the wealthy to support private schools.

Paul Zoch, Rev
BCISD School Board
Bridge City, TX

I would like to express my deep concern on establishing ESA. First, as a fiscal conservative, I believe that this law will create a significant burden on the public finances of the state of Texas. I have researched other states and it seems to create great financial problems. Second, my father was a second generation immigrant from Germany who believed education was the key to financial advancement and independence. We believe that education you could succeed in our country. He strongly believed that education was the greatest equalizer. He only had a basic education, but all three of his children earned advanced degrees and are very successful. I am therefore concerned about ESAs and oppose them and this bill and hope that the state of Texas will not pass this. Thank you.

Duana EISEMANN
Myself
Garland, TX

I am a grandparent/teacher/Texan who opposes HB 3 and any private school vouchers. Our kids and teachers deserve fully public funded schools. Tax payer money should be for public schools and not given to private schools and without any accountability.

Lauren Young
Mom of 3 public school children
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.
This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Lauren Young
(Mom of 3 children in the Spring Branch Independent School District)

Marty Chapman
Self
Houston, TX

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This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!
Marty Chapman

Susan Meyer
Self/Editor
Austin, TX

My two children are in the AISD school system, and we've been amazed at the passion of the teachers and the ability of the school to meet our needs with such few resources. We could afford to send our children to private schools, but we choose to send them to public school because I believe that wealth shouldn't determine how good an education you should receive. All children deserve access to a good education. The way to do that is better fund our public schools, not to take funds away from them to line the pockets of private institutions. Public funds should go to public schools. This is not about "school choice." The only people giving \$10,000 to choose private school will benefit are the people who can already afford to choose private school. The rest, who don't have access to private schools or who can't afford it even with the stipend, will not have a choice...they will send their kids to their underfunded public school. We can make our public schools better so that every Texan will be proud to choose them, but only with funding. Texas should be ranked in the top 10 for education in the state. We should have teachers flocking to work here. Instead we have teachers leaving the occupation because they can't afford to keep working as their raises have not kept up with inflation. I want to live in a state where not only my kids, but all kids can go to their local school and get a solid education from veteran teachers with the resources they need. Please vote No on HB 3. Thank you for your time.

Santiago Chavez
Raise your Hand Texas
San Elizario, TX

I oppose vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education. Don't allow a billionaire to dictate our state and our education system.

Aurlie Strealay, Retired school speech language pathologist
Self
Corp Christi, TX

Public Schools provide services private school won't. Don't weaken our public schools based on the wishes of you financial contributors. They have more money. We have more votes.

Katelyn Thompson
Self, Professor
Tatum, TX

Please oppose HB 3 and put an emphasis on valuing the education of Texas children.

Patrick Thomas
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Please vote NO on HB3 to oppose this poisonous school voucher program. It helps nobody but those that can afford private school tuition already. This has played out in Arizona, where there is leeching public funding into the pockets of those that already have enough. Don't make the same mistake. Vote NO.

I understand the main argument for this savings program is for those with special educational needs can shop around. But this is a poor argument- private schools are under no obligation to accept such a student! This leaves the student and parents in the original position they were in, at the now- under-funded district. Vote No.

As a proud Texan, I want our public schools to have the resources they need to provide great education for our children. These starved districts need more resources, not less. Pass a clean bill for teachers! Vote No on HB3!

Robin Shipman
Self/retired
Honey Grove, TX

I feel this push to fund private schools should be illegal. How is it legal to fund private institutions with public money?

Texas is large and spread out. Do you understand how many kids live too far away from private schools? Even if their tuition was paid, how would they get to school?

Public schools are held accountable for the performance of students on a mandated STAAR test. The reasoning for this is that they receive state money. Private schools are not. Will they now be held to these standards of accountability? They should.

Teachers in private schools don't even have to be certified to teach there. Why? If they receive public money, they should.

I will never support this ridiculous idea. I strongly believe that money has changed hands illegally to bring this about. I will never vote for a politician who supports this.

Charles Gaddy Jr, Mr
Self
Corsicana, TX

This is a scam it only for the billionaires that own our governor. I have two grandkids that are teachers. One worked for a private school he quit because he had to go back to work for public school. The wages and benefits were not as good and he had no help. The only people that made money the board and the owners. I urge you and hope did veto no to this scam.

Jessica Guevara
Self
Uvalde, TX

Please do not vote for school vouchers they hurt our rural communities with lack of private school education. This is a bad idea & will affect our public schools who are already suffering deeply. Please VOTE NO to school vouchers

Janice Halliday
Myself
Weatherford, TX

Please please please vote against school vouchers! We don't want or need this! Listen to the people who voted you into office!

Matthew Recio, Mr.
Dixie Elementary School PTA
TYLER, TX

We need funding and we like public schools! With our funding it's impossible, please understand!

Kristen Lander, Mrs.
Self - Teacher
Driftwood, TX

Your vote on vouchers (aka education savings accounts) in any form should be a hard NO. Teachers know the truth, parents know the truth, community leaders know the truth...this will hurt public schools and you know that truth too. Please stop thinking like a politician with donors and start thinking like true leaders who are actually interested in the future of our society....in creating an educated workforce, the next entrepreneurs and inventors, the next doctors and teachers. I invite you to not just think about this choice, but rather ACT. Standup for what's right for all our children. Come visit our public schools this will affect, spend a day in our classrooms, with these children, and you might learn something about them and yourself. Vote no. Please.

Yubiel Castelan

Self

Hutto, TX

A private school voucher scam gives taxpayer dollars to unaccountable private schools. Under HB 3, we would be sending our taxpayer dollars to schools that don't have to conduct background checks on teachers, can teach any curriculum, can reject any student for any reason, and importantly, do not take the same assessment as public students, preventing us from even assessing how students are performing. Repeated studies show that vouchers don't by any means improve student performance and often result in poorer performance.

Carrie Nance, Ms.

Self

Cedar Park, TX

As a public high school teacher of 22 years, I am proud to be part of a system that serves such a wide variety of students. Kids of different backgrounds and cultures with an aptitude for the arts, science, and/or sports all together learning from one another as well as their instructors. It is an honor to work with classes that include both readers and those who struggle to read, kids from different countries who share their experiences and perspective, kids who have wealthy families and kids who don't—all together. Each of these students is served by our public school system and I get to help. Such diversity is an asset, representative of the world we live in. By teaching them and fostering cooperation and community in my classroom, they all grow, and I do, too. The district where I work, Leander, provides opportunities for all learners, whether they need challenge or extra support, regardless of their social status or background. What public schools in Texas need to continue providing our kids with these opportunities is funding. The proposal to establish an education savings account program threatens the success of our schools, threatens this system that includes every student. By providing funds to private schools and diverting money from our public schools, everyone in this state suffers. Fund the basic allotment of \$1300 per child, say no to this voucher system, and remain focused on educating every single student in every public school. Strengthen our programs, pay our teachers. It's the right thing to do. Vote No on HB3, and focus on ensuring public schools meet the public's needs.

Joa Muns

Self

Plano, TX

Vote NO to Vouchers!

Penney Matos

Self

Mckinney, TX

Vouchers (by any name) are detrimental to public education. Millions of dollars have been spent supporting Texas legislators by private school educational program providers. This is a huge conflict of interest and definitely not in the best interest of our state's children. Oppose HB 3.

Jessica Villanueva

Self

Corp Christi, TX

As a parent and a teacher who has taught in the private and public sector, I strongly oppose this bill. Public school classrooms have been woefully underfunded and the government has had a chokehold on them through the STAAR as well as underfunded mandates. I do believe there needs to be a change in our schools but history and research shows that this is not it. We need better training and curriculum for our teachers. We need an increase in salaries for those working in our public school systems. Charter schools were developed for the same reasons the vouchers are now being pushed. On average, charter schools perform more poorly than public schools. If private schools perform better than public school, which is debatable, it is because they are able to dismiss students they "are not able to serve." I have heard this line often from private schools I have worked with. Also, the majority of private school parents employ personal tutors when the students fall behind. This bill will not only be unhelpful to majority of our children, it will hurt those most vulnerable.

Rebecca Martinez

Self

San Antonio, TX

This bill will only help kids already in private schools. Texas has so many rural school districts, and none of those kids have access to private schools within driving distance. Kids already in private schools are clearly already able to afford that bill. It has been proven in other states, that this program simply causes private schools to raise their tuition, so that even with the voucher, families still wouldn't be able to afford a private school. This takes money away from our public schools, which desperately need funding. Please vote no-follow the research that shows this has no benefit.

Wesley Ammerman, Mr.

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Wesley Ammerman and I am a constituent and taxpayer in Austin, Texas. I strongly oppose HB 3 and the creation of education savings accounts (ESAs) for private school vouchers and urge the legislature to reject this bill. ESAs will divert crucial funding away from public schools. Texas ranks well below the national average in per-student spending for public schools. Rather than subsidizing private education for wealthier families, these funds would be better invested in improving options and supporting students within the public school system that serves the vast majority of Texas children. ESAs in other states have shown that they force rural communities to pay into a system they likely cannot access, fail to protect the rights of students with disabilities, and promote the creation of pop-up schools and vendors who do not provide transparency or accountability for what students are learning. It is time for the State of Texas to invest and support our public schools, our teachers and our students. I urge you to reject this voucher scheme and instead focus on fully and equitably funding our public schools.

Erica Anderson

Self

Mesquite, TX

None

Kathleen Milligan

Self - Marketing Strategy Lead

Katy, TX

I strongly object HB3 and the proposal to take public funding away from public schools and to voucher programs. Public education is critically important to the future of our state, and millions of students and parents across the state depend on public schools. Vouchers would not cover the full cost of private schools, making private schools well out of reach to lower income families. The families that can afford private schools are already sending them, and with vouchers would get a significant discount at the expense of taxpayers and citizens who rely on public schools. House members are supposed to represent their constituents, and the vast majority of constituents in Texas do NOT want this bill to pass. To pass this bill is to tell Texans that you simply do not care to represent our needs, so I implore you to reject HB3 and use our taxpayer dollars to fund public schools.

Lenny Liegl

Parent

San Antonio, TX

As a public school mom of three I am asking for their education to be prioritized over those who choose to move to private school. Their choice should not affect those who are happy with education our children receive. The kids in public school learn to develop and manage differences with others, have a wider variety of class options and learn to have conflict management and understanding. She. You attend a school that is primarily one type of student you don't not learn empathy towards others or how to do exist with others. I her three children that are to of thier class, choosing to continue their education at the collegiate level and so far one D1 athlete. The oldest just graduated for a 6a school, join the corps of cadets at TAMU and will be able to double major because of his public school high school education! My youngest is a freshman and loves everything her HS has to offer from journalism to varsity athletics to taking 2 AP classes her first year in school! Thank you for your time!

Kristy McCoy

Self / Teacher

Celina, TX

I am writing as a concerned constituent to express my strong opposition to HB3. This bill is neither fiscally conservative nor in the best interest of Texas families. I believe anyone who votes for it is prioritizing political donors over the will of the majority of Texans.

The claim that HB3 is about "parent choice" is misleading. Parents already have choices—public schools, private schools, charter schools, and homeschooling—without diverting taxpayer dollars to private institutions. Vouchers do not create choice; they subsidize private education at the expense of public schools.

While proponents claim vouchers expand "school choice," they actually drain resources from already underfunded public schools to benefit private institutions with little to no accountability. This is the opposite of fiscal conservatism, which demands responsible spending and efficiency. If public funds are used for private education, those institutions should meet the same transparency and accountability standards as public schools—HB3 does not ensure that.

The basic allotment has not been increased since 2019 and has failed to keep up with inflation. Public schools are being asked to do more with less, while this bill seeks to send even more taxpayer dollars to private schools with no obligation to serve all students. If improving education is truly the goal, the solution is to strengthen our public schools, not divert funds to private institutions.

Additionally, implementing a voucher program of this scale would require an expansion of the Texas Education Agency, adding layers of bureaucracy and massive administrative costs. This contradicts the conservative principle of small government and will inevitably lead to higher costs for taxpayers—all to fund private education with little oversight.

The claim that "money should follow the child" is misleading when the average homeowner pays far less in school taxes than the voucher they would receive per child. This is not fiscal responsibility—it is a government handout to private institutions at the expense of public education.

Taxpayer dollars fund services that benefit everyone, whether we use them directly or not. We all pay for roads, even if we don't drive on every street. We all pay for police and firefighters, even if we never call them. Public education is no different—it is a public good that strengthens our communities and economy. Allowing individuals to take tax dollars for private schooling is like letting people opt out of paying for roads because they prefer tollways.

A matter this consequential should not be decided by political maneuvering but by the voters. If HB3 is truly in Texas' best interest, let the people decide at the ballot box in November.

I urge you to vote against HB3 and focus instead on strengthening the public schools that serve the vast majority of Texas families. No welfare for the wealthy. No vendor bills.

Carlyn Burton

Self

Houston, TX

My daughter is a current student in Houston ISD. I have served multiple years on her school's Shared Decision Making Committee, which made me aware of the school's budget issues to a greater degree than most parents. The State of Texas has significantly underfunded our schools. I have watched our school leaders make decisions to increase class size (beyond TEA limits) because doing so provides a budget cushion for substitute teachers. This same school provides phenomenal support to all learners including those with significant learning differences. While this proposed bill presents the idea that it is giving parents "school choice", the reality is that it only gives a choice to those parents whose students a private school will admit, educate those students without oversight of TEA, assuming the parents can transport their students to the school and afford the total tuition cost. Our public education budgets are run on a shoe string, and this proposed bill only makes these issues worse, spreading those funds (and in fact at a proposed dollar amount that is greater than what goes to public schools) instead to private schools. In my hometown of Seguin, had my parents wanted to attend private school, quality private schools simply did not (and still do not) exist in the area. However, the proposed bill will pull money from a district that needs the funds, which will thereby dismantle our public education system, and teacher retirement funds over time. Though, perhaps this is the goal of the bill sponsors.

Sarah Frerich

Self/ Stay at home mom

Plano, TX

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Below are questions and concerns I have with HB3.

Would private or other schools get reduced funds if students are absent? If not, why?

Most districts allow (If not all) students to transfer schools within the district if they can provide transportation for their student and that spacing permits; just like a child going to a charter or private school would have to do. There are ways for parent choice in public schools.

Public schools have state mandated testing. Private schools do not. What accountability will they have if families are using money provided with tax dollars to do so? Or why are public schools required to have state testing? If both are using state funding?

TEA oversees special programs and staffing in public schools, will they oversee schools that receive vouchers? If not, why is there so much regulation in public school and not private?

Most private schools in the area are more than \$10,000 a year per student along with other fees; how will this help those in most need of assistants?

Will this \$10,000 voucher be for any private or charter school? Will it be allowed to go to any school not dependent upon religion or qualifications?

Will private and charter schools still be allowed to test to get accepted to the school and still be able to turn away students? Public schools accept all students and do not have the ability to turn away students.

Will private schools still be able to dismiss students who do not perform or follow the code of conduct of that school? This action creates a major difference in what public schools and private schools are allowed to do. The goal at a public school is to educate ALL students. Will the state get a refund if a child is dismissed and they used the voucher?

What states have vouchers worked in? Where do we have to look at and see that it has been done successfully? How have they been implemented in those states? How do those states compare with Texas?

How will we as a state still be able to follow Article VII of the Texas State Constitution where there are establishing and maintaining a free public education system; with such reduced funding to public schools?

Parents must still be able to afford the extra cost, have the ability to drive to the school, and then get accepted to the schools. How will there be enough room for all of the kids at the schools parents choose for their children? How is it justifiable that some get "school choice" while over 5 million students are enrolled in Texas public schools?

How many students will receive the voucher for kids who are going to be in school that are not school aged yet or people who move into Texas?

Kevin Kuhlman

Self/tax payer

Argyle, TX

Let Texans decide and put this on the ballot!

Kristina Santos

Yourself

Austin, TX

Pass

Kelley Piwonka

self

Austin, TX

I vehemently oppose HB 3. This bill is not only harmful to students with disabilities but it is harmful to our entire public school system and all children who attend and public school teachers and administrators who teaching out future leaders. The purpose of this bill is not to provide school choice but to give a discount to the privileged 6% that can already afford private education, while taking away funding from already critically underfunded public schools. Texas ranks 46 nationally for its spending on its public school systems. 46!!

I have 2 small children, one of which, has several disabilities and this program, if passed, this will be detrimental to his education and thus his long term life outcome. It is the duty of the state to fully fund and provide free public education to all children and not to privatize education which is exactly where this is headed. This is a very dangerous bill and 5.5 million children's futures are at risk by putting more money into the hands of private education and those that can already afford it.

Cora Rothe

Self - Retired Teacher

Hondo, TX

Please don't discount public schools in rural areas. They deserve full funding because so many families will not be able to transport their child to some privately run school because they lack transportation opportunities to take their child to a school miles away. We live in a great community with great public schools - please do not vote against public schools because that would have a sad result to a good school system for many students.

Brianna Stewart

Self

Paris, TX

This is not school choice—we already have school choice in Texas. A well-educated society is a thriving society, yet public education is being systematically underfunded while taxpayer dollars are funneled into private schools. These private institutions face no accountability, no state-mandated standards, and can pick and choose whom they serve. This is modern-day segregation, creating further inequities in our education system.

Public schools are in crisis. Class sizes are growing, teachers—especially the best ones—are leaving, and there aren't enough staff members to meet the needs of all students, particularly those requiring special education services. The curriculum mandates handed down by the state are not serving students or teachers effectively. Offering a small funding increase is like handing someone a cotton ball for a shotgun wound—it's nowhere near enough.

I urge you to visit a public school in your district. Speak with the professionals who dedicate their lives to educating our children. See firsthand what chronic underfunding has done. Instead of diverting funds to private institutions that serve only a select few, invest fully in the public schools that serve all Texas children.

Kerrin Watson

Self

Cypress, TX

The Texas constitution states that there should be separation of church and state. Paying for education vouchers with tax dollars is not constitutional.

Travis Arnold

Self

Benbrook, TX

This bill is a slap in the face to public educators throughout the state. Greg Abbott and his republican/billionaire donors have been holding billions of dollars in funding hostage that would help public schools, yet they are purposely letting them fail to push for this voucher scam. Withholding money is not how you fix a problem, you try to fix it by funding schools to get more support, encourage future educators to enter the field that will help elevate the profession, and repair schools to fix basic maintenance to encourage a conducive learning environment. This bill will only help create a wage gap in education and low-income schools/district/families will continue to suffer.

Amy Dubin

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I am strenuously opposed to this bill. It does nothing to further school choice just gives families already able to send their kids to private school another benefit at the detriment to public schools. Instead \$ should be invested in improving public schools

Yasmine Anderson

self

Austin, TX

My name is Yasmine Anderson and I have a daughter in the Texas public education system. She's currently in 8th grade and has been in public schools since pre-K. She receives special education services for ADHD, dyslexia, and dysgraphia. I've been reading in my local paper and talking with teachers about the cuts that our local schools are having to make because of budget deficits. At first, I thought it was a district problem, but as I've researched, I've learned that it is really a state problem. Since 2019, the state has not added any funding to schools to take inflation into account, leaving school districts \$10 billion behind this year. That means that my school district is operating with 80% of the funding it had in 2019. I know the school district used federal funds during COVID to cover the gaps, but that funding is gone. Already, we're seeing schools close, after-school programs go away, and other supports for kids removed. Schools are losing counselors and librarians. As a parent of a child with learning differences, I've seen firsthand how critical proper funding is for special education services. When resources are stretched thin, it's often students like my daughter who feel the impact most severely. I've also read that the state of Texas has lots of funding in the bank in the Rainy Day Fund and in unspent funds from past years. The Texas Tribune says that amount is about \$50 billion dollars. Here's my recommendation: Help school districts catch up to where they were funded in 2019. That would mean adding \$1,300 per student, which would cost about \$20 billion. You would still have enough funding for lots of other needs. The current proposal in HB2 to increase funding by only \$220 per student is simply inadequate and, frankly, an insult to our educators and students. This doesn't come close to keeping pace with inflation. I can't think of a more important investment than our Texas public schools. Businesses moving to Texas expect strong school systems for their families moving in. But we can't have great schools if they are constantly struggling for funding. My daughter deserves better, all Texas children deserve better. Let's fix it now!

Melissa Covington

Self

Schertz, TX

SB2/HB3 grows government, weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money with zero accountability. It strips rural schools of funding, could send tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools, and violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education. Say NO to SB2 & HB3!

Angela Fuller

Self

Garland, TX

Make no mistake, were the voucher program presented to the voters on a ballot- it would be voted down HANDILY. This is incredibly unpopular. It strips public schools of much needed funding (my district, Richardson ISD would lose an estimated 15 million dollars in funding, hundreds of teachers, thousands of books.) It will raise property taxes. It robs children of the same opportunities at education regardless of their economic background. It robs children who need services to support their learning (like my son) of those services. It is reverse Robin Hood- robbing from the POOR to pay the RICH.

This voucher scam was voted down by a bipartisan majority in 2023. What is the motivation of an out of state billionaire to donate 12 million dollars to Governor Abbott to force this voucher scam down our throats? To push out legislators who were not "voucher friendly" in favor of legislators who will be yes men for this scam?

This is NOT the will of Texans. Two years ago it wasn't even the will of Texas lawmakers. It shouldn't be forced on us. It is not in the best interest of our children or the future of our state. What a terrible legacy it would be for Abbott.

Please remember, you all work for the people of Texas and for our children- NOT for Abbott and a Pennsylvania billionaire with a suspicious agenda.

Sherry Boyd

Self

Spearman, TX

Do not use public funds to subsidize a private choice! NO VOUCHERS! I am a teacher and I don't want funds taken from public schools to go to people who are already paying for their children to attend the private school if their choice. Our constitution instructs to fund public schools never saying anything about private entities.

Michelle Real, Ms.

Self

Hutto, TX

I am opposed to this voucher scam. Please vote no.

Holly Ohlsson, Mrs.

Self

Katy, TX

As a mother to 4 children, 3 of whom have special education needs, ensuring my children and others have access to a free and appropriate public education is of the utmost importance. We chose our neighborhood based on the exemplary public schools and we have been willing to pay higher property taxes knowing that much of those taxes would go towards educating the next generation. This bill which would strip tens of millions of dollars from our school district would be a disaster for Texas families. Schools are already struggling to meet needs due to the legislature's failure to increase the basic allotment since 2019. This bill would do nothing but strip funds away from those who need it the most and put it into the hands of wealthy families who are already able to send their kids to private schools. This bill is not about choice. It only enhances the choice of those who already have money and would harm millions of Texas children. I strongly urge you to vote no on this legislation and instead focus on increasing the basic allotment, recruiting and retaining high quality teachers, and keeping our children safe. This bill would do none of that. Texans do not want this bill. We want publicly funded, free and appropriate education for our kids.

Kedra Priest

Self

Austin, TX

I do not support HB 3. As a former teacher who has taught in several school districts across Texas I am well aware of the funding gaps in various school districts. HB 3 is nothing more than a tax credit for wealthy families who live in urban areas where they can send their children to private schools. This bill does nothing to promote education for our youth and will lead to further harm to our already under resourced schools.

Robert Peipert

Self

Southlake, TX

I voted for tax dollars to only go to public schools not for public money to be distributed to anything else

Kelly Cline

Self

Austin, TX

I come from a family of public school educators. Six of them are or have worked as teachers in the Texas public school system. HB 3 will make their already difficult job more so. Texas public schools operate under dictates many of which are set by the state government that private schools do not have to operate under. It is alarming that private schools will receive \$10,000 per student with no requirements for student outcomes while public schools get less than \$7000 per student, but come with a host of requirements. Shifting money from public schools to private schools will further cripple the already underfunded public schools. Please vote against HB 3 and instead increase teacher pay so that public schools can retain well trained and dedicated teachers and bring up public school's per student funding to the same proposed \$10,000 per student level that vouchers would give.

Rebecca Haigh

Self

Houston, TX

Our nation love freedom, but school vouchers do not equate to freedom. Quality education with equal access for everyone gains freedom for our citizens. Access to an excellent education allows our citizens the ability to assess and understand the world around us and make choices and decisions for the betterment of ourselves as Americans.

The people who are promoting the vouchers will tell you that it's better to have the freedom to choose than to focus funds solely on public schools. There are multiple reasons this is false.

First of all, public schools must meet the standards set by the government, while private schools are not held to a minimum standard. They are free to hire anyone as a teacher, including those unable to pass teachers certification exam.

The money that comes out of every tax payers pocket will be turned into vouchers for a private school that charges more for substandard education. Do the vouchers guarantee that everyone has equal access to all schools, or do the schools that are actually worth going to have the right to reject students?

Vouchers do not create equal access to quality education. Instead, it takes taxpayer dollars that could be fixing our public education system (which is equally accessible to all in the community); and puts it in the hands of subpar private schools.

If an individual has the funds to send their children to private school, or wants to do homeschool, that is their purgative. I want my tax dollars to fund an overhaul of our public schools. Let's make our school system one that Texans can be proud of!

As one of the most populated states, should we be middle of the road in education? We rank high in stability and economy, so why are our students not top of the nation!

The tech businesses claim they have to find talent outside the United States to staff their businesses. (We all know they just want to under pay for labor); but perhaps we should use all of the funding for education on a singular education system and perfect it.

If we have a strong pool of students that have the scores to gain hirer degrees, then there will be too great a pool of talent to justify giving exemptions to companies who want to be American, but not hire Americans.

Julie Nelson

Self

Midlothian, TX

NO to vouchers! Fund public schools as they should be funded!

Victor Peschke

Self- fire fighter

Dallas, TX

Please vote now against this voucher program. Public dollars for public schools.

Susan Stewart
Self
Pflugerville, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3 - It starves our constitutionally mandated public schools of funding that is needed to effectively educate the more than 5 million public school students in Texas. HB 3 threatens the solvency of TRS. HB 3 lacks accountability. HB 3 threatens the independence of our local, independent schools. HB 3 threatens Texas future by depriving more than 5 million public school students of an education that prepares them for the future. KILL HB 3

Diane Luna
Self- teacher
Round Rock, TX

My name is Diane Luna and I have been a public school teacher for 10 years in Texas. I am asking you to vote no on HB3 the school voucher bill. This bill will take money out of the public school system and put it into the private school system. Texans have lots of choice on where their children can go to school. Public money for public education. I would like you to use some of our State dollars to increase the annual student allotment and maintain our TRS retirement funds. We work incredibly hard to educate anyone who walks through our doors. You can help us do that by properly funding public schools. Thank you for serving all Texans.

Norma Moore
self
San Antonio, TX

Public education needs to be strong in order to see the future demands of our state and nation. There is already school choice with many public school districts providing various alternatives to accelerate scholarship and personal interests. I worked as a public school teacher for 25 years and found the state elective officials have asked teachers to be more accountable and to do more with less while asking very little of private schools in regards to accountability.

Zeb ULLOM, Mr.
Self
Granbury, TX

Going on record to say that I oppose HB3.

Roshni Varghese
Self-Teacher
Kyle, TX

My name is Roshni Varghese and I live in Kyle, Texas. I have been a public educator for 10 years. I am against this house bill as I do not believe public dollars should ever be used for private endeavours, especially within education. Public education provides so much to the students that come through their doors, a lot of which a private school has never been required to provide. All public dollars that have been allowed for education should go toward the betterment of our public schools. Having been in public education for the last 10 years I've seen how the lack of money has stopped us from hiring, from providing resources, from being able to afford trainings for our teachers to grow, and so much more.

This negatively effects the majority of Texan students, as most Texans attend public schools. Additionally, working in a more rural area, I know that private schools aren't an option for a lot of families, so why should money not be put toward the schools they do have?

I also have taught a high amount of special needs students in my career, and I know that these students would not be on acceptance lists of the private schools these public dollars would be going to. Our most vulnerable students are the ones who need the most, and the fact that "school choice" would not benefit them is further reason to be against this bill.

I hope and pray that the committee votes against this discriminatory bill, and show that they truly back the students and families of Texas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Emily Cabral, Dr.

Self

Dallas, TX

I am writing to share my strong opposition to school vouchers. Vouchers are expensive and will gut already underfunded community schools and charter schools. School choice is NOT parent choice. Vouchers will not service the public good and will hurt children in special education and those experiencing poverty. Vouchers will further erode our democracy. Please do not support vouchers. It is not the will of the people or your constituents. Vouchers will hurt children and families and all people in Texas.

Sarah Lozano

Self - Educator

ROUND ROCK, TX

I am in my 18th year of teaching at a public elementary school. I have worked with some of the most dedicated teachers and hardest-working kids despite their financial situations. We have struggled with the lack of funding, but that didn't keep us from still doing our best. Instead of voting for vouchers that will hurt our children even more, I ask that you fund our public schools - the ones that serve ALL students and not just a chosen few. If Texans truly want this, why not put it to a statewide vote and ask the people you claim to represent? Do the right thing. Do the Christian thing, and take care of our children by funding public education and forgoing this voucher plan.

Jana Pellusch, Ms

Self - retired

Deer Park, TX

Why not simply fund the public schools, which serve everyone? Focus on getting enough resources into the public arena, which is especially critical in rural areas where there is not the same variety of choices that exists in urban areas.

I understand that House Bill 3 would tie the amount allocated for program participants to the state's per-pupil funding.

Isn't it the case that instituting a voucher system involves a whole new network of expenses in getting this program logistically set up and functioning?

I am in favor of taking the state's per-pupil funding amount and increasing it by, say, 5%, 10% ... whatever we can do under the current system.

Let's be smart about funding our public education system. Let's not mess around and screw it up!!!

Merzowski Diana

Self. Interior Designer

Dallas, TX

I oppose HB 3.

I support fully, and adequately funding public education.

Do NOT take our public dollars and divert them to the private schools, religions, parents sending their children to private schools, private school owners, nor private companies that will be hired to administer the program.

Keep our public dollars in the public schools and better yet, adequately fund them and the dedicated public school teachers.

Thank you,

Diana Merzowski

Elizabeth Knapp

Self, teacher

Sachse, TX

I oppose HB 3

William Gibbs, Mr

Self

TAYLOR, TX

Although I'm retired and the grandkids have graduated, I'm still concerned about the future of Public education. I feel like this bill is the first step to taking education away from those who may need it the most.

Anna Lamb

Wylie ISD

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Heather Cherry

Self

Aubrey, TX

I stand firm with Texas PTA as a parent in a school that is actually one that kids would be transferring into based on state scores.

Judy Holloway

Pastors For Texas Children

Ft Worth, TX

NO Vouchers

Ally Haefner

Self - lawyer

Plano, TX

We have four children, the oldest of which attends our wonderful neighborhood Plano ISD elementary school. We have an incredible school with an incredible staff who are already underpaid as it is. This HB takes away funding from my children's education and provides it to those who are choosing to pay for their own child's education for their own personal reasons. They have the resources to do this, while so many in the public school system (our family included) do not. Additionally, there is no check on how private schools establish their pricing. Thus, it's foreseeable that they will continue increasing their pricing while also receiving extra funds under this HB, making it more expensive to actually attend. Additionally, you would be providing less resources to public schools who need the funding because they are available for all to attend. This bill would require public schools to provide the same level of education at a lower cost, effecting teacher pay, which will directly effect retention of quality talent in the public school system. Then it's a dominos effect if you can't hire & retain quality teachers, the quality of education also takes a dive. As a dual income, middle class, large family, we cannot afford to spend inordinate amounts of money on our children's primary education, while also trying to save for their future (hopeful) college education. For those that make the choice to go the private/alternative school route for their families, the cost in part of that decision. This HB would effectively penalize those that intentionally choose public schools for their children. Thank you.

Erin Dutka

Myself

Houston, TX

I oppose HB 3. Public funds belong in PUBLIC EDUCATION!! We do not need discounts/coupons for people already sending their children to private schools. FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

William Philips
Father of special needs children
Austin, TX

I do not support this bill. It will be ruinous for public educations as it syphons off big dollars from public schools to private schools. Private schools are opaque, not having to abide by educational standards and can discriminate in enrollment of children of special needs and others. Point is they are private so can run their school without complying to policies and standards placed on Public schools. If public dollars are funneled to this organizations, bills must be passed to ensure private schools are held to account for educating our children. That is missing. In the meantime Public dollars SHOULD NOT GO TO private schools!

Felicia Zimmer
Self
Murphy, TX

I OPPOSE SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Claudia Quintero
Myself and family
Belton, TX

No vouchers

Sara Patterson
Self/volunteer
San Antonio, TX

Good afternoon. I am the product of both public (10 yrs) and private (2 yrs) schools in Dallas. My children were educated in public schools in San Antonio. I am opposed to HB 3. Public dollars should remain in public schools. It is fiscally irresponsible to divert dollars that are so desperately needed in public education to private schools.

Those in the legislature who support ESAs say these accounts would allow for parent choice. However, parent choice already exists in Texas - through public, private, charter, or home schools.

Sending public funds to a private school with religious affiliation would violate the principle of separation of church and state, as set forth in the U.S. Constitution. It would also violate the principle that prohibits a government from establishing of religion is ESA money is sent to a school with religious ties.

Public schools in Texas are underfunded as it is. Using a billion dollars (or more, in the future) to fund vouchers would only lead to the closure of more campuses across the state. What about rural school districts with little to no access to private schools? How would a voucher help them?

I implore you, Chairman Buckley & committee, to vote NO on HB 3.

Representatives Hinojosa & Talarico, thank you for your support of public education in our state. Our kids depend on you.

Janis Northcott, Mrs
Self/ESL Teacher Canadian ISD
Canadian, TX

I oppose HB 3! Vouchers will take money away from public schools that are already struggling, especially rural schools. Please fully & adequately fund public education. Most Texans oppose the voucher system!!!

Marian Thompson

Self

Austin, TX

Vote NO on HB3! Our schools are already suffering from lack of proper funding. My daughter's school is taking apart. Please fund the schools we already have. The last time we need is to take funding away from public schools. Give out teachers raises!

BONIFACE JACOBS

AFT

DALLAS, TX

This Republican supports this Bill ... BUT ONLY after FIRST fully funding the per pupil (which hasn't been raised since before the pandemic) AND teacher pay raises of \$12,000. Neither the Per Pupil or Teacher Pay has kept pace with inflation much less added to either schools or teachers. FIRST Teacher Pay! SECOND Per Pupil! THIRD Vouchers!

Christina Drake, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

I, like most Texans, do not support school vouchers. Private institutions should not be funneling funds away from our public schools. Instead of dismantling public schools, please just invest in them.

Jutta Biggerstaff

Grandmother

Blanco, TX

I oppose HB 3

Georganna Lujin

Harrison Intermediate PTA

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3.

Eduardo Marquez

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose hb3

lori Peniche

self retired lawyer

Dallas, TX

No, no and no again to school vouchers. Taking my taxpayer money away from public schools and using it to fund private schools is just wrong and un-American. The vouchers are just a gift to wealthy parents who can well afford public schools without my tax dollars.

Jena Trione, School secretary

Self

Arlington, TX

This would affect everything, why would we pay for private school when that is a choice by the parents. It is not a choice made lightly by parents. If someone wants their child sent to a different school it is understood that they pay for it. I own my home and pay a lot in taxes. If my kid funding is cut to pay for private school it would be disastrous and cut all areas of school from sports, arts, and education.

Allison McFarland

Self-parent

Plano, TX

I oppose HB 3!

Carma Schellhorn, Retired Texas Public School Principal

self... retired Texas Public School Principal

Mansfield, TX

OPPOSE this bill!!! KEEP all Texas Tax Dollars funding TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS... do NOT vote for vouchers!!

Lauren Witt

Self, Finance & Accounting Recruiter

GRAND PRAIRIE, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. This bill undermines local control and threatens to divert essential funding from our public schools. Our children deserve fully funded schools with qualified teachers, smaller class sizes, and access to necessary resources—not policies that shift much-needed funds away from public education. As a constituent and taxpayer, I urge you to reject HB 3 and prioritize the needs of our students and teachers. Protect our public schools!

Lauren Witt

Kelli Agnew

Self

Garland, TX

I oppose HB 3

Elizabeth Maldonado

Self

Frisco, TX

No school vouchers. Against providing any tax money to for profit private schools. Do not take public funds away from public schools. At the very minimum, bring this to the November ballot and let Texans vote!

Delaina Sims

self retired teacher

Wills Point, TX

Dear Public Education Committee Members, I am expressing my total opposition to HB3. Sending public tax dollars to private schools is outrageous, especially when our public schools are so drastically under-funded. We need more funds for Texas Public Schools so that we can provide an excellent education to all students from pre-K through 12th grade. Schools are over-burdened with unfair rules, regulations, and mandates that Texas Legislators have imposed on them. In America, Texas included, we provide a free public education in order to produce educated citizens. I propose that we increase State public school funding to at least \$8,000 per student so that all students have a fair chance to succeed in life. Parents will keep the choice to choose a private or secular school, but it should not be with our tax dollars.

Pam Karter

Self/ retired teacher

Houston, TX

Do not pass school vouchers! They will bankrupt the public school system and Teacher Retirement as well. It only gives money to the rich and won't help disabled students. Bad idea from the start.

Rhonda Bentura

None

Buda, TX

I am against school vouchers. Public schools must be prioritized and adequately funded. I do not support vouchers, bring to the public for a special election so that voices can be heard.

Robert Horn

self/teacher & member of ATPE

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3. This bill will destroy the public education system in Texas. The bill is only going to benefit the wealthy because they can afford to enroll their kids in the private sector; this will be a discount for the wealthy. I do not want my tax dollars or state funding helping the wealthy. Private schools do not have to go by SPED or 504 accommodations & modifications; this will apply another roadblock for students needing these services. The private sector is also going to raise tuition based on principles of supply and demand. An average family income will not be able to afford to attend the private sector because the amount allocated by the state will not be enough. The private sector will not be required to meet the demands of state testing like the public schools; so there will not be expectations for the private sector to have ratings based on STAAR scores. Teachers in public schools are possibly going to lose jobs because of lack of funding, and not to mention funding for TRS. I hope that our legislature considers the long term impacts of this decision. I oppose HB3!

David Franssen

Self

Lufkin, TX

Vouchers are socialism

Beth Daines

Self

Castle Hills, TX

Vote against vouchers! Fully fund our public schools!

Stephanie Rix

Self

Burleson, TX

I whole heartedly disagree with this bill!!! Parents already have the choice on where to send their children. These vouchers would just widen the gap between privileged kids and the struggling ones. Instead the state should take the "excess funds" in the state budget and put that back into the public school districts. There should be no reason a state like Texas is in the bottom 10 states in education and this bill will just make it worse. Please, please, please DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!!!! Please listen to your constituents, if you actually did you'd hear that most of them DO NOT WANT THIS BILL!!!

Also, I would look into what sort of bribery Governor Abbott has committed to "get the votes he needs"

Kathryn Pokladnik, Miss

Self, retired

Irving, TX

I don't agree. I want funds to go to public schools

Brittini Coe
Self, Volunteers Manager
Denton, TX

I would like to encourage public representatives to vote " no" on HB 3 as I opposed HB3. The socioeconomic divided has widened in the last several days , public schools are a place where students of different socioeconomic backgrounds, and religions are able to mix and get to know one another in a system that mimics what adult life will entail. Plus, the oversite of charter schools leaves much to be desired. Are Texas State Representatives assuming that less funding will fix the public schools' dismal performance? I refuse to pay for a student to go to a school that does not teach science, is able to use government funded grants to reject students at will based on arbitrary categories that would allow segregation of students to begin anew. I am happy to use my tax dollars to support an education system that is open, and accessible to all students, irrespective of income but am categorically opposed to school vouchers for parents who just want to opt their students out of the public school experience. There is a reason the Republicans have had to wheel, deal, and cut state Democrats out of the process, to get the process this far. Multiple special sessions, and late nights, and threats from Abbott were unsuccessful because it does not represent what the majority of Texans have expressed desire for. However, par for the course yet again, whether it is reproductive rights, teacher support, or public schools, Republicans do not care what they have to do to get their way. Alienating folks that live here is part of the cost of doing business in our state.

Mary Beth Magallanes
Self
Spring, TX

I do not want this bill to go forward. Vouchers will hurt public schools. My priority is public schools.

Patricia Thompson, Mrs
self/retired
Farmers Branch, TX

Vote NO on HB 3. I oppose House Bill 3
I unequivocally oppose school vouchers and an education savings account program that would all the use of public funds for private or at-home schooling.

Sylvia Bodell
self - self-employed
Dallas, TX

VOTE NO! Strongly oppose school vouchers - using public funds for private schools is wrong and not acceptable.

Daniel Morales
self
Houston, TX

A decade ago the jury used to be out on whether vouchers hurt or harmed learning. The jury is now in and it is absolutely clear from every study on the subject that vouchers harm learning and are waste of public resources. Not only do they harm learning but vouchers amount to a subsidy to my wealthy one percenter neighbors who send their children to private school. How is that remotely fair or right? How does that use of public funds comport with the Texas constitution? The one percenters behind this bill just want a pliant poorly-educated public taught by scared, poor teachers--all the better to continue to extract resources from the citizens of the state. Shame on anyone who votes for this bill.

Shelly Redmond
Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Veronica Lindsey
Socorro AFT
EL PASO, TX

Please do NOT vote for the ESA program or vouchers. These are a one-way siphon of Texas money away from Texas public schools without ANY way for parents to change their minds and return any unused ESA or voucher funds back to public schools when parents change their minds during the school year prior to the accountability date in October. It is an unfair one way siphoning

Juliet N Smith
self
Austin, TX

I'm a retired teacher of 36 years in public schools. I have volunteered in a private school after retirement. My opinion over the years and based on many situations is that public schools offer such a variety of opportunities that are difficult to find in a private school. Our public schools are a vital source for all children. Vouchers will not supply what many think they will. I live in Austin and the handful of private schools is very selective and many children are not accepted. Also in rural areas there is not a choice between public and private schools especially for special needs students. Also, in small towns the public schools form a special community. I strongly recommend we support all children by addressing the needs of public school instead of vouchers!

Brittany Lehning
McMillan Junior High School PTA
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

De Anna Mondy
Self
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

tara Johnson
self
bulverde, TX

School vouchers will be given to private institutions without an transparency or accountability for results. They will undermine public education, shift resources to private schools that are not accountable to taxpayers, and potentially exacerbate inequalities in education access.

Greg Snyder, MR
Self
Austin, TX

I have read a lot about this bill and I just cannot support it. I have heard the argument in favor of it, but I just don't believe that it serves the students and citizens of Texas. Education is a public good and our system could use help, but help will not come if we take money out of the school budgets and give it to private schools. That will only drain resources that the schools need to operate their facilities and pay their teachers. It also seems extremely unfair to allow that money to be given to private schools who are under no obligation to accept students who wish to use accounts to attend. And on top of that for the schools that receive our public money to not have to adhere to the same standards as our public schools just isn't right. It seems like there aren't enough guardrails to prevent scammers and bad actors from taking advantage of the system. From what I have read about other states that have enacted these types of programs, the budgets for them balloon and put a huge tax burden on the constituents or force the states to make cuts to other essential services like parks libraries. I believe we need to refocus our attention on bolstering our public schools, raising teacher pay to attract and retain top quality teachers, and fully funding any mandates that come from the state like testing and security. Let's not sacrifice a generation of kids so that the wealthier among us can have another tax break.

Elisabeth Belile

--None--

Austin, TX

As the parent of a "twice exceptional" (aka both gifted + learning disabilities) student, public school has been a game-changer. Children K-12 who need accommodations for learning differences, due to any type of disability, deserve the education that only a public school can offer. Parents in Texas have the right to choose how and where to educate their kids. When education is left up to a private entity, parents lose their ability to advocate for their children, because private entities are under no obligation to meet the student's needs, especially when they require Special Education, an IEP, or even "just" a 504 that sets them up for success in the classroom and in life. Taxpayer dollars are public funds, and should only be directed toward public schools. The ESA program being proposed here will only serve the already-resourced families who have chosen private school, as is their right, but not where I want my hard-earned tax dollars going. It will drain desperately needed (and long-ago promised!) funds from public education, and children will suffer. Supposedly Texas is modeling the ESA plan on Arizona's program, which has bankrupted that state. There are no safeguards to keep that from happening here, and it is terrifying. The ability to advocate and negotiate, with the full strength of the law behind us parents of kids who utilize special ed services, is why I continue to choose the public school system that gives my child what no other schooling has. In private school, my child was left to struggle when they needed help. I had no recourse to enforce the accommodations we'd asked for and that were needed. That is not the case in public school. I urge you all to take the time to listen to your constituents from all across Texas, the vast majority of whom are strongly opposed to this bill and ESAs. It's not just that it will destroy our public education system by draining and diverting its already-dwindling resources, exactly like Arizona, it will disenfranchise kids w/ "extra" needs by eliminating transparency and accountability. Please vote "no" on this ill-considered, wrong-headed bill that will disempower parents and leave our children behind.

Michael Wei, Dr

Self

Round Rock, TX

Dear Committee members,

"My name is Michael Wei, and I am writing to you today to express my profound opposition to House Bill 3. My personal story underscores the transformative power of public education.

I was born in a small village, where educational opportunities were limited. It was public education that opened doors for me, allowing me to become the first college graduate from my village and the first PhD in my family. This achievement, and the opportunities it created, are a direct result of accessible, quality public education.

My family chose to build our life here in Texas specifically because of the promise of top-tier education for our children. Round Rock ISD, for example, is a beacon of excellence in Central Texas. HB3 directly threatens the very foundation of this excellence. This bill will inevitably lead to a decrease in public school enrollment, triggering a catastrophic defunding of our already struggling public education system. Our schools are already facing a financial crisis. To add another layer of deprivation would be devastating. Consider the reality my daughter faces: due to funding shortages, her 7th and 8th grade math classes have been merged, resulting in a significant drop in educational quality. This is not an isolated incident. HB3 will exacerbate these problems across the state.

Furthermore, HB3 proposes to divert taxpayer funds to private schools without any meaningful accountability. We demand transparency and measurable results from our public schools, and rightly so. Yet, this bill offers no such safeguards for private institutions receiving public money. This opens the door to waste, abuse, and the unchecked misallocation of precious tax dollars. Texas simply cannot afford to create two separate and unequal educational systems. We have seen the disastrous consequences of voucher programs in states like Arizona, where they led to severe financial crises. We must learn from their mistakes and avoid repeating them here.

Ultimately, this is not about politics; it is about the future of our children. We must not allow political agendas to compromise the fundamental right to a quality public education. Our children deserve better. I urge you to reject House Bill 3 and prioritize the investment in and strengthening of our public schools, which are the cornerstone of a thriving Texas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael Wei

William Peterson
self
HIGHLAND VILLAGE, TX

No vouchers!

Leigh Foreman
Yourself
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Leigh Foreman

Elizabeth Trimble
Educators
Arlington, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas.

We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Sarah Landa
self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education

Tiffany Wise
Self
Mineral Wells, TX

If we were to get this bill passed will the state government have more control over the way Homeschooling parents teach their children? The whole idea of Homeschooling is to teach our children what they need to know for life not what a teacher who knows nothing about the child what they want to teach them and 30-40 other children at the same time. We already get a curriculum that is required education. While it's not cheap, they can still learn just like the other kids in less time and not like a prison system.

Catherine Bibb, Mrs.
Self / self employed
Lubbock, TX

I oppose HB 3. I oppose ESAs (and any form of vouchers) and I ask you to fully and adequately fund public education. ESAs create segregation, weaken our public education system, and waste tax payer money with zero accountability. At a minimum, the basic allotment must increase by \$1,000 to catch up with inflation and provide adequately funding for our public schools.

Allyson Bell
Self, elementary school principal
Red Oak, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Haley DeLaGarza
Self
Houston, TX

Please do not enact HB 3. As a leader in higher education, a parent of three school age children, and a lifelong Texan who has attended both private and public schools in our state, I can assure you that HB 3 will not improve the education of students in Texas. Families already have the choice of where to educate their children. They already have the ability to open a savings account for education. HB 3 will rob the most vulnerable populations and thwart the longstanding educational goals of our state. Please choose
To support public education; our students depend on it.

Joshua Kulak, Rev. Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

I am a product of public education in Texas—an education system where my grandfather, father, sister, and sister-in-law have all given of their time, talent, and energy to ensure that every child in Texas has an opportunity to learn and to succeed. This program will undermine their service and will take away that opportunity from countless children by diverting public funds from public schools. Please listen to the voices of your constituents and oppose this bill.

Annalisa ONeal

Leander ISD

Leander, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS!! We want FUNDING for our PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!! there needs to be a \$1300 basic allotment for children in school!! Please VOTE NO!!!! FUND OUR SCHOOLS!!!!

Danne Thompson

self

Buchanan Dam, TX

I am so disappointed that this mess is even getting a public hearing! it reminds me of how the ACA ACT was passed. "we have to pass it before we can understand what's in it." I'm sure the globalists are pressuring you to pass this junk, but rest assured, Texans of BOTH parties are against the voucher scam. there is nothing conservative about increasing the size, power, and budget of a failed government agency. NOTHING. There is nothing progressive about giving tax dollars to private, religious schools. Again, NOTHING. it just shines a light of truth that yes, we are an oligarchy ruled by billionaires from the World Economic Forum. Please kill this bill.

Gwen Steele

Self-retired teacher

Burleson, TX

This will wreck public education. It will almost entirely benefit the rich who can already afford private education. Vote no.

Terri Glover

Myself

Mabank, TX

Please do not pass this bill it creates a greater disinvestment and does nothing to help our schools. Only the wealthy will benefit from this. Thank you.

Mark Anderson

BCiSD

Orange, TX

Please fund public Schools. Increase allotment and no to Vouchers. Parents have School Choice now.

Avery Sifferman

Self, student

Plano, TX

Please vote NO on public school vouchers. They dilute essential support for public schools, whose funding is guaranteed by the Texas Constitution that you swore an oath to support and defend. There are more than 5,000,000 children in public schools. At most, vouchers will only benefit about 10% of the Texas school children. We all know that "parent choice" is a false flag to hide the real agenda of privatization and support of private religious schools. The concern about uncertified teachers in public schools is magnified in home schooling. The past practice of underfunding (no increase since 2019) is consistent with handicapping public schools. The proposed increased support of \$210 per student is insulting, insufficient, and insignificant. That is clearly inadequate when the proposed diversion to private schools is \$10,000 per student.

Thank you for taking the steps necessary to effect the improved education for the State's public school children that you claim, esp. when the federal government threatens to withdraw its support. Please protect education for our children and the future of our great state. Your vote will be observed closely.

Shana Vourazeris

Self

Midland, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Stephanie Apple

Self

Austin, TX

PLEASE do not pass! Passing this will siphon public dollars away from our public schools?!?! How will this possibly help the majority?!

Brenda Newsom

Quanah ISD

Quanah, TX

Save the Rural schools

Gretchen Spieler

Self

Leander, TX

Our children, all of our children, are the future of Texas. We already have school choice and holding OUR money hostage for a school voucher program that strips money away and would harm 5 1/2 million of our children is disgraceful. Texas public schools are already historically underfunded and not because we don't have the funds. We have the money to make our public schools top notch, pay our public school teachers the salary worthy of those molding our states future, and make education in Texas a top priority. No to school vouchers. Release the funds to our public schools as they are supposed to be. And stop wasting valuable time on issues like this, and maybe focus on making our schools safer. School vouchers harm Texas children.

Stephanie Blakeman

Teachers of Texas- FISSD

Mckinney, TX

Do not let this pass!! This is awful for public schools!!!

Kelly Manske

Self

Sugar Land, TX

As a parent of two children in Texas Public School, I strongly oppose HB3 because we already have plenty of other choices in our schools instead of vouchers. My son has autism and I am very thankful and satisfied with the support he receives in our public schools. I do not want to see any funds in schools taken away from our rural and low income students. The disparity and gap in education will grow wider in this state with privatization. We need to support and fund our schools more under our existing programs and choices. Thank you!

Mark Jack

Self

Aledo, TX

Please do not pass this legislation. This is not a good bill for ALL schools or Texans. The minority this will help is insignificant. Tell me how this bill will help rural schools in the Panhandle or West Texas. It will not!

Tara Key
Self
Spring Branch, TX

Please save public education! Vouchers would kill rural schools and increase the divide for the majority of students. There is lack of accountability, exacerbating inequality, and a major potential for discrimination. Our future deserves better.

Stephanie Chamberlin
Self
Lewesville, TX

I do not believe the bill will be benefiting to the community and should not pass as there is already a lack of funding to public school for there to be more taken

Michelle Johnson
Self
Azle, TX

Our money needs accountability!!!! Fully fund public education. Let Texans vote on vouchers.

Chevonne Lorigo-Johst
Pflugerville ISD
Pflugerville, TX

Good morning Representative Buckley and House Public Education Committee Members. My name is Chevonne Lorigo-Johst, I am a school board trustee for Pflugerville ISD as well as a mother to 5 public school children. Thank you all for being here to do the important work of our great state.

I am writing to voice my opposition to House Bill 3, which proposes education savings accounts, also known as vouchers. I am a firm believer that public dollars should be allocated to fund public schools. Public schools are facing significant financial challenges, including the impacts of inflation, inadequate ADA funding, the need for mental health resources in the aftermath of the pandemic, a substantial deficit in special education funding, and largely underfunded mandates for safety and security. If we have additional treasury funds due to our budget surplus, it would be more beneficial for communities—rural and urban alike—to invest in public schools, raise the per student allotment by \$1,300, move to enrollment based funding, add a COLA, and fully fund special education, mental health services, meaningful teacher and staff raises, retirement benefits, and safety and security requirements.

I believe there is already choice within public education, and with increased funding, we can offer even greater opportunities in areas such as the arts, athletics, STEM, gifted and talented programs, dual language, CTE, and more. Public schools are accepting of all students, providing 504 services, and fostering a sense of community, all while maintaining elected oversight, accountability, and performance reporting. This is simply good governance of our tax payers' hard earned money at work.

Private schools, while valuable options for some families, are not required to accept all students, and they are under no legal obligation to accommodate students with disabilities. Additionally, they lack accountability to the public regarding how funds are spent or how students and educators perform. It is not school choice, but rather the school's choice on who they will and will not educate.

I am also concerned about the long-term fiscal health of our state. Education savings accounts have the potential for significant financial implications once implemented. Many Texans value fiscal stewardship and accountability for the contributions they make to their communities. While I believe our representatives have good intentions, it has not gone unnoticed that our governor has received record donations from individuals who stand to benefit financially from these savings accounts. I hope our state's children and their futures are not being compromised to enrich out-of-state donors.

Let us strengthen our communities and uphold the principles of our state constitution by directing public funds toward supporting and improving our public school system that serves and supports all children. Thank you for your time.

Sarah Mayo
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Public education is critical for the wellbeing of students in Texas and without fully funded public education our students suffer. The voucher program is not enough to fully fund private, not to mention students still are not guaranteed they will get accepted to private nor do all students have access to private based on where they live. Taking critical funds from public to boost up these vouchers under the guise of school choice is hurtful to the millions of Texas children who rely on and CHOOSE public education. Governor Abbott does not speak for me, or many around me who oppose what the choice program will do to public education. I am a public high school substitute teacher and proud parent of two students in public high school and I can attest whole heartedly that what our public school students need more than anything is for their education to be fully funded; NOT for what little resources their school has to be stripped further at their expense. Thank you for voting against HB3

Kenneth Camp
Self
Garland, TX

I urge you to OPPOSE HB 3. While the proponents of the education savings account plan don't like to call them "vouchers," they function in a very similar manner. Public funds benefit private schools, many of which are religious—a violation of the separation of church and state. Payments are directed by parents but sent directly to the schools.

As a Baptist Christian, I do not want public funds sent to a Muslim school. I do not want my Buddhist neighbors to have their tax dollars sent to support a Catholic parochial school. I do not want my Muslim neighbors to have their tax dollars sent to support a Jewish school. I do not want my Jewish neighbors to have their tax dollars sent to support an evangelical Christian school. Thomas Jefferson was right. It is "sinful and tyrannical" for the government to require citizens to financially support religious beliefs contrary to their own.

I believe all available funds in Texas should be used to strengthen the public schools that educate 98 percent of the children in our state.

I don't want to see any kind of private school voucher program in Texas, because I believe it will hurt the public schools. However, if the House believes it must pass some sort of school voucher program, I urge you to see that it is limited in scope, with provisions that (1) protect religious liberty and the separation of church and state by limiting funds to nonsectarian private schools; (2) limit participation to genuinely needy families; and (3) links the creation of any ESA program directly to guaranteed increases in funds for public schools.

Lauren Cafferty, Ms
PTA and Self
Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

If you truly strongly believe the people of Texas want to divert public funds from public schools, please allow Texas voters to prove that by adding ESAs to a ballot in a public election.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Susan Gravette
Self, Homemaker
Austin, TX

Public schools are essential to educating all Texans and ensuring strong rural communities. Keep tax dollars where they belong in PUBLIC schools and not in the hands of Ms of already wealthy families in PRIVATE schools. I oppose this bill.

Jennifer Burkett

self

Houston, TX

I am in favor of vouchers, but I find it unfair that the amount of money that is proposed to give to private schools is higher than the amount given to public schools. If public schools received 10,000 a student (that which is being proposed for private schools), they could improve the public schools. Some of the problem with the public school is a lack of funding. Teachers are underpaid and leaving the profession. We are left with sub par teachers. Texas schools underperform because they are underfunded. We need to make sure that public schools get the same funding that a student would get to go to a private school

Teanna Kiker

Self / concerned citizen

Houston, TX

All I can say is if there is a voucher program, the \$ amount PER STUDENT MUST BE EQUAL. Private schools should NOT get \$10,000 per student while public schools receive \$6500. That is WRONG. Public schools actually need more than private schools because the public school must provide additional assistance to those who need it. At minimum the amount per student must be equal. Otherwise, this will kill the success of our public schools system. Our public school teachers NEED raises! And I'm not talking about 2%. They put in SO MUCH MORE time than their "contract time". So if you want great teachers, or even decent teachers, you need to increase their pay to compensate them for EVERYTHING they do outside of contract time, even though it is required outside of their contract time. If you do not increase teacher pay, no one will want to teach and if you do not increase funding to equal private school funding per student, Texas will not have a public school system to be proud of. Our future leaders educated in Texas will be short changed. Pass this bill ONLY if teachers get a reasonable raise and each student is funded equally.

Jaime Jaramillo

Self

Shallowater, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill

Marissa Javid

Self - account executive

Austin, TX

I oppose school vouchers. Public funding belongs in public schools.

Leah Davies

Self

Austin, TX

As a Texas parent of a public school student, former student of Texas public schools, and proponent of children and families, I strongly oppose HB3 and request that the committee votes no on its passage.

School choice already exists in Texas, no one is trying to limit the rights of Texas families to choose what works best for their children. However, the subsidization of private schools at the cost of dismantling public education is unacceptable. There are many children who attend public schools because communities love their neighborhood schools and teachers. Other families do not have capacity or interest in attending private schools, even with ESAs.

As a social worker and former public school teacher, I know that Texas public schools would struggle to thrive without adequate support, and HB3 would hasten that process of stripping them of vital resources. The supports in HB2 are insufficient and HB3 is insulting. Let's ask ourselves, what would public schools be capable if we fully funded them?

I would hope that the people's elected legislators can understand that all of Texas's children deserve to access free, appropriate public education. This is especially important for children with disabilities and/or special healthcare needs who are regularly discriminated against in the private school system.

An educated populace is critical to community health and economic prosperity. Texans remain steadfast in our opposition to stealing from Texas public schools to give families with wealth a discount for private school costs with our tax dollars. Do right by ALL of your constituents, and vote no on HB3.

Deborah Thomas

self/teacher-librarian

Georgetown, TX

Fund our public schools, Protect TRS (Teacher Retirement System) say no to vouchers!!! No matter how you present this, it is not good for public schools. Why are private school students more valuable than public school students?? Having a voucher does not mean you will be admitted to private school. Tell the parents working multiple jobs to feed their families why their money should provide a private education for someone else. This is shameful!!

Judy LOKEY

self

Houston, TX

School vouchers. I am opposed to school vouchers because of separation of church and state as well as taking funding away from public schools. If a child is not thriving in a public school, there could be an avenue to apply for a voucher based on individual circumstances. I have a granddaughter with ADD who was not doing well in the public school in Yoakum with poor resources in the public school. Her parents are low income but needed to place her in a private, church based, school and she is doing very well. These are the only type of students that should receive vouchers.

Lisa Casillas

Self

Fort Worth, TX

SB2/HB3 grows government, weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money with zero accountability. It strips rural schools of funding, could send tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools, and violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education. Please say NO to SB2 & HB3!

Karen Johns

Self-teacher

Andrews, TX

This is NOT the answer for improving public education!

Frank Netscher
Self - web developer
Austin, TX

Passing this will kill rural jobs and education, high school football, teacher retention, and will increase government fraud and inefficiency. It will defund your own pension plans.

Courtney Garrett
self, Librarian/GT Teacher
Plainview, TX

1 Billion dollars for 100,000 students in HB3 and SB2.
8 Billion dollars for 5.5 million students and 400,000 teachers in HB2.
12.5% as much money for 1.2% of the students and 0% of the teachers.
That is a waste of taxpayer money.

The bottom line is you get what you pay for. If you want better public education with more certified teachers, then put your money there. If you want EVERY child to be successful, then put your money where 98% of students can be positively affected.

Here's what the \$220 basic allotment increase would look like in my district:
We have 402 students PK-12.
We have 107 district employees.
If 40% of the \$220 will go to teachers, that means \$88 will be for raises.
 $\$88 \text{ times } 402 \text{ students} = \$35,376.$

If you are going to count I&S and M&O money as part of funding, then we need to include all of those people who take care of buildings in the raises as well. If you are claiming it is for EVERY student and EVERY teacher, then include them all.

$\$35,376 \text{ divided by } 107 \text{ employees} = \$330.16.$
On average, our district employees will get a raise of \$330.16.
That is less than my daily rate. It is unlikely that \$330 will even cover the increase in insurance for next year.

Let's try that with a \$1,300 raise in the basic allotment.
 $40\% \text{ of } \$1,300 = \520
 $\$520 \text{ times } 402 \text{ students} = \$209,040$
 $\$209,040 \text{ divided by } 107 = \$1,953.64$

Make some real decisions and take some real stands. It is long past time to support and fully fund public education.

Luz Andrade
Self
Channelview, TX

I DO NOT want my money to go to Privacy School, if someone wants their kids to go to a private school let them work two jobs to put them through school. Also that my tax money and I only want it to be used to pay for public school. I don't want my money to go to the rich. My money will only go to public schools only!!!

Ashton Smith
Self
Schertz, TX

Vote no-keep our public school fully funded and vouchers out of our state. Public school teachers must be paid a fair wage without strings of getting this passed. We do not want funding coming away from public schools, please listen to the people.

Cynthia Hughes

Self

Leander, TX

It's difficult for me to understand why our elected officials continue to ignore their constituents and what their constituents want. We do not want vouchers. This will drain money from the public education system. This will affect TRS in a negative way. Texas is at the bottom when it comes to school funding. We have not seen an increase to the basic allotment since 2019 and now you are proposing \$200? Does the house not understand the significant amount of inflation that has happened in the last couple of years we are demanding that at least \$1300 be added to the basic allotment. It is your constitutional duty to fully fund public education, please do your jobs. This voucher program you are proposing will only affect 1.5% of Texas students. What about the other 5.5 million? I am not in favor of vouchers. This is welfare for the wealthy. It is disappointing that our Texas politicians allow out of state influence to dictate how we do things in Texas. Please fully fund public education and vote. No on vouchers. The people of Texas have had it with these games.

Paula Kent, Dr.

Self

Leonard, TX

As a conservative Republican I request that you not allow the Governor to strong arm you into passing a voucher bill that Texans, including conservative Republicans do not want. This will weaken our public schools and will not expand choice. Private schools do not have to accept the students that are difficult to educate, only public schools do that. Taking money from them to provide a coupon for wealthy families' private school tuition will make the job harder. Do not waste my tax dollars on this travesty. Rather, invest in our public schools. They do an extremely difficult job that is critical to the health and wealth of our great state. Fund them and vote "no" on vouchers.

Erin Greene

self

Kingwood, TX

Good morning! My name is Erin Greene and I am a long time Republican and I am against HB3. Vote NO to this bill. Presently, I am a tutor in my community for struggling students. In the bill it references tutor at least eight times and has requirements for a tutor. Would this mean I would have to register and be on an approved list by the comptroller in order to tutor a child? Throughout the bill, the general direction seems to be to control every aspect of a child's education rather than freedom to choose for parents. This is why I left teaching because it was more about controlling the narrative rather than teaching the children how to read, write, and learn math. During the last couple of months, I have observed through articles and news stories the governor attacking former rural representatives and replacing them with ones that will vote for school choice. Furthermore, Abbott's Facebook page reflects a majority of the responses not supporting HB3. If this is such a good idea why is Abbott pushing so hard to pass the bill. Finally, school choice sounds like a wonderful solution to the failing public schools which was created by failed legislation; however, when one researches the issue it is very clear that it has a different goal entirely. Eventually, curriculum will be controlled by the state and all education will be the same. This has happened in other states such as Arizona, Florida, Maine, and Alaska. This will not happen immediately but over time. Recently, I spoke with a home school mom from Alaska and she informed me that friends of hers accepted the money and after a time they had to teach curriculum mandated by the state. Call it what you like strings or guard rails, state controlled curriculum is the end result of school choice not parent empowerment.

Henry Lutz

Self/Security Director

Sabinal, TX

Please FULLY fund public schools. Invest in our public school teachers and students. Our public schools are way underfunded, many operating with deficit budgets. Our hardworking teachers are terribly underpaid. Please support our PUBLIC school systems and quit wasting time and effort on private schools that do not have to meet the same standards and requirements as public schools. As a taxpayer, I do not support giving my tax dollars to a private school or entity or in any way supporting private schools. Thank you for your time.

Kari Ramos

Self

Dalhart, TX

This is theft from public schools

Yolanda Fuentes, Kinder Garden Teacher

Self , retired

Austin, TX

Vehemently oppose the bill.

It will damage public schools education

Darby Tobolka

Self / public school educator

Austin, TX

Public funds need to stay in public schools! No one in Texas wants vouchers! Quit taking money from voucher pushing billionaires! It's not wanted here. Look at all the other places it has been and failed! We do not want this for Texas! All students deserve an education. We currently already have school choice and maybe we should publicize that a little more.

June Williams

Self

Georgetown, TX

Vote no to reflect the opinions of our household.

Danya Lira

Self teacher

Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Marianne Shivers

Self/Parent

Austin, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB3 and school vouchers. Please support our public schools and increase public school funding to keep pace with inflation at minimum.

Nadia Khan

Self

Austin, TX

In a PTA meeting last week, teachers expressed that many staff cannot afford food by the end of the month, and how grateful they are to parents for bringing snacks, and occasionally pizza, to the break room. One staff member said it was like kids in a candy shop. The mood after that was somber, and many parents broke down trying to express their frustration with the state for underfunding schools. Many parents didn't understand why our full time teachers aren't being paid enough to afford food. Do you understand?

Texans assume we are taxed to support public schools, and yet many struggle with basic needs.

Our teachers and staff can't afford to eat. Please sit with that. Full-time employees, that educate 11 of 12 Texas children, are hungry because they can't afford food by the end of the month, since we're not paying them enough, despite doing the most important job - teaching our kids.

I strongly oppose to the use of vouchers and ESAs as a new means to fund education. These programs DO divert resources from the public system, and undermine the education of all kids, including those in private and home schools relying on public evaluations. If we have extra funds, why aren't our public schools well funded? Private school leaders are not interested in vouchers either. They know it's not sustainable. The State hasn't even curbed the abuse of public funds going to Charter CEOs. Don't put more funds towards systems that are not held accountable for using our tax dollars wisely.

In addition, I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. Increase the Basic Allotment to \$8,000: Make TX a leader in the country. Teachers and staff don't currently earn enough to make it through the end of the month. (Adults need food to be patient humans with our kids. Basic need.) The system has not seen an increase in dollars from the state since 2011.
2. TIE the Basic Allotment to COST OF LIVING in each district: You can use recapture to rob from Peter to pay Paul, but all signs indicate that Peter is now starving. Purchasing power for staff, goods, and services vary widely across districts, causing pockets of wealth and famine. With a basic allotment that doesn't account for cost of living, no fixed amount will ever cover the cost of education equitably across all regions of this State.
3. Tie Funding to Inflation: Education funding should be adjusted annually automatically based on inflation rates, to ensure funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining purchasing power over time.
4. Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance: Provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
5. Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates - safety, special ed, and bilingual services, to avoid placing additional burdens on schools that impact every student.

In your hands,

Nadia Khan

Heather Motzny

Self- campus principal

Cypress, TX

I do not support vouchers. Please fund public education.

Lynda Mathews, Mrs

Self

Colleyville, TX

I oppose this bill

Brekka Larrew, Librarian

I'm representing myself.

Lakeway, TX

I serve elementary students daily as a school librarian and care deeply about children, public education, literacy, Texas, and the future of our country and world. I have dedicated my 29 year career to improving literacy outcomes for our students in both Houston and Austin. I beg you, please do not adopt SB 13.

SB 13 will slow down services so that we can be far less responsive to students' reading interests and desires. It will make the library less relevant to their lives in a world where books are already competing against video games and YouTube. We are already losing reading minutes to technology, so our ability to be responsive to our readers— to buy them the content they want to read when they want to read it— is imperative.

Please do not slow down our services by forcing us through a committee process. We are educated with masters degrees and are experts in collection development. Please allow school boards to set community standards to provide guidelines for us. It is not necessary for the state to take a heavy-handed approach that will make things worse for children.

Thank you.

Jimmy O'Halligan

Self

SanAntonio, TX

HB 3 will dilute funding for public education and duplicate services already offered in our community. This will not save tax payer money and is fiscally irresponsible.

Aleesha Mick

self - parent of public school students

Cypress, TX

Please do not vote to pass this Bill. This will take much needed money away from public schools, and in our district, it will cause an even bigger deficit, leading to more layoffs and less opportunities for students. It will only benefit a small percentage of families that can already afford private schools. It's unfair and NOT what I want my tax money to go towards. Don't we want to improve our education standings? We need to be preparing ALL kids for college and to compete in the job market. Taking money away from public schools will only cause Texas education to decline more and people will start moving away.

Pam Keilers, Mrs

Self paraprofessional in public school also served as a teacher in private school

West Point, TX

Please say no to HB3 and no to vouchers . This will not be good for our local area and community. We have a great public school with solid educators at all levels. Veteran teachers enjoy subbing our students. Please consider funding our teachers and students in the public school system like they should be funded. Please fund public schools, teachers, paras and retired teachers.

Raquel Romero

Self

Houston, TX

I am opposed to this bill.

Susan Nolen

Self/educator

Katy, TX

This bill is bad for Texas children. Vouchers have defunded public schools in other states and have cost millions and millions more than projected. This bill only provided funds for a small percentage of Texas children, while hurting millions more.

Laura Orozco

Self

Austin, TX

As a public school teacher I do not support vouchers. I think they diminish the importance of public education. ALL students in Texas should have the possibility of receiving high quality public education. Vouchers will only create a bigger disadvantage towards students of low socioeconomic status and minority populations. As a product of the public school system in Texas I know first hand how vital it is that students receive quality education. And as I previously mentioned as a teacher in a title one school I know that my students will be negatively impacted if this bill goes through.

Stephanie Goolsbee

Self, Mother, Manager

Round Rock, TX

I OPPOSE this bill and I am AGAINST school vouchers.

As a mother of a child in the Texas Public School System, and another starting in a few years, I am very concerned about the effect this will have on our schools. Our school district has already had to cut programs given the budget for the upcoming year, and I am deeply concerned about how this bill will further negatively impact our students, educators, and local communities. Please reconsider your support and prioritize the needs of all Texas students, provide sufficient funding for our schools, and ensure that our educators have the resources and support they need to succeed in the classroom.

Thank you for your service.

Barbara Blevins

Self, Retired Registered Nurse

Shallowater, TX

I have voted Republican for many years. The public school system should be supported by our legislature. I believe this funding will do nothing but undercut our current schools, teachers, and students. Currently we pay our ISD taxes and parents who wish to home school or go to private schools pay the required tuition!

I have seen many students who home school and they are not to public school standards and/or grade level.

I believe many parents will "home school" their children to keep the money from the vouchers.

This change will affect our school system as much as 2 years of Covid has done.

Stephanie Vance

Self, technology

Allen, TX

I am writing in strong opposition to this bill. It will have negative impacts on our community and the education system. It's not right. The right to a public, high quality education is something that all children deserve. All children. I have no desire to subsidize wealthy families as they seek to send their children to private school.

Dorinda Flores McHugh, Ms.

self/retired

Dripping Springs, TX

I am adamantly OPPOSED to providing vouchers for non-public schools. This will inherently diminish the quality of public schools in the state of Texas. Every effort should be made to support funding for public schools as the US Constitution requires a separation of church and state. Private schools, unlike public schools, are not subject to the same public oversight or accountability measures, leading to potential issues with quality and potential for discrimination. Private schools are not required to adhere to the same civil rights protections as public schools and thus voucher programs could enable or exacerbate discrimination based on race, religion, gender, disability, or other factors. VOTE NO TO THIS BILL!

Michaela Taylor

Self

Collinsville, TX

Hello, I am a homeschool mom and do not want this bill passed. We already have school choice, my children were in public school and bullied severally, homeschooling has been the best choice for them. We love the way we learn and the freedom we have to learn. This bill will destroy that freedom, the freedom so many have fought for and continue to fight for. Please do not pass this bill. We don't want it

Belinda Coats

Myself

Lubbock, TX

I think that your constituents throughout the state have clearly stated their views on this bill. I think if all the republicans on this committee and in the house and senate were honest, they would stand up for what's right and what's true: yje majority of the PEOPLE of Texas (not billionaires from other states) don't want vouchers or ESAs. Your constituents want public money to go to public schools. I think it's clear that vouchers DON'T work; they don't help poorer populations, they don't always give parents their choice, and they DO ultimately take much needed money away from the public school system. For years now, under REPUBLICAN leadership, education in Texas has suffered. Please actually support our children, parents, and teachers by commit to better funding public schools. For once, invest in our children and make the honest, right choice and don't pass this bill.

Rochelle Hill

Self

Cypress, TX

As a taxpayer and teacher in a public school, I urge you to vote against school vouchers in Texas. No one wins and many of our public school students will be affected.

Stephanie Nash

N/A

Lubbock, TX

The establishment of this education savings account program would be unconstitutional, allowing the spending of public funds to private schools which would not be held accountable for how those funds were spent or for the outcome of their investment. Public schools do not want this to pass because they stand to lose funding; private schools do not want this to pass because funds provided by the tax payer have strings attached. Texas tax payers will vote against anyone supporting this bill because it does not serve the children of Texas for the greater good. Please do not allow political pressure to cause harm to the children of Texas. Thank you.

Heather Morris

Self

Willow Park, TX

I do not support this bill. Please do not pass HB 3 for school vouchers/education savings account program.

Carla Norvell

Self/teacher

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers are the exact opposite of what Texas education needs and deserves. If we want to lead our state into a more prosperous future with an educated workforce, then helping public schools is the right path, not providing a boon to people who can already afford private schools. The only thing vouchers will do is help bankrupt our state and provide free vacation money to those who need it the least. Signed, a Title 1 high school teacher.

David Kraft-Ishihama
self, software engineer
Round Rock, TX

I oppose this bill. The only point of school vouchers is to defund public schools and divert the money to rich schools that don't need it. I'm against school vouchers because they only increase inequality, not decrease it, and make the rich richer.

Rebecca Pugh
Self
Ferris, TX

The fact that this bill is still being considered when public education is so grossly underfunded is an absolute disgrace and shows that our governor and many politicians are so far removed from the reality of their constituents. Let's give a voucher to the rich that can already afford private school and let's watch the private school raise their tuition by.....oh maybe \$10,000.00.....while the public schools continue to jump through hoops to pass mandatory tests made up by none other than those wanting to give money away to schools that aren't required to pass the same tests. Private schools do not provide transportation, they are not required to provide special accommodations for those that need them or have a legal right to them. They have to get those where? Oh yes, the underfunded public school. Maybe it's time for the governor and some of the others to head on out to a public school and try substitute teaching, or volunteering in them for a couple of weeks and you might at least have an idea as to what you all are doing.

Sheryl Stacks, Educator
Shaw Homeschool Academy
Collinsville, TX

I do not support school choice vouchers We already have a choice where we want our children educated.
Please vote no.

Rhiannon Villanueva, Mrs.
Self, public school teacher
Corpus Christi, TX

I am wholeheartedly asking you to vote NO on the school voucher bill. It has proven to be a failure in other states and will fail in Texas as well. These funds need to be reserved for PUBLIC School and improving the education of PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS and helping improve teachers ability to teach ALL students. Private schools are funded by those who choose to send their children there. They are able to and will deny education to the most vulnerable of students such as those with learning disabilities and those with challenging behaviors. Those students will end up in public school with even lesser resources than what they have now. VOTE NO on HB 3!

Carolina Vaughn
Self
Denton, TX

I was homeschooled all my school age years, and am currently a mom that is beginning to homeschool my own children and I do not see the need for this bill and I strongly oppose this bill.

Alice French
Self / Administrative Assistant
Dallas, TX

AGAINST. Proposed voucher stipends of \$10K are not enough for everyday Texans to opt into this "choice." On the other hand, wealthy Texans who can already afford private school are going to get a free \$10,000 discount at the expense of our public schools which desperately need the funds. Private schools also do not have to follow any rules and can deny any student for any reason. School vouchers will only transfer taxpayer dollars from the poor to the wealthy, at the expense of our public schools which are investing in education for every Texan.

Leslie Dare, Mrs.

Self

Mabank, TX

The proposed school voucher program will only help wealthy residents that can afford to drive their offspring to private schools, and will harm public schools by lowering funding even more than the painfully low levels of funding that is currently implemented. It is shameful!! Please vote against this attack on public education.

Hailey Sommerfeldt

Self, student

Katy, TX

Vouchers will devastate an already struggling public education system, and drastically hurt our students. As a student within the public education system, I do not want to see this enacted. Our schools are already underfunded, and allowing this to happen will further decrease funding and cause harm.

Miriam Martinez

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school vouchers in the state of Texas. Vouchers divert crucial public funds away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas children, to subsidize private and charter schools that are not held to the same accountability standards.

Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education, support, and opportunities to students of all backgrounds. Instead of funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions, we should invest in strengthening our public school system by increasing teacher pay, improving resources, and ensuring every child has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting any voucher proposals and focusing on policies that uplift public education for all.

Thank you for your dedication to the future of Texas students.

Dana Schulte

Self

Iola, TX

It concerns me that money will be given in the form of vouchers when money has been kept from public education. The funding amount being given is from 2019 and does not consider inflation since then. We can and should do better for ALL children.

Elizabeth McGrath

self

Cypress, TX

Please share with the public any studies or examples where public funding for private schools has benefited children who come from low-income families? All of the data from states who have passed these types of laws show that diverting public funds for private schools benefit by large margins families who are already enrolled in private schools. I can find no evidence that children most in need (children who qualify for free and reduced lunch) of quality education are the direct beneficiaries of such programs. Without that evidence, let's be truthful here...diverting public monies for private education is for wealthy families. Please find my reference here <https://edtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Who-Really-Benefits-from-School-Voucher-Programs-FINAL.pdf> And if the intention is to pass this HB, then please also outline how you plan to support those students MOST in need in public schools to receive a quality education when they are unable to participate in a voucher plan. Please include a funding plan for Texas's neediest students as well. Otherwise, call this bill welfare for the wealthy, because that is what it is.

Angela Rose
Self - Entrepreneur
Pinehurst, TX

Public education is a constitutional right. Private education is a business. Businesses can do what they please like take your money and then decide a month later your child doesn't fit in and they get kicked out with no refund. Public education is necessary for the betterment of our country and society.

Cameron Samuels

self

Katy, TX

No to Vouchers!

Fully Fund Our Public Schools!

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Fully Fund Our Public Schools!

Angie Bixby
Self
N Richlnd Hls, TX

I do want vouchers.

Rachel Wilcox
Self
Houston, TX

Opposition to House Bill 3:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas House Bill 3 regarding school vouchers. While proponents claim that vouchers offer more educational opportunities, they ultimately harm Texas children and our public education system. Here are five key reasons why:

1. Diverts Public Funds from Public Schools – Vouchers take taxpayer money away from public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students. Instead of improving struggling schools, this bill would weaken them further by reducing funding.
2. Lack of Accountability for Private Schools – Unlike public schools, private schools receiving vouchers are not held to the same academic standards, teacher certification requirements, or financial transparency, making it difficult to ensure quality education.
3. Exacerbates Educational Inequality – Vouchers primarily benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition, while low-income students are often left with insufficient funds to cover tuition and other costs. This worsens existing disparities rather than addressing them.
4. Fails to Guarantee Better Educational Outcomes – Studies from states with voucher programs show mixed to negative results in student achievement. Public schools have more oversight, support systems, and experienced educators dedicated to student success.
5. Undermines Rural Schools – In rural areas, where private school options are limited or nonexistent, vouchers provide no real choice. Instead, they drain resources from the only available educational institutions—public schools that serve entire communities.

Texas should focus on strengthening public education, increasing teacher pay, and ensuring all children have access to high-quality schools rather than diverting funds to private institutions with little oversight. I urge you to vote against HB 3 and invest in solutions that truly benefit Texas students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rachel Wilcox
9739 Springview Ln. Houston TX 77080
979-220-8142

Brandi Manes
Self
Richardson, TX

Please do not redirect money from the kids who need it most! Private schools will not provide care and services to kids who public schools are required to take care of. This is irresponsible, classist, and nobody but the wealthy donors to republican campaigns wants it. It hasn't worked anywhere else that's tried it. Nothing is keeping private schools from denying entry to the kids they don't want. It is appalling that it's even on the table.

David Chapman
Retired
AUSTIN, TX

My name is David Chapman. I live in Williamson County, I was educated in public schools in Amarillo and Lubbock. I sent my kids to Round Rock public schools, which is where my grandkids currently attend. I am a semiconductor engineer, retired as a VP of product development.

Since I graduated from public schools in the 70's I have watched the Texas Legislature starve public schools of necessary funding, while loudly, and shamelessly, complaining schools are failing, and today, having amassed a staggering budget surplus, HB3 proposes to start giving that surplus away to people who don't need it. Our Representatives, for 50 years, have failed to fund the public education mandate explicitly enshrined in our Texas Constitution.

Texas has not funded public education at rates necessary to keep up with inflation, much less at the levels needed for enough born and bred, home grown Texans to win in the world high tech economy. And believe me, I know. I have spent my career working with all the folks we have had to import to keep up.

Texas public schools, properly funded, are perfectly capable of providing a vast array of world class educational choices. Instead, they are living on scraps, and fighting for survival. If you want choice, fund Texas Public Schools.

This voucher scam is clearly financially irresponsible, morally reprehensible, and a naked, despicable attack on ordinary Texans. Stop this right here, right now.

John Charlton
Self
Littlefield, TX

Sad, for profit schools are wrong. Turning the clocks back to FDR racist religious policies, just another way to have segregation while taking money from poor schools. Make a lot of promises but it will be a disaster for rural and poor schools.

Kelly Kozlowsky
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. School voucher programs overwhelmingly benefit the ultra-wealthy while harming everyone else. Every version of these programs is deeply flawed, and people across the political spectrum should reject them.

Public schools exist to provide a quality education to all students, regardless of income. This benefits entire communities—well-educated adults contribute positively to the workforce, while lack of education often leads to economic and social burdens.

When voucher programs funnel taxpayer money into religious schools, they effectively direct public funds to institutions that (1) are not accountable to taxpayers, (2) already enjoy tax-exempt status, and (3) can charge tuition beyond what vouchers cover, creating yet another revenue stream at public expense. Thank you.

Linda Howe
TCA
San Antonio, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. Please vote against it. I have been a faculty member, a public school teacher, and a high school counselor for 40 years. My children were educated in NEISD in San Antonio. The public schools are responsible for educating all students. They need additional funds to be more successful at teaching all students. Taking funds to fund students in private schools takes funds from public school students. Please do not vote for an education savings account program.

Kara Deverter
None
San Antonio, TX

I urge our representatives to prevent all measures supporting school vouchers from moving forward. Such programs remove tax money from our public school system, which is already underfunded, and would hurt the majority of students in Texas.

Matt Shuss
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3, the largest and most expensive school voucher scheme ever proposed in Texas. This bill takes taxpayer dollars meant for public schools and redirects them to private schools that lack transparency, accountability, and equal access for all students.

Public tax dollars should support public schools, which serve every child, regardless of ability, income, or background. Texas lawmakers have not increased the basic per-student funding allotment for public schools since 2019, despite rising costs, inflation, and a record budget surplus. If there is money in the budget for education, our priority should be fully funding public schools first—ensuring teacher raises, better resources for students, and improvements to school infrastructure—before sending tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

Furthermore, HB 3 does not even prioritize the students who need the most support. It allows families already in private schools—including those making over \$200,000 per year—to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers. Wealthy families will get a discount on private school tuition while public schools lose funding, harming the vast majority of Texas students.

This bill also fails students with disabilities. While HB 3 offers larger voucher amounts for special education students, private schools are not required to accept them or provide the necessary services. Public schools are legally required to serve all children, yet HB 3 shifts funding away from them to schools that are not obligated to meet these needs.

Texas public schools educate more than 5.4 million students—far more than private institutions ever will. If we truly care about education, we should be investing in strong, well-funded public schools that serve everyone, rather than subsidizing private schools that can pick and choose their students.

HB 3 is bad for Texas families, bad for students, and bad for our public schools. I urge legislators to reject this costly and irresponsible voucher scheme and instead invest in fully funding public schools, raising teacher pay, and ensuring that every Texas child has access to a high-quality education.

Montena Lacy

Self

Austin, TX

I'm very concerned that kids with disabilities will not be able to secure the education they deserve through a voucher system. I don't think private schools will willingly serve these kids at a high level, if at all, because it costs them more, is more work and requires more staff. They can just say no to kids/parents with greater needs. If parents pull their children out of public school to try private school and then come back they will lose their IDEA standing. That is certainly something that needs to be addressed. The child's IDEA assessment/certificates need to be protected so they do not fall behind trying to get a reassessment to re-enter public school. I also don't like the idea that all special-needs kids will be the main children populating the public schools. That feels like segregation. Students without disabilities need to do life with the students that have disabilities and vice versa. I feel like our society has worked very hard to mend this part of the broken education system, and I would hate to see it move backwards.

Praying for God's wisdom and His will to be done in this complicated situation

Thank you!

Kelly Raley

Self - property tax payer

Houston, TX

School vouchers have no place in Texas. Any money that would be spent on administering the program and for the payment of said vouchers should instead be invested in educating our over 5,500,000 public school students. People who choose to send their children to private schools, or to home school, have a right to do so. But they do not have a legitimate right to use public funds to do so.

If Texas would do a better job ensuring Texas children get a quality public education then fewer parents would feel the need to seek alternative education programs.

If a representative feels they will be "primaried out" for not voting for the voucher plan, but they don't anyway, then at least that representative can look at themselves in the mirror knowing they did the right and honorable thing for Texas public schools and current and future Texas school students.

Lance Lawrence

Self

Liberty, TX

If we are going to spend 5 billion of taxpayer dollars let the public vote on it. Put it on the ballot. This is not what we voted on in the primary. The bill is different than what we were presented.

Braynard Werner III

Self

Plano, TX

Please do not support vouchers that will take away money from already strained public schools and funnel it to private institutions. Education used to be a point of pride of the USA, supporting a meritocracy idea where we could nurture the best minds, regardless of pedigree, and they could contribute to America by inventing great things or solving difficult problems. Vouchers funneling money away from public schools and into elite private ones will make it harder than ever to uncover these mental diamonds in the rough and foster their skills. I'm tired of much of the rest of the world being able to mock our education system. And anyone in the private sector knows you typically have to invest in something to improve it.

Ann Daughety, Ms

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I respectfully ask the members of the Committee to consider all school age children. Please keep public tax dollars for public education. Support the public schools by adequately funding the schools and pay teachers. We all benefit from an educated public. Also private schools are not always available in rural areas. Private schools aren't required to admit everyone and the amount of voucher will not always cover the entire cost. Plus there is no accountability on the quality of education. Please support public schools with public funds.

Cammie Cooley

Self

Humble, TX

As a tax payer, I want my taxes to pay for our public schools, not religious institutions that are not required to report spending. Vouchers are limited and do not represent the entire population. They are extremely costly to the tax payer and only benefit those who can already afford a private school. Texas students already have school choice, as they can choose any school in their district. This is not about school choice. Vouchers have also been proven to negatively affect students with disabilities. Please consider funding our public's school system, instead of supporting a voucher scam.

Stephen McHugh

Self/QAEngineer

AUSTIN, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3, the largest and most expensive school voucher scheme ever proposed in Texas. This bill takes taxpayer dollars meant for public schools and redirects them to private schools that lack transparency, accountability, and equal access for all students.

Public tax dollars should support public schools, which serve every child, regardless of ability, income, or background. Texas lawmakers have not increased the basic per-student funding allotment for public schools since 2019, despite rising costs, inflation, and a record budget surplus. If there is money in the budget for education, our priority should be fully funding public schools first—ensuring teacher raises, better resources for students, and improvements to school infrastructure—before sending tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

Furthermore, HB 3 does not even prioritize the students who need the most support. It allows families already in private schools—including those making over \$200,000 per year—to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers. Wealthy families will get a discount on private school tuition while public schools lose funding, harming the vast majority of Texas students.

This bill also fails students with disabilities. While HB 3 offers larger voucher amounts for special education students, private schools are not required to accept them or provide the necessary services. Public schools are legally required to serve all children, yet HB 3 shifts funding away from them to schools that are not obligated to meet these needs.

Texas public schools educate more than 5.4 million students—far more than private institutions ever will. If we truly care about education, we should be investing in strong, well-funded public schools that serve everyone, rather than subsidizing private schools that can pick and choose their students.

HB 3 is bad for Texas families, bad for students, and bad for our public schools. I urge legislators to reject this costly and irresponsible voucher scheme and instead invest in fully funding public schools, raising teacher pay, and ensuring that every Texas child has access to a high-quality education.

Sincerely,

Stephen McHugh

Stephanie Eivens
Public School Teacher
San Angelo, TX

As a public school teacher at a rural school, a mother to a graduate of a rural school and a 2nd grader at a rural school, a graduate of rural school, I beg of you to not pass this bill. It is a complete dismantlement of public school and will be detrimental to rural schools. We already have choices.

Nicole Lozo, School Counselor
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I oppose this bill and I'm against school vouchers.

Alaina Kurz
Self
Houston, TX

Why don't you just say it like it is, you're diverting taxpayer funds from public to private schools. The rules for private school should be the same as public school. ANY child should have the chance to get the same education no matter their economic or ethnic status. They need the same accountability, test students annually and report achievement data; financial transparency; accept ALL students; hire certified teachers; meet the same safety requirements as public schools. Most important, FUNDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS FIRST by increasing their basic per-student allotment, which hasn't increased since 2019, to offset the impact of inflation and RESTORE the \$4.6 billion in funding that was withheld in 2023. Stop pandering to the rich and give every Texas child the same level of education, no matter what. I don't know how you sleep at night knowing what you're doing to the children of Texas.

Sofia Castano
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and I'm against school vouchers.

Anish Reghunath
Self, Engineer
Allen, TX

Do not defund my school!

This bill is just a way to divert taxpayer dollars to the wealthiest families in the state.

Deborah Vasquez
Self, retired
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will destroy our public school system that serves everyone including children with special needs. My husband & I sent our children (now adults) to parochial school. We never expected any assistance from the state - this was our choice as parents. The thought of providing funding to parents to pay for private school is absurd and so very wrong.

As a taxpayer I expect our state to fully fund the public school system. I also wonder who will benefit from the voucher system? Millionaires do not need to get any richer with our taxpayer funds. No to school vouchers, vote no!!

Laurie Duke

Myself/parent/former public school teacher

Fort Worth, TX

House Bill 3-Vouchers are a NO. I am a parent and today my children's district was having a special budget workshop to deal with the manufactured crisis that Gov. Abbott and this legislative body has created in a poorly disguised attempt to pass vouchers. Tell me how my kid's public school is supposed to provide the services my child needs if they are already operating at a deficit? How are they supposed to give a quality education and services when they can't even fill some hard to fill positions like special education teachers? My kids love their school, they love their teachers. I have one child who should have zero desire to go to school because of the struggles he is currently under, but you know what he goes because he knows there are people who "get him" there. We are not funding public education at levels we should and we are not making policy that encourages people to go into teaching much less special education. Last session we made it clear we do not want vouchers! Kids are going to be waiting no matter which way you go. Waiting for a spot to open, waiting to be accepted, waiting to be screened out when the private school realizes they can't do it. Fund our public schools 1st. Public education is not a for profit venture it is a common good. And let me tell you this Eagle Mtn. Saginaw is more property rich and they have already lost career counselors, lunch monitors, and my neighborhood school has a rotating door of school counselors (#3 in 5 years). Mind you the school I taught at for 15 years had only 2 different counselors during that time and were serving a much more disparate socioeconomic status then this school has ever known. No vouchers.

Patricia Doyle, Dr.

Alliance AFT

Dallas, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill. It is unbelievable that you would use tax dollars for private schools while starving public education. Our students deserve better. Our teachers and support staff deserve better. The law requires that you fully fund public schools. Do what's right for your citizens and reject this bill!

Marissa Curtis Gough, Dr

Self - epidemiologist

Austin, TX

I am opposed to education savings accounts. Our tax dollars should not go to private schools. Instead we need to fully fund our public schools.

Steve Sedlacek

Self

Allen, TX

Please do not dilute and bankrupt public schools. Other states have proven this does not work

Terri Walling

Self

San Angelo, TX

No vouchers! Yes public schools!

Lisa Brisendine

Self

Grapevine, TX

Just SAY NO TO VOUCHERS

Christine Hallford, IT Project Manager

Self/IT Project Manager

Wylie, TX

TX is a diversely populated state. As such, the minimum requirements for all TX school districts should provide for teaching for ALL school aged children in the state, including towns, cities and rural areas.

If wealthy parents want to send their children to private schools, let them.

It is my understanding that Greg Abbott, still, has not released federal money, earmarked for TX schools as a result of the pandemic.

Why is that?

Using tax money for public education is barely covering the cost of providing education NOW!

By taking said money away from public schools will continue to degrade public education, even further.

IT SHOULD NOT BE DONE.

Consider this: take 50% of tuition costs for private schools, and give that money to public education, to ensure a level playing field for ALL TEXAS SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN.

Julie Densmore

Self

Denton, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers as they only help the rich. Don't take away from our public schools funding education!

Lynsey Littlejohn

Self, buyer and single mom

San Marcos, TX

Texas must reject voucher schemes that undermine the foundation of public education. Instead, we should invest in strengthening our public schools to provide high-quality education for all students, regardless of their zip code or income level. Supporting a robust public education system is crucial for cultivating an educated workforce and ensuring equal opportunities for every child in Texas. Let's prioritize the future of our children and our state by committing to a strong and equitable public education system.

Aexandria Schaeffel

Household resident

Highland Vlg, TX

Schools districts haven't been sustainable a few years. I left teaching special Ed in TX with physical injuries due to few staff and so much more. Listen to parents, students and teachers who know first hand funding must go up, merit pay is biased Sp. Ed. teachers. Raise PP \$to1,300 to catch up.

Lauren Saldana

Self- therapist

Wylie, TX

I am adamantly against school vouchers. There are too many factors at play that make that the wrong choice for the majority of students in this state. It would damage everything about the public school system and what it stands for. It is a joke that the rich want to get richer by crippling those beneath them. NO to vouchers.

Claudia Carpenter

Teachers
Austin, TX

I oppose HB3! Do not do this to public education!!! Fund public schools!

Abel Crosby, Mr
Self/Engineer
Cypress, TX

I vehemently oppose the passing of this bill. It's a back door to increased legislation as well as increased taxes. I oppose further control on the part of the government for my children's education and do not agree with this rhetoric of "choice". The public school system is broken due to a collapse in morals and ethics and has nothing to do with the need for more funding. Fix the family upon biblical principles and you will fix the issue of education.

Janice Pennington
Self
Joshua, TX

I oppose vouchers. They will harm our public schools and they will put my teacher retirement in jeopardy

Sarah Hensley
None
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill

Kevin Kelly
self, entrepreneur
Austin, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Kasha Korbut
Self
Lakeway, TX

No Vouchers!

Jessica Batch
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Elizabeth Benefiel

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3. I am concerned about the impact of this bill on public education.

Caitlin Nelson

Self, copy editor

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Julie Johnson

Self

Big Spring, TX

All bills that support giving money from public education to institutions of private education, are weakening the future of our children and therefore our great state. Private education should not be funded by tax dollars. Instead fully fund public education and stop holding public education hostage to further the agendas of the wealthy.

Stephen Rice

Self

Austin, TX

Public funds should be used to fund public schools, NOT private schools. This is non partisan, the majority of small, rural communities don't have a private school option. They need their public schools fully funded! Further, similar programs in other states have been proven to lead to failure for public education in those states. Let's learn from their examples and not make the same mistakes! Texans, you already have unrestricted school choice.

Melanie Mullan

Self

Austin, TX

I object to the pillaging of already over-stretched public school coffers. We need a healthy public school system to maintain vibrant communities in our state where all have the chance to learn, grow, and thrive in life. I oppose the use of dollars intended for public schools for an education savings account program.

Christi Cox

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose sending public funds away from public schools.

Barbara Balliette

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose sending public money away from public schools to private schools.

Maria Rosales

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please oppose this bill, this will take away funding from public schools and give more money to the parents that can already afford private schools. Please fund public schools that are in desperate need of funding. I am a voter that believes in public education.

Debra Campbell

Self

Allen, TX

I oppose HB 3. Providing vouchers will not be in the best interest of public schools and the kids that attend them. Most students cannot afford private school tuition. Tax dollars should not subsidize the choice to attend a private school, but should be used to improve the public school system.

Li Huei Huang

self, data analyst at Texas DFPS

Austin, TX

Please improve our public school education for our 5.5 million school children in Texas without losing the funds to the private education voucher program. I am not against the high quality education either in public or private settings. However, the public schools have been the center of our community and the foundation of the development of my child. He can go to the school to meet up with his friends and I know that he is safe there because we know the neighborhood kids going the same school. Each child deserves high quality education as well as a sense of belonging in the community where his or her family lives. The private school voucher may be one of hundreds of solutions to improve our education system, but it should not be passed out at the expense of our public schools. Texas needs more fundings and supports to our dedicated and compassionate educators who devoted to the children regardless how much overtime they have worked to meet the demand of the public schools.

Flor Barr

Self

Edcouch, TX

Is the best decision for the family

Joan Chapman

Self. Retired educator

Plano, TX

Stop this nonsense!! Take care of public schools!!

Christy Spisak

Self

Spring, TX

We already have school choice and I choose public education for my child. Please vote for what is in the best interest of our children, and vote no to HB 3.

PS - please fully fund our schools!!

Leigh Blake

TEXAS TAXPAYER

Coppell, TX

I am a Texas Parent and Taxpayer and I support empowering parents with ESAs.

Karen Laywell

Self

Georgetown, TX

Texans do NOT want this!!!! As a parent who works in my children's public charter school I see what magic these teachers work with the abysmal funds they are given. Texas has a great opportunity to better their public schools. Vouchers isn't it. Please consider properly funding public schools and doing away with this bill. All Texas children deserve a solid education. Not just the wealthy, not just the neurotypical. All children. I hope that you all will see that Texans do not want this bill.

Sue Borenstein

Self - Parent to 3 children

Cedar Park, TX

NO vouchers! Put money into public schools, not vouchers. We need to increase the Basic Allotment per child by \$1300 at least.

Danielle Cannon, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to voice my concern for HB 3. Vouchers continue to discriminate against students with disabilities, strip away students' human and civil rights, and worsen racial segregation. Please vote against school vouchers.

Karin Montero, Dr

I oppose the bill, I do not want school vouchers.

Austin, TX

I do not want vouchers, I oppose the bill

Heather Kalenak

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I'm a parent to public school students, one of which receives special education services. I am also a teacher. We need fully funded public schools. I do not want hard-earned tax dollars should not go to private schools where students like my child will not be accepted. We need more resources and better pay to go to public schools to make them better.

Public schools are at the center of our communities and create the next generation. They should be the focus. Many rural districts do not have access to private schools. Where will their portion go?

Sabrina Berus

Self/ finance

Plano, TX

No vouchers.

Vouchers are going to lead to a lot of unintended consequences and put American education further behind the rest of the world.

Heather Ressler

Self

Prosper, TX

I oppose this bill. Please do not add to the stress of teachers and students already. This would completely dismantle our education for ALL kids.

jose Gutierrez

self

Spring, TX

I am in opposition to HB3. Rural communities will suffer. I support more funding for public education.

Rachel Deering

Myself

Dallas, TX

I am firmly against the use of vouchers to support private schools. My taxpayer money should fund public school systems that are non-religious.

Reuel Nash

self

Austin, TX

I oppose House Bill 3.

If this bill passes, public schools will be ruined. If that happens, small businesses in Texas will have to teach new employees how to read, write, and do arithmetic just like they did 200 years ago.

My family operated a business in Waco during the time of segregated schools. I can remember my father interviewing young men who went to the poor schools to make sure they could read a ruler before hiring them.

It is the obligation of the leadership of Texas to provide strong public schools. It is in violation of the Texas Constitution to use public funds for religious schools. It is in violation of Supreme Court rulings to use public funds to support segregated schools. Vouchers, as implemented in HB3 violate all of this.

In other states where vouchers have passed, the private schools have just increased their tuition by the amount of the voucher. No new students attend the schools. At the very least, amend the bill to require any school that accepts a voucher accepts it as payment-in-full with no additional tuition, scholarships, or fees required. Otherwise, this bill is obviously intended to be a transfer of public funds to the wealthy.

Shanna Eldridge

Myself

Austin, TX

School Vouchers are a farce. They are designed to benefit the wealthy and no one else. This could easily be renamed as the "Child Left Behind" bill. Vote against school vouchers. It's a totally unamerican and unfair Bill.

Melissa Clark

Tax payer

Houston, TX

I am a tax payer of the State of Texas and strongly oppose the school vouchers because it will create further inequality, harm low-income schools, and divert critical public funds away from public education. Private schools do not require state-certified teachers, lowering the standard of education, while the vouchers will primarily benefit wealthy families and drive up private school tuition, just as increased access to student loans led to rising college tuition. Instead of funding private schools, Texas should invest in public education by raising teacher salaries, increasing benefits, improving classroom resources, providing additional compensation for teachers with advanced degrees, expanding access to after-school tutoring, and supporting pre-service teachers who could serve as valuable tutors. Additionally, funds should be allocated to improving school safety by hiring more officers, installing metal detectors, reinforcing classroom doors and windows, conducting random locker searches, using firearm- and drug-sniffing dogs, and providing free mental health counseling for students. Public schools also need stronger physical education programs that encourage fitness, better food choices in cafeterias, expanded STEM education in robotics, AI, and programming, and increased access to vocational certifications in trades like HVAC, welding, automotive repair, electrical work, and plumbing. Furthermore, while I am a Christian, I firmly support the separation of Church and State, and I oppose the use of public education to promote religious ideology; programs like the \$60-per-student Bluebonnet curriculum improperly insert religious content beyond historical context, which should be left to homes and places of worship. The voucher program is a waste of taxpayer dollars and fails to address the real issues in Texas schools. I urge you to reverse course and redirect these funds toward strengthening public education, increasing teacher pay, expanding student resources, and ensuring Texas becomes a national leader in public education rather than a state that abandons its public schools. Thank you for your leadership, and I hope you will take action to oppose school choice and invest in a stronger, safer, and more equitable public education system.

Angela Payne

Self

Granbury, TX

Vote no for vouchers!

Daniel Little

Self

Cypress, TX

As a current private school family and soon-to-be homeschool family, I do not support this bill.

Dana Yezak

Self

Snook, TX

As a widowed tax payer, it takes all I can save to pay taxes each year. I find it totally reprehensible that those taxes would be given to someone to use outside of my county and school district. Living in an area with a rural school, I can see the lure of wanting to choose another school, however most of our people cannot afford the extra travel into the local big city to access a private school. They don't have the extra funds for uniforms, books, extracurricular activities, lunches which aren't provided by the school, etc. The state needs to release money to the school districts across the state to pay for safety upgrades, to afford more teachers and pay raises, and to put technology in place that will help our students more than an education savings plan. It is absolutely not common sense to take money from the taxpayers to pay for some thing that is not in their district. Many of the local private schools do not offer special education programs, CTE programs or accept students with discipline issues. That nulls any choice for some. Also, private schools don't answer to state guidelines, so those entities will not like the intrusion. If they get tax payer monies they should be accountable like public schools. They don't want that. Governor Abbott and others in support of this plan are trying to act like the federal government in taking taxpayers' hard-earned money and giving it away to other people who maybe have not paid in, or will be able to afford what goes beyond the allotment. This also gives families who have already made the choice to use private schools a little extra money because most of them can already afford to send their children elsewhere. I am completely opposed to this measure. I will be watching my State representation to see how they vote on this bill. I will vote accordingly thereafter.

Jolie Sanchez

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose the Texas bill to fund school vouchers instead of investing in public education for several important reasons. These reasons are grounded in concerns related to equity, quality, long-term social impact, and the undermining of public education's foundational role in American society.

1. ****Undermines the Public Education System****

The most significant concern with the bill is that it undermines the public education system, which serves the vast majority of students in Texas. Public schools provide a vital public good, ensuring that all children, regardless of their background, receive an education that helps them become informed and engaged citizens. Redirecting funding from public schools to private vouchers weakens the infrastructure of public education, which could ultimately lead to a deterioration of the quality of education for the majority of students.

Texas already has one of the largest and most diverse public education systems in the country. By shifting resources away from public schools, we risk further exacerbating the disparities that already exist between districts, particularly between wealthy and lower-income areas. Public schools have a responsibility to educate all children, including those with special needs or from disadvantaged backgrounds, but this commitment is threatened when funds are diverted.

2. ****Inequality and Access Issues****

School vouchers, which allow families to use public money to attend private schools, disproportionately benefit families that already have access to better educational opportunities. Wealthier families are often in a better position to supplement the voucher amount with their own funds to access more expensive private schools. On the other hand, lower-income families, who may be the ones most in need of educational support, often face barriers such as transportation costs, limited availability of private schools in their neighborhoods, and inability to cover the gap between the voucher amount and the actual cost of tuition.

Additionally, the distribution of vouchers could exacerbate segregation in schools. Many private schools have selective admissions processes, which can lead to the exclusion of students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, racial groups, or those with disabilities. Public schools, in contrast, must accept all students, which makes them an essential equalizing force in society. Vouchers could effectively push already marginalized groups further away from access to quality education.

3. ****Quality Control and Accountability****

Public schools are subject to rigorous standards and accountability measures set by the state and federal governments. These standards help ensure that students receive a high-quality education, regardless of where they live. Private schools that accept vouchers, however, are not held to the same level of scrutiny and accountability. In many cases, they are not required to follow the same curriculum standards, provide special educa

Yareli Cruciani

Self - Program Manager

Dallas, TX

This program is the wrong move for Texas education. My husband is a public school second grade teacher. What happens to his already underfunded district if this moves forward? What happens to his pay? This isn't how we support our school districts, teachers, and most importantly, our children. Please do not pass this bill.

Donna Allen, Ms

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Do not fund private school vouchers for the wealthy while under-funding public education. This is a bill supported by a few wealthy Texans and the Republican lawmakers only.

Yael Nathanson, Esq
Self
Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Lauren David, Dr.
Myself - Psychologist
Austin, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Melissa Bailey
Self / Federal worker
Saint Hedwig, TX

Vote NO! This is a travesty

Liliana Guevara

Dickinson ISD

Dickinson, TX

Please do not defund Dickinson ISD

Chaya Lazaroff

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Julienne Williams

Self

San Antonio, TX

Does the public get to vote for this and if so, when?

Alicia Hawley-Bernardez, Dr.

Self - faculty

Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any effort to implement or expand school voucher programs in Texas. These programs threaten to undermine our public education system, diverting essential funds from already under-resourced public schools to subsidize private and religious institutions with little to no accountability.

Texas public schools serve the vast majority of students in our state, including children from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, students with disabilities, and those who rely on the stability and structure that public education provides. Vouchers siphon away public tax dollars that should be invested in improving our public schools—hiring more qualified teachers, reducing class sizes, and providing essential support services such as counseling, special education, and mental health resources.

Additionally, voucher programs fail to deliver on their promise of better educational outcomes. Research has shown that students who use vouchers to attend private schools often perform no better—and sometimes worse—than their public school counterparts. Unlike public schools, private institutions are not required to accept all students, meaning that vouchers can exacerbate inequality by allowing schools to discriminate based on religion, disability status, or academic ability. Public tax dollars should not fund institutions that are not held to the same transparency, non-discrimination, and accountability standards as our public schools.

Furthermore, rural communities in Texas stand to lose the most under a voucher system. Many rural areas lack access to private schools, meaning that vouchers would not provide families with real educational choices. Instead, these programs would drain vital resources from the only schools available to them—our public schools—forcing budget cuts that harm both students and educators.

Texans value strong public schools, and we must prioritize policies that support and uplift them rather than dismantle them. If the goal is to provide high-quality education to all children, then we should invest in proven strategies: increasing teacher pay, expanding access to early childhood education, and ensuring that all public schools receive equitable funding.

I urge lawmakers to reject any voucher scheme that seeks to privatize education at the expense of Texas' public school students. Our focus should remain on strengthening our public schools, not weakening them through misguided policies that primarily benefit private interests.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Marce Stayer

self

Houston, TX

I urge you all to NOT establish an education savings account program for private schools (vouchers). The Texas legislature has been remiss for many of the last years in supporting public education and although you state that public funding will not be affected, we see from past actions that this is not true. The school vouchers will not all poor families to send their students to private schools, nor will it allow families with special needs students to send their children to private schools. The appropriate remedy is to adequately fund PUBLIC schools as a means for fostering a better future for Texas.

Patty Quinzi

TX- American Federation of Teachers

Austin, TX

Testimony of Dan Doonan

Executive Director

National Institute on Retirement Security

March 11, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments on House Bill (HB) 3. My name is Dan Doonan and I am the Executive Director of the National Institute on Retirement Security, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization based in Washington, DC. I'd like to highlight that NIRS does not conduct research on education or the various impacts of different types of schools. We do, however, conduct research on public pension systems, including pension plans for teachers, such as the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). My comments will focus on the potential impact to TRS from HB3.

For the benefit of your deliberations, I'd like to make a few key points to inform your policymaking debate:

? Prior testimony noted that if the total number of teachers in TRS continues to grow as projected, the plan would not be harmed.

? It is worth understanding that the allocation of pension costs could be impacted within Texas' schools if the move toward private education occurs more in some jurisdictions than others.

? Finally, the ultimate impact on TRS from HB3 would depend not just how widespread the adoption of private school options is, but how geographically dispersed the shift is toward private schooling.

Cost Sharing and Risk

Retirement benefits are earned by workers over the course of decades during a career, and then paid out over more decades. This makes retirement and pensions a long-term project compared to other financial endeavors.

Cost-sharing, multiemployer plans typically utilize future payroll as the base for funding these earned benefits if there is a gap between assets and plan liabilities.

The laws governing private-sector multiemployer plans recognize the impact of employers leaving the system and require departing employers to pay their share of accrued costs, which is commonly referred to as a withdrawal liability.

The change in HB3 would look different, as it wouldn't be public schools themselves choosing to leave the plan. Instead, it would be the drift of students and educators out of

the public schools and the resulting shift in who is paying for the accrued liabilities that would have an impact. However, the math is the same if the potential decline in teacher payroll is viewed as a partial withdrawal.

These dynamics were laid out in the discussion in the Committee on Pensions, Investments and Financial Services hearing.

Beyond Financial Stability of TRS: The Allocation of Pension Costs

Beyond the broader question about the fiscal impacts on TRS, it is worth understanding that the allocation of pension costs among school districts and various communities in Texas could be impacted.

While NIRS does not study educational vouchers or charter schools at NIRS, I am aware that charter schools in Louisiana tend to be concentrated in and around New Orleans. These schools have an option to enroll their teachers in the teacher pension

Amanda Whittenburg

Self

Plano, TX

As a parent of Plano ISD students, and a homeowner and taxpayer in Plano, I do not want my taxpayer dollars going to fund private school educations. Lawmakers say that this gives parents "choice". However, my neighbor with a special needs daughter cannot take a voucher and walk into any school she wants and use that voucher. She can, however, walk into any public school and they must accomodate her. My relative who lives in the Panhandle 100 miles away from a private school cannot use that voucher. They can and do attend their local public schol. Rather than funding those vouchers, lawmakers need to listen to their constituents who are begging them to fully fund their schools rather than taking funds from the schools and putting them towards schools that are not available to anyone.

Scott Moser

Self, Engineer

Pflugerville, TX

Good morning, Representative Buckley and Members of the House Public Education Committee,

My name is Scott Moser, and I have called Texas home for the past 12 years. As a concerned community member, I appreciate the time and effort you dedicate to shaping the future of our state.

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to House Bill 3, which seeks to implement education savings accounts, or vouchers. Public tax dollars should remain within the public school system, which serves all students and is already under immense financial strain. Schools across Texas are grappling with the rising costs of inflation, inadequate ADA funding, the urgent need for mental health resources, a major shortfall in special education funding, and largely unfunded mandates for school safety. If we have the means to invest more in education, those dollars should go toward strengthening our public schools—raising the per-student funding allocation, moving to an enrollment-based funding model, providing cost-of-living adjustments, and fully funding essential programs like special education, mental health services, teacher pay increases, retirement benefits, and school safety initiatives.

Public education already provides families with choices, and with better funding, schools can expand opportunities in areas such as STEM, the arts, athletics, career and technical education, gifted and talented programs, and dual language instruction. Public schools welcome all students, provide essential services like 504 accommodations, and ensure financial transparency, accountability, and community oversight. This is what responsible use of taxpayer dollars looks like.

Private schools, while a good option for some families, do not have the same obligations. They are not required to admit all students, nor must they provide support for children with disabilities. Unlike public schools, they are not held accountable for how they use taxpayer funds or how they measure student success. This is not true school choice—it is an opportunity for private institutions to choose whom they will and will not serve.

Beyond these concerns, I worry about the financial implications of this proposal for taxpayers. Once established, ESAs could become a long-term fiscal burden, diverting critical resources away from public education. Texans value fiscal responsibility and transparency, and I fear that these accounts would primarily benefit special interests rather than students. It is also troubling to see that our governor has received record campaign donations from individuals who stand to gain financially from this initiative. The future of Texas children should not be sacrificed for political and financial gain.

Public funds should be used to strengthen our public schools, ensuring that every child—regardless of background or ability—has access to a high-quality education. I urge you to uphold the values of our state and invest in a system that benefits all Texans. Thank you for your time.

Andrea LaGrone

self

Austin, TX

Despite claims that vouchers help low-income families, the reality is that they primarily benefit wealthy families who already send their children to private schools and who will use vouchers as a subsidy. Private schools and corporate-backed charter networks profit from public funds with little oversight.

The only winners here are politicians who receive donations from billionaire lobbyists, dark money influence, and pro-voucher organizations. Vouchers are not a grassroots effort—they are heavily funded by billionaires and corporate interest groups that want to dismantle public education. Groups like the Koch network, the American Federation for Children (backed by Betsy DeVos), and ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) have poured millions into pushing voucher schemes across the country. Jeff Yass (NOT A TEXAN) has donated over 10 Million to Abbott so he could pass vouchers. To pretend this is for the good of our Texas children is laughable at best and blatantly dishonest and entirely scrupulous at worst.

As public schools lose funding due to vouchers, they are forced to lay off teachers and staff, cut essential programs like arts, music, and special education, and increase class sizes and reduce student support services. Meanwhile, private schools receiving vouchers can operate without certified teachers, standardized curriculums, or any obligation to meet state education standards. We know this entire ESA/voucher concept is a complete and total scam, it is NOT popular with or wanted by the majority of Texans and I implore you to reject this bill and this program full stop.

Andrante Etheridge

Self

McKinney, TX

Please don't allow this to happen to our public school system. I am a product of public schools and it has been critical to my success and the success of my family. Our underserved children will be at a clear disadvantage with this bill. I am depending on you to take a stand against this

Teresa Bogar

self - public high school teacher

Taylor, TX

As a proud Texan and current public high school teacher, I am writing to urge you to vote NO on House Bill 3 (HB 3) and stand with Texas public schools, students, and educators. This bill threatens to drain critical funding from our public schools by diverting taxpayer dollars to private school vouchers—hurting the very institutions that serve most Texas children.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities. They educate all children, regardless of ability, background, or zip code. Redirecting funds to private schools that aren't held to the same standards undermines our public education system and leaves rural and working-class communities with fewer resources and fewer opportunities for students.

Additionally, HB 3 could destabilize the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) by reducing the number of active educators paying into the pension fund. Retired teachers, who dedicated their careers to Texas students, deserve financial security—not uncertainty.

I urge you to protect our public schools and educators by voting NO on HB 3. Instead of dismantling public education, we should be focusing on fully funding our schools, raising teacher pay, reducing class sizes, and strengthening TRS for current and future retirees.

Please stand with Texas students, families, and educators—and oppose HB 3.

Ryan Fullam

Self

Hutto, TX

Please do not pass HB 3. The last thing we need is for our education to go down the drain like we saw in Arizona with education vouchers

Carole Wall
Self/ Property Management
Leander, TX

Stop with the voucher scam. FULLY FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION. Leander ISD would've had a balanced budget if not for you yahoos are bought and paid for by a billionaire in West Texas. I'm not paying for rich kids to go to private schools. Stop trying to destroy public education. Year and year and year. WE ARE TIRED AND DONE.

Katie Morgan
Self, Talent Manager at Chevron
Houston, TX

I am a parent and we have used both public and private schools for our son. In order to maintain the high quality of both, we cannot have private school vouchers. Vouchers only ignore our public schools which we as parents work very hard to build up through our donations of both volunteer time and money. I work at Chevron and as a company we are also huge supporters of public education.

Texas has many counties with no access to private schools. Vouchers will not make private schools more accessible.

Private school vouchers are not the solution to the challenges facing our education system. Public education has a proven track record of providing a quality education to millions of students, and it is essential that we continue to invest in and improve this system. The future of Texas depends on the education of our children, and the best way to ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to succeed is by strengthening our public schools, not defunding them.

I strongly urge you to reject any proposals for private school vouchers and focus on the long-term investment in public education that will benefit all Texans.

Marci Polly
Self, Public School CFO
Shallowater, TX

ESAs are not good for public education and the students and teachers in our great state! Fund schools adequately and allow the great educators and administrators to succeed and reach new heights. By sending state funds to private institutions with less accountability, you are only hurting the Texas education system and will have bigger problems to solve in the future!

Chris Dahl
Self
Mckinney, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS

Levi Marinovsky
chabad
Cypress, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Sarah Shearer
Self- educator
Leonard, TX

As a teacher, I am against HB 3. I've never been very involved vocally in politics. I keep myself informed and vote accordingly. At this point, I am so appalled by the complete lack of respect for Texas educators and the students they teach. HB 3 is a disaster waiting to happen. I think there needs to be reform in education, but this is the wrong way. Begin my fully funding public schools, pay ALL staff (including aides, librarians, diagnosticians, etc.), and get rid of the STAAR! At this point in time, I will no longer be voting party lines unless change happens. I can't believe so many Republicans think this is good for our Texas children. It is a sad, sad day in Texas if this passes.

Marissa Martin
Self
McKinney, TX

I am a product of a quality public Texas education. I am a life long Texan and chose to continue a career in Texas as an educator. I love my state and have to firmly express my concern and disdain for this bill.

As an educator, specifically a music educator, I fear that this bill will harm public schools and eliminate the possibility of a well-rounded education with music. The bill is firmly anti- public education and anti- special programs such as athletics and fine arts. These programs which set Texas apart and make us incredibly competitive in.

I pray we can continue funding public education and supporting our future by striking down this bill.

Sara Smith
Self
Austin, TX

I am a mom to a daughter with an IEP, she is dyslexic and needs intervention services. I am concerned that the voucher program will deplete funds for students that have IEPs. I do not want vouchers!

Susan Wright, Librarian
Public Schools
Watauga, TX

This will kill public education and this is all about making the governor rich. This will do nothing for our regular middle class and lower class students. This cannot pass!

Robyn Lukeman

Self, retired

FW, TX

The combination of this bill and the loss of federal funds will damage the already struggling public schools in Texas. The cost to public education far outweighs the benefit to a very, very, very small percentage of students who aren't already enrolled in private schools to enroll. Consider all of the children, please. This, especially if it includes vouchers for home schooling will go down in history as a very costly mistake for the children of Texas.

Susan Cummings

self

Baytown, TX

I am writing in fierce opposition to the establishment of an educational savings account program. Texas tax dollars should adequately support rigorous instructions and appropriate services for ALL students and should not be sent to parents who can afford private school without robbing public schools. There is NO ESA or voucher system that would not hurt public school districts. Support for vouchers and ESA shows that Texas supports a two tiered system of education that does not serve the students or democracy.

Brent Rich

Public schools

Nacogdoches, TX

90% of Texans rely on public education. Over 150 counties don't even have a private school option. Do what Texans want and need: a strong fully funded public school system

Jacque Endres

Self

Muenster, TX

I am a born and raised Texan, Republican voter all my life. I say NO to Vouchers! State Tax dollars are for State Public Schools. If any of my representatives vote yes for vouchers I will never vote for them again and will actively work to have them voted out of office! Greg Abbott has already lost my support and I will never vote for him again! Private schools should not be covered with public funds! Every conservative friend I have is against vouchers! Vote No on vouchers or pay the price! Signed a lifelong conservative voter!

David Ives

self

Grapevine, TX

NO VOUCHERS!!! FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!

Marca Hiller

Self

Wylie, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 and so are a lot of other Texans. It will negatively impact TX public schools. We should not allow public funds to go to wealthy kids so they can go to private schools. Their parents can afford to pay for this on their own without taking public tax funds out of public schools.

Laurie Garner
Self/retired
FORT WORTH, TX

I am opposed to this bill. I have worked with children for 40 years. Public vouchers are not a good option. Especially for rural areas. I have a family ranch in Shackelford County. These children would not benefit. It is also not good for TRS of which I am a part of. Please vote NO to HB3

Kathleen Hazlewood
Myself
Arlington, TX

I am against school vouchers unless vouchers can only be spent at schools that meet the same requirements as public schools.

Kaitlin Kelsey
Self (Public School Parent)
Uvalde, TX

How do you decide which private schools are approved organizations for students with the vouchers?
Why is less than 2% of Texas children more important than 98% of Texas school aged children?
Do your job and fix the public school system!!!! You are failing your public school students and families and teachers and schools by passing this voucher. We don't want it.

Gabrielle Guevara, Mrs.
Self and Children
Dickinson, TX

Please do not defund our schools. Our whole community has a great sense of pride for our Dickinson Gators. We are like a Friday night lights town and we love our schools and administrators who are already working with the bare minimum. Please give our public school teachers and schools what they deserve- fair wages, funding for all of our extracurricular activities and programs so that they have the ability to make a difference our student's lives. Knowing that my property taxes helps fund our schools takes the sting out of paying. Please do not pass the school voucher bill.

Cassie Schaps
Spring Branch ISD
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you!

Ellen Cartsonis

self

Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts in Texas. Greg Abbott's attempt to suck resources from public education in order to provide what amount to additional, unneeded tax breaks for the wealthy is reprehensible.

Leah Norman

Self - Social Worker

Austin, TX

I do not support school vouchers – they will take money away from our public schools, worsening the quality of education available to all Texans. This bill only supports private institutions and the children whose parents can afford the price tag to send them there. This is not in the best interest of children in the state of Texas. Rather, the state should be further investing in the public education system to strength it for all Texas children, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Carla Smith, Dr.

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas Constitution. Our future depends on the fair and equitable instruction provided to ALL students in Texas public schools.

Mandy Riordan-Villa

Self

Liberty Hill, TX

Vote No

Andrea Molnar

self

Tomball, TX

I do not believe that HB 3 would improve public education, but rather defund it. This would not give all children equal rights to a good education. Also, the property tax money saved by homeowners would not be sufficient to send a child to private school, therefore only those with means already would benefit, creating a larger divide between rich and poor.

I feel this is exactly the purpose of HB 3 and is just being sugarcoated to fool the public into thinking this would be a benefit for all.

Vicki DeBusk

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose the bill. I do not want school vouchers.

Kristy Castillo

self

Bryan, TX

I want to note my disapproval of this bill. We should add more funding to public education not take it away for private schools, or the like.

Kelly Van Meter

Self

Lakeway, TX

I strongly oppose a voucher or education savings account. This takes money away from public education in order to provide subsidies to send kids to school with no accountability and no requirement to serve all kids. The proposed amount doesn't even over half the cost of most private schools, and therefore these voucher funds will only be used by families who can already afford private schools. There are very few private schools who serve students with special needs. It is beyond my understanding why the current bill allots more per student for private school than public school. I work with schools all over the country and it is shameful that our teachers are underpaid and our schools are among the lowest in terms of funding. Fully fund public schools.

Diane R Miles, Dr

Retired public educator

Dallas, TX

Please vote against HB 3. Public education and benefits for all children is critical!!

Audra Blevins

Public education as a teacher/coach

Lubbock, TX

As a public educator who has served kids and families for 22 years, I am opposed to this absurd bill. This is being pushed by people who have no background in public education. While I believe in parent choice, that already exists in Texas. This won't level the field for anyone. Where I teach, there is no access to private schools for an hour at minimum. So how is that benefitting our parents? Why hasn't public education been funded like this in the past? I spend a lot of my already low salary supplementing my classroom. My education that I personally worked hard for and my experience can predict confidently that this will end in more students being left behind and rapidly multiply the gaps we are seeing in our students. This is going to wipe out small rural schools and leave those people with no option but to drive long distances or homeschool, which isn't the least restrictive environment for some kids. This is a personal agenda and isn't the best thing for the future of Texas. Our youth will be our leadership in the blink of an eye. Stop holding our funds hostage to personal agendas. Do what is right for all Texans. Release funds to Texas schools so we can have the top education system in the country. Texas is the best state in this nation, but not investing in our children's education will see us quickly fall behind. I would love to see the house call some of us small teachers to Austin and hear our voices and stories. Call our students and parents and let them speak. Look at us in the face and tell us that we aren't worthy of being given the best chance to be amazing. I am lucky to work with some of the brightest, most creative, driven, and loving people in the state, teachers. Do the right thing, don't kill our struggling education system with this bill.

Kim Millikan

Self/retired

Lakeway, TX

Free, mandatory public education is a hallmark of the U. S. Government and all successful countries worldwide. It is essential for human civilization. We can choose to pay to send our children to a private or parochial school but must fund and support an excellent public school system. This bill will gut public education in Texas, and hurts everyone. Not just some kids, not just some schools. We all benefit from fully funding and generously supporting education for all. No vouchers!

Timothy Gillen-Hall
Self-high school teacher
Kilgore, TX

This bill isn't in Texas, it's students, teachers and schools best interest. We both know it will not accomplish the supposed intent-to give parents choices for their children's school careers. Instead it will drain funding from public schools already in deficit budgets and cutting positions. Instead we should be looking at how to fix and make better our public schools. Give funding to cover inflation. Take away laws and regulations that have been put into place that are creating unnecessary blocks on student and teacher time. For example the number of tests students are forced to take each year with staar and other similar tests. Make education not just about age but instead students progress at their ability level. Continue to expand programs that will help the work force and not force all students to be on a "college path". These are just a few ideas of what we could and should actually be doing with the money instead of trying to force feed a voucher program that has failed in every state it has been put into place. I don't understand how defenders of Texas and it's "small government" ideals could possibly be thinking this is a good plan. That creating more government positions and instituting a program that will just continue to grow and drain funds- see Arizona will somehow make our future and the futures of our students better. I implore you and the rest of the House to do the best thing for Texas and get rid of this Bill. Raise funding to at least cover inflation. Start working with educators from across the state and let's come up with an actual plan to start fixing the things that are wrong with our educational system as it is now. This Bill will not help our students, and is not what's best for the future of our great state.

Laurie Andrews, Mrs
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

As a 30 year veteran teacher, half with special needs children, I am ?? against supporting this bill. There is already a process for parents to choose a private school, home school or ask for a district transfer. Anyone can create a savings account for anything. Personal responsibility. This bill will erode public education where children are receiving high quality curriculum. Great teachers, great schools. The focus should be only on enhancing funding sources for school, staff and programs. We must pay young teachers more for retention. They then can become master teachers. Please vote this bill down. Thank you.

Cristina Hidrobo, Mrs.
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose school vouchers

Anthony Elmo
Retired
Fort Worth, TX

ESAs are a coupon for the rich - no thank you. Do not support and I am a parent of three ISD kiddos in Fort Worth.

Cheryl Brown, Ms.
Self
Georgetown, TX

I have taught in the Texas public schools, and have raised 3 children who attended Texas public schools. I am strongly opposed to the establishment of an education savings account program for many reasons. For all children who receive 504 accommodations as well as special education services, I am deeply concerned about the lack of provisions they will receive should we move forward with the education savings program, which will effectively steal money from poorer students in order to give wealthier families a discount on their private school education because the amount allotted will not be enough for poor students to afford private school tuition. As funding is pulled from public schools, our most vulnerable students will lose funding for much-needed services and resources. I'm also concerned about our tax dollars funding private religious schools. If we move forward with the education savings account program, funding will be taken from public schools, and our most vulnerable students and families will suffer most, followed by everyone else in our society that benefits from a well-educated population.

Kelsey Ahern
Self, Engineer
Austin, TX

Good afternoon. My name is Kelsey Ahern and I live in zip code 78731. I am a proud mother of three public school students and have been closely tracking the policy debate on school funding in our great state of Texas. I ask that you vote NO on HB3 relating to the establishment of an education savings account program. Instead I ask that you prioritize fully funding public schools so that ALL students in the state (rural, urban, across all socioeconomic backgrounds) have access to an education system that Texas can be proud of. This includes modifying school funding to be by enrollment rather than attendance, increasing the basic allotment by \$1,300 to catch up with inflation, and support strong teacher and staff pay raises. As written, HB3 allows people making above \$160,000 to apply such that the richest families may benefit. Our tax dollars should support ALL students, not just a select few. Please prioritize strong public schools for all Texas children. Thank you for your time.

Stanford Rogers
Self Retired
Buda, TX

I do not support my tax dollars being used to pay for private schooling when I am already paying for s public school system and a Charter School system.

Very few low income students will be able to use the voucher for many reasons.

You will no doubt hear many of those reasons provided by others who will oppose this legislation.

I am also appalled at the prospect of Mr. Yass profiting from his 6 million dollar contribution to defeat folks who would not support vouchers.

Vote No on HB 3.

Tiffany Butler
Self
Sanger, TX

Good afternoon,

This bill should not be passed, as it will significantly impact private schooling institutions. I am a former public educator and I do not agree with many of the policies in place currently or where TX public education is. As a result, we have decided to homeschool our own children. Passing this bill would completely eliminate free choice when it's comes to our children's education and instead, places a governing hand into our private education. I choose to not have any government interference in how we decide to educate our own children. I do not want any type of "funding" to trickle down to homrschoolers or even private schools, as this will allow say-so in things like testing, curriculum choices, etc. I urge you to vote AGAINST this bill!

Linda Licke
None
Austin, TX

I oppose this plan!

Benjamin Prince
Self
Austin, TX

As a Texas public educator I strongly oppose this bill. It will have devastating consequences for our public education system. It stands to benefit the wealthy at the expense of the middle class. It robs us all of our future. We need a broadly educated populace, capable of meeting the unknown challenges that will face us and them.

Patricia JANG

self

Austin, TX

I am a parent of two students in the Austin Independent School District. I am begging you to vote NO on House Bill 3. I do not want my tax money being used to fund private schools, while the vast majority of Texas children are in the public school systems. This proposed legislation would bring ruin to the budgets of our public schools in Texas. Our system is already so underfunded, with many districts having to close schools and lay off workers due to budget shortfalls. Our public funds must support public schools, not for-profit schools that do not have to meet state educational standards. For the sake of Texas's children today and in the future of Texas, please vote NO.

Claire McLoughlin

Self

Carrollton, TX

As a constituent, I am OPPOSED to Bill HB3 by Buckley

School vouchers have many disadvantages, including:

Undermining public schools

Vouchers take funding from public schools, which serve most students, and give it to private schools. This can hurt public schools that are already struggling.

Discrimination

Vouchers can discriminate against students with disabilities, and can exacerbate racial segregation. Private schools can also discriminate in admissions, discipline, and employment.

Lack of accountability

Private schools are largely unaccountable to taxpayers. They can pick and choose who to serve and how they serve.

No evidence of academic benefit

There's no reliable evidence that vouchers improve student success. In fact, some programs have shown to have a negative effect.

Undermining democracy

Vouchers can erode democracy by giving tax dollars to private schools that are far removed from the electorate.

Diverting attention from reforms

Vouchers can divert attention from needed reforms, such as smaller class sizes.

Creating corruption opportunities

Private schools with little accountability could lead to corruption.

Francheska Brinkley

Self

Justin, TX

Please increase the basic allotment for students to 7500

Doug Weiss

Self, management

Pflugerville, TX

I believe this bill to run counter to the public education mandate in the Texas Constitution. Diverting the public funds; property and sales tax dollars that I have paid, to subsidize the affluent private schools amounts to nothing more than a handout for the rich. It's anti-American and anti-Texan. As a native Texan, I'm proud of my public education and believe that a properly funded public school system is the only way to ensure Texas's continued prosperity.

Neil Gowler
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Vouchers will primarily benefit families already able to afford private education, while draining desperately needed funds from underfunded public schools. I urge you to vote against the voucher program and instead fulfill your duty under the Texas Constitution to fully fund public education — for our children and our future.

RHONDA KNIGHT
Self
WILLS POINT, TX

Please protect public schools and taxpayers dollars by voting against vouchers / education savings accounts. Thank you for listening to your constituents.

Chassity Sullivan
Self
Cedar Hill, TX

School districts across the state are having to do more with less. The funding given to the districts have not increased since 2019 and many districts are in budget deficits. Improving school funding would help our districts fill these gaps. The Education Savings Account (ESA) will pull money from already struggling districts and send the funding to private schools which do not offer equitable education for all students.

My son is 9, non verbal and diagnosed with Autism. When my son was 3, we interviewed/applied for acceptance into a private school. During the interview, I mentioned several times that my son had autism and was non verbal. I asked if the school had the resources to teach him and I was assured they did. My father in law went to get him fitted for the uniform and had my son with him. My son began to stim by jumping up and down and making noises. After they saw my son, they told us they could not accept him into their school. Offering vouchers does not help kids like my son because private schools have the right to choose who they want in their schools and private schools are not required to follow IEPs and 504s for students in special education.

Kathryn Suied
Self
Dallas, TX

If these “Education savings accounts” are supplied or supplemented by my taxes, I strongly oppose. Education money should go to our public schools only.

Lindsay Crowel
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I support public schools and strongly oppose HB3. If we have money for vouchers, we have money to fully fund public schools first!

Jennifer Skjonsby
Self
Houston, TX

This voucher scam will destroy public education. I am against it. Every study done has shown a decline in student performance when vouchers were enacted. Vote no on vouchers!

Miriam Cotlar
self, mother
Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Brittany Conkling
Self
Conroe, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools.

As Taxpayer and supporter of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program.

Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas Constitution

JB Bobbitt
Self
Houston, TX

Great bill. Let the funding follow the child.

Solomon Pacht
Self
Dallas, TX

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Concerned Citizen
Self
Spring, TX

A strong public school system is necessary to grow this country. Vouchers only benefit those who can afford private education. Every child deserves a quality education, in a safe environment, close to their home. Please vote against HB3

Susan Smith
self - retired
Amarillo, TX

Quit catering to special interests from the far right and invest as much as you can in our existing public education system. Fix what's broken, aim for improvement, celebrate your successes. I'm almost 74 and know that in my lifetime, parents have always had the choice to send their children to "other" schools. If they want to keep doing that, let them. Why are you trying to reinvent the wheel? Meanwhile, listen to the younger voices in the educational community who can tell you what "works" and what doesn't. It's now their turn to educate Texas children.

Jessica Burgos
Self
Austin, TX

A public hearing at the Texas Capitol is happening on the school voucher bill (HB 3). Use the link below to ensure your opposition is on record. Not a drill. Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the constitution.

Jeanne Reinelt
Self
Dallas, TX

Please do NOT pass this bill! Save the integrity of our public schools. Our future depends upon them!

April Allen
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB3. School vouchers do not work. They will only take money away from public school districts. There is no accountability if a parent decides to "home school" on what curriculum will be used. If a student takes the money and goes to a private or charter school and then gets kicked out, or needs to move back to public school, the money will not go with them. I live in an affluent neighborhood where parents already have choice in where they send their kids to school. Every year, several kids enroll during the school year at the public school. They were either kicked out for behavior, or the services they need are not provided in the private schools. This is not a bill that will only harm public schools. If parents want to send their children to private school, then that is their choice. If I want extra security for my house, I don't get to take money away from the city police force just because I don't feel their security is adequate for my house. I can't get a voucher for more fire protection and take money away from the Austin FD. This bill will be harm for years to our schools and students and no state has been successful using this idea. Our school districts are already underfunded. Please try to adequately fund the schools and please think about Texas children!!! Please vote no on HB 3. Thank you!

Lisa Deese, Ms
Myself
Waco, TX

We the majority of Texans don't want vouchers!

Maggie Gorski

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter

Shannan Riemer

self

Austin, TX

Dear Members of the House Committee,

I strongly oppose HB3 vouchers because they redirect much-needed funding away from our public schools. Instead of channeling taxpayer money into voucher programs that defund our system, we must invest in our public education by properly funding our schools, this means hiring and retaining quality staff and reducing classroom sizes to manageable levels.

When funds are diverted from public schools, we lose essential resources needed to support our teachers and students, maintain safe and engaging learning environments, and provide vital services that contribute to educational success. Voucher programs not only weaken the public school system but also exacerbate segregation and inequality within our communities.

Our focus should be on bolstering public education by increasing investment in our schools. By doing so, we can ensure that every child has access to a quality education in well-supported classrooms, which is the foundation for a stronger and more equitable future.

Thank you for considering my perspective. Please support initiatives that strengthen our public schools rather than those that undermine them.

Sincerely,

Shannan Riemer

AustinISD Parent

Michelle Berry

self/retired

Cypress, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

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This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you for your consideration, Michelle Berry

Rachel Rehwinkel

Self / Stay at home parent

Austin, TX

I do not want my family's tax dollars to be spent on private education. Public dollars should serve the public schools. Our family will strongly consider leaving the state if this bill passes. We do not want to subsidize wealthy private schools and families. We are an income bracket that most would consider wealthy and are very familiar with the families that this bill would most benefit - other wealthy friends and neighbors who do not need state support!

We do not want to subsidize religious education. We believe in a separation of church and state and find it inappropriate that our taxes would be spent teaching children any specific religious concepts or beliefs.

We believe in every person's right to religious freedom and strongly believe that is a domain that is the responsibility of the family and not the state.

Every child in Texas deserves a well funded public education. This bill would not serve that goal and would undermine funding for the existing underfunded public school system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jana Henderson

Self

Cumby, TX

I am strongly opposed to funding private schools with public funds. It is taxation without representation and not supported by Texans. Although I have no issue with private schools or home schools, public funds should stay with public programs.

Shawn Ryan

self - a parent

austin, TX

Honored Members of the Committee,

My name is Shawn Ryan, and I am the father of two Texas schoolchildren and the husband of a dedicated educator who has spent over a decade teaching in our public schools. As a parent, I have seen firsthand the critical role that well-funded public schools play in shaping the future of our children and our communities.

I am strongly opposed to HB 3, the voucher scheme that would divert public tax dollars away from our already underfunded public schools to subsidize private education for a select few. Instead of helping the vast majority of Texas families, this bill would only deepen the funding crisis that public schools—especially in rural areas—are already struggling to overcome.

Private schools, unlike public schools, are not required to provide transportation, meal services, special education programs, or even certified teachers, leaving many families with no real alternative. Texans across the political spectrum have rejected voucher programs time and time again because they recognize the harm they cause to our students and communities.

Rather than funneling public money into private institutions, I urge you to increase per-student funding by at least \$1,300 to ensure that Texas public schools have the resources they need to educate and support every child. Investing in our public schools is investing in the future of Texas.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will make the right decision for Texas students and families.

Sincerely,

Shawn Ryan

Elizabeth Davis

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and I'm against school vouchers!

G Lewis

Self

Abilene, TX

Don't do this! Love ALL children. Educate ALL children. Please take excellent care of our teachers.

Vouchers do not help! Vouchers delineate. Be courageous and let this bill die and re-focus the states education energies.

Jose A. Gutierrez Jr., M.D.

Self

Hebbronville, TX

I do not think it will benefit our children or the public schools in general.

Janice Airhart, Ms.

Self, former public school teacher

LEANDER, TX

I strongly oppose any form of school vouchers or education savings accounts (ESAs) in the state of Texas. Taxpayer dollars should be spent on actions that can benefit all Texas citizens equally. ESAs do not. Besides the fact that there is little oversight of the use of these funds, by what measure will students be judged on the effectiveness of instruction? There is no reason to believe that private school teachers are in any way better trained or more conscientious than public school teachers. There is no built-in transparency or accountability for administrative costs. I do not want my tax dollars bankrolling such an enterprise.

As a former public school teacher, I am well aware that classrooms are underfunded. I purchased hundreds of dollars of classroom supplies each year so that my students had materials for lab projects. Not all teachers can afford to do this. No teacher should have to.

I am convinced that the voucher movement is a thinly veiled effort to reinstate racial segregation in our public schools, and I am appalled. What is ironic is that this move toward segregation is accompanied by other moves to institute prayer and Ten Commandment posters in classrooms, purportedly to emphasize "Christian values," actions which are decidedly unChristian. Perhaps the legislature needs to follow Christ's example, rather than appropriating his name for underhanded and self-serving practices.

Ultimately, I urge you to defeat HB 3, because it funnels public money from all Texans for the benefit of a select, already privileged, few. You shroud this in terms of "parents choice", but whose choices count? Only the few who already have access.

This is money that could be better spent by investing in public schools, which benefit a broader range of Texas families.

Emma Schleich

Self

Fort Worth, TX

A free and high quality public education is a fundamental right and an investment in our country's future. Pass this bill would strip public schools of resources that are already lacking. Underserved, rural, and low income students will continue to fall through the cracks and there will be even more class division than there already is. Private schools are not required to provide transportation or special education services. This bill is an attack on my profession and my students. It is 100% classist and racist. Texans do not want this.

Beverly Schulte

Self

Nazareth, TX

Please fund public schools and vote NO for vouchers.

Megan Vosters

Self

Lumberton, TX

I am against any bill that includes any type of voucher system, such as educational savings accounts.

The most important reason is that vouchers have never been able to help the students they claim to help. The students that *need* vouchers rarely have transportation to a private school, the financial resources to pay the rest of their tuition, or parents that can help them navigate the application process.

To be clear, I don't hate private schools. I personally loved the ways prayer was woven throughout our day when I taught in the Catholic Schools, but that doesn't mean I think tax dollars should pay for private schools.

Private schools don't have to admit everyone, like public schools do.

Private schools don't have to offer any support for students with IEPs or 504 plans (some do, but they are not required by law to do so like public schools are). Side note for anyone not in education: you'd be surprised by the number of students with IEPs and 504 plans.

Public school provides a free appropriate education for every student that walks through our doors.

School choice already exists... if for any reason parents want to choose something different for their child than their local public school, they have always been welcome to choose private school or homeschooling.

As a parent, and as a teacher, I believe in public education.

I also believe Texas needs to find a better way to fund public education. There's plenty that's broken about the current system, but vouchers are not the solution.

Mindy Rossetto

self, stay at home parent

Austin, TX

The only people who truly want to use public funds for private schools are billionaires and Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick, who have been bought and paid for by billionaires to pass this voucher scam. Teachers, school administration, students, and, most importantly, parents, do not want vouchers. Most of Texas does not want what the legislature is ramming down our throats. We do not want to subsidize wealthy kids to go to private schools they already afford, in the fewer than half of Texas counties that are home to private schools. I want to subsidize the poor by providing the state constitutional required public school system, FULLY FUNDED, via taxes. I know the billionaires don't pay theirs, so why is the legislature letting them dictate how mine are used?!

Jesse Hart
Self
Lewisville, TX

Dear Representatives,

I'm reaching out to ask you to oppose HB 3 and any proposal that shifts public education dollars to private vendors through school vouchers. This bill isn't about improving education—it's about funneling taxpayer money into private hands at the expense of our students. It's wasteful, harmful, and undermines the integrity of our public school system.

Schools in our district are already struggling with overcrowded classrooms, limited resources, and overworked teachers due to insufficient funding. Instead of fixing these issues, HB 3 would take even more money away from public schools, contradicting the Texas Constitution's promise of a free and effective education for all students.

Taxpayer money should strengthen our public schools, not fund private education programs that lack oversight and accountability. I urge you to put Texas students first—reject HB 3 and any effort to introduce school vouchers.

Thank you for your time and for standing up for Texas children.

Sincerely,

Jesse Hart

Elizabeth Edgar
self, former teacher current stay at home mother
Austin, TX

I am a former special education teacher and currently a stay at home mother of a child with an IEP. My father is a retired professor of Educational Psychology, his father was an elementary school principal, and my extended family is full of public school teachers. I feel that free and fair public education is a cornerstone of our great democracy. It is our responsibility as Texans to make sure that we properly fund public schools and compensate public educators. We need to raise the allotment for students and protect the Teacher Retirement system. Our public schools are struggling, and it is immoral to propose reducing already insufficient funding to enrich private schools with public funds. I also have grave concerns that these charter schools will not match our vital public schools in meeting the needs of students with disabilities, of students in rural communities, and students who are already facing socioeconomic challenges. This is not good for children, not good for parents, not good for educators, and not good for Texas.

Miranda Finley Hunt
Self
Austin, TX

There are no successful voucher programs that benefit the tax payer or children. Other states have drained budgets supporting vouchers that go to private schools that raise their tuitions. Vouchers are a scheme for transferring public funds to private pockets and absolutely no students benefit. Please think about responsible tax payers and their children when deciding on this Bill.

Dietra Marquez
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers for private schools is a scam and doesn't help poor students

Harold Albers

retired

Art, TX

I am opposed to supporting private schools. All tax money must go to public schools that do not reject students like private schools do. The rich do not need taxpayer help. Do your job and fund public schools adequately without Robin Hood.

Austin Mitchell

Self - teacher

Fort Worth, TX

I am for this.

Karen Haught

Self, Homeschooling parent and grandparent, PhD candidate.

Magnolia, TX

My name is Karen Haught and I am addressing this committee via written note, since I am busy homeschooling my twelve-year-old granddaughter in Houston while you are meeting. I urge the Education Committee to reject House Bill 3, even though I know it is favored by our governor. I offer a unique perspective, since my homeschooling career spans forty years—dating back to the years before the Leeper case was decided.

I homeschooled my son, who is now forty-five years old and a successful COO of a multi-million-dollar private company. I wrote a private homeschooling bill that was about to be presented in the Texas Legislature, when the Leeper case was decided that made Texas a homeschool-friendly state. As stated, I am homeschooling my granddaughter who, at age twelve is above level in Math, at college level in reading, is a rising young golf star, and is preparing to take the PSAT.

HB3 on School Choice, while sounding beneficial on the surface, is already identified as the backdoor means by which those who wish to impose government control over private homeschooling intend to do so. There are far better ways of addressing the problems in our public schools than implementing a law under the guise of "parent empowerment" that will be used to instill governmental oversight on private homeschooling families and restrict the rights and freedoms of parents to oversee their children's education without interference from the government.

Texas has one of the largest private homeschooling populations in the country and has seen great success among homeschooled children. I would like to meet with Representative Cecil Bell, Jr. to discuss these matters privately; but today, I ask that he please join this large constituency in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3, unless it includes specifically-articulated acknowledgement of the rights of parents to determine the nature and direction of their child's education and upbringing and the rights of private homeschools to be free of government oversight over matters including, but not limited to" the number of teaching hours or days; methods of instruction; teacher requirements and standards; type and content of curriculum beyond the basics of math, reading, spelling, and good citizenship; religious instruction or the instilling of religious values; the teaching of social values and ideologies beyond basic good citizenship; methods of instruction; and the need for testing.

Regards,

Karen Haught

TONIA MCGEE

SELF

DENTON, TX

There are currently about 350,000 private school students in Texas. The state only has money for 100,000 of those students to receive vouchers. (Approximately \$10,000 per 100,000 students = 1 Billion Dollars.) That is less than 33% of the currently enrolled private school students. But how many more students will put in a bid to be part of the lottery system to choose who gets the voucher? That means your child is even less likely to receive a voucher.

Additionally, 80% of those considered "low income" will get put into a lottery system to possibly be able to obtain these funds. So only 80,000 people out of the currently enrolled 350,000 students will get a voucher. That is a 28% chance now, and less once others put in their bids.

Interesting fact:

The Senate defines Private School low income as 500% of median income, or approx. an income of \$156,000.

The State defines Public School low income as 200% of median income, or an income of approximately \$40,560 and \$57,720 for a four-person household.

Interesting, right? It is harder to be low income if you go to public school than if you go to private school.

Only 20% of Currently Enrolled students who make more than \$156,000 a year will be eligible for the lottery. This does not take into account the unknown number of students who will be putting in their bids as well. That is only a 5% chance to get a voucher and will be less once others put in their bids.

Next, let's say you do have a student with special needs. Private schools do not have to accept your child. If they do accept them, they do not have to provide accommodations.

Let's look at schools that advertise that they do accept students with special needs. (See link below.) Are any of these in Denton?

Lewisville? Flower Mound? Gainesville? Even the largest cities in Texas have less than 5 schools that advertise to accept special needs students. The Closest one to me (Denton) is in Grapevine. Annual tuition \$21,000+ depending on grade level.

Then add in uniforms, technology, and after school activities/ extra-curriculars.

Also, many private schools do not provide transportation to sports, band, choir, or other extra-curricular activities so that is on the parent as well. If one is truly low income (as the public schools define low income,) then likely transportation is an issue.

Not to mention the additional \$10,000+ one must find to pay the tuition, etc.

Another problem created by giving public school money to private schools is an increase in class sizes.

Lewisville ISD is closing 4 of its schools. Northwest ISD is cutting 100 teacher positions next year. This will increase class sizes.

See the YouTube link below. Typical class sizes will be up to 30 students in a high school class, and 24 in elementary classes.

And what is the average class size of private schools? 15-20 students.

This is simply unacceptable. Properly fund public schools. Do not pass HB3 Please!!!!

Megan Graham

Honey Elementary PTA

Lubbock, TX

Public education is critical to the success of our communities and the future of our state. Funding public education is the foundation of success for our future generations. Implementing school choice will actually diminish school choice, especially those with the most financial need. The have nits will be even further away from opportunities as private schools deny admission, increase costs, or don't provide accommodations. If we truly love our state, we should be supporting those that need it most.

Please use public dollars to fund public education. Families who want and have access to private education are already attending private schools. We need to fund and support our public schools, teachers, and students.

Matt CORTEZ

Animal Emergency Hospital of North Texas

Eules, TX

Vouchers have been proven over and over again to not work. I am against any bill that would set money aside for them when they could instead be put towards our public school system

Taylor Cortez, Dr.

Self

Eules, TX

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB3 and reject any efforts to divert public funds to private vendors through school vouchers. HB3 is not about helping students—it is a vendor bill that prioritizes profits over education. This is government overreach and irresponsible spending that hurts students, taxpayers, and our local communities.

Our district is already struggling due to inadequate funding. We see the effects firsthand—larger class sizes, fewer resources, and overworked teachers. Instead of addressing these urgent needs, HB3 would siphon money away from public schools, violating the Texas Constitution's guarantee of a free and efficient public education.

Public dollars belong in public schools. Texas taxpayers should not be forced to fund private and unaccountable education programs while our neighborhood schools continue to suffer. I urge you to stand with our students, teachers, and communities—vote NO on HB3 and say NO to vouchers.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to Texas children.

Sincerely, Dr. Taylor Cortez

Genelle Gibson

Self

Missouri City, TX

Vote No to JHR140

Matt Flickinger

Self/ High School English Teacher

Austin, TX

School vouchers are an absolute scam and "school choice" is a clever way of rebranding a cash grab for the lowest need Texans: the wealthy and privileged. Vouchers help only the wealthy at the expense of everyone else. The problems with this bill far outweigh the benefits. Simply put: first, there are not enough private schools in Texas to accommodate the number of children in Texas, especially when geography is considered as there are entire, enormous counties with simply NO private schools in existence; secondly, private schools have neither the means nor the responsibility to educate ALL Texas students (including students with learning, financial, or other needs not met in private schools); third, private schools need not admit anyone they deem unworthy of admittance according to any, unregulated reason they may define respectively; fourth: this entire plan reallocates Texas taxpayer funds into the hands of private schools without oversight; and lastly, there are too many issues and elements yet undetermined. Texans deserve a plan to help our students, all of our students. Reject this voucher nonsense for the good of all students.

Jean Steensma

self, retired

Round Rock, TX

Please vote NO on HB3. I believe this bill and the voucher program will cost the state too much money over time as the program gets more and more expensive as time goes on, as seen in other states with similar programs. I also believe that this will hurt public education which is already terribly underfunded. The public school system needs a big increase in funding and not to lose any money. I also don't like that charter and private schools and other non public schools would be using public taxpayer money and would not be held accountable and held to the same standards as public schools. They do not have to accept or educate special education students or those with behavior/emotional needs. Therefore please vote NO to HB3. I do not want to see public schools suffer due to this. We had 5 children go through the public school system very successfully, including one with special needs, and I believe the public school system is very valuable to our community. It needs to have increased funding and not less.

Pamela Tevis
Self
Dickinson, TX

I am requesting you vote AGAINST school vouchers. As a member of the Texas government, you and the governor have had the power to overhaul TEA to benefit ALL students. If vouchers are being pushed so hard because our current quality of education is not acceptable, it is your fault! You have had the ability all along to make a difference. Instead you are kicking the can down the road deflecting attention from ineffective leadership and touting school vouchers! Shame on anyone who votes for vouchers. I find it hard to believe that your informed constituents overwhelmingly asked you to vote for vouchers. The Texas legislators have already demonstrated their inability to oversee our educational system, and the lack of details of how vouchers work will only lead to segregation and fraud. Just the fact that our governor is strong arming representatives to vote for this should raise red flags! Not to mention he is playing with the surplus of tax money like it's his own personal bank account. Obviously tax payers have been over charged and the money should be returned to tax payers not for representatives finding ways to spend money it. There are too many unanswered questions. How long do you think \$1 billion will last? A family with 4 children (K, 2nd, 4th, 6th) will cost \$360,000. Where is future funding coming from? What systems are in place to vet the number of private schools that will pop up? How are these students' performances going to be evaluated? Who is going to oversee the programs and where is that money coming from? What is the rationale for 20% going to anyone? Why not simplify the program and make it available to only students zoned to underperforming schools? This gives public schools the incentive to improve eventually eliminating the need for vouchers. This would benefit ALL students.

Please vote for what your constituents want and not the governor or republicans.

Please represent your constituents not your party.

Thank you
Pam Tevis

Jana Spinks, RN
Self
San Antonio, TX

Help those that need help! Public schools are for America and for Texas.

Alisha Woodall
self
Richardson, TX

I am writing to vehemently oppose the Education Savings Account Program. This initiative not only weakens the public school system but also undermines the very fabric of our neighborhood communities. Instead of investing in local schools and supporting our dedicated teachers, it redirects taxpayer funds away from public schools, leaving them with fewer resources to serve the majority of students. This reckless decision doesn't just impact our immediate communities, it disproportionately harms disadvantaged students who rely on public education as their only option.

This program fuels inequality, diminishes community involvement, and reroutes local taxes to private entities that have no stake in the well-being of our neighborhoods. My family specifically chose to buy our home based on the outstanding public school district and to see that investment stripped away is nothing short of a direct assault on taxpayers like myself who have committed time, money and energy to our local communities. We have made the conscious decision to invest in our local schools and ensure that our children learn in safe, nurturing environments within our own neighborhood.

The very idea of tearing public schools away from local communities and forcing families to send their children to private institutions (many of which are religious or ideologically driven) is not only unjust, it is unconstitutional. This should never even be up for debate.

Neal Legan
Self
Dallas, TX

I oppose school vouchers and ESAs. Please vote No!

James Rice

Self

Perrin, TX

No vouchers! Public dollars for public schools. I do not wish my hard earned tax dollars used to supplement tuition for children of the wealthy. We have public schools which have never been funded appropriately. Take care of my community school.

Zeke Romero Romero

Myself

Temple, TX

I am a registered republican and I don't want school vouchers! You are defunding public schools. I'm proud of my rural school.

Jennifer Hemm

SELF

Belton, TX

I oppose school voucher bill HB 3 that will only benefit the rich and wealthy. As a constituent I ask that you do not pass this legislation.

Heather Garcia, Mrs

Self, educator

Arlington, TX

Committee members,

Please do not allow HB 3 to pass. Public money is meant for educating the next generation of our society. All students deserve an excellent education. Taking funds away from

public education is not going to improve the ability of our most vulnerable students to obtain the thing most likely to improve their life- an education. We need an educated society, not just a good education for those that choose it. We can't allow public schools to fail. Let's use the funding to improve public schools, not defund them and take away the most American thing we have- the ability to improve one's own life through education. I am afraid for the future of our society and the division of the "haves" and "have nots" this will cause when those left in an underfunded public school cannot compete. How can public schools survive when only the toughest most needy students are left. Who will be able to handle teaching then? Don't do this, please.

Joanna Klose

self

Austin, TX

Children are the future of our community, family and world. We must ensure they are given every ability to grow.

This is why I strongly oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Thank you and I believe you can stand up for the good of everyone not just private interest!

Allison Sliva
self -- retired educator
Bay City, TX

I am a retired teacher of 18 years, and also worked in school communications for 12, and I am opposed to HB3. (I did teach 4 years at an exclusive private school in Houston, and have taught in large and small, rural and urban districts — Public dollars belong in public schools!)

Here are some major points:

Private schools can deny families from enrolling.

Families would have to waive their children's rights of such things as federally protected special education or language services. There is no accountability to the state or parents about how the voucher is used or how students who use it are educated and treated fairly.

Vouchers for decades have been tried in other states, and all have failed to improve student outcomes — many studies available regarding this. In fact, states who have already tried vouchers are ending their programs. In Florida & Arizona, the voucher programs have been disasters academically & financially. The vast majority of voucher users already can afford to send their kids to private schools as in the experience of the 2 largest voucher states, Florida & Arizona.

I retired in 2020 from a Title I district as the Chief Communications Officer. — Bay City ISD. We have no real private school options where I live, except for a small Catholic school that houses grades PK-5. Rural communities such as mine would be devastated by the further degradation of our public schools.

Put \$1300 toward the basic allotment before giving away public dollars to vouchers!

Caitlin New
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Vote no for HB 3. Keep public funds in public schools and focus instead on increasing the quality of public education in Texas. Raise basic allotment, pay our teachers more, reduce teacher to student ratios, protect access to 504 services, and focus on better student outcomes. This is what constituents in Texas have overwhelmingly said they want. Listen to your constituents and do not pass this unpopular legislation.

Allison Cone
Self —accountant
Cedar Park, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3 regarding school vouchers, masking as “school choice”. Our tax dollars should not be spent to fund private schools that are not legally required to offer education to every child, regardless of economic standing or ability. I am a mother of a student under SPED and another student under 504. I am a single parent that fled an abusive situation and saved my children. Private school is so far out of reach, it's not considered an option, but my children are intelligent and kind and deserve just as many opportunities as a child that has parents with more economic means

This bill will only defund our public schools more, and take away every child's right to a fair education.

Public education benefits everyone. Children who are educated grow up to be educated adults who can fully participate in the economy. Defunding public schools by creating vouchers hurts everyone's future.

John Carson

self/homeschool parent

Aledo, TX

I am writing regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment". I would like to ask the committee to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3.

Christy Fay

Self

Mesquite, TX

We DO NOT want vouchers! It's not fair to our children and taxpayers.

Peter Dodd

Self

Grapevine, TX

Please do not sell out our Texas children and allow this education grift to pass. It is anti-public good and will lead to even more inequality of opportunity and outcome for Texas students.

Barbara Wiederaenders

self, retired

Austin, TX

Public Education, House Bill 3. I oppose this education savings account program. I urge you to invest the same amount of extra money into Texas public schools for the benefit of all students. Private schools are able to solicit funds from private sources for scholarship assistance. Investing more in public schools will make private schools less attractive. We need full enrollment in public schools, not rewarding those who pull out. I speak as a member of a congregation which sponsors a child day care center. I can donate to that as I wish. I want my tax dollars to support superior PUBLIC education for all Texas children. I do not favor using taxes to assist church-sponsored private schools.

Jeannie Ryan, Mrs.

Self

Lorena, TX

School vouchers will hurt public schools. I am a public school teacher in a small rural town (Troy ISD, Troy, Tx). Greg Abbot had investors give millions of dollars to advertise school vouchers as "school choice". Vouchers will only help students who already attend private schools. Middle class or below will not be able to afford the difference between how much a voucher provides and the total price of public schools. Over half of the children at my school are title one students. There is no viable school for them to choose within driving Distance even if they wanted to attend another school. Private schools can deny entrance for any reason. They rarely, if ever, accept special ed students. Private school teachers don't have to have a degree to teach, which will lower the chance of having a qualified teacher. Private schools don't have to pass the rigorous testing that pupils schools have. This whole policy will take from the poor to give to the rich which will further education inequality.

Terra Pennington, Rev.

Self - Presbyterian Pastor (PCUSA)

Stephenville, TX

As a Christian it is my belief that all children deserve a quality education, not just children of the wealthy. I want my tax dollars to stay in public schools so all children can have a well funded education.

Terri Metcalf

Self

Houston, TX

Vote NO to HB3 and fully fund public schools

Robert Shindell, Dr.

Self - Professor

Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, TX Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools.

ESAs (vouchers) directly hurt students with disabilities who receive Special Education services in Public Schools in the State of Texas. Diverting \$1 Billion of my PUBLIC taxpayer money to private schools who do not even acknowledge IDEA, do not follow IEPs and only provide services when they are negotiated, compromised and then charged back to parents at exorbitant rates well above typical tuition rates it is theft of services and money to the most vulnerable population in Texas.

14% of the 5.4 million public school students in Texas receive special education services. That's 760,000 students at a minimum. These ESAs are completely inaccessible to at least 90% of our disabled students, and that is before they have a chance at any lottery or know if a private school will accept, serve, or retain them. There's no accountability. Not of services, not of the \$1 Billion of public taxpayer money this legislature wants to pour into private schools and not of impact or outcomes of our disabled students.

Even if we say ALL of the ESAs go to disabled kids receiving special education services, that still leaves a minimum of 700,000 students receiving special education services in underfunded understaffed Public Schools that this state put in this situation. This causes direct harm to these students with disabilities, the most vulnerable individuals in society, and it's at the hands of those who are supposed to represent us.

This is unacceptable. I want this legislature to take accountability, listen to the parent voice (and students), and have the courage to do the right thing: say No to ESA/Vouchers and Fund our Public Schools properly.

Thank you. Please stand up to the West Texas Billionaires who are hijacking our public school system and trying to turn our state into a theocracy. These Christian Nationalists have no business in our schools. The separation of church and state is part of the foundation of our nation and it is YOUR JOB to defend the constitution!

Michelle Renner

Self

Pleasanton, TX

How are vouchers going to help rural communities that don't have any other options? It appears that our already struggling schools will have to continue doing what they are doing with less money. My granddaughter is in life skills. She is 3 years old and she suffered an injury at birth. What is going to happen to her? Conversations and decisions regarding the educational system in Texas needs to consider rural communities with no access to public transportation. It seems that the Texas government has forgotten about us.

Mary Golden

Taxpayer

North Richland Hills, TX

Voucher program. TEXAS ranks LAST in educating our children and Abbott wants to choke off more public school funding???? I am so embarrassed to tell anyone I live in Texas. Would move out but family is here.

Haley Buchman
Self
San Antonio, TX

By allowing vouchers, we are diluting the power of any school system to educate our children. Parents with students already in private schools will continue to have their children in private schools just with a taxpayer discount. This will not provide families with a choice because those who are not able to afford private schools just with will still not be able to afford it even with the voucher discount. This program will further separate the haves from the have nots.

As a retired public school teacher, I am not against private schools at all, however I am against having public funding going toward private education. If this happens, private institutions MUST be held accountable to the same standards as public schools. They MUST provide all the special programs public schools are required to have to educate EVERY child.

Charity Dillon
Self
SPRING, TX

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS!!! I WILL VOTE AGAINST EVERY SINGLE REPUBLICAN IF THIS IS PASSED.

Kyle Warren
Self, business owner/entrepreneur
DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX

Please do not do this. My public school friends don't like this, my private school friends don't like this. My homeschooled family of 6 does not want this at all. Please, listen to your constituents. Look at Abbott's facebook posts about so called "school choice" - the angry faces are leading the way. Please don't give into the politics. Do what is right, and vote this down.

Ashley Nielson
Self
Leander, TX

These vouchers are tremendously hurting public education. As a teacher, this is disgusting to see all of our schools suffering because you are trying to give money for vouchers. We all know that this money is not used for the people that really need it. Great teachers are getting laid off, classroom sizes are getting too big, and Texas public education is Truly suffering. I'm so embarrassed as an educator of where our education system is going in Texas. You need to do better, and think about how many people this is affecting and our wonderful students and teachers. As a mother of four kids and a teacher, I want to make our public school system systems the best they can be, because this is where I want my kids, not a private schools. I want them right in their own community.

Stephanie Bayer
Self/ Teacher
Mckinney, TX

Vouchers are a scam and not good good for public education, children, or families. This bill will only serve to further diminish our public schools and to hurt public education overall.

Brandy Wright
Self
Cleveland, TX

This. I'll is going to destroy public education!!ry the public vote on it. We don't want this

Amy De Rosa, Mrs
Self-grandparent who pays for and oversees grandkids' education
Harker Heights, TX

Where is the money for ESA budget coming from? What guarantees can the state give that the ESA budget will grow and endure such all families and students will always be guaranteed school choice, not just those with special circumstances.

Jamie Dion
Self
El Paso, TX

As a resident of Texas this bill will give me & my children less choice in education. Texans do NOT want school choice that requires testing, limited curriculum and regulations that we currently do NOT have. Please consider the ways in which this bill will be reducing our rights as parents. Thank you

Emily Adhikari, Dr
Self physician
Irving, TX

As a child of public school teachers who is now raising children attending public school and witnessing neighborhood schools under increasing stress during to budget cuts from the state, I am extremely distressed to see that this bill is still being considered. The Texas public school system has many strengths- chief among those open access for all communities, and top quality free education for all Texans. By pulling students and funding from public schools, the state breaks the main system that is in place to allow all students equal access to this high quality education. Instead of committing money and resources to addressing the challenges faced by public school teachers and students, the state is pulling the rug out from under the schools themselves. The effects on the future of Texas public education will be long lasting. I oppose HB-3 and hope the supporters of Texas public education will vote against this misguided bill.

Katie Hildebrand, Mrs.
Self, homeschooling parents
Seminole, TX

Please note, that we, as a Texas homeschooling household, oppose this bill. We do not need or want funding from the government. We greatly appreciate the freedom that we have had in Texas in the past and recognized that we already have school choice. Please vote no, on behalf of us, and on behalf of thousands of Texas residents who are also opposed. Thank you!

Jessica Legut
Self
Cypress, TX

No vouchers!

Ruth Shrader
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote no for school vouchers. It's only going to support the wealthier families and take away from those who have no option but the public school system. Please do not choose vouchers!

Philip Overbaugh
Self
Austin, TX

I am adamantly opposed to giving vouchers for private school students. Vouchers will destroy public education and will confiscate public tax dollars to promote religious beliefs and faiths. This is un-American and unconstitutional - a direct violation of the separation of church and state.

Christi Kelly, Mrs

Self manager

Whitehouse, TX

TEXANS DO NOT WANT the voucher system. Abbott is strong arming you reps and it will cost you your jobs in the long run. We are watching how you vote and taking notes. It us a money grab for those already attending private schools and does not address the needs of a vast majority of the state. No private schools in the area, they cost considerably more than 10k, inability for most to provide their own transportation. Homeschoolers and private schools DO NOT want the curriculum and testing that comes with it so they won't accept the vouchers.

Mark Villines

Self teacher

Coppell, TX

No no no no! Please be rational and level headed when choosing! You were elected to be selfless and put the best interest of ALL Texans first! This voucher bill is NOT what is best for kids! Fully funding ALL schools and improving them is what is best for kids! Prayers you make the right decision

Katherine McClellan

Self

Leander, TX

Fund public schools fully! Say no to vouchers that will take away from public education and only help the wealthy who are already paying for private school. Private schools should NOT be funded with tax payers dollars when they do but have to follow any state guidelines or attendance rules when getting paid per student per day.

Ally Thompson, Miss

Self

Beaumont, TX

No to school vouchers. Fund our public schools!

Carolyn Stone

Self / retired nurse

Houston, TX

I am against a school vouchers program giveaway of our tax dollars that should all go to public education, which is already under funded in Texas. Private school vouchers only benefit wealthy families, since they basically get a discount on what they are already willing and able to pay for. If they want a private education, they can pay for it. Private schools discriminate on admissions as they see fit, and are not even available in all cities/towns in the state. They are not accountable for their spending. The diversion of funds from public schools to private school vouchers damages the resources available to public school students and thus damages the quality of the public achool education. Every Texan should want a strong, quality education for every Texas student. This is a public good, benefiting not just individuals, but society as a whole.

Alex Budke

Self

Grapevine, TX

I have not seen any rational points for school vouchers, nor consistent success when implemented in other states.

Amy Moore

Self

Austin, TX

Texas House of Representatives

Committee on Public Education

Public Hearing on HB3

March 11, 2025

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing as a Texas parent, taxpayer, and voter to ask the Committee not to move forward with HB3. This is not what the overwhelming majority of Texans across the state want for their hard-earned, taxpayer dollars. This bill is not fiscally responsible, as it creates another bureaucratic system, and it has virtually none of the accountability we ask of our public schools. Please listen to the voices of your constituents, many of whom do not have a private school or tutoring company in their county.

Texans want their local, public school districts to thrive, which has been hard for them to do because they have not had a basic allotment raise since 2019. If there is \$1B sitting in an extra pot of money somewhere, then please use it to bolster our public school districts across the state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Moore

BD Pitts

Self; Retired Texas public school teacher

Austin, TX

After receiving an excellent education and graduating from Texas public schools and universities, I taught in Austin and Round Rock school districts, retiring recently at age 73. My students and I suffered from lack of proper funding of public schools; that paucity of funding continues. Please do not further erode Texas schools with public school vouchers by using public dollars for private education which will be a further drain on our public schools.

Emilio Nicolas

self, attorney

Austin, TX

Good evening: I am a constituent in zip code 78735. I write to voice my opposition to HB 3. I respectfully ask my Representative and this Committee to vote "no" and fully fund public education instead. We already have meaningful school choice in Texas-- what we need are more financial resources to better use the existing, working, and necessary infrastructure. HB3 does not even make economic sense. Without regulation over the tuition, private schools have no impediment from raising their tuitions to essentially negate the value of the voucher; and a student who could already afford it will take advantage, resulting in a profit for the school and no greater access to education compared to the students' previous positions. Thank you.

Cristella Lupin

Self- Speech Language Pathologist

Austin, TX

As a parent, public school special educator, and third generation Texan - I oppose vouchers. It is plain to see that the cons far outweighs the pros. Public dollars are for public schools. Everyday, I make a choice of how I will drive to work. Will I take I-35 or will I take the toll road 130? TXDOT maintains I35 and some days, it is the fit for me but other days, I make the choice to take the tolls. I make the choice, I pay the price. The toll company maintains the road so why would I ask TXDOT to send funds for the maintenance of the toll road? Public and private schools are like the TXDOT maintained highway versus the toll road. If you choose the road to the private school, you pay for that. Vouchers do not truly make private school more affordable and leave vulnerable populations without a choice. Texans do not want vouchers. We are aware that our governor so wants to please mega donors Farris Wilks and Tim Dunn by making this agenda item pass. Farris Wilks and Tim Dunn do not represent Texas. We do. We are the voice. We are the majority. 2026 is very close. Texas will remember that Greg Abbott does not care about public school students or educators.

Anne Markwell, Ms

Self, Denton Co. Precinct Chair #2102

Dallas, TX

Please vote against HB 3 AN ACT relating to the establishment of an education savings account program. I oppose it as it stands because it does not help Texas students across the board and it would create a costly new layer of bureaucracy to administer it, namely Certified Educational Assistance Organizations. Vote NO on HB 3.

Thomas Holmes

Self, music teacher

Dallas, TX

We already have evidence from multiple states that voucher programs do raise achievement and more importantly, do not help poor students attend private schools in any appreciable number. Most Texans believe that public dollars belong in public schools. Instead of listening, you have decided you know better and have used out of state money to primary lawmakers who stood in the way. Despite my fiscally conservative beliefs, I believe funding schools is one of the most important jobs of government. The more people who have access to good education improves our entire society and works as a great equalizer, disadvantaged and poor people a chance to rise up and seize the American dream through hard work.

Sam Soto

Self/ Public School Principal

Austin, TX

As a voter, taxpayer, and public school principal, I cannot in good faith and conscience support HB 3. I request that this committee vote NO to ESAs or any other voucher program in Texas. Public education has been underfunded for years and is currently \$4,400 behind the national average and ranks 46th overall. Historically, voucher programs promote segregation and have scammed citizens for decades by falsely promising equitable opportunities to economically disadvantaged families and communities of color. If we open the door to vouchers in Texas, all 1,200 public school districts in our state will suffer financial repercussions, especially in rural communities. In addition, vouchers fail to protect students with disabilities who receive special education services and deceive families into believing that the voucher will cover the full tuition bill. Rather, vouchers will subsidize private education for families who can already afford it. Governor Abbott and proponents of vouchers speak of the benefits of such programs but fail to speak the truth about how private and charter schools are not held to the same standards as public schools under TEA policies. Longitudinal studies conducted in other states have concluded that voucher programs increasingly defund public education while student achievement data is often misrepresented to inflate their achievements when compared to public education data. I encourage all Texas legislators to have the backbone to fund public education with the \$21 billion from the state's general revenue. Ultimately, Texas parents can send their children to whatever school they choose, public, private, or charter, but public taxpayer dollars should NEVER go toward funding private education.

Arden Rolf
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

I am a hardworking, 4.0 gpa student studying forestry. I have been in public school all my life and it is part of the reason I have been so successful thus far. I made friends with a diverse group of people and I was taught by teachers who were motivated not by money, but by a passion for teaching, that I doubt can be found in any other profession. A major argument against public education is that it is "not as good" as private education in terms of curriculum. I don't see how this is possible when I have met many a private student who doesn't have a basic understanding of the world around them. Private schooling as it stands now is a detriment to those students. If we give more power to the private school system, the public school students will continue to get the short end of the stick. Many politicians use the term "school should be about learning" and if you truly believe that, you would be a strong advocate for public schools. Your priorities do not lie with the welfare of Texas children. This bill only stands to make the rich richer and weaken the school system that works to serve the poor. Over 90% of Texas children go to public school. It is economically infeasible for every child to be in private school. With the money you could use for this preposterous proposal, you could better the entire Texas education system instead of practically demolishing it.

Debra Howsmon
Self
Kingwood, TX

I am against vouchers. You say it is a way to help children, but if you really wanted to help ALL children, you would fully fund public education and reduce the rigor of STAAR exams. If we are to compete NATIONALLY, we need to re-examine what is taught, when it is taught, and how it is taught. Study what is done in Finland, Denmark, and Japan. Why are their schools so successful. Do what those country do, and you would make our public schools better than any other schools in the nation. Our children deserve this and so do we because our children are the future.

Maria Guerra
Public school employee
San Antonio, TX

I am a speech Language Pathologist working at the public school elementary school level. I have two children attending Northside ISD elementary schools and I attended public school in Teaxas from kindergarten through 12th grade. I am asking my legislator to vote no on HB 3. Taking money from our public schools' funding to give to parents to send their children to public schools doesn't make sense. First of all from what I understand parents would receive 10,000 per child to attend private school while the base amount districts receive from the state is 6160 per student. Second, why are we not instead focusing on funding our public schools? We have teachers working so hard to teach our children but are not being supported by our state. Our focus needs to be on our public schools. Parents in Texas already have school choice, I don't want my tax money to go to families who choose to send their kids to private school. Another thing is that many districts don't have private schools in their area and many private schools are able to reject students based on behavior and abilities. Public schools accept all students from all socioeconomic backgrounds and all disabilities. Please vote no on HB 3 and please fund our public schools.

Jerin Tyler
Self Director of Practice Care
Shallowater, TX

My name is Jerin Tyler. I am a lifelong republican and a student of a private school growing up in Lubbock Texas. My children attend Shallowater ISD, a public school that does not have the funds it needs for these kids to thrive. We are fortunate to have a foundation that supports our teachers and students for necessary equipment. I am appalled at the voucher program. Call it what you want but it's sending state money to parents to then send to a private school that does not have to follow state testing guidelines. Take that money and fully fund our school systems. To my republican friends, if you want to keep your job and keep Texas Red, you must vote no. This savings account system is robbery of public schools and the propaganda that is going around that schools are funded fully is grossly wrong. We have to do what is best for our kids. If you want to save money get rid of the STAAR test. It's a waste of our money. I believe that people have school choice. You can elect to do what you see fit with your children but tax payers should not foot the bill. As a conservative in Texas, it is so disheartening to see so many wanting to die on this hill as schools have to consolidate to even survive. When this happens you are increasing the student/ teacher ratio but we want to send money for kids to go to private school. I was fortunate that my parents had the means to send me to the school they thought was better for me. I made the same choice for my kids. Please I urge you to vote no. There is so much more than just school funding at stake. You are all gambling your political careers on this and you will lose. Fully fund public schools with that money. The amount of money per student needs to be increased and teachers need a raise. Do the right thing and vote no. You do not want to under estimate all of the educators in this state that will be coming for your jobs. Everyone who votes yes will have a very hard time getting re elected. Governor Abbott (whom I voted for since he first ran) should step aside and let someone else run this state. He is a great governor but has committed political suicide with this agenda item. Stand with the constituents and vote no. Our children's future depends on it.

Amy Hall
Self
Lubbock, TX

If tax money is provided to other entities other than public schools, they should be held accountable in all aspects as public schools. Teachers' "success" is determined by student performance on one day in the year administered through mandated testing. Those same mandates should apply to other entities receiving tax funds. Public schools are required to accept and teach ALL students including those that are medically vulnerable and provide necessary support for their learning. All other entities receiving tax funds should be required to do the same. This is not an equitable bill and discriminates against public schools, rural areas, those less fortunate, to name a few. This bill is a coupon for the rich!

Jason Parker
GCISD Parent
Grapevine, TX

Against vouchers 100%. Fully Fund public schools 100%.
Fully funded public schools give the overwhelming majority of children the best opportunity to succeed and become assets to our communities.

Sabrina Mayberry
Self/Kindergarten Teacher
Red Oak, TX

Dear Representative,
I am a taxpayer in the State of Texas, so I want it to be documented that I do NOT support vouchers nor an education savings accounts (ESAs) program. In fact, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools in Texas. We have had inflation of over 20% since 2019, the last time funding was provided for Public Schools in Texas. I want it to be documented that I support the following:
? an Increase of the Basic Allotment, and
? Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflated amount of over 20%.
Representative, we must support our Public Schools with the proper Funding necessary.
Sincerely, Sabrina Mayberry

Jeremy Cuttrell
self
Friendswood, TX

I do not support this bill. It will hurt so many students and their education opportunities.

Stacie Tovar
Self- teacher
Houston, TX

I am against vouchers since they will take away from public school funds. Public schools need money so that everyone is able to school.

Michelle Patiño
Self
Pearland, TX

Listen to your constituents. VOTE NAY.

Lindsay Klatzkin, Mrs
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I do not approve of this bill and believe damage to our public education will be detrimental

Dina Kuhlman
Self
Argyle, TX

Put this on the ballot and let Texans decide!

Sarah Green
Self
Grapevine, TX

My family and I vote NO on school vouchers. Free up the extra reserve money and fund our teachers and our schools!

Robyn Kozan

Self

Keller, TX

I oppose HB3 and do not want you to vote for vouchers. Please fund our public schools.

Dawn Weisman

self/Retired

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers because they drain funding, have a lack of accountability, don't improve student outcomes, increase taxpayer costs, allow discrimination, and adversely effect rural communities.

Siiri Marquardt, Ms

Self/ Assistant director of special education

Austin, TX

I have worked in public education since graduating college in 2006. I have worked for a Texas ISD since 2013. I have worked with Special Education students first as a school psychologist and now as an assistant director for special education. I see how hard all our teachers and staff work every single day. They pour all their energy into helping kids. Over the years, especially the last 6, I have seen how our schools are not being properly funded. This impacts districts in so many ways. The current cover bill will just pull more money they could go to our public schools. Our students, our future, deserve better. Education is the great equalizer and Texas has more than enough money to increase per student spending. I am disagreement with this bill and any form of vouchers or ESA for Texas. Instead I challenge the legislature to properly fund schools.

Jennifer Barbaste

Self

Carrollton, TX

Please vote against ESA and vote for public schools

Tiffany Hazard

Self- interventionist

Fort Worth, TX

Public education should be your main priority, not private schools. The public schools are in desperate need of being fully funded. The affects of your decision to support private school vouchers will be detrimental to my school. Please consider how this will affect students, teachers, and the communities we live in.

Laura Klein Plunkett, ms

Self

Georgetown, TX

I strongly support Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) from the 89th Regular Session, which establishes an Education Savings Account (ESA) program, because it empowers families, enhances educational freedom, and promotes equity in education. This bill allows parents to direct state funding toward approved education-related expenses—such as private school tuition, tutoring, or online courses—tailored to their child’s unique needs, giving families greater control over their educational choices. It prioritizes vulnerable students by offering higher funding for children with disabilities (up to \$30,000 annually) and establishing a lottery system that favors low-income households and those with special needs, ensuring access for those who need it most. By funding ESAs at 85% of the statewide average per-student amount, the program maintains fiscal responsibility while redirecting resources to families rather than institutions, potentially saving the state money as reported annually under Section 29.371. Additionally, HB 3 fosters accountability through audits, preapproved providers, and annual reporting, ensuring quality and transparency. This innovative approach not only supports a “general diffusion of knowledge” as intended by the Texas Constitution but also prepares students for college, careers, or military service, making it a forward-thinking investment in Texas’ future.

Stefan Morrow

Self

Pasadena, TX

Fully fund public schools to levels that would match 23% increase from 2019 to just keep pace with inflation. Why is a public school student only worth \$6350 or so but private school warrants \$10k. This bill is a money grab for those who don't need it at the expense of those who do.

Cyndy Hurtado

Cyndy Hurtado

Houston, TX

All children deserve free education !

Gabrielle Hany

Self

Bandera, TX

Texas public schools are facing unprecedented challenges and need unprecedented support. Fully fund Texas public schools so teachers and school staff can earn a livable wage. Make teaching salaries attractive to students choosing a career and competitive to similar jobs that require a bachelor's or master's degree. Give public schools the funds they need to support legislative mandates such as HB 1416 without needing to rely on parent waivers or volunteers. Provide districts with the monetary means to provide essential support services to students that need them and funds for high quality instructional materials in all available areas. Public school teachers are not feeling like they are being backed by their elected officials. Show them they are wrong.

Savannah Cummings

Self

Little Elm, TX

This education savings account program doesn't not benefit myself or my child. It is actually detrimental to her education and my job. I'm a public school teacher. Only the rich want this. The public schools need funding.

Maria Gant

self

Plano, TX

Vouchers would significantly drain funding from already struggling public schools, potentially leading to decreased quality of education, while providing little accountability for private schools receiving voucher funds.

Vouchers would primarily benefit middle-class and wealthier families who are already able to afford private school tuition, while not adequately addressing the needs of students in under-resourced areas.

Rural areas in Texas often have limited private school options, meaning vouchers could significantly impact the funding of their public schools without providing viable alternatives.

Alissa Chaney

Self

Lubbock, TX

I honestly am not sure what more we need to say here. I think that your constituents throughout the state have clearly stated their views on this bill. I think if all the republicans on this committee and in the house and senate were honest, they would stand up for what's right and what's true: the PEOPLE of Texas (not billionaires from other states) don't want vouchers or ESAs. YOUR constituents, republicans and democrats together want public money to go to public schools. I don't know how many more statistics, experts, research, superintendents, teachers, parents, etc need to testify.. I think it's clear and it has been presented in a concrete manner that vouchers DON'T work; they DON'T help poorer populations, they DON'T create new opportunities for student success, and the DO ultimately take money away from the public school system. So, honestly, I don't understand why we are still here, talking about this. It's time for the leaders of this state to make Texas stronger and truly great. For years now, under REPUBLICAN leadership, education in Texas has foundered and stayed stagnant.. why don't you make a change- actually support our children, parents, and teachers by FULLY funding public schools. For once, invest in our children and not your stocks or billionaire donors. It's time. Make the honest, right choice and don't pass this bill.

Melinda Cofield

Self Teacher and Parent

El Paso, TX

As both a public school teacher and a parent of public school students, I strongly oppose HB3. This bill threatens to undermine the quality of public education in Texas by diverting critical resources away from our schools. Texas educators are already facing overwhelming challenges, including underfunding, teacher shortages, and increasing demands without adequate support. Instead of further weakening our public school system, we should be investing in our teachers, students, and classrooms. Public schools are the foundation of our communities, serving all students regardless of background or ability. HB3 does not reflect the needs or desires of Texas families who rely on strong, well-funded public schools. I urge lawmakers to prioritize real solutions that strengthen public education rather than dismantle it. Vote NO on HB3!

Debra Nelson, Dr

Self

Frisco, TX

Parents already have school choice but if elected officials believe that the public wants a voucher bill then they should put it on a ballot for the vote of the people!

You need to fund public education and quit pretending like you have because the leaders have done nothing but shove this legislation through because big money has paid for their votes.

The children of Texas will continue to be the losers if this bill passes but the wealthy donors will be extremely pleased.

Stephen Davis, Mr

Self

Henrietta, TX

Listen to the people of Texas not the Billionaires who are buying your vote with donations to your campaigns. This bill is flawed in so many ways. Please vote no for the majority of your constituents who do not want this bill to move forward.

Christy Holt

Self

Seguin, TX

I am a public educator who has been teaching for 29 years. I do not support vouchers. Texas needs to give teachers raises! I only make \$72,000 after teaching so long and new teachers in my district make \$55,000. We need to focus on paying teachers what they deserve and fund public education to bet meet the needs of all students!

Leah Mitchell Mitchell

Self

Lenorah, TX

What a disgrace to our teachers and students of Texas. You are selling us out. Vouchers are not the answer to our educational needs, it is merely a way for greedy politicians to abandon our students and to pad their pockets. Invest in our schools, our teachers and our students.

Cindy Fisher

Concerned parent / self

Austin, TX

This bill is an attempt to dismantle the public education system in this state under the guise of choice. I vehemently oppose it. This hurt rural and urban schools alike.

Howard Bell

Self

Canton, TX

As a lifelong Republican, I will no longer support a party that will give tax dollars to a private organization that does not have the same rules as public schools. The Staar test is a joke and everyone but our legislators acknowledge this, this voucher bill only helps the rich as poor people will still not be able to afford a private school. I beg and plead to not pass this bill. It's not right, it's not fair. You want public education to get better, then quit teaching to a test. We don't need vouchers and please end the Starr test for something more realistic where teachers can actually teach and have fun and explore in the classroom.

Elizabeth Kalbacher

Self, mortgage banking

Austin, TX

I do not support this bill. Any attempt to divert public funds away from colic schools only serves to hurt the students and families that need it most. These children are our future and these types of bills take away opportunities. Bills like this do not provide better opportunities for students who need them most. I urge all representatives to vote against this bill.

Elissa Ducar

Denton TX

DENTON, TX

My tax dollars should not go toward school vouchers. Every student in Texas deserves the best public education that they can receive. Perhaps our surplus is better spent on making sure that districts are better funded, and that our teachers are fairly paid.

Julie Knapp
Wilchester Elementary School
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Carrie Couch

Self/ speech language pathologist

Vernon, TX

Please consider adding speech language pathologist to the professionals to be considered for raises. Speech pathologist are school employees who are required to test, provide services to children who meet special education eligibility as speech impaired. We coordinate instruction with teachers and parents. We prepare for and present at ARD meetings. We provide information to school staff regarding language development and provide ways for all children to communicate through AAC, improved articulation and language.

Carly Broussard Broussard

Self, Children's Minister and school volunteer

Bridge City, TX

I am urging representatives to oppose this bill. As a parent and volunteer at our local public school, I believe this bill will not help Texans, but will hurt them. The opposition from constituents is loud and clear despite the Governor's repeated attempts to make it seem otherwise. You represent US, not just large donors. LISTEN to your constituents. We do not want ESAs. We want public schools to receive full financial support from our state government.

William Eakin

Self

Kingwood, TX

If private schools receive tax payer funds through vouchers why are there no requirements for accountability ?

Chrystal Jansz, Dr

Self

Lubbock, TX

I do not support vouchers or the proposed voucher plan, despite what local officials are saying. Instead of polling constituents they developed a narrative based on their own wishes. A representative is to be a facilitator of the voice of the people. I have three children educated in public school, one of which receives special education. I have a doctorate in special education. If you argue that schools are failing children now, what does that say about the governor, TSBOE, TEA, and the like? Further defunding would further their failures thus far in ensuring schools ARE meeting the needs of students. I already have a choice for schools. We chose not to continue with private school after preschool once we saw the lack services offered and accountability required. We would never have considered taking money from public schools should we have chosen to stay at the private school because live in a community. It's not hard to understand that all of society benefits from a quality public education system; those systems produce the workers who we come in contact with daily. It's a pretty basic concept.

Carla Youngblood

self/retired teacher/Conservative Voter

College Station, TX

I am a retired teacher and conservative voter. I am not for passing school vouchers. My concerns: -school voucher passing will be the end of Republican/Conservative dominance in the state of Texas. (Many Conservative voters DO NOT approve of the school voucher system),

-just like everything else corruption and illegal use will follow,

-private schools will just raise their tuitions to adjust for this allowance and this Bill becomes a mute point.

There is NO reason for this Bill. Fix public education by giving more voice and support back to the teacher. STAAR, MAP testing (DATA) are causing district administration to micromanage all aspects in the school. Teachers are way overworked and stressed. I had an administrator from College Station ISD say that teachers are teachers and will do the inhumane work load because of who they are. This is the main stream assumption which is causing teacher burnout and frustration. Curriculum needs to be assessed and readjusted so students are learning age appropriate skills at an appropriate pace. Discipline is a MAJOR factor in our academic decline. Thus, the reason why parents send their children to private schools. STOP giving parents so much control! Give control back to the teacher. Listen to veteran teachers. They will bring your public school systems to greatness.

The TX teacher incentive allotment is unfair and is more like a lottery. There are teachers who are excellent, but because of who their students are they will never earn the incentive, but others who cheat or are lucky to the the right students will earn this extra money. This incentive needs to go!

Parents are the main influence over what type of student enters the school. Students who have absent parents ---mainly students from low socioeconomic household--- move multiple times in a year and cannot receive a consistent education. Many of these students hear their parent bad mouthing teachers and the education system and bring this attitude to school with them. Also, students who watch parents behaving badly bring these actions and behaviors into the classroom. I have worked in many types of schools and I believe student behavior is the most telling factor as to whether a student passes or fails. Not all students will go to college. A school to educate these types of students should be developed.

Again, a school vouchers system is NOT the way to help TX education. Listen to veteran teachers, NOT current administration. These are the people who will help overhaul the TX education system and bring TX to greatness. Republicans who vote for this part of HB 3 will most certainly be serving their last term and if Gov. Abbott continues to push this, hopefully this will be his last term.

Paola Howard

Self

San Antonio, TX

I do not support this bill. Public taxes should pay for public schools.

Diane Olsen
self - Aquarium Curator
Galveston, TX

School vouchers will not be of use to most Texas children. For example in Galveston there are only a few private schools and together they can take less than 500 students (approximately 200 elementary and 300 high school). There are over 7000 students so the vast majority will not be able to use the vouchers but they will all have a loss of funding for the public schools that they attend. In rural Texas there are no private choices. With Texas ranking in education being so low we should be making sure that all children benefit from fully funded schools and not give money to the few that even have an option.

Cody Satterfield, Mrs.
Public school educator and parent
College Station, TX

Good morning, I strongly oppose HB 3 and I kindly request that the House votes NO to school vouchers. It will be detrimental to the 5.3 million public school children who are already underserved in the State of Texas. I am not sure if you are accurately aware of the cuts school districts are making because of the lack of funding. We are having to close schools, raise class sizes above state required numbers and cannot serve the students who need the most support such as our special education students because of lack of funding.

School vouchers will further weaken our public education system. Reform is needed but not in the way of school vouchers. I personally am having to make the decision if withdrawing my TRS or leaving it and hoping for the best. School vouchers will defund MY retirement and leave me with nothing. We take care of 5.4 million public school children each year. There are doctors, lawyers, teachers, and even politicians because of us! We are the least protected and paid group of employees you have working in Texas. Please don't hurt the children of Texas. Please hold government accountable for fully funding and serving all public school children in Texas.

Please vote no to school vouchers.

Sincerely Mrs Cody Satterfield
Fighting Texas Aggie Class of '96 and '00

Christi Machel Brewster
self
Houston, TX

Good morning, all. As a retired certified school nurse with 35 years of service, I have had a first-hand experience of the funding needs of public education: lack of quality salaries for campus-based personnel, limited to no funds for needy services for the at-risk student population, and circumvented mandatory Special Education services. HB 3, as written, would enhance all of the inadequacies I previously indicated. As currently written, this school voucher bill would take public tax dollars away from public schools to subsidize a student's private school education. Many have stated this bill is "school choice". I beg to differ. Only clear choice in this process is the private schools' who have the ability to choose which students are accepted for enrollment, and which are denied!!! So, tell me again, why you would choose to "rob Peter to pay Paul" by using public tax dollars to assist so few (who are already receiving private school education) thereby short-changing the "remaining" many attending public schools? The students of public education are waiting for your reply. I can hear those students saying, "Nurse, why they (Texas House of Representatives and Senators) hate use? What did we do to them?"

Kira March
Self
Austin, TX

No school vouchers! Public schools are struggling enough!

Cori Dullnig
Self
Houston, TX

We want fully funded public schools not a private school discount for rich people. If Texas had a surplus last year then why are we spending less per student than most states. My children attend a HISD school, Parker Elementary, where fortunately we have been minimally impacted by the TEA takeover. It is a special place that houses a 65 year old music magnet program. As a title I school, these music learning opportunities are available to every student. The potential to develop a next generation top composer or performer is available to everyone, which most families can not afford outside of school. Schools like this are in jeopardy with the implementation of vouchers. HISD stands to lose over \$60 million if 5% of eligible student leave. We simply can't handle that deficit. Vouchers have no place in Texas, especially when many counties don't have anywhere to spend their vouchers. Protect our public schools that give EVERY student the opportunity to succeed.

Cathy Allen
self
Converse, TX

I am very opposed to using my tax dollars to fund private schools. I pay school taxes in two counties Bexar County and Bell County, I have no kids in schools. I don't mind paying these taxes for public schools, but I don't want my tax dollars going to private schools who has a lottery system to pick and choose which student they will allow in. If people choose to send their kids to private schools, then they must have the money to pay for it, why would taxpayer fund education for the wealthy? Don't take money for our public schools, instead, pay our teachers more, repair our schools and give them the resources they need to improve our public schools' standings.

Gabriela Campsteyn Duenas
Self, Teacher Assistant AISD
Austin, TX

As an educator, its difficult to go day to day without feeling like it's harder to save money and to do work for my students, it's probably the hardest job i've done but it's helped me become the person I am today. I wish there was more I could do and hopefully this gets passed to help budget better.

Robert Kloppenburg
Self
Spring, TX

I do not support this bill. Instead increase funding for public school students. My tax dollars should not go to private schools.

Loretta Padgett
self retired
Canyon Lake, TX

America was made great by an educated workforce provided by free public schools. Further bifurcating Texas education sows distrust in institutions that have provided a common experience for citizens. The paltry spending on public schools and giving larger sums to homeschoolers sows division and ignorance. This bill, giving tax money to the wealthy who have the means for transporting students to far flung private schools is unfair. We count on government to even out the opportunities for all citizens. Cow towing to special interests does not serve the public at large. This bill is a sop to the christian nationalists wanting to indoctrinate the public to their world view. This money is better spent on life long learning programs. Education should be secular. Let them be indoctrinated on their own money.

Melina Espiritu-Azocar

Self

San Antonio, TX

Parents of Texas do not want your voucher scams!

I am a mother of children in San Antonio public schools, an active PTA parent, a community advocate, and a public school teacher. Public dollars belong in public schools—where they serve all children, not just a select few.

As a taxpayer, it is not my responsibility to subsidize private school tuition for the wealthy while our public schools remain underfunded and our teachers struggle. Instead of prioritizing the needs of our students and educators, you are diverting resources through vouchers—tax cuts for the wealthy—while public education suffers.

This is an outrageous betrayal of Texas families, and it must not pass.

Billi Lycett, Esq.

Self

Flower Mound, TX

I am not in favor of this. Our public schools need funding to ensure a strong foundation of education for all.

Sharon McKemie

Self/retired public school teacher

Dallas, TX

As a retired teacher and grandmother to children in public schools I oppose the voucher bill that would take money from taxpayers to support the wealthy who already have their children in private schools. Public schools and especially rural schools need money to support the programs in place that provide education to all children. Public schools are already underfunded and in need of more funding and support. This bill will severely damage public schools and Texas children in public schools.

Salvador Meza

Self

Austin, TX

Hello,

I am a former teacher and coach for 8 years at Austin High School in Austin, Texas. I believe that public schools should be fully funded. Tax payer money shouldn't be given to private schools., especially without accountability.

Gennie Holcomb

Self/Teachers

Terrell, TX

As a veteran Texas public school teacher (22 years), taking public money for private schools is wrong. It will only hurt the vast majority of school children and only help a very small percentage of already well off families. Fully fund public schools and raise the basic allotment to meet inflation. Period. All else is failing me, my students, my colleagues, and my public school child.

Benjamin Hollander

Self, software engineer

Cedar Park, TX

School vouchers will not make schools better, or provide more opportunities for children. It is a subsidy that will largely benefit families who can already afford to send their child to private school. Stop withholding funding, and make our schools better! Collecting taxes and then not spending the money is theft.

Marilyn Whitney

self

Mansfield, TX

I strongly oppose ESAs. 1. As a teacher in public schools for 33 years, I know that schools have been barely making ends meet for the last 5 years. Our district superintendent has said she will have to close schools if ESAs pass. I would like to keep my job until I retire. 2. Private schools cost more than the ESA would provide. Only the rich would get a discount on their private school tuition. The students who would benefit the most from an ESA cannot afford the difference between the ESA and tuition. Also, they don't have the transportation to get there. 3. Private schools are not required to accommodate Special Ed or students with learning disabilities. Again, this is an equity issue.

Texas is great, and the US is great because ALL students have access to an excellent free education. ESAs are NOT the way to achieve excellence.

Caroline Ferguson

Self

Mansfield, TX

Good morning. I want to express how detrimental school vouchers would be for Texas, but it also directly affects my children. We have experienced first hand how private schools can decline any and everyone they want. My children are diagnosed autistic and adhd. They are both above average in their grades. My youngest is in kindergarten, and was reading before he even started school. The problem wasn't their "intelligence". They saw their diagnosis and immediately assumed they were disobedient children. If critical funds are taken from public schools, the already declining quality of these schools will only continue to decline. My children deserve a good foundation of education for their lives. Every child in Texas deserves it.

Carol Roewe

Self

Graford, TX

No school vouchers. Funds should go to our Texas local school system in support of students, curriculum, programs and teacher pay raises. Private schools are a choice one can make if they choose to pay for it.

Kelli Kojis

Self / educator

Huntsville, TX

This is not in the best interest of all. My biggest issue with this is that fact that private school students will get 10k while the student allotment for public school students is barely above 6200. This is not equitable. Private schools do not have to follow the TEA mandates that public school have to fund. Public schools cannot kick out students who misbehave while private can. Public has to service all needs of student while private can choose or not provide some services. This is not apples to apples. I am all for choice however, the funding is not the same. Why do students get more money going to private schools? Why not invest in fixing public schools?

Rachel Collier

self, Oil and Gas Land Professional

Austin, TX

I am writing to share my opposition to HB 3. I am a product of the Texas public education system and now have a child in the Texas public education system. As the child of a single mother, I would not have the success that I enjoy now without the excellent education that I received from Texas public schools. Private schools were not an option for me then and I believe that HB 3 would not make them any more accessible for a family like the one I grew up in. I am very active in my child's school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and have been appalled at the underfunding of public education. Last year our PTA discussed options for our association to fund a salary for a teaching position that was going to be eliminated due to lack of public funds. It also shocked me to hear how little it would take to fund that salary. In my opinion, that is unacceptable. Our teachers are underpaid and our public schools are underfunded. School choice is already very accessible in Texas and redirecting public funds away from public education would be a detriment to all of the child of Texas. In fact, the passing of HB 3 will be profoundly harmful for not only this generation of public school students but for generations to come. Rather than redirect funds to for-profit schools who already dictate their tuition rates so as to exclude the average Texan family, funding of public education should be increased. The salary of the average public school teacher in Texas is so disrespectfully low and the demand on them, with increasing class sizes and continued budget cuts, dwindling resources for aids and special education services, has become so extreme that the teacher attrition rate is at a record high. Proponents claim that HB 3 would incentivize public schools to improve to retain students. I ask, how can they improve when our state continues to erode public education? How can we retain our best teachers when they are forced to leave the profession to earn a living wage? For the sake of all Texans, vote no on HB 3.

Rhonda Hurst, Ms

Parent of school age children

Highland Village, TX

I am for real school choice with no strings. This bill is not school choice. It's another government approved program that will have assistance from the TEA. An agency that is responsible for the state of public education in Texas. The performance of public schools is the main driving force for school choice.

- * Requires use of only state approved vendors (instructors education materials, schools, etc.).
- * Requires standardized testing of participants
- * Requires immense data collection of participants. A free commodity to be used by big tech.
- * It creates a bloated administrative state to manage the program and outsourcing to big tech.
- * Allows illegal aliens to participate.
- * The only choice allowed is government approved.
- * So many strings it looks like spaghetti.

Sharece Prince

Childress ISD/Elementary

Childress, TX

No vouchers bill. It will take millions away from our public schools.

James Green

Self

Plainview, TX

Vouchers will harm public schools. Public dollars should not be tied to private education, particularly when there is no accountability attached with them (private schools do not have to accept all students, state tests such as STAAR don't have to be taken in private schools, etc.). Furthermore, the constitution state constitution says that the state is to fully fund and provide a public education. This has not been adequately done in years. It is time to fix this. We are in a literal crisis: there are no teachers and schools are having to shut down or release staff due to budget shortfalls because of the games being played by our state's top leaders. The kids are the ones suffering. Please, fully fund and protect our public schools. Parents already have school choice—if they don't like their options, they can choose to go private or home school. Not only that, but when did giving out public dollars to fund private expenses become a Republican / conservative talking point or value?

Jennifer Ward

Self

Houston, TX

I am 100% opposed to this bill as a Texan and the parent of a daughter attending public school in Texas.

I don't understand why this government is so determined to gut public schools and hurt Texas children . Similar bills have been voted down in the past and frankly this should be put on a ballot for the public to decide.

Sandra Eliason, Dr.

Self

Pearland, TX

Please respect local control of education. Local boards are responsible for educating students in their geography area. All funding should be equal for the public schools and equally controlled. TEA should not get 10% of public school dollars. Local board know better what students need to know and be able to do in their district than TEA. Local board can choose open enrollment and tutoring for students who need more instruction. Equal accountability is important. Choose a basic skills test and administer to all students not Star to public and not to private. If anyone receives state funds the students must be tested on the same measure of performance. I feel all fund should be run through the local school district to prevent fraud and assure each child is being properly educated and tested on basic skills.

We do not want students to be treated as a funding source and not educated.

English only in schools would improve education.

Vouchers will disrupt education; let's try local control without TEA restrictions first. Yes, the state did increase funding but required the districts to hire security officers with those funds. TEA even skimmed off Covid funds! Why?

Please give local schools an even playing field and they will succeed for our children

Lucila Seri

Self

Arlington, TX

Do NOT support this bill. This will be a burden to taxpayers, won't benefit many children and it allows the government to influence the private schools and home schoolers. Not to mention the data collection requirements on the children. Republicans that read the bill know its terrible for taxpayers and children and its no true choice.

Katie Gordon

Self

Arlington, TX

ESAs are not supported by the majority of Texans. Fund public schools and invest in the established system that educates over 5 million Texas children. Increase the basic allotment by \$1,200 and fund raises for teachers (not through TIA).

Lola Hurt, Mrs

True texas Project

Addison, TX

Against

Grady Arnold, Rev.

Myself

Menard, TX

I am for school vouchers.

Elizabeth Piner

self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill that will divert precious funds from our public schools without transparency and accountability by private schools. Where is the “choice” for rural Texans in areas where there are no private schools. This is a give-away to wealthy families and private vendors to the detriment of most of our children.

Colleen Murphy

Arlington ISD

Arlington, TX

I am a public school teacher and have been so for 26 year. Public schools provide a wide range of options for every learner, from public, charter or magnet. We have continued to effectively do our jobs despite not receiving any additional funding since 2019. We went back into the classroom during the pandemic at the direction of a committee (TEA), who made that decision via a Zoom meeting because they felt it was too risky to meet in person, and continued to serve our community. We are asking you to fully fund public education and not siphon money to private entities. Public dollars serve the public in public schools. Public schools serve all learners and do not turn away anyone. We are NOT broken or defective, so there is no need to search for “a way out”, or a “choice”. Any deficits public schools have sitcoms directly at the hands of our governor who has withheld the needed funds for us to be completely successful. Public schools serve over 5 billion children and families and literally create a functional society. Stop trying to destroy us for your own gain.

Lillian Barrilleaux

Self DallasISD substitute teacher

Dallas, TX

The proposed bill would harm students served by public education and its programs, especially the Special Education population/students with disabilities. It would not help close the gap between lower-performing students and schools and higher-performing ones, but make it considerably greater. If school buses were not required to be provided, such as in a private school setting, attendance will suffer and/or cause hardship to families. Within public education, we already have school choice to pursue magnet and single-gender programs. I was served by a couple of these: Townview TAG and Irma Rangel Young Women’s Leadership School in DallasISD. Therefore, tailored programs are available without the cost of tuition to attend. I now substitute teach mainly at Rangel and Trinity Heights Talented and Gifted - another great example of a special school within the public system.

Cindy Cockerill

Self

Utopia, TX

Please concentrate efforts on fully funding education for ALL Texas children and not just the few who want vouchers. Public money for public schools.

Amanda Cox

Self

Tuscola, TX

ESAs or vouchers do not work. They do not help anyone except wealthy families. These private schools they’re being approved for can legally discriminate against students for their race, sex, sexual identity, religion, socioeconomic status, etc. These schools can hire unlicensed and unqualified individuals to serve as teachers. There are no checks and balances on these schools. What’s to stop them from raising their tuition by the amount of the ESA or voucher and raking in the extra money. There is no one they are accountable to except themselves. What’s to stop them from creating all white schools? If you want a private, Christian school education for your child, you pay for it. Public schools should be fully funded and teachers should be given long awaited and deserved raises. The only reason the public school system is “failing” is because Texas lawmakers and our Governor refuse to fund our schools. You want them to fail so that you can usher in your highly unpopular ESAs or vouchers. In the other states that have tried this, it has bankrupted the state and education levels have not increased. If you care about Texas schools and Texas students, drop this idiotic scheme and fund the schools.

Janet Clemenson, Ms

Self, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Houston, TX

Good morning!

As a constituent and fierce advocate for Texas' public schools, please consider the following arguments AGAINST HB 3:

1) Funding private (mostly Christian, here in Texas) schools with taxpayer dollars violates the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution. It strips away the wall of separation between church and State AND violates religious freedom by favoring one religion over other religions or a belief in no religion at all.

2) Presented under the auspices of "parental choice," this bill is really about the school's choice. Private schools can reject any student they want, for any reason they want, ranging from disability to ability to pay, from gender and sexual orientation to having the "wrong" religious beliefs, and to the color of a child's skin.

3) Most research has shown that educational outcomes for a child leaving public school for a private school are, at best, not improved, and, in many cases, made much worse. In the case of worse outcomes, this deficit often persists over several years. Sadly, private schools are not held accountable to the State for these poor outcomes (as the child's neighborhood public school would be).

3) The money provided in these educational savings accounts falls woefully short of the actual cost of a typical Texas private school education, and services that would be provided free of charge by the public school (transportation, after school programs, special education, and testing and support for learning disabilities, to name a few) would end up being additional expenses that the child's family would have to pay on their own.

4) A child's rights and protections secured in public schools by law (e.g., Title VI, Title IX, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Every Student Succeeds Act) are not guaranteed by private schools, thus stripping students of First Amendment, due process, and other constitutional and statutory rights.

5) Private voucher schools typically do not adequately serve students with disabilities or low-income students. In fact, in nearly all states currently operating a school voucher program, the majority of students using these funds were ALREADY ATTENDING their particular private schools. In this case, my tax dollars will very likely end up helping families who earn an income sufficient to afford a private school education already.

6) School vouchers can bring back a form of school segregation in which states whose school funding is already inadequate are forced to fund two different education systems - one public and one private - all on the taxpayers' dime.

Please vote AGAINST HB 3. Turn your efforts toward improving the very public schools that the vast majority of Texas school children attend. Adequately resourcing our public schools will ensure that these children can compete in their communities and in the larger global economy.

THEIR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS. Do right by them.

Thank you!

Nancy cline

Self

Carrollton, TX

Please adequately fund public education by \$1300.

Please do not establish education savings accounts.

Deborah De Hoyos

Self

Frisco, TX

I oppose this bill. I understand priority will be giving to lower income and special education students, but I believe it is wrong that essentially, everyone is eligible. As seen in OK, the majority of the funding for ESAs will go to families that fall above the TX median income or that already can afford to send their children to private schools.

As seen in other states, ESAs are bad for state economies. There is no evidence that this improves student learning outcomes, but there is evidence that ESAs balloon and eat away at state economies and budgets. I fear that the passage of this bill will spark the creation of more private schools, but because of the lack of oversight, these schools will be poorly managed and some will close as quickly as they opened. That will be a true misuse of funds.

Private schools should be privately funded. Public tax dollars should go to public schools that serve the majority of Texan children.

Lars Kuslich

self

Dayton, TX

This bill does not fit with the idea of "school choice" and should therefore not be voted out of committee. As a reminder, school choice refers to the idea of a parent being able to freely choose how their child gets an education without outside influence or control.

Education Savings Accounts, by their very nature, introduce outside influence and control from the state. Naturally, there are a few examples in this very bill. For example, private schools would be required to provide "annual administration of a nationally norm-referenced assessment instrument or the appropriate assessment instrument required under Subchapter B, Chapter 39" (section 29.358(b)(2)(B)). In addition, section 29.363 requires certain participating parents to be audited by the state and justify their expenses. The bill also requires the collection of personal and sensitive information in section 29.3715, such as the child's age, race or ethnicity, disability status, and the school district they live in.

These are just some examples of the control and influence the state would acquire by the enactment of HB 3. Such control is fundamentally incompatible with the idea of school choice. The people who advocate for school choice want LESS control by the state, NOT MORE control. Therefore, I say again that this committee should reject this bill.

Sara Cress

self

Houston, TX

I grew up in the Texas public education system. My parents were at poverty level. There weren't better private schools around for my parents to put vouchers into, so that would have been worthless to them and to me. Instead, I received a decent education funded by the state and taxpayers. I went on to the Dean's List at UH and graduated near the top of my class. My parents needed so much help, but a school voucher wasn't on the list of things they needed. They needed access to food stamps, affordable healthcare, a livable wage and a knowledge of renters' rights. Put taxpayer money to those initiatives. Or maybe you think their hardship -- which continues today, which I now have to pay for -- was worth it to make me a part of the economy. I've been sacrificed to every government shortfall my entire life and I'm tired of it.

Fund public schools. Do not give taxpayer money to private schools.

Kristin Eichenberger

Self

Richardson, TX

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristin Eichenberger, and I have dedicated over 20 years to teaching in Texas public schools. I am deeply committed to our schools and their essential role in shaping capable, empowered, and engaged citizens. Today, I urge you to vote no on HB 3 and reject this harmful legislation.

School vouchers will further weaken our already fragile public school finance system. Over the years, I have watched resources dwindle—too few staff, too little funding, and increasing demands on teachers to fill multiple roles beyond instruction. Diverting public funds to private institutions will only deepen these challenges, widening the gap for students who rely on public education the most.

Vouchers also leave behind Texas's most vulnerable students. In rural communities, where private schools are scarce, public education is the backbone of opportunity. Students with special needs will have fewer options, as many private schools are not equipped—or willing—to support them. Low-income families, unable to afford the additional costs of tuition, books, uniforms, and transportation, will not benefit from vouchers, furthering inequities instead of solving them.

As a lifelong educator, I have devoted my career to ensuring that every child, regardless of circumstance, receives a high-quality public education. I believe deeply that our schools must serve all students, not just a select few. I urge you to stand with Texas students, teachers, and communities by rejecting HB 3.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristin Eichenberger

Richardson, Texas 75082

Kimberly Kleppe

Self

McKinney, TX

Please oppose school vouchers. This will bankrupt our public schools which is not fair for our kids. The kids who are already at private schools are only getting a coupon, while other still will not be able to afford the tuition. Private schools can pick and choose who they will accept. Public schools are available to everyone. Please oppose school vouchers.

Beverly Schulte

Self

Nazareth, TX

Please fund public schools not private schools. Vote NO for vouchers.

Sam Tinsley

Self

Garland, TX

As an educator I am opposed to vouchers for private schools. Teacher pay has not increased bearly enough and this bill takes money away from public schools funding. Those who can afford private schools should pay for it. This bill is nothing more than a gift to the wealthy whereas eeneded yo be helping the less fortunate.

Rachel Bauer

Self, energy sector finance manager

Frisco, TX

Hi, my name is Rachel Bauer. I am a lifelong Texan who graduated from the public school system, and I have three children. Two of my children are current public school students, and my third will join them in public school next year. Additionally, my oldest child was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in fifth grade, at which point, we enrolled her in 504/IEP to ensure she could continue her education while allowing her the additional support needed to treat her life-threatening condition at school. I respect the right of my fellow parents to put their children into private schools; however, that is a choice, and it is completely inappropriate to allow public dollars to be diverted to private schools. It is especially egregious in my opinion because private schools do not have the same level of accountability as public schools in terms of admission policies, standardized testing, transportation allowances, attendance requirements, or 504/IEP support. The frustration that I feel as a Texan by my representatives withholding public school funding as a bargaining chip to be used each session for these school voucher votes is immeasurable.

I have the unfortunate luck of living in a district represented by Matt Shaheen, who based on his office's canned response, has absolutely no regard for constituents with differing opinions. At the end of the day, there are some representatives who are only willing to do the bidding of special interest groups, and as a lifelong Texan and voter, that's just something that I've had to come to terms with here. I hope this reaches enough of you who are willing to represent the people.

Jennifer Juarez

Self

Plano, TX

This bill is not based on what is best for Texas students. It is solely an attempt to appease wealthy donors. What is best for students is to increase funding to public schools. Of the 5 million public school students in Texas, over 3 million depend on the schools for more than an education, including meals. This is not a burden, but our responsibility. Offsetting the cost of private school for those families who CHOSE that path will make providing for the 60+% of economically disadvantaged students even more difficult.

It is duty to stand up for, work for, and protect the students whose families are struggling to make ends meet as well as a family that is in the "middle". Our family sits in that middle category, even with this voucher program private school would be unattainable for our children. But I KNOW that their public schools aren't getting the funding that they need and the money that is due to them via the tax dollars that I have paid.

Our daughter's elementary school is struggling as it is to make ends meet. This year our PE coaches had a budget of \$200(!) to replace equipment. Thankfully, our outstanding PTA spent \$2400 to get them the supplies they needed for a 40 year old school that serves 520 children in north Texas. Most schools aren't getting not as lucky in their PTA department and PTAs should not need to be filling such large gaps created by the state.

This bill is not widely supported by Texans. And, definitely not supported by this Texas family! Only by the elected officials who are greedy for power and money.

We see you. We know who is not listening to their constituents. The tide is turning and a few wealthy donors can't keep you in office forever when the rest of your district looks for someone who actually wants to make things better.

Lisa Kallies

SELF/RETIRED TEACHER FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Crosby, TX

HAVING ESA'S WILL CREATE A DUAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION AND ONE OF INEQUALITY. THIS WILL BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON TO NOT PASS THIS BILL. I WILL ALSO ADD THAT IT IS GOVERNMENT OVER REACH. MAKE THE SYSTEM BETTER FOR ALL STUDENTS. IMPLEMENT THINGS IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT WILL HELP US AS A SOCIETY AND STOP LETTING "THE FEW" CHANGE THE SYSTEM. ESA'S ARE AN EASY OUT AND THE FIX IS NOT SUSTAINABLE. I WILL ADD THAT I HAVE A GRANDSON IN PRIVATE SCHOOL. I AM NOT AGAINST PRIVATE SCHOOLS. I WANT THEM TO STAY PRIVATE.

Jodie Barnett
Self Teacher
McKinney, TX

As an public school teacher serving some of the most impoverished and marginalized students in our district, I find it morally reprehensible that any Texan would push to further defund schools and programs attached to them, that don't give families an advantage rather level the playing field for them. As you are aware, districts all over the state are having to make significant cuts to staffing as well as keystone programs that are integral to student success. Texas will continue to rank among the lowest in performance if they continue to rank among the lowest in student expenditures. The wealthy don't need financial support to attend private schools. Families who do need these vouchers can't afford the transportation or the remaining balance of tuition after the voucher has been applied. Texas knows this. And so it is appalling to watch as you dismantle our public education system for profit in the private sector. You are doing a unimaginable disservice to your constituents and their children. Texans will continue to be a joke amongst other states in the union until you chose to make amends for your moral turpitudes. Vouchers do NOT work. Studies from Arizona and Oklahoma confirm this sentiment. Stop treating our students and educators like lab rats. We do not deserve to be dragged through the dirt. Our professional opinions have weight and they matter. Unless you've spent at least 10 years in this profession, you have no basis for making decisions that have far reaching implications and impacts that will be seen for years to come as our student fall further behind and are irreparably harmed. This is a form of forced segregation. I am saddened to know that I am living in a state that puts profits over people, knowing full well that building these students up is what is going to make Texans more competitive and productive when ranked amongst similar states. This is a slap in the face to all educators who took up this charge to guide our youth and show them they can be everything they want to be, unless of course they lack transportation and adequate funding. Please stop this madness. Stay on the right side of history.

Nicholi Hoskins
ATPE and TRTA
Coppell, TX

This is an issue most Texans are against. They know it's just one more thing the Texas GOP wants to privatize. We have corrupt prisons and very high tolls due to privatization. This new Republican Party promised to not raise taxes so now I have to pay \$100 a month in tolls. (Very tricky of you!) This voucher bill is an extremely discriminatory bill designed to help the wealthier people who can already afford private school get reimbursed for their choice. It's a welfare program for the elite. These private schools are not required to take all children. They are not held to the same high standards the public school districts must require. It's a very self-serving bill so that our Congressmen and their friends can legally steal money from our already underfunded public schools.

I personally feel that the Republican Party wants to keep the masses ignorant so that they can easily manipulate them with their propaganda. You know this new Republican Party is guilty of using propaganda.

I've been a public schoolteacher for 38 years. I've personally seen how public education can bring people out of poverty. You need to be plowing as much money as you can into public education if you really want to make America great again! A strong middle class with an educated workforce is the only way to do it. That's how we got great. Poverty and desperation are what causes crime. Quit catering to the rich!! Do something for the common good!

Madison Fail

Self; researcher (UT Austin); in-home caregiver
austin, TX

Public schooling is the cornerstone of the American dream. I attended a Title 1 school district (Kennedale ISD) where public funding provided students with free lunch and access to career programs. My mom is a public school educator at a Title 1 school. She works with children year after year who need public school for food, security, and the opportunity to pull themselves up. As an in-home caregiver, I have witnessed a forgotten, yet vital, aspect of access to public education. I care for a young man with cerebral palsy. He is severely mentally and physically impaired and requires constant attention. He is 22 years old, and without public schooling, his parents would have had to pour thousands of dollars into care during business hours. Subsidies for private schooling sounds like a good idea, but only if the funds aren't redirected from public education. The ability for everyone to not only learn, but survive, has been a hallmark of public education in the United States since its birth. For schools like mine and my moms, any decrease in funding will result in less aid to vulnerable students and more dated materials. I would not have had even half of the opportunities I've been afforded without my school using state and federal funding wisely. Please, I beg, consider more than your fears of indoctrination. The content that teachers are allowed to teach is regulated, and in my experience, enforced to be clean. Again, I don't see a problem with subsidies for education savings, so long as the funds aren't taken from the public. The work done to teach students is imperative, but public schools also provide a haven for many vulnerable people. Thank you

Rhonda Freeland

Public education
Corsicana, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill. Start taking care of public schools and public education! As a teacher I do not support this and hope you listen to your constituents and oppose as well! Put public education first!

Hayden Cole

Self
Round Rock, TX

I am a parent/Texan who opposes HB 3 and any private school vouchers. Our kids and teachers deserve fully public funded schools. Tax payer money should be for public schools and not given to private schools and without any accountability.

Elizabeth Leyva

Self/ college teacher
San Antonio, TX

I am absolutely opposed to any bill that diverts public funds to pay for private schools vouchers.

Kerry Wollak, Ms

Self

Tomball, TX

Dear Texas Representatives,

I am a retired teacher and have grandchildren living in Texas. I am against school vouchers. It is bad for Texas taxpayers, public education, and bad for children in our public school classrooms. Public taxes are for public schools not private schools that are attended by the wealthy. Public taxes are not for religious organization schools. Taxes are for fully funding high quality public education.

Please vote NO on HB3.

Kerry Wollak

Hilla Kozuch

Self / Mother at home

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Criselda Armenta

Self-Educator

Monahans, TX

Public schools in Texas are suffering from lack of funding especially in rural areas. These students don't have a choice for private school. I was teaching from an out dated curriculum and using old materials. For 26 years I have been funding and supplementing my classroom with my paycheck to enhance my students learning experience. Vouchers are a scam for the rich and for those funding your campaigns to make more money and to further erode public education. Teachers are leaving because a lack of support and because they can make a better salary elsewhere. Small districts lack nurses, librarians, counselors and certified teachers, no one wants to join a profession where their public officials berate them, are taking away all autonomy. Vouchers will only cripple public education more.

Another concern is what will happen to my pension? I am close to retirement and am fearful that this will scam will rob TRS since there will be less public school teachers paying into the system. Texas has shown very little concern for retired educators. I feel that this will fall on deaf years because certain parties are so blinded by money and their own ideology that they refuse to listen. On Governor Abbott's social media pages it is obvious by the comments that they majority of Texans are against vouchers. If this passes it will be obvious to the public that you do not support them, you do not listen and that your only priorities are pushing your agenda.

Kelly Pickle

Retired school administrator/teacher/superintendent

Paris, TX

The cost of this bill is outrageous! In addition. The constitution clearly limits funds for PUBLIC SCHOOLS! Use the money to offer additional per student funding and a solid raise for the amazing teachers/staff already fixing it their all in Texas! The results from other states who have implemented vouchers have shown staggering costs, and no impact for students needing the most help! You've seen negative reports about the impact of the voucher plans. You've read posts by MANY Texans opposing these bills. Please think about what vouchers will do to ALL communities in this state. Have heart and protect our public schools in Texas!

Jennifer Alexander

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I am against hb 3. We should appropriately fund public schools, increasing the allotment by at least \$1k per student. Vouchers are wildly unpopular and would only serve to make rich people richer. Those who vote for it blatantly ignore the will of the Texas people.

John Meinert

self

Austin, TX

Please oppose the school voucher system. Vouchers take away money from public schools and funnel it into schools that are unaccountable to the community and the public. Fully fund public schools so that every child can have a quality education.

Emily Lawrence, Mrs

Self

Lufkin, TX

Say "NO" to vouchers! This bill, force fed to you by our corrupt governor, who is under the influence of money and cronyism, is bad for Texas! When we insure that ALL Texas children get good educations, especially the poor, Texas's future shines brighter. Do not give public funds to private schools who will be unaccountable to the citizens who paid them! Do not give more money to private schools per student than public schools. My local representative has lost my vote and my support by working with the governor on this bill - please reject it! Our state already ranks 41st in funding for public schools - please don't push us to the very bottom of that list - we don't want to be the laughingstock of our nation. Texas children (and their voting parents) deserve better! Please take a stand for public schools, students, and the future of Texas!

Sherri Ramirez, Teacher!!!

Canton ISD/TEACHER!!!!

Canton, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Chelsey Perkins

Self

Katy, TX

Fix public schools! ESA invites only create choice for those that can afford the differential. The majority will still stay in public schools and will have even less funding... special needs, arts, we all know the detrimental efforts of these programs dwindling - yet HB3 tees us up for this failure.

Buckley, We will need to see your data claiming special needs entrance into private school is 19%. I am very suspicious about that data- what needs are included? Is it comparing apples to apples?

Gary Meyer

Self

Austin, TX

We need to better fund our public schools. This bill will be detrimental to our public schools and the majority of Texans that send their kids to those schools. It will only benefit those with means and the private institutions they send their kids too. Wealthy people don't need a leg up, especially on the backs of those who are less fortunate. Do better.

Donna Roberts

Self

Abilene, TX

VOTE NO!!!!!!!!!!

Tonya Lantrip, Mrs.

Self

Gordon, TX

Education Savings Accounts (ESA) / vouchers are not good for public schools. The primary purpose for this hard push is to help those who are already enrolled in private schools. Currently, our state does not use public tax dollars to pay towards private school tuitions. If this passes, then this will put a strain on our states' finances, as well as financially hurting our current public schools and teacher retirement. Public schools need to be fully funded first. Teachers need to be guaranteed their retirements. Teachers also need to be paid higher wages. Please support public education. Let's be the state to lead the nation in having the best public schools that are fully funded and supported. I am worried that our state will instead be known as the state that was more concerned with making the rich richer. It is already well known that Mr. Yass has had a huge influence on our governor and republican representatives. Please know that conservatives do care about about and support our public schools. Conservatives are concerned about this plan for wasteful spending.

Heather Vaughn

Self - Homeschool Educator

Splendora, TX

As a parent who has home-educated my children for the past 20 years, I respectfully oppose HB 3 and urge that it not be passed. Homeschooling is both a right and a responsibility that I hold as a parent, and I do not wish to receive government funding for the education of my children. Accepting such funding—or being compelled to do so—would grant the government undue influence and authority over what my children are taught.

I am proud to have successfully graduated two children. One is currently a pastor pursuing a doctorate, and the other is preparing for the LSAT in pursuit of a law career. We have never sought nor do we require government assistance for our educational choices. Therefore, I strongly request that this bill be denied.

Connor Dugan

Self

Austin, TX

The CHOICE of going to private or charter schools is a CHOICE. With that CHOICE comes the ramifications which would be a parent/parents pay for their child to attend these schools. If you truly want to fix the problem then you invest in the current public school system and proving the teacher with the funding to create a better environment. Everyone should have the opportunity to have access to a place where they learn and try to better themselves for the future. By taking this money that could be used to better the public school system and pay for someone's tuition which is their CHOICE is wrong. No one gets their private college tuition paid for when they choose to go private university. Is the state going to create charter schools in low income areas? Or will this only be in areas that have the money to fund and create these schools on their own. It's bad enough your forcing one religious ideology in the classroom (thought America allowed for religious freedom). And this is coming from a Roman Catholic who attended both a private and public school growing up. The money you would say would be used to pay for this should be used to help the public school system be the best that it can, used to entice better teachers to come and educate students, what put in is what you get out. Maybe do a study of the top states on education in the US and see what they do that separates them from Texas. Finally the CHOICE of going to a private charter school is that of the parents and if they want their children to attend that is on them to cover the cost not anyone else. If they cannot afford if then they should demand the state does better for the public system not asking for a "handout" to pay for it. It's never "socialism" when it benefits are on the other foot.

Bridget Horsford

Self

Abernathy, TX

I am a third generation educator, and this bill demonizes teachers. This is disgusting. There is school choice now. Parents do know what's best for their children, and they have the power to act accordingly. Calling it "school choice" is a scam to trick people. They think we are stupid. That's the bottom line. I have nothing against private schools, but they should not be funded by the government for many reasons. One, teachers do not have to hold any type of certification to teach at a private school. Two, they have zero accountability (no state testing which our government is currently shoving down public schools throats). Three, they do not have to serve all children. They can deny whoever they want without cause.

I'll just leave this data right here:

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Texas ranks 4th in student achievement. That's not because of state funding—it's because of the passion, resilience, and dedication of our incredible public school educators. Yet, Texas ranks 45th in school funding and 29th in teacher pay. Imagine what our schools could achieve if they were actually supported.

Release the funds. This bill is unconstitutional. Withholding public funds to make sure you stay backed by your billionaires is unconstitutional. Educators and parents do not support this.

Olivia Knuffke

Self

Irving, TX

To say this bill would be life-changing for parents and families in Texas, is an understatement. As a country and, particularly as parents we want to offer our kids the very best education opportunities. The school choice bill would allow families to make the best education choice for their children. please pass this bill!!

Magdalen Garcia

Self Texas champion bank

Alice, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability

Kimberly Moore

Public Schools

Austin, TX

Public schools are already struggling, to have this bill pass our public education system is bound to fail even further than it already is. Please do not pass this bill. I am happy to come speak or show support in any way possible. I am a mother of two daughters at Brentwood Elementary School. Thank you for listening to our voices! concern.

Jillian Brady, Ms

Self Public educator

Austin, TX

Our school district has been careful with funds, but with no increase in the Basic Allotment in 6 years and other pressures like inflation and increased needs, we have had to let teachers and other vital staff go, increase class sizes, and discontinue programs that are beneficial to our students. I am angry about this; it will affect my child's school experience. I demand that Gov Abbott stop playing games with my child's future and FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. I also demand that you VOTE NO ON THE VOUCHER SCAM so that our limited money and resources can be put to the best use for our students- and we have full accountability and transparency of that money. This issue matters to me and I vote. Thank you.

Nicole Ebner

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Autumn Kippes

self

Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Autumn Kippes, and I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 3. I adamantly oppose creating another wasteful government program, specifically one that diverts public funds to private schools. As a 6th generation Texan born & raised in New Braunfels, fiscal conservative voter and parent of two children with dyslexia in public schools, this bill is not about our children or parental choice. It is about giving public dollars to millionaire donors via scam CEO vendors and providing subsidies to students already in private schools - a direct violation of Republican principles. It is financially irresponsible and will break our public school system that provides invaluable services to our entire communities. Please vote no to HB 3. Thank you for your time, I am watching the debate and the outcome of the vote closely.

Jennifer Hoffpauir

Self

Austin, TX

School vouchers only help those who can already afford private school. They take away funding from public schools and will hurt Texans in rural areas and those who need special accommodations. Stop this voucher nonsense under the guise of “school choice” and just fully fund public schools in Texas.

Jocelyn Bacon

Self

HOUSTON, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you.

TRISH NISWANDER

AFSCME 1624

Austin, TX

I oppose school vouchers

We need a fully funded public education system for all children. Please vote no on this voucher scam.

Laura Whiles
Self / insurance
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

I respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

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This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Aidan Haney
Self
Lufkin, TX

I am against this bill because it hurts the access to education for marginalized students. As a student, defunding public schools to fund private schools is a direct attack on public education. The people of Texas don't want this bill to pass. Politicians are elected to serve, not to rule. Passing this legislation will be remembered as the biggest attack on public education in the history of this state.

Heidi Mason
Self
Georgetown, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed education voucher system. While the intention may be to provide more choices for families, I believe this policy could have unintended consequences that ultimately harm the quality and accessibility of public education for all students.

First, the voucher system disproportionately benefits wealthier families who can already afford private education, leaving lower-income families with limited options or fewer resources to fully participate. This exacerbates existing inequalities in our education system and undermines the principle of equal opportunity for every child, regardless of their socioeconomic background.

Additionally, diverting public funds to private schools, which are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools, risks eroding the quality of education provided to the majority of students who remain in the public system. Public schools, which educate the vast majority of our children, could face even greater underfunding, resulting in overcrowded classrooms, fewer resources, and reduced opportunities for students.

Rather than diverting public funds to private schools, we should focus on strengthening and investing in our public education system to ensure all students, regardless of their background, have access to high-quality education and the support they need to succeed.

I urge you to reconsider the implementation of education vouchers and instead prioritize policies that enhance and improve public education for all students.

Allison Stephenson, PA
Self, physician assistant, mother of elementary child
San Marcos, TX

We have excellent public school teachers and schools in our community that need to be fully funded. Our kids deserve a solid education. Taking money from public schools and redirecting it to private schools, hurts millions of children for the benefit of a few. It allows for funds to go unmonitored and to fund schools with unchecked propaganda or religious basis. Vouchers pull money from our poor districts and puts that money into corporations. My child relies on IEP with 504 accommodations. The vouchers are useless to her, because no private school would accept her without charging a lot of added tuition to cover her daily accommodations. This program does not "improve school choice" it is a poorly disguised attempt to defund public education to allow the private sector take over Texas schools. Vote NO on HB3!!!

Danielle Smith
Self, teacher
Portland, TX

Vote NO on HB 3 and other bills like it. Stop supporting legislation that undermines the public education system. Vouchers are bad for the public education system as a whole. According to actuarial analysis, they will be bad for the solvency of our teacher retirement system. They move public funds without transparency or equivalent accountability. They cost our poorest and most vulnerable populations, while putting money in the pockets of people who already have resources. What could you be doing to SUPPORT the public education system instead of tearing it down?

Vicki Partin
Self
Spring Branch, TX

No vouchers! I taught in public schools 39 years. I saw students come back to public school from private school- behind academically and lacking social skills to relate to kids different than them. I spent plenty of my own money for special activities and materials for my classes. I KNOW public schools meet the needs of all children! Please support public education- not private school!

Nicole Murphy

Self - teacher

Katy, TX

SB2/HB3 grows government, weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money with zero accountability. It strips rural schools of funding, could send tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools, and violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education. Say NO to SB2 & HB3!

If this bill passes I will explain to my children how the greedy hands of others has cost them opportunities. What a low and evil thing to do... taking advantage of children and their right to education.

Lorena Canales

Self

Boerne, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Tiffany Farris

Self/teacher

Wimberley, TX

ESAs are just a way to funnel taxpayer money to private schools, while defunding public schools. "School choice" is only the private school's choice of who they want to educate. There is no accountability for private schools, and while the bill may say the recipients are required to meet state standards, the schools themselves are not required to meet state standards. Furthermore, there is only negative data coming out of states that have passed school vouchers. Texas must fully fund PUBLIC education; it's in our constitution.

Clayton Maxwell, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

Please invest in all Texas school children and vote no on vouchers! My son goes to a public school in Texas and is already suffering mightily because of it being underfunded. The teachers work too hard have too many students and aren't getting enough support. It is shameful that Texas schools get less per student than a majority of the states. Every day I see the stress that public school, teachers and students are living under because they are under funded. Invest in the future of all Texans education not private schools.

robbie fusselman

self retired school counselor

Crosbyton, TX

As a retired educator and tax payer, I disagree with establishing an education savings account program. I am 85 years old and I have watched and experienced the erosion of education in the state of Texas especially in the rural areas. I respectfully request that Texas not establish a voucher program.

Melissa Lauderdale

Self

Mexia, TX

Please protect our public schools by defeating this voucher program! Texas is not short on funds as evidenced by the largest rainy day fund in history! This is a scheme to rob from the poor and give to the rich masquerading as school choice. Please stop this from happening!

Monica Dabney

Self

Mansfield, TX

I am totally against using public funds for private (often religious based) education under the guise of school choice. Parents in Texas already have the choice on how to educate their children (public, private, home school, etc). I believe this will just be a way for parents who already have their children in private school to get a kickback (I can even see private schools raising their tuition rates by the amount of the voucher in order to increase their revenue). We all know that private schools can pick and choose the students they want to enroll and giving them public funds with no accountability (unlike public school accountability) will further strain and erode the public education system in Texas. This no strings attached distribution of public education funds is dangerous and wrong.

Kyla Spady

Mom - Instructional Designer

Leander, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

I am writing today as a former K-12 educator, a proud public school supporter, and a concerned Texan. I strongly urge you to vote against House Bill 3, Governor Greg Abbott's so-called "school choice" bill. While this bill may claim to provide families with more educational options, the reality is that it threatens to weaken our already underfunded public schools and leave countless Texas children behind.

Public schools are the heart of our communities. They serve every child, no matter their background, economic status, or learning needs. As an educator with over a decade of experience in Texas classrooms, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible dedication and tireless efforts of teachers and staff who give their all to help students thrive. Public schools are accountable to parents, taxpayers, and their communities in ways that private institutions are not. Diverting critical funding away from these schools will only widen the achievement gap and reduce opportunities for students who rely most on public education.

HB3 promises vouchers that would subsidize private and religious schools, yet these institutions are not required to meet the same standards of accountability or accept all students. This creates an unfair playing field that disadvantages students with special needs, language barriers, or socioeconomic challenges. Our tax dollars should not be funneled into institutions that can pick and choose whom they serve.

Instead of implementing policies that erode public education, we should be investing in solutions that strengthen our schools. Texas educators are facing overwhelming class sizes, inadequate resources, and an alarming teacher shortage. Directing funds toward competitive salaries, updated learning materials, and expanded mental health services would do far more to improve educational outcomes for all Texas children.

As a parent and former educator, I know that families want the best for their children. But siphoning money from our public schools to fund unregulated private education is not the answer. I urge you to stand with Texas educators, parents, and students by voting NO on HB3.

Emily Newell

Self

Dallas, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB3. As a mother of school age children in public education, I am worried about the future of public education in Texas and wish to be represented by bills and candidates who will actually fight for the children of Texas and the proper public education that they deserve.

Shawna Wilson
Self-Parent-Voter
Fort Worth, TX

Dear Representative,

I am writing to express my concerns about Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) and its proposed Education Savings Account (ESA) Program. While the bill aims to provide parents with more educational choices, I believe it presents significant risks to our public education system and the students it serves.

One of the primary concerns is the potential diversion of funding away from public schools. By allocating state funds to private education options, HB 3 could reduce already limited resources for public schools, leaving them with fewer teachers, larger class sizes, and diminished programs. This would especially impact lower-income districts, increasing educational inequality and further disadvantaging students who rely on the public system.

Additionally, the bill lacks adequate accountability for private schools and homeschooling, which are not held to the same rigorous standards as public schools. There is no guarantee that students who utilize ESA funds will receive the same quality of education. Without oversight on curriculum, teacher certification, and testing, the program risks promoting inconsistent educational outcomes. There is also the possibility of misuse of funds without strict monitoring, which raises concerns about financial inefficiencies and waste.

HB 3 also disproportionately benefits wealthier families. Private schooling and homeschooling often involve additional costs that many low-income families simply cannot afford, even with ESA funds. This could result in further segregation, as wealthier families move their children into private options while lower-income students remain in underfunded public schools. Special needs students, who require specific services often mandated in public schools, may not receive the same level of support in private institutions, leaving them without critical resources.

Furthermore, studies on similar programs have shown mixed results, with no clear evidence that private schooling or homeschooling leads to better educational outcomes. Shifting students to private schools through the ESA program does not guarantee improved academic performance, and could instead create a two-tiered system where only certain students have access to quality education.

Finally, the administrative burden placed on parents to navigate the ESA system could disproportionately affect disadvantaged families. For many, the process of applying for funds, finding certified providers, and ensuring proper use of resources may be too complex, limiting access to the very choices the bill aims to provide.

Public education is a cornerstone of our society, and weakening it through programs like HB 3 threatens the future of millions of Texas students. I urge you to reconsider support for this bill and prioritize strengthening our public schools, which serve all children equally.

Sincerely,
Shawna Wilson
Proud parent of 4 Public School HS graduates, 2 State college graduates and 2 in state college

Kristel Hise
Myself
Lufkin, TX

This bill will destroy an already damaged public education system. Do not
Pass this bill and expect to get re-elected.

Candice Whitton
Self / homeschool mom
Nevada, TX

Oppose

Landry Sprinkel, Miss

Wylie PTA

Wylie, TX

As a student I do NOT want vouchers!!!

Amy Whitehead

Self

San antonio, TX

No vouchers. Saying taxes should give parents a choice is ridiculous. I have no children and pay taxes for an educated population rich or poor. Unless you want to send me 26 years of paid taxes, then do whatever you want.

Angela Pinkerton

Self parent/teacher

Godley, TX

No to vouchers and HB3.

Fund public education based on enrollment not attendance.

Lisa Altman

Self

Austin, TX

We do NOT want vouchers!!! This needs to be put to a vote by the people! If our representatives vote in favor of vouchers we WILL VOTE YOU OUT!

Sue Vallejo

None

Round Rock, TX

NO,NO NO to HB 3that takesMY public school tax dollars & gives it to private schools that can pucker & choose their students & robs our public schools of much needed funding. Support public school which serve ALL students,no to vouchers for private schools.

Annie Livingston

self

Austin, TX

I want to start by saying I am not opposed to private schools. I sent my own child to private school for a year during Covid to have smaller class sizes. I have many friends that send their children to private schools. What I am opposed to is PAYING FOR OTHER KIDS TO GO TO PRIVATE SCHOOL. If I want to send my children to private school, I would NEVER ask for others to help me do that.

I want SCHOOL CHOICE... I don't want to HAVE to send my child to private school because you defund my public school to where the class sizes are so large and the materials are so old that they can't learn to their potential.

What about the rural kids with no private schools near by? What about the low kids that won't be able to get into private schools as the competition rises because you have defunded our public schools?

Why don't you let the Texas citizens VOTE on these vouchers? Why can't we choose what we want for our children? And for our tax dollars? Many other states have been able to VOTE ON THIS MATTER...why can't Texas?

Please help our children by FUNDING our schools and not by defunding them.

Angela Halbert

Self

Houston, TX

As a voter and a teacher, I urge you not to pass this choice Bill. Go read all the comments on your governors Facebook page thousands upon thousands of comments of people against this. If y'all are so confident it will pass. Please put it to a vote. It looks very greedy that y'all are trying to pass this.

Hope Hillier

Self- Teacher

Amarillo, TX

I went to the library and they didn't have a book I wanted. So I told them I needed them to give me a Barnes and Noble gift card so I could go get the book.

This is what vouchers are like. Why is the money designated for public schools going to other individuals and organizations? Why does someone just get to decide the taxpayers need to give them money for a private entity?

As a teacher, I'm gravely concerned this will damage public education for years and decades to come. This isn't a "challenge" to do better as some politicians and want to be politicians say. Public school educators have to jump through the hoops of state mandates and bills, but a private school can get taxpayer money and not have to do any of these things?

A private school can deny someone with special needs or not have to bus them in or feed them.

Vouchers are a coupon for the wealthy, this is not going to help middle class students or underprivileged students. This creates one more hurdle for public education and hurts educators and students in public education.

Patricia Warley

Myself

Angleton, TX

I have emailed my state representative multiple times and have submitted my comments via this portal. I am 100% opposed to this bill. Passing this voucher scam will ultimately hurt our Public School system. In your words, our school system has been broken for awhile. But Abbott and the GOP have been in charge for almost 2 decades or more. So if the system is broke, that's on ya'lls watch. I don't want my tax dollars going towards welfare for the rich. I demand they go straight to the Texas public school system. There are many that agree with me, on both sides of the aisle. This is not a partisan issue, so stop trying to make it that way by blaming the other side. Do the right thing and support our public school system for once. Fund them adequately and stop holding their funds hostage in order to please Abbott's rich donors.

Artie Borders, Mr.

Retired

Houston, TX

Please don't support ANY position to redirect federal funding to parents or citizens who make conscious decisions to send their children to schools that they choose to pay for. The free choice of education must not be diluted with parents who CHOOSE to opt out for a paid option.

We will be facing an effort to eliminate federal funding if the Department of Education is eliminated. That fund brings great relief to public schools who hire teachers and support staff to meet student expectations and goals. That burden will fall on states, which will now have to find creative ways to fund schools. Adding a voucher option isn't a citizen's right that the state should be weighing in on at this time. The public education standard is the right of ALL Citizens. If I as a citizen opt out of it and choose the private option then I have rejected my free option and I MUST PAY FOR MY CHOICE.

Shawna Ford

Self

Aledo, TX

As a retired public school educator, I am against HB 3 and any voucher/ESA system that takes money from Texas public schools and sends it to private or home schools, especially without the same level of accountability and requirements that legislators have placed on public schools. The public school system we have in Texas is a direct reflection of our elected officials who have passed laws, approved standards and curriculum, and placed many unfunded mandates on public schools. Texas public schools need more local control and less Austin interference, allowing teachers to get back to doing what is best for students. Vote NO on HB3 and any other voucher/ESA bill and fully fund Texas public schools.

Christine Lipschitz, Mrs.

Tax payer, parent, voter

Dallas, TX

As a mother of two kids in elementary school and former educator these are the reasons I am against this bill:

- this bill is just making government bigger, not smaller. Now the government will even be in our private schools as there will be strings attached to the money and reporting, testing, etc of students whose families accept the money. Private school parents will not have privacy of their child's data from the government. This is government overreach.
- this could even snowball into giving tech companies the opportunity to lead homeschool programs and we know that kids sitting in front of a computer all day is not the answer.
- this is incredibly expensive and a bad use of tax dollars. The administrative cost to run the ESA is huge. This is money that goes into the pockets of private companies, not schools, teachers, or families.
- ultimately this is a vendor bill. We need to get all these private companies who are trying to make a profit at the expense of our students out of our schools. It's waste and a classic example of policy being set by the private companies who stand to benefit from it.
- We have a great elementary school. All kids should have this but we know that right now there are failing schools. Let's stop wasting all this time talking about vouchers and focus on making all of our schools as great as the public school our kids attend.
- There isn't middle ground on this - either you are for raising our taxes to pay for all of this or you are for taking money away from amazing neighborhood schools like ours to pay for it.

Amy Hufford

Self

Austin, TX

The voucher plan is an awful idea. I was the fourth generation in my family to attend a public high school here in Austin – Austin High. My children attended public schools here in AISD as well. We know that public schools can do a fantastic job when they are properly funded. I am disgusted to see how teachers cannot support themselves on the salaries that are so low due to the lack of state funding. Do not send money to private schools. Do you really want to live in a society that is under educated? It makes our state a more dangerous place to live when people are uneducated, desperate and cannot advance out of poverty. Fully fund public schools!

Ashton Jeanlewis

Self

Houston, TX

This bill is exactly what tax payer money is meant for! Supporting our community and future

Laurie Coker, Dr.

N/A

South Padre Island, TX

Don't do this! Please.

Thelma Gomez

Self

Pampa, TX

This bill is detrimental to the public school system of Texas. It benefits a select group and harms the majority. That majority elected the governor to work for the people of the state instead of those with a vested interest. In most areas of Texas, no private school option is even available. How does this benefit the people of Texas? Catering to those with wealth and influence does not serve the state of Texas.

Sheridan Henley, Dr.

Self

Pearland, TX

Funding private school tuition with tax payer money without equalizing expectations is hurting communities and students across the Texas. We should be funding public schools and providing a significant allotment increase to public education. The notion that public schools receive \$16000 per student is false and misleading. The state sends \$6100 and the rest comes from local property taxes. So stop misleading the public. I gladly pay my share of school property tax to ensure that my children and others in my district are given opportunities to succeed. I choose for them. I do not want to subsidize the wealthy to send their children to a private school. In addition, public schools are held to high student accountability systems with the use of STAAR and we do not make private schools take the same assessment. Not only do they not take the same test, they are not held to the same TEKS curriculum. Fund our public schools. No to HB 3

Gracie DVillasenor

Self

Weslaco, TX

I'm totally against school vouchers. I'm a retired teacher but my daughter is a teacher in the public schools and I'm worried about her future in the teaching profession.

Jenell Fisher

Self- Educator

MONT BELVIEU, TX

I oppose school vouchers. It is NOT including the best interest of our kids or educational system.

Carisa Brown

Self, parent of two Public school students, and Texas public school educator.

Lampasas, TX

Vote NO to HB 3. This is not going to support what is best for our students, it is not going to empower parents or educators to ensure all kids have the beat education and its not going to support Texas education to be the very best it can be. My own children deserve better. My students deserve better. Texas education deserves better.

Terra Anders

Self

Taylor, TX

I am standing in opposition to HB3 as written and implore the House Representatives to vote No! There are far too many loopholes, vague language, enticements for private vendors to milk the system and allowances for creating an unfair playing ground that will shatter Texas public schools. This bill has nothing to do with giving the poorest and neediest children and parents choice. It is about asking taxpayers to foot the bill for those who can already afford private schools. If this was about giving the poorest children a choice, the language would clearly limit its application to those who really need the help. Taxpayer money should stay in public schools and Texas should fully fund public schools NOW to fulfill our commitment to the 14th Amendment . Vote no on HB3 and fully fund our public schools so they have a chance to provide a safe and strong educational environment for our kids.

Jennifer Wages

Self

Denton, TX

Vote NO on HB 3. Fully fund public education.

Ruth Todd

Self

Bastrop, TX

Without public schools society will falter. What this bill does is to rob tax dollars meant for public schools to be given to the most wealthy to segregate schools. Minorities and children with disabilities will be and are now excluded. Sports, Arts, and Music will be on the chopping blocks in rural school districts because of lack of funding. Without Fine Arts and sports many children will just quit school because they have no reason to go. Rural schools will start closing down because of lack of funding. Of course everyone knows that is what the Governor wants and that he wants an uneducated populace to be able to control. Life expectancy will decrease and many will leave the state and country to find a better way of life for their children. This is not good for the people of Texas or the country.

Ashley Shine

Self - Educator

Richardson, TX

School voucher programs divert public funds away from public schools to private (often religious) private schools. This is a direct violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Taxpayer funds are not to be used to favor religions. Public schools are accountable to ALL taxpayers and obligated to serve EVERY child. There are multiple concerns with vouchers.

- Vouchers drain resources from public schools. Texas public schools are already greatly underfunded. They have not received an increase in the student allotment since 2019. The state constitution requires that public schools are properly funded.

- Private schools receiving voucher funds lack the level of oversight and transparency of public schools. They are not required to take STAAR/EOC and receive an Accountability Rating. There is no guarantee that a private school offers a quality education.

Private schools are not required to follow IDEA and can reject any student for any reason. Public schools cannot turn students away. Public and private schools cannot be judged against each other because they do not follow the same set of rules and expectations.

- Vouchers are welfare for the wealthy. Most of the students who will benefit from a voucher system already attend private schools. The general public should not be subsidizing their private education. In states where vouchers are in place, the average cost of private schools has increased by the value of the voucher.

- Vouchers can exacerbate socioeconomic and racial segregation by allowing families to use public funds to attend private schools that may select students based on criteria that exclude certain groups. After all, vouchers were first introduced in response to Brown vs. Board of Education.

- In many rural areas of Texas, public schools are the cornerstone of the community. Private schools are not an option as they do not exist in most rural areas.

I believe, as do most Texans, that strengthening our public school system is the most effective way to ensure that all Texas students have access to quality education. I respectfully request that you consider these concerns and vote against HB3 and for all Texas children.

Sincerely, Ashley Shine

Elizabeth Peacock

self

Buda, TX

Public schools and private schools do not have to play by the same rules - private schools are allowed to discriminate & can remove a student for any reason. Public schools have to provide an education to special needs students, students with behavioral issues, students who do not yet speak English, etc. It is absurd for private schools to receive public funding when they do not play by the same rules.

Additionally, Texans already have school choice, and this bill actually removes choice by decreasing public school funding and forcing magnet schools to close. This is simply welfare for the wealthy.

Mary Milham

Self

Whitehouse, TX

I am a retired educator and special education administrator. I am against this bill because I do not believe it will be beneficial for all children. I believe the bill will benefit families with the highest incomes and the advertising for the bill is not comprehensive about the true costs and application process for accessing private schools. The \$15,000 is only a drop in the bucket for all of the fees to attend a private school which most families will or be able to meet. Nor will they be able to provide their own transportation.

In regards to special education, unless it is a school for specific disabilities such as autism, it is unlikely that private schools will accept students w anything but maybe a mild learning disability.

The most elected private school in our area does not have a special education department with a diagnostician. If they suspect a disability they call the district public school and request an evaluation under Child Find. The diag I spoke to, said the private school has requested several evaluations this year and all of the results were negative for disabilities. If private schools use public schools for evaluations and other sp ed services, then they are further taking staff time, monies and other resources from public schools that are already under funded.

Please vote no.

Robert Gibbons

Education Austin

Austin, TX

It is the duty of the legislature to adequately fund a public school system. Once installed, a private voucher system will grow in cost and deplete much needed resources for public schools.

Tandy Diamond

RISD parent

Dallas, TX

Support Texas public schools!! I am NOT in favor of Governor Abbotts voucher bill!

Sandi Dunn
Self
Houston, TX

As a Texas educator with 19 years of experience, I strongly oppose HB 3 and urge lawmakers to reject this harmful legislation. This bill seeks to establish Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), which are simply another form of school vouchers that divert taxpayer dollars away from public schools and into private, often unregulated institutions. This would have devastating consequences for Texas' already underfunded public education system.

Public schools serve all students, regardless of ability, background, or socioeconomic status. Private schools, however, are not held to the same standards and can selectively admit students while refusing to provide services for those with disabilities or specialized learning needs. By shifting state funds into ESAs, HB 3 would reduce critical resources for public schools, forcing them to operate with even fewer funds while still serving the vast majority of Texas children.

Texas already ranks near the bottom in per-student funding, and this bill would only exacerbate the problem. Instead of investing in teacher salaries, classroom resources, and student support services, HB 3 funnels public money into a system that lacks transparency and accountability. This is especially concerning given that private schools are not required to administer state assessments, follow the same curriculum standards, or provide financial accountability for taxpayer dollars.

Additionally, ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition, leaving behind the students who rely most on public education. Rural communities, where private school options are limited or nonexistent, would see no benefit from this bill, yet their schools would still suffer from funding losses. HB 3 is not about providing choice—it's about dismantling public education in favor of privatization.

Texas should be strengthening its public schools, not undermining them. I urge lawmakers to reject HB 3 and instead focus on real solutions—such as increasing per-student funding, raising teacher salaries, and improving classroom resources—that support the 5.5 million children who attend Texas public schools. Our students and teachers deserve better.

Kelly-Ann Clarke
self
Dallas, TX

I do not want public funds diverted to private institutions. That is not school choice nor is that the point of property or school taxes. If it was, let me keep the money instead of giving it to you to then give back to me! Stop the smoke and mirrors! Kids with special needs and low income kids lose with this "choice". Emotionally damaged kids in foster care won't have the support they need in public school and when they slash the tires of the private school kids, you can take credit for that "choice". I am am happy to pay my taxes to go to schools so kids are not undereducated. It makes the neighborhood and country safer if all kids have a chance to get good education for free. If you can afford private school, good for you. That is your choice! Spend your elected official time on how to create better functioning schools, not just shifting the money. Privatization isn't always better.

Carl Jones
Self
Spicewood, TX

This bill is bad for our public schools, bad for our kids, bad for our teachers and bad for Texas. We don't need another \$80Mm annual budget to administer public tax dollars to allocate funding for vouchers that mostly benefit wealthy families that already send their kids to private schools. Over 70% of kids enrolled in private schools are from wealthy families. They don't need a subsidy at the expense of lower & middle class families that need public education resources. Stop this bill and stop neglecting our 5.5 million kids in public schools. Save our schools and save our kids all over Texas! Properly FUND our public schools!

Reed Bilz, Ms
Indivisible Texas 12
Fort Worth, TX

Due to tax relief last session, public schools are cash strapped. They need more money allotted per student enrolled. An additional \$220 would bring Texas closer to the national average, but \$300 would help make up for the struggles the districts have had to endure.

Charter schools do not need more money. The majority offer inferior education and public money should stay with public schools.

Meri Sue Michalak
Self/Educator
Pflugerville, TX

School vouchers do not benefit our public school system. In fact, they will hurt our schools. Vouchers supply money for families who most likely already send their children to private schools, which are not regulated by state mandates anyway. Why should tax money be spent on education for private entities and not our public systems? It is unfair, unlawful, and unethical.

Elizabeth Vargas
Self
Pflugerville, TX

I am vehemently opposed to this bill! We may as well be handing money to churches next. It should be illegal for my public money to go to a private institution. I have four children who will all go to public school. Number one because I don't have an extra \$50k/year to spend on private school, even with this bill, and number two, public school teachers are more educated! We go to highland park education. We're in the bilingual program and my kid got into gifted and talented. He is so special and so is everyone that works at that school. PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS BILL PASS!!! Thank god my children don't have special needs too or they would be totally out of luck with this bill. Private institutions, and even charter schools, can reject kids for whatever reason. I believe in public schools and will fight for them forever!!!! And I don't think people can deny that this will not be enough to change anyone's mind in the end. It will be welfare for the wealthy and it is something that the governor is bullying everyone into and IT CAN NOT HAPPEN. I, along with a lot of people in sure, will end up MOVING before I'll live in a state with this rule. Thank you and please let's keep this from happening.

Heather Roell Oshman, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

No vouchers. Please keep public money public.

Jan Reed, MS
Self - Retired
Austin, TX

School vouchers will take money away from our public schools in Texas and do not truly offer a choice for parents. In many rural and smaller towns, their only option is their public schools, which are an anchor for their community -- they have no other choice. Also, private schools are not obliged to take the state tests like STAR or TAKS and neither are they obliged to admit all students, especially handicapped or disadvantaged students. This school voucher bill is really designed to help wealthy families pay for their private schools and to avoid being integrated. Our tax money should not pay for this. This is in no way helpful for ALL Texas children.

Ann Ehrenburg
Self. Retired
Amarillo, TX

I am against school vouchers. I fully support public education.

Kelsey Cockrum

Self

Austin, TX

Parents in vast numbers do not want the vouchers bill to pass. We need to follow the money in the other states that have attempted this method, all with more failures than success. Parents already have a choice, we should take the money we would pass out from vouchers and use it to better our free for all public schools. We should follow the methods used by other countries that make their public education so great. We should end testing that accounts for the funds of schools, and just fund them appropriately with the thought of ALL children deserve the best. Regardless of what their family can afford or "choose" to do for school.

We are also not even thinking about rural communities with this bill. What about those children. Just fund public schools to make THEM the best.

Matthew Boehm

Self

Austin, TX

Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) may seem like a promising solution to expand educational opportunities, but they come with significant concerns that could undermine the public education system and hurt students in the long run.

First and foremost, ESAs divert much-needed funding from public schools. Public schools are already underfunded and struggling to provide adequate resources for all students. Diverting taxpayer dollars into private accounts, often used for private school tuition, means that fewer resources are available to support the majority of students who rely on public education.

Moreover, ESAs often disproportionately benefit wealthier families who can supplement the funds to pay for private schooling or other educational options. This exacerbates educational inequality and leaves lower-income families with fewer choices and fewer resources to invest in their children's education.

Public education serves the purpose of ensuring every child, regardless of background or income, has access to quality learning. ESAs undermine this goal by encouraging a system of "education for the few," instead of a system that benefits the many. Instead of focusing on policies that create division, we should be investing in strengthening and improving public education for everyone.

Lastly, the lack of accountability in how ESA funds are used is a serious concern. Private schools and educational service providers aren't held to the same standards as public schools, meaning there's less transparency and less oversight regarding the quality of education that students are receiving.

Rather than further eroding the public education system, we should be working to ensure that all schools are well-funded, well-equipped, and inclusive, offering a high-quality education to every child in our country.

Please do not pass this bill and instead focus on raising the base allotment for each Texas student by \$4,000 in order to put our education system within the top 25 of state spending across the United States.

Felicia Rains, Ms.
Self, Piano Teacher
Austin, TX

As a Piano Teacher for children for over 25 years, I have seen the enormous benefit of public schools. Vouchers will undermine public schools: Vouchers divert funding from public schools, which serve most students, to private schools.
Discrimination: Vouchers can discriminate against students with disabilities and exacerbate racial segregation.
Subtracting from public accountability: Private schools are less accountable to taxpayers than public schools.
Failing to meet student needs: Vouchers can fail to meet the needs of students with disabilities and special needs.
Not improving student performance: There is no reliable evidence that vouchers improve student success, and some programs have shown negative effects.
Eroding democracy: Vouchers can erode democracy by giving private schools that are not accountable to the public control over how public tax dollars are spent.
Creating corruption: Private schools with little or no accountability could lead to corruption.
Diverting attention from needed reforms: Vouchers can divert attention from needed reforms, such as smaller class sizes.
Reducing fair access: Vouchers can reduce fair access to educational opportunity. . There will be tax dollars going to schools that are not required to meet any state accountability standards. It will decrease funding to public schools. Most families will not be able to afford private schools even with the vouchers. Vouchers are a gift to the wealthiest families and a punishment for families who don't have the money or have special needs or disabled children. We need to be funding the public schools not taking money away from them.

GILBERT LARA
EPTA/TSTA
EL PASO, TX

VOTE NO ON VOUCHERS TEXAS NEEDS TO PRESERVE PUBLIC EDUCATION

Christene Nemetsky
Georgetown ISD
Georgetown, TX

Taxpayer funds need to go to Public NOT Private Schools!
Our Public Schools have been neglected for 5 years - DO NOT send Public dollars to Private Schools.
Billionaires do NOT dictate how taxpayers dollars are spent. Stand up for the hard-working Texans.
Vouchers HURT our neighborhood schools!

Lucy Kocich
self
San Angelo, TX

No to vouchers. support public schools

Carrie English
Self, Teacher
FORT WORTH, TX

Every society needs a well-educated populace to function. As a Fort Worth ISD teacher and parent, I know very well how our schools are already struggling from lack of funding. Taking even more money away to give to prosperous private schools makes absolutely no sense. Give more money to the public schools, so we can educate the doctors, police officers, engineers, and teachers of the future, and our state will thrive in the new millennium. This voucher scheme benefits only the wealthy, and even the wealthy will suffer when public schools can no longer educate the average Texan. Please don't put us in the (bankrupt) position many voucher states now find themselves in. You don't want to tell your grandchildren that you presided over this looting of our schools (which are a right enshrined in the state constitution!) Please do what I'm sure all of you know deep down is the right thing, and save our schools for future generations of Texans.

Elizabeth Ramos

Self

San Antonio, TX

Keep public funds in public schools

Angela Lewallen

Self: taxpayer and parent

Lewisville, TX

I am opposed to hb3. Public money should be spent on public schools. I am opposed to giving tax dollars to an entity that will spend that money on curriculum for which the public has no oversight. It is an offense to the history of our nation to label our schools as failing and, instead of addressing the challenges, to give up and offer welfare to the wealthy instead. No to hb3.

Maggie Ma

Lakeview Elementary PTA (PTA Vice President)

Sugar Land, TX

I work closely with our local elementary school as the PTA Vice President and I see first-hand how much support our school needs and the funds that our PTA has to bring in to provide for basic necessities like classroom supplies and equipment. Our public schools need MORE funding, not less! Our public education has so much potential to be bigger, and better, but we really need the support of the government. Please invest in public schools, were ALL students have an equal right and privilege to learn.

Linda Terry

Self

Ft. Worth, TX

I strongly oppose HB3!!!!

Kay Winfield

Self

Burleson, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Julie Hawkins

Self

Dallas, TX

We are NOT for the voucher program and believe it be harmful to public education and not improving education in the least.

Gina Cramer

Self, Program Evaluator

San Antonio, TX

I am a proud product of Texas public schools and I strongly oppose vouchers. Public dollars belong in public schools! Our public schools are already deeply underfunded, and any scheme to remove money will not improve education outcomes in this State.

Instead of taking dollars from our already under funded public schools through a voucher program, we should be putting more money into our public education system in Texas so that all students have an opportunity to thrive

Scott Benton

self/family

Frisco, TX

I have children in public schools in Lewisville ISD. This will cost our state BILLIONS and only serve a few, with zero accountability. This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. By providing great quality public education to everyone, we are lifting up our entire state for the better. Say YES to supporting Texas public education and the teachers who serve to create a better future for our children. NO VOUCHERS!!! FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BETTER!

Erin Mancil, Mrs.

Self

Cedar Park, TX

We are raising two public school children in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools.

ESAs (vouchers) directly hurt students with disabilities who receive Special Education services in Public Schools in the State of Texas. Diverting \$1 Billion of my PUBLIC taxpayer money to private schools who do not even acknowledge IDEA, do not follow IEPs and only provide services when they are negotiated, compromised and then charged back to parents at exorbitant rates well above typical tuition rates it is theft of services and money to the most vulnerable population in Texas.

14% of the 5.5 million public school students in Texas receive special education services. That's 760,000 students at a minimum. These ESAs are completely inaccessible to at least 90% of our disabled students, and that is before they have a chance at any lottery or know if a private school will accept, serve, or retain them. There's no accountability. Not of services, not of the \$1 Billion of public taxpayer money this legislature wants to pour into private schools and not of impact or outcomes of our disabled students.

Even if we say ALL of the ESAs go to disabled kids receiving special education services, that still leaves a minimum of 700,000 students receiving special education services in underfunded understaffed Public Schools that this state put in this situation. This causes direct harm to these students with disabilities, the most vulnerable individuals in society, and it's at the hands of those who are supposed to represent us.

This is unacceptable. I want this legislature to take accountability, listen to the parent voice (and students), and have the courage to do the right thing: say No to ESA/Vouchers and Fund our Public Schools properly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Erin K Mancil

Heralio Perez Jr, Mr.

MCA

Edinburg, TX

Would like if we can be part of this bill, and help with our kids education funding.

Rachelle Moore

PTA parent in Collin County

Plano, TX

Struggling with the cost of everything all while trying to provide the best education options for my child. I moved to Plano for the schools and live close enough to walk to Bethany Elementary in Plano Texas. We can't afford private school and moved to this area because of the school district. This bill will hurt public schools and teachers. Make the bill fair by putting caps on the rich. Who don't need vouchers and making private schools have to follow the same rules as public and maybe this might be a good idea. But right now this bill is written and for the wealthy. It is not ok and I support Texas public schools and teachers.

Janelle Colligan

Self

Wylie, TX

'NO TO VOUCHERS' & NO TO SB3

Abigal Rios

Self / Chef

Liberty Hill, TX

I am in opposition to HB 3. I oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

If the reason for vouchers is truly schools choice, then additional accountability measures must be added to the bill.

Measures such as:

1. No elected official past, present or future nor any family member by blood or marriage may financially benefit from the ESA program in any way, direct or indirect.
2. No family with a child currently enrolled in an education entity other than a Texas public school may use an ESA. They already have choice and they use it.
3. No education entity may deny admittance to a child choosing to use an ESA
4. No education entity admitting a child via an ESA may dismiss the child during the current school year
5. Any education entity that dismisses or denies continued enrollment to a child using an ESA before 5 years or graduation must fully refund the state plus a 25% penalty
6. Any education entity that accepts a child via an ESA must abide by the same rules, policies and procedures as every public school.

I oppose HB 3.

Tina McNeil

Self

ALLEN, TX

As an active member of the Allen Isd PTA and a proud born and raised Texan, I am 1000% against this bill and what it stands for. This false idea of this being a "parents choice" is laughable at best and at worst is insulting and demeaning to the amazing Teachers and staff at our schools as a whole who have been UNDER funded and UNDER paid for far too long. As a tax paying citizen I want my money to go back in to my community that I am actively apart, not to some savings account for a private school that I never had intentions of sending my children to in the first place. Parents should get to choose where and how their money is being spent and a voucher program is something I do not and will not ever support. I choose to support my child's teachers who have been with him since kindergarten, I choose to support my school district that works together to make sure every child in our district has the tools needed to succeed, I choose to support my community who comes out in droves to help each other in times of crisis or in need. Many in my community feel the same and hope we are heard when we say a voucher program is NOT what Texas schools need or will ever need.

marta rozanich

Self

Ft worth, TX

We need you to stand up for Texas families and kids. Do not decimate our neighborhood schools, our rural communities. Fix the current system and fully fund public schools. We do not want coupons for the wealthy. Please vote no on HB3. Respectfully.

Emily Jelen

self

Dallas, TX

Please consider that public schools already have the programs that you claim people need to go to private school for. Plus, your voucher program will only provide a small amount of support for the children in Texas, removing money from the public schools that are already squeezed by your refusal as a legislature to support public schools by keeping up with inflation. My son, for example, is very well supported by the 504 program, to keep him in small-group settings for testing, and by giving him more time for testing, because he has ADHD. If you all support this voucher bill, programs like this, and many other very important programs (our PTA, for example, has already had to help the school pay for reading and math support programs that the school can no longer afford because of the lack of legislative support (\$) for public schools). Please keep the state funding (that comes from us, the taxpayers) with the public. People have many choices already for public schools, and public schools are held accountable by testing requirements. Keep supporting public, let your voters decide where they want to go. Plenty of private schools already have scholarships for the students who want to go there and cannot afford it. Keep it this way. Public schools need your support MUCH more.

Andrew Femath

Self and PTA Board Member

Boerne, TX

As a father of three young children and a PTA Board member at Leon Springs Elementary in NISD-San Antonio, I fully support the Texas school voucher bill. While I am committed to my local public school, I also strongly believe that parents should have the right to choose the best education for their children—regardless of financial status.

For many middle-class families like mine, the opportunity to send our children to a faith-based private school, such as our local Catholic parish school, is simply out of reach due to cost. This bill would give families the financial flexibility to make the best educational choices for their kids, whether that be public, private, or religious schools.

School choice should not be a privilege only for the wealthy—it should be an option for all Texas families. I urge lawmakers to pass this bill and give parents the freedom to decide what's best for their children's education.

Dianne Baskin

Self

Denton, TX

Vouchers are bad for all Texans and public education. Fund public education not private schools.

Brandi Pace

Self/Parent of Texas public school students

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Thank you all. I learned so much yesterday and I look forward to going back on April 3rd to fight again!

James Lifton

Self - Student at UT Austin

Austin, TX

I oppose the Texas school voucher bill because it diverts much-needed public funds away from our public schools, which serve most students across the state. Vouchers undermine public education by funneling taxpayer money into private institutions, often with little accountability or oversight. This shift not only exacerbates educational inequities but also weakens the foundation of our public school system, leaving the most vulnerable students—those who rely on public education the most—facing even greater challenges.

Laura Mattingly

Self

Kyle, TX

Texans should not be forced to foot the bill for schools that a parent CHOOSE on their own. This is stealing money from public schools and our communities. Voucher programs have historically not done well in other states. I have children in Hays county school district and these schools struggle enough as it is to provide basic necessities for our students. Funneling money from the poor to the rich is not a matter of school choice but a matter of punishing the poor to line the pockets of the rich. Private schools are not accountable for how they spend money, who they can accept and deny, and are not held to the same standards for equity as public schools. Please do not pass this bill as it will be detrimental to our public school system!

Dinah Stowers

Self

Cooper, TX

I wholeheartedly OPPOSE HB3 and giving of public tax money to private schools.

Rebecca Parada

Self, Teacher

Richardson, TX

Our public schools are not even fully funded. How can we be talking about funding new educational programs when we don't even fund the one we have? We can't say we have tried everything with our schools if we haven't tried fully funding them and paying our teachers a professional wage and increasing the state contribution for health insurance to reduce the teacher cost for insurance. If we did that, we would attract quality teachers and have the best programs for our students. Currently we are below the national average on per student funding. Additionally, assuming we have the money now to start funding new programs, will we always have this money? What happens if our budgets get tighter? We all know teachers were fired or had their pay frozen in the recession of 2008. The state did not use its rainy day fund to pay for schools. The reduction of money from the state for our schools has meant increased property taxes for all Texans. Instead of looking for novel ways to spend on education outside of public schools, fund them to reduce our taxes. And don't reduce our taxes at the expense of public education unless the state will pick up the difference. Our public schools are the hub of our communities and provide many services to the community beyond classroom instruction.

Diane McElroy

Self/nurse

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Sarah Romo de Vivar, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Legislators,

I write to urge you to vote NO on HB 3. Vouchers are a hand-out for well-to-do families that send their children to private schools.

Vouchers do NOT help our children that attend Public Schools, what would truly help our Texas families is to fully fund our schools.

I'm so confused as to why we Texans are ok with being 43rd in the nation when we compare ourselves to other states and how much they pay per pupil in public schools. It's truly an embarrassment. We are roughly the 10th economy in the world or so; how do we expect to compete with other states and/or nations when our children don't receive the adequate funding needed for them to succeed in schools.

Not everyone has the option to send their children to a private school, for many it's a luxury they couldn't afford EVEN with the voucher.

I urge you to instead look inward, look at what needs to be done for our children, the right and just thing to do is to ensure that the MAJORITY of children in Texas have Public Schools that are fully funded. It's not hard!

Our children deserve better!

Sincerely,

Sarah Romo de Vivar

Mother of 3 children who attend Public Schools in Texas.

Georgia Gandino

Self, Preschool Teacher

Flower Mound, TX

I am asking for an increase in basic allotment for public schools throughout the state. While I vehemently oppose the voucher program, I recognize that lawmakers are insistent on passing such a terrible idea. In the meantime, our public schools, public school students, and public school teachers deserve SO MUCH MORE than what is currently being provided by the state. As a taxpayer, a resident, a voter, and a parent of children in the public school system, I am BEGGING you to please vote to do right by the children who will shape our future. Invest in them. Provide THEM with every opportunity to go and do great things. Make our great state even more appealing by giving our children a world-class education.

Rachelle Arechiga

Self/Teacher and Parent of public and private school children

San Antonio, TX

As a parent with one child in private school and two in public school, and as a secondary teacher, I am highly opposed to school vouchers for the following reasons:

Private schools are not equipped to handle an increase in student enrollment due to lack of facility size and staff. They often do not require teachers to be certified, they do not follow any recognized national standards for curriculum (unless required for specific courses such as AP classes). Those who have high enrollment due to vouchers could pick the best students, leaving weaker students to attend public schools that will have even tighter budgets.

Public schools are best equipped to educate large numbers of students, and should be provided the money to do so well. Public schools continue to educate despite lack of funding, teacher shortages, social apathy, and political ineptitude. The students they could reach and educate with proper funding would demonstrate that vouchers are completely unnecessary.

Vouchers also do not take into account the transportation needs of those moving schools, the impact on traffic and parents' jobs, the impact on the communities that would lose business around the schools being left, the negative impact on traffic/energy/staff at even the larger good public schools people may try to move to, etc.

Vouchers are poorly thought out plan that will have negative results for all but a few students who manage to move to a "better" school. Instead, we should be better funding ALL PUBLIC schools to allow them to hire staff, offer class sizes, and provide programs that benefit the majority or the students in the state.

Bobanne Richardson

Self- HSE Lead / Medic

Colleyville, TX

Good afternoon,

I am writing to let you know that I am against HB3.

Tax payer money should fund public schools only. No school voucher program with tax payer money should ever be considered. It's time to fully support and fund public schools and stop doing favors for billionaires who fund candidates. Do what is right for the people of Texas, especially our children. No to HB3!

Dessie Allen

Self

Austin, TX

I'm a firm believer that our time, talents, and treasures should go towards improving our public schools if we truly want to thrive as a society in the future. Our public schools are the heartbeats of our neighborhoods- they're institutions that connect us as a community and should be strengthened! No vouchers!

Jessica Requejo
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am against vouchers. I came from a private school. I saw the downsides and upsides. My daughter went to a charter school where the kindergarten teacher coached her through passing without her learning a thing. She would verbally test her over paper tests and lead her with the answers. The next year we moved her to a public school where we uncovered her learning disabilities and a path to success. My opinion is that public money needs to stay public. Furthermore we need more money to keep up with inflation and having an educated society able to compete in a worldwide economy.

Please find another way to help families that choose private education. Taking from the general and majority is just not the way.

Thank you for your time.

REBECCA RATLIFF
Self; Business Owner
Plano, TX

I strongly oppose stealing money from public school funding to support private schools. Vouchers and ESAs divert public taxpayer dollars to private institutions without oversight or transparency.

Heather Nelson, Citizen and Tax Payer
Myself - you know, the person you represent
Dallas, TX

I oppose financial of any sort for private school. I paid to send my 2 kids to private school by foregoing vacations, driving older cars, and managing my budget. Classic bootstrapping that I thought Texas valued! Vouchers and ESAs are handouts for the wealthy and private education interests. I want and expect my tax dollars (\$18,000 in 2024!) to fund public education for all Texans and not for religious schools or homeschooling. Heather Nelson, Dallas TX

Jeffry Pollard
Self
Fort Worth, TX

No public money for private schools, they don't have to meet the same requirements as public schools. Public schools are underfunded and you should not take away funds to give to parents for private schools.

Maria Moussa
Education- Assistant Principal
McKinney, TX

I am strongly opposed to House Bill 3, which seeks to implement a voucher system for education in Texas. While I fully understand the desire for innovation and improvement within our educational system, I believe that this proposed measure would be detrimental to the future of our public schools and to the students who rely on them. First and foremost, it is critical to acknowledge the state of public education funding in Texas. Public schools are already severely underfunded, and rather than taking funds away from these institutions, we should be prioritizing their support. For years, the basic student allotment — which is the foundation of school funding in Texas — has remained stagnant since 2019. During that time, costs associated with education, including teacher salaries, instructional materials, and infrastructure, have only risen, further straining schools and districts across the state. Despite the state's significant budget surplus, which is currently in the billions of dollars, this core funding has not seen an increase. This creates a clear contradiction: the state has a substantial surplus, yet the very institutions responsible for educating our children are left to operate on outdated funding levels. The voucher system proposed in HB3 would divert funds away from public schools, exacerbating this already dire situation. A voucher system would allow public dollars to be used for private school tuition, which is particularly concerning given that many private schools do not have the same accountability standards as public schools. This shift of resources would harm the majority of students who attend public schools, as these institutions would receive fewer funds to address their pressing needs. Public schools in Texas serve the vast majority of our students — including those from low-income families, students with disabilities, and English-language learners — and many of these students would be left with fewer resources and support to succeed. Rather than investing in a system that would drain public schools, Texas should be focusing on increasing the basic student allotment to ensure that our public schools are properly funded and equipped to meet the needs of all students. The state's budget surplus could be a powerful tool to correct the underfunding crisis that has persisted for far too long. These funds should be directed toward improving teacher pay, reducing class sizes, updating outdated infrastructure, and providing support for students who need it the most. Instead, HB3 proposes a diversion of funds that would not only weaken public schools but also fail to guarantee better outcomes for students. Moreover, there is no conclusive evidence that voucher programs lead to better educational outcomes. Studies from other states have shown mixed results, with many private schools participating in voucher programs not necessarily offering superior education compared to public schools.

Sara Murray
Self
Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill.

Rachel Cameron
Self
Cypress, TX

School vouchers in Texas is a horrible idea and the House schools vote “no”. These vouchers will divert public funds away from already underfunded public schools, worsening educational disparities. Rural areas, where private school options are scarce, would see little benefit, leaving students with fewer resources. Additionally, vouchers primarily help families who can already afford private school tuition, rather than low-income students who need support the most. Without strong accountability measures, taxpayer money could fund unregulated schools that lack transparency or proper educational standards. Instead of improving education for all students, vouchers risk deepening inequities and weakening the public school system.

Julie Brown
Self
Abilene, TX

Please reject school vouchers in Texas. Public schools need to be fully funded so the next generation will receive a good education. People who want to access private schools already have this option. Any school who accepts taxpayer money should be held to all the rules, regulations, and testing standards as public schools including students with disabilities.

Melissa Wegleitner

Self

Wylie, TX

No to school vouchers

Erin Uhlaender

self - elementary principal (pre-k through 5th grade)

Cedar Park, TX

I serve every student.... white, black, brown, Asian, English speaking, bilingual, homeless, economically disadvantaged, learning disabled, gifted and talented, dyslexic, autistic, typically developing, with down syndrome, and everything in between. I cannot and would not turn ANY child away from public education, yet you want to allow millions of dollars to funnel into school settings that REJECT students daily. You say school choice, I say discrimination. As a tax payer and a lifelong educator, these funds belong to EACH AND EVERY CHILD in the state of Texas. Not just those who apply and fit within a tax bracket or spreadsheet. You say school choice, I say continuing the economical divide. My school accountability is directly tied to STAAR testing. In fact, it is how I am perceived as the instructional leader on my campus. However, other schooling options these funds would go to are NOT held to the same standards, do not receive an A-F rating, and are not required by TEA to publicly present their student data and progress. Allowing tax payer dollars to funnel into the private setting should only be allowed if these schools are held to the EXACT SAME rating and performance measures. You say school choice, I say unethical practice.

Cynthia Aguilar, Educator

Laureles Elementary, LFCISD

Combes, TX

I oppose the HB3 Education Savings Account (ESA) for several key reasons.

First, the ESA would divert vital public funds away from public schools, which are already underfunded. By allocating taxpayer money to private education through ESAs, we risk exacerbating the inequities that already exist within our public education system. Public schools are required by law to accept every student, regardless of their background, special needs, or academic ability. In contrast, private schools participating in ESAs often have selective admissions policies, which could lead to the exclusion of marginalized students. This contributes to a system of educational inequality, rather than addressing the root causes of the issues public schools face.

Second, there is no guarantee that ESAs will improve the quality of education for all students. While ESAs provide financial incentives for families to choose private schools, they do not ensure that those private institutions are held to the same standards of accountability as public schools. Public schools are subject to state oversight, standardized testing, and teacher certifications, which are intended to ensure that all students receive a quality education. ESAs, on the other hand, could funnel public money into unaccountable private schools that may not provide the same level of educational rigor or support services, especially for students with special needs.

Lastly, the expansion of ESAs could lead to the further privatization of education, which undermines the idea of a universally accessible, equitable public education system. Instead of investing in the improvement of public schools for all students, HB3 could create a two-tiered system that leaves disadvantaged students behind, making education a commodity for those who can afford it, rather than a universal right for all children.

For these reasons, I believe that the HB3 Education Savings Account is a step in the wrong direction for ensuring a fair and equitable education system for all students.

Sarah Kallansrud

Self, self-employed

San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be FULLY funded and tax payer funds should NOT go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Albert Tindall, Dr.

Self/Retired

Coppell, TX

I am opposed to the use of any public funds to pay for vouchers to support education. If people wish their children to attend private educational institutions, they should pay for that privilege.

Pubic education is already underfunded.

Tara Rowe

Self

Wylie, TX

I am against. I believe that surplus funds should be used to recruit, train, and retain good educators. Look at what is happening all over the state in special education programs. Look at Millsap ISD and try and say those women were appropriately trained. Look at the percentage of uncertified teachers we have who absolutely should not be in a classroom, influencing kids at any age. Why are school districts so desperate that they will provide exemptions for a man with three DWIs? If/when the DOE is dismantled, Texas needs to have a solid education program, and the proposed savings account program is not the way to establish that.

The social media campaign has been ridiculous, claiming that y'all have public support for this. Not one single person that I know, who knows what this bill would do, supports it. If your polls say otherwise, it's because of the way the questions are worded, or the people responding don't understand or won't be affected by it.

I am a conservative republican, and this is the one thing that I absolutely do not agree with. You make kids take the staar test and reward schools for "closing the gap," but then you want to divert funds to private schools, knowing how many kids will get left behind. The kids who can't logistically get to a private school even if tuition is paid for. The kids in special education who would never be admitted. It's so sad to me that so many of you are pushing for this as an "emergency" item. Providing our kids with a safe environment and an appropriate education is the true emergency.

Nicole Ostrom

Self Self-Employed

Wylie, TX

NO to vouchers

Erin Sledge

Self, teacher

Fort Worth, TX

This is a terrible bill. Keep public money in public schools. I will be voting against everyone who voted for vouchers in every election for the rest of my life. This whole bill is a scam, and we should be fully funding public schools instead.

Janine Conway

Self - retired military veteran

Stephenville, TX

As a 20+ year military veteran, I have lived all over the world and observed how the local school districts operated with regards to my sons. I have been in states that implemented a voucher system and it brought more harm than good. Private schools raised their prices ,and hardworking parents of bright children still could not afford to send their children to these venues. Other "private schools" sprung up and accepted the vouchers, thus drawing resources, peer talent, and interactive parents away from the local school district. Implementing vouchers widened the education gap rather than solving it. In other words, vouchers defeated the purpose for which they were sold to the people of that state. Passing this bill is a clear sign to Texans that this House cares more about benefiting the wealthiest among us rather than making quality education accessible for all who desire and will work hard for it. I urge you not to pass HB3. Thank you for your time.

Noah Belveal

Self

Argyle, TX

I am a public school teacher and I am extremely in favor of school vouchers. I want the freedom to teach well and get paid accordingly.

My son is 3 and he is learning at the 1st grade level because I have the freedom to teach him without the brokenness of public education. Please approve a version of school vouchers that allows qualified teachers like me to get funding to teach outside of established schools (public or private). Please don't perpetuate a system that economically forces me to submit my children to a system that will squander their potential.

My family is not rich, and we may not be able to afford continuing homeschool if no funding support becomes available. And if anyone says public school is free, my family pays 10,000 annually in property taxes. That is the same amount we would get back if we had a school voucher. Please support Texan families' freedom to use the money on real education.

Ashley Long, Dr.

Seld

Cross Roads, TX

I consider myself privileged enough to actually benefit from this bill in how it was designed. It was designed for parents like me who could send their kids to better schools than the ones they're children are in. I hold a PhD in higher education. I know what resources my kids need to succeed.

And yet, this bill undermines the heart of education in our state and nation. We cannot simply (1) treat perceived "academic rigor" as the only indicator of student success and (2) reduce the quality of already under resourced programs. This bill might sound good on paper but the reality is a widening of the success gap and the top getting more resources to further the divide. I know what happens to kids who miss out on enriching experiences in favor of silver spooned chances - they end up with no grit, no persistence, no self-advocacy, and no appreciation for hard work.

For a group so often criticizing "snowflakes," you sure are creating them with this bill.

Nicole Ellis

Self, Director of Marketing

Aledo, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB3. This bill threatens to further defund our already underfunded public schools, including my district, Aledo ISD, which stands to lose over \$6 million. Public schools in Texas have not received a substantive funding increase since 2019, despite rising inflation and growing student needs. We currently rank 41st in education and 46th in public school funding. For a state that prides itself on being the best, these rankings tell a different story.

"Education Savings Accounts," touted as a tool for school choice, are nothing more than a mechanism to funnel taxpayer dollars into private institutions, benefiting the wealthy at the expense of public school students. This is not about choice—it is about systematically draining resources from public schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children. Even with these accounts, the average middle-class or low-income family will still be unable to afford private school tuition. And even if they could, private schools are under no obligation to accept them, particularly students with disabilities or those needing additional support. HB3 is misleading in its promise of opportunity while actively exacerbating inequity.

Furthermore, HB2's proposed \$220 per-student increase is woefully insufficient when inflation has reduced the buying power of current funding by \$1,340 per student. The Learning Policy Institute has shown a clear positive correlation between school funding and student success. Cutting public school budgets disproportionately harms low-income students, who rely on school resources the most. These students experience lower graduation rates when funding is slashed, further widening the opportunity gap.

Speaker Burrows claims, "Families deserve options," but families wouldn't be seeking alternatives if our state properly funded public education. The push for private school vouchers is not about improving education—it's about deepening segregation and exacerbating inequality. Texas must prioritize fully funding public schools, ensuring every child has access to quality education, rather than redirecting taxpayer money to subsidize private institutions that serve the privileged few.

I urge you to vote NO on HB3 and stand up for Texas public schools. The future of our children—and our state—depends on it.

Sincerely,
Nicole Ellis

Angie Yarbrough

self

Dallas, TX

I, Angie Yarbrough, a concerned Texas citizen and parent of two children in Richardson ISD, strongly oppose House Bill 3 (HB 3) and urge you to vote against it.

HB 3's proposed Education Savings Account (ESA) program poses a significant threat to our public education system and the future of Texas children. This bill, if passed, would divert \$1 billion from our state budget to fund private education for a select few, potentially decimating our public schools in the process.

The ESA program, while marketed as "school choice," is effectively a voucher system that primarily benefits wealthy families who can already afford private education. This misallocation of funds comes at a time when our public schools are in dire need of resources to address various challenges, including teacher shortages and aging infrastructure.

Furthermore, HB 3 lacks proper oversight mechanisms for participating private schools. Unlike public schools, which are held to strict accountability standards, private institutions receiving these funds would operate with minimal supervision. This lack of accountability is concerning, especially when taxpayer money is involved.

The bill's funding mechanism, which ties ESA values to public education spending, is particularly troubling. As more students leave the public system, it could lead to a downward spiral of reduced funding for public schools, potentially forcing increases in local property taxes to make up the shortfall.

We should learn from the experiences of other states. Similar programs in Indiana have shown significant challenges, including diverting resources from public schools and lacking financial transparency and accountability. These issues have contributed to Indiana's decline in per-pupil spending rankings and have raised major concerns about the impact on public education.

Instead of funneling money away from public schools, we should be investing in strengthening our existing education system. This includes improving teacher pay, reducing class sizes, and providing more resources for special education and early childhood programs.

HB 3 represents a fundamental shift away from the principle of public education for all. It threatens to create a two-tiered education system, exacerbating existing inequalities and leaving many children behind.

I implore you to prioritize the needs of ALL Texas children, not just a privileged few. Vote against HB 3 and instead focus on legislation that will truly improve educational outcomes for all students in our great state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Angie Yarbrough

Concerned Texas Citizen and Parent

Katrina Benson

self, public school parent and Texas taxpayer

Allen, TX

I oppose HB 3. The Texas public school system is valuable! Its purpose is to provide a fair, quality education to all Texas children. Well-educated children today are well-prepared adults tomorrow. For years the Texas legislature has failed to properly prioritize and fund the Texas public school system and now bows to the pressure of special interests who want to funnel public funds -- my tax dollars -- away from the Texas public school system and into the pockets of special interests and their private schools. You cannot convince me that all Texas children stand to benefit from this or that all Texas children will now enjoy easier access to private schools. They will not. Please show your support for our children and our communities by supporting our public schools.

Emily Herrington

myself and my community

Austin, TX

I oppose the initiation of education savings accounts. Please properly fund public schools in Texas. My family and community relies on our public schools. Please support families like mine that absolutely need a well-supported public school system, so our schools can carry out legislatively mandated activities. Using public funds for private education will weaken public schools. The education savings account bill will cost Texans billions to support schools and education content that has NO oversight. It's not fair and it's not right.

Please do the right thing and vote NO on this bill.

Julie Paasche, Ms
self (research director)
Austin, TX

I oppose taxpayer-funded vouchers for private schools and I am against HB 3. Having excellent preK-12 education for all Texans should be a high priority for our state and taking tax dollars away from public schools to subsidize private education will weaken our public school system. The public schools, and especially public school teachers, should be getting MORE money, not less. Public tax money should NOT pay for private education or home schooling.

Brianna Burpo
self
Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas House Bill 3 (HB3) and its provisions related to school choice. While I believe every child deserves a quality education, I am deeply concerned that this bill prioritizes private and charter school funding at the expense of our public schools.

Public schools serve the vast majority of Texas children and are the backbone of our communities. Redirecting taxpayer dollars to private institutions through voucher-like programs weakens public education by diverting critical funding away from classrooms, teacher salaries, and student resources. Instead of expanding school choice in a way that benefits a select few, we should be strengthening the schools that serve all children, regardless of their background or zip code.

Texas public schools need increased support, not funding cuts. I urge you to oppose HB3 and instead advocate for policies that invest in public education, provide teachers with competitive pay, and ensure all students receive the high-quality education they deserve.

Thank you for your time and for considering the needs of Texas students, families, and educators.

Billy Stone
Self
Cleburne, TX

I have long been a Texas Republican. I am urging you to vote against the use of my tax dollars to support private school vouchers in any form. We need to work on ways to support and improve public education. The vast majority of people in our state do not have the ability to attend a private school. The availability and/or financial ability even with a state subsidy is prohibitive. I don't believe the use of public funds to educate a few privileged groups is the right thing to do. The rhetoric used to convey the bill has also been incomplete and misleading. Please vote against the bill for the good of democracy.

Thank you
Billy Stone

Scherron Richard
Self/Field Director
Arlington, TX

I am a taxpayer in the State of Texas, so I want it to be documented that I do NOT support vouchers nor an education savings accounts (ESAs) program. In fact, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools in Texas. We have had inflation of over 20% since 2019, the last time funding was provided for Public Schools in Texas. I want it to be documented that I support the following:

- an Increase of the Basic Allotment, and
- Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflated amount of over 20%.

Representative, we must support our Public Schools with the proper Funding necessary.

nicole Williams
self
Wylie, TX
I OPPOSE HB3

Taylor Hennig
Self
Lavon, TX
I oppose HB 3.

Jennifer Pomaes
Self
Wylie, TX

Public funds belong with public schools only! Private schools are selective in who they admit and it is rarely students with disabilities. I have an adult autistic son and no private school would admit him because they "didn't have the resources" to help him. I guarantee private schools will not increase admissions for these kids. Private schools will also increase their tuition by the cost of the government handout you provide the parents. This is nothing but a money grab and attempt to privatize education in Texas. Instead, fund public schools! There are thousands more students than vouchers, so what about those kids? Equity in the school system involves funding public school for all kids of all abilities. The public and educational community is clearly against vouchers! Listen to your constituents, teachers, parents, principles, administration and do your job, which is to CARRY OUT THE WISHES OF YOUR MAJORITY ELECTORATE. Not YOUR wishes, Abbott, et al. The tax paying constituents!

Meredith Siegel
Self - Housing Rehabilitation Manager
San Antonio, TX

Diverting public monies away from public schools would harm Texas families and businesses by devaluing the education attainable by most people. This will not increase school choice for most families, and particularly not for students who benefit from specialized education plans. Having a well educated populace benefits individuals by helping realize their intellectual potential. It helps businesses by creating a more capable and informed workforce, and by widening the field from which business innovation can sprout. Narrowing this field by LARA ring the public education system will hurt Texas in the long and short term. I urge you to oppose this bill.

Kay Bunker, Mrs
Self retired
Colleyville, TX

Vote no to school vouchers. My tax dollars should not fund private schools.

Katherine BURTON
Myself - Recreation Supervisor
WYLIE, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Liana Benavides, Mrs.

self/homemaker

San Antonio, TX

Funding has been withheld from Texas public schools since COVID. If our schools were properly funded, we could retain the best teachers and provide the best opportunities for our children. Vouchers are nothing but a scam designed to help the wealthy save money on private school tuition. The \$10k voucher would not help parents of lower socioeconomic statuses. Local schools are closing. What is going to happen if a child is asked to leave a private school? What school would they have open to attend? Our Governor needs to listen to the majority of his constituents who are speaking out against vouchers. The choice parents really want is for our neighborhood schools to receive proper funding so our children can continue to attend those schools for free. Our public schools offer transportation, meals, academic options, and extracurricular activities. Private schools often do not offer as much as our public schools do by way of extracurricular activities. Children need more aside from academics. Please say no to vouchers.

Heather Rule

Self

Austin, TX

As a taxpayer I want my support to go to those who are most in need. An equitable world makes us all better and funding needs to go to public schools for the benefit of our society.

Leah Barber

Self - Product Manager

Wylie, TX

I want our tax dollars go to students who need free public education and not people who want to CHOOSE to take their kids to private school. We ALREADY have school choice. We. Already. Have. It. Let's infuse that money into making our schools better and paying teachers more. NO VOUCHERS. I do not want my tax dollars going to a private school that isn't under the same restrictions as public school. I do not want my tax dollars going to the rich who can already afford it. NO VOUCHERS.

Swapna John, Mrs.

Wylie ISD

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Barbie Castellano

RRSP

Richardson, TX

Please do NOT implement an education savings account. Public schools are vital to a healthy democracy. The amount of the vouchers does not begin to cover the necessary expenses of attending a private school and will add a further divide between the haves and the have nots. Finally, voucher systems make no economic sense and have caused serious financial issues for states that have attempted to implement a voucher system. VOTE NO for the good of our country!

Allison Mccomic

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Quinn Veltkamp

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Heather Craig, Mrs

Self

Houston, TX

Please stand with Texas families and vote no to vouchers. Texas public schools serve alol our children and deserve to be fully funded. ESAs have no accountability and serve special interests, not our communities. My children are in public schools that work hard to serve all, and we see them having to make cuts because they are not fully funded. Please listen to your constituents and defend public schools, say no to vouchers, and fully funded our public schools. Thank you

Sasha Smith

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose education savings accounts. I understand the goal is to give parents a choice in schools but Texas parents already have that choice. As the parent of a child with special needs that receives special education servives, I can tell you that we looked into private schools for our child. None were a good fit or willing to work with our child's behavioral challenges. Thankfully, our child qualified for, what was called at the time, public preschool for children with disabilities. Our child was three years old when she began her public school journey. It was challenging, yes, but she graduates this year and it is all due to the dedication of the staff, specialists, and teachers at her public schools.

I can only imagine how much more incredible that journey could have been in a fully funded public school. Please don't deny families like mine the quality education their children deserve. We all know the ESAs would take funding away from our public schools. I know you say the goal of these ESAs is to give parents like me a choice in where to send our child. It turns out, no private school would serve our child, so what good would an ESA do for us or other families with children like mine? I think we all know the answer.

Fully fund our public schools and you'll see there is no need for an ESA program. I've seen the incredible work our schools can do while they are critically underfunded; imagine the heroes you all could be if you fully funded them.

Nannette Flowers

Self

Austin, TX

No vouchers! Vote NO to vouchers

Diana Overhauser

Self, Hr Manager

Plano, TX

DO NOT APPROVE SCHOOL VOUCHERS- The public does not want to see funds taken away from public schools. This is a disgrace.

Kathryn Delamarter

Lewisville ISD

Lewisville, TX

The Texas Legislature has been starving our public schools for long enough. It's time to fully fund all public schools and invest in the future of our supposed great state. What good is a strong economy without great public schools to educate the masses? I get the point of offering parents a choice in their child's education, but the thing is that parents already have a choice without handing out a billion dollars of taxpayers' money. I am an educator and have dedicated my life to educating other people's children for the past 23 years. Please listen to educators when we ask that you fully fund our public schools and quit playing politics with Texas children's education. Just say no to vouchers, education savings accounts, or whatever fancy words you want to use. 5 million Teas children are counting on you to do the right thing!

Valerie Martin

Self

Frisco, TX

I love our great state of Texas and appreciate all of the hard work that our legislators put into keeping Texas awesome. I am, however, against the school voucher program and am afraid of the consequences of that kind of program in Texas. We should improve our public schools that are in our neighborhoods and put tax payers dollars towards public education. I stand with many educators, republicans, democrats and Texans who oppose this bill and hope and expect our legislators to do the same. Thank you!

Hildur Salinas

Self - Special Education Paraprofessional

Coppell, TX

The voucher system has not worked in any other state. It's going to damage special education and our special needs youth is already vulnerable

I am against HB 3

Peter Ball

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on the expert testimony and the fiscal note presented for HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools

Jason Mauss

Education

Houston, TX

Vote against HB 3---say NO to vouchers / education savings accoutns. Please fully fund Public Education by releasing money to each ISD to help our children, economy, and state.

Yvette Rodriguez

Self

Del Rio, TX

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for your service to our great state of Texas. As a retired teacher/librarian, I urge you to take more time on fixing the parts of public education that need fixing and increasing funds to much needed struggling schools. We want strong educated Texans. The STARR tests need to be reexamined and high stake testing should be replaced by achievement tests. We need to really look at the root of a problem not divert monies from public schools to private schools which do not abide by the same rules as public schools. Let's be fair and realistic. In addition, how many students are really going to benefit from this "choice"?

Please introduce bills that will help our young Texans thrive. We have ranked low in the past 10 years and it's time to make an informed change.

Who do you really serve? Do you really want to be attached to a bill which likely will not benefit most of our Texans?

Please give this consideration.

Thank you,

Yvette Rodriguez

Jaymie Archer, Lt
Self policy advisor
Cypress, TX

Thank you so much for empowering parents like me to take charge of their kids education! We live in democrat controlled corrupt Harris co and pay taxes that equate to 1.5 students in an above average private school tuition bracket. We are both educated and highly skilled professionals but with the outrageous co & ISD taxes and without an ESA, our kids and their amazing teachers are stuck in the perverted and abusive pub ed system. We have to seize the day, pass education choice for ALL TEXAS CHILDREN and launch their future and the future of this great state into the next millennia as the rightful leaders we have always been! Texas first! Texas always!

Jolene Pereira Katz
Self
Round Rock, TX

As a parent and a Texas PTA member I urge you to oppose HB3 and prioritize adequate funding for public school children. Texas families already have a school choice. Public money demands public accountability—any school or entity receiving taxpayer dollars must meet the same standards, mandates, testing, and accountability requirements as public schools. Let Texans decide! Vouchers would use public dollars for private education, and Texans deserve a voice in this decision. Urge lawmakers to put the measure on a statewide ballot and let the people vote!

Narda Holguin
Self
IRVING, TX

You tout Florida and Arizona as leaders as leaders in school choice and you are right. However, their education outcomes are way worse than Texas! I worked with Florida teachers and they said, first hand, that vouchers are really only for the rich and lower income children can not pay the difference. Way to go, Texas, try to spin it all you want. Currently, we parents, do have choice, but what we don't have is money. Support public schools and by all means raise teacher's wages!

Suzanne Gomez
TAFT
Houston, TX

Hello Legislators, I am a retired teacher that knows what it means to put a good amount of my paycheck into my classroom to give my students an equal and equitable level of resources and tools to learn, work, and achieve in life. Public Education doesn't deserve cutting, yet it is from the local, state and 50%+ at the federal level. The majority of Americans come from public schools, give them the same opportunity as those financially fortunate!

Kristy Bailey
Brownsboro Elementary School
Brownsboro, TX

I am a public school principal, and I am writing to express my concern with the Voucher Program being put forth in HB3. I have seen what the lack of funding has done to our school district. I am in a rural community, and the deficit has caused us to cut positions that we desperately need back for Behavior Support as well as the growing mental health crisis in today's students. In addition to this, our Special Education numbers are higher than ever. We need funding for the staff required to take care of these students and meet their needs. Our school district is the heartbeat of our community, and the closest private school is 20 miles away. If vouchers are the way forward let them stand alone and do not tie the funding needs of public school to the voucher program! The House and Senate have held on to money for the last six years instead of funding public schools and providing teacher raises - not Teacher Incentive Allotment checks but TRUE raises for ALL teachers without meeting a moving target. Please do what is right by over 5 million Texas children and fund public schools by using the money that is being set aside for a voucher plan! The future of the state of Texas requires that we do better for our public school teachers and students! A voucher bill is not the improvement we need. Listen to those in administration and on the front lines of a world that significantly changed after COVID! We need to do more for our students, and that can only be done through funding public education and saying NO TO VOUCHERS.

GINGER BURKHOLDER

self/self employed

Arlington, TX

NO to School vouchers! NO PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS! NO to any public money going to religious organizations or businesses. Vouchers are huge failures in the other places that have implemented them. School vouchers are a scam.

Sandra Zills

self

Manor, TX

Vouchers are harmful to public education in Texas because they divert critical funding away from already underfunded public schools, exacerbating inequities and reducing resources for students who rely on them the most. Public schools serve the vast majority of Texas students, including those with disabilities, English language learners, and students from low-income families. Voucher programs primarily benefit private institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards, often lack transparency, and can discriminate in admissions. Instead of improving educational outcomes for all students, vouchers weaken the public education system by redirecting taxpayer dollars to private and religious schools, leaving many students with fewer opportunities and a lower quality of education. Strengthening public schools through better funding, teacher support, and equitable resources should be the priority for Texas lawmakers, not subsidizing private education at the expense of the public good.

Stacye Anderson

retired engineer, taxpayer

Houston, TX

Please vote against HB3! Sending tax dollars to private schools and homeschool parents with no standards to meet and no accountability is ripe with opportunities for fraud, will not help those in failing schools who cannot afford transportation to a private school and subsidizes parents who already send their kids to private school. This is NOT conservative! Thank you for receiving my comments.

Melinda Northcutt

Self

Porter, TX

Please do not vote for this bill. I don't agree with spending our taxpayer public money to benefit private institutions

Denise Berry

self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3 by Buckley. Data shows that about 60% of those using voucher like programs such as ESA were already enrolled in private schools, thus making this a program that gives money to the rich, while taking money from the remaining public schools. Without accountability, transparency and equity, I do not want my tax dollars, which are already stolen for recapture, going to rich families while children in poverty remains underfunded, unrepresented by our state leaders, and held accountable to developmentally inappropriate testing requirements (STAAR). This is not a parents' choice program as many students will be unable to afford the entire tuition, have access to transportation, or have disabilities or behavioral issues that make them unable to be accepted to these private schools. Texas should do better.

Micheal Harris

Self

Bedford, TX

I do not support ESAs, vouchers, or any other use of public funds for private education without the private entity being held to all of the same accountability and transparency requirements as public education.

Mark Pollack
Self - Office worker and Parent
Richardson, TX

I am submitting a comment that I Do NOT support Bill HB 3. As the parent of two public school students and a graduate of Texas public schools the effort to undermine the public school system is ridiculous and counter productive for every part of our state.

The ESA program is just a clever name for school vouchers which will decimate the already stretched public school budgets. Where does government leadership think the next generation of tax payers and workers in the state will come from and how educated will they be if public schooling is undercut in favor of ESAs (though I acknowledge that is likely the end goal of the governing party if the state).

My tax dollars should not go to cover the cost of private schooling for children. ESA programs are also a money grab for wealthy families who already send their kids to school and could likely afford to do so anyways. Low income students and certainly students with disabilities of any sort do not benefit from this program.

Remember that the weakening of the public school system will hurt rural areas the most and that school systems are the largest employers in most communities so cratering the budget of these institutions will be devastating for those communities.

Spending billions to create new programs is not conservative especially when Texas has a budget surplus and public schools are underfunded. It'll also raise tuition at private schools as they'll know this funding is available.

By advancing the bill you are making the choice to end effective public schooling in the state and shame on you for doing so.

John Heron
Self
Elmendorf, TX

Vehemently opposed to school vouchers

Perry Daniell
Wayside Middle School-EMSISD
Fort Worth, TX

Public education in Texas is under attack by wealthy individuals that want to offset their expenses for a private education. Just because I don't like the public park does not mean the government should pay for my country club fees. Public school teachers have suffered through years of assault on our schools by congress underfunding our schools. We press on but we need relief. Each year you expect us to do more with less. Public schools need a raise in the student allotment that has been the same since 2019 before COVID's 20% inflation. Private schools are not even held to the same standards or made to take the STAAR tests. Help teachers now, and please do not defer our funding to private institutions or home schools. Thank you.

Thomas Goranson
Self
Dallas, TX

Defunding our public schools to put money in the hands of private schools is a terrible idea. Do better.

Kelly Hankey
Self/attorney
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3!

Ellen Schmidt
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am against ESA/vouchers. Public schools in Texas have been severely underfunded for years and all this bill will do is take more funding away. Private schools can cherry pick their students, aren't required to support special education or learning disabilities, aren't required to take STAAR, and have questionable curriculum. Public funds should go to public schools.

Miriam Alfonzo
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Vote NO! Private schools in my area are more than \$30,000 a year per child. The vouchers only cover \$10,000, leaving parents to pay \$20,000 per child. Middle class parents would still be unable to pay this even with the voucher. The only families who could pay this are the wealthy class who already pay to have their children in private school. This is not a bill that will support our working and middle class families! The voucher program has failed in other states who've implemented it and it has also destroyed the public schools in those states. Fund our public schools!!

Carolyn Soroka
Self
Austin, TX

As a Texas public school educator and the proud mother of 2 children enrolled in Texas public school, one of whom receives special education services, I am strongly opposed to this bill. It would lead to irreparable consequences for our public education system, which is already in crisis, not to mention leading to a huge reduction in the capabilities of school districts to appropriately serve students with special education needs. A robust public education system is necessary to ensure that all Americans are well-educated in order to participate in a functioning democracy. I fear for the future of Texas and the future of America if this bill gets passed.

Cindy Easley
Self
Abilene, TX

Your Texas teachers say no to vouchers! Stop calling it school choice.

Sandra Kuehl
Self - Retired
Houston, TX

In a few words, ABSOLUTELY NOT...this program does nothing but steal public education funding so that your party can shove your FAUX christian values into the schools...My father always said if you want private schools pay for it yourself NOT with our tax dollars...and I feel the same way now...SHAME on your party if it continues to tow the FASCIST RACIST SEXIST line set up by the governor....

Susan Rodriguez, Mrs.

self/retired

Fredericksburg, TX

Texas does not need a school voucher program. We need to increase funding for our public schools and improve programs that are lacking so that we don't have to provide "vouchers" for people to seek out services in private schools, which can reject any student that they don't want to admit. Here are my concerns with vouchers:

1. Many rural areas have no private school available at all. These districts should not suffer by diversion of dollars to fund vouchers.
2. In other states that have tried a voucher program, very few low income people can use the vouchers, because of the money not being enough for tuition, or lack of schools in their area and lack of transportation. The program just becomes a handout for the rich who were already paying for private schools.
3. Separation of church and state is vital to our system of government. Our founding fathers came to the New World to be able to practice the religion that they wanted to. We don't have a "state religion" and no public dollars should be diverted to religious schools. If people want their kids to receive a religious education, then they can pay for it themselves.
4. Public schools are already in crisis due to lack of funding, which is causing teacher salaries to not stay competitive. We need to pay teachers like the professionals they are. Funding a voucher program will take away from this important initiative.
5. Some of the proposals being talked about have a higher per student funding amount for charter schools than for public schools. This is outrageous. We need to treat all students the same. Also the per student allotment for public schools is way too low and has not been adjusted for inflation. We should use budget surplus to rectify this problem for all students.
6. One of the things that makes America great is free, high quality public education. Vouchers are the beginning of the end for public schools.

Carol Soph, Ms

"Self" retired

Denton, TX

Public taxes should only pay for public schools.

Heidi Bray

Yourself

Austin, TX

Claims that Vouchers improve academic performance has been proven to be false. Other states have shown it has failed. We are 46 in the nation academically because you are holding funding hostage

Stephanie Chandler, MD

Self-pediatrician

San Antonio, TX

I am a general pediatrician in San Antonio, as well as the daughter of 2 parents that were public school teachers for 30 years. I attended public schools throughout my entire K-12 education, and I have 2 daughters that are both thriving in public schools. The population that I serve is primarily low income families, many of which have one or multiple children with special needs. These families depend on public schools to educate their children and provide the appropriate resources to address their unique needs. Children with special needs are able to receive speech and occupational therapy services at the school. These services are invaluable to parents who would not be able to provide these services to their children at home. Many of my families have one or no vehicle, and they rely on public schools to transport their children to and from school. These families also rely on public schools to provide a well balanced breakfast and lunch for their children every school day. From a personal view, I have a daughter who has ADHD, has been identified as gifted and talented, and has a disorder of written expression. Her public elementary school provides her with services for ALL of these special needs to help her reach her greatest potential. I know that private schools are not required to provide special education services, meals , or transportation. This makes education at a private school impossible for many families, even if they had a voucher to cover the tuition. I understand that the public school system is not perfect, but the hard working teachers and staff at public schools do as much as they can with the resources that they have. Decreasing funding of public schools to provide vouchers for private schools is not the answer. This will only hurt the families that rely on public schools to provide their children with a high quality and free education. Therefore, I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 3.

Judith Quander

Self

Sugar Land, TX

In my district, our public schools are the bedrock of our communities. They are important to how we develop and maintain friendships, how we create villages to support our children, and why we purchase our houses. Our public schools will suffer and the people are pushing this bill do not understand the importance of public schools to communities because they send their kids to private schools. High school football games define our falls with families coming to support neighbors. This bill will decimate this spirit. This bill is anti American and I am so surprised that a party that is built on traditional values would support something that undermines communities, neighborhoods, and the longstanding role of public schools in our neighborhoods.

Holly Attick

Texas resident and mom

Leander, TX

Please vote no to this. While parent choice is a good thing it should not be at the expense of our public schools and the 504 and other programs that they provide that private schools do not. We started my son in a private Christian school, but had to leave because he needed a 504 due to ADHD. He is thriving and making excellent grades and becoming a Boy Scout working on Eagle Scout and joining ROTC and band in high school. Without the programs that we received and the assistance in public schools, my son would've fallen behind. Had he been left in private school?

Theresa Briseno

self

Cedar Park, TX

Hi, my name is Theresa Briseno, and I live in Cedar Park, Texas. I'm writing today because I want my legislators in the state of Texas to stop pursuing Educational Savings Accounts (ESA) and I want them to instead focus on FUNDING Public Education. Public money should go to public schools which serve 5.4 million Texas Students. Thank you for your time.

Wendy Kalthoff

Not Employed

Austin, TX

I am against vouchers. We need to put our money into public schools.

Sincerely,

Wendy Kalthoff

Lynn Cipriano

AISD

Austin, TX

“Texans clearly do not want vouchers- voters on both sides of the aisle know it’s a bad deal. Our public schools face many challenges, but with fully restored funding, they can meet those challenges and educate our Texas kids to their potential. Please vote to FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS and VOTE NO on any voucher/ ESA bill. I vote and this matters to me. Thank You! Lynn Cipriano

Georgia Wheat

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose Texas school vouchers. I want my public funding in public schools.

Valerie Sandham

Retired

Georgetown, TX

Please vote against vouchers. Vouchers hurt neighborhood schools and rural communities. Vouchers hurt neighborhood schools and rural communities. Vouchers give money to people who can already afford to send the children to private schools.

Holly Morgan

self/professional high school registrar

Dayton, TX

I am adamantly opposed to ESAs for Texas Students. Studies and examples in other states have shown that they don't "work" as intended and mostly subsidize private school enrollment for those who already pay for private school. If you want to fix Texas school, then adequately fund Texas schools. Don't work to find ways to privatize education and funnel money away from areas that need help.

Vanessa Zertuche

Self, parent, former PTO President, and district volunteer in Coppell ISD

Irving, TX

As a conservative taxpayer, I am stating my strong opposition to house bill 3. Texans do not want ESAs. ESAs will ultimately divert funds from public schools where the majority of Texas children are educated, and they will not give choice to Texas families who cannot already afford private schools. ESAs will divert public taxpayer dollars to private entities that are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. This creates an astronomical lack of transparency. Diversion of funds away from public schools to private schools will force public schools to make further cuts to critical programs and personnel. This will in turn harm our great state’s ability to abide by the Texas constitutional requirement of providing a free public education to the children of Texas.

Nathaniel Harris

Self

Mansfield, TX

This will do nothing to help children or improve schools. There has been no positive impact in any state that has done this and it has done is lead to a ballooning budget and money going to those who already have it. This will harm students , schools and the TRS retirement that teachers have. Been paying into for their whole career. We should instead actually fund our public schools, eliminate the graft that is the current state mandated end of course test system. This was just rejected by voters in Tarrant County and should be put up for all citizens to vote on if the supports are so sure of the public's desire for this bill.

Ann Johnston, Retired public school teacher

Self

Arlington, TX

I am a retired public school teacher in Texas and I oppose vouchers. They do not allow for a fair and equal education for all our school children. The people in rural Texas do not have private schools to go to. The people in big cities may not be able to make up the difference between what a voucher gives them and what it actually costs to go to a private school. This is a scam by Governor Abbott and is a terrible idea for our children. I appeal to your willingness to educate our children the best way we can. Vouchers is NOT the way.

Emily Klarin

Cypress Fairbanks ISD

Houston, TX

I am strongly against school vouchers.

Sarah Negovetich

Self: Non-Profit Development Director

San Angelo, TX

If I'm unsatisfied with the level of security that the local police provide to me, the state will not supply me with private security officers. If I feel that the selection of books available in my public library is lacking, the state will not purchase books of my choosing for me. If my kids don't like the amenities at the local city park, the state will not buy us a swing set for our backyard or pay for a membership to the country club. There are dozens of public access facilities and services that we all either utilize or pay privately for and education shouldn't be any different. A well-educated population is essential for all of us and this program strips away vital dollars from the public education system, leaving it ill-equipped to prepare the next generation. Not to mention the fact that this bill, once again, leaves out rural communities who don't even have a private school to choose.

This bill is being touted as a way to even the field and allow parents more control over their children's education, something they already have through private education and some of the most laxed homeschooling laws in the nation. The reality is this bill is just another way to move dollars into the hands of wealthy donors.

I realize that my comments won't be enough to convince you to put your conscience before your pocketbook. And sadly, history tells us that white men are inclined to ignore the warnings of educated women and then play ignorant with the shit hits the proverbial fan. When our public school systems start crumbling under the weight of doing more with less, you will easily blame lazy teachers and inept school boards and gleefully pull them under state control. Shame on you for catering to the desires of a few over the needs of the many. In Texas, we are supposed to take care of each other, but this legislature seems hell-bent on securing their re-election on the backs of the hardest working Texans out there.

Joe Palmer

Family

Temple, TX

Rep Buckley,

I am sure that you are aware of the property tax exemption provided to our disabled veterans. As a teacher, coach and administrator at both the campus and district level for 40 years, I think the same tax break should be offered to private and homeschool parents. If their child(ren) are not electing to attend the public school simply exempt them from local school taxes that year. Application would be made annually through the tax office.

Ross Schumann

Self

Humble, TX

I am writing in support of HB3.

Texas has long seen its rural and inner city families be subjected to lack of quality educational opportunities. This harms our ability to train the next generation for the jobs we need. This deprives our children of the ability to become sufficient, successful adults and cements systems of poverty and increases the likelihood of incarceration.

It is past time we allow Texas parents to be in charge of their children's education. We need to empower parents to support their families and make decisions about their children's future regardless of what zip code they can afford to live in.

For too long we have been asked to be patient while our public school systems get reformed. It is clear that there is no reform for the public school system as it is a system designed to fail. Despite massive increases in funding, public schools continue to underperform and leave our children without proper education.

Please, ensure that the future of our state is in good hands by passing HB3 and empowering parents to make better decisions about their children's education.

MARGARET CUMMINGS

self, retired, Environmental Compliance

GALVESTON, TX

SB2 HB 3 Please ensure equal quality of education for Public Schools and Charter Schools. Accreditation should be the same. Please do not bring back segregation of economic groups to the schools.

Dr. Virginia Rondero Hernandez

Self, Retired

San Antonio, TX

Do not make the same mistake as the Pharisees in the Trump administration who tricked us and plan give to the well-off at the sacrifice of those of lesser means. Remember what Jesus Christ told us in Luke 11:39-42:

Then the Lord said to him, 'Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? So give for alms those things that are within; and see, everything will be clean for you. But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect justice and the love of God.'

Kathleen Cates

Self

McKinney, TX

Do not vote for this bill. Instead you should fund the public schools. You will destroy public schools if the vouchers are passed. Only private school parents who already have children in private schools will benefit from this bill. Stand up and help the children who attend public schools.?

Judith Harman
Self, retired
Fort Worth, TX

Dear Public Education Committee Members,

I wish to express my strong opposition to HB 3 and any legislation which brings universal vouchers to Texas. This state - and this country - became global economic leaders BECAUSE of its universal public school system. Voucher programs in other states no NOT have positive economic or educational track records. The voucher program will not serve the needs of the majority of Texas children or Texas families and will not bring long term economic benefits to Texas.

Texas children deserve schools that teach ALL children, provide appropriate educational programs for special needs, have accredited teachers, and measure the educational progress of its students. Using tax dollars for anything else is irresponsible.

Please make a big investment in TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS rather than spending our money on unproven products. Make Texas schools the top in the nation. Make us Texas proud.

Sincerely,
Judith Harman
2222 Winton Terrace East
Fort Worth, TX 76109
817-690-8201

Colleen Meyer
Self
Garland, TX

Dear Members of the House Committee,

I am strongly apposed to HB 3, establishing education savings accounts. The Texas legislature should focus on funding and improving education for ALL Texas children, not just those who can afford to pay for private education, or even the difference for what this bill would not cover. Public tax dollars should be used exclusively for the public. I am an active Christian, but I don't believe religious institutions should be subsidized by public funds either.

I was born in Texas and have lived here my whole life. I was educated in Texas public schools, as was my daughter. We had our challenges, but were still able to get a very good education. If you would simply properly fund public education, as is your mandate, people would not need to look for expensive private alternatives.

Thank you for doing the hard work. I hope you ultimately make ALL children in Texas your priority.

Respectfully,
Colleen Meyer

Rachel Lerberg
Self
ARLINGTON, TX

I would like to register the strongest possible opposition to HB3. This bill steals money from public schools, which support all children from all walks of life, and funnels it to a small percentage of wealthy children and families. This bill is representative of the Texas governor's shameful ongoing attempts to weaken our public schools. Parents, students, teachers and community members across my home city of Arlington have been raising our voices as loudly as possible to oppose this measure, but the governor and legislators who have signaled their support are not listening. It is now up to the House to hold the line and refuse to steal from public school kids to create welfare for the wealthy. Vote no on HB3. We are all watching this vote, and we will remember and publicize your actions.

Melissa Cobb
Self
Stephenville, TX

Please do not allow this bill to fail! As a parent of 5 children, two who have either completed or are about to complete their education, one who is currently homeschooled, and two that will be entering school age soon, I need options outside the traditional school setting. I have seen the school system fail two of my children already, and had I been given an affordable second option, I would have quickly taken it. Our kids deserve to not be in a cookie cutter environment where individual needs are ignored and struggles in skills are simply passed along. My daughter managed to graduate without being able to make change for \$1, which she attested to in her last ARD, thanks to the No Child Left Behind and the failure of the school district to address my repeated concerns. As parents, we deserve and need options. Parents do know what's best for their children, not government employees, bureaucrats, lobbyists, and teacher unions running scared of losing their gravy train. We educated our kids and had the highest literacy rate in the world prior to the introduction of the current education system. We need our kids to stop being a part of "The Great Social Experiment." We need to stop teaching to tests and teach to creativity, self-exploration, ingenuity, and the ability to critical think and use common sense. We have totally lost that in the current education system. As the child of two lifelong public school teachers, I have seen to degradation of our school system since the '80s when I started school. It is time to return control to the parents, the one's that best understand the needs of the children today. Thank you for taking the time to read and hear a voter's voice.

Hunter Reynolds
Self/Law Student
Willow Park, TX

To the committee, HB 3 is a dangerous first step towards privatization of our public schools. That endgame does not align with Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution. Who is the Legislature looking to appease with this bill? Many Texans filled your townhalls, your social media, and these public comment sections to let you know that we are anti-voucher and pro-public education. Billionaires from other states have sent their army of lobbyists and social media warriors to fight for these vouchers, yet when confronted with real questions about how the program will work, these agents have no substantive response. State leaders have been dancing a little sidestep every step of the way. No one in office seems to want to have a real conversation, dare I say debate, about this issue. They walk out when the heat gets too hot. This bill will create a huge multi-billion-dollar program, an entitlement program for the wealthy. Data from other states show that the majority of school vouchers go to families who already send their kids to private schools. This is wrong for Texas. I understand the desire to help kids with special needs. So why are we not prioritizing the public school system that must take all students, no matter their abilities? Private schools can and do discriminate through their admissions process, which it appears will be left untouched by this bill. The argument that new private schools will "pop up" to meet the demand speaks for itself. Are "pop up schools" really good for children? The data suggests "pop up schools" do more harm than good. Article 1, Section 7 of the Texas Constitution does not allow appropriation of state money or resources to go towards religious organizations. This bill would do just that. And then, if the state decides to ignore this constitutional provision, the taxpayers would be obligated to pay for the religious education of other kids, any religion. Make sure you consider what that means. And rural Texas children will be left out. Rural schools will be hurt. Our conservative small towns need the state's support. Vouchers will not help rural Texas. I urge the committee and the respectable Representatives to vote against HB 3. Reject Education Savings Accounts. This may be the most significant vote in your career, because this is about the future of Texas and the "continuance of civil liberty."

Mary Vines
Self
Lubbock, TX

I do not support public funding for private schools that are not under the supervision of publicly elected official, are able to pick and choose who is admitted, and are not held accountable to set standards. These funds should go to support public schools and raise public school teacher salaries.

Elizabeth Gorman

Rise school

Dallas, TX

No to HB 3.

Patrick Horalek

Self

ARLINGTON, TX

I fully support vouchers and school choice. 100% In favor of vouchers, without question or hesitation.

Michelle Williams

Self, Real Estate Advisor

Frisco, TX

No

Karen Lopez, Mrs

Self

Fort Worth, TX

vote AGAINST school vouchers.

Elena Kotrla

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Denis Thompson, Mr.

myself

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3. I disagree with Republican elected officials who are working to destroy public schools by intentionally under-funding public schools. Please do not take money away from my daughter's school via this "vouchers-for-private schools" scheme.

Joe Cardenas

Texas HOPE

Louise, TX

Public tax money should never go to private ventures such as private schools or charter schools that divert funds away from brick and mortar public schools. School choice already exists in Texas and doesn't need further experimentation that defunds the majority of Texas' students who reside in countries that are primarily rural and where no private schools exist. Voucher schemes in other states have been a failure for the vast majority of students except those that already attend private schools that cherry-pick students. The voucher agenda is a diversion from the real issue of fully funded public brick and mortar public schools and certified teachers- end the political baiting and fund public schools!

Becky Ewart

Self

Bedford, TX

Clearly this is an issue that is very controversal and one that a few people in Austin do not need to decide. Put this in a ballot and let the people vote. This is fair to all. This large sum and the future money that this entails should not be given with out the vote of the people. If the federal government is resolving the office of public ed and sending it back to states then let people vote!

EM Branagh

self/retired

Austin, TX

By all measures, it would require \$24B to get schools to their 2019 spending levels. So while the state touts an increase in the amount it has spent on public schools, this has only been to fulfill their obligation to hold the absolute \$s spent on education whole i.e. to back fill cuts caused by the state's cut of property taxes. If as they claim, Republicans are interested in improving education in Texas, redirect this wasteful spending on vouchers to our public schools. Make TX public schools the envy of the US - move us from 29th in the US to #1.

On a personal note, I am not interested in funding by neighbor's decision to send their child to a private school. The state does not give me \$ to hire my own police force because I don't like the Texas State Police Force i.e. we don't pick and choose what we will and won't pay for and get a rebate on our taxes for those choices. I strongly urge you to vote against this bill and instead I would like to see these things:

the Basic allotment tied to inflation indexes to Gov Abbott cannot hold it hostage anymore

The basic allotment become enrollment-based vs. attendance based

Full funding to make up for 6 years of missing funding

Again, Vote NO on the Voucher Scam.

Thank you.

Hollyann Wood

self, parent, student, artist

AUSTIN, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and fully fund Texas public schools. This bill diverts taxpayer dollars from our public schools, which educate over 90% of Texas students, to private institutions with little accountability. Our schools are already facing teacher shortages, rising student needs, and are being forced to cut programs, increase class sizes, and limit services due to not being fully funded and having to make do with less and less every year. Public school investment has not kept up with inflation.

Private schools are not required to serve all students, follow state curriculum standards, provide performance data, or maintain financial oversight. If public money is being spent, there must be transparency. HB 3 lacks accountability.

While promoted as a "school choice," HB 3 benefits only a small group of families. Vouchers do not fully cover private school tuition, leaving many working-class and rural families unable to access private schools: IF there are even private schools near them. Meanwhile, our public schools who are required to serve any and all of our Texas students will be forced to do more with less.

Folks claim that we live in a meritocracy and think that means talent and effort alone, but there are additional components to what we think of as merit. They are: investment and opportunity.

We undermine our state's future when we underfund our public schools. We must invest in all of our students, our public schools, and our teachers. If we raise the amount of money per student that our public schools get to the amount that the state is proposing to give to private and homeschooled children, our public schools could surpass even the best private schools in performance.

If we use state funding to provide more opportunities in our public schools, we can give our children, our state's future, the life experiences and connections that make up the fourth leg of merit. They can meet and connect with more leaders, they can explore more career opportunities. They can be challenged with more interesting projects, field trips, and classroom resources. What starts in Texas could change the world, but only if we give all of our students those opportunities, if we find the diamonds in the rough and invest in them and give them opportunities.

This state used to raise presidents. Now, we're in a race to the bottom of national achievement due to cuts in public school funding. This must change. Vouchers will just take us to the bottom faster: we can see that in every single state that has implemented them.

Strong public schools help create strong communities. When schools suffer, property values decline, businesses struggle, and workforce development weakens. Texans of every stripe have consistently rejected voucher schemes, recognizing that public funds should support schools that serve all students. Being anti-voucher is a non-partisan issue.

I appreciate your time and efforts to protect Texas public education from this voucher scam.

Shawn Brossart

self

Austin, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 3. This bill is putting more money in the hands of people that already have enough for public school - this has played out CONSISTENTLY in other states where vouchers were permitted. Our household wants fully funded public education. Our school system already struggled enough - it should not be crippled further by this bill. We have lived in 4 other states and the education system is by far the worst of any other state we have lived in. Please do not cripple it even further with this bill.

Cathleen Pittman

Self

Katy, TX

Establishing an ESA is not serving all students in Texas. Please fully fund our public schools, increase the basic allotment, adjust for inflation and support the 5.5 million students in Texas.

Elizabeth Sosa

Self

Kerrville, TX

I oppose HB 3

Rachel Pluebell

Self - bank

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3/SB2. It is not in the best interest of Texas schoolchildren.

Julia Phillips

Self

Arlington, TX

This bill needs to be rejected! As a 30+ year public school teacher, it will not serve the students who need it the most! Low income families and families with special needs children will not benefit from this. Rural school districts that have no private school options will be hurt by this financially. We have do many charter and academy school options, we already have school choice! Why is the proposed voucher amount thousands more than the state funding for each public school student? Will the voucher money be decreased based on a students attendance like in public school? Our public school teachers need your support, not this bill that will likely lead to bigger class sizes, budget cuts and schools having to close or consolidate.

Magdalena Ruiz

Self

Houston, TX

Vote no.

Reason 1.

There are already 350,000 private school students and 539,000 homeschoolers. These students will most likely apply for vouchers on top of our 5 million public school students.

These vouchers really aren't what our PUBLIC tax dollars are for which is for PUBLIC schools.

Spending \$1,000,000,000 to help about 100,000 students will hurt our public schools.

We have over 5 million public school students.

Reason 2. Public schools WILL lose funding. Not may lose funding. Will lose funding.

Reason 3. Private schools don't have to follow state curriculum requirements, administer standardized tests, or publicly report student performance.

Reason 4. Many rural areas in Texas don't have private school options.

Reason 5. Using taxpayer money to fund religious education raises constitutional and ethical concerns.

Our public schools are already going to lose funding by the loss of federal funding. This is going to be detrimental if it is passed.

Kathie Herrick

self

kyle, TX

On behalf of a proud family of two generations of public educators and students who attended public schools, I urge you to vote NO on the "education savings account" bill aka voucher bill.

Public education is the lifeblood of a democracy. Public schools are open to ALL and as such we learn to interact with others different than ourselves. A quality we are in need of today more than ever.

The modus operandi of those advocating for vouchers is to "break it" by underfunding public schools and then propose the only way to fix it is to support privatization allowing selectively choosing their school population.

We need to fully fund public schools and value public school teachers!

Crystal Brewster

Self

Austin, TX

This bill will destroy teachers and children and it will be on you

Carolyn Mabarak

Self

Georgetown, TX

Please vote no for school vouchers. Our state needs to fund public schools and not anything else. Our students are depending on you and only you can make this happen. Vouchers will never help the students of Texas.

Sincerely, Carolyn Mabarak

Theresa Ehninger

Self

Katy, TX

I am for school choice.

Shelby Aaron

Self, Operations Manager

Pflugerville, TX

Please vote NO on school vouchers. These vouchers will further the disparities for our public schools and only widen the learning gap between those children who attend public schools and children who already go to private or charter schools. Unless there is a clause preventing these vouchers from going to ANY children who already attend charter or private schools (which there is not), this will only help children who are more fortunate. Our public schools need more funding; I do not want my taxes going to this program.

Jan Knox

Self

San Marcos, TX

I am very opposed to school vouchers. Public education is negatively impacted and ability to access private schools is very limited for poor and rural students. Also does not provide enough to allow any but wealthy to truly benefit. They do not need it.

Trudy Jaloway, Retired mom and grandmother

Self

Austin, TX

I am against passing school vouchers. Governor Abbott has been pushing school vouchers because it helps wealthy individual that send their kids to private schools. These parents can afford to send kids to private schools and do not need money that is meant for public schools. It is those parents decision to send their kids to private schools and it is wrong and to steal money from public schools and give to private schools. I am also upset about this being passed because it hurts out special need kids. Private schools do not have to accept them as students.

Gov Abbott wife is on a private school board so I consider this a conflict of interest on Abbotts part. Gov Abbott wants his wife's school to enrich itself.

Lastly people of a certain income can not afford the extra money they will still have to pay . Gov Abbott has not been giving the correct amount of money to public schools. Why not? Because he wants them to fail. Do not pass school vouchers.

Kenneth Macpherson, Mr.
Galveston County Voting Precinct 276
Galveston, TX

Vote No on House Bill 3

Diverting public money to private schools is a terrible idea.

The 76 supporters of the bill are Republicans.

The controversial program, also called "school choice," would use public money to pay for children's private school tuition.

Democratic senators criticized the proposal for defining low-income as 500% of the poverty line.

Teachers' unions and public school supporters have been lobbying lawmakers against vouchers, saying such a program would drain resources away from their already struggling public schools, which receive state funding based on student attendance. State budget officials recently concluded in their analysis of the Senate voucher proposal that public schools may see their funding decline due to students leaving the public education system to participate in the voucher program.

The House and Senate align on some aspects of their respective voucher proposals — like opening eligibility to virtually any school-aged child and not requiring private schools to administer the state's standardized test — but they differ in key areas, signaling the battles that could dominate the next few months as lawmakers try to agree on the program's final structure. Neither bill requires private schools to accept students who do not meet their standards. Nor do they require private schools to follow federal and state laws ensuring students with disabilities receive proper evaluations and learning accommodations.

Talarico blasted the decision not to put an income cap on who can apply for education savings accounts, saying it could give taxpayer money to wealthy people who could already afford to send their children to private schools. Many of the children who benefit from the voucher programs in other states come from wealthier families whose children had already attended private schools.

"We asked Chairman Buckley for a cap on income, making sure that millionaires and billionaires can't raid our public budgets," he said in a news conference. "That has not appeared in the bill. We look forward to fighting on all of these measures as the bill goes through committee and on the floor and exposing this scam for what it is."

Rebekah Olsen
Self, stay at home mom
Austin, TX

I ask you to vote NO on HB3 until public school allotment is increased to \$10,000 per student. We do not need to give coupons to our wealthiest residents. Help public school children!

Rachel Rahm

Self

Spring, TX

Dear representative, I would like to ask that you oppose HB 3. As a child growing up in public schools in Carrollton, Texas, I experienced first hand just how wonderful the public school systems in Texas are. From early on I was taught by public schools teachers that cared for me as a student and individual. Teachers that celebrated my achievements and helped me grow from and achieve greater things from my shortcomings. I was exposed to diversity through the public schools students I walked the halls alongside, students that came from all socio-economic backgrounds. I had access to programs like the bio-medical academy at R.L.Turner High School which projected my collegiate and professional career to what it is today. Public schools gave me this and so much more.

Now, as a parent raising my two small children in Texas, one a first grader in a Texas public school, I fear that this bill will directly, and negatively, impact the experiences my children have in school.

My husband and I are hard-working, upper-middle class Texans working day in and day out to provide our children with more than what we had growing up. We feel proud to send our children to public schools, but fear we will have no choice should this bill pass, than to send our children to a private school. A private school that would limit my children's individuality because a private school can choose what types of students they accept or reject. A school that would limit my children's exposure to diversity because a private school can reject a child because of their religious or financial background and/or academic abilities. I fear that if this bill passes, my children will receive limited resources and support at their public schools because the schools will lose students and funding respectively. I implore you to say no to HB 3 and the limits that it will place on not just my children, but all of our state's children.

I fear I will not be able to give my children the same or better childhood I was given just simply because I will lose the choice to send my kids to public schools directly due to the voucher program. Please, I urge you, say no and allow Texas parent's like myself to give my kids the school experience we choose to give our children.

J Giese

self

Denton, TX

I oppose ESA's, vouchers, or any other means to use public funds for private education.

Rather than catering to a privileged few, the Governor should focus on creating the conditions for a strong Texas economy.

What's needed is the full funding of Texas public schools to provide the resources to prepare our 90+% of students to become productive workers and citizens in the future.

ESA's/vouchers would do nothing to grow the Texas economy. They would not encourage investment in Texas. New businesses and employees who would spend money on goods and services, pay taxes and other economic activities are needed if progress and growth are to come to communities across Texas.

It's a very "rainy day" across the state for public school districts. It's time for all in the Texas legislature to step up and use those funds to do what's best for our students and what is best for Texas' future.

Virginia Burgan
Self; Homemaker
Frisco, TX

This bill is not about 'school choice'; it's about schools choosing which students they want to serve. This legislation creates a two-tiered system:

- For the wealthy: It offers a taxpayer-funded discount on private school tuition, a benefit they hardly need.
- For the vast majority of Texans, especially those in rural areas: It offers nothing. In counties where private schools are nonexistent, this bill simply diverts vital public school funding, further disadvantaging students who already lack resources.

This program isn't about expanding opportunity; it's about exacerbating existing inequities. Private schools often lack the same accountability and transparency as public schools. They can cherry-pick students, exclude those with disabilities, and operate without the same rigorous standards. This undermines the very purpose of public education: to provide a quality education for every child.

Let's be clear: this is not 'school reform,' it's 'welfare for the wealthy.' It takes from the struggling public system and gives to those who already have more.

Prioritize the education of all our children, not just a privileged few.

Christina Sudderth
self
AUSTIN, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Kate Reed Hauenstein, Teacher
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Please do not let this bill pass out of committee. I have been a public schoolteacher for 17 years in Texas, and my district is already seeing the negative effects that lack of funding for public education can do. My campus alone had to cut 14 teachers for next year, which means fewer programs for students and bigger classes for the rest of us. Most significantly to me, the district cut the IB Programme, in which I have taught for 15 years, and which both my children are part of. This tragedy will only get worse if funds are further reduced by vouchers, which will further reduce the resources public schools get, to the benefit of private schools that don't have the same obligations or regulations. Please support public education and do not pass HB 3!

Sharon Blythe
Self
Austin, TX
Opposed

Julie Tolle
All educated Texans
Denton, TX

If you are truly listening to your constituents, you know that almost NO ONE is in favor of the education savings account. We will be watching how you vote and will base our election choice on it in the future election.

Trenicia Williams

Self

Plano, TX

I am against this bill and believe that funding should be used for ongoing management and enhancement of our public schools!

Sam Klarin

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose as these vouchers are a misuse of tax payer dollars. Nothing more than a handout to the wealthy while further marginalizing the hard working poor citizens of the community. Wealthy folks have every right to send their children to private school, my hard earned dollars should not go to something that only benefits a select few who already live privileged lifestyle. This is wrong on multiple levels and feels like a slimey political move. Please do your jobs and protect your constituents rather than cozying up to wealthy power seekers.

Jesse Miller

Self entrepreneur

Houston, TX

No vouchers

Monica Chattman

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please fully fund our education system. We need to at least increase at the rate of inflation! Please do the right thing for the children of Texas! I am begging you to do the right thing.

Linda Maldonado

Self/Retired

San Antonio, TX

As a proud Texan, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. I believe private school subsidies are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair.

Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Public schools in Texas are underfunded by billions of dollars every year. The Comptroller is projecting a large increase in state revenue over the next two years compared to the past two years, and that money should go to fully funding public education.

Private schools pick and choose which students to admit. Vouchers force taxpayers to subsidize private schools' preferences. And without elected boards or state oversight, vouchers give away tax dollars with no financial or academic accountability.

Public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students, serving all the students in their boundaries. They build the workforce that powers the Texas economy. We can't afford to underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future.

We elect legislators to represent the interests of their communities. Responding to their communities, Texas legislators have rejected private school subsidies time after time.

In the face of increasing pressure from special interests, I pledge that I will stand with my legislators in opposing vouchers. When they vote against private school subsidies, I will make sure all their constituents know they did the right thing.

Lisa Sauer
Self
Houston, TX

If the voucher bill is passed it will be the beginning of the end of public schools leaving most voters in the state, who do not have the ability to pay for private school even with a voucher, with diminished opportunities for their children to receive quality education. There are voters who believe in public schools and don't want to send their children to private schools with or without a voucher and in many rural areas there are no private schools to send their children to and vouchers will negatively impact the TRS retirement system. All of this to make more money for corporate cronies of Greg Abbott??!! If vouchers pass, the voters of Texas will remember the names of their representatives who supported the bill.

Rochelle Ran
Self, parent and teacher
Garland, TX

Vote no on HB 3! I am a Texas parent and a Texas special education teacher at a title 1 school. I am very concerned that house bill 3 will negatively impact my coworkers and students. HB 3 is a voucher scam for wealthy families to get a discount on private school. The average Texan, a parent like me, does not benefit. Our public schools are already struggling. Say no to billionaire influence and do what is right by your constituents. This is not the answer!

Renee Hebert
Self retired
Kountze, TX

Vote NO. When Bush was governor this was a thing I supported.
This HB3 should not be passed. It will greatly impact my grandchildrens public school funding.
Vote NO.

Brittany Thomas
Lewisville ISD
Lewisville, TX

I am urging the house to OPPOSE HB3 as it will destroy education as we know it. It will ruin teacher retirement. Education is the backbone to society and you are trying to ruin it with this bill. You are creating segregation in schools- the haves and the have nots. In public school we take any and all.

Peter Rodrigues
Self - Retired
Austin, TX

The purpose of public schools is to provide an education for all children born in the United States. Anything that detracts from public schools harms the children of the United States. Charter schools, and the education savings account program that will support them, fall into that category. Charter schools don't guarantee to educate all our children. But they do guarantee to take money away from the public school system that does. In Texas, where a large percentage of public schools are already underfunded, that could have a huge negative impact. If anything, Texas should be putting more money and resources into public education, not taking them away. I urge you, if you truly value education, to vote against HB 3.

Michelle Lunday

Self - community member

Trophy Club, TX

As a parent of a student that has received special education students but is currently not enrolled in public school, I do not support ESAs. If properly funded and supported, students needs could be met in the public school system. If the weighted allotment was at a higher amount and special education multipliers were appropriate to meet the needs of the student, then we could hire, train and retain special education teachers, paraprofessionals, and support staff (therapists, reading specialists, interventionist).

We are a family that has done public school, private school and now homeschool. The ESA provider would not come near covering what our private school tuition was or the expenses with choosing that option or 4 hours in the car a day going from Trophy Club to Dallas and back twice a day, gas, maintenance, tolls, and our time. We were lucky though because we could do it both the time and financially, and we also had an option of a place to go. Students outside of the major metroplexes don't have these options.

I strongly urge you to vote no on ESAs and not move them forward.

Douglas Burns

Self

Richmond, TX

This is basically a subsidy for rich people to send their kids to private school. This is the antithesis of providing quality educational resources for the students and families that need it the most.

Maiko Rocha

Self / Software Engineering Manager

Austin, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the ongoing financial crisis facing Austin ISD and school districts across Texas due to the state's failure to increase the Basic Allotment since 2019. The consequences of this funding shortfall are dire, and without immediate and substantial action, our students, teachers, and communities will suffer irreparable harm.

Austin ISD alone is facing a \$110 million budget deficit for the upcoming year. This deficit is forcing district leaders to consider drastic cost-cutting measures, including closing schools, reducing special programs in elementary schools, cutting secondary teacher planning periods, and decreasing essential school staffing. These potential changes would have devastating impacts on students' learning experiences and teachers' ability to provide quality education.

The root of this crisis is clear: the state's Basic Allotment has remained stagnant at \$6,160 per student since 2019, despite soaring inflation and a historic state budget surplus. In real terms, this means Texas public schools have been receiving less funding per student every year, making it increasingly difficult for districts to maintain competitive teacher salaries, invest in student support programs, and provide high-quality educational resources.

The Texas House Committee on Education is currently considering a \$220 per-student increase to the Basic Allotment, but this amount is woefully inadequate. In order to simply restore funding to 2019 levels adjusted for inflation, schools need at least a \$1,340 per-student increase. Anything less than this fails to address the severe underfunding that has occurred over the past five years and will continue to leave Texas students behind.

Texas prides itself on being a leader in economic growth and innovation, yet our public education system is being forced to operate on outdated and insufficient funding. We must prioritize investment in our children's future. Schools need adequate resources to hire and retain qualified teachers, provide essential academic and mental health support, and ensure students have access to the tools they need to succeed in an increasingly competitive world.

The state has the means to act. With a budget surplus exceeding \$32 billion, there is no financial justification for underfunding our schools. The choice before you is clear: invest in our students and the future of Texas, or allow continued neglect that will result in teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, and declining student outcomes.

I urge you to support a significant increase in the Basic Allotment, meeting or exceeding the \$1,340 per-student threshold needed to restore adequate funding. Please do not let another legislative session pass without addressing this critical issue. Texas students, families, and educators are counting on you to do the right thing.

Tessa Pernoud, Mrs.

Self

Houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tessa Pernoud, I am a parent in Spring Branch ISD in Houston and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical education programs that serve our students.

The data from SBISD's state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend -- our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

For example:

Special Education: The state allotment for special education in 2023-24 was \$31.5 million, but actual expenditures reached \$53.5 million, leaving a \$22 million shortfall. This gap is projected to be \$20.3 million in 2024-25. Without adequate funding, students with disabilities may not receive the legally mandated services they need to thrive.

Safety & Security: In 2023-24, the state provided only \$0.9 million, but the actual cost was \$8.9 million, creating an \$8 million deficit. For 2024-25, the gap is projected to grow to \$10 million, putting school safety measures at risk.

Transportation: The 2023-24 state allocation was \$1.5 million, while the cost of maintaining transportation services was \$10.4 million, leading to an \$8.9 million shortfall. In 2024-25, the gap is expected to be \$8.3 million, making it difficult to ensure students have reliable and safe transportation to and from school.

Pre-Kindergarten: This critical early childhood education program faced a \$3.7 million funding gap in 2023-24, with an estimated \$3.2 million shortfall in 2024-25. Underfunding pre-K limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities that set children up for future success.

Our educators and administrators are doing their best with limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with actual costs of running these programs. These includes:

Increasing the Basic Allotment at a minimum of \$500

Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.

Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.

Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.

Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation for academic success.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John Alexander

Self

Fort worth, TX

We need a bigger increase in school funding than the \$220 per student proposed. Inflation has gone through the roof over the last 6 years and the school funding should be increased proportionally. I don't understand why our elected officials in Austin hate public education... how is an uneducated or poorly educated population good for the future of texas. Shame on you if you don't support better funding for our schools

Carol Caron
Self/parent
Willow Park, TX

I am for school choice, vouchers, etc. It's time, please pass something that will enable parents to choose what is best for their child. Personally I have a child with Down Syndrome at Aledo ISD. It's been a tough year since we found out that the school does not believe my child should be able to have access to the general education curriculum. They have lied to me about what is going on and provided inappropriate work with no real plan for teaching my child. Despite an IEP with reference to general education work and spending 30 minutes in each subject area in the general education class my child has been denied access to those lessons this year. The school has denied my requests to even get the lesson plans to review with my child at home. I have had to use the public information act to obtain records that the school should have been able to provide to me (work samples and data tracking). I have also found evidence that the district assumed my child could not learn and pushed us to a different school outside of our zoned school in order to house her in 'alternate' curriculum. Despite my protests at ARD meetings the school refuses to consider any other options and I am starting to realize I'm fighting for something this district does not provide. The entire district does not mainstream kids with Down syndrome even though IDEA and ESSA say they should. The district complains about budget shortfalls but have paid thousands of dollars to their attorney to be in my meetings (I am unrepresented). The district has also admitted that they do ZERO training for staff about Down syndrome or the learning profiles or teaching strategies that work. In my situation with a rural district I have very limited choices since private schools will normally not accept children with Down syndrome and so far there are no charters here. I am currently paying out of pocket for reading and math interventions which are very costly since the school will not provide anything. A year ago I would have balked at any bill with the addition of money for 'homeschooling' thinking that parents would just take that money and then 'unschool' their kids. Now I'm on the other side and feel like I need some sort of relief to either put my child in a more appropriate school who believes my child can learn or to teach her on my own and use outside providers to fill the gaps. The public school situation is broken and I don't even know what school I can trust to do the right thing for my child. Please pass this bill and make sure you have accommodations for situations like mine with special education students.

Karen Santhanam
self
Cedar Park, TX

I am opposed to HB3. The majority of Texans do not want vouchers. We want public schools and public schools funded at significant levels. I personally do not believe that private school education should be paid for by our tax dollars. People have many choices in education already. Public funds should be used for public education. Support our public schools!!!

Emily Hutchinson
self
Dripping Springs, TX

I am AGAINST school vouchers as they have proven in other states to be failures; lowering test scores and funding. Public funding needs to be kept with public schools, NOT private.

Gabrielle Moore
Self, Realtor
San Marcos, TX

Dear Committee Members,

Vouchers — by whatever name — divert state tax dollars from our neighborhood public schools to private businesses. They also do not give lower income families any actual choice. This is theft of our tax dollars.

I OPPOSE vouchers and SUPPORT adequately funding our neighborhood public schools, as does every client I speak to considering a move into Texas and our area.

Thank you,
Gabrielle Moore

Marjorie Seward, Mrs.

Self - Concerned Citizen, Mother, Grandmother and Supporter of Texas Public Schools

Mesquite, TX

Dear Members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB3 and its proposed Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). While I understand the goal of expanding educational options, this legislation risks harming public schools and failing to serve all students equitably. My concerns are as follows:

1. **Public School Funding:** HB3 diverts critical funds from public schools, which serve the majority of students. This will worsen underfunding and resource shortages, disproportionately impacting students who rely on public education.
2. **Accountability and Standards:** Private schools receiving ESA funds are not held to the same standards as public schools. They are not required to follow state curricula or administer standardized tests, raising concerns about transparency and quality.
3. **Inequity and Accessibility:** ESAs may deepen educational disparities. Wealthier families can supplement voucher amounts for private tuition, while lower-income families cannot, leaving them with fewer opportunities.
4. **Religious Concerns:** Many private schools are religiously affiliated, and using public funds for ESAs risks violating the separation of church and state.
5. **Impact on Rural Areas:** In rural communities with few private schools, ESAs offer little benefit while draining resources from public schools, leaving families with fewer options.
6. **Lack of Evidence:** There is no conclusive proof that voucher programs improve outcomes. Expanding ESAs without evidence is premature.
7. **Teacher Qualifications:** Private schools are not required to hire certified teachers, raising concerns about instructional quality.
8. **Selective Admissions:** Private schools can exclude students with disabilities or academic challenges, leaving vulnerable students behind.
9. **Bureaucracy:** ESAs create administrative complexity, diverting resources from classrooms.
10. **Fraud and Abuse:** Without oversight, ESA funds could be misused, wasting taxpayer dollars.

I urge you to oppose HB3 and focus on strengthening public education to ensure every child has access to quality schooling. Thank you for considering my concerns.

René Craft

Self

Austin, TX

This bill will harm students with disabilities because private schools do not need to accept any student they don't want to teach. My son has autism, over his 19 years in public schools, I applied for him to attend private school to more than 20 private schools. I received 20 no, we can't take your child responses due to his complex needs. The only place that serves the disabled student is public school. A hearty NO to this bill from this mom. Sincerely, Rene Craft

Michelle Yanez

Public schools

Kerrville, TX

Taking public funds to divert them away from public institutions will kill public education in the state of Texas. Our Texas founding fathers always wanted education to be accessible to all and wrote it into our state constitution in Article VII.

The lie that is being printed by Republicans state officials that "we will fully fund public's schools AND create ESAs" isn't financially feasible. Yet once you take money from public schools, it will never return and will destroy programs like art, orchestra, choir, ROTC, robotics, culinary, welding, construction, and every other elective we offer at our local high school. This is robbing our kids of a future.

What's the rush with passing this now? Because the Governor wants it? Let the voters vote on it in the next state constitutional amendments election.

Jennifer Stamps

Myself

Austin, TX

I am a mother of a public school student. I oppose HB3. We need more public funds going to public schools; not less. Studies show vouchers do not equate to improved academic outcomes. Furthermore, HB 3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas families already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity with public money - that is not right!

Lenora Claus

self

Frisco, TX

I am NOT in support for House Bill 3. I would like to keep my tax dollars to support my public schools. I do not want any of my tax dollars to be pulled from the schools.

Elizabeth Jenkins

Self

Haslet, TX

I strongly oppose House Bill 3, as it threatens to dismantle the Texas public school system and undermine the education of millions of students across the state. Public education is the foundation of a thriving society, and this bill seeks to weaken that foundation by diverting essential resources away from our schools.

Governor Abbott has previously stated his commitment to supporting public education, yet this bill directly contradicts those promises. Texas families rely on strong, well-funded public schools to ensure that children receive the high-quality education they deserve. However, instead of investing in our schools, HB 3 pushes policies that will ultimately harm teachers, students, and entire communities.

We do not have to look far to see the disastrous consequences of similar legislation in other states. Where these policies have been implemented, they have led to school closures, teacher shortages, and a widening gap in educational access—particularly for low-income families and rural communities. Texas must not follow in these footsteps. We cannot afford to bankrupt our public schools in favor of policies that do not serve the best interests of our students.

Our teachers are already facing immense challenges, including overcrowded classrooms, low wages, and a lack of essential resources. Instead of addressing these pressing issues, HB 3 makes it harder for schools to function effectively. If we truly care about the future of Texas, we should be passing legislation that strengthens our public education system, not one that weakens it.

Furthermore, public school funding that has been withheld since 2019 must be released immediately. These funds belong to our students, and they should be used to improve school infrastructure, increase teacher salaries, provide better resources, and support programs that help students succeed. Keeping these funds locked away while our schools struggle is unacceptable.

I urge all lawmakers to reject House Bill 3 and take a stand for Texas students, teachers, and families. We need policies that enhance and support public education, not ones that jeopardize its future. The long-term success of our state depends on a well-educated generation, and that starts with ensuring our public schools have the funding, resources, and support they need to thrive.

I pray that this bill is defeated and that our legislators prioritize what truly matters: the education and well-being of Texas students. Now is the time to do what is right—protect our public schools, invest in our children, and secure a brighter future for Texas.

Francisco Acosta

Self, Engineering Manager

San Antonio, TX

Please don't pass this bill out of committee. Instead, help to work to fully fund our public schools. Educating our children should not be a political issue. It is the future of our country. Don't cave to the politics of underfunding public schools. That only hurts us all in the long term.

Rebecca Sova

Self

Kerrville, TX

I do not support this bill. As a taxpayer, mother, homeowner, or 3rd-gen Texan, this bill is not in my best interest. My grandfather had to request to go to a public school in his district, because of the preservation of racism even after Brown vs the Board, and this will only limit education for children of lower incomes again.

Jay Thompson

self

Hurst, TX

Thank you for allowing me to submit my comments on the pending HB3 regarding Education Savings Accounts also known as vouchers. The different funding for public school students and private school students seems to say one student group is more important than the other; both student groups should be should be the same; if one receives deductions for student absences, then the other should receive deductions also. Both student groups should be required to take the State assessment and report it publicly; if public schools are mandated to meet security requirements, then private schools should also be required; both groups should be required to take special education students so families are not split with one student in public school and the other in private school; students in both groups cannot be expelled for disciplinary reasons during the school year; and to receive full state funding both student groups must have certified teachers.

There are multiple options for campuses for parent choice at public schools in all of our suburban and urban areas.

The time is now to appropriately fund our state universities, public schools, special education, and mental health appropriately!

Surely, as wealthy as Texas is we should be state ranked higher in the USA than 42nd in per student pubic school funding!

James Garvin, Dr.

Self - retired

Fort Worth, TX

As Tax payer and native Texan I am writing to express my strong opposition to this bill which is essentially a "voucher" bill. I went to public schools here from first grade all the way through high school (graduating from L.D. Bell in the HEB school district. I went on to graduate with a bachelor's from Austin College in Sherman. I also received a PhD from Florida State University and returned to the DFW area with my wife to work and raise our children. All 3 of our children also went to public schools (from kindergarten through high school) and all 3 subsequently received bachelor's degrees or higher. My wife worked as a public school teacher and administrator in the public schools. My wife and I are both very concerned about the serious negative effects that vouchers will surely have on our public schools! A good quality and free public education is one of the bedrocks of our democracy. If we weaken it instead of maintaining and improving it then we will surely be weakening our democracy! Despite inflation and increasing demands placed on schools and teachers the funding for public schools has not been increased for more than 6 years. Districts all over the state are having to make very difficult decisions about which programs and even schools to close due to increasing costs. Vouchers won't help improve or strengthen public schools - they will only help students who are already attending private schools! Vouchers will in effect be using our tax dollars to subsidize private schools and prevent those tax dollars for being used to strengthen the public schools! This bill is the exact opposite of what we should be doing with our tax dollars! The American dream and our democracy depend on good quality public education - Please say no to vouchers!

Sherrill Burgdorf

Self

Arlington, TX

I disagree with the need for vouchers. I am the mother of a child with special needs. We need to support our public schools because they accept all students. The public school allotment should be increased by more than 220.00 to be fairly funded. I believe in choice and believe public schools offer choice. If a small rural district does not offer choice then that means an increase in their allotment will help fund more programs in that district. Please vote against the voucher program as it is not fairly finding our public schools.

Sunnie Fox
Self
Cedar Park, TX

This bill only benefits the rich. Abbott has been bought out by billionaires and it's disgusting he has stooped this low. Everyone deserves an education. My tax dollars demand this! No to any type of voucher. Fund our public schools.

Kathy Brown
Self
Belton, TX

It should be a crime to hold school funding for public schools until vouchers are passed. You are hurting our children's education, schools, employees. Shame on you for holding those funds hostage. That's the same as holding out children and schools hostage.

Jennifer Margolis-Husted
Self
Austin, TX

Texas needs the legislature to fully fund public schools. Vouchers have no place in Texas. Voucher programs in other states have devastated their public schools. Vouchers in Texas would harm many more children than they would help. Let's be smart and make an effort to not be in the bottom half of public education funding nationally. Thank you.

John Anthony
Self
Naples, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to the so called school voucher program being considered by the Texas Legislature. I believe the voucher program will undermine the public schools in our state. If we have funds available to issue vouchers then these funds should be put into public schools, not private schools. I respectfully request that the Texas Legislature not approve this bill.

Amanda Conroy
Self
Katy, TX

I am opposed to vouchers. Please ensure that public education is fully funded as stated in the Texas Constitution.

Linda Guy, Ms
self- retired Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
Austin, TX

Please do not allow public tax dollars to go to private schools! Public funds are for public services, such as fire, police, public health services & public schools! Public schools are the backbone of our communities & need our full support, not this absurd idea allowing funds to go to private, especially religious schools. thank you.

Jenna Maynard
Self
Plano, TX

I do not want my tax payer dollars going to private schools. Texas needs to start fully funding public education and paying teachers a living wage. We, the taxpayers, are tired of our representatives not listening to the wants and needs of their constituents. Please invest in our public schools and stop trying to destroy them. Stop trying to force something that the large majority of Texans DO NOT want.

Avery Benitez
self/mom to 4
Dallas, TX

I am very passionate about public schools. They are good for EVERYONE. It is in everyone's best interest to have well educated children. What will happen to all those kids who don't get an education if public schools fail? Where will they go? How will they support themselves? And if they can't support themselves, who will help them? Where will they end up? Public education has long lasting effects. Let's do the best good for the most kids. The best is adequately funding public schools and making them the best in the country.

Andrea Pa
homeschooler
Cypress, TX

I homeschool my child and do not want this bill passed.

Carmen Macias, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably. My children are emergent bilinguals and are best served by public schools as public schools have the most experience serving emergent bilinguals.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, Carmen Macias

Vielka Harrison, Mrs.
Señf
McKinney, TX

Please know I do not support HB3. I would like to see our public schools fully funded. I stand against school vouchers.

Hilary Mosty

Self

Kerrville, TX

From our PTA: That time again. PLEASE PLEASE leave a comment if you can't get to the Capitol to testify. Spears the word far and wide to all TEXAS especially outside of Austin tx

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Leslie Box

Self

Dallas, TX

Please!

Save our public schools!

Vote NO to vouchers!!

Katarzyna Roe
Self - Director of Operations
Austin, TX

I am writing to oppose HB3. School vouchers or ESAs have not proven to be an effective use of tax payer dollars. HB3 does not outline or mandate sufficient effective oversight, transparency and accountability. While the bill states that preference would be given to children with disabilities should demand exceed the available slots, private schools are not required to accept students who do not meet their standards. Nor does the bill require private schools to follow federal and state laws ensuring students with disabilities receive proper evaluations and learning accommodations. Additionally, the bill does not adequately address how public schools would deal with the loss in funding as attendance levels drop. The negative impact to the majority of students exceeds the perceived benefit of a minority of 'private' enrollees.

Texas is constitutionally obligated to fund public schools, and that funding is primarily based on attendance. If a voucher program caused students to leave the public school system, schools would receive less money. I worry that impact would pile onto other challenges exacerbated by a yearslong lack of meaningful state funding increases. Those problems include budget deficits, campus closures, declining enrollment, expired pandemic relief funds, inflation and teacher shortages.

Helen Elizondo, Mrs.
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

I oppose bill HB3, it does not benefit all students all around.

Grace Farley
Self, social worker
Austin, TX

I am a proud product of Texas public schools as a graduate of Keller High School in Tarrant County and the University of Texas. I now work as a social worker with youth in schools and community settings in Central Texas. My nonprofit works in predominantly Title I schools and I have seen many schools lacking the resources they need to support their students including adequate staffing, functioning infrastructure (water fountains, toilets), and supplies. While the intention behind House Bill 3 may be to provide greater educational choice, I must oppose this bill due to the unintended consequences it will have on the very students it aims to support. Our schools rely heavily on funding that is determined by student attendance. This bill, by redirecting funds away from public schools, risks diminishing the already scarce resources available to our Title I schools and their students. These schools serve as a critical safety net for low-income families, offering much more than just academic knowledge. They provide nutritious meals, mental health resources, and a sense of community that is integral to the development of these children. By shifting funds to support private education through savings accounts, we detract vital support from the public schools that need them most. The funding model proposed here might prioritize a certain number of low-income students for the program, yet it inherently neglects the broader community left behind, thinning the support for those not selected or unable to participate in the program. This could lead to greater disparities within our education system, leaving the most vulnerable with even fewer resources. In short, implementing this bill could very well exacerbate the challenges faced by our low-income Title I schools, further stretching their limited resources at a time when they should be receiving more support. While choice is critical, it should not come at the expense of the public institutions that serve as the foundation for so many.

Lavon Burton
Self / retired educator
ABILENE, TX

NO!!!

Rachel Harris, Mrs.

Self, Senior Advancement Communications Director at TCU, a proud parent in Fort Worth ISD, representing Arlington Heights High School, Monnig Middle School, Ridglea Hills Elementary School
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote against HB 3 by Buckley. I am a proud parent in Fort Worth ISD, representing Arlington Heights High School, Monnig Middle School and Ridglea Hills Elementary School. I went to Austin for Texas PTA Rally Day on Feb. 24 and met with legislators to express our strong opposition to all vouchers. Please take care of ALL students by supporting our public schools. Do not vote for HB 3 or any other voucher or so-called "school choice." Be courageous, and take care of all of our students. They deserve it, and we demand it!

Lisa Winniford

Self, Stay at home mother
Houston, TX

I homeschool my four children, and I am opposed to this bill.

Heather Hunt

Self
Denton, TX

I oppose this legislation for the following reasons:

ESAs threaten the stability of our public school system. Texas public schools are already underfunded, with many districts struggling to provide adequate resources, pay competitive teacher salaries, and maintain infrastructure. Redirecting state funds to ESAs exacerbates these issues by siphoning money away from public schools and into private institutions or unregulated alternatives. This disproportionately impacts rural and lower-income communities, where public schools are essential hubs for education and community engagement. Unlike urban areas that may have more private school options, many rural areas lack viable alternatives, meaning ESAs will primarily benefit wealthier families who can already afford private education. Another primary concern is the lack of accountability and transparency associated with ESAs. Public schools are subject to strict academic standards, financial reporting, and accountability measures to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used effectively. In contrast, private schools and homeschooling programs that receive ESA funds are not held to the same standards. There are no guarantees that students receiving ESA funds will receive a quality education or that taxpayer money will be spent appropriately. Without clear regulations, ESAs open the door for fraud, waste, and abuse, as seen in other states that have implemented similar programs.

Furthermore, ESAs do not provide actual choice for all families. The money provided through an ESA is often insufficient to cover full tuition at many private schools, making it an ineffective tool for low-income families. Instead, ESAs primarily subsidize families who already send their children to private schools or who can afford to supplement the ESA funds. This creates an uneven playing field where public schools are financially weakened, and education becomes a privilege rather than a right. Lastly, ESAs set a dangerous precedent for the privatization of education. Public education is a cornerstone of democracy, ensuring every child can access free and equitable learning opportunities. Shifting public funds to private institutions erodes this foundation and moves us toward a system where education is commodified rather than treated as a public good. Suppose Texas truly wants to improve educational outcomes. In that case, lawmakers should focus on adequately funding public schools, raising teacher pay, reducing class sizes, and expanding access to programs that benefit all students rather than diverting funds into a program that benefits a select few.

For these reasons, I oppose the ESA legislation and urge lawmakers to prioritize strengthening public education rather than undermining it.

Robyn Tatman

Self/former teacher
Richardson, TX

Please vote no for this bill! It is not in the best interest of the children of Texas. Our strength and future are in properly funded public schools with well paid teachers! Funding private schools at a higher per student rate which do not have to hire certified teachers or pass state testing is not where our tax money should be allocated.

Shalom Meltzer
Texas Torah Institute
Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.
Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

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Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Please support HB3 and the ESA program.

Simone Kern
self, journalist
Houston, TX

I strongly oppose using any state funds towards private education. Our public schools in Texas are already shamefully underfunded and unequally funded. The Texas Supreme Court has repeatedly found that the state funding mechanism violates students' constitutional right to equal access to education. We need more funding for public schools and local control over public schools. Greg Abbot's plan of a state takeover of Houston public schools has been disastrous. His plan to divert funding from public schools to private ones will only provide tuition breaks for the richest Texans and constitute a further attack on our public schools. We love our public schools, and we need our public schools to have strong communities and better lives for our children. Please vote against this disastrous attack on our schools!

naama weingarden
self-commercial title
DALLAS, TX

We need vouchers and money towards private education. All the proprty taxes I pay and on top of that no help from govt for anything related to my kids private education. It's not ok. No tuition money, no lunch money, no buses. Am I paying taxes to fund the illegals' education. Please help!

Dre Grace Hannon
Self
Amarillo, TX

HB 3 is only a vehicle for those waiting in the wings to set up private schools that they can receive all sorts of tax exemptions on. I work in a public school and this is segregation at its finest. Public schools are not failing, but kids are coming from more brokenness and trauma than I have ever seen before. Setting up ESA won't do anything but leave the sped, 504, behavior, Emergent bilinguals behind. You guys have taken a California and New York model of education that was a democratic idea, put some republican spin on it as "parent choice" and it's nothing to do with choice. Parents have choice- they can pay for their choices. I've never called for an ambulance, Fire truck or police officer, but I'm willing to pay for them for the common good. Public schools are for the common good. Here in the panhandle, we would just be sending our money to Dallas, Austin and Houston because we don't have the same resources. Believe it or not, we have towns that don't have a gas station or a grocery store, but they do have a school. The school is the hub of the community. Think Lefors, McLean l,Happy Texas. Many 1A schools are like this. You will be helping to destroy rural Texas. Why should my tax dollars go urban Texas? Why have we let an outsider from Virginia tell us what Texas should look like? Several of the states who have chosen this path have found it to be a complete financial drain after it has been in place for a few years.

HB 2 is also a bad idea because TIA takes years to implement in a district and many of us have no measurable standards. I'm also a school counselor and I'm paid like a teacher but we are left out of the supplemental pay. And we know it's not a real raise because it's a short term allotment. Meaning the districts will have to pick it up, the legislature would have to choose to keep it funded in two years or take away the allotment. It's not a real raise.

Please do not pass these bills- they are bad for all of Texas.

Julia Edwards
Special Education Teacher
Georgetown, TX

Once again I am reaching out to you as an educator, parent and taxpayer of the state of Texas to stand against school vouchers. School vouchers undermine public education by diverting funds away from already underfunded schools, leaving disadvantaged students with fewer resources. As a special education teachers, these are my students. Oh pass this bill, my students will be directly affected.They also promote inequality by often only benefiting those who can afford to cover the difference in costs, leaving low-income families with fewer choices. Not to mention rural communities that do not have private school choices anywhere near them. This can widen the achievement gap rather than improve the overall education system. School vouchers only improve

Jill Hutchings, Ms
Self
McKinney, TX

Fully fund public education!
Oppose HB3 (vote AGAINST vouchers)!

Suzette Dracoulis
Self
Round Rock, TX

Say no to vouchers!!!

Karin Simpson
Self - Social Worker
Cypress, TX

I am a Texan and I care about our K-12 public education system being well funded for all our students. I do not support HB 3, the education savings account bill. I ask for all our elected representatives to oppose this bill.

Kristen Worrall
Self
Austin, TX

Vouchers hurt everyone

Laura Cook
Myself a Texas Educator
Lubbock, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers because they divert essential public funds away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students. Using taxpayer money to subsidize private schools undermines public education, limits resources for teachers and students, and disproportionately harms marginalized communities who rely on public schools for equitable education opportunities. Our focus should be on strengthening public schools—not weakening them by funneling funds to private institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards. Please stand with Texas families and reject any efforts to implement school voucher programs. Please vote against House Bill 3

Michael Bartlemy
Self
Austin, TX

This bill does nothing to help education in Texas and only serves to continue to undermine public schools and the kids who need them.

Cynthia Gard
Self
Rockwall, TX

Vote NO to establishing an education savings account program. I think this program will be detrimental to public schools in Texas and the majority of the children in the state. People already have a choice to send their kids to private schools and shouldn't receive state funds to pay to do so because private schools are not held to the same standards as public schools. Also, a private school should not receive more funds per child than a public school does. EVERY CHILD in Texas deserves to receive a quality education! What happens when a private school closes its doors in the middle of the year after receiving the funding for their students? The money they received would then be wasted. What happens when a private school kicks a student out of their school? Would they be required to return a portion of the money back to the state? Fully fund our public schools so Texas can be proud of the education our children are receiving and show the rest of the country that Texas really cares about ALL our children.

Jennifer Dale
self
Austin, TX

Texas public schools need more money not less. Please send a message to Governor Abbott that holding funding and bullying our representatives to pass bills like school vouchers that only benefit special interest groups will not be allowed in Texas! Tax money should go to paying for education for ALL not just the privileged FEW.

Sheryl Van Hoose

Self

Austin, TX

HB3 is not a bill to support Texas education. It takes money away from our public education system; a system that is set up for all kids not some kids. It gives more financial support with less restrictions (testing, transportation, attendance requirements, special education) to the private programs. How can you defend such a system? A system where many families that support HB3 are already sending their kids to private/charter and are going to get financially rewarded if this bill passes. As someone who spent their learning years from elementary through college (University of Texas) in the public school system, I appreciate the opportunity that I had to learn in a diverse environment, a place for all students, where the color of my skin, my faith, my financial background didn't matter. My children also went to public universities after graduating from the Texas public school system. And now my grandchildren's education is at risk. Please vote No for HB3. Thank you.

Graciela Bell, Dr.

SAISD

San Antonio, TX

Please support public education and say NO to vouchers. Use the taxpayer funding to invest in teachers and public education.

Jerod Martin

Self/ small business owner

Cooper, TX

As a lifelong Texan and someone who has been in public education as well as homeschool, I do NOT support these bills and what they seek to create. There are three main fronts on which I base my opposition. 1. The methods used by the governor to “get this passed”. 2. The government invasion into the private education system(s) and those who CHOOSE to forgo the public education OPTION. 3. The government will approve curriculum and testing for all those who take the bait....i mean money.

1. Governor Abbott has used his political muscle to politic against candidates who, because they were representing their constituents, did not vote in alignment with his agenda. Abbott also took dark money contributions from donors who would benefit from this legislation as did representative candidates he was backing. Governor Abbott also vetoed a bi-partisan bill that would have exposed his donors. Governor Abbott has publicly said he was working against those who opposed his “choice” agenda. He has coerced representatives to make them get in line with passing these bills. These are open ways to subvert the will of the people. He will not put it on the ballot for the people because he cannot control the people but instead works through less than honorable means to control them. I ask that you stand in opposition to the governor who has shown less than honorable means of pushing this legislation through. Gregg Abbott and Shelly Luther have alienated more than just this one conservative. Bigger government = less freedom....look at history.

2. We have school choice NOW and have had it but WITHOUT the necessity of government interference. As a whole, the data says that private education yields a better individual....though not all the time and there are great individuals that come out of public education or should I say rise above the “failed public education system” (Gregg Abbotts words). That is a system he is ultimately responsible to manage and HE HAS FAILED TEXAS. Hold him accountable and if someone had failed you in one thing would you give them another thing or give them more to oversee? That’s insanity. Leave government out of private education and let government take care of what it already has responsibility to manage. Tossing more money at it doesn’t fix it.

3. Look at the effectiveness of government approved curriculum and testing. They teach to a test. Is that freedom? This will be applied to all students and institutions who have one individual in their number that take the money bait. Is that freedom?

Governments never give freedom because it isn’t theirs to give and they are not the source of freedom. I remind you all men are created free but it is government that puts the shackles on them and this idea that Governor Abbott is granting freedom is a sham and I ask that you do not be a part of this abusive behavior. Do not joint the ranks of those abusing the freedom of Texans. You are who you associated with and you vote will tell more to more than one.

Lindsey Ward

Self

Spring, TX

The school voucher bill does nothing to help the families it claims to be helping. 158 counties in Texas have no private schools, and the ESA does not provide enough for those families to both pay the full tuition for a private school AND provide transportation for their students.

Chaim Averick

Self , teacher

Dallas, TX

Teacher Perspective on Supporting HB3 and Education Savings Accounts

As educators, we believe in the importance of supporting HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. ****Every child in Texas deserves access to the highest quality educational opportunities****.

Education is not a one-size-fits-all solution; it is essential that families have the ****freedom to choose the best educational path for their children****. This bill empowers parents to make informed decisions, which ultimately benefits students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

With nearly half of the states already implementing school choice programs, ****it is time for Texas to embrace this opportunity****. By doing so, we can ensure that all students have the chance to thrive in an environment that meets their unique needs.

Becky Bullard

Self / communications

Austin, TX

I urge the members of the committee to vote against House Bill 3. I am a parent of two children who attend public elementary school in Texas, and their education has been disrupted due to the woeful underfunding of our public schools and the teacher shortage crisis. These struggles would become worse if you decide to take taxpayer dollars away from our public schools and give them to private schools.

Last week I comforted my fifth grader as she cried after learning that her class would be getting its third teacher this year. "I don't blame Mr. Adrian," she said, through tears. "He found a job that paid more, I totally get it. Teaching is so hard – you have to care for a bunch of kids who can be loud and don't do what you say. And teachers make almost no money! I'm happy for him. I just can't believe this is happening again."

Mr. Adrian, a U.S. veteran, had selflessly stepped in to teach my daughter's class, putting his advertising career on pause to help our kids even though he was not credentialed and had never previously taught. The school simply couldn't find any other available qualified teachers – a situation that is an epidemic all over Texas. He did a tremendous job under difficult circumstances and though the kids were sad to see him go, they understood that the blame lies in the system and not with the teacher.

Last week our principal explained to us that we were, in fact, fortunate to be in this position by comparison to what other schools in the district and across the state are experiencing. Apparently many other classes at other schools are being taught by a rotating cast of temporary substitutes, with no consistency whatsoever from week to week. Our children deserve better than this. Our teachers deserve better than this. Texans, who contribute to one of the largest economies not just in the U.S. but in the WORLD, deserve to have a world-class public education system. But instead we continue to be short-changed by our state legislature.

Most of the teachers at our school do not have more than a couple years teaching experience, and it is getting more difficult to retain teachers. Teachers who have left the profession are clear about why – the demands on them are tremendous and the pay is pitiful. Many have to get second and third jobs to make ends meet. At a certain point they can no longer sacrifice their own well-being for our kids.

Texas is the "stickiest" state in the U.S. – 82% of native-born Texans stay put here their whole lives. If we further deprive the more than 5 million students in our public education system in favor of giving our tax dollars to a few thousand private school kids, we are setting this state up for disaster for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and attention and for your service to the great state of Texas. Please vote against HB3 and instead focus on fully funding our public schools.

Jami Lampert

Arlington Heights High School PTA

Fort Worth, TX

We do not support the proposed education savings accounts. Although there is a separate bill addressing public school funding, the money going to vouchers would be better spent adding to public school funds. Texans already have several choices in education and any choice a voucher adds would only benefit a very small group of people and is not worth the cost. In order to be fair the legislators would need to add requirements to private schools and home schooled lessons that these groups likely do not want. We already have private, public, charter, and home school. We do not need a new subgroup of schools that accept these vouchers. I went to Texas public schools and my kids are going to public schools. If we used tax payer money and Texas funds to make public schools better then you would not need to keep creating other options. Spreading funds over more schools makes no fiscal sense. Our public schools need work and to do the work they need funds. Let's not give up on them. Let's give them the support they need instead of creating options that take away students. We need to bring students back to public education. If parents still do not choose to stay in public they still can opt out by paying for private, going with charter (which is free) or homeschool. The answer to so many problems is education. We need to provide a better public education to all kids in Texas and the only way to do that is public schools.

Viviana Mata

Self

Houston, TX

I am a homeschool parent and I OPPOSE the passing of this bill.

Danielle Chapman

Self

WILLS POINT, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+ million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember in the next election how you voted on this bill.

Sarah Pablo

Self, homemaker

Bedford, TX

The majority of Texans do not want this bill passed. Texas has enjoyed true school choice with no government interference. As a conservative, less government is more. This bill puts government involvement right in the middle of education. Whether it's public, private, or homeschool, let the parents choose and let them factor in the costs if it comes to that. Fully fund our public schools, pay our teachers what they are worth, and leave homeschoolers alone.

Serena Wedeking

self

college station, TX

Beyond all the arguments that everyone has stated, re: there will be no actual benefit to the tax payer, and in fact it looks like that this will likely as not harm public schools particularly rural areas. I personally don't want my tax dollars going to the funding of various private school that I, as a tax payer, have no expectation of input regarding the operations of private schools. As it is, if I wanted to I could run for a school board, go to meetings and potentially influence policy. I would have no recourse over what the local private schools do, let along the web of homeschoolers. Please no on pass this. It is a bad idea.

Cheryl Hughes

self/retired

Canton, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Angela Reyes
Muleshoe ISD-TCTA
Muleshoe, TX

I do not support school vouchers. We are a small town, with no private schools within 150 miles. There is no need to vouchers because it does not pertain to ALL TEXANS. How can a bill be made for only a tiny percentage of students. Please do not take away from tax payer money to give a coupon to rich families to send their kids to private schools. Schools are safer than ever! Tons of money is pouring in for that already. Public schools are doing great academically. My school that my children attend is a Blue Ribbon School. Public schools are better than ever!

Eric Boatman
Self - Music Teacher
Plano, TX

This bill is not something that serves this state or our students. It is a political non-issue to advance a small amount of political ambitions. Help kids by funding districts so they can provide MORE opportunities. Your cuts and this bill will do the opposite. If you care about kids then you will not support this bill. If you care about teachers, especially ones in fine arts like myself, you will not support this bill. If you want Texas to be higher in the best education systems in the country, you will not support this bill and instead fund districts and Teacher Education Institutions. Please do not support this bill and listen to the majority of your constituents who do not want this.

Andrew Dickerman
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.
- This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Jeff Kacines
Self
Allen, TX

I am adamantly against HB 3. Funds should be focused on our cash-strapped public schools and not diverted to private schools.

Shana Owen, Ms.
Red Oak ISD
Corsicana, TX
Vote no to vouchers

Crystal Morris

Self

Graford, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Nathan Riojas

self

Shallowater, TX

It's simple. You were elected to represent your constituents. The vast majority of your constituents do NOT support a voucher program. You must vote accordingly.

Holly Koch

Self

Dublin, TX

I am absolutely against HB 3. Public should stay in public schools. I ask that this be brought to a state vote. The vast majority people are against this, and it is not even a part of an issue.

Jennifer Hoitsma

Self

Tyler, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Alicia Arroyos, Mrs.

Self-former teacher

Missouri City, TX

I am against the voucher system. Public schools are underserved and need more money. The rich can afford to send their kids to any institution they want. Low income and many middle class families would not be able to afford to send their kids to private schools. As a former teacher, I know many, many public schools are in desperate need. Please do not pass the voucher system. Thank you.

Deidre Carlton

Self/ Teacher

Arlington, TX

Please properly fund our public schools. Leave the decisions to the local districts. My children are receiving an incredible education in our local district thanks to the amazing teachers who work tirelessly during these underfunded times.

Belen Badejo
Self/Telecommuter
Fort Worth, TX

If anything, this money should be ADDED to Public Education & not to private school. We already have school “choice”. This would just lead to increased tuition to private institutions. They aren’t struggling like our public schools are. It’s a shame all the fundraisers our public schools still have to do on top of to get state funding but still struggling to provide a decent education for students. This is not part of the “American Dream” to have even further economic segregation. And this is going to turn Texas into a complete mess & RAISE CRIME RATES. These crime rates are eventually going to move into those “wealthier” neighborhoods cos our economy as a country is in a sinkhole & Texas won’t be one of the wealthiest states anymore. Most businesses started flocking to us because of Covid & avoiding the Covid restrictions but don’t think that won’t drive them elsewhere once they see what a sinkhole Texas has become cos quality went down the drain. Keep on lining your pockets with that back door money & keep putting the pressure on the “poor people”. If there was such success in other states that have that voucher program, the general public would feel different. I BEG YALL to go live life on barely \$100 a day to get a reality check on how average people are feeling right now!!

Julian Lopez Jr
Parent
Georgetown, TX

And under comments “Honored Members of the Committee,
I am a family member of two Texas schoolchildren and a strong supporter of fully funded public education. My family relies on Texas public schools, and I have seen firsthand the impact of underfunding on students, teachers, and communities.
I am strongly opposed to HB 3, the voucher scheme that would divert public tax dollars away from our already struggling public schools to subsidize private education for a select few. Instead of helping the majority of Texas families, this bill would only deepen the funding crisis, especially in rural areas where private school options are scarce or nonexistent.
Unlike public schools, private institutions are not required to provide transportation, meal services, special education programs, or even certified teachers, making them an unrealistic option for many families. Texans across the political spectrum have repeatedly rejected voucher programs because they recognize the harm they cause to our students and communities.
Rather than funneling public money into private institutions, I urge you to increase per-student funding by at least \$1,300 to ensure that Texas public schools have the resources they need to educate and support every child. Investing in our public schools is investing in the future of Texas.
Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust you will make the right decision for Texas students and families.”

Karen Bondy
Self
Austin, TX

Schools using vouchers should have the same requirements as public schools.

Theresa Cruz
Self, education
Houston, TX

No to vouchers!! Public schools educate every student. Private schools do not. Public schools have to show accountability for students enrolled, mandated state testing, certified teachers and do much more! Private schools do not! This is not about giving families a choice; it's about prioritizing the wealthy over middle and lower income. Public schools are already severely underfunded and expected to do more with less all the time. This voucher program is not going to make getting a good education for everyone—it's going to ensure those who can already afford private school get a bonus. Scores are low and education is taking a hit because Texas won't properly fund schools and make public education a priority. It's more than a priority, it's likely the most important thing we can do in our lifetimes. We have to educate all of our kids, they are our future and the next generation of leaders. That can only be done if we truly support our public schools and provide the necessary funding to ensure that all students have the opportunity and access to a great education. Vouchers are a scam and I truly believe that it's another way for the wealthy to gain more wealth and that there's a monetary incentive as well for our elected officials. Why else is this getting pushed so hard? Why else are millionaires from other states donating money to our Texas leaders to get this voucher scam passed? It's truly disgusting and so disappointing to know that funds are available to build up public education and those funds continue to be held hostage at the whims of our governor and his supporters. Please vote NO to this voucher scam. It's truly robbing from the poor to give to the rich.

Austin Beam
Self
Midland, TX

I oppose HB3 and any form of vouchers / ESAs. Texas public education needs investment, not to have funds diverted to private interests. This bill does nothing to serve those who most need educational support. Instead, it provides welfare to the wealthy and offers a discount to the private education of those who can already afford it. I fully support the individual right of families to choose private school if that's best for them, and they already have that choice. Nothing more needs to be done.

These programs have ballooned in cost in other states and have not demonstrated any meaningful change to student outcomes.

This bill is being supported by private interests who intend to profit off of Texas taxpayers. It is a scam and unfortunate that the citizens of Texas are taking a back seat to these private interests, some of which aren't even within the State of Texas. Texans do not want this. Quit wasting our time and taxpayer money. Please kill this bill and invest in Texas public education instead.

Monica Hollins
Self
Austin, TX

I am voicing my opposition to HB 3. I am proud of the education my child gets within our public schools. I am sad that the vouchers will disenfranchise so many children that will not have the means to transportation to private schools, if they could afford it. Abbott mentioned that we don't have to worry about Football being affected with this. I am not concerned about sports, I am concerned about the public schools education and special education being funded. I am worried about the communities that will be destroyed when schools close, I am worried about those that will miss out on education, due to their schools closing and the failure to launch into adulthood, because Texas decided that the wealthy were more important than those that we are called to lift up. Please vote No.

Lauren Maples
families & educators
Austin, TX, TX

Vouchers will erode our already under funded education system. I feel obliged to express my concerns with the concept of funneling tax dollars to parents in an attempt to weaken public schools in Texas.

1. There will be tax dollars going to schools that are not required to meet any state accountability standards. The Catholic church schools are often excellent, but many private schools are not on that level. Many private and parochial schools maintain their academic ratings by rejecting below-average students. Private schools are not required to take anybody. What school will be the school of last resort for students who are failing?

Krista Corley
Self - Attorney
Richardson, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future.

Sergio Plaza III
Self/Planning Manager
Austin, TX

Good evening. My name is Sergio Plaza and I speak today in opposition to House Bill 3.

For six years, I had the privilege to work alongside talented, committed, and passionate educators within Texas public schools. Every day, I witnessed these individuals put their heart and soul into their students.

I won't tell you that our schools are perfect. I don't believe anyone who has worked in them will. But framing them as "failing," as many supporters of this legislation do, is a cop-out. What I can tell you is that Texas schools do their best, despite being left at a disadvantage by this body. Our public schools are better than this Legislature allows them to be, but they are held back from their full potential because of this body.

Paraphrasing, Section 1 of Article 7 of the Texas Constitution:

It shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.

How do you do that?

It's not HB3 or SB2, but going beyond HB2, I ask this body to learn how much it costs to fully educate a child. What does it take to educate those with little resources at home? What does it take to educate a child with special needs? One whose first language isn't English?

Let's not only make sure Texas leads the nation in dollars per student and teacher salary. Let's make sure all our students aren't distracted from learning because they're hungry. Let's make sure they have clean air in their schools. Let's allow our teachers to teach and develop our students without being attacked.

Anyone who has ever worked in a school will tell you that what a student brings from home affects them in the classroom. Let's lessen the burden of stress on them and their families by expanding Medicaid, increasing affordable housing, and raising the minimum wage.

What you should not do is allow yourselves to be bullied by Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick. This is supposed to be the People's House. You're capable of building the best public school system in the country, truly investing in Texas families, and most importantly, scrubbing this bill and telling one Billionaire from Pennsylvania that our schools are not for sale. We can do all this instead of putting public dollars to private use.

Thank you.

Alisa Starbird
Self
Houston, TX

I am absolutely opposed to vouchers. Our public schools must be fully supported financially, with no money going to private schools. Public schools are the backbone of a free and informed society.

Nancy Fernandez
My family, my children
Willow Park, TX

Please review a data from other states that have adopted these measures. Arizona is one of them. Their voucher program did not work. Instead, give schools support. It is saddening to me that I am a kindergarten teacher with a class of 22 with no support and a class full of various needs. Our district maintains they are operating with a very limited budget. This can't continue. It is very sad and I can't imagine the repercussions this will have in our children.

Kristian Stewart
Self, IT Analyst
Houston, TX

I oppose HB3 because it will defund the same public schools that educated my son and others like him. Title One schools like his needs these funds to produce productive citizens that contribute to our society. Families like mine will not benefit from this, our children will not benefit, nor will our communities. For these reasons please do not pass HB 3. Thank you.

Molly Parks
Self
Manchaca, TX

school to place our son. In his first year he did pretty well. His reading and writing improved but not quite rebounded. We continued to work alongside that private school to help my son thrive. As he continued into his second year at that school, we found my son falling behind again. After meeting with the school they quickly dismissed his ADHD diagnosis that they had previously acknowledge. They said they couldn't help him. The tuition at that school is \$40k. They doubled their tuition from one year to the next.

After all that shuffling of schools we decided to seek public education knowing the requirement to serve all students regardless of learning ability. At 6th grade he entered public school and now in 7th he has leveled up. He's making straight A's. He's recently signed up for accelerated classes in the 8th grade. He feels confident and proud. We owe all of this advancement to the teachers and specialist that his public school provided. Neither of his 2 private schools could or would step up and help him. He just needed a little extra push.

My girls are also now in 1st grade in public school. We found out last month that their school is slated for closure next year. We transfer across districts to attend this ISD. With the school closure the remaining elementary schools are now expected to be overcrowded and thus they have eliminated district transfers. Now our school choice has been taken away as a result of inadequate public funding resulting in massive budget deficits, school closures, pay raise freezes, elimination of Spanish immersion and PLC's for teachers. Inadequate funding has caused this. Holding public funding hostage to get vouchers passed has stripped school districts to a point of failure. Fund the schools properly and the kids will thrive. When we chose private schools we never asked for subsidy. We made the choice ourselves, funded it ourselves. Found it inadequate and now attending public schools, we are funding legislative support inadequate.

We have choice now. We shall not be forced to share our taxes with religious schools & schools who cannot & will not provide full service education to all students.

Juana Sanchez, Mrs
Self
Brownsville, TX

“Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, current public school educator, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.”

Tommy Ward
Self
Abilene, TX

Public Schools deserve the funding not private schools. Bad on Greg Abbott for getting paid to support this travesty

Shannon Bender, Mrs
Self
Amarillo, TX

I'm am against School Vouchers. It will be detrimental to our communities and is not a one size fits all. Parents already have school choice. Keep the tax money where it is intended to go to public schools. We have great public schools in this state that need the funds and serve way more students than private schools do. Listen to your constituents and vote against vouchers.

Benito Estrada

Self/ educator

Kyle, TX

I do not agree with this bill.

Anna Marquez

Self

Creedmoor, TX

I am adamantly against this bill. It is unfortunate and unfair for money to be stolen from public schools for those individuals who choose to use private schools. Private schools are for those who make the choice to pay for their children's education. Therefore it should come out of their pockets not funds for public schools. Whomever decides to apply for private schools is deciding so knowing it will be paid for by their own money

Katherine Brown

self

Austin, TX

Texans clearly do not want vouchers- voters on both sides of the aisle know it's a bad deal. Democrats and Republicans in Texas have come together against vouchers for many decades. Our public schools face many challenges, but they can meet those challenges and educate our Texas kids to their potential when given appropriate funding. Please vote to FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS and VOTE NO on any voucher/ ESA bill. I vote in every election and this matters a great deal to me, my family, and my community. Thank you.

Devi Shah

Communities in Schools of Central Texas

Austin, TX

This would be a detriment to minority children and lower income families. Making choices that are at a disadvantage to lower income families and that are an advantage to higher income families is the most anti-Christian thing. Literally taking from the poor to give to the rich.

Jamal Jackson

My damn self

Dallas, TX

I am completely against taking money out of public schools and transferring it to private schools by establishing these saving accounts.

Cari Sturch

Self, Public Educator

Commerce, TX

Utilizing public taxpayer funds to subsidize private education is a blatant misuse of funds. It is a gross overreach and wholly unsupported by Texans. Public education should be fully funded by the state government and privatization would not even need to be discussed.

The voucher program will undermine the financial stability of the state government, the public education funds, and negatively impact TRS funds. Do not pass this bill. I do not support this bill or ANY bill calling for public tax dollars to be funneled towards a private education. Vote no.

Brian Miller
Myself and family
Cypress, TX

I do not support vouchers for private schools. Doing this in other states has shown that vouchers almost exclusively benefit people who are already paying and can afford private schools. They very rarely provide a choice to those in public school as claimed.

I demand the SAME accountability for private schools as for public schools--testing students annually and reporting achievement data; providing financial transparency; accepting ALL students; hiring certified teachers; and meeting the same safety requirements as public schools. FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS FIRST by increasing their basic per-student allotment, which hasn't increased since 2019, to offset the impact of inflation and RESTORE the \$4.6 billion in funding that was withheld in 2023.

Gary Ligon
Self/retired chemical engineer/engineering manager/project manager
Cypress, TX

Under no circumstances should any taxpayer dollars be used to subsidize or otherwise fund private schools via "vouchers" or "education savings accounts".

This bill needs to be completely rewritten to fully fund public schools with money from the state general fund at a per student level that is 25% more than the 2019 funding level. In addition, this rewritten bill must restore the \$4.6 billion that was withheld from public schools in 2023.

Annette Johnson
Self - retired social worker
Tomball, TX

I am totally opposed to HB 3- the voucher bill. Currently our public schools are struggling to survive with one of the lowest per student funding of any states. The per student allotment has not gone up in more than 5 years and schools are having to cut back on critical services. The voucher money will rob our public schools by luring students to private, and often religious institutions. These private schools are not required to do mandatory testing or to accept special needs students. This is not a fair fight. And, making vouchers available to families earning more than \$160,000 per year is ridiculous. Low income families will be in the minority in terms of using the voucher stipends. Many of them will still not be able to afford good private schools or will lack the transportation to get their child there. These are just a few of my concerns about vouchers. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Carina Renteria
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I don't support vouchers for Texas.

Katherine Hernandez

Self - Teacher

Dallas, TX

Texas Republicans and Democrats sometimes have a difficult time agreeing on things, but with the introduction of this bill I have seen both “far right” and “far left” individuals speak out loudly AGAINST ESAs (vouchers, etc.). Overwhelmingly, this is NOT what the majority of Texans want. Public money deserves to stay in the public. Sure, there is a *possibility* that some kids who do not already attend private school *may* get a chance to do so, but there is a 100% chance of hurting the majority of Texas kids.

This bill would see funding cut to schools, ultimately resulting in cutting important programs such as the arts and would very likely result in the closing of multiple schools. It would also result in major layoffs for school personnel, adding to an already high unemployment rate.

I urge the Texas House of Representatives to listen to the people of the state they are supposed to represent, and not vote this bill into law. Our state slogan does not need to be “Illiteracy rates, unemployment, and school closures are bigger in Texas.”

Part of what makes Texas the best state in the nation is the very real possibility that you can grow up with nothing, and make something of yourself. This bill would take away those opportunities from a majority of Texas students. Texas public teachers impart invaluable knowledge into their students that goes beyond the curriculum. We teach our kids to persevere, to find their passions, and ultimately we give them space to figure out what kind of people they want to be.

The Purple Party of Texas has spoken...we do NOT want to establish a voucher system in our state.

Thank you for your time.

-Katie

Rebecca Passmore

self - teacher

Hardin, TX

I have been a public school educator for 23 years. I do not support any voucher program. Please keep tax payer dollars in the public schools, which offer more services for different student needs. Please listen to Texans, instead of corporations and big money.

Aruna Jahoor, Dr

Self

Austin, TX

Vouchers are another example of government handouts to take independence away from private schools while failing to meet obligations to the public schools we the taxpayers are already responsible for, if there is extra money in any budget fund the public schools so you don't have to keep increasing my property taxes. I am against the educational savings account

Thomas Marsden

Self, Architect

Austin, TX

Please cancel this bald face lie and extraction of necessary funds for public schools. Education savings account is an oxymoron in this regard, but what a fun euphemism for defunding public education! This money should be equally distributed to ALL the children of Texas and not only to the very very wealthy that can afford private school. These people need no government aid. This is a tax cut wrapped in a word salad of misdirection and non sequiturs. When I explain what this bill actually is doing to my wealthy Republican friends and family they are shocked and ask why this is necessary. Stop working so hard to kill public education, and start working to make this society just a little bit more equitable.

Julia Kovach
Self/Caregiver
Austin, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and support Texas public schools. This bill diverts taxpayer dollars from public schools, which educate over 90% of Texas students, to private institutions with little accountability. Schools already facing teacher shortages and rising student needs will be forced to cut programs, increase class sizes, and limit services.

Private schools receiving taxpayer funds are not required to serve all students, follow state curriculum standards, provide performance data, or maintain financial oversight. If public money is being spent, there should be transparency in how it is used. HB 3 lacks that accountability.

While promoted as a "school choice," HB 3 benefits only a small group of families. Vouchers do not fully cover tuition, leaving many working-class and rural families unable to access private schools. Meanwhile, public schools serving most students will be left with fewer resources.

Strong public schools create strong communities. When schools suffer, property values decline, businesses struggle, and workforce development weakens. Texans have consistently rejected voucher schemes, recognizing that public funds should support schools that serve all students. HB 3 threatens that foundation.

I appreciate your time and consideration in protecting Texas public education.

Lorie Barnett, Mrs
Self, retired teacher, business owner
Paige, TX

I oppose any voucher/ESA for Texas

Kaitlyn Ramey
Self - Parent
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Alexa Volpe, Dr.
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am writing to oppose this bill. I do not believe this bill would improve public education, and will most likely harm the public school system. Evidence from other states indicates that school vouchers are not helpful for all students, especially those who are already impoverished. These vouchers will help parents of means achieve their goals. Charter schools often do not have bus systems, cafeterias, or libraries, and therefore do not adequately serve all students. Public schools are held to higher accounting and scrutiny standards as compared to charter schools, private schools, or homeschooling. At the very least, hold these to the same standard. Texas has sovereign wealth funds of immense proportion for public education. Please use these to fund schools instead of holding funds back unless a voucher bill is passed. It hurts our society to under fund public schools.

Mollie Miller
Self
Houston, TX

I do not support HB3. Public funding belongs in public schools.

Stacy Blanchard
Self
Sachse, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Eddy Morelock
Texas PTA
Lubbock, TX

Senator Buckley, please know that the parents and educators in West Texas are not for HB3. We have school choice in the Lubbock area and this bill will not benefit the rural community. Our teachers need a pay raise, our schools need more funding and our students need the support of the legislators we vote for.

Thanks

Eddy Morelock

Krystal Moldovan
Self
Houston, TX

Not in favor of ESAs or Vouchers

Brittany Gray
Self/Teacher
Richardson, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Robert Allen
Self
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Shanon Coffey
Texas educator
Wylie, TX

No to VOUCHERS! No to HB3.

Brittany Gray
McMillan JH
Richardson, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS & NO TO HB3

Wendi Farquhar
self
Pittsburg, TX

The residents of Texas do not want the "vouchers" that are represented in this bill. The government overreach to private education is not accepted or asked for. The funds that are proposed for this should go to public school fine arts or work programs. Private school is and has been a choice for Texans. Home school is a private school option. We do not need more government regulation introduced to private education in the form of money control and testing.

The governor and those who support this have been lying. I know many families with school age children who feel the same as I do.

I have called, texted, messaged and posted on social media. I have not received a response from any representatives or the governor's office. So, from my perspective, the people are being ignored.

Michelle Sortor

Self

Hurst, TX

Public schools need to be fully funded. Public money does not belong in private schools. Rather than diverting public money to private schools to provide unaccountable special education services to a handful of students, fully funding special education services to all children in Texas who need it. Rather than enriching private schools, use taxpayers' money to improve Texas education services for all children.

Tamara Bowles

self - teacher

WYLIE, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Chelsea Hoyt

Self

Arlington, TX

Please vote no to HB 3

Craig Watts

self

Austin, TX

I'm against this bill and specifically using general revenue funds (i.e., taxpayers' money) to fund an education savings account program. Thank you.

David Plotkin

Self

San Antonio, TX

Public education needs these funds. Private schools will not fill the needs of the majority of Texans. Do not route money that is badly needed to make Texas public education great again towards private schools that cater to the rich. The rich do not need this money, they are already in those schools.

Gretchen Pierce

self, stay-at-home mom

Austin, TX

I am a mom of two young children, one of whom attends an Austin ISD elementary school and another who will attend in the fall. We love our neighborhood school. It is a wonderful community that my son is so happy to be a part of, and he is excited to go to school and learn every day. We do everything we can to support our school, not just because we love it, but because we know that the state does not adequately fund public schools in Texas. Our schools need as much help as they can get to provide a well-rounded education for our kids.

We appreciate that everyone has a choice in Texas about how to educate their children - public school, private school, or homeschool. That choice already exists. We don't need to, and shouldn't have to, use public taxpayer money to facilitate that choice through a voucher program. For many families who do not already attend private school, the voucher would not cover enough of the cost for their child to attend a private school. Those children will remain in their public schools, which will be even more underfunded than before due to vouchers draining their resources.

Our school district, like most in Texas, is already in a financial crisis. This is because, when adjusted for inflation, we actually receive less money than we did in 2019. Texas is a state with a lot of pride about its history and accomplishments, but being in the bottom ten states for per student funding is not something to be proud of.

If neighborhood schools lose students to vouchers, we will be in an even worse financial crisis. Our neighborhood schools should not have to suffer while our tax dollars fund private schools that do not have to meet the same requirements as public schools. Our public schools, which 90 percent of students in Texas attend, should not be a lower priority than private schools, which only 10 percent of students attend.

Students in Texas, both in public and private schools, are the future of this state. We should want all of them to receive the best education possible, as they are our future leaders and innovators. If you implement vouchers, our public school students will lose teachers, staff, programs, resources, and services, which will have a negative effect on the quality of their education. That is a high price that 5 million students in this state will have to pay for this so-called school "choice" program.

Please use your power as a state representative to protect our neighborhood schools like the one my son attends. We do our part to support our school, because we know how important it is to our community. We need you to do your part as well, and say no to vouchers.

Stacy Bostick

Self/educator

Belton, TX

Please vote against vouchers HB3. Issues concerning parents about public education include standardized testing, class sizes, teacher turnover, limited special education & GT funding, and behavior. These are not issues with which teachers have control, but you do. All but one of these is a result of decisions regarding funding and testing made by the Texas legislature. The other, behavior, is the result of families and society neglecting their roles in raising and supporting children. As Gov. Abbott has said, "the people defunding public schools are parents... When they leave, the funding for that child leaves, too." Defunding public schools is not what they want. The concerns they have will only be made worse with HB3. The majority of Texans will still attend public schools. If we want to help ALL Texas children, we must NOT remove funding that is needed, and that is what HB3 will do. Looking at what countries who do better than us in education, they have highly trained and respected teachers (less teacher turnover because teacher pay is about the same as other professionals with the same amount of education.) Top performing countries have less standardized testing and more focus on creativity and critical thinking. These countries invest in early childhood education and much of this education is play-based learning, which is how children learn best. This is important. When children start school not ready to learn or who have not been read to or had much oral communication over the course of their lives, they start school already behind their peers. Even with excellent teaching, it will take time to close those gaps between them and their peers. In high performing countries, education is highly valued and parents actively support their children's learning. Respectfully, it is being made more difficult for parents to value education and educators when, sadly, there are many politicians saying and doing things that undermine both. In addition, high performing schools have more equity in education. School funding is spread more evenly instead of relying heavily on local property taxes. This is not the case in Texas. They also provide early interventions to ensure no child falls behind. Sadly, with no raise to the basic allotment since 2019, interventionists and librarians are two of the positions being considered for cuts in my district. We need more help, not less. The best thing you can do for Texas children is to fully fund and improve public schools, not fund an additional system that costs an additional billion dollars and is expected to rise to five billion in year five. As George Washington once said, "Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience." Every day, we tell our students to do the right thing "even when no one is watching". I am asking you to do the same thing, but Texans are watching. Let's work together to strengthen public schools. All children, not a select few, are depending on you.

Emily Hermans

self, educator

Austin, TX

As a public school parent and as someone who went through public schools in Texas as a child myself, I am deeply disappointed in the Republicans pursuit of a voucher program through HB3. This will take money directly out of our public school systems, which need is desperately, and put it in the pockets of wealthy families to send their children to the private schools that they already attend and pay for. This is a disservice to all Texans and will have devastating impact on the educational prospects of our students. Texas already lags behind most other states in educational outcomes, because of the lack of investment on the part of our legislature to ensure the best possible opportunities for students. I oppose HB3 and encourage any lawmaker who is looking out for the best interests of all Texans--something that you claim to do--to also oppose it.

Susan Scott

Self

Snyder, TX

I am 100% AGAINST using my tax money to fund any type of charter school, private school, or homeschool. It is the state's job to fund public schools for the good of society.

Yolanda Figgs

AFT CyFair

Cypress, TX

No

Ashley McCormack, Mrs.

Self and teacher

Blossom, TX

Stop Vouchers

Debra Decker, Mrs

Self/ public school teacher.

San Angelo, TX

I am extremely worried about funding for public education. My classroom has mechanical problems from old HVAC system that needs replacing, ceiling leaks, door won't seal, original plumbing and electrical from 1960 when the building was constructed. Our buildings need serious help and my salary after 33 years teaching CTE is pathetic. Public education needs a serious infusion of money and savings accounts scare my profession.

Lisa Johnson

Self

Claude, TX

Please do not vote for school vouchers. Rural public schools will suffer because the majority of rural schools do not have private schools close to them. Our rural public schools are also the heart of our communities. As a public school teacher for the last 31 years, our public school students deserve better from Texas. We work our tails off to provide the very best education for our students and those that vote for vouchers are letting them down. Please say NO to vouchers.

Lauren Benner

Self / Elementary Reading Language Arts Coordinator

Midlothian, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

I strongly urge you to oppose any efforts to implement Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) in Texas. ESAs divert taxpayer dollars away from our already underfunded public schools, weakening the education system that serves the vast majority of Texas students.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education to all children regardless of background, ability, or financial means. Instead of funneling money into unaccountable private institutions, we should be fully funding our public schools, increasing teacher pay, and ensuring all students have access to quality education.

ESAs lack transparency and accountability, allowing public funds to be used for private schooling, homeschooling, and even unregulated education expenses without clear oversight. This opens the door for fraud and misuse, while leaving many students—particularly those in rural and underserved areas—without real educational options.

Texans deserve a strong public school system that benefits all students, not a voucher-style program that prioritizes a select few. Please stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting ESAs and investing in the future of every Texas child.

Meagan Nelson, Mrs.

Self, home maker, home educator

Mount Pleasant, TX

I do not support HB3. I do not support government intervention in our private schools. I do not support autonomy taken away from private schools. I am not in support of anything within HB3, most notably the inclusion of homeschoolers. I don't want homeschoolers touched by this bill or any future legislation whatsoever. There does not need to be a new budget created to subsidize private school tuition. I am concerned that there is no cap on the proposed budget. I am disturbed that poverty level income is described as being so high in this bill - that does not make sense. I want to be clear that I will not vote for any representative in any future election who votes in favor of HB3, any school choice legislation, or any ESA or voucher program. Respectfully, HB3 is trash.

Andrea Mercer
self
Montgomery, TX

Hello, my name is Andrea Mercer. I am contacting you regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to ask Representative Bell to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3. Thank you!

Nova Olson, Mrs
Self
Godley, TX

This bill as written is wholly problematic.

1. This expands government by creating new reporting, new positions within the Comptrollers office, new analysis needs, etc.

2. This bill provides funds for a VERY small number of students. This leaves the current system STILL VERY BROKEN.

Students are failed by the current system and there is NO REMEDY in place and doesn't appear there will be for quite some time. This is UNACCEPTABLE.

3. This does not help public schools with funding (where the MAJORITY will stay) and therefore doesn't help the many great teachers who will STILL be left with inadequate funds to teach with. Teachers are already so burdened with testing requirements and endless administrative duties that their ability to teach creatively and effectively is decimated. The TEA is horrible. Morath needs to be fired. The TEKS effectively destroy the profession of teaching. Recently a doctorate student in Texas wrote a scathing dissertation about the TEA. They had her paper embargoed for TWO years. ZERO accountability.

Teachers are faced with innumerable problems and this bill will only exacerbate the problematic educational system in Texas. This is incredibly expensive. With property taxes out of control, Texas property owners are maxed out. People are losing their homes because of the lust for more money.

THIS HAS TO STOP.

Our college system is in a shambles. It's a money grab instead of a education. Tarleton's education & nursing program, part of A & M for goodness sakes, is in chaos. Schools are partnering w schools where kids are going and the schools are failures. We are failing our kids on ALL fronts!!!

Stop this and rewrite. Period

Anne Howell
Self
Dallas, TX

You've heard from your constituents: Texans do NOT want vouchers! You represent us, not out-of-state megadonors. Say NO to Abbott's corrupt for-the-wealthy-only scheme.

Mayra Olivares-Urueta
Self
Arlington, TX

This will not help our public schools or students!!! Do not move this forward!!!

Michelle Muecke
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose this bill because it will gut public education and ALL kids deserve a quality education.

Monica Barroso

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Public schools are the foundation of our communities, providing all students—regardless of background or income—with access to quality education, resources, and opportunities. Fully funding public education ensures smaller class sizes, well-trained teachers, up-to-date materials, and enrichment programs that benefit every child.

Voucher programs, on the other hand, divert public funds to private schools, many of which are not held to the same standards of accountability, inclusivity, or transparency. These programs weaken our public schools by draining much-needed resources, leaving the majority of students with fewer opportunities.

Instead of siphoning taxpayer dollars into private institutions, we must invest in strengthening our public schools. Every child deserves a fully funded, high-quality education—not just those who can afford private tuition. Let's stand together to protect and support our public schools. Say no to vouchers and yes to a stronger future for all students.

Cheryl Hassell

Self, Retired teacher

Keller, TX

Do not use my tax dollars to subsidize private education for anyone that can afford to pay. Do not use my tax dollars for schools that do not openly accept ANY student, regardless of political, social, or religious beliefs, regardless of ability and special needs.

Nicole Dickson

self

san antonio, TX

Vouchers are going to hurt the poor the most and their access to education and subsequently their ability to lift themselves out of poverty. Vote no on vouchers.

Anna Winterbottom, Mrs.

Self/retired educator

Sandia, TX

Please do not pass the voucher bill. It is not a good fit for public education. I feel our governor is trying to please his wealthy constituents. He's been keeping money for public education hostage for several years. He's acting like a spoiled child who wants his way. He is a disgrace to public education.

Melody Kolb

Self

Comanche, TX

I am against ESA because private schools and homeschoolers do not have to abide by the same rules that public schools do. Get rid of STAAR and let teachers teach again! Fully fund public schools first!

Alison Potter, Teacher

Plano Isd

Richarsson, TX

I just don't understand why you don't want to support our children and teachers . As desperately need a raise and this voucher program is awful. There is no way this will work . Again , the governor just wants to help the rich and the heck with the poor. It's so sad to hate those that need help .

Lori Muecke
Self
Houston, TX

I am wholeheartedly opposed to an educational voucher program. It is a clear scam to further separate the 'haves' and 'have nots', giving additional advantages to those who have wealth. How did we get a point in society where we don't care about the quality of EVERY child's education. If we want to be leaders on the world stage, whether that is as a beacon for freedom or economically, then we need a well-educated citizenry.

Jayne Serna
Self
Leander, TX

Hello House Education Committee,

Thank you for your desire to serve the state of Texas and your constituents. I do not believe that ESAs should be created until our current public school funding system (recapture, deficit budgets, underfunding special education) is fixed, the basic allotment is adjusted at least to meet inflation, and Texas funds public schools above 40th in the country. Let's fully fund our public schools!

Many thanks,
Jayne Serna
Taxpayer and educator

Renece Weathersby, Reverend
AFT- Cyfair ISD Houston, Texas
Houston, TX

The Gregg Abbott's Voucher Scam is just that. It does not benefit the public education nor families who are not billionaires who can afford to pay for private education and the difference using the vouchers. The vouchers defund public education and the welfare of our children, and teachers lives.

Stephanie A Silva
Self/Special education teacher assistant
Grand Prairie, TX

I do not like the voucher idea. This agenda is not going to benefit the average or special education student. Abbott wants this so badly only for his own personal agenda. He does not care about jobs lost to lifetime public service school staff or the students that will lose out because of this. He has already caused significant damage to the public schools by throwing a tender tantrum and withholding public school funds until he bullied everyone into getting his way.

Fred Weaver, Mr
Self
Helotes, TX

Please do not fund Vouchers. Fully fund public Education. Retired School Superintendent.

William Fagelson, Dr.
Myself
Austin, TX

I want to register my strong opposition to the proposed school voucher program. Every state that has implemented this scam has found that it is an abject failure, unless the goal is to further damage our public schools. This scheme does nothing to help working class families afford a private education and everything to subsidize those who can already afford it. In turn, those who do use the program have worse results academically than those who stay with their public schools. Please show some common sense and stop this scam from ever seeing the light of day.

Sharon Evans

SELF

Early, TX

NO TO ALL VOUCHER BILLS

Charles Kirk

Self, Teacher, Career and Technology Nederland ISD

Beaumont, TX

I would like to take a moment to state my thoughts, as a public school teacher in the classroom, on HB 3, Educational Savings Account. The bill as written will be detrimental to the public school system in Texas, particularly, Career and Technology Education. Funding for CTE comes directly from student enrollment in these programs and is directly tied to these programs. If the bill is passed without some modifications and protections to public school funding for CTE, enrollment in public schools will definitely be reduced, reducing the number of students enrolled in those programs, which will automatically reduce the funds for those programs. This will put the teachers and staff who teach these subjects at risk of a reduction of force due to the lack of students in those programs. This will in turn affect the workforce that these programs are building and cause Texas to slide backwards in terms of a trained, young, work force. Private schools will not be able to pick-up the loss of those programs.

While it is true that yes, funding for the bill may not be taken directly from public school, it will never the less be taken from public schools in terms of the loss of enrollment, which is where public school system in Texas receives its funding based on the enrollment and attendance of students in that district. With the vouchers, enrollment will be decreased, and funding will be decreased to the public schools as well, so in fact the bill will cut funding to public schools, not increase it.

I submit to you, yes freedom of choice for parents is important and it can be done fairly to all parties concerned, but just not this way, I respectfully ask that the committee table this bill, study the problem at hand, and rewrite the bill where fair and equitable solution can be found and that all parties concerned will have both a gain, as well as a loss in that freedom.

Brittany Gurganus

Self

Abilene, TX

Please listen to the overwhelming majority of Texans. We DO NOT want ESAs. Fund public schools adequately!

Jana Reid

self

GRANBURY, TX

Vouchers are NOT conservative and will not improve student achievement in Texas any more than they've done in any other state. Many counties do not have a private school option. Private schools don't have to enroll every student and cost more than the vouchers/ESAs will provide, so how is a poor student to provide the difference while also paying for uniforms, meals, fees, transportation, etc.? The barely over \$200 increase in allotment for public schools is woefully inadequate, continuing to starve the public schools out which has been the MO of the last few years. And yet, public schools like Granbury High where I teach has landed students on TV shows about high school BBQ competitions and offered up to 36 hours of dual credit instruction for students to take to college when they graduate, not to mention AP credit, industry-based certifications, and choirs recognized at the TMEA as honors choirs--the best of the best in the state of Texas. Despite efforts to starve the majority of public schools and their students out, they're flourishing and soldiering on. Please do NOT approve vouchers and continue starving out public education, the hope for the future of our students and the production of workers to build the Texas of our future.

Pam Sellers

Retired teacher

Sulphur Springs, TX

No to ANY vouchers in Tx. Fully fund public schools. Listen to constituents that have repeatedly and strongly opposed these schemes.

Lindy Barnes

Self

Austin, TX

No

Jill Smith

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am a Texan and SUPPORT school choice and vouchers!

Christina Guerra

Self

Houston, TX

!!

Naomi Hurst

Self

Garland, TX

I am writing to ask you to support HB3. My children received a great education in the Richardson School District back in the 90's. Now my grandchildren are in RISD and their mother is a former teacher in the district. The public schools met our families needs for a long time, however, as it is the case for so many children these days, our grandson has been diagnosed with ADHD and despite the best efforts in the public school they were not able to provide the educational experience he needs. Our son made the difficult situation, with great financial burden, to move our grandson to a private school where he is now thriving! These are the kids of families who will benefit from your support of this bill. Thank you for voting to help all types of children and all types of families like ours.

Bria Cirkiel

Self

Austin, TX

NO VOUCHERS - PLEASE
SUPPORT OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!!

Kristine Bruening

Self -public school teacher PK3

Austin, TX

Who taught you when you were little for you to be in the seat you are now? It took a seat at a public school to do that.
Remember?

Ashleigh Johnson, Mrs.

Self

Colleyville, TX

As a sixth-generation Texan and a rock-solid conservative, I was raised to believe in fiscal responsibility, local control, and strong communities. That's exactly why I stand against school vouchers—because they violate every one of those principles.

Vouchers aren't about 'choice'—they're about taking our hard-earned tax dollars and handing them over to private schools with no accountability. Schools that can pick and choose their students. Schools that aren't required to accept every child, especially those with special needs. Schools that don't answer to taxpayers like our public schools do.

Let's call this what it is: a government handout to private institutions at the expense of our neighborhood schools, particularly in rural Texas, where public schools aren't just an option—they're the only option. When you strip funding from our local schools, you aren't just hurting kids—you're gutting the heart of our communities. And once those schools close, they're never coming back.

Conservatives don't believe in wasteful spending. We don't believe in government picking winners and losers. And we sure as hell don't believe in undermining the very institutions that built this state. If you claim to back the blue, support small-town Texas, and care about the future of our workforce, then you should be fighting to strengthen public schools—not dismantle them.

The real conservative stance? Fully funding public education, keeping our tax dollars where they belong, and rejecting this reckless voucher scam. Texans are too smart to fall for this. We stand for strong schools, strong communities, and a strong future for every kid in this state—not just the ones who can afford it.

Becky Smith

Self, non profit executive

Houston, TX

I oppose HB 3. I am a parent with a student in public school. I believe vouchers will further divide the "haves" from the "have nots" and do generational harm.

Lisa Savage

Self

Alvin, TX

This Bill is a dismantling of public education, which is the bedrock of our great democracy. There is overwhelming evidence in states who have implemented school vouchers that prove this to be harmful to public school funding, resources, enrichment programs and overall success, with data showing that the vouchers are largely used by higher income households with children who already attend private schools. There are more rural counties in Texas than urban, with no access to private education for those who are most marginalized. This bill is simply theater for representatives to push a partisan initiative that only drives a bigger gulf between low income households and the wealthy. If this Bill is passed, you will be inviting an organized, passionate, blue wave in Texas in retaliation for ignoring your constituents for favor with officials being bought by those who will line their pockets through private education. If you have even a shred of integrity you will vote no on this bill and turn your attention to properly funding our anemic public school systems. Shame is the only viable outcome for any elected official who votes yes on HB3. Instead, you have an opportunity to be a hero for ALL students by creating rich learning environments within our public education system. I implore you to do the right thing and vote no on HB 3.

Addie Elsbecker

Self mom

Austin, TX

This voucher program is a great to the education of the children in Texas, especially the lower class families that depend on public school. If we take away their education and resources we take away the future of America.

Meagen Gumm
Public Schools
Goliad, TX

As a public school parent, I will answer "yes" when asked if our public schools can do better. However, Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and taking money away from public education in Texas is not the answer. Please, for the sake of our kids and communities vote NO on HB3 and spend your time crafting a thoughtful, well-rounded plan on how to better public education

Robyn Best
Texas Online Prep HS
Rowlett, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Beverly Hurd
Self
Spring, TX

I oppose HB 3. Support our public schools.

Rebecca Humphries
Texas Teacher representing Texas children, educators both current and retired, and schools
Round Rock, TX

Our public schools are amazing places of learning for all students. The programs go beyond just the classroom and stretch into things like science Olympiad, dance and athletics, fine arts programs, and clubs of all kinds to engage students and bring them a sense of belonging (we even have a crochet club at my school). I have been teaching for 22 years, I'm a single mom, and I have poured my life into this work. I already work 2 jobs and am currently trying to make and sell crafts to supplement that further. I am also the Student Council sponsor at my school who sent two brilliant student council members to the capital for the PTSA rally day. They are very concerned and disheartened by what they state government wants to do with the funding of schools. They are frustrated that a voucher program would give more state funds (tax payer money) per student who would attend private school than what is allotted for public school students. They wonder why their state feels they have less value than a private school student? As a teacher who is well versed in the MANY public school choices there already are, I wonder how you can justify this move that actuarial reports showed could bankrupt the TRS retirement we have worked so hard for? Vote against this bill.

Teachers and schools have been demonized long enough. I am tired of being repeatedly "slapped" in the face with talk of how "bad" our public schools are. We work so hard for our students.

Furthermore, if I wanted to buy an expensive new car, I wouldn't ask the transportation department to fund it. It would be MY choice. If parents want to send kids to private school, let them do so on their own dollar.

Final thought: When talking to God (if you believe in Him) or even looking into the eyes of your own children, would you rather say you protected the institutions that support, protect, and love students? Or would you rather tell them that you did a great job spending the money that lobbyists provided so you could help the wealthy get a coupon?

This bill is wrong in every way. Do the right thing. This isn't just a politics thing. It is a soul searching issue of morality. Vote no.

Heather Powell
Self
Cypress, TX

I am not for school vouchers.

Clinton Arias

Self

Lubbock, TX

My name is Clinton Arias, and I am a proud Texas resident and the parent of a public school student in Lubbock. I am writing to strongly urge you to oppose any efforts to implement school voucher programs in our state. As a father, I want my child—and all Texas children—to have access to a strong, well-funded public education system that provides every student with the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

Voucher programs threaten to divert taxpayer dollars away from our already underfunded public schools and into private institutions that are not held to the same standards of accountability or accessibility. Unlike public schools, which serve all students regardless of ability, socioeconomic status, or background, private schools can pick and choose who they accept. By siphoning funds away from public education, vouchers would further strain resources for the students who need them most—particularly those in rural and low-income communities.

Texas public schools are already facing significant challenges, including teacher shortages, outdated materials, and inadequate funding. Rather than redirecting public money to private schools that are not required to serve students with disabilities or adhere to state curriculum standards, we should be investing in strengthening the schools that educate the vast majority of Texas children. Our teachers deserve better pay, our schools need more resources, and our students deserve a fully funded education system that prepares them for a successful future.

Public education is the foundation of a strong economy and a thriving democracy. Weakening our public school system through voucher programs will only increase educational inequities and limit opportunities for countless Texas families. I urge you to stand with Texas students, families, and educators by opposing any voucher programs that take funding away from our public schools. Instead, I ask that you prioritize policies that support and strengthen our public education system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Natalie Garcia, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

Education is a right not a privilege and as a longtime resident and taxpayer in Austin Texas I strongly disagree with any private school voucher programs. Our tax dollars should be allocated to properly fund educational materials, safe and functioning facilities and to pay proper living wages those working in public schools. Those who can afford private school are welcome to choose that option but not with my tax dollars.

Brianna Madruga

Self

Austin, TX

I am an Austin resident and have been a proud public school parent and volunteer for 8 years. I am frustrated that HB 3 is being considered for Texas, as it is a blatant effort to defund our public schools. This will negatively impact 5.5 million Texas public school students, all to provide a small subsidy for wealthy families with students who already attend private school. Public funds should ONLY be used to fund public schools. Not only is the voucher amount not even half of what a private tuition costs near me (Private schools in my area are \$20k and above), but also many rural communities in Texas don't even have a private school within their area as an option for their students. This issue is non-partisan, both Democrats and Republicans in Texas agree that this voucher bill is a scam to benefit the wealthy. Voucher programs all over the country have failed and are currently being repealed and cancelled (in Nebraska and Illinois). It's also important to note that Greg Abbott has accepted \$12 in contributions from Jeffrey Yass, a billionaire Pennsylvania who personally benefits from a voucher program in Texas. Texans deserve fully funded public schools. This should be the priority. We see through this voucher scam and are unwilling to sacrifice great schools for all for a subsidy for the wealthy.

I request that the Committee does NOT allow this bill to move forward. I ask that the Committee instead add an additional \$1300 to the per student allotment and invest in the 5.5 million public school students in Texas. What a hero you could be for our community! Thank you.

Kelly Sult

Self, Business Owner/Consultant

Stephenville, TX

I vehemently object to the passage of the School Voucher system in the State of Texas. Parents already have a choice in which school to send their kids to. This is just an attempt to funnel public money to the hands of already wealthy families who can already afford Private schooling. This system will completely DESTROY our honorable system of public education in the state of Texas. Instead, we demand that you fully fund Public Education and Educators and find ways to elevate Texas to the top of the rankings in our country, instead of continuing to undermine our educational system.

Julie Henry

Self, orientation and Mobility specialist (former educator of 20 years)

Jacksonville, TX

I completely opposed the voucher system. I am a former educator of 20 years. I was a special ed teacher, a general ed teacher, a school counselor, a 504 coordinator, an assistant principal, and ran ARD meetings. The voucher system will devastate our education system. It will only help the rich kids. When I was a school counselor and an assistant principal I was in lower income schools. There is no choice in our rural counties. In our more urban counties there is a choice, but many of the middle income families still won't be able to afford it. School choice means that if a student has a disability and the best choice is a charter or a private school then they may not receive services. I am now an orientation & Mobility specialist with a nonprofit. I know multiple students with vision impairments that are not receiving services because they go to Charter or private schools. This will be devastating to our educational system. I was contemplating going back to education this year. If we go to school choice I will not go back and we will lose many more great educators.

Crystal Alarcon

self

Muleshoe, TX

I vote no for vouchers. Does not pertain to Muleshoe Texas. We want a teacher pay raise. Do not take tax payer money for rich students to go to a private school. Schools are safe and Texas schools are the best in the nation!

Maria Person

self, Director

Austin, TX

I am a Texas resident and product of the public education system and urge you to fully fund the public education system and do not use our tax dollars fund private schools. I oppose HB3 and school vouchers and Educational Savings Accounts that take public funding and use it to pay for private education. The schools are not held accountable to the same regulations as the public schools. The money in other states has created budget problems and the funding goes primarily to those who can afford to pay for private school and are already enrolled. Private schools and home schools are able to select and reject students, so are not fulfilling the mandate to educate all Texas children and should not have the funding. Instead, fully fund Texas public schools by raising the basic allotment by at least \$1000, tagging the funding to inflation, and making the funding enrollment based. The funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had high inflation and the children of Texas need schools funded to provide the mandated education.

Kenneth Nelson

Self

Allen, TX

Please do NOT pass this bill taking funds from public education

Amber Wilson

Self

Dallas, TX

I strongly disagree with this bill's approach to school funding and teacher compensation. It does not adequately address the root causes of educational inequality and may disproportionately impact underfunded districts, particularly rural communities. Additionally, it fails to consider the unique needs of students requiring special services, potentially widening the gap in support for these vulnerable groups.

barbara taylor

Self

Conroe, TX

The negative impact of the school voucher proposals far outweigh the positive. I feel strongly that this is not the right decision for our students.

Whitney Ellis, Mrs.

Self, Realtor

Woodway, TX

As a parent to 3 school aged children, please put money into the teachers' salaries to make our public schools even more admirable and wanted. Until you've sat a day in the life of a teacher filled with children, how can you possibly take money away from public schools when your job is to make public education strong and promising for all? Please say NO to vouchers but yes to our teachers and public schools.

Courtney Mullaney

Public school employee, parent

Fort Worth, TX

Vouchers are in no way the best interest of our state. Our public schools are struggling with the allotment not increasing since 2019 in the face of extreme inflation. School choice already exists for those who want to attend private school, I urge you to stand for the population as a whole, who DOES NOT support vouchers. Please do not vote for this to be created, it is almost universally opposed, please stand for constituents.

Arnetta Murray

Self

Iowa Colony, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed establishment of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program in Texas. While I fully support efforts to improve educational opportunities for all students, I am deeply concerned that this program will divert much-needed public funds away from our public schools, ultimately weakening the education system that serves the majority of Texas students.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing equitable education to students of all backgrounds, abilities, and socioeconomic statuses. By redirecting taxpayer dollars to private and unregulated educational institutions through ESAs, we risk undermining the resources that our public schools desperately need for teacher salaries, special education programs, classroom resources, and infrastructure improvements.

Additionally, ESA programs lack sufficient oversight and accountability, raising concerns about potential misuse of funds and the quality of education provided in non-public settings. Our focus should remain on strengthening public schools by investing in educators, expanding resources, and ensuring that every child, regardless of their zip code, has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to oppose the establishment of an ESA program and instead support policies that reinforce and enhance Texas public schools. Our students, teachers, and communities deserve a fully funded, equitable, and accountable education system that serves everyone fairly.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Casey Sharp

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the public school voucher bill currently under consideration. While proponents claim that vouchers expand school choice, the reality is that they divert critical taxpayer dollars away from our already underfunded public schools—schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children.

Public funds should be used to support public education, not subsidize private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards. Unlike public schools, private institutions can selectively admit students, discriminate based on income or ability, and operate without the transparency required of taxpayer-funded entities. The voucher program would ultimately widen educational disparities, benefiting wealthier families while leaving behind students in rural and low-income communities who have no access to private schooling options.

Texas public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education, meals, special services, and support for all children, regardless of their background or challenges. Instead of siphoning funds away, we should be investing in teacher salaries, infrastructure, and classroom resources to ensure every child receives a quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families, teachers, and students by voting against this harmful bill. Protect our public schools—our children's future depends on it.

Thank you,

Casey Sharp

Concerned and Proud Parent of a Texas Public School Child

Monica Lopez

Self

McKinney, TX

Do not support

Coral Davis

Self senior panel manager

Arlington, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Derek Bridges

Self, engineer.

Austin, TX

I oppose the use of public funding for private school vouchers which will detract from public schools' resources and may benefit certain vested interests.

Lori Kerrigan

SELF

Austin, TX

As a Texas PTA member, I urge you to oppose HB 3 and prioritize adequate funding for public school children! Studies show voucher programs DO NOT equate to improved academic outcomes -HB 3 is NOT a parent choice bill – This bill funds private school selectivity with public money.

Joshua Shankles

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB3. Until public schools are fully resourced we should not be considering diverting public resources to private educational entities.

Sandra Fry

Self

Rowlett, TX

I am not in favor of the education savings account. ALL children need an education from thriving public school agendas that teach a true and diverse curriculum. Teaching only the wealthy in private schools will not accomplish this and promotes illiteracy and uneducated in the majority of Texas families. The allotted amount in the family will hardly cover the huge costs of sending a child to a private school. It would be more conservatively used to educate a larger proportion of students.

Laura Bagheri

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

shannon evans, FNP

self

austin, TX

NO to this bill

Patricia Jolley

Self retired teacher

Bastrop, TX

I oppose HB 3. Keep public money in public schools. Let private money fund private schools.

Maricia Startz

Self

Victoria, TX

I do NOT support HB3. Tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools. Fund public schools!!

Amanda Armbruster
Self - Licensed Professional Counselor
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Andrew Riddle, Sharyland ISD Board Member
Sharyland ISD
McAllen, TX

To the Members of the House Public Education Committee,

According to Don't Defund My Schools, implementing a large voucher program would strip \$3.9 million from Sharyland ISD, diverting essential resources from public schools to private institutions that lack public accountability. This could result in the loss of up to 74 teachers, 80,000 fewer library books, and a projected 7.12% increase in student-teacher ratios—all of which would significantly impact students' education.

Even a smaller voucher program would be detrimental to our community. A reduction of \$795,000 in funding would mean the loss of 14 teachers and an increase in the student-teacher ratio by 1.10%.

HB 3 does not truly provide parental choice. Instead, it allows private schools to reject students based on disability, race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Section 29.368 of the bill grants private institutions broad authority to turn away students at their discretion, making it likely that many struggling students—those who need the most support—will be left behind. Every child deserves access to a quality education, regardless of background or ability.

Texas already offers school choice through inter-district transfers and public charter schools. Vouchers are not the answer—they do not expand real choice but instead redirect public funds away from the schools that serve all students.

I urge you to fully and appropriately fund our public schools and ensure that public dollars remain in our community schools, where they support every child, not just a select few.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lisa Wood, VP Digital Solutions
Self
Quinlan, TX

I SUPPORT this education savings account program. The public school system is failing and continuing to not provide proper education. Parents need other choices.

Leo Peters
self
San Antonio, TX

I AM OPPOSED TO any move to take money away from Texas funding of Public Schools.

Georganne Warnock
Self
Terrell, TX

I am
opposed to vouchers and any private entity funded with our public tax dollars. Fund our public schools.

Camron Rushin
Self
Austin, TX

Vote no. School vouchers are a scam to siphon money from the poor to pay for the education of the rich. It is also unconstitutional for tax dollars to go toward religious schools.

Christina Mikhail
Self
Austin, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and support Texas public schools. This bill diverts taxpayer dollars from public schools, which educate over 90% of Texas students, to private institutions with little accountability. Schools already facing teacher shortages and rising student needs will be forced to cut programs, increase class sizes, and limit services.

Private schools receiving taxpayer funds are not required to serve all students, follow state curriculum standards, provide performance data, or maintain financial oversight. If public money is being spent, there should be transparency in how it is used. HB 3 lacks that accountability.

While promoted as a "school choice," HB 3 benefits only a small group of families. Vouchers do not fully cover tuition, leaving many working-class and rural families unable to access private schools. Meanwhile, public schools serving most students will be left with fewer resources.

Strong public schools create strong communities. When schools suffer, property values decline, businesses struggle, and workforce development weakens. Texans have consistently rejected voucher schemes, recognizing that public funds should support schools that serve all students. HB 3 threatens that foundation.

I appreciate your time and consideration in protecting Texas public education.

Summer Fuqua
Self
Abilene, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and implore Governor Abbott to fully fund *PUBLIC* schools. ALL students and teachers deserve to be fully equipped and supported and vouchers is not the way to do it!

Melissa Glouchkova

Self

ROUND ROCK, TX

As a Texan and a tax payer, I DO NOT want my taxes paying for private school vouchers. It is a fundamental right to EVERY child and citizen of this state to have access to quality education. Vouchers will only destroy smaller communities, endanger our communities by creating low level competencies, shame those with disabilities who can be discriminated against, enhance the wealthy who are already able to afford luxuries such as private schools, and divide our state even further. They are unlawful and the rhetoric being spewed behind these vouchers is nothing but false and propaganda.

I AM AGAINST VOUCHERS AND MY TAXES BEING USED FOR SUCH!

Melissa Glouchkova

Lynn Blair

None

Conroe, TX

I am an advocate for public schools and therefore I am strongly opposed to this voucher bill.

Christine Zimmer

Self

Willis, TX

As a parent of two boys with intellectual disabilities and severe autism, I oppose House Bill 3. Do not take public tax dollars to fund schools that will not accept my sons. Use tax dollars to FULLY fund our public schools.

Jessica Campos, Mom

Self

Houston, TX

My name is Jessica Campos, and I am a parent in Houston ISD. I keep hearing that 'parents know best,' but let me tell you the truth—many of us don't always know, not because we don't care, but because we are struggling to survive in this economy.

Many of us are working nonstop, sometimes two or three jobs, just to put food on the table. We don't have the bandwidth to research every policy change, every school rating, every so-called 'choice' you claim to give us. Some of us don't even have internet at home. Some of us don't have cars to drive our kids across town. And what happens when we finally do find a school we think could help? If our child has a disability, they can just say no. Private schools don't have to take our kids. They don't have to provide bilingual education. They don't have to offer special education services.

So tell me—who does this really help? Because it's not families like mine. HISD is 50% Spanish-speaking, yet most of our parents have never even heard of 'school choice' because no one is explaining it to them. If you really cared about helping us, you would come into our communities, talk to our parents in our language, and ask what we actually need.

I am one of these parents. I have a child with special needs, and I am fighting every single day to get her the education she deserves. Instead of making public schools stronger, you are forcing families like mine into a system that wasn't built for us. Vouchers don't help when private schools can turn our kids away. 'School choice' isn't real when it only works for the privileged few.

What we need is investment in public schools, not a system that pushes out the families that need them the most.

Lawrence Ford
Self Retired Banker
Bryan, TX

Public schools are for ALL students in our state. They have strict rules and regulations and high accountability standards that private schools and homeschooling do NOT have. Private schools and homeschooling are choices parents make when they don't want their children to "associate with regular students" who attend public school. Please vote AGAINST this bill and keep our state funding where it belongs-in public schools. Also, our governor and his major donors should NOT benefit financially from this bill!

Sandra Wilson
Self
Southlake, TX

I would like it to be known that I oppose HB3 and school vouchers which will take money from public schools and given to wealthy families who are already sending children to private schools. All 3 of my sons are dyslexic and I fear that programs like Language Science will be cut when funding for public schools transfers to private. HB3 does not respect the separation of state and church which is becoming more frightening each and every day.

.ary Emily Schultz, Ms
My grandsons!
Houston, TX

I fully support Public Education. Therefore , I oppose, and want YOU to oppose HB 3.

Laura Pillow
self, homemaker
Lantana, TX

I am against HB3, as are most Texans. This harms our public schools, which are already severely underfunded. Please use our tax dollars to adequately fund our public schools instead.

Beth Hatla
Self, Retired Teacher
Victoria, TX

I am a retired Texas public school teacher who strongly opposes private school subsidies, also known as the education savings account program. Early in my career, in the 1980s, there were already people who were laying out the groundwork for this scam. I think they had some good points but did not fully realize to what extent this sort of program could be or would be perverted to the will of disingenuous and deceitful people who would turn it into a money-grab. I strongly believe private school subsidies are wasteful, inefficient, and unfair to the families of this state. Our future depends on a free public education available to ALL students. I believe our public school system, if fully funded and loved, can be the BEST in our country, IF only you will be brave and honorable in VOTING No to HB3 and moving forward with rigorous intent. Thank you.

Ying Jia
Self
Keller, TX

I am writing to oppose HB3. The school voucher will put the public schools in a dangerous situation for fund. Without the regulation on the private schools, the money from school voucher may not be used wisely and appropriately.

Michael Williams
Self
Humble, TX

I do not support this bill and it should be voted No

Emily Cowart

Self

Denton, TX

Vote no

Roxann Morris

Teachers

Shallowater, TX

No vouchers!!

Serena Ahmed-Arroyo

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am a New Braunfels constituent staunchly against this bill. This is a scam to benefit people already in private schools, not lower income communities. Our public schools will lose funding because of this bill. Why are we letting out-of-state billionaires primary out Republicans who were against vouchers? Texans made it clear for years now that we do not want vouchers in our state. Yet, we are letting out of state billionaires decide what happens here. Please vote against this bill.

Aitu Taube, Business owner

Self - business owner

Houston, TX

To the members of the committee:

I am a business owner and mother of two public school children. I am strong believer in and supporter of public schools in my community, because strong public schools make for a vibrant and fiscally strong community. Good public schools increase property values, which in turn increase property tax revenue, which **SHOULD BE FED BACK INTO THE SCHOOLS....NOT INTO PRIVATE EDUCATION** that serve a fraction of the community. Beyond this basic belief there are multiple reasons I do not support this bill:

1. Public schools must adhere to various subject curricula approved by the state. Private schools will not be verified if they adhere to the same standards in the TEKS.
2. Public schools and their districts are given “report cards,” but private schools won’t have them.
3. The public elects boards of trustees to select a superintendent, set a budget and create policies that support enforcement of state and federal education laws. Again, will private schools be required to be transparent and will those tax dollars from vouchers be properly accounted for?
4. Public schools are required to take in any student at any point in the school year. Private schools limit enrollment numbers and limit enrollment periods to the semester before the new year starts.
5. Under current law, students with special needs must be supported with personnel and equipment where required. There is no such requirement for private schools. In fact, they can tell the parent that they do not have the ability, nor will they acquire the necessary personnel or equipment to assist a severely handicap child.

Our family has chosen private school at various times in our kids’ education but that is our choice and I **DO NOT** expect or support tax dollars being stolen from public coffers to pay for this choice.

Public schools in Texas have not been fully – and adequately- funded since at least 1999. Parents and teacher organizations have been there to fill the gap in my community but it is time for that to change.

I urge all of you to vote down this voucher scheme because it is against the values of Texas. Look at our constitution for the state. It talks about fully funding our public schools, not giving tax dollars without accountability and transparency, to private schools.

Vote this down and end this.

Thank you.

Feel free to contact me, and if you want, I can come down to Houston and have a conversation with any of you. If you come, you will see my face on every public school in the community. I put my hard earned business dollars back into our public schools because I believe education is a **RIGHT** for all and not a privilege for some.

Sincerely,
Aitu Taube

Paula Barnes
Red Oak ISD
Burleson, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill. Thank you!

Charlene Fowler
Self
Canton, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

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Jeremy Anderson
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

Vouchers are bad for the public education system as a whole. They will be bad for the solvency of our retirement system. They move public funds without transparency or equivalent accountability. Vote NO!

Lauren Henry Wolf
Leander ISD teachers
Austin, TX

As a public school teacher in Leander ISD, I am against school vouchers being used to fund public/private charter schools in Texas. Please instead increase the standard allotment funding per student to help better fund our public schools.

Jacob Heller

Self

Victoria, TX

I do not agree with this bill. I am not for it. I am against it. Parents already have a choice as to where to send their kids. You all are dictating what the public schools can/can't do. But without the proper funding, how do you expect them to do their jobs appropriately. Please vote AGAINST HB3!!!

Michele Thompson

Self/Realtor

Burleson, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children.

Jennifer Bundy

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am adamantly opposed to SB 3 and any voucher system which will use funds that should be allocated to public schools.

Paola Baradello

Self

Austin, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Paola

Mary DuPont

Self

Wolfforth, TX

I strongly disagree with this bill's approach to school funding and teacher compensation. It does not adequately address the root causes of educational inequality and may disproportionately impact underfunded districts, particularly rural communities. Additionally, it fails to consider the unique needs of students requiring special services, potentially widening the gap in support for these vulnerable groups.

Jennifer Richardson

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Education Committee,

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I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jen Richardson

Janet Beavan

Self

Plano, TX

I am against this bill!!

Mary Moran
Self, Nurse Practitioner
Conroe, TX

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I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, Mary Moran

Celeste Quesada
Casa Suerte
Austin, TX

What's this about an out-of-state billionaire giving Greg Abbott \$12 million to pass a private school voucher bill? I have a sister and other family members that have been teachers. I've also got two kids going through the public education system. I vote and I am for Public School Education.

Kerry McEniry
Personal family - attorney
Houston, TX

My household includes two voting adults and two school age children. We support public education and believe the state should adequately fund our public schools. The voucher program is a terrible concept and we do not support it because of how much funding it will remove from our public schools.

Rache Ritter
Self
Angleton, TX

Chairman Buckley and Honorable Members of the House Public Education Committee, My name is Rachel Ritter, and I am writing to express my strong support for Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). Growing up, I lived off the 610 Loop in Houston, in a neighborhood that wasn't the nicest but wasn't the worst. One of my best friends at the time was my neighbor, Darlene. We were zoned to a high school that consistently ranks in the bottom quartile of Texas high schools, with academic performance significantly below state and district averages on STAAR End-of-Course exams. The school's four-year graduation rate ranges from 75.6% to 86.7%—lower than both the state and district averages—and its dropout rate was higher, ranging from 3.5% to 6.4%. Over 90% of students qualified for free or reduced-price lunch. My parents were deeply concerned that I wouldn't receive the quality education needed to go to college or build a successful future. At the time, our only real options were to move to a different neighborhood or pay for private school. Fortunately, through their hard work and sacrifice, my parents were able to send me to a private school. Darlene didn't have that option. She and her brother lived with their elderly grandparents, who simply couldn't afford private school tuition. As a result, Darlene attended our local high school, while I went on to graduate in the top 10% of my private high school class and earn a substantial academic scholarship to a university. I often wonder how Darlene's life might have been different if she had the same educational opportunities I did. Sadly, circumstances and something as arbitrary as a zip code determined our futures. With the passage of ESAs, stories like ours don't have to repeat. Every Texas student—regardless of background or income—will have the opportunity to succeed. Low-income families already demonstrate high utilization rates for educational choice programs. For example, Texas charter schools primarily serve low-income neighborhoods—half of charter school students come from areas with a median income of less than \$54,000 a year. Yet, the demand for charter schools far outstrips supply, with over 66,500 children currently on waitlists. Also, it's clear that Texas students are struggling like those currently attending my zoned public high school. According to the Nation's Report Card, only 23% of Texas 8th graders—and just 17% of low-income students—are proficient in reading. This ranks Texas 42nd in the nation. In contrast, Florida—once ranking 33rd in reading and 27th in math—now ranks #1 in both, thanks in large part to the implementation of ESAs. Expanding educational options through ESAs will ensure that every child in Texas has access to a world-class education and the chance to reach their full potential. I strongly urge you to support educational savings accounts. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Antonia Guerra-Watson, Dr
Self psychologist
Southlake, TX

Texas public schools are a valuable, essential resource for our children, families and communities. They deserve to be fully funded and supported by the Texas government. No funds should be diverted in any way from public schools to private institutions.

Debbie Kines, Mrs.
Djksel
CANTON, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Christiana Sherrill

self/editor

Dallas, TX

Dear Education committee

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I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Christiana

Jennifer Svedersky

Self, photographer

Austin, TX

Please do not use public funds to support private schools. Our state has underfunded public schools for years, and then our leaders complain about the quality of public education. Let's use our rainy day fund and the surplus to shore up public education rather than create something new. The proposed \$10K voucher won't even cover private school tuition at the best schools, and doesn't cover transportation. This reeks of "Tax cuts for the rich."

Hadassa Pam
Self / Regional Manager of Development
Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Gail Chancellor
Self
Woodway, TX

I support public schools and teachers. I do NOT support HB 3 or voucher programs.

Margaret Parkhill
Self
San Antonio, TX

Just say no to vouchers! Try properly funding schools! Stop resegregation!

Natalie Weimer, Ms
None
Fort Worth, TX

As a parent in Fort Worth, Texas, I believe that public schools are the backbone of our community and a significant economic driver. I absolutely reject any type of voucher program for Texas.

Lynn Phillips
Self
Haltom City, TX

I am opposed to HB3 because it will fund private schools with little or no oversight by elected officials, but receiving funds from Texas taxpayers. We pay taxes for the good of ALL Texans, which include many different faiths, different philosophies, and a wide range of educational techniques. Texas families already have the choice of schools and homeschooling. Every family can choose the PUBLIC school that fits their lifestyle and goals for their children. In PUBLIC schools, we are assured the teachers are qualified and safe. Private schools have no such guarantee. We risk children being taught radical philosophy that will be the antithesis of "good for all" I do not want my tax dollars going to religious schools whose whole purpose is to steer students to a particular way of life that may or may not enhance public life. Vouchers will deplete fine arts programs and special education. Private schools are not required to accommodate anyone and choose their own admission standards that exclude many Texans, regardless of financial consideration. I believe this will lead to the most vulnerable being disregarded in education.

For these reasons, and more, I oppose taxpayers subsidizing private schools as well as homeschooling. Raise the pay of our teachers to a minimum of \$70,000, and you will attract the best personnel to the enhancement of EVERY student, the state of Texas, the USA, and the world. Make Texas the envy and example for every state of the Union. Our public schools should be the best in the United States. Now THAT is something for Texans to brag about!

Nicholas Scott, Rev.

Self, United Methodist Pastor

Fort Worth, TX

My name is Rev. Nick Scott and I serve as a pastor in the United Methodist Church. I am also a parent to an 8th grade public school student in Fort Worth ISD. I am writing to argue against any bill that would institute a school voucher program for Texas.

I do not believe that the school vouchers would be beneficial to the majority of Texas youth or their families. The vast majority of those who would benefit from it already have access to private school education and the means to pay for it. Furthermore, examples from other states who have implemented school vouchers reveal that access to more money for private schools has resulted in those private schools raising their tuition making private school just as unaffordable for those who already can't afford it. This school voucher program would benefit the most wealthy and harm our most marginalized.

I have heard the Governor of our state suggest that public schools will not lose any funding. But this just isn't true. If there are less students in public schools, they will receive less funding as a result. Ramifications include closing of school campuses, smaller workforce, and more crowded classrooms. This will not help public schools to succeed.

The figures I have seen also suggest that should school vouchers pass, the state taxpayers will be giving more money per student to private school students than we will for public school students. Its strange that we would consider a private school student to be more valuable than a public school student.

As a pastor, I also strongly believe in the separation of church and state. I do not believe that public money should be used to support private schools, many of which are religiously affiliated.

I hope that we both agree that we want to see public schools serve Texas and its children well! We probably both agree that there is room for improvement within public schools. Public schools would have the best chance to succeed if they had a partners in the the Texas legislature and the governor's office rather than having opponents who have given up on them. Expecting improvement while at the same time robbing them of resources is not a good way forward. I encourage you to support what is best for most Texans and their communities. Support public education. Say no to vouchers.

Irene Glover

Plano ISD PTA

Plano, TX

I am writing to plead with the legislature to oppose this bill and instead fund public schools with a minimum increase of \$750-1000 per student. Public schools are one of the most valuable and impactful services in our community. Please consider the needs of many over the select few. The money that the governor is trying to push to private schools could do so much good in the public schools. More so than ever our public schools are staffed by teachers who care and want to be there. So many have left because of the governor's freeze on funding. Their jobs are so much harder than they used to be due to the constraints they have been put under by not increasing funding since 2019. Those who have stayed have done so for the love of the children they teach. We should increase their resources instead of diverting some of those resources away to public schools that cannot and will not accept every child. Those with special needs that are the most vulnerable will be among those most hurt by this bill, as schools are faced with cutting needed services due to lack of appropriate funding. We should be supporting those who provide accessible services to all, not earmarking millions to benefit one small group of mostly privileged families. It is a shame that our governor is pushing to take money and services away from the vast majority of Texas children.

Sabrina Tidwell, Ms

Self

Corsicana, TX

No vouchers. Public school should be supported better

Smita Ramagiri, Mrs

Self

Austin, TX

Public schools need all funds

David Kennedy

Self and my children

Conroe, TX

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3 and any efforts to implement a school voucher program in Texas. Vouchers divert critical public funds away from our already underfunded public schools, weakening the education system that serves the vast majority of Texas students. Instead of increasing educational opportunities, vouchers primarily benefit private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards, do not guarantee student protections, and often exclude students with disabilities or special needs. Public tax dollars should be invested in strengthening our public schools—ensuring smaller class sizes, higher teacher salaries, and better resources for all students—rather than subsidizing private institutions with little oversight. Please prioritize the future of Texas children by rejecting HB 3 and keeping public funds in public schools.

Jackie Guerrero

Self/ Teacher

Plainview, TX

I worked for child protective services for 10 years before I became a teacher. Teachers need a raise, support and not testing. We don't need vouchers, we need staff and parents to get involved with their child's education. We don't need money for private schools, we need public school funds to be released. Teachers deserve more, the students and families deserve more! Texas should give more and do better!!

Pamela Jones, Ms.

Self/Retired Educator

Caldwell, TX

I spent my entire teaching career in a private school setting. I firmly believe that private schools should be funded by the parents/guardians of their students and NOT by the State. I believe that public education is just that— for the public. State money should be directed at improving the quality of established public schools that exist to educate all students, regardless of socioeconomic status. Teacher salaries and benefits should be increased as well.

Yehudah Abrams

self

DALLAS, TX

Bring Texas back to the forefront of educational choice and value. Please vote in favor of the ESA program. Thank you for your time and effort.

Sarah Carrasco

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and I'm against school vouchers

Chyenne Degelman

self

Austin, TX

Vote NO- I think I put the comment in the wrong bill at first.

Callie Ryan
self/ SAHM
Austin, TX

As a parent of two public school elementary students, I believe that while vouchers may seem appealing, they ultimately undermine families like mine.

We recently explored private middle school options and found the process misleading and manipulative. If schools come to view families as consumers, rather than community members, I envision a mountain of brochures on family dining room tables, calls for a multitude of school tours during work days and weekends, and families knowing all the while that they are being fed stories spun by marketing professionals (paid for with voucher/tax dollars.) In an education marketplace, without standardized metrics to make informed comparisons, families cannot effectively evaluate schools without having to navigate a mire of promotion and spin. And once they are at a school, how can they trust that their students aren't consistently viewed through a marketing and retention lens, which often favors optics over true growth (and may even abandon students with challenges)?

More concerning is the instability this system would create. Great schools are communities, not educational products, and that is why a competitive marketplace model doesn't work for schools. Instead of lasting communities, I foresee a revolving door of students and teachers at Texas schools, while families and staff feel compelled to constantly comparison-shop for school upgrades and try to find "an even better fit" for the following year. Gone will be the days when kids get to know their classmates and neighbors for years.

In a world where community ties are already fraying, our neighborhood public schools provide families with stability and connection, and steer us all away from our self-selected enclaves, back into public life.

Public schools unite neighborhoods and provide clarity and consistency for families. We need well-funded schools with clear standards, not a chaotic marketplace that forces parents to shop for an education "product" rather than rely on a learning community. As a ninth-generation Texas family, we are proud of our public schools and believe in the value—and imperative—of public education for Texans. We urge you to protect its future by ensuring adequate funding.

Mary Nokes
Wren Nokes Therapy
Austin, TX

Many school districts like Austin Independent School District are suffering because their funding is distributed and doesn't stay in Austin. They need each child to attend public school to be able to improve the quality of education services and infrastructure. Teachers across the state need pay raises to ensure hiring and retention of the best in their field. Vouchers take away from this need and the population using vouchers are upper and middle class citizens. We need the same opportunities offered to our low SES students and families.

Machaela Zellmer
Self; Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist
Goliad, TX

I live in a rural Texas community and work for a Special Education Cooperative that serves students needing special education services in 10 rural school districts. Our schools are already struggling. None of the campuses I serve have been fully staffed in years. We do the best we can for our students with the scraps we are given. This will kill our small school districts and possibly even our communities. I urge you to vote NO!!! Texas students and Texas teachers deserve better!

Rebecca Miller, Mrs
Self; homeschooling mother of 8
Tomball, TX

I am against HB3, as I would like to keep Texas homeschooling as it is, with no strings attached.

DaBraylon Elliott
Self Full-Time Student
Tyler, TX

I strongly disagree with this bill's approach to school funding and teacher compensation. It does not adequately address the root causes of educational inequality and may disproportionately impact underfunded districts, particularly rural communities. Additionally, it fails to consider the unique needs of students requiring special services, potentially widening the gap in support for these vulnerable groups.

Debbie Temple
Self
Ovilla, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Torrey Venable-Frey
Self
Austin, TX

Do not pass vouchers. Our schools are already hurting for funding, this will be detrimental to the success of public schools. Texas already has one of the lowest funding per student rates, you cannot take more and expect Texas children to get a decent education. Do not hurt the masses for the few. We could afford to send our kids to private schools and don't because we value public education. Please show the same by voting against HB 3 and no to vouchers. Project the education of Texas children.

KATELYN DARCY
Self- operations manager
Humble, TX

Taxpayer money should be funding PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PUBLIC EDUCATION. This bill is LARGELY unsupported by republican constituents, and almost universally unsupported by Democrat constituents.....WHY are the representatives ignoring the will of the people to push this through? Every taxpayer should want better PUBLIC education accessibility for students, and the ramifications of this bill will do exactly the opposite.

Sarah Miller, ms
self
Austin, TX

There is not enough money to take from public schools to fund this. THIS WILL RAISE TAXES!!! It will hurt rural communities the worst where private schools are not an option. Please stop this bill!

Eva Porras
Self
Humble, TX

I oppose HB3. I want to keep funding public schools. I want my taxpayer money to go towards public education. They don't get enough funding as it is.

Jody Johnson, Ms.

Self

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose the bill to provide private school vouchers. We already have choice. This will make it harder for children with developmental and other learning issues to get a good education. Other states like Arizona have had vouchers in place and it is bankrupting the state.

Leslie Moree-Kerin

Self

Leander, TX

I am AGAINST HB3. Put the money back into the public schools. We need the best public schools for our students. This will benefit the whole state.

Stefanie Hansen

Self

Flower mound, TX

Vote no for HB 3. Vouchers will not solve the issue and will only make things worse long term. We should be increasing funding for our public schools to help teachers and students thrive.

Tina Haney

Self

Mabank, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Jennifer Davenport

Self

The Woodlands, TX

Please, no, for the sake of public schools. This will hurt the majority of parents and students in Texas, so I'm not sure why it's even up for consideration.

Public schools need more funding.

Private schools do not serve everyone.

Educating everyone is in the best interest of all. I believe that was established early on in our nation. It's what made this country great!

Kellye McGarry

Self

Richardson, TX

Dontdefundmyschool.com

Joann Subia

Self

Odessa, TX

I am AGAINST school vouchers! Do your job and fund our public schools fully. Period. You are NOT God around here. You cannot will this to happen. We don't want your classist vouchers.

Margitta Rawlings

Self/Army Veteran

Paige, TX

I believe it is a parents right to choose how their child or children are educated. That includes their religious education.

Sarah Gregory

Self, teacher

Round Rock, TX

Vote no on HB3. We need fully funded public schools for our children. School districts in our area have large budgetary deficits due to years of inaction by our state legislature. Programs, services, and staff are being cut at our public school. Class sizes are larger than ever, and special education staff is stretched thin. School district leaders are making difficult choices on what to cut now when so many programs have already been cut. Our children deserve better. My child's GT services are provided by parent volunteers because GT services have been cut at her school. My other daughter's teacher has over 22 students in her first grade classroom. Our children are truly our future and they deserve better. It is by no means fair or equitable to provide more state funds for private school tuition than we would provide for a student attending a Texas public school. Only Public schools are equipped to provide the range of services (special education, dyslexia, English learner supports) that our children need. Further, private school do not face the same accountability and scrutiny. They do have elected boards nor do they disclose the same information as public schools. We need the support of our legislators to save Texas schools. This bill is not an efficient or good use of tax payer money. Do right by our kids and fully fund Texas public schools, and reject this wasteful use of funds that will benefit children from wealthy families.

Gordon Taylor

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Allocating tax money for private school vouchers is not conservative, it isn't small government, it broaches church and state. I have not voted in a local election, but if this goes through I will be registering to vote out any and all I can who helped make it happen. This hurts teachers for one, but worse it hurts millions of kids.

Yolanda Sampson

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

Dear Representative,

As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want an Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) Program. I pay my public tax dollars and, therefore, want my money to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Public school funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had inflation of over 20%. Our children and all the educators, and staff, deserve to have the funding. To be clear, I want to reiterate the following:

?
?
?

I do NOT want vouchers/ESAs.

I support an Increase of the Basic Allotment.

I support Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Again, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Sampson

Katie Read

Lubbock ISD/ Special Education Teacher and Mom

Lubbock, TX

As a parent of an Autistic student in Public Education, we have to LOOK at ALL students, not just the “normal” students. They deserve the right to have the same education as everyone around them. If we go to a voucher system, that right is taken away from them. Right now in Lubbock, TX we do not have a PRIVATE school that would accept my son into their school. That is NOT fair for him. As for my daughter she’s on the totally opposite side of education. She is in Gifted and Talented which a program that allows students an outside of the box learning. If I send her to a private school, that’s great for her but how as a 2 teacher salary household am I going to pay that tuition without going into debt or having to take out a loan. There is not enough funding to make vouchers make sense for a family who are not the “rich and wealthy”. We as a state, should be considering ALL families with ALL types of students. Right now that is not happening and it’s very concerning for me as an Educator and as a Parent of a Special Education student. Remember those types of kids deserve EVERY right that other students deserve!!! If we are going to start taking away their rights then we are breaking the FAPE Law and the IDEA law!! Please please please take inconsideration ALL students!!!

Gina Coleman

Self

Leander, TX

Please do not pass HB3!!! I have taught for 23 years and each year gets harder. Please do not add a financial issue to our state/districts. The amount of students with special needs rise every year. We need the money to go toward faculty and staff for public schools so that students that attend public schools can have a quality education. Districts have a hard time keeping teachers and have to hire unqualified people. Public schools needs support in the way of more hands on deck which in turn will help keep teachers.

Thank you for your time.

Arlene Hastings-Hill

Self

Baytown, TX

Please do not vote for school vouchers!!!

Jason Noyes

Self

Aubrey, TX

Please vote NO to vouchers for the great state of Texas! We do not want tax dollars going to private education. Please fund our public schools with tax dollars and give teachers a raise.

AW Wydeven

self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3, which diverts public funds to private schools with little accountability, undermining public education while benefiting a select few instead of strengthening opportunities for all students.

Trisha Lynn

Self

Rockwall, TX

My name is Trisha Lynn. I represent myself, my public school kids, & my husband- an elementary music teacher. We vehemently oppose HB 3. The Trolley Problem is an ethical dilemma meant to spark discussion over choice and decision-making. In the Trolley Problem scenario, you are riding in a trolley that has no brakes while traveling full speed ahead. You must choose to either let the trolley hurt five people standing on the track ahead, or pull a switch to divert the trolley onto a different track upon which only one person stands. What should you do? It's a bit somber to compare the establishment of Education Savings Accounts to the Trolley Problem, so I'll jazz up the metaphor to make it a bit more palatable! Imagine you're riding on a bright & shiny trolley, the ESA Trolley, and it's loaded full of money that was picked up from the Surplus Station! The ESA Trolley is headed straight down a new and pristine track where up ahead there are about 100K students waiting- some from private schools, some from homeschools, and a few from public schools. How exciting for those kids that will be showered with funds from the ESA train- all without any strings attached!! But wait, there's a fork ahead and on the other janky and rusty track are many, many, many more students- about 5.4 million students- all from public schools. They look haggard compared to the smaller group of students located on the nicer track ahead. You must make a decision. Your constituents are screaming at you to pull the switch and divert the trolley and its funds to the larger, more needy group of students. However, you remember that if you deliver the ESA Trolley funds to the smaller group of students then there will be another trolley, called the Too Little, Too Late Trolley coming along right behind you to serve those other kids. The other trolley isn't bright & shiny nor quite as full as the ESA Trolley- relatively speaking- but it's bigger than the previous little trolleys that used to deliver scraps to the students waiting on the rickety tracks. So, you confidently stay on the track that takes the ESA Trolley straight to the small group of students that will benefit from your generosity. For some, it actually is a fresh start, so they understandably jump up with glee! You're proud of yourself because you just saved 2% of all students in the state! Technically, less than 2% because most of them were already CHOOSING to attend private schools and homeschools, but the point is you delivered the most important trolley of all, the ESA Trolley that saved SOME! Woohoo! The other 98% of students have those scraps and leftovers to get by. Dilemma solved. The Trolley Problem has been critiqued for its "unrealistic simplification of moral decision-making" & "lack of consideration for the complexity and diversity of real-life ethical situations." This is how I would describe ESAs. They are not a simple fix, they are not ethical, and the real reason for them is not a moral one. Say no to ESAs

Emily Porter

Self, physician

Georgetown, TX

I am a mother of 4 children in private Catholic school which is a choice I make. However, I'm a huge proponent of the public educational system despite it being grossly underfunded. In fact, our school district, Liberty Hill ISD, has such a large deficit already that they are being forced to go to a hybrid schedule next year with longer school days and many 4-day weeks. They say it is to save money with bussing and teacher retention, but it is very disruptive to families with 2 working parents and very harmful to children who need extra services like speech. We had planned to enroll our kids in public high school, but, due to budget cuts; they cut the gifted & talented programs and many extracurricular activities. Further defunding public schools will harm wealthy and struggling families alike.

Lushia Briggs, Mrs.

Self

Mansfield, TX

Proposing that ANY funding be reappropriated from our public education system is abhorrent and a gross betrayal to the children you all, supposedly, care for. This state is flush. Educational funding should only be increasing. Period. Our teachers already do not make what they deserve in this country and they are further accosted by ridiculous proposals like this. The voucher bill is exactly what the public says it is and very unpopular. We KNOW what quality school districts add to a community that charter schools can't and never will. Please prove me wrong and reject this bill. The only acceptable form is for children to have choice but *not* at the expense of public education. Our schools are pillars of our communities and, for many of us, why we chose to live where we do. I'm under the impression that you all are scheming to fortify the school to prison pipeline and couldn't care less about less fortunate kids getting the path greased for them. I am sick and tired of not liking y'all. But, every time when it really counts you prove me right. Please, please, please prove me wrong today. My grandmother taught for 30 years in IA. Public education is so important to the fabric of any community. It should be priority and it should insult everyone that it is on the chopping block like we can't afford to do better. How hurtful to educators to be told, basically, 'you're not worth the stretch.' It's gross and wrong and not what I've envisioned the soul of this state to be. We love ALL of our children. We love our educators. We must invest in both across every institution they share. This is a really base thing. Prove me wrong, please. Also? This entry form is crap. I'm sick and would like to look over what I've typed but being limited to 2 lines at a time is a set up. Y'all will just have to deal with the stream of consciousness above. My words are sincere.

Helen Taylor

Self, student

Houston, TX

I am a student at Carnegie Vanguard High School in Houston ISD. I am the type of student whose story voucher proponents like to tell. I am neurodivergent—I have ADHD, DCD, and dysgraphia. I went to a private school after being bullied severely and not getting what I needed at a public elementary school. But I am still against HB3 because I know that the majority of kids in similar situations to mine will not be able to benefit from private school the way I did. I was very privileged. The private school that I went to was a sizable portion of my parents' income, much more than a \$10,000 voucher would pay for, but my dad had money he inherited. While my private school did not provide any 504 accommodations, my mom knew how to find what I needed and was able to find a school that fulfilled all my needs for disability accommodations for all students, which at that time could be fulfilled through a Montessori-style education, a school-provided laptop and lots of typing and cursive practice. Because my mom was a writer, she could provide the extra writing help that I needed. All this meant that I was able to find a school that fit me. Any student without expendable income, reliable transportation, and a parent who could navigate the system and find a school that fit them with my exact support needs (which were not much compared to some other kids) would not have had the same success. You can't make your success story neurodivergent kids when they can't go to these schools unless they win the lottery of privilege and opportunity, like I did. Our public education system is like a giant ship with a big crack in it. Outside the ship there are lifeboats full of kids who are already safe. You have two options. You can fix the ship (aka, fund public education), or you can throw life vests to the kids who are already on the lifeboats while throwing an iceberg at the ship (aka, HB 3). The majority of kids who can find their perfect choice school are those who will already be able to succeed without vouchers, and those who fail will be those who really need the support. Fully fund public education. That's where the kids that need you are.

Darren Payne

Self

Lubbock, TX

I fully approve of house bill 3 and public education reform. I would like the right to choose which school would fit my children better. Please give us the right to choose. Our schools are failing. There is no competition. The unions have full control and there is no other way but to give us freedom to choose. Please vote in favor of this policy change and give our future students a chance to become great. Not be stuck in failing schools with liberal, agenda driven teachers.

Angelic Gutierrez

self

Lago Vista, TX

I oppose ESAs (education saving accounts) and support public money being used for public education.

Aaron Morris
Se
Shallowater, TX

Please vote no to vouchers!!

Ashley Dehoyos
Self
DECATUR, TX

Our public school system is already severely underfunded, many districts in the DFW area and across Texas are in a financial crisis. They are dealing with old facilities, overcrowding, large class sizes, and no raises for teachers despite record inflation. Texas is one of the richest economies in the world, we pay some of the highest property taxes to fund schools, and our schools are failing. This bill will further take funding from our public schools, disproportionately effecting rural and poor communities. The vouchers that are proposed would not help the communities that are suffering the most in Texas' terrible education system. This is unacceptable. Our legislature should be looking for ways to fund and improve our public education system, not decimate it. These vouchers would without a doubt benefit wealthy communities and would further enable unfair and inequitable education in our state. If you vote for this bill, you are sending a clear message to our children that some kids matter more than others. Your donors may thank you, but you have an obligation to your constituents, and the vast majority do not support this bill. Listen to the voters, not the donors.

Sarah Polidore
self
Austin, TX

As a Texas mother of 2 public school elementary kids, I oppose HB3!
Public schools are in dire need of full funding and education efforts need to be spent funding our public schools so they can properly educate our millions of Texas kids. Texans don't want vouchers or an education savings account program. Texans want fully funded public schools. And we will be watching closely and vote accordingly.

Janet Theriault
Leander ISd
Cedar Park, TX

I want all money to go to public schools. No vouchers for private schools. Public schools are the future of America!

Linda Johnson
Self Caseworker/Eligibility Specialist
Fort Worth, TX

I believe vouchers will hurt our kids. They will not be good for our education. I got a wonderful education in the public school system, as did my children and now my grandchildren. They both thrive in school!
Voucher will not be available to all of us. I pray public education is not taken away from our children!

Rebecca Smit
Self/retired
Austin, TX

No vouchers. No ESAs. Fully fund our Texas public schools and give our teachers a substantial raise

Katharine Nichols

Self

Houston, TX

Our public school need more funding. I am completely against providing vouchers to individuals seeking private education for their children. What we need is funding for our public schools, so that we can provide a strong educational foundation for ALL children in the state of Texas.

Larry Shuman

Self - Retired

Sanger, TX

As a life-long conservative Republican, I cannot believe the number of legislators who are abandoning their constituents to support this bill. Please represent the people and vote against this, or at least let the people vote on it. Do not abandon those students who will suffer if this bill passes. Do better. Support public education.

Tasha Ford

Self

Round Rock, TX

As a Round Rock resident, former teacher with an MA in Education, and active PTA executive board member, I strongly oppose HB3 and its voucher program. This bill would divert critical funding from our underfunded public schools, harming the education of millions of Texas children.

Private schools lack accountability and can exclude students with disabilities, leaving vulnerable children behind. Moreover, many rural areas lack private school options, making vouchers impractical for these families.

Texas ranks 46th in per-student funding. Instead of subsidizing private schools, we should focus on fully funding our amazing public schools to ensure every child has access to quality learning.

I urge you to prioritize public schools and reject HB3. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tasha Ford

Conner Praba

Self, Student

Austin, TX

I was raised Texan. I grew up with bluebonnets in my yard, went to school, and recited the Texas pledge every morning. But I was also taught that when someone wants to take something from you, it simply isn't right to roll over and let them Come And Take It.

HB3 will defund and ruin Texas public schools, the same schools that I have relied on for the last decade for my education. Vouchers will screw every Texas public school student out of the education that they are entitled to. Now, that just doesn't seem right. And for what? To put Texas's budget in the red? To take public, taxpayer dollars and put it in the hands of private schools? Vouchers would cost the state billions when we can barely afford to keep schools open for 5 days of the week. How on earth can that be justified? How on earth does that follow any common sense?

HB3 is screwing 5.5 million Texans out of our godgiven right to a quality education. It is those same 5.5 million Texans that are your constituents, your future voters, but most importantly, we are Texans, and it is your job to serve us- don't ever forget it.

Vote no on HB3

Klaudia Hunter

Self

Mansfield, TX

Please oppose this bill. I just bought my first home in 2023 and something I looked for on where to buy was good public schools. I don't have kids, but hope to one day and my hope was to keep growing in my house and give my kids a proper education with the standards and affordability public schools offer. That hope is dwindling with this bill as it will take money away from our schools who desperately need even more. We should be investing in our public schools, not in coupons for those who are already doing well to do something they may already choose to do today without us subsidizing them. We cannot expect young families like mine to want to buy homes here as the public schools become worse, especially in when many do not want or cannot realistically afford all that comes with private schools become worse even with a coupon. This will hurt our home values and weaken our communities, as we weaken the services and education we deserve.

Billy Grumbles

Self

Ackerly, TX

As a conservative, lifelong Republican and a 27 yr teacher and coach I want the committee to know that I stand firmly against vouchers/ESA. School choice already exists in Texas. Public monies should not be used for private schools.

Adam Feind

Self

Justin, TX

Please do not pass vouchers to pull potential funding from public education. 1. Fund public education adequately - Texas should be in the top 25th percentile by US states for public education funding for all Texas students especially special needs students. 2. After funding public education adequately at the top 25th percentile then fund vouchers with remaining funds if and only if any organization receiving Texas vouchers has the same or higher requirements for educational standards and mandates as public education - must meet testing standards, special Ed standards, transportation standards, data reporting standards, and any new standards that are mandated for public education. And when these 2 items are met put the agenda to a vote by the people of Texas - yea or nay. (Public funding for any savings account must be tied to same/same requirements a public ed or it should never be passed)

Stephanie Stekier

Self

Houston, TX

Hb3

I oppose school vouchers as they are taking away from our public schools. Budget cuts are becoming increasingly common for our public schools and making it difficult to provide an equal opportunity for our public school students. The gifted and talented programs are in danger of being terminated due to funding. Every dollar taken away from public schools is a disservice to the community.

Shannon Norton, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

My husband and I were foster parents in the state of Texas and adopted through the foster care system. One of our children needs extra help at school due to some of the experiences she faced as a young child and the public school system has been integral to our family's ability to meet her needs. I have three children in public school and firmly believe it is the best choice for our family. Defunding public school hurts the ability for my children's and thousands of other children's needs to be met. I stood by kids in some of their hardest days by being a foster parent, the state of Texas should not be abandoning these children now.

Jonathan D'Elia
Leander ISD
Leander, TX

This is not a school choice, Bill. This is a coupon for the very rich to send their children to private schools with taxpayer money. DON'T DO IT!

Gabriela Diaz
Self, nonprofit
Kingwood, TX

Our public investments cannot become private piggy banks. How can we hold public schools so accountable that the state will disenfranchise voters and take over districts, but this bill will give money to private schools with no accountability? This bill is not conservative. This bill is an insult to the Texas constitution, article 7. It will place TRS in danger. It will defund our public schools, and the voters will not forget. You can serve your constituents, or you can appease an opportunistic governor who has received millions to sell out our future. Vote NO on HB3.

Renee Weist
Self
Friendswood, TX

HB3 is a bad bill for our children. It will destroy all public schools of funding, and will send tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools. My tax dollars belong in the public school system, not stolen by the scam created by Gov. Abbott and his billionaire donors. Say NO to SB2 & HB3!

Long Truong
n/a
Sachse, TX

I reject the bill, it takes funds from public school and gives it to private schools.

Jamie Ford
Self
San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB3 as a former TX public school educator, taxpayer & parent to 3 TX public school kids. Our teachers, students & schools demand to be funded properly. We see this game for what it is: a scam robbing public schools of resources to give more \$ back to families that can already afford to send their kids to private schools. I oppose HB3 & Texas R's would be ashamed of themselves if they had a sliver of dignity left.

Melissa Castillo
Self
Woodville, TX

Please vote no to HB 3! ESA's are not good for Texas children or families.

Wanda Mathews

Tax Payer

Dallas, TX

As a grandparent, parent, and taxpayer in the great State of Texas, I am appalled that our elected officials are withholding the finances from our children and teachers and have been since 2020. The cost of living has increased since 2019 (the last time received funding) and is over 20%. This is not the proud Texas that I know. We love our children and take care of them.

Representative, I do NOT support vouchers, nor do I agree with an education savings account program. I believe in our Public Schools in Texas. So, I want to reiterate the following:

- We need an Increase in the Basic Allotment.
- We need Funding for Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Representative, let us take care of our children in Texas.

Elaine Macbeth

Self

La Vernia, TX

As a Texan and homeschooling family we are absolutely NOT in favor of these bills. Please listen to your constituents that have put you in office. Vote No!

Deanna Perkins

Self

CEDAR PARK, TX

I am a 20-year public school educator and parent in the Leander Independent School District and I oppose HB3. I urge you to stand in strong support of public education by voting AGAINST any school voucher proposals. I have seen firsthand how our local schools are struggling to meet the needs of students under an outdated and insufficient budget. Our district is currently making drastic staffing and program cuts just to stay operational, all while inflation continues to drive up costs. Despite these financial strains, we are still operating on a budget from 2019, while \$4.5 billion was withheld from public schools because vouchers did not pass last year. Holding these funds hostage from Texas public schools to appease a few rich donors is unethical and unacceptable.

Implementing a school voucher system would only worsen this crisis, particularly for suburban districts like ours. While vouchers may appear to offer "choice," they ultimately divert essential taxpayer funds away from public schools and into private institutions that are not held to the same standards of accountability or accessibility. Private schools do not have to accept everyone. They do not have to accommodate SPED or 504 services. This disproportionately harms suburban students like the ones who live in District 20, who rely on well-funded public schools for high-quality education, extracurricular activities, and special programs. Not only that, private school students with special needs (SPED and other) will use the public school system to get tested.

Most private schools' prices are well over the \$10K amount and the designated 100K lottery "winners" that are considered the low-socioeconomic/SPED population will not be able to afford the difference in tuition and fees even after the voucher is applied. Private schools can even raise their tuition to assure the low socioeconomic population cannot afford it, even with the ESA. Not only that, but transportation is not provided and neither are meals.

We also know that this does nothing to help the rural parts of Texas since 158 out of 254 counties have no nearby private schools.

Lastly, I am highly concerned that if you vote FOR vouchers, you are NOT doing two things that you were sworn in to do as a Representative of Texas:

Listen and speak for what your constituents want. You are supposed to be the voice of the majority.

Uphold the Texas Constitution by defying Article 7: "duty... to establish and make suitable provision for...an efficient system of public FREE schools."

Instead of funneling public funds into private schools through vouchers, I urge you to advocate for increased public school funding, so our students and teachers are not forced to do more with less year after year. Your vote on this directly impacts the success of our students and the job security of the teachers who are your constituents. Please do not fall for Greg Abbott's tactics. The majority of Texans do NOT want VOUCHERS.

Jeffrey Piwonka

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 as it will divert funding from public schools creating financial instability in a system that is already drastically underfunded. I think funds should be allocated from the budget surplus to give teachers and TAs a wage increase. They perform an extremely demanding duty in educating the next generation of adults in this state and should not struggle to feed themselves or family as they do now.

Jennifer Gruninger

Self, Marketing at High Tech Company

Cedar Park, TX

This bill does not meet the needs of the majority of students. This bill may negatively affect public schools that provide critical services to the same qualified participants of this program, creating even more disadvantages for those not covered by this program or accepted to the program.

Iva Beck
Self, retired teacher!
Lamesa, TX

Please fund public education properly to take care of all students in Texas.

Harla Ballard
Self/Retired
Fort Worth, TX

Please do pass the school voucher bill. Years ago, I was not opposed to the voucher system. However, as I have become more educated, I now see it in a different light. It is an attempt to weaken public schools which are a hallmark of our democracy. It will hurt the rural, and poorer school districts the most. It is nothing more than an attempt by Greg Abbott to appease his mega donors.

Frances Marusarz
My children
Austin, TX

Please do not fund other schools before fully funding our public schools. You have not given public schools a chance. Do not give valuable funding away to private schools when you haven't even fully funded your public schools.

Heather Horn
Self
Arlington, TX

I am staunchly against this bill. It will destroy public education. No teacher I know supports this. Please veto this bill.

Cynthia Hopkins, Dr
Self
Corp Christi, TX

Read the research that has been published. Vouchers have caused private school tuition to rise so much so parents with low SES still can't afford private school. Makes better fiscal policy to fully fund the traditional ISD because they educate more students.

Jana Johnson
Self/retired
Nacogdoches, TX

As a former elementary school teacher, I strongly support this bill. The current state of public education is sad indeed and Texas parents deserve options for providing their children with a quality education!

Kuo Zhang
Self
Eules, TX

Please don't ruin the public education system.

Lenora Hamilton
Self/parent/taxpayer
Plano, TX

The creation of ESAs, aka the school voucher system will devastate the Texas public education system. Proponents of HB 3 have failed to provide evidence that this system will not funnel taxpayer money away from public schools, further reducing the support students receive, especially those with special education needs which could be supported in properly funded public schools. Voucher systems have already created massive budget issues in Arizona - how will Texas avoid the same pitfalls? How will transparency be upheld to show how funds are being applied? How do we ensure the quality of education offered at private schools without standardized testing? How can we know that private institutions will accept any and all students presenting a voucher without discrimination. Additionally, I believe the voucher system is unconstitutional, violating separation of church and state, putting public funds into religion-based education. I stand firmly against HB 3 and believe this is an issue too big to not empower with a vote the Texas taxpayers who will be funding this system which is doomed to fail.

Christina Lawrence
Self, bookkeeper
Flower Mound, TX

Please keep public dollars in public education! We love our public schools and it has been devastating to watch the decline in our district and many across TX as funding has been stalled. Districts are being forced to make many tough decisions bc of the lack of increased funding to even account for the rise of costs since 2019. Our district had to completely change the MS schedule to cut cost. As a result teachers have to serve almost double the number of students in a shorter period per day. This does not benefit anyone compared to the smaller class size and increased daily time that had been allotted for a core subject with utmost importance, ELA. Public schools serve ALL students. Private schools can pick and choose who they will accept. If public dollars are used, they should carry with them the same requirements from the state with all mandates! ESA/vouchers are like welfare and I don't think it is fiscally responsible to give \$ without accountability. If you truly want what is best for TX students let the people of TX vote directly for a ESA/voucher program on their ballots. Don't make it be forced upon them bc the Governor & his wealthy supports are making it so.

Carolina Ochoa
Yourself
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force. HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents. Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools. We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Carolina Ochoa

Tamra Snell
Self
Pflugerville, TX

I want you to know that this Voucher Scam represents a fight between a bi-partisan, pro public education coalition vs. billionaire mega-donors who control Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick. Your constituents love their kids, believe in public school teachers, support our neighborhood schools and want them fully funded. We don't want a Voucher Scam that will eventually defund our local schools. I would like to see these things:

- the Basic allotment tied to inflation indexes so Gov Abbott cannot hold it hostage anymore
- the basic allotment become enrollment-based vs. attendance based
- full funding to make up for 6 years of missing funding

Vote NO on the Voucher Scam. I vote and this matters to me. Thank you.

Frances Thomas
Concerned citizen
Lake Dallas, TX

Texans - if you haven't already submitted a public comment on HB3 (aka the voucher scam), please take a few seconds to save our public schools! Feel free to copy mine if you'd like.

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

I strongly urge you to reject any school voucher proposals that divert public tax dollars away from Texas public schools.

Vouchers do not increase educational choice. They subsidize private schools at taxpayer expense, often with no accountability, no transparency, and no requirement to serve all students. Texas already struggles with underfunded public schools, teacher shortages, and rural districts that would be devastated by losing even a fraction of their funding.

If you truly want to support educational choice, fully fund public schools, raise teacher salaries, and invest in better resources for all Texas students. Public tax dollars should stay in public schools that serve all children - not private institutions that can pick and choose their students.

Please vote NO on vouchers. 6 million Texas public school students are depending on you to protect their education. These vouchers are absolutely discriminatory. Giving families \$10,000 per student while only giving schools just over \$6,000 per student is ridiculous considering all the services public schools provide. Private schools can be discriminate on who they allow in, they don't have to provide services for students with learning disabilities, emotional or physical disabilities and they don't haven't to adhere to state mandated testing. Vouchers can also be used for parochial schools which goes against the principle our country was built on, separation of church and state. Please vote against this.

Kate Burke, Ms
Self
Houston, TX
We OPPOSE HB3

Cynthia Olivares
SELF
San Antonio, TX

I am AGAINST this Bill

Michelle Ailara
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Gail-Ann Krieger
Self
Westlake, TX

I oppose the bill. Public K-12 schools should be the only grade schools and higher schools receiving our tax dollars. Educating our state’s children in fully funded public schools is in the absolute best interest of everyone. Private schools are a private option and schools not be supplemented with tax dollars; they can charge tuition and fund raise if parents want to send kids to private schools.

Melissa Walden
Self (Teacher)
LUBBOCK, TX

Please continue to FULLY fund Public Education. This bill does not support the needs of a majority of Texas Residents. There are MANY rural schools that need support and funding!

Denise Davis

Self

Lufkin, TX

I am a parent of a student with learning differences so they are special Ed . We took our student to private school, hoping they would help but they basically looked us an eye after two years of attendance and said we don't know what to do, you need to take them to public school. This is the reality of private school. Public schools serve all students. Private schools serve the few. Not only did the private school say they didn't have the skill to help our child, the Director of the private school also chose to skip a grade in curriculum for math so that he could say their students were working at a higher level. He looked me in the eye in a private meeting and said that students only learn new skills every other year in the math curriculum. This was a third grader. This is a blatant lie. Do not take funding from public school students to gift private schools. Why are our children in public school worthless than a private school student? Why would Abbot choose to give more money to the private school than the public school per student? This in the math curriculum. This was a third grader. This is a blatant lie. Do not take funding from public school students to gift private schools. Why are our children in public school worthless than a private school student? Why would Abbet choose to give more money to the private school then a public school per student? This makes no sense. Please hold a Townhall. Please know that we are watching. Please know that we vote.

Joan Michaud

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Abbott and Republicans are trying to take \$1 billion from Texas taxpayers and give it to wealthy families who are already sending their kids to private schools. This will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties (more than 150 Texas counties don't have a private school to send your kid too, even if you could afford the difference between what the voucher pays and what tuition costs!). I do not agree with school vouchers and ask that you please do not pass the education savings program!!

Amy Key

Self

Mansfield, TX

Please use extra funds to improve and maintain the public schools in our state. I am a public school employee and my 2 children graduated from Mansfield ISD. I know the challenges that schools face daily and the extraordinary lengths they go to to stretch every dollar. Parents already have a choice, but we owe it to our children to give them the best opportunity for free education.

Linda Henrie

Self

Sachse, TX

Vouchers are nothing more than a welfare program for the wealthy and are harmful to public education. School districts across the state are faced with budget cuts, and this action will make it worse. Out-of-state campaign contributors are funding politicians to pass this program. It is detrimental to children, and I challenge each of you to stand up for what is in the best interest of the state and not wealthy individuals that don't reside here.

Sona Shah, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

This will have a negative impact on our child's education and society at large. No to vouchers.

Amanda Beggs

Self

Groveton, TX

Please hear the voice of the voters on school choice. We are overwhelmingly AGAINST school vouchers. Please consider not approving this voucher. Let the people actually vote! We love Texas and we love the school choice options we have now.

Melody Poage

Self

Weatherford, TX

Vote NO for the sake of our children, teachers and public schools! That money can be better spent on improving our public school systems by providing more staff, more and better transportation (especially our rural districts), programs for special populations such as ELLs, SpEd, low income, and especially Covid-recovery and social/emotional support. VOTE NO because Texas already has school choice and Abbott's plan will only HURT those who already can neither afford private school tuition nor have private schools close by. Thank you for considering ALL our Texas students!

Rosalind Harmon

Self Retired teacher

Houston, TX

I taught public school for 33 years. I believe all children should be given an opportunity to learn in a healthy, thriving environment. The Federal and State funds allocated for public schools belong to all the students. If others choose to go to private or charter schools, they can already attend these schools without taking away from students who choose to attend neighborhood schools. We already have choice. I don't think it is fair to supplement private school fees especially if there is a variable public school available. Please vote not to defund our public education system.

Jana Darling

Self

Austin, TX

I'm a former Texas public school teacher. It's obvious you don't make public schools stronger by removing funding and funneling it through t organizations with little oversight. Im sure our Representatives in Texas know that already, which is why vouchers haven't progressed through our legislative branches before. However, Texans know if it's back on the table due to the unprecedented \$6million dollar donation from a megadonor to Greg Abbott in order to buy him. Greg Abbott is for sale, I only hope there are enough representatives in Texas that are honest enough not to sell themselves, Texas teachers, and the future of public education in Texas.

Elaine Townsend, Mrs

Self

Granbury, TX

As a retired teacher I oppose vouchers. Why are we reverting back to education for the few who meet certain requirements? I personally know students who were told they could not go to a private school because they did not want a child with Down Syndrome or ADA. Why would a private school even want to get involved with government in their school. I thought that is why they started a private school. Please NO

Brenda Sanford

Self

Red Oak, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Diane McMichael

Self

Austin, TX

Every child, regardless of where they live, deserves equal access to high-quality education. Please fully fund public schools and vote down any attempt to take public money from public schools.

James Holt, Educator

Bushland ISD

Amarillo, TX

Please vote no on HB3 and support public education.

Zoe Trieff

Self - Environmental Specialist

Sunset Valley, TX

Texas is one of the richest states yet is 46th in funding students. Texas is attempting to starve public education but millions of Texan children benefit from it. This voucher bill is just another way to remove a public benefit and turn it into an entitlement for the already-wealthy who are choosing to send their children to private schools. I want public money in public schools benefiting the children of Texas.

Denise Garza, Mrs.

Brownsville Independent School District

Brownsville, TX

As a School Board Member, I oppose school vouchers because they divert critical funding from public schools, weakening the resources and opportunities available to our students. Every child deserves a strong, well-funded public education, and I am committed to ensuring our district remains equipped to provide the best for all students.

Courtney Waters

Self

Arlington, TX

Dr. Buckley and Committee Members, as an educator, parent, and property owner in Texas, RSAs are not a good decision for our schools, teachers, or students. They are not a good idea fiscally. Our schools have been underfunded since 2011. IF our schools are broken, it is because of Greg Abbott. I would like our Texas Reps and Senators to start fixing them, not breaking them more. Fund our schools first.

We have the opportunity with our budget surplus to make these schools better and stronger. Stronger schools mean stronger communities. Funded education means healthy communities.

Susan Morgan

self

Dallas, TX

I do not support diverting tax dollars to any kind of program for school choice. I do support investing in a public education system equal and open to all. I am the product of the public education system, a first-generation college graduate and a leader in my community. Please vote against using my tax dollars to fund private education and vote for bills to strengthen public schools to make opportunity available to all young Texans.

Russell Smith

Self

Warren, TX

This is a scam built to fill the pockets of the elite and rob the families of the poor and struggling. If this is truly the land of opportunity, there shouldn't be a bill such as this.

Brittney Rasco

Self

Petersburg, TX

The vouchers that you are all wanting to pass, will kill our little school district! It won't fix anything. Instead, private schools will increase prices and this will take funds from public to give to private schools. Our education system is broken, but this isn't the answer!

Josh Westrom

Argyle ISD

Argyle, TX

I would encourage you to vote No on HB 3. There is a much more conservative way to implement education savings accounts. As written, this bill unnecessarily grows the size of government by paying \$50 million a year to the Comptroller and private companies to process private school applications. It mirrors what other States have passed because lobbyist have written it to create a new tax payer funded business in TX that doesn't exist today. Not conservative. This bill benefits vendors and donors mostly. It is swampy. You can pass a school choice bill that eliminates the vendor payments and big govt provisions by providing tax credits or requiring private schools that accept ESAs pay for the administration of the program. This bill is also grossly unfair in that it lacks accountability, attendance requirements or any restrictions on curriculum that is imposed on public schools. A smaller phased in program that targets kids in struggling schools or in poverty would be a much better approach than a massive, universal bill that will be fraught with fraud and abuse. You were elected to cut spending, limit new programs, decrease size of government, lower taxes. This bill does the opposite and will impact your credibility as a conservative legislator. Many are paying attention and catching on to this scam. Start over and limit the scope and size of this bill.

Caitlin Landry

Self

Midland, TX

While voicing opposition feels like a futile task at this point (since Texas is basically operating as an oligarchy on this issue), I want to register my opposition to HB 3 nonetheless. I am a conservative homeschool mom who opposes HB 3 for all of the reasons the hundreds of people who registered testimony during the senate hearing opposed SB 2. It's welfare. It's government expansion. It's a vendor bill. It's giving government a money foothold into private education options. It will cause inflation in tuition & services. Many of these things are documented in other states that have already passed school choice measures. It's so disappointing that Texas is following suit and introducing a socialist program. Are you able to identify and defend why this is different from universal basic income or student loan forgiveness? I'm asking all of the senators and state representatives to strip away the buzz words and the pressure from donors and special interests and be honest with themselves about what this bill actually is, and whether the majority of their constituents *actually* want this. Thank you for your time. We're praying for a miracle and that we'll all be shocked by the No votes that uphold the TRUE education freedom we already have in our state.

Lucy Hsu
Self
Cedar Park, TX

This bill does nothing but to put FREE money in the hands of upper middle class and up to send their kids to private school. \$10k isn't all of the sudden going to allow people to go to private school. Cost of a decent private school is at least \$20k plus. Private school is also not outfitted to serve special needs. I work in the private school arena and I know people leave private school to get service at the local schools. There are no specialized private school to address special needs in the greater Austin area. Those school would have cost 40k plus. Stop lying to the public that this is about school choice. Make public school better. Those who want to go to private school will figure out the finances on their own. In Texas we also have the choice to go to charter schools which have a different approach than traditional public schools. The choices are there. Government should stay in the lane to fund public/charter schools instead of paying people money to go to private schools.

Debby Harris
Self
Austin, TX

While I acknowledge that families want more educational choices, this school voucher program does not create real choice for families. There are certainly many issues with our public education system that prevent it from effectively serving students, but funneling money out of this system and into private institutions through vouchers is not the solution to our problems. A strong public education system is integral to our democracy, and vouchers undermine public education. Additionally, these programs as implemented in other states lack proper accountability, exacerbate inequality, engage in exclusionary practices, fragment communities, exacerbate segregation, and decrease academic achievement. Instead of diverting funds to private institutions, perhaps you should focus on strengthening our public schools to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality education. This issue matters to me and I vote. Thank you.

Deborah Bednar, Dr.
Self
Orange, TX

This bill will hurt the rural school systems that are at the heart of our small town communities.

Daniel Miller
Self/City Administrator
Strawn, TX

I do not support school vouchers. They will have a negative impact on our rural public schools. Small towns in Texas center around their public schools. Many are underfunded. I support reduced state interference in their curriculum and fully funding the small schools.

Lisa Brown
Self
San Antonio, TX

I would like to ask our legislators to PLEASE vote against school vouchers today. The bill is not in the best interest of our children, our state, our nation, or our democracy. Public education is an important pillar of our democracy to ensure we have an educated populace and maintain our strength as a nation. Taking money away from public schools to give to wealthy families who are already able to send their kids to private school if they want. Our responsibility is to provide an education. We are already providing that. It is up to families if they don't want to avail themselves of that and support it. Other states such as Arizona have seen devastating impacts on their budgets as a result of voucher programs, and vouchers to public schools will line the pockets of corporations while not guaranteeing a good education. Also, we see administrators of private charter schools giving themselves exorbitant salaries instead of spending the money on education. Private schools do not have to abide by the rules that public schools do, which is another reason they should not benefit from taxpayer money. Please, in the interest of our children and our future, vote AGAINST the voucher bill.

LeighAnn Standridge

Self

The Woodlands, TX

As a concerned Texas resident, parent and education advocate, I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 and the proposed Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). This legislation would be catastrophic for our Texas public schools, which already face significant funding challenges.

We Already Have School Choice in Texas

It's important to recognize that Texas families already have numerous educational options:

- Open enrollment public schools
- Magnet schools
- Charter schools
- Homeschooling
- Traditional private schools

These existing options provide the variety and flexibility families need without draining crucial resources from our public education system.

Diverting Public Funds to Private Institutions is Harmful- The proposed ESAs would redirect taxpayer money away from our public schools, which serve over 5.4 million Texas children, to private institutions that:

- Are not required to accept all students
- Are not held to the same accountability standards
- Are not mandated to provide services for students with disabilities
- Are not required to report academic outcomes consistently

Public Schools Serve ALL Texas Children- Unlike private institutions, our public schools have a legal obligation to educate every child, regardless of their learning abilities, economic circumstances, or background. By diverting funds to private schools through ESAs, we would be undermining this fundamental mission and further straining already limited resources.

Unproven Educational Benefits- Research on similar voucher programs in other states has failed to demonstrate consistent academic improvements for participating students. In fact, several studies have shown negative academic impacts for students who used vouchers to attend private schools.

Rural Communities Will Be Disproportionately Harmed- Many rural Texas communities have few or no private school options, meaning ESAs would primarily benefit urban and suburban families while rural public schools would face devastating funding losses without providing actual choice to those communities.

Better Solutions Exist- Instead of diverting funds away from public education, we should:

- Fully fund our public schools to reduce class sizes
- Increase teacher pay to attract and retain quality educators
- Invest in modern facilities and resources for all students
- Expand successful programs within the public system

I urge you to oppose House Bill 3 and any legislation that would divert public education funds to private institutions. Our tax dollars should remain in our public schools, which are the cornerstone of opportunity for all Texas children.

Respectfully submitted,
LeighAnn Standridge
Montgomery County

Catharine Wall

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to the establishment of the education savings program that would provide vouchers using public funds to pay for private schools, whether secular, religious, or home-based. Vouchers would take away money from the neighborhood-based public schools that are available to all Texas children and put it in the hands of schools that may not have the same level of accountability. HB 3 is bad for our Texas public schools and bad for our civic culture. Please vote against HB 3.

Amie Super

Self

Ft Worth, TX

My comments & opinions represent those of myself, my husband, our adult son & his wife. All four of us are registered voters, Republican voters, and we ALL strongly oppose HB3 & SB2 aka, the ESA Voucher Bills. We have "School Choice" already. I HAVE read the Bill and the Financial impact, at least for SB2, and listened to every bit of Public Education Committee thus far. I've attended & watched debates on these two bills, and considered researched BOTH "sides". I have neither the time nor space to fully address the complete basis upon which we all four have come to the same conclusion. I can only relay to you our extremely strong opinions that neither SB2 nor HB3 be passed out of this House Committee & certainly not passed during this 89th Legislative Session. Neither of these two ESA/Voucher bills will achieve the goals we are told drove those who wrote them. We DO believe ALL parents should be able to choose an education pathway that best meets the needs of their children. The "strings" attached to these bills are far too intrusive, financially cumbersome on so many levels, & would create, by design, a completely separate lane of education that would still be under the thumbs of government in one form or another but with even less community oversight. My children's children, our grandchildren, will NOT benefit from the provisions of these bills while generations will pay for them. Please, vote NO to HB3

Catherine LaBrenz, Dr.

self

Mansfield, TX

I oppose vouchers and want state funding to remain in public schools. As a family and community researcher, I am concerned about the elitism of private schools and the ability to turn families away, particularly for children who may require specialized services and help. In fact, in my work with children in foster care, we often had a difficult time getting any other schools to accept them into programming given the trauma and associated behaviors. I strongly oppose vouchers and would like to see stronger investment in public schools in Texas.

Ginger Jackson

PISD

Pearland, TX

Don't take money away from public schools. Do more to make public schools better so children don't have to go to a private school just to receive a decent education.

Elizabeth Ballard

Self

Lubbock, TX

I'm a Texan who has grown up with a single mother working as a teacher. I've seen the hard work and dedication that goes into education. My husband is a teacher and works so hard and diligently to care for his students and make sure they have what they need. Teaching is so much more than a job. I care about our K-12 public education system being well-funded for all students. I do not support HB 3, the education savings account bill, and I ask for all representatives to oppose this topic. Thank you for your time.

Meicell Amor
Parents of Liberty Hill
Liberty Hill, TX

Vote NO to HB 3. Protect our public schools by voting no. The voucher system diverts money away from public schools and does not guarantee quality education at private schools; there is no reliable evidence that vouchers improve student success. Private schools are not held accountable to the public control over how public tax dollars are spent which can lead to corruption. Transportation is not provided and they do not cover the full cost of tuition, which will exclude students from low-income backgrounds. Private schools do not have to accept all students, which will exacerbate inequalities between different student populations, including children with disabilities. Protect our students and ensure that every child has access to

Beverly Thomas
Self
Carrollton75006, TX

Please do NOT support this bill! Our governor continues to voice that it is what Texans want. I have yet to find anyone who supports it other than one family member who has had their children in private school for years and can well afford it. My husband is a medical professional and I am a retired teacher. We do not support this bill. If our governor believes most Texans do, then it should be put to a vote to verify. As a volunteer in a very low income public school, I can assure you that those children will not benefit from this bill. They need more public school resources. Please oppose education savings accounts that will most definitely not benefit the vast majority of Texas children who need help..I do not want my tax dollars spent that way. Thank you.

Michelle Alkhatib
Self
Highland Village, TX

Of the 5.4 million public school children in Texas, nearly 950,000 live in rural areas, where options other than their local public schools are slim to nothing. That is nearly an astonishing 18% of our public school children in Texas. It's mendacious to claim that vouchers will give these families more choice when that means driving many of miles daily to attend a private or religious school. It's not a realistic or affordable option for many Texas families in rural areas of our state.

I have little doubt that the parents in Texas will have to foot a large portion of tuition because taxpayer funded vouchers only picks up a fraction of private school tuition.

Fund the public schools first! Parents in Texas already have a choice. Among the state's 1,026 public school districts, families already have the choice to select magnet campuses, public charter schools, public online schools, or a more traditional K-12 option. Within many school district boundaries, families also have the option of open enrollment — or the ability to select a school other than the one in their attendance zone. Some neighboring school districts, such as ours, allow transfers among students to accommodate specific needs, including academic, health, and family issues.

With due respect, please stop making this a political lined agenda. Both Republicans and Democrats oppose the HB3 as written. Do better for the future of Texas! Do NOT VOTE for HB3!

Samantha Duré

Self/ general education public school teacher

Denton, TX

In relation to HB3, I would like the representatives to vote in the negative. I agree that there are families who do not feel successful in the public education system. However, the diverting of public funds away from public schools to a lottery of applicants for private education is not a viable solution. Our profession in education works hard to support strategies and interventions with students that are evidence and research based. Why are we not doing the same when it comes to this bill? The evidence from other states who have tried these same ideas shows failure to reach or impact the citizens you are trying to assist. In the long term, I believe this will not create competition as stated repeatedly in the bill, but cause public schools that are underfunded to lose the best in their field and cause the schools to become desperate. If we want public education to become more competitive and more efficient, then it starts by keeping the funding to support our students and educators already in public education. We will be evaluated as a state, as a nation, and as a community by what we put into our public services. As a tax payer, I ask you to hear my opinion and take all sides into account. I want the money I pay in taxes to help make all public services something to be proud of. I speak especially about where I see our children learn and grow in public schools.

Melinda Sadler

Self

Cypress, TX, TX

This bill does not help anyone. Even the poor won't be helped because it only covers maybe one semester of school. It's a total waste of money and time in our government. But what else would I expect from this government. The shame is I'm a Republican!!!!

Amy Murphy

self

Round Rock, TX

The voucher system is a pyramid scheme that will harm the most vulnerable. This will only increase wealth disparity and cause parents to bear more burden. Teachers will suffer due to high demands from parents who want to pay less for more. The wealthy will benefit by having more funds funneled to less qualified people. Ultimately the system will crumble and those at the bottom will be hurt the most.

Maple Galindo

Self

Odessa, TX

The school vouchers system is the most blatant and shameless act of greed and corruption enacted against our state that I have thus far seen. This is an attack on the working class and our access to education.

Traci Hoelscher

Self

Cedar Creek, TX

I am a constituent in zip 78612 and I am asking my representative to vote NO to HB3. I want fully funded public education.

Debora Fathauer

Self

Brenham, TX

Oppose.

Shirley Crosby

Self

Temple, TX

Please vote against this bill. Thank you.

Tracey Sorrell

Self. Teacher

Helotes, TX

This bill is unfair to public schools, especially the rural schools. It takes money from already financial strapped districts. It only helps students who's parents can already afford to take their children our of the public school system. It also will negatively affect the TRS system that is also struggling to pay retired teachers. Stop this bill!

Juliann Fulton

Self

Bushland, TX

Defunding public education will be detrimental to rural schools. Please do not defund public education

Rachael Duke

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please protect public education. School vouchers should not take away from what public education needs.

Jessica Rosales

Self

Austin, TX

My family opposes Vouchers. Please fund PUBLIC education.

Stacy Humphries

Self

Houston, TX

The voucher plan will drain funds from the long underfunded public schools and only benefit a small number of Texas families, many of whom already send their kids to private school (without vouchers). The income level in the bill is too high and the number of families who will be helped is tomorrow small. Fix our public schools, don't weaken them further!!

Jamie Gardner

Self

Austin, TX

The state of Texas desperately needs to fully fund our public schools with an investment of \$10 billion from the state surplus to return funding back to 2019 levels. What better use of tax payer dollars is there than in our children and the future of Texas businesses and citizenry? Our teachers, students and communities deserve and demand this investment. Siphoning off ANY taxpayer dollars for private schools is wasteful when public schools are being forced to close or lay off teachers due to funding shortfalls. Have courage and do the right thing for our children and Texas.

Gunjeet Bhatt

Self

Cypress, TX

Don't defund my public schools!

Diego Ortiz
Self
Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Erin Weber
Self administrative assistant
Austin, TX

I do not support school vouchers or the use of taxes to fund private or charter schools. Public schools desperately need this funding to provide fair and equal access to education for all Texas children.

Emily Crocker
Self. Massage therapist
Austin, TX

Please don't defund our public education system and allow people to start private schools with no regard for education. Public funds should not support religious and private schools!

Tracy Geiser
Self
Cypress, TX

This is my 29th year as a public school teacher, and of all of the bills that have been passed by the state of Texas in that time, this one makes the least amount of sense to me. Parents do have choice right now as to where to take their children for schooling. Many choose to take them to private schools, or to homeschool, and that is fine. Give them their school taxes back. Let them make the decision to use their tax dollars at the school of their choosing. But to use money that the public has set aside for public education, and give it to people already paying for private education does NOT help the parents of poverty whose children are truly stuck in failing schools. Quit taking money from public education just because donors who want public education to fail are giving YOU money. As a Republican voter since I was 18 years old, I find this bill shameful and close minded. Do better!!

Karen Thornton, Mrs
SEL - educator
Lubbock, TX

No school vouchers, keep free lunch & CEP program. Keep funding for food vouchers for poor, stop any discrimination against gays, lesbian, any minority group that freedoms may be taken away from. This is America!

Cindy Mott

Self retired

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

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Thank you

Cindy Wright
Personal
Richardson, TX

I am a product of Texas public schools, have relatives who have and are current public school teachers, have children who are products of public schools and grandchildren who will (hopefully) be attending public schools. I am strongly opposed to the establishment of an education savings account program for many reasons. If we move forward with the ESA program, monies will effectively be stolen from poorer students in order to give wealthier families a discount on their private school education because the amount allotted will not be sufficient for poor students to afford private school tuition. As funding is pulled from public schools, our most vulnerable students will lose funding for much needed services and resources. This would include the possible loss of 504 accommodations that do not have to be supplied from private schools. I'm also concerned about my tax dollars funding private religious schools. I oppose giving government funding to schools that aren't held accountable to the same standards public schools must uphold. Students who live in rural areas may not even have access to private schools within a reasonable distance from their homes. Public schools serve ALL students who choose to use the, but private schools are able to pick and choose students, which would effectively discriminate against vulnerable students who have higher support needs. The application of ESA vouchers is effectively allowing segregation of high income white families from generally lower income families of color. Public school, like many services provided for with tax money, serve the good of our entire community, regardless of whether individual people and families utilize public schools. Public schools that are struggling need more funding, not less; the withholding of available funds by our Texas state politicians is unethical in the face of inflation. It seems our politicians want to withhold and even pull funding from public schools and then turn around and say that they are failing when they themselves have contributed to the problem. Everyone benefits from an educated populace, whether or not they personally attend public schools. If we move forward with the ESA program, funding will be taken from public schools, and our most vulnerable students and families will suffer most, followed by everyone else in our society that benefits from a well educated population. I am fiercely opposed to education savings account program. And I am very disappointed with my state and those elected to SERVE the constituents of Texas for how they have forced this issue, have not listened to the lack of support for ESAs and have not allowed the people of Texas to vote on this issue.

Mary Beth Hardesty-Crouch, Reverend
self - United Methodist clergy
Allen, TX

As a United Methodist pastor, I took a sacred vow to serve God in the name of Jesus Christ, and to serve all of God's created people. I know you have also taken a sacred vow to care for the people you represent. Thank you for your commitment. Caring for the people you represent extends to public school children. The public schools in my community are among the best in the state. Families move to our area from out of state, as well as, from across the world because we have great public schools.

I am very concerned about the voucher bill and its impact on my community. This bill breaks the sacred trust given to the legislature to act in the best interest of all of God's children. Taking away public school funding threatens our ability to educate all of the children in our care. Teachers and school administrators who tirelessly teach and engage with our children will experience a lack of support. I am also concerned that our communities will be further divided into ideological groups creating more Muslim and Christian schools who see the other as a threat. Moreover, children being left behind will not get their needed resources for education.

Our schools are a gift to the community. First United Methodist Church of Allen supports our schools through partnerships, volunteer programs and "Back to School" events. A senior pastor of First UMC Allen I volunteer at Boyd Elementary in Allen, and provide care for all of our teachers, staff and administrators in the Allen ISD. I am also a very proud parent of a graduate of Allen High School and a 7th grader at Ford Middle School and have been thoroughly impressed by and grateful for the teachers and staff and administrators who have taught and led my children.

Please do not vote for the voucher bill (SB2 & HB3). Please stand with your communities and keep our public schools strong. I pledge with you to make our schools even better through community support and our sacred investment. Please vote for all of the children in your care.

Matthew Burnham

Self - Engineer

Austin, TX

Dear Representatives,

My name is Matthew Burnham and I'm a parent of three in the Texas Public Schools system. Every single lawmaker in Texas should be appalled about the systemic under funding of public education.

We need and demand better:

- A minimum \$1,300 increase to the basic allotment—because anything less keeps districts in crisis.
- Basic allotment needs to be based of ENROLLMENT, not attendance.
- A transportation funding increase that reflects actual costs—because the last adjustment was made when gas was \$1.00 and bus drivers made \$6.50/hour. Today, districts pay drivers \$24/hour minimum, and we all know gas prices are not a dollar.
- An increase in special education funding—because our kids deserve the services and supports they are legally entitled to.
- Higher teacher pay—because we cannot retain educators when they're underpaid and overworked.
- Reimbursement for special education evaluations—because districts shouldn't have to fight for what they're required by law to provide.
- Full funding for Dual Language programs—because our multilingual students deserve access to a high-quality education.
- A complete revamp of recapture—because Austin ISD is paying over \$900 million annually while unable to afford to educate its own students.

You were elected to lead and to serve the citizens of Texas. Not the small percentage of rich donors pushing extreme agendas. Please do your jobs and fully fund our public schools and show Texans where your priorities and morals are held.

Sincerely,

Matthew Burnham

Gloria Roberts

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3. The state of Texas should be using funds to improve public education. education. Governor Abbott is perpetuating the idea that a public education in Texas is substandard.

Erika De La Rosa

Self, Education Advocate

Houston, TX

As someone from a low-income family who benefited from a private school education, I do not support HB 3 nor do I support education savings accounts or vouchers. My mother, a single mother, relied on family support and financial aid to afford a Catholic school education for me. I benefited greatly and eventually was able to secure a full scholarship to Texas A&M University in College Station. After graduating, I taught for ten years in the Houston Independent School District. My time helped me realized that there is no acceptable reason that only a few children from any underserved and underresourced community should benefit from a good education. What this bill does not address is the root issue of educational inequity. Our Texas public schools are not adequately funded, and after years of said underfunding, robust programs cease to exist in communities whose income is at or below the poverty line. What our elected representatives should put their attention to is ensuring that the schools that are doing their best to serve millions of children in Texas are provided with the funding and resources to adequately educate our Texas children. I benefited from a private school education, but too many of my friends, family members, and church peers did not. We should put our attention to serving the places where our children currently are - which is public schools - not where a few could end up. Thank you; please vote no on HB 3 and put our attention to our public schools.

Suni Salinas
Self
Amarillo, TX

Please consider public education teachers when you discuss this bill. I have devoted 17 years of my life to public education and this feels like such a slap in the face. Please don't let big money determine the fate of education in Texas. Look at the research from other states that shows how "school choice" has negatively impacted education. I am sorely disappointed in Governor Abbott and his push for this. Please listen to the people in this state and choose what is best for all people.

Casie Newman
Self dental hygienist
Shallowater, TX

I highly disagree with this voucher bill. This is a band aid on a deeper problem with education!! Pay teachers more!! Back them with discipline, respect and support. Come on Texas, do better for our kids as a WHOLE!!!

Stephanie Brendel
self
Austin, TX

Taking away funding from public schools is so incredibly privileged and awful for the lower income residents of Texas! I think that everyone in a elected government position should have to send their children to public schools - THEN they would be funded properly, because politicians would care about their own children's educations even if they don't care about the education of others.

Judy Clark Johnson
self
Tomball, TX

Re HB 3 vouchers: This bill is setting up an elite education vs. public education system that will harm the public education system by reducing the funds available to them. Taxpayers must NOT be forced to support private schools. Shame on anyone who supports this unfair bill!

M.L. Klein
Self
Helotes, TX

Vouchers will only hurt our children. This is not being pushed by parents or teachers, it's being pushed by extremely wealthy men, many of whom own the private schools that will in fact benefit. This bill steals money from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 4th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I beg you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and don't dump money in the pockets of the ultra wealthy who would like nothing more than to see public education collapse, and private, unregulated, unwanted, unneeded, unfit schools prosper, ultimately creating an uneducated citizenry, able to be more easily manipulated.

Jessica Nwanze
Self
Spring, TX

I think this bill is a horrible idea as there is already private schools if people want to go and removing funding to public schools will hurt many demographics of people who depend on public education. I strongly encourage all to vote no on this issue.

Brad Bentley
Self
Stephenville, TX

I am very opposed to using Tax Payer dollars for private and/or home schooling. Texas needs to improve the public school system by increasing teachers pay and making necessary improvements to schools as needed. I am concerned that with the cost of a good private school the main beneficiaries will be those in the private schools and not under represented students.

Michael Stewart
self
Austin, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

John Mathews, Dr.
Lumberton ISD
Lumberton, TX

In consideration of the 5.5 million students served by public schools, please do not approve this bill that takes away needed funding to provide a voucher that can only be utilized by the wealthy. While I know there may be enough vote to pass vouchers, please consider fully funding our schools in such a way that ALL students benefit.

Elizabeth perez
Self
Houston, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Kristen Washam
Self, retired
Houston, TX

I oppose HB3. Vouchers will only benefit a small percentage of Texas students, mostly those who can already afford private education. There is nothing conservative about spending billions of taxpayer dollars on handouts that are essentially welfare for the wealthy. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Natalie Ledyard
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I do not support the voucher program Gov. Abbott is proposing for Texas Public Education. It will harm our already struggling education system and perpetuate existing problems, only hurting the children it is supposed to be building up. Please listen to the people of Texas and do not pass this.

Carla Flores

self as a Texas Public School Retired Teacher

San Marcos, TX

Please vote NO to the school vouchers program. It will cripple students and teachers in the public school classroom. There is not enough funding for teachers, programs to help students, etc. You didn't vote for it the last several times, so you know it's a very bad idea. Stand up and do what's right for our children!

Thomas Sims

Self

Austin, TX

I am a father of two students in Texas public schools, and I oppose HB 3. Texas should devote its limited school funding to improving public schools, not sending money to private schools that aren't an option for most Texans. Most Texas counties don't even have a private school. This bill might help a few families be able to afford private schools, but there will be many more families who still can't afford that option and so will continue to send their kids to public schools. And if HB 3 passes, those schools will have less funding and less ability to provide students the best education possible.

Dorothy Hemphill

Self

San Antonio, TX

A public hearing at the Texas Capitol is happening on the school voucher bill (HB 3). Use the link below to ensure your opposition is on record. Not a drill.

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools., I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Matthew LaDue

self

Austin, TX

The actuarial analysis of the senate version of this bill found that "even a small adjustment such as a decrease in the projected covered payroll growth could be enough for [The Teacher Retirement System] to no longer be actuarially sound according to the statutory definition. TRS' analysis also notes that it is possible an increase in the contribution rate may be necessary in the future if payroll does not grow as currently projected following the passage of this bill." HB 3 does not include any provisions to offset lost TRS contributions. There's no requirement for private school employees to contribute, nor is there a funding mechanism to replace what public schools would lose.

Other states, such as Arizona and Wisconsin, have seen funding problems since implementing voucher programs. Local taxpayers in Wisconsin have voted to increase taxes in their districts to supplement the losses that have been caused by funding two school systems (public and private). I do not believe that people in Texas want their property taxes to go up. Especially if it's mostly helping upper class people pay for private schools that their children were already going to.

That's another issue with this bill. It will not promote "school choice" for most students in Texas. Most students will never have the opportunity to go to a private school, because there are no private schools in their area. And if schools do get added, they are not under any of the regulations that public schools must follow. Public schools serve all children, and shifting taxpayer dollars to unregulated private institutions undermines their ability to provide quality education.

On a personal note, I hope to have children someday. I want to be able to send those children to a quality school. I worry that with the passing of this bill, that is less likely to be a reality. Please vote "No" on this bill. Thank you for your time.

Michele Pisciotano

Self

Bedford, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Constitution

Tamara Konjevich

Self / teacher

Garland, TX

I oppose HB3. Do not give vouchers. Protect our public schools.

Stewart Youngblood

Self, Product Manager

Allen, TX

I am against this bill.

Yissi Sternberg

Self / therapist

Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Lauren Mitrani

Self/Teacher

Round Rock, TX

I oppose this bill and against school vouchers.

Donna Lundborg

Self

Woodway, TX

Public funds for education must remain in public schools. It's as simple as that. Say NO to school vouchers.

Sayani Neogi

Self

Cedar Park, TX

No to the bill

Jessica Flores
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I strongly urge you to reject any school voucher proposals that divert public tax dollars away from Texas public schools.

Vouchers do not increase educational choice. They subsidize private schools at taxpayer expense, often with no accountability, no transparency, and no requirement to serve all students. Texas already struggles with underfunded public schools, teacher shortages, and rural districts that would be devastated by losing even a fraction of their funding.

If you truly want to support educational choice, fully fund public schools, raise teacher salaries, and invest in better resources for all Texas students. Public tax dollars should stay in public schools that serve all children - not private institutions that can pick and choose their students.

Please vote NO on vouchers. 6 million Texas public school students are depending on you to protect their education.

Heather Hill
Self
Austin, TX

Look at the data from the states that have adopted a voucher program and tell me how they're successful... I'll wait. Ah, can't find the data to support vouchers? That's because it doesn't exist.

This bill is being pushed by a man that has funneled millions of dollars into our governor's pocket.

I say 'no' to vouchers; not only because I am the spouse of a teacher and have 3 children in public school, but because it is what all of our people deserve. Fully fund public schools and stop restricting them. Pay teachers a living wage and watch our schools thrive.

Jamey West
Self
Beaumont, TX

Vouchers will not give choice to those in rural areas with no private schools; or parents that cannot afford the difference in cost or other costs associated (ie school uniforms). This is taking away from the poor to give to the rich, plain and simple. Public education is a need in our state. This goes against freedom of religion as well, as private schools are almost always religion based.

Laurence Toenjes

Self

Clear Lake Shores, TX

1. The most significant factor in determining how Texas schools perform on STAAR exams is the percentage of students who are eligible for the federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL) program.
2. Between 1995 and 2023 Texas public school enrollments grew from 3.67 million to 5.50 million. 94% OF THE GROWTH WAS DUE TO INCREASES IN THE NUMBER OF FRPL STUDENTS: 45% to 62%!
3. Using the percentages of students in schools who achieve the Meets Grade Level (MGL) standard, the average results for all grades, all subjects, in regular (ISD) elementary and middle schools, for 2023-2024 are:
 - a. FRPL students: 35%
 - b. Non-FRPL students: 63%
4. The problem is amplified because the MGL success rates for each type of student—FRPL or non-FRPL—decrease as those students are enrolled in schools with higher percentages of FRPL students. (see http://polinetworks.com/TEADTA_2024/index.htm .)
5. The negative impact of higher percentages of low-income children in schools is reflected in the school grades assigned by the organization Children at Risk (CAR). Those grades are widely circulated, and unfairly label schools with high percentages of low-income children as “failing schools.” Using CAR’s grades for 2024, placing elementary and middle schools into quintiles based on FRPL percentages, only 4.5% of schools in Q1, with the lowest FRPL%, received CAR grades of D or F. Among those in Q5, with the highest FRPL%, 51% received a CAR grade of D or F. Such assessments are inaccurate and unfair.
6. There is no evidence that private schools are exempt from the negative impact of large percentages of low-income students. Evidence shows Charter schools are not exempt.
7. Vouchers will not help Texas school children. Vouchers might allow a small proportion of students to escape the problems associated with high concentrations of low-income children in individual schools. But the problems facing those children left behind, and their schools, will worsen as a result.
8. The authors of a major study which compared the performance of students in public and private schools came to the following conclusion: “In sum, we find no evidence for policies that would support widespread enrollment in private schools, as a group, as a solution for achievement gaps associated with income or race... once one accounts for family background, the existing supply of heterogeneous private schools (from which parents select) does not result in a superior education (even for higher income students).” <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.3102/0013189X18785632#table-fn4-0013189X18785632>
9. Adoption of a publicly-funded school voucher system will not improve the education of Texas students, but will more likely result in decreased resolve and resources to design and fund effective public education programs for all students.

Shaka Hawkins

Palacios ISD

Bay City, TX

I do not support HB 3. Funding should not be taken away from public school students so that members of the Texas legislature can fill their pockets with money.

erin skidmore

self/self employed music teacher

hurst, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Jill Miller

Self

Richardson, TX

No vouchers! Stop stealing from public schools! Let the people of Texas vote on Vouchers! We would vote NO!!!

Melody Trott, Secretary

Self, secretary

Mineral Wells, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Kathleen Scott, Mrs.

Self- homeschooling mom

Houston, TX

I am a homeschooling mom and I oppose this Bill!

Faith Pope
Parent, self
Buda, TX

It is obvious that Governor Abbott is very motivated to make school choice happen in Texas. Every time I hear Texas leadership call it 'Parent choice' it infuriates me as it shows how blind this bill is to the reality of education in Texas.

NO school would EVER accept my son! And if they did, he would not last long there. Therefore, I don't have a choice as a parent.

My son is one of the most resilient kids I have ever known and I have worked with children for 31 years. We adopted him at birth however the deck he was handed at birth was one that has required hard work, advocacy, understanding, collaboration and a tremendous amount of faith. My husband and I have a biological daughter along with our adopted son. However with our son, we have said several times that it has taken a village to raise him. That village has included incredible teachers, administrators, coaches, special education teachers and Counselors. It hasn't been an easy road and there have been many mishaps along the way but this village has come together to do what was and is needed for my son every step of the way! He is a junior in high school and we are so incredibly grateful for all who have walked with us in this journey!

I went to private schools my whole life, my husband went to public schools. I have friends who have their children currently in private schools. I have friends who home school. None of my friends who home school nor send their children to private school, need the \$10,000 gift Texas is proposing with this bill. The people who need that additional funding is public education. If we actually funded public schools adequately, we wouldn't need to try and sell a 'Parent choice' bill.

Public education is the responsibility of the governor and all of you who have been voted in. Yet Texas leadership, you all, are doing nothing to support it. Get your bodies into public schools, spend an entire day with administrators and teachers, have face to face forums with them and THEN decide if the problem is choice or funding and support.

This bill is a privileged way out to say you all are doing your job.
Privileged for parents who can provide transportation.
Privileged for parents whose child doesn't have learning disabilities.
Privileged for parents whose child doesn't have behavior needs.
Privileged for parents whose child isn't medically fragile.
Privileged for parents whose child doesn't have second language learning needs.
Privileged for parents who can pay the extra amount that private schools will charge.

Go into public schools! Spend time observing. Spend time talking to administrators, teachers, Counselors. Fix the problems they are facing or maybe, just provide them the funding so they CAN!

I am forever grateful for the people who have invested in my kids through their public schools.

I grow increasingly frustrated with the people in Texas government!

Do what is right for ALL kids! Make funding public schools be the bill that is passed! FaithPope

Becky St John
Self
Grapevine, TX

To the Members of the Committee:
Thank you for your service to the parents, students, teachers, and taxpayers of Texas.

It struck me as ironic as I began to complete this form, that it autofills "Texas"—to testify on a bill that was filed on behalf of a Pennsylvania billionaire.

While I'm sure the committee members believe they have the interests of Texas students in mind, this is not the way to accomplish anything the bill purports to solve—and results in wasteful, excessive, bureaucracy, as well as the (rightful, if accepting taxpayer money) invasion of government into private and homeschools.

This bill also steals necessary resources from our Texas public students and classrooms—which IS your constitutional duty. To expand that duty into private and homeschools is actually an erosion of our freedoms and expansion of government.

There are myriad other reasons to oppose this bill: Texas should be a leader, blazing its own path, not a follower of other states' failed vouchers.

You will hear many other reasons today to oppose HB3, all valid. Again, I applaud your efforts to support students, but this is not it.

I'm not a billionaire, but I am a Texas voter, taxpayer, and parent—even better.

Respectfully submitted.

Katie Daggett
Self
Pearland, TX

Public education is a cornerstone of Texan society. It's one of few places where students and families come together behind a common good, common experience. They unite communities - whether thru rallying neighbors behind a championship team or celebrating spelling bee winners at the elementary school, public schools and quality public schools are key.

Let's put public, college ready education at the forefront of this session, and let's get an increase in public schools funding passed!

Elizabeth Chennell
Self
Austin, TX

School choice is important, but vouchers are NOT the way to achieve it. As a mother of three sons, wife of a Pediatrician, and daughter of school teachers, I understand how important it is for parents to advocate for what's best for their children's unique needs, and one size does not fit all. HOWEVER, school savings accounts, or "vouchers", are damaging to the vibrant public school system that is a vital part of the education, safeguarding, and wellbeing of over 5 million Texas kids. These kids rely on our public schools, and our schools deliver, on an already extremely stretched budget. Please listen to the majority of parents in Texas, who put their trust in public schools.

Maryellen Duffield, Ms.

Self

Dallas, TX

Hello - I respectfully ask that you vote NO on HB 3. My children were educated in Plano ISD and now they work in Richardson ISD and 5 of my 7 granddaughters are students in Richardson ISD. For 35 years I have had close experience with public education in Texas. For ALL of that time public education has been underfunded. Each year the state government figured out ways to reduce the amount received by school districts. And now with total and complete disrespect for the value of public education in communities and for children you continue to contemplate vouchers and you try to deceive the public by calling it a savings account program. This is merely a bill to strip funds away from public schools and give them to wealthy families who do not need the help. The private schools have no incentive to help children with special needs and families with few resources will never be able to utilize this program. The damage that will be done to rural school districts and rural towns is unimaginable. Local schools are the heartbeat of rural communities and this bill will strip them of needed resources. This bill is the beginning of the end of public education. You are robbing your citizens of the education they need to become productive citizens in Texas. This is an ignorant and cruel bill that will only result in suffering for communities and students all across Texas. Please vote NO on HB 3 and vote to protect rural communities and ALL students in Texas.

Nancy Herron

Self

Austin, TX

Texans clearly do not want vouchers- voters on both sides of the aisle know this. Our public schools face many challenges, but with fully restored funding, they can meet those challenges and educate our Texas kids to their potential. Please vote to FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS and VOTE NO on any voucher/ ESA bill. I vote and this matters to me. Thank you.

Melissa Yarborough

self

Houston, TX

Vote no on HB 3. Do not redirect our public funds to private schools. There is no real choice for students; the choice is for the private schools that choose how much state money they want to receive and from which students.

For public school students, there is no guarantee that a seat will be available at a private school. Seventy percent of voucher funds in America go to students who were already in private schools.

If a seat becomes available, there's no guarantee that the student will be chosen for that seat. Private schools have limited availability, and they are not required to accommodate special needs students. Unlike public schools, they are exclusionary.

Even if a child is accepted into a private school, there is no guarantee that they will receive a quality education. Public school students in other states who have switched to private vouchers have scored the same or worse on state tests than their peers in public schools. Also, private school scams abound to get free state money with little regulation.

One billion dollars is a lot to spend for private schools to educate just a small percentage of our public school students. It is wiser to invest that money--our taxpayer money--into supporting our public schools.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 3.

Cilicia Landers

Self- student

Austin, TX

I believe that this will negatively impact my and other families that can't afford private education. It will take away funds from public education, making those institutions less able to do their jobs of educating Texas youth. Do you really want the population of Texas to become more ignorant? That is the only reason to support this bill. Please vote no on HB3.

Nan Coneway

self

Hereford, TX

Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing to ask you not to approve HB3. I taught 3rd grade bilingual education for 40 years in Hereford, Texas. Our public tax dollars need to stay in our public schools. I am also concerned about the long-term financial stability of TRS if HB3 passes, because this is my income during my retirement. Please do not approve vouchers in any form this session.

Thank you,

Nan Coneway

Matthew Malone

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I am AGAINST using public money for private education and am asking my representative (Rep Toth) and other House members to vote NO or against this bill.

Miguel Guimbarda

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and I am against school vouchers.

Virginia Black

Self, homemaker, constituent

San Antonio, TX

I am writing to ask you to protect neighborhood schools and oppose House Bill 3 in Texas.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them to succeed, not just students at exclusive private schools. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our neighborhood public schools for students, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private and religious schools that pick and choose who will enroll.

As a concerned Texan, I ask you to vote down House Bill 3, which diverts tax dollars from neighborhood public schools. Public dollars should stay in public schools.

At the Hearing in Austin today, it was CLEAR that there are some very organized groups lobbying for this voucher scheme. These same groups also have the most circuitous answers to simple questions. As a constituent, and as a parent to kids in the public school system, it was extremely aggravating hearing the private school lobbyists talking in circles instead of straight up answering that yes, they do want the money these vouchers would provide, but aren't so sure they actually want ALL students to be eligible to attend their private schools. It was apparent that they fully intend to exercise their own discretion over who may or may not "fit" the culture of their school. If institutions wish to retain that level of discretion over admissions, then they should not be funded by public money, but should find their own funding.

Say NO to vouchers that use tax dollars to fund the tuition at exclusive private schools.

Christina Tu

Self - physical therapist and homeschooling mom

Grand Prairie, TX

Please oppose this bill! Not good for Texans!

Pamela Towns, Ms

Self, Registered Nurse, Homeschooling parent

Bryan, TX

I do not support in any way any "school choice" program that will increase the tax burden on the citizens of Texas. This program creates more government, costs more money, and is not a true "school choice." Allocating the monies already collected from taxes and giving it to the parents of the children of Texas for the sole purpose of allowing them to use it on the education of their choice is true "school choice." We don't want another program, a new program, or anything that creates more government. We want to use the money how we want to use it for the schooling of our choice.

Cathryne McNamara

self—secondary public school teacher for 25 years

Austin, TX

Please continue to vote no on and speak out against educational savings accounts, which are vouchers, as well as other public school attacks and attempts to defund, demoralize and emotionally and financially bankrupt public schools, students and teachers.

ESA/vouchers will further defund public education as have all the unfunded mandates over years, including most recently having a police officer on every campus, one point of entry, fences, 504 mandates, etc.

ESA/vouchers will largely be handouts for wealthier families who likely can and already pay for private schools. Most other families cannot make up the differential financially, including total tuition costs and extra costs, like uniforms and what not, or physically—drives/rides, etc.

ESAs/vouchers will send public school money to UNACCOUNTABLE private and charter schools that do not educate all students regardless of race, religion, ability and history and that do not have to meet the same TEA standards and testing that public schools do and that often do not even have a mandate of degreed and certified teachers. There is often not academic or financial accountability.

ESAs/vouchers may likely create financial chaos for the state and definitely the public schools; look closely at what is happening in Arizona. Often legislators have not taken into account the families that are already at private schools who will come for their ESA as well. Will these ESAs intentionally bankrupt public schools and maybe the state?

ESAs/vouchers make me wonder who will benefit financially; I have long thought that students' minds are the last natural resource Republicans might try to exploit for profit. Who will make money off of the "managed" ESA accounts? The details suggest that the accounts will be state managed? Who earns money from the investments, growth and interest on these accounts? How can we fund these at 10k per student when we currently fund public school students at 5+k per student, if that. Will a family with three children feasibly be given 30k in unaccountable funds for whatever form of education they wish? What private equity firms are waiting for this exploitation? Will there be public reporting and accountability for the use of these public funds being used for private institutions? Will we really know what our public dollars will be supporting?

ESAs/vouchers do not work for smaller cities and towns that only have one public school option.

I also wonder whether ESAs will damage TRS and public educator pensions as often private schools only offer 401(k)s.

If this ESA legislation passes, will the same standardized tests, practices, mandates, attendance to funding ties be mandated for these private schools?

Please put forth and into place policies and statements that will FUND public education FIRST before private; we have not seen what that could look like, and I have hope that it could be good. You have an ethical responsibility to support public schools.

Wanda Hogan

Self/retired

Tomball, TX

This bill steals our tax money and hands it to owners of charter schools. I am appalled that the Texas legislature can be bought when this is clearly opposed by the majority of Texans for many reasons. It will not help us. It will hurt many people, including teachers and students who need special education. Texas public schools are especially good at providing students opportunities in athletics and performing arts. Private schools cannot do this at the same level of excellence. Are you really willing for public funds to be channeled to Islamic schools? Is this not a potential threat to our security? The experiment has already been conducted in Florida and North Carolina. Is Texas going to "follow the leader" rather than standing up to this scam and teaching the rest of this country just how great public education can be? My children moved here with their children because of the high caliber of the public schools. This systematic destruction of public education is a travesty. Please hold the line and defeat "education savings accounts" (vouchers).

Melinda Bass

Self, educator

Austin, TX

I want you to know that this Voucher Scam represents a fight between a bi-partisan, pro public education coalition vs. billionaire mega-donors who control Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick. Your constituents love their kids, believe in public school teachers, support our neighborhood schools and want them fully funded. We don't want a Voucher Scam that will eventually defund our local schools. I would like to see these things:

- the Basic allotment tied to inflation indexes so Gov Abbott cannot hold it hostage anymore
- the basic allotment become enrollment-based vs. attendance based
- full funding to make up for 6 years of missing funding

Vote NO on the Voucher Scam. I vote and this matters to me. Thank you

SANDRA HOOVER

Self

LEANDER, TX

I do not want my tax dollars funding any private schools. A public education should be a given in any modern society. We should all want our kids to succeed, not just the few who are able to send their kids to private schools. Our society depends on the kids learning to read and be productive in whatever they choose to do. Please give our teachers the tools they need to teach, for ALL students. Let me be clear, I don't support vouchers under any form or circumstance. Allow innovation and funding for operations, salaries, materials, transportation, and schools will succeed. Keep class sizes low. Follow the research on learning. Then maybe you won't get booted out next term. Please help ALL of our public schools and make Texas education one we can be proud of!

Marisa Tellez, Ms.

Self

Laredo, TX

I do not support vouchers!

Valerie Lengel

Self

Allen, TX

I oppose HB3 in its implementation of school vouchers and ESAs. This bill does not lay out a well thought out plan on implementing "school choice," but instead benefits the monetary interests of key stakeholders. Public schools are imperative to the community, laying the foundation for future professionals. Vouchers would divert needed funding from public schools and create a market where private schools would only cater to the wealthy. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3.

Christian Arste, Mr.

Self

Round Rock, TX

I do not support vouchers!

Christina Marty

Self

Austin, TX

I'm highly opposed to vouchers for private education. Texas public schools should have better funding and teacher salaries should be increased. Private schools are not required to accept poor or disabled students. Private, religious, and home schools are not accountable to the state. Studies of similar programs found that voucher money largely goes to students ALREADY in private schools. My tax dollars support public education and I expect the Texas legislature fulfill their duties outlined in the Texas Constitution to do so as well, rather than creating savings accounts for private education.

Allison Hasday

Self

Austin, TX

I don't agree with taking more money away from public school teachers. These teachers have worked tirelessly to educate our children without a raise in years. They deserve better. Vouchers aren't parents' choice, they are a move from public education.

Marcy Farrell

Self editor

Austin, TX

Vouchers are a terrible idea. They help wealthy families and drain public education. We can provide excellent public schools if we FUND education. Please do what's right for ALL TX kids and families.

Mackenie Morgan

Self

Eules, TX

As a parent of kids in elementary school, government money for education should remain in public schools. The money is meant for public school, not private school. Parents have always had a choice in where to send their kids to schools and vouchers will not make a difference. In the end, vouchers would only help those who are wealthy and already have kids in private schools, and only help few students in the state. There are too many factors working against most families where they would still not be able use vouchers for school of choice to transfer to a private school because they won't be able to afford it, won't have transportation to it, private schools won't have specialized programs/ services that their child may require, etc. Public schools are already underfunded and the Texas educational system ranks at the bottom for the nation. Put the money back into public schools to educate the kids that are our future. I implore you to vote no for HB3 and no for school choice vouchers!

Stephanie Beasley

Self

Austin, TX

This is purely another tax break for wealthy families. Public schools are necessary for a free and democratic society.

Hilde Tredoux

Self

Weatherford, TX

I do not think the voucher program will benefit our public schools

Juli Smiddy

Self

Allen, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers

William Sabbatini

Alief ISD/ myself

Richmond, TX

Opposed vouchers

Kay Hill

Self, retired registered nurse

Sanger, TX

It makes no sense to give money to private schools, taking the money from public schools, while still giving all the responsibility for special ed evaluations to the public schools. If the private schools want public money, then they need to be taking public responsibility. They should be subject to all the rules that public schools are subject to if they're taking tax dollars. It also makes no sense to base funding for public schools on attendance but private schools get the full amount, even if they kick the kid out on day two or the kid never has to show up. Fund public schools with public money. If people want to choose private schools, they can choose to spend their own private money on it.

Danuta Reich

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Shalom Tauber

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Rebecca Wolverton

Self

Haslet, TX

10000% AGAINST this bill and the concept of school vouchers for private schooling for the rich. The data is CLEAR that this does NOT benefit the majority of children of Texas and only stands to cause irreparable harm to public schools and ultimately our future generations of Texas. I am a born and bred Texan (born in Tyler, grew up in Palestine, and currently reside in Fort Worth). Both of my children attend public school and I have opted to have it that way. But that is because it was always the assumption that TEXAS took care of TEXANS. Not specifically harming the public for a select entitled few. Texas should completely abandon this ridiculous voucher program and instead INVEST in public schools and teachers. Vouchers are NOT the solution. Paying teachers what they deserve instead of insulting masters prepared instructors with a ridiculous salary and unsustainable expectations. Invest to EMPOWER schools , eliminate the STAAR testing (I mean... private schools are excluded from the requirement...make that make sense).

I'm a registered voter in Tarrant county, and the daughter of a retired primary school educator. Catering to the rich and privileged for the sake of favor and campaign donations will lead the fall of our democracy, because the foundation of any long standing civilization requires empowering ALL the members. It's time Republicans AND Democrats start standing up for ALL CITIZENS, not just certain groups. If that's what your intention is, then you are not fit to be in a position of power and should immediately resign.

Texans pride ourselves on doing what is good and right and just. We help each other when in need. We DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE LEAST OF US. Honor what it truly means to be a Texan government representative and hold true to your promise.

Jordan Alexander

Texans

Amarillo, TX

Oppose HB3

Lorinda Moya

Self

Austin, TX

I am against school vouchers. This is unnecessary in the state of Texas.

Jessica Thompson

Self/Educator

Killeen, TX

As a concerned educator about the possible passing of this bill, I have attempted to voice my concerns, but those concerns seem to be ignored by Representative Buckley. I am absolutely against the approval of school vouchers in the state of Texas. I am concerned that this bill will gut public education and leave many educators jobless and create further barriers to all students in Texas having adequate access to a free and fair education. I would like to know why, if so many constituents are opposed to this bill, can it not be placed on a ballot? Many Texans are willing to vote against this bill, but Representative Buckley seems more concerned with satisfying Governor Greg Abbott and his billionaire donors than ensuring all of his constituents have fair and equitable access to education. Texas Republicans seem hellbent on satisfying donors, instead of listening to constituents. Why do we have wealthy donors from both in and out of state interfering with our programs? Why are native Texans being ignored when it comes to this issue? This is absolutely not fair. There are many factors to consider, including the effect this will have on property owners, insufficient funding for public schools in a society currently experiencing high inflation and a looming recession, and how insufficient funds will affect our student population throughout Texas. Greg Abbott has rallied against public schools in the hope to dismantle a fair and equitable education system that has been serving Texas students for many years. How will this affect our most vulnerable student populations, including low income and students with disabilities? Why can Representative Buckley not create a bill in which there is an income cap on families who can receive this bill? There seem to be limits on families with 4 or more children making a certain amount, but what about families who have the same amount of children that makes upwards of \$500,000 per year? This bill is nothing more than welfare for the wealthy disguised as a bill to trick average Texans into believing the system being created is for them, when it is in fact working against them. If lower income families can only qualify for public assistance if they make a certain amount of money, why is this not the case for wealthy families in Texas already sending their children to private schools? I would prefer for Representative Buckley scrap this bill if he truly cared for his constituents who live in a poorer district. I would also implore Representative Buckley to find answers to the questions he is being asked. It does not seem that he can explain much about his own bill and makes up answers on the spot. This is not helpful, nor is it reassuring to stakeholders within the public education system. Thank you for your time and taking my comments into account.

Deborah Pardo

Self

Seabrook, TX

This bill is horrible. No public funds for private schools

Michelle Flores

Self / Analyst

The Colony, TX

As a Texas resident since 1980 and a parent to two school aged children, I DO NOT support this bill that would strip public school funds to give to wealthy parents, and our taxpayer dollars should not be using public school funds for private schools. The Governor of this state needs to release all the funds that he is holding hostage for public schools and allow school districts to fund their schools and teachers. This is blatant CORRUPTION that the public is aware of. Abbott is corrupt and was bought by wealthy donors that are pushing this school voucher scheme. This hurts all children across Texas to strip funds away from them and their schools.

Elizabeth Wetterhahn
Self, Marketing Research
Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Eric Griffey
Private
Fort Worth, TX

Vouchers will harm children. Please don't put profits over the future of our children

Pauline Gray
Self
Coppell, TX

Any tax payer monies for the benefit of the private sector should be held to the same accountabilities as tax payer funded public facilities, including but not limited to population served, services provided, and standardized accountability testing. Additionally, monies funding each should be equal per student.

Christie Cooper
Self
Katy, TX

I oppose HB3. As a parent of a special needs child and the spouse of an educator I think it's awful what the state of Texas and our government is doing to educate. Not only that but the out right lying to your constituents faces. We know this will hurt public schools and take money away from already under funded schools. You are hurting our children and the educators that serve them.

Elizabeth Joseph
Self
Irving, TX

Totally against school vouchers. It's theft of my tax dollars from public schools. My property value will lower with poorly funded public schools. Most importantly, it is not a just public policy.

Sharon Cozort

Self

Houston, TX

As a parent who sent her kids to private school, I understand the desire to be able to offset some of that expense with the money I saved our school district. However, I also understand that every kid who cannot afford private school, regardless of a savings account deserves to have a good public school education. Destroying public education in the name of "choice" is misleading and a fallacy. Most families still won't be able to afford their kids to private school and even if they could private school schools are not obligated to accept them. Private schools are not regulated in the same way public schools are. There are predatory schools who will take advantage of parents and convince them to take out loans that they can't afford to send their kids to private schools. This is a disaster in the making. Please vote now on HB3 and all other voucher bills.

Marissa Torres

Self

Houston, TX

As a homeschooling parent, I do NOT support HB 3 or school vouchers.

Jean Brazil, Mrs.

Self Retired teacher

Mansfield, TX

I am opposed to the establishment of educational savings accounts. I worked as a special education teacher for 30 years, often with the severely disabled. These students will not be allowed in private or charter schools. Giving vouchers for private schools robs these students of their right to a free and appropriate education. Without this, it denies them their chance at independent lives as adults. Without strong schools with robust funding, special needs students are hurt immeasurably.

Sharon Bradford

Self and as a retired teacher

Wylie, TX

I am very concerned about the effect school vouchers will have on the public schools. Having taught for 23 years I know the value of our public schools. I am really bothered by the negative comments about our schools. I am a lifelong republican and have been very active in Republican Women of Texas both at the local and state levels. I will not in the future support or vote for anyone who votes for vouchers. I know the quality of our public schools having taught in several during my career. Please do not create vouchers or education savings accounts. If there are individual schools that need improvement, concentrate on that.

Melissa Davis

Self

Austin, TX

I stand firmly in opposition of HB3. The proposed school choice bill is only intended to benefit private schools and families who can already afford to send their children to private school. This is incredibly negligent and does not address the obscene shortage of funding for public schools. My friends and family who are educators will be directly impacted negatively by this bill, while Texas educators are already underpaid and stretched thin. This bill has no accountability measures, as private schools are not held to the same standards and requirements as public school. This would be detrimental to low income families, families in rural communities, and families with children who are disabled or have special learning needs. Similar policies have not been successful in other states; why do the authors and supporters of this bill think Texas will be any different? I'm asking that Texas Legislators use common sense approaches and not divert funding from real solutions. Please do not allow taxpayer money to fund private institutions.

Kasey Roebuck

Self

Austin, TX

I am a public school teacher, and a public school parent. I want the best education for my students, my kids, and I want an educated community. HB3 takes funding from the public schools that serve everyone. Public funds belong in public schools. Between recapture and the continuous lack of adequate funding from the state, I have seen many valuable services for our kids and community go unfunded. Texas needs to fully fund our public schools with significant increase in the basic allotment. Texas needs to update the recapture laws that are starving our tax rich school districts, and Texas needs to forget about funding a voucher program that will divert funding from public school and hand it to private businesses with no educational responsibility.

Norma De La Rosa, Mrs.

El Paso Teachers Association/TSTA/NEA

El Paso, TX

The Constitution calls for a separation of church and state. Allowing taxpayer money to be used for an education savings account program, but let's call it what it really is, vouchers is a blatant violation. Families already have a choice to send their children to private schools and that is their choice, but tax money is the means by which government entities as outlined by our constitution are able to provide the services that goes back to the taxpayer. Many of our families in El Paso could never afford to send their children to private schools even with this ridiculous voucher plan. Public Schools were established by our forefathers to provide all citizens with an education and by approving this bill, you are taking away that opportunity, particularly for our most vulnerable students and it is a violation of their right to a free public education. Instead of criticizing our public schools, budget that money into our public schools. That will enable them to find all the resources needed to provide the excellent education we as educators strive to provide for all of our students; provide those funds so that our educators who spend countless hours working with our students, preparing lesson plans and providing so many opportunities for our students to succeed, are provided a salary that professionals should receive and our hourly employees are no longer living below the poverty level. These dollars can be and will be better used in our public schools for all children, not a select few. This is just a scheme to allow the rich to pay for an exclusive education that they can already afford. This is also just a scheme to devalue and cripple public education to ensure that the masses are uneducated and that is wrong, dead wrong! This is an issue of fairness and equity for all Texas children, not a select few. The future of Texas is at stake here if this bill is allowed to move forward and pass. I urge you to vote against HB 3.

Lynn Badgett

self, speech language pathologist

Cedar Park, TX

Hi, I am writing today as a concerned parent of a child in public school. Our elementary school is the heart of our neighborhood community around Brushy Creek in Cedar Park, TX. Our school is already under-resourced and in dire need of money to improve the facilities. And you are voting to take MORE money away from our public school? To allow wealthy people to subsidize their children's private education, people who likely wouldn't have utilized public education anyway? This action shows blatant disregard for the wellbeing of the majority of hardworking, middle class constituents like my family.

Research I've seen from voucher programs in other states shows that voucher programs do NOT improve education outcomes, test scores, or even non-academic measures like improved satisfaction or safety. Worse, vouchers directly harm people in rural areas who may not have easy access to private school education. Private schools face little accountability and do not deliver on any academic or non-academic measure. What makes you think that vouchers in Texas would be any different?

Please vote NO on the HB 3 school voucher bill.

Sarah Lechner

Self

Leander, TX

NO to VOUCHERS program!

Please FULLY fund PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Please allow \$1300 Basic Allotment per child, please close the gap between pandemic funding that has run out and what schools are receiving now!

Dena Silva

Self Education Director

Fort Worth, TX

Vote NO on Vouchers. Vouchers are a scam and have no proven track record of success in any other state. Public education is imperative for the success of our state children. Our state money should not go to religious organizations, which a large percentage of private schools are. There is a complete lack of oversight on spending in private schools, while it is a requirement of public schools. VOTE AGAINST VOUCHERS and WORK FOR THE PEOPLE YOU REPRESENT. FULLY FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Tessa Burns

self - teacher and parent

Austin, TX

As a parent and a taxpayer, my money has been sent to the State of Texas with the belief that the public schools of this state would be fully funded. I am against school vouchers. The vast majority of Texas children are educated through our public school system. The logical, smart, and fair plan is to send the money that taxpayers have already paid, and continue to pay, to the public school districts in this state. This state has an education system in place that reaches ALL children. Let's work to make it the best system in the country! Fund our schools. Release the surplus. Do what is right for the children of Texas and the future of our state!

Sheila Redman

Self

Shallowater, TX

I am a Republican and also a public education teacher. Please vote no to vouchers! You are stealing from many to serve the few.

Amy Slaughter

Self

Galveston, TX

Please do not pass this bill for school vouchers. It's not right, it's not fair, and it's detrimental to all Texas stands for. It erodes public schools to benefit people who don't need it.

Hannah Embry

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

Vouchers will benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. This bill also fails students with special needs as private schools are not required to make accommodations or modify educational curriculum and strategies for these students. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Tarri Miller
Self teacher
Arlington, TX

Please do not vote for these bills that are in no way beneficial to education, educators, and families who depend on these services and programs.

Kimberly White
Self/ public schools
Clyde, TX

This will refund our rural schools and lead to the collapse of our public education!! Take this energy and vote to increase school funding for PUBLIC SCHOOLS, increase teacher wages, improve those school programs for rural communities. This will not benefit anyone except for those who can already pay for private schools. Vote No on this bill!

Emily Klement, Dr Emily Klement
Emily Klement, LLC
Muenster, TX

Please stop this voucher madness. Parents always have had school choice - the answer is to fully fund public schools. Simple. Thomas Jefferson said of an educated nation: it will grow and sustain democracy! I'm concerned about our state if this goes through - who will it benefit? Could it be investors in vouchers? What's the truth?

Melissa Keyes
Self
Argyle, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Cecily Rodriguez
Self
Carrollton, TX

As an parent with children in public school I am against school vouchers for many reasons including, Rather than improving education overall, school vouchers undermine the public education system, leading to a lack of investment in the public schools that serve the majority of students. This can create a cycle of decline, where public schools become more underfunded and less effective.

Diverting funds to private schools can limit the financial resources available to public schools, potentially exacerbating teacher shortages and making it more difficult to attract and retain qualified educators.

With a child who has an IEP and needs extra support public school and loving, nurturing educators are a must.

Private and charter schools do not provide support for children like mine.

We should be pouring everything dollar we have into our teachers and public schools. I know many parents moving kids out of charter and private schools because their children are falling behind and not getting support needed.

We do not want to be controlled by billionaires and politicians who care more about their personal gain and greed. Texas politicians have already let us down in so many other areas.

Have a backbone and stand up to the bullies, just as we teach our children to.
Listen to your constituents and vote NO to vouchers!

Caite Hill

Self/ Parent of a school aged child

San Antonio, TX

Please pay attention to what you all are doing. Please help ALL children be able to attend school. The vouchers will take from the poor to give to the rich and will end up hurting a lot more than it helps. Please do not take away opportunities from our future, our children.

Louie Minor

Self

Killeen, TX

As a resident and voter of HD 54, I strongly oppose HB 3 and the use of public funds to private schools. I support allowing HB 3 to be voted on by a statewide ballot measure. Put the proposed \$1 Billion into public schools or property tax reductions. The largest levied tax on any property now is school taxes. This is not helping the problem only making it worse by reducing students in districts. This will not help any rural districts. Vote No.

Sue Fuentes, Coach/Teacher

Shallowater ISD

Shallowater, TX

Please understand how detrimental the voucher system will be to public education.

Allison Moulder

Self, social worker

COLLEGE STA, TX

As a social worker and Texas-born resident, I am writing to express the immense negative repercussions of the education savings account/voucher program. Our public schools need more funding, not less, and this bill will take away needed funds from impoverished students and essentially redistribute them to wealthy families who do not need the assistance. My kids will be fine- my husband and I have enough education and skill to provide anything our kids need educationally. I worry about kids whose parents do not have the time and skill that I enjoy. Our public schools are foundational to our country's success. Texas can do much better for our students than this bill.

Lindsey Wineholt

Self - Speech language pathologist

Austin, TX

I am a parent of 2 children in Austin and my spouse is a public school educator. We support public schools and ask that you vote against any legislation that diverts money away from public schools, as this does. Thank you.

Hannah Estes, Miss

Self

Forney, TX

Do not pass this bill. This would greatly impact many of our bright students who need public education in order to succeed. Every family wants the best for their child but not every family has the funds for a private education and keeping food on the table. What you are proposing is unrealistic and laughable to the millions of Texans who graduate and benefit from these programs to further their education EVERY YEAR. Myself included when I graduated from Rockwall High School in 2016. While I lived in an affluent town I grew up in Shreveport, LA. My family and I moved here and we could not afford private education even despite living in the richest county in TX. Imagine that? The money you think your communities have to fund this voucher simply isn't there. The funds have been misappropriated and moved to sectors less needed such as cutting funds for various art programs to fund stadiums. Say no to this bill. Otherwise please understand you will have this on YOUR conscience that you let millions of students go without. And when our country years from now reflects this when we make it onto yet another list, don't be shocked you were warned.

Heidi Dudley

Self

Lindale, TX

Vote NO to vouchers!!

GABRIELLA RIVERA

Self

Falfurrias, TX

Against

Megan Graves

Self — social worker & parent

Fort Worth, TX

I am writing in opposition of HB3, as a parent and Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of Texas. The diversion of taxpayer funds away from public schools would deprive already underfunded districts of vital resources, ultimately harming the education of the vast majority of Texas students. While the bill claims to prioritize low-income families, the income threshold is set remarkably high, excluding many truly disadvantaged households. Moreover, rural communities often lack viable private school options, rendering vouchers ineffective in providing educational choice.

Instead of undermining public education through privatization, these funds should bolster our public schools to ensure all children, regardless of zip code or family income, receive a high-quality education.

Texas should invest in proven strategies like reducing class sizes, updating facilities and curriculum, and attracting/retaining excellent teachers - measures that benefit all students equitably. Abandoning our commitment to public schools through misguided voucher schemes is a disservice to Texas children and families. Thank you

Rachel McCreary-Fielder, Dr.

Self -physician

Georgetown, TX

As a physician, it is clear that access to a well-funded public education is in the best interest of Texans. As a parent, my children deserve to have their schools fully funded rather than my tax dollars supporting unregulated private schools through vouchers/education savings accounts. My sons are seventh-generation Texans, and the right to a public education is in the Texas Constitution.

Natalie Wimberley

Self

Kyle, TX

NO to vouchers!!!!!!!

Amy Johnson

self

Austin, TX

I vote NO against school vouchers and increase basic student allotment to \$7500.

Melissa Girard
Self/homeschool teacher
Cibolo, TX

Hello, I'm writing because I am adamantly opposed to this bill. I believe some intention in this bill is for equity, but this bill is a mess. If we want equity across all demographics, this won't help. In fact, it will make it worse! As a homeschool parent I already have free choice and total control. I take my responsibility to heart and am pouring into my children's education. I don't want or need government help or regulation. If I did, I would choose public school. The biggest issue I have with this bill is in the "choice". It's not true choice; parents can choose where to send their kids, but can they get transportation or help in getting them outside of their district? No, that's not included. Are private schools already charging families, already offering financial aid/scholarships (at least some)- yes. This will only offer a rebate program to families who can afford private schools tuition. That's not equity; that's a handout to those who have the means to already pay the fees. I know our local district already struggles to support kids on IEP/504 plans. Focus on how to put more dollars to that; that's helps with equity. Those students need the help. The families were both parents work to live paycheck to paycheck- they need the help. This bill won't help them; it'll make it more obvious our representatives are in it to get what they can out of it. Truly disgusting and a travesty to those who live more in poverty. Speaking in regards to the homeschool community- none of us want the government to come in and regulate. We pay our property taxes and never see a dime for our own kids. Yes, that's can stink at times, but I wouldn't choose differently. I want for everyone to be able to choose how to educate their children without a bribe on how to do it. If homeschoolers could be exempt from a portion of property tax, that's all I could live with. We make sacrifices and choices everyday; that's life. Getting a kickback is a handout and I have no desire for that. I don't believe that's what Texans really want. What is being proposed is a way to invite government to actually expand their control over citizens. Enough!!! Keep the money with the public school system, find more efficient ways to support them. Private/homeschool shouldn't be in government reach.

Lisa Forrester
Self
San Marcos, TX

Against

Eric Hilton
Self
Dallas, TX

As a homeowner in Texas and a father to three children invested in the public school system, I very much oppose HB 3 and I want to see tax dollars going towards funding public schools, and only public schools, in Texas. I will not support any representatives in the future who voted in favor of HB3, as they will show their allegiance to the elite minority in Texas rather than their mass constituents that attend Texas public schools

ben cotlar
self, CPA
houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Richard Wick

Self

Spring, TX

I have two grandchildren that attend Kuehnle Elementary with the Klein ISD. Please vote against the School Vouchers. Private schools can select who they want to attend public schools have to accept all even with disabilities So please vote against vouchers and give the \$ to public schools.

Purna Bajekal

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Education committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Purna Bajekal

Aubrey Stock
Lovejoy ISD (Parent)
Lucas, TX

My name is Aubrey Stock, and I am a mother of five young children in Lovejoy ISD. I am here today to express my strong opposition to HB3 because it diverts critical funding away from our public schools at a time when they are already underfunded. HB3 creates an Education Savings Account (ESA) program that would give taxpayer dollars to private and homeschool students with little to no transparency or accountability. While I fully support parental choice in education, that choice should not come at the expense of our public school students. This bill proposes giving ESA students 85% of the funding a public school student receives, yet public schools are subject to rigorous accountability measures, testing requirements, and financial reporting that private and homeschool students are not. If public dollars are being used, there must be public oversight. In addition, the vagueness of “85% of what a public school student receives” gives me great pause as no one in the legislature that I have met with over the last 18 months seems to be able to articulate consistently what the actual average of what a public school student really is. Our tax dollars should not be treated with this lack of transparency.

Furthermore, this program is being introduced while the state’s basic allotment for public schools has only been raised by \$220 per student in HB2—far below what is needed to keep up with inflation. Our schools are being forced to do more with less, and now HB3 proposes diverting even more funding away from them. If we truly want to give families better educational opportunities, we should be fully funding our public schools rather than creating a separate system that benefits a few at the expense of the majority. Several other Lovejoy moms and I have spent almost two years now lobbying our representatives and the legislature to increase funding for our kids. We are actually extremely grateful for the legislators who have supported our bill (HB977/SB1613) for more funding for our GT students, but in reality, it still feels like we are scrounging for crumbs at the dinner table. Please direct your full attention to the vast majority of our public school students and our educators. The future of Texas is truly in your hands.

I urge you to oppose HB3 and instead focus on meaningful school finance reform that strengthens the schools that educate 5.5 million Texas public school students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jason McDonald
Self (Teacher)
Azle, TX

As a Texas public school teacher of 16 years, I have a long list of reasons to oppose vouchers.

That said, you already know them.

All I will say is this; the system is rigged.

It's rigged to make it appear that many (or most) public schools are failing.

It's rigged to allow special interest money to influence this topic.

It's going to be rigged to help the rich use public money for private school.

I now its rigged, and all of you know it's rigged.

Jason McDonald

Anh-Linh Kearney
Self
Austin, TX

Texas public schools deserve to be fully funded. Charter schools cannot replace the accessibility and education provided by public schools. I do not want my state dollars going towards taking money from public schools and giving it to private schools. This bill would do irreparable damage to our public school system, one of the core functions of government we need you to support rather than cut.

Christopher Bowdle

Self

Houston, TX

My comments are for the purpose of speaking AGAINST the passing of HB3 on an education savings account program.

This bill will inevitably do harm to all students in the state of Texas regardless of where these students currently attend school for the following reason:

- The effect, whether intended or not, of this bill will be to increase the desire and ability for families to move kids from public to private schools. In turn, public institutions will be gutted, unable to operate and provide services for those most in need. Essentially destroying the fabric of our education system. Education in America is a human right and this bill fundamentally removes that right from the most vulnerable people in our society - those that would benefit most from having a solid education. In turn, private schools who don't have the facilities to handle increased enrollment will be inundated with applications and ultimately have to increase tuition in response to maintain exclusivity. This is a simple economic problem with a simple outcome.

The Result - Immediate turmoil, lack of understanding how and where to apply to schools where a student has a chance to get in. This will strain the infrastructure of the private school system and remove funding from well established public schools - nobody will end up receiving the education they deserve and Texas will fall farther behind the rest of the states in this country in educational quality. We will be the laughing stock of the nation and our kids will be handicapped for life.

Stefany Vierra

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I am a homeschool mom and I oppose this bill.

Megan Morris

Self

Wylie, TX

The parents of Texas are BEGGING you to NOT divert money away from our public schools and funnel into private schools/the wealthy families that already attend private schools. they can afford it. Even with a "voucher" many every day Texans could not afford private school. Not to mention the lack of transportation, available options in rural areas, etc. This is going to only hurt our children's education, NOT help them. Please vote "NO" on this bill and keep our public schools safe!!

Richard Shannon

Self, retired

Moulton, TX

I am firmly against vouchers and support fully funded, high quality public education.

More than 150 Texas counties don't have a private school to send a child to even if the family could afford the difference.

Jakob Pahima

Self

Houston, TX

Please have this bill pass through! We should have the right to send our kids to a school of our choice which shares same values

Janice Shank

Self

Goldthwaite, TX

Please vote no to Vouchers!

Kendra Beshirs
Self-public educator
Powderly, TX

Please support public education and support all children by funding public education adequately. This is our future and the public school community does not want money leaving public schools.

Edwin Nimitz
My self. And three retired Texas Teachers
Katy, TX

School Vouchers allow the parent to choose of what school district is good for for their child. And i think it's a fair deal all the way around. The parent gets to choose of what school that thier child attends. It can be a large district like Houston. Or it can be a small district like Round Top/Camine

Regardless of where the family lives in Texas. My point is. Let the parent do the choosing and not the state or the school districts.

Now, will this system be fair to the larger districts like Dallas. Austin. San Antonio, Katy or Humble? Probably not, because they will be loosing students & state funding to smaller districts. And i think it's better for the smaller districts. Because that means, more students, more state funding! (And unfortunately. More headaches

Like the lack of school transportation, classes would be bigger, not enough teachers. Ect...

And school districts across this state can and should be able to limit the number of vouchers that they can accept.

One more thing, GIVE A SIGNIFICANT COST OF LIVING WAGE TO RETIRED TEXAS TEACHERS!

Dianne Newman
University of north texas/self
Denton, TX

Keep money with public schools. Vouchers are unnecessary. Know your overall constituency.

Julie Pickren, Honorable
TX SBOE #7 / Self
Pearland, TX

I am in support of HB 3. Parent's have a God given right to direct the education of their child.

Brandy Collins
Self
Wolfforth, TX

Speaking for myself and every other parent I have spoken to, vouchers are a terrible idea. This will take away from the historically underfunded public school education system and funnel money into the already wealthy private schools. Will there be guarantees that private schools will not charge tuition over the limit of the voucher? The wealthy can pay that, however the common folk, whom this bill is allegedly designed the serve, cannot. If they could, they would already be in the private school system. These families, like my own, will be forced to remain in the public school system, which would now be even more crippled and bled dry. Enrichment departments cut, staff fired due to lack of funds.

Did anyone even speak to REAL Texan families before drafting this bill? Take a poll? A vote? Any measure to gauge how the families affected by this bill felt?

This bill would be more effective if it guaranteed that the public school system could access the same funds and resources, or guaranteed the public school system would not lose the minimal funds it already has.

Additionally, the conflict of interest here with Abbot's personal stake in funding private schools due to his wife's involvement should be making us all take pause. Do not pass this bill. Do not approve vouchers. Our current public education system needs massive funding and reform, not to be tossed aside in favor of a program that will only benefit the top of the pyramid.

Ruth Kravetz
representing myself
Houston, TX

I am a Harris County resident, an HISD parent and am opposed to HB 3. Vouchers defund public schools, harm student learning, and discriminate against vulnerable kids.

Vouchers subsidize private school tuition for the wealthy; 70% of voucher recipients nationally were already in private schools
Vouchers come in way over budget. Arizona's voucher scheme costs 1400% higher than advocates promised
Vouchers have caused the largest academic declines ever recorded, surpassing learning loss from Hurricane Katrina and the COVID-19 pandemic
Many voucher-funded schools discriminate against LGBTQ+ students or those with special needs.

Karen Amador
Self
The Woodlands, TX

In order to protect Texas' most vulnerable citizens, children, this bill must be rejected. Parents overwhelmingly don't want this to pass. Courting a few well off families and billionaires with serious conflicts of interest at the expense of a the vast majority of our children is inconceivable to anyone with a strong sense of ethics and pride in our state. To take money from public schools and give it to schools with different or no accountability measures in place is a slap in the face of every student who has suffered through state testing and through the teaching that invariably suffers because of the stakes of it. If parents want to send their children to a private school, fine. That is their choice. They should not be subsidized by the rest of the state.

Molly Bunker
Self
Plano, TX

Please vote NO for the voucher scam. This bill will be detrimental to education. I have two children in PISD schools and we already face underfunding. The vouchers will divert crucial funds desperately needed to fund our schools. Special Education is already severely underfunded. Our daughter accesses special education in Plano ISD. We see the effects of budget shortfalls since COVID. She formerly had a smaller class size and more one on one instruction. Currently, she is in a larger class with less help and behavior students take the attention away from her learning. Vouchers have the potential to harm students with disabilities and undermine the rights guaranteed under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. VOTE NO!

Mary Kroll
Krause Elementary Brenham ISD
NAVASOTA, TX

Please stand for public education, education that serves ALL kids. If passed this will take away from public education, an institution that is already underserved and undervalued. Teachers are pulling thousands of dollars a year out of their own pockets to serve the students in their classroom.

Thomas Kelly

Self - retired businessman

Austin, TX

Why has Jess Yass, a billionaire investor from Pennsylvania, contributed \$10 million to help Greg Abbott promote school vouchers in Texas? Does he care so much about rural county citizens that he wants them to have a fair shot at sending their kids to private school? Perhaps not, given that most rural counties don't have any private schools. Does he want poor urban families to have a chance to send their kids to private school? Perhaps not, given that most private schools cost more than the voucher maximum and don't provide transportation. Does he want rich families in urban counties who already send their kids to private school to get a rebate? Maybe, but why not promote it as the private school rebate law? Could there be another motive? Jess Yass is a proud Libertarian. If you read the fine print on Libertarians, you'll soon learn that they don't believe in public education, and they don't believe in taxation. If Libertarians had their way, only private schools would exist, and the only students attending would be those who could afford them. What would happen to our literacy rate? It would fall dramatically. Ask yourself this: Would Jeff Yass care?

Kamilla Stokes

Self/government worker

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the "school voucher" bill. I have one daughter attending a public high school in my Austin neighborhood and am thrilled with her education. Austin's property taxes fund nearly 25% of all money paid into the Recapture System, more than the next three highest-paying systems combined. I'm glad to be able to support less financially stable and rural public schools. But it is a bridge too far to now have my taxes used to pay for private schools – schools allowed to reject any student for any reason; have no state oversight; not required to accommodate disabilities; and not even required to meet minimum competency. When a public school slips in competency, the state cuts their funding or even closes the school. Private school vouchers will NOT allow low-income families to escape poor, low-performing schools and the public schools will suffer from losing students (and losing per student funding). These statements are not hypothetical – we can see them playing out in real time in states that have implemented school vouchers. The State of Arizona implemented a school voucher program in 2022. Over 70% of the voucher money went to students who had never attended a public school. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/petergreene/2024/02/24/how-much-are-universal-vouchers-costing-arizona/>. There are nearly 300,000 students enrolled in private schools in Texas. <https://texasprivateschools.org/>. Now taxpayers are expected to pay \$10,000 per student annually resulting in a cost of an additional \$3 billion. I strongly urge you to vote no on HB 3.

Carie Aguirre

Self

College Station, TX

Please support public education. Public money should be kept in public schools. Vouchers do not provide choice when private schools are not required to follow the same laws. Public schools are already underfunded. Vouchers will do a huge disservice to our communities. Please follow your constituents' needs.

Thank you,

Carie

Catherine Burke

Self

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

This would do irreversible damage to the public school system. Public Schools currently are in crisis and do not have enough money to sustain consistent education across the state. Staffing and \$per student rates are too low to have high quality education in areas of income or in areas of Low income. Teacher and staff salaries are lower than most in our country. Labor positions barely keep staff/employees over the poverty line in Texas.

Taking money away from public schools will be so damaging. The fear people with "home school" for the voucher will further lower scores and opportunities for student success.

This is a huge mistake.

Rachel Blanke
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I am a homeschooling mom and I do not want this.

Ben Danielson
Self
Round Rock, TX

I'm opposed to HB 3. This is not what the voters of Texas want. Listen to the voters, not private outside interests making money off of our kids.

Donna Acosta
self
Porter, TX

Vouchers have been a failure in most of the states that have adopted them. They are fiscally irresponsible and places a burden of debt on the state. In addition, vouchers educationally have not proven to be overall particularly helpful to the majority of students. Given this, I cannot understand why our representatives are standing behind this radical idea that will leave most of our students behind. Vouchers are a bad idea that no one wants. Can't we just let this go?

Brook Pumphrey
Self
Carmine, TX

Texans do not want vouchers!! Special needs children will not get the support they need if this bill is passed.

Cinthia Villanueva, Mrs.
Self Texas educator
San Antonio, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

5. There's no clear plan with this money when students transfer out of a private school in the middle of the school year.

6. Students that attend title 1 schools will not be able to account for transportation costs and issues since most private schools are nonexistent near poor school districts in Texas.

Thank you

Angela Greco
Self, Garden Designer
Austin, TX

Hello! Please vote against the expansion of school vouchers. They will rob our public education system of much-needed funds while subsidizing private schools. I'm aware that there's some nuance to the topic of charter schools, but I would love to see more robust support and renovation of public education. Thank you.

Mia Huo
self
Austin, TX

I do not support HB3. The Texas government should do its job and focus resources on public schools. HB3 would make quality education less accessible and harm students going to public schools. If you truly care about the future of Texas and the prospects of ALL Texas children, you should not let HB3 pass. Public schools are your responsibility, not private schools.

Meredith Davenport, Dr.
Self / Physician & Parent.
Wimberley, TX

My name is Meredith Davenport. I implore the committee to VOTE NO on HB3.

I grew up in Round Rock, Texas - my mother worked as an administrative assistant and my step-father as an electronic salesman. Public schools offered a lifeline for me as I was growing up and also showed me what was possible beyond high school. After graduating salutatorian of my high school class while also engaging in many extracurricular activities, I attended an Ivy League University where I also played volleyball. I returned to Texas for medical school and residency at UTMB in Galveston. I have practiced OB/GYN in the state of Texas for 20 years, taking care of thousands of women in our great state. This would not have been possible without the opportunities afforded by public education.

My husband (retired after 23 years of service in the TX ANG, F16 pilot) and I have raised our 3 children in rural Wimberley. When my kids were pre-K and early elementary, they attended a local private Montessori school which we funded with our own money (not taxpayer dollars). This was a true choice that we made based on my husband's early life experiences and we were willing to use our own money to pay for it. When it was the right time for each of our children, we transitioned them to public schools in Wimberley. It has served each of them very well and public schools have offered each of them wonderful opportunities that would not have been possible at the local Montessori school which has since closed.

I have attended WISD school board meetings off & on for the past 3 years. Watching our leaders continue to ensure high quality education with less and less funding has been heartbreaking. They have done all that they can to cut expenses and next we will have to cut programs that benefit our kids long-term if we don't increase public education funding.

I have done the research on school vouchers and how it has impacted other states' public education systems. The data is clear - vouchers give a tax break to people who are already attending private schools. Like our family did, I feel strongly that private schools are a choice and with that choice come the requirement to pay for it with their own money, not taxpayer funds. In states that have utilized vouchers, that money is ultimately being taken out of the pockets of public schools. In a rural area with no real private school options, if you defund our public schools, our public schools will close. Then the only "choice" is to bus rural kids long distances to attend a school in another city. We have a lot of pride in our schools here in Wimberley, it means something to be a "Wimberley Texan". Not only do we lose that by losing our local public schools, but our kids spend hours commuting just to obtain an education. Please do not harm the children in my community by passing this HB3. VOTE NO on HB3 and choose to direct more funds to public education.

Jacquelyn Sanderson
Self
Lubbock, TX

I do not support the school vouchers as I currently do not have enough information to ensure that there will be no negative effect on funds available for public schools and their programs

Andrew Parkyn, Dr.

Self, Archaeologist

Fate, TX

This program needs to be scrapped with more money invested in an already cash strapped public school system. Vouchers do not cover the cost of sending children to private school who cannot already afford it. As it would generally not cover the full cost for many private schools. The better approach would be to find additional money for public schools to improve building, facilities and to give teachers a much needed pay raise. That way the best public school teachers would want to continue teaching and general education levels would improve by better teachers and facilities. Stop this reverse Robinhood policy where the poor lose out to give to the rich who do not need the additional funds. No one is actually making parents choose private schools and is therefore optional and should not be used to take money from the public school system. My three boys are all in public school and are excelling in their respective years. I would hate to see their education standards decline to benefit those who choose private school.

Scott Schroeder

Self

Austin, TX

Please accept

James Briscoe

Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District

Cypress, TX

Subject: Opposition to School Vouchers in Texas

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school voucher programs in Texas. As a dedicated advocate for public education, I firmly believe that vouchers undermine the foundation of our public school system and divert much-needed funding away from the majority of students who rely on it.

Public schools serve all children, regardless of background, ability, or socioeconomic status. Diverting taxpayer dollars to private institutions through vouchers weakens public education by reducing the resources available for teacher salaries, classroom materials, and essential student programs. This loss of funding disproportionately impacts rural and lower-income communities, where public schools are often the only educational option.

Additionally, private schools receiving voucher funds are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. They are not required to serve all students, including those with disabilities or English language learners, and they do not have the same transparency in financial and academic performance. This lack of oversight raises concerns about fairness and the responsible use of taxpayer money.

Instead of diverting funds through vouchers, we should focus on strengthening Texas public schools by investing in teacher retention, modernizing classrooms, and ensuring that every student has access to high-quality education, regardless of their ZIP code.

I urge you to stand with Texas public schools and oppose any voucher legislation that threatens their success. Thank you for your time and your commitment to the future of Texas students.

Julie Duckett-Casey

Self

Port Lavaca, TX

Public education needs to be appropriately funded before giving money to private schools. Parents already have school choice as they are able to choose where to send their children. Those who can afford it are already enrolled. The only thing a Voucher will do is cause the institution to raise the yearly fee for that student to attend. It is RIDICULOUS that the children whose family cannot afford private school already are being punished by not being appropriately funded in public school. The State of Texas should be ashamed of how they are treating public schools and those who attend them.

Michelle Kenyon

Self- mother

Spicewood, TX

Please, please do not pass this bill. We need tax money to go to our public schools! The only people that benefit from this bill are the wealthy, who will already be spending their money on private school, with or without the voucher. Or schools are already suffering from being underfunded.

Donna Friend

Self

Lewisville, TX

Please oppose vouchers and vote instead to raise the basic allotment for Texas public schools! As a 28 year educator, I am proud of our students and the work we do daily. Visit public schools. We are succeeding with what little budgets we have. Imagine what we could do if fully funded. Please.

Joseph Filip

self

Austin, TX

This attempt to redistribute the wealth of tax papers away from our community schools to wealthy parents who send their kids to private schools is a disgrace to the values of this state. If private schools can take public money they must be accountable for accepting anyone into their programs, that their costs are audited, and that they are held accountable to the same academic standards as public schools that are supposedly failing so horrifically.

Chris Schneider

self

Leander, TX, TX

\$ should follow the kids. DOGE the schools. Fire 90% of the admins, cut Supe's salaries. Make failing kids stay back like we used to. Common sense!! No new spending, in fact cut spending!!!

Cassie Hertenberg

Self - retired Texas teacher

Spring, TX

Please, please do not establish a savings acct program for parents. I do not support this.

Henaris Curiel-Shaw, LCSW-S

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Do not support school vouchers.

Roxann Stclair

Self teachers

Shallowater, TX

Public schools are too important to allow draining their funds for private schools that are already funded through pay. VOTE NO to this bill and let's solve the problems on public schools instead of draining the funds to funnel to private schools. Absolutely ridiculous that this is even a thing. If there are struggling public schools in areas where kids should have school choice FIX THE BROKEN SCHOOLS.

Josefa French

Self

Corinth, TX

“AGAINST. Proposed voucher stipends of \$10K are not enough for everyday Texans to opt into this “choice.” On the other hand, wealthy Texans who can already afford private school are going to get a free \$10,000 discount at the expense of our public schools which desperately need the funds. Private schools also do not have to follow any rules and can deny any student for any reason. School vouchers will only transfer taxpayer dollars from the poor to the wealthy, at the expense of our public schools which are investing in education for every Texan

Amanda Campbell

Self

Allen, TX

I oppose HB 3 due to the costs anticipated to support the program - \$11B over the next 5 years - and the lack of the same fiscal transparency and academic standards as public schools required of institutions receiving taxpayer funding.

Shari North

Self

Dallas, TX

No school vouchers for private schools. Fund public schools that have accountability.

Arla Hollins

Self

Fresno, TX

If we just put money into our public schools and paid our public school teachers what they need to be paid, this would not be necessary

Lori Wilhite, Former teacher

None

Canyon, TX

Voting yes for vouchers is wrong ! It will create a bigger caste system than we already have. Education the masses is what defines America. Let those who want to go private do so without all the extras public paid resources if they choose. Vouchers will kill many, many small communities with other far reaching effects. Please vote no.

Charlotte Taylor
self / User Experience Researcher
Allen, TX

I urge you to vote against HB 3, the Texas school voucher bill. While choice can "sound: appealing, vouchers divert critical resources away from public schools, exacerbating inequities across our state.

Public schools serve every child, regardless of background, disability, or socioeconomic status, ensuring equity mandated by both state and federal laws. Vouchers funnel public money into private institutions that can legally exclude students based on academic performance, disabilities, religion, or economic circumstances. This creates an unfair, two-tiered educational system that contradicts Texas' constitutional obligation to provide quality education to all.

Vouchers also undermine the principle of equal opportunity. Strong, well-funded public schools build communities and form the foundation of a robust, career-ready workforce. Weakening public education today jeopardizes Texas' economic competitiveness tomorrow by limiting the skills and preparedness of future workers. Numerous studies (including from the National Education Policy Center) demonstrate vouchers do not reliably improve student achievement but often increase segregation and inequity.

I trust your commitment to fairness, community strength, and economic prosperity for all Texans. Please vote "no" on HB 3 and prioritize public education that supports every child equally.

Sara McMullen
Self
Bryan, TX

I am a public school teacher in Texas. I vehemently oppose HB 3. By design and implementation it will drain funding from already underfunded Texas Public Schools. Also, the proposed increase of basic allotment of \$220 is insufficient. That "increase" doesn't even cover the monumental inflation that has gripped the country. School vouchers are not about providing "school choice" they are designed to take money away from public schools and provide taxpayer dollars to institutions that do not meet uniform accountability standards required of public schools. I vehemently oppose this initiative and the bill should fail as it will only hurt and further disenfranchise all Texas school children.

Kim Fisher
self/public school teacher
Murchison, TX

As a homeschool mom and public school teacher, I am writing to not only do my public school colleagues opposes this bill, my homeschool friends and family oppose it. A voucher system is not what anyone is asking for at this time. After the recent presidential election the climate of the people seem to want less government spending, and less government involvement in our lives. As a homeschool mother, I love that Texans have the right to homeschool as they wish, and do not have the regulations that other states have. Our community does not wish to have any government money and regulations interfering in how we educate our children. We all know that with money, comes obligations, we would prefer as a community to not have public funding and let us go about our lives. As a public school teacher, I hear from all of my colleagues that this is not wanted. How can Governor Abbott and our representatives be so blind as to not see most Texans oppose this, and have been commenting and posting about it since we were aware of this new spending plan. Please listen to your constituents and oppose this new voucher bill.

Janice Pennington
Self
Joshua, TX

Texans do not want vouchers. Please fully fund public schools. Vouchers will harm small districts and they will harm rural districts. Vouchers will also have negative effects on teacher retirement and I am a retired teacher.

Jerry Christenson

Self

Cibolo, TX

Vote no

Angie Nobles

Self

Georgetown, TX

Billionaires do NOT dictate how taxpayers dollars are spent. Stand up for the hard-working Texans.

Lynette Heckmann

Self

Georgetown, TX

NO to public school vouchers! As a product of both private and public education, the value to private schools is mostly to instill religious values. The academic value of those schools can be debated with some doing a better job than others. But sucking money out of public education, the state's responsibility, to funnel to private schools, not the state's business, is anathema to how taxpayer funds are to be budgeted.

Ava Jackson

Self, food service

Huntsville, TX

Public education has inherent value to society.

Anita Harris

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I oppose the school voucher bill for several reasons:

1. It has been used politically to avert funding for public schools.
2. Although I am a Christian, I do not think school is the place to teach Bible stories. There is something called Bible school for that. You should check it out. I used to teach it.
3. Young children in a school environment can't discern fact from stories. Little who think SpongeBob really lives in the ocean are too impressionable to be critical thinkers. My faith waits until children are older before the choose to join it, and they must take classes to learn more about the faith before they take that step.
4. Separation of Church and state is one of, if not the most important, tenets of the U.S. Constitution. Our Founding Fathers lived under religious oppression in England before coming here. In their wisdom, they determined that no one religion should play a role in our governmental affairs. I am a member of the religion that oppressed them, so I can say this from a place of not seeing history repeated. A child's religious beliefs should be dictated by their parents and their faith.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Carla Cowdrey, Mrs

Self

Decatur, TX

I oppose HB 3 because it will take away needed funding from public school and it will only benefit the kids already going to private school. Private schools do not have to accept all students- this leaves those with disabilities left out. Private schools can also raise their tuition in order to further exclude students. I also have concerns about the Governor 's acceptance of an I sane amount of money from billionaire "preachers" in order to push this through. He is not thinking of the students of TX. According to US News and World Report, TX ranks 29th in the country for education. This is unacceptable and will push what's left of our great state further down.

Beth Jones
Self
Bellaire, TX

Texas has the responsibility to educate all its children. Public funds should benefit all the public, not only the rich. Stealing public funds to benefit private schools leaves millions of rural, poor, learning-disabled, and disabled children without access to the education they deserve. In addition, data from every voucher state argues against all the claims made by the governor and his retinue. This bill is pure evil.

Jennifer Hobgood
Self
Athens, TX

I do NOT support this and the governor does NOT have the best interest of children and families with this “voucher” system. Someone is lining pockets for their own interest.

Robin Smyers
Self
LANTANA, TX

I am 100% against HB 3, against vouchers, and want our public schools fully funded. We as a state are not taking care of our future and we must protect public education in our schools. Parents already have school choice. We do not be needing to fund people who don't need the money. Please protect our students and support our teachers.

Carol Wilson, Mrs.
Self - Asst. Minister for Children and Church Promotion
Arlington, TX

I do not support this bill that does not support our public school children and parents who depend on our support.

Bryan Smith, Mr
Self
Manor, TX

I strongly disagree with the establishment of an education savings account program. This money should go to funding our public schools.

Paula Medina
Self
Floresville, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

I respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 I support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you for remembering you work for the people and not for private schools.

Kindly,

Paula Medina, RN

Karen Kleinpeter, Mrs
Self
Magnolia, TX

As a previous homeschool parent, I strongly oppose this bill.

Natalie Neugent
self/retired educator
Hurst, TX

Public schools need more money to educate ALL children. Vouchers will not work for those who need it the most. I keep hearing on the news that special education students will get help first, but often private schools are not equipped to help those students. Public schools are! Also, many rural districts are too far from any private school for those students to be able to benefit. PROPERLY FUND OUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS! That's what needs to happen to help ALL children succeed.

Courtney Dinyarian

Self - Mother of Four, EPA attorney

Dallas, TX

I am a mother of four, a public school alum, and plan on sending my four children to public school. Two of my four children are currently enrolled in our public elementary school and both receive special services: one for Gifted and Talented services, and one for speech services. We believe that our public schools are a critical element in a Democratic society. Our tax dollars are an investment into the greater good. I abhor the idea of education savings accounts and it truly seems like everyone does. I don't know a single person who supports it, not any of my Republican friends, not any of my private school friends, nobody. Why is this happening? Who is this benefitting? Follow the money. Do we really want our tax dollars to go toward religious schools? If you're not compelled by that, what about tax dollars going to Muslim schools, with teachers from the Middle East coming here to teach radical jihadist anti-American ideals? Think this through. It's an absolutely terrible idea.

LEA SHAH

home

San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose SB2 and HB3, which would divert public funds to private schools through education savings accounts. These bills threaten to undermine Texas' already underfunded public schools, taking away critical resources from the majority of students who rely on them.

Taxpayer dollars should be used to strengthen our public education system, ensuring every child has access to quality teachers, well-funded classrooms, and necessary support services, not subsidizing private institutions that lack accountability and can selectively admit students.

Rather than funneling money into a program that benefits a select few, Texas should focus on increasing teacher pay, improving school infrastructure, and expanding educational opportunities within public schools. Our priority should be to invest in the success of all Texas students, not just those who can afford private tuition.

I urge lawmakers to reject these voucher programs and instead commit to fully funding public education for every child in our state.

Jody Steele
Self/Education Teacher
Seminole, TX

My name is Jody Steele, and I am a teacher and coach in Seminole ISD. I am extremely concerned about any version of a voucher program, and I am asking you to oppose HB 3 or any other voucher legislation.

Our public schools are the heart of our community, and the state should focus on these schools instead of diverting funds to private schools.

Unlike public schools, private and home schools have very little accountability to taxpayers, and don't have to conform to most state and federal laws regarding curriculum standards, financial accountability, teacher qualifications, student performance, special education, and student health and safety.

Charter schools are already siphoning off students and funding from our school system, and a voucher program would create a third education system for the state to support.

Other states, like Arizona, have created a budget crisis by introducing vouchers.

Teachers and other employees are in desperate need of improved compensation, and low salaries are contributing to the shortage of qualified, certified teachers. Available funding should be directed into the classroom.

Unless strictly limited, vouchers tend to benefit families of students who are already attending private schools or those with greater wealth.

Private schools can refuse to admit a student for any reason, including for special education status, family religion and disciplinary history, while public schools educate any student zoned for attendance.

The highest performing private schools are unlikely to accept voucher students due to costs (tuition is higher than the amount of the voucher) and concerns about state regulation.

As with charter schools, even a "limited" program is very likely to be expanded in future years, to the ongoing detriment of the overall state budget, including public schools.

Our public schools already offer choices, including magnet schools, virtual education, CTE programs and much more.

Vouchers are not school choice. School choice already exists and multiple families/parents across the state utilize this. Support public education for all by properly funding public schools, along with supporting teachers by increasing compensation. All of this should be done without being tied to vouchers or anything else. It is the correct thing to do.

Sincerely,
Jody Steele

Julie English
Self
Spring Branch, TX

As a previous public school teacher, and as a taxpayer, I am AGAINST this bill. It is wasteful, hurtful to our communities and not at all how I want my taxpayer dollars spent! If you truly wanted to help Texans gain a better education, you would fund a free education system for ALL and provide access to quality public school education as opposed to segregating by class and faith! ALL students deserve better education and every child deserves an equal investment in their futures. Spend the money on expanding public school funding and improving the learning environment through more options for valuable experiences inside and beyond the classroom brick and mortar. Do not vote to waste my tax dollars on private schools run by uncertified, often unqualified, religiously biased "educators" who might have good intentions but limited accountability. Their own education levels are often questionable. If you want better education, you need to invest more into our publicly promised systems. You can't expect to improve student outcomes if you spread our funds even thinner. The best public school teachers are already overworked and underpaid. I know that when I taught at public schools, I often spent 1/4-1/2 of my paychecks to supply my students with their needs. Public school teachers are the most dedicated people I have know throughout my life experience. They want to give everything to student success. Help them help our kids succeed! Vote NO!

Kristi Burrage
Self. Registered Nurse
Coleman, TX

The “school choice” bill using vouchers hurts public schools. My children do not have the option to attend private school due to our rural location. Tax dollars should NOT be used to fund private school education. This bill will only decrease the amount that wealthy parents spend on their children’s private school tuition. This is no way will help public school funding. Public schools are where tax dollars should be spent. Public schools are required to accept all children that reside within their district. Private schools are allowed to choose which students they accept. This bill doesn’t support “school choice”. It supports welfare for the wealthy.

Echols Vickie
Self
Fairview, TX

believe in the power of public schools to transform lives and strengthen communities. I’ve seen firsthand how dedicated teachers and school leaders make a difference when given the resources and autonomy to serve their students effectively. However, I have also seen the damage caused when misguided policies burden schools with unfunded mandates, strip away local decision-making, and discourage teachers from staying in the profession.

I am speaking today in strong opposition to House Bill 3 because it threatens the strength and stability of Texas public schools in three critical ways.

1. Unfunded Mandates Increase the Financial Burden on Schools

House Bill 3 places additional financial and operational burdens on school districts without providing the necessary funding to implement them effectively. Many districts across Texas are already struggling with underfunding, rising costs, and teacher shortages. This bill forces schools to shift resources away from instruction, student support services, and classroom needs to comply with state mandates. Instead of supporting schools with the funding they need, this bill increases costs without solutions.

2. Erosion of Local Control and Decision-Making

Public education is not one-size-fits-all. Each community in Texas has unique needs, and local school boards and educators understand those needs better than the state legislature. House Bill 3 takes decision-making power away from local school leaders and imposes a state-driven approach that disregards the voices of those who work in and support Texas schools every day. When policies are dictated from the top down, they often fail to address the real challenges schools face, creating unnecessary obstacles rather than solutions.

3. Negative Impact on Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Texas is facing a severe teacher shortage, and this bill makes the problem worse. Teachers are already overworked, underpaid, and undervalued. Instead of supporting them, House Bill 3 adds more bureaucratic hurdles and top-down directives, pushing educators further away from the profession. If we want to attract and retain high-quality teachers, we should be investing in higher salaries, better working conditions, and policies that treat teachers as professionals—not burdening them with more mandates that make their jobs harder.

Jamie White
Self
Magnolia, TX

I am opposed to spending public money on private education for the few at the expense of million of public school children. This bill had nothing to do with choice and everthing to do with profit. Public money need to be invested in raising our sorely underfunded public schools. Branding vouchers as choice is a feeble attempt to mislead the public since choice is already available. Put thos4 extra billions into creating a first class public school system for ALL children an not a select few..it should be obvious that Texans do not want this. Please stand up for children, not profiteers. Show us what you are made of.

Cora Mueller

Self. Retired elementary teacher.

Lubbock, TX

I oppose HB3. Vouchers (educational savings accounts) are not the solution. Fully funding the TEXAS public school system is the solution.

Susan Honeywell, MS

Self

Montgomery, TX

No

Melinda Cox

Self

San Antonio, TX

Opposed to HB3.. we need equity for all and there are too many strings in this bill. It even goes against Republican Party principles

Kelsy Ehmann

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

I oppose HB3 and would like my property tax money to stay in our public schools.

Laura Russell, Mrs.

Self

Denton, TX

Vote NO on HB3. Raise the basic allotment and fully fund public education.

Jamie McGivern

Self

League City, TX

Please vote NO for Texas education vouchers. Removing funds from public schools to pad the pockets of wealthy is unethical. There are no accountability measures in place for parents to not take the money and actually use it towards private school education. Schools need more instructional coaches to support research-based instructional strategies that will move students and education forward. Districts need tighter accountability measure for principals. Principals are the instructional leader on the campus and should make decisions, drive movement, and follow-up on what should be happening in schools. But no where do we get to give feedback on what is happening on campuses. Vouchers will remove critical funds from public education which will domino into removing instructional coaches and leave teachers stranded. VOTE NO and increase the allotment of per-student funds in public education.

Susan Getter

Self

San antonio, TX

My full heart is 100 percent vouchers. No matter how hard you try to convince yourself that parents know what is best for their child, what you are actually saying is only the wealthy know what is best for their child because they are the only ones actually able to take advantage of vouchers. I want ALL children to have the chance at a great education. That is through supporting public school. We all benefit from everyone being educated. Show Texas you care for Texas. Not just the wealthy that have the means and ability to use a voucher. Love all of texas. Vote for public school!

Genevieve Rodriguez

Self

Elmendorf, TX

Fund public schools. Support teachers and all staff in the trenches serving the students and future of Texas and the USA.

Debbie Gossett

Self

Wichita Falls, TX

I do not support tax dollars being used for private school vouchers

Deborah Douglas, Dr.

Self

Burnet, TX

No to school vouchers, please.

Rhonda Boylson

Self

Granbury, TX

Follow what the actual constituent's of the state want , not outside interest groups . No to school vouchers

Pam Hamburg, Mrs

Self

Justin, TX

Please don't pass this voucher scam. Our public schools need funding. I am a retired teacher. I worked 29 years in our public schools. I have spent my own money for supplies while teaching. Our schools need funding to help support our ambition to educate our future. Currently the district that I live in will be letting teachers go because they don't have the funding to pay them. This will mean larger class size for sure. More students in a classroom makes teaching so much harder than it already is. Discipline problems will be numerous in this situation. Public schools take all children while private schools take the selected ones. If a parent wants their child to go to private school they will find the money to pay for their education. It has been done that way for many years. Public school funds should not be given for private education. Also, I have read/heard that this voucher program will make TRS bankrupt, Then what will happen to the retirees. Our retirees have worked for their retirement and should be able to receive their retirement without the worry of losing it. Again, please say NO to vouchers.

Tina Church, Mrs.

All public education students!

Allen, TX

I am a public educator and oppose vouchers. Education is critical for our future generations. Do not create an educational savings program.

Patrick Hall

Self

Sealy, TX

I'm the son of a school Superintendent. My mother was a junior high English teacher. My wife is a 20 year teacher. I'm a lifetime Republican Voter. In no way is vouchers okay. Private Schools are not held to the same standards. Private schools can reject students. I pay higher taxes to live in better districts. This is the death knell of public education in Texas. I am formly not in support of this bill. I will cast my vote against any Texas House member or politician that I can that supports this bill no person I know, with any party supports this.

Maria Ryan, Mrs.

Self - Teacher

El Paso, TX

This program will disproportionately affect many Texas families who rely on public education. We are already at a point where funding is scarce which is leading to overcrowded classrooms, layoffs, and lack of resources. These vouchers are a scam that is tailored only to helping the rich. As a constituent I refuse to support legislation that aims to cut resources for children and families who live in rural areas, and/or live in low-income communities.

No vouchers!

Myrna E Zapata

1945

Sunset Valley, TX

Texas schools needs support and money, do not abandon our public education. It's the backbone of our country. Private schools are business for profit, they need to get their own money not the tax payers money!! Make our schools better, do not attack their stability and existence!!

Lenzi Hart

Self

Shallowater, TX

Statement Opposing House Bill 3

As a 22-year veteran English teacher in Texas, I am deeply opposed to House Bill 3, which would divert public funds to private school vouchers. This bill is a direct attack on our public education system, which serves as the foundation of our communities and the only real path to opportunity for countless children across our state.

Public schools are the lifeblood of our neighborhoods, bringing together students from all walks of life and ensuring that every child—regardless of zip code, family income, or background—has access to a quality education. For many students, especially those from low-income families, public schools are the only way they can reach their full potential. Instead of fully funding and strengthening these schools, Texas lawmakers are once again attempting to siphon taxpayer money away from the very institutions that need it most.

Let's be clear: vouchers do not improve education. They do not increase opportunity. What they do is take public dollars and hand them over to private institutions that have no obligation to serve all students, particularly those with disabilities, those learning English, and those in the greatest need. This is not about "school choice"—it is about subsidizing private education for families who are already wealthy and privileged, while abandoning the students who rely on public schools.

If Texas truly cared about education, we would fully fund our public schools. We would ensure competitive teacher salaries, reduce class sizes, update outdated facilities, and provide resources that allow every child to succeed. Instead, lawmakers continue to undermine public education, starving it of the funds it needs to thrive.

House Bill 3 is not a solution; it is a betrayal of the millions of Texas children who depend on their neighborhood schools. I urge every lawmaker who values fairness, opportunity, and the future of this state to stand against this harmful bill and commit to strengthening—not dismantling—our public education system.

James Jarratt, Mayor

Self

Granbury, TX

I have read HB 3, and 4 and find them to be a good start. I'm sure there will be adjustments after a couple of years of use. For now, we should push as hard as possible to implement these Bills, eliminate TEA and eliminate TSBA as they in no way serve to educate our children.

Jim Jarratt - Mayor - City of Granbury

Debra Diffie, Grandmother

Self

Alvord, TX

I am a retired educator (39 years) with three grandsons in a 2A public school. Small communities revolve around rural ISDs. Parents who elect private over public schools have and will continue to do so without government assistance. **FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADEQUATELY. TAX DOLLARS SHOULD GO TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

Lauren Kaminski

Self/educator

Cypress, TX

Fund public schools. Vouchers are not the answer and are only helping the wealthy who already attend private schools. Put all that money into public schools, schools are struggling because they are not properly funded and haven't seen an increase in funding in years.

NICHOLAS LONGO

Self

PORTLAND, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can currently afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools in urban and rural areas. Please vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Martha Dominguez, Dr.

AFT

El Paso, TX

This bill will destroy public education in Texas combined with dismantling the Department of Education that President Trump plans to do. Public money should NOT go to private education. Public education in Texas is not funded appropriately. For example, Salvador Cavazos, Superintendent of Valere Public Schools, a small charter network, makes \$870,000 (for the past three years) to lead a District with 1,000 students and three schools. Obviously, this is not a private school, but it's a charter school, different than public schools/education. Again, public education needs the money!

Enda Herzog

Self/retired

Mt Pleasant, TX

I am against HB 3 because I do not want my taxes going to private or parochial schools. Put that money in to our state's free public schools so all children have all they need to learn. Listen to the people who are against HB 3 for various reasons that are important to them. Thank you for reading.

Georgia Whittington
Mothers for Democracy
Covington, TX

This bill will harm public education and should not pass. Giving more public funds to private schools does not make sense.

DEBBIE GONZALEZ, Ms.
McAllen ISD
McAllen, TX

This House Bill if passed is a death sentence for public schools and educators like me. This bill does not level the playing field for ALL students. It separates us even further from the haves and have nots. Texans already have school choice and I don't feel that tax payer money should fund private or charter schools for any reason. If a parent(s) choose to send their child(ren) to a private or charter school that has tuition, THEY and ONLY they should pay that. This bill is nothing but a scam!

Rhonda Houston
North Hi Mount E.S. - Teacher
Fort Worth, TX

May it be know I am not for vouchers toward private and charters schools. Return the funds designated to public schools. No to HB2 and vouchers.

Kelly Elliott, Dr.
self (professor, parent, citizen)
Abilene, TX

As a parent of two Texas public school children in Abilene, as an educator, and as a citizen of the state of Texas, I am writing to express my vehement opposition to HB 3. Taxpayer dollars that are earmarked for public education must go to public schools, not funneled into other channels. Because many Texas families do not live near enough a private school to make use of the proposed vouchers, it is abundantly clear that this bill will not actually benefit a majority of Texas families. Rather, it will reduce the cost of private education for families who already pursue private schooling and are able to pay for it. This bill is a political performance by the governor and members of Congress. It benefits the wealthy and will harm students who live in poorer districts. This bill will not improve teacher pay, teacher retention, or programming in our public schools. The majority of Texas residents do not support vouchers. If Rep. Buckley and Gov. Abbot are so certain that Texans want what they are calling school choice, then they should put it on the ballot and let Texans vote on it. But we don't want vouchers. We want well-funded, well-supported public schools that serve ALL Texas children. We want teachers who are paid well and supported appropriately in retirement. I urge my congressional representatives to do their job by representing the real concerns of their constituents. NO VOUCHERS.

DeeDee Haralson
Self/Texas Educator
Cibolo, TX

Dear Members of the Texas Committee on Public Education,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed school voucher system in Texas. I firmly believe that every child is entitled to a free, public education, and that families should have the option to enroll their children in private schools if they choose. However, diverting funds from public education to support private institutions is a travesty that undermines the very foundation of our public school system.

Instead of focusing on school vouchers, we should direct our attention towards addressing the shortfalls and challenges faced by our public schools. By investing in the improvement of public education, we can create an environment where parents feel confident in choosing public schools for their children, thereby reducing the desire to seek alternatives in private education. Furthermore, I have significant concerns regarding the accountability measures in place for private schools. If state funds are allocated to these institutions, will they be subject to the same accountability standards as public schools, such as the STAAR assessments? To my knowledge, there is little information available regarding the state accountability measures enforced on private schools, particularly in relation to students with disabilities. It is crucial that all educational institutions receiving public funding are held to the same standards of accountability to ensure that every child receives a quality education.

The analogy of higher education is often used to justify school vouchers, where students may choose between public and private universities. However, unlike higher education, public schools are mandated to provide free education to all children. It is concerning that we are creating a system where any student can attend a private school funded by taxpayer dollars when the government has a responsibility to ensure a comprehensive, free public education for all.

Moreover, the funds that would be allocated to private schools could be better utilized to provide much needed raises for teachers or by funding programs that foster academic growth in public schools. Educators play a vital role in shaping the future of our children, and they deserve to be compensated fairly for their dedication and hard work. There are also many programs that do not receive enough funding to operate effectively. These would help improve the quality of education within our public schools. I urge you to reconsider the implications of implementing a school voucher system and to prioritize the enhancement of our public education system. Let us work together to ensure that all children in Texas have access to the high-quality education they deserve.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
DeeDee Haralson

Stephanie Martinez
Self
Schertz, TX

Vote NO on school vouchers. It is not a benefit for students but for billionaires

Linda Rowold-Brown

self. Retired public school teacher and administrator

Austin, TX

If a large voucher program is implemented in my school district, Pflugerville ISD, it would drain \$10,371,343 from neighborhood schools to unaccountable private schools, and result in a projected increase in student-teacher ratio of 7.24%.

If enacted, this voucher program would mean there would be fewer public school teachers paying into the Texas Teacher Retirement System, which would affect funding for current TRS retirees as well as future retirees. The retirement system would be threatened.

Public schools provide a well-rounded education for all children, including the gifted as well as the disabled. Private schools have the propensity to be elitist, as those students would be from homes of parents who have the means to provide transportation. Some private schools would furnish an education of narrow scope, submitting to demands of parents with a narrow world view or with demands of a religious nature. Religion is properly taught in their churches and at home, or in schools funded by those families, not with public funding. A significant part of a student's education is to learn to be with, learn with and work with students from a wide variety of backgrounds, one that is representative of the real world, where one day they will be working as adults. A public school education will offer an advantage to students attending them.

A voucher program for private schools in Texas will destroy our already poorly funded public schools. Voucher systems are not working in Kansas, Arizona or Louisiana.

AMBER NEWSOM

Self/project manager

Wylie, TX

I do not believe this bill is fair to the more than 5.5 million public school kids. We are taking away much needed funds from the schools the vast majority of our students attend for the sake of giving everyone the "opportunity" to attend private schools. These schools are not beholden to the same standards as public schools, do not have to accept those with disabilities, do not have to take the same tests, and do not have to maintain their pricing, and do not have to provide transportation for students. Those who already attend will benefit, while the state of Texas cannot even meet basic monetary needs per student. Districts everywhere will suffer, more pressure will be added to already overwhelmed admins and teachers, and overall this decision to help a few will be to the detriment of our children's education.

Dorshelle Meyer

Self. Small Business Owner

Medina, TX

Taxpayer dollars should only fund public education. Also many private schools are religion based, separation of church and state must be preserved. We strongly oppose HB3 which will divert funds from public education in the long run.

Meghan Ferguson, Ms.

self

Belton, TX

School choice is such a weasel-worded way to name this bill. This bill would rob from already underfunded public schools to give wealthy families a \$10,000 per year coupon to attend private schools. \$10,000 isn't going to help poor families fully afford tuition, supplies, uniforms and anything else a private school requires for all their kids for the entire year. This helps no one except the kids already attending private schools, whose parents can already afford it. I am not going to pay for this, I would rather my property taxes go toward properly funding public schools. Hell, billionaires and high multi-millionaires should be taxed at a higher rate to help fund public schools. Private schools don't have to follow 504 or IEPs, don't have to admit special education students, and would set millions of kids behind because of this. Why don't you investigate Jeff Yass's involvement in the making of this proposed bill, and what he has to gain from it, from the sale of his education software to private schools? I don't want my money to go to some software developer in Pennsylvania. I want proper, equitable PUBLIC EDUCATION for my kids! From teachers who are paid enough to not have to take on side-jobs, so they can put their FULL ATTENTION ON TEACHING! The state of education in Texas is already a disgrace, don't damage it further with this wolf bill in sheep's clothing.

Beverly La Rock
Self-representing Galveston County
Galveston, TX

I am asking you to vote NO on House Bill 3. There are many fees associated with private schools which low and many middle income families could not afford. There are few services for disabled children.

BARBARA ANDERSON
self, retired teacher
AUSTIN, TX

"While I acknowledge that families want more educational choices, this school voucher program does not create real choice for families. There are certainly many issues with our public education system that prevent it from effectively serving students, but funneling money out of this system and into private institutions through vouchers is not the solution to our problems. A strong public education system is integral to our democracy, and vouchers undermine public education. Additionally, these programs as implemented in other states lack proper accountability, exacerbate inequality, engage in exclusionary practices, fragment communities, exacerbate segregation, and decrease academic achievement. Instead of diverting funds to private institutions, perhaps you should focus on strengthening our public schools to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality education. This issue matters to me and I vote. Thank you."

Marianne Gould, Ms.
self/retired public school teacher
New Braunfels, TX

As a retired public school teacher, I am embarrassed that my home state, Texas, is so far down the list of per capital funding for education...40 out of 50. That in itself is unacceptable. Per capital funding for public education has not received any increase since 2019. Again, unacceptable. When Texas doesn't even care enough about public school to adequately fund its students, there is absolutely no reason to be having a discussion about vouchers (or whatever new name is being used presently). Again, unacceptable. Taxes raised by the public should benefit the public...not the private. Public school teachers must supplement their classroom from their meager paychecks, which they willingly do because Texas teachers care about their students and want them to have the opportunity to become civic minded citizens of their state and their community. Teaching is an art...taking years to develop and they are doing an extraordinary job with what they are given in resources! But this cannot continue. Teachers are tapped out and stressed. With so many counties in Texas not even having access to charter schools...with minimal regulations being required for staffing/numbers/accountability etc....with smaller numbers of students being affected...why, oh why...would vouchers even be considered? Privatization of schools doesn't help students learn to get along with students who are not like them. Privatization of schools doesn't help the populace the constitution of Texas requires. Privatization of schools does benefit the wealthy and privileged. The main point I wish to make is that PUBLIC FUNDS BELONG IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Many, many Texans are watching how you vote on this and will see how you vote...and remember that when voting. Will you stand up for public schools being adequately funded or will you vote what Gov. Abbot wants...to remain in good stead with him. Don't think that Texans will not remember all the 'special sessions', at taxpayer expense, held to try and get vouchers passed. Don't think that Texans will not remember all the 'special money' thrown toward candidates that would vote for vouchers in the primary election...to defeat candidates that were willing to keep an open mind and listen for their constituents. Texans will remember. Please vote against vouchers! Vote to keep public money in public schools!
Thank you.

Julie Faletti

Self

Austin, TX

I am the parent of a Texas public school student and a former teacher. I believe that public funds should stay in public schools. Establishing a voucher system for private education will directly impact the quality of education received in public schools. Private institutions are not held to the same standards as public schools and are not required to meet the needs of all students. Rural school districts without access to private schools are particularly vulnerable if this bill passes. It is shameful that Texas lawmakers who vote yes on this bill are ok with spending more money per private school student than per public school student. This is discriminatory and will only serve to decrease the overall quality of education in this state. It is already at an embarrassingly low national ranking and will only get worse if this bill is passed. Please fully fund public schools and leave our taxpayer money where it benefits ALL Texas students.

Erin Rocheleau

Self, CyFair ISD teacher

Katy, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school vouchers in the state of Texas. Vouchers divert crucial public funds away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas children, to subsidize private and charter schools that are not held to the same accountability standards.

Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education, support, and opportunities to students of all backgrounds. Instead of funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions, we should invest in strengthening our public school system by increasing teacher pay, improving resources, and ensuring every child has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting any voucher proposals and focusing on policies that uplift public education for all.

Thank you for your dedication to the future of Texas students.

Erika Garfias

Self

PEARLAND, TX

Hello, my name is Erika Garfias and I am a constituent in zip code 77581 I am calling to ask my representative to vote NO on HB 3. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy. Thank you.

Vahista Ussery

Self

Fort Worth, TX

No vouchers! It's a bad choice for everyone!!! Please support our public education system; stop hurting it!

Rebecca Roman

Rebecca Roman

Austin, TX

HB 3 harms public schools by draining already limited resources, widening educational gaps, and prioritizing private interests over students. It weakens communities, lacks accountability, and shifts taxpayer money away from schools that serve all children. How does this help students in rural areas with no access to private schools? How does this help students that can not afford the additional costs of private school, above and beyond \$10,000. Can the \$10,000 be given to the public school if that is the school of choice?

What is happening with all the additional funds that have been collected through our taxes? Why haven't the public schools received any more funding?

Strong public schools benefit everyone—HB 3 must be stopped.

Jennifer Thompson

Self

Dallas, TX

We don't use tax dollars to reimburse Texans for building a private road, using private security, or other private services. We should not use tax payer dollars to pay Texans to go to private school, especially with little to no rules about the education and services that private school must provide.

In addition, it is highly inequitable to make law that will give private schools \$10,000 per child, but give public schools thousands less per child. Public schools in Texas are drastically underfunded because of the choices of the Texas legislature. Texas elected officials acknowledge there are funds available, but they won't spend those funds on public schools. This must stop. As Texas citizens, we oppose HB3, oppose public dollars in private schools, and call on our elected representatives to fully fund public schools.

Jaylyn Sprinkel, Mrs

PTA

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3!!!!

Jennifer Longley

Self/Marketing Consultant

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools. Evidence suggests that Education Savings Accounts do not effectively serve low-income families. Despite the argument I continually see supporters of this bill use, this is not truly a step forward for school choice, as the program is ultimately financial assistance for families that can already afford private school and will not help low income and rural families. As a tax payer, I do not approve of using public funding for private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. This lack of oversight will ultimately lead to inconsistent educational quality and does not afford equal opportunity to education for all Texas school students.

Virddie Montgomery
School Board/Retired educator
Sachse, TX

This bill is really not a voucher. In my mind a voucher would be money that a student could take to any school he/she would want to attend. This bill is a subsidy for private schools. I think most people might give more support for this if there truly was "school choice." That simply is not the case. I worked in a private Christian school for three years. I can assure you that private schools will not take everyone. They will only take good academic students and they are not equipped to handle poor discipline students or students with special needs. They also will not take money if there are strings attached to it and I can't even begin to imagine the state allowing money to go to a school that does not have to meet the standards of public schools. Private schools have a nest egg on the ground and only have to teach to the group they allow. Public schools teach all levels and types of students with high expectations. Private school teachers do not even have to be certified and there is not much accountability on issues that public schools deal with daily. There is no PEIMS in private schools. This only opens the door for students who are already successful getting to go to private schools. Private schools will raise tuition when this new money comes in....you can count on that. No one is likely reading this at all so I will not go on and on, but could fill up volumes on the evil involved in HB3. It you want more.....just call me at 214-282-8369.

Nova Harmon
Timewise Park Elementary PTSA
San Antonio, TX

The people want fully funded public schools, not private school vouchers. Please, please do not vote in favor of HB3, protect our public schools and every child's right to education!!

Katy Nieman
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 3. My heart is burdened by the schools that are lacking adequate funding, including my children's schools. As a parent I want my children to feel that as a state, we have invested to the best of our ability in their future. After all these students will one day become leaders who be leading us. Please show the parents of public school children that you care for the quality of their education in the public schools.

K K
Self
Austin, TX

I'm Kai! I'm four. I go to my sister's school now because I'm a big girl. I like school. Please give our public school teachers and public schools money.

Christine Hansanuwat
Self
Leander, TX

Keep public dollars in public schools. Public tax dollars should not pay for private schools! Public schools need to be funded adequately and state mandates must be state funded.

Lynda Null
Self
Conroe, TX

This bill does nothing to support the students who could most benefit from it. Most students cannot afford the rest of the tuition, the transportation or other costs. It is taking the money away from the students that public school due the most to support. Please vote no.

Amanda Hartz
Texas PTA and my family
Katy, TX

I am writing to express strong opposition to HB 3 and the establishment of an education savings account (ESA) program. Texas PTA and public school advocates do not support diverting taxpayer dollars away from public schools to fund private or unregulated education options.

Public schools are the heart of our communities, serving all students regardless of background, income, or ability. ESA programs risk draining vital resources from our already underfunded schools, making it harder to retain quality teachers, provide essential services, and maintain strong educational opportunities for every child.

Instead of shifting funds away from public schools, Texas families want investment in our existing school system—increased teacher pay, more support for special education, and improved resources for students. Public money should remain in public schools, where accountability and oversight ensure that funds benefit all children.

Texas PTA stands for strong public schools, and we do not support HB 3 or any effort to weaken public education.

Priscilla Smith
SELF
Wylie, TX

I am against the vouchers.

Charlotte Johnson
Self
Austin, TX

HB3 is problematic in many ways that were eloquently outlined by Rep. Hinojosa, Rep. Talarico, Rep. Bryant, and many of the citizens who testified.

As you heard loud and clear during the hearing, the vast majority of Texans do not want vouchers. We want the Legislature to fully fund "an efficient system of public free schools" as provided for in Article VII of the Texas Constitution.

As Rep. Talarico pointed out, a bipartisan majority rejected the Governor's voucher plan in 2023. In retaliation, Governor Abbott refused to provide any additional funding to public schools. Funding has been stagnant since 2019, and Texas is now 43rd in the nation for per student funding! Public school districts across the state are facing tens of millions of dollars in deficits. Gov. Abbott's action has caused harm to every public school, teacher and student in Texas.

The solution to improving student outcomes in Texas is not to create an expensive and elaborate new system with few safeguards for a tiny minority of students. The solution is to fully fund public schools. Please vote no on HB3 and any other school voucher bill.

Margot Moczygemba, Ms
Self and retired
Corpus Christi, TX

I don't want my tax dollars to be used on school vouchers! These vouchers only benefit the wealthy. Medium and low income families cannot afford to send their children to private schools. Private schools pick and choose who they admit and there is no accountability. I have six grandchildren who attend public schools and they are very smart and well educated in the current system. I DO NOT WANT MY TAX DOLLARS TO GO TO THESE SCHOOLS. Abbott has refused to fund public schools. He should be impeached!

Lucy Neveloff
Self/Business Manager
Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS
NO TO SB3

Sandra Crenshaw
Self /Rancher, former Texas teacher
Port Lavaca, TX

I am against establishing an education savings account program & allowing taxpayer funds to be paid to private schools. Government bureaucracy is the reason our public schools are in the state they are in. I hope that our awesome state of Texas can help to change this. It is time for Texas to step up to the plate and make our public schools ones that we can be proud of. Instead of taking money from public schools making the job of educating even harder, quit wasting our money on testing materials allowing those entities to become rich and put those funds toward increasing teacher salaries, limiting class size, and creating opportunities for non college bound students to enter the workforce. If we go to a voucher system I fully expect to see our courts tied up with legislation because students are either not accepted or kicked out of private schools since taxpayer money would be involved. Focus on fixing our public schools because our future depends on it.

Noah Ryan
Self
Wylie, TX

No to SB3 and no to vouchers!

Bethany Feldman
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Catherine Buentello, Mrs.
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am a special educator at a public school in San Antonio. I am writing to ask you to protect neighborhood schools and oppose House Bill 3 in Texas.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them to succeed, not just students at exclusive private schools. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our neighborhood public schools for students, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private and religious schools that pick and choose who will enroll.

As a concerned Texan, I ask you to vote down House Bill 3, which diverts tax dollars from neighborhood public schools. Public dollars should stay in public schools.

Say NO to vouchers that use tax dollars to fund the tuition at exclusive private schools.

Jared Chapman
Self
Mount Pleasant, TX

I am AGAINST school vouchers and I am AGAINST this bill.

Dolores Bedinghaus

Self

Buda, TX

Please do not vote for hb 3. I feel that this will greatly affect my grandchildren s education. Two in high school and one in middle school. They are all in public schools and are all honor students. This bill will affect our education by taking away the great teachers they currently have. Poor families cannot afford private schools and would be discriminated against by allowing this bill to continue. DoNOT PASS HB 3. Thank you.

Julie Ulrich

self

Austin, TX

I respectfully as that you do not pass this bill out of committee. I oppose any sort of bill establishing education savings accounts or vouchers. I believe these will harm our public schools by depriving them of needed funds. This has been the case in many other states that have tried this. I am a Texas voter and I do support fully funding existing public school mandates, not diverting funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. Please fund our public schools by increasing the basic allotment and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Anette Carlisle

Anette on Education—self, podcaster, 30 year elected public education trustee and regent, Amarillo ISD and Amarillo College
Amarillo, TX

This bill, or any version of vouchers/ESAs, will negatively impact Texas for decades and more to come. Public dollars belong in public education. And all our citizens need and deserve a first class education. This will take money from public education, and from the future economic viability of Texas.

Elizabeth Williams

Wylie ISD PTA

Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS & NO TO SB3

Chelsea Gillispie

Self

Wylie, TX

This bill is devastating to public schools. I urge you to listen to your constituents and vote NO to a voucher scam!!

Barbra Craig

Self

White Deer, TX

We cannot let down our children. This will diminish the quality of education and eventually increase poverty and crime.

Joann Smith, Ms.

Self - Manager

Wylie, TX

No to vouchers and no to SB3.

Michael Ciavarino

Self

Azle, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Stacey Hensley, Assistant Principal

LubbockISD

Lubbock, TX

This bill will not do what it states. It is not enough money for low income families to afford it thereby NOT giving true school choice as stated. Texas ALREADY has school choice. Also, not holding private institutions that receive funds to the same standards as public schools is flat WRONG. Public schools HAVE to take every kid regardless of any factor. Private schools do not. If I could pick and choose my students I could make the hard data say whatever I wanted it to. This is NOT the answer for ALL students in Texas with regards to education!!

Leslie Aguilar

Self

Fort worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Terri White Taylor

Self

Arlington, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS

Dustin Loyd

Myself and household

Willow Park, TX

I OPPOSE HB3. It violates the GOP platform by creating more government and gives public dollars to private entities. It is welfare for the wealthy. Public dollars belong in public establishments. If this was a truly about children you would adequately fund public schools, but the GOP has done all it can to ruin Texas and wreck its public schools. This started with Gov. Bush and his NCLB legislation, was continued through underfunding of education by Gov Rick Perry and to this day Gov Abbott continues his push for Vouchers being disguised as school choice. It was simple, as the guy that appointed Mike north to the TEA, Gov Abbott is ultimately responsible for his labeling of a “failed public schools.” It first started with the creation of the term DOI or district of innovation that allowed districts to hire uncertified teachers due to a shortage and a need. Then post COVID there was clear drop in math and reading levels because of the pandemic so he used the rigged STAAR test data and push his “failed” lane and Yass’s agenda to create vouchers. The Gov and all those who were primaried in and support vouchers were bought by Yass, Wilkes and Dunn. Those who donated expect a return on their investment and seek to become wealthy through their shares in the ESA vendors all under the guise of “school choice.” I completely oppose HB3!

Kim Pettiet

Self

Fruitvale, TX

Please listen to your constituents! You were elected to represent your constituents and we are saying NO resoundingly!

Christina Johnson

Self, Academic Program Coordinator at UT Austin

Austin, TX

I am a born and raised Texan, having lived in Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Austin. I taught in a public charter school for 8 years until the hours (many unpaid) and lack of support for students, teachers, and local administrators forced me to step back from that calling two years ago. Many of my former colleagues have been forced to do the same.

I have seen firsthand what a lack of support means for student well-being and learning, especially for those in need of 504 and IEP plans. If the problem is striking now, it will only worsen if an education savings account and voucher programs are put into place. I beg of you not to divert what critical resources we do have to benefit a small group with less need in the private school system. Private schools have no obligation to admit all students much less serve all their needs and have no curriculum oversight. Public funds should stay in public schools. The vast majority of your constituents with direct experience in our school system believe this. Please listen to us. Please vote in opposition to HB 3.

Our democracy cannot function without good education. Let's make sure every single Texas child no matter their circumstances has access to the latter so they can participate in the former.

Mallory Shaddix

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose HB3. I am a long time resident, parent, and community volunteer in the spring branch ISD in Houston. Vouchers do not hold the private schools accountable for results. That's not a conservative responsible use of our tax dollars. Our public schools need more funding and they are held accountable. The local elected trustees and the state are holding our public schools accountable for academic success and fiscal responsibility. And importantly they educate all children, unlike private schools, who can select their students. I favor a significant larger investment in our public schools. They are the economic engine of our state and the best investment we can make.

Sincerely, Mallory Shaddix

Steven Cairns

Self

Dallas, TX

This will hurt everyone through the weakening of our public schools and help only a few. Please stop trying to pass this unnecessary bill!

Travis George

Self

The Colony, TX

Why should tax payers subsidize the rich? Anyone who has the money to send their child to a private school is making a decision to forgoe public schools. They can send their child to public school and instead they make a choice not to. That money should be used to improve our public schools not further subsidize the rich.

Jess Buck

Self, producer

Austin, TX

Please vote no on the voucher bill – our public education needs funding!

Harley Eckhart
Self Executive Director
Pflugerville, TX

I urge committee members to vote "No" on HB 3. As a product of a Catholic/private school, I strongly believe that state/public funds should NOT be used for private school tuition. Public/Taxpayer funds should be reserved for public schools. Respectfully submitted.

Christa Call
Self
Gainesville, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB2. This will defund public education by pulling money from each school district and giving it to public schools. This will give our tax dollars to private institutions and encourage them to move into our rural area to poach children from our public schools. There is so much opposition to this bill on social media and everyone I talk to dem or republican. Our area is strongly republican and even they see this bill for what it is. More oversight on their private lives with schooling, because private schools and homeschoolers accepting money from the government are subject to oversight by the government. They do not want that. We all know this has to do with Greg Abbott's financial backers. Do not ruin Texas education. Do not pass this bill.

Teague Shosh
Self
San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers. The detriment to the majority of students in Texas and to public schools as a whole will be immense. I do not believe this bill is in the best interest of the majority of families in Texas and only benefits a few.

Kent Grusendorf, Pres.
Liberty For The Kids
Austin, TX
Strongly support HB3

kema biediger, Teacher
Self
San Antonio, TX

Public money should be for public schools and private money for private schools. As a public school teacher in a title 1 school I vehemently oppose the voucher program. Too much funding will be lost in a system already struggling to keep students growing and learning. It's ridiculous to think about the huge disadvantage our special needs students will face such as increased class sizes due to decreased title 1 funds and decreased funds available for class support. This bill would be catastrophic to the public education system.

Lara Jackson
Self
Murphy, TX

Please vote no- this in NO way benefits our children's education

Deborah Cholette
Self
Van Alstyne, TX

This is not what is good for students, families, and schools.

Sara Ambriz
Self
san Antonio, TX

School vouchers only help those who are already affording it to get a break. **THEY DO NOT HELP LOW INCOME STUDENTS!!**

My children went to private high schools 20 & 25 yr ago, respectively, the amount being proposed was their tuition then! Meals, uniforms, sports equipment & other extracurricular activity expenses were not included in tuition.

These bills are a 'kiss up' for donors. Once the \$ goes to a private school there is no accountability for how it's spent.

Lana Sather
Self
Kennedale, TX

I am vehemently opposed to HB 3. It is my opinion that taking my tax money under the guise of public education then giving it to private education is THEFT. Any representative that votes for this bill will not receive my vote in any upcoming elections.

Cheryl Dobbins
Self, parent, finance mgr
Spring, TX

I do NOT support vouchers for private schools being funded by tax payer dollars. Invest more in our PUBLIC schools and to protect both our students and our teachers. Private schools are not the answer!

Julie Clemente
Self
Temple, TX

I oppose school vouchers, they will not benefit every student in texas we should be using this money to improve and better fund our public schools and their teachers.

Charla Cogdill
Self/ Texas PUBLIC school teachers
Lubbock, TX

Fund PUBLIC SCHOOLS with PUBLIC money!!! Parents have ALWAYS had a choice to send their students to the educational institution which they deemed appropriate. All this will do is segregate students. What is this - 1960?!?! What you need to focus on in education is PAYING the teachers a livable wage and treat us as the professionals we are!!! You will NEVER get my vote again and neither will my representative or senator that is going along with this scam. LISTEN TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS!!! If you are so sure that Texas parents want vouchers, put it on a ballot and prove us wrong. But you won't, because you KNOW we don't want it. Public schools should be funded with public money!!!!!!!!!!!! NO TO VOUCHERS!!!!!!

Cynthia Levinson
NA
Austin, TX

I absolutely oppose voucher bills!

Jerrell Walker

Self - Realtor (retired educator)

Richardson, TX

As a retired educator (29 yrs) I am dismayed that this conversation is still going on. Out of all of the issues going on in our state the Governor has chosen this as his hill. The issue is not, whether vouchers should be provided. Instead, the issue, to me, is that the spending of public dollars toward private institutions. As a tax payer in the state of Texas I object to my taxes going to a private institution that is already funded by the people who would rather send their children their instead of to a public school. For what it is worth, I have been a voter since 1982. In each election since then I have voted Republican. The governor's actions will alienate die-hard Republicans, like me, and in the long run end up costing us a whole lot more. Can we not get onto bigger, and more important issues?

Rhonda Cabello

self

Austin, TX

School vouchers will hurt rural students and since Texas has more rural schools than any other state this is a lot if children! These kids (over 600,000) do not have the option of attending a private school because there are none in their area!

Erica Ciszek, Dr.

self, educator

Austin, TX

The ESA program could undermine the core principles of public education in Texas. Public schools provide children from all walks of life with a shared educational experience that fosters inclusivity and unity. By funding private education through ESAs, we risk creating an even more fragmented society, where access to education is determined by wealth, geography, and privilege rather than a commitment to ensuring every child has an equal opportunity to succeed.

As a parent of two elementary school children, I have significant concerns about the proposed establishment of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program in Texas. While proponents argue that ESAs provide more freedom for families to choose the best educational path for their children, I believe the program would ultimately harm the very students it aims to help, including my own children. Here are several reasons why I oppose the implementation of an ESA program in Texas.

First, ESAs would divert critical funds away from public schools, which serve the majority of students in the state. As someone who values public education, I worry that this program would lead to underfunding, overcrowded classrooms, and a decline in education quality. Public schools are a vital part of our community, and teachers, administrators, and staff work hard to provide an environment where every child can succeed. Shifting funds to private schools or homeschooling options through ESAs undermines the public education system and could have long-lasting negative effects on all students, including those who remain in public schools.

While the concept of an ESA program may sound appealing, it poses significant risks to the quality and equity of education in Texas. Rather than diverting funds from public schools and perpetuating inequality, we should focus on strengthening and improving the public education system that serves the vast majority of students. As a parent of two elementary school children, I strongly urge lawmakers to reconsider the establishment of ESAs in Texas and prioritize investments in public education that ensure every child has access to a high-quality education, regardless of their family's income or background.

Renee Roth

self

Dallas, TX

I have strong opposition to HB 3 and to urge you to reject this harmful legislation.

The introduction of school vouchers will only serve to destabilize the already fragile public school finance system in Texas. Our public schools are already underfunded, and taking taxpayer dollars away from the public system through vouchers will further exacerbate these financial disparities. Every dollar diverted to private institutions is one less dollar available to our students, teachers, and schools.

Unlike public schools, which are subject to rigorous oversight, accountability, and transparency requirements, private schools that accept voucher funds are not held to the same standards. There is no guarantee that these institutions will provide a high-quality education, and taxpayers have no means of ensuring that their hard-earned money is being spent effectively. If we are going to spend public funds, those funds should go toward systems that are accountable to the public, not unregulated private institutions.

Vouchers disproportionately disadvantaged rural and marginalized students. I grew up in Paris, Texas, where there were no private schools. Our town relied on the public schools as a form of community and belonging. Additionally, marginalized students, including low-income students and students with special needs, are less likely to have access to private schools that can meet their unique needs. Vouchers will further entrench inequality and widen the gap in educational opportunities for those who need it most.

Vouchers impose a dangerous form of religious favoritism in our education system. By allowing taxpayer money to fund private schools with religious affiliations, we risk violating the principle of separation between church and state that is fundamental to our democracy.

Renee Roth

Jennifer Jensen

Self, Human Resources

Plano, TX

VOTE NO. Fully fund our public schools Say NO to vouchers.

As a taxpayer, parent, and Christian, I am disheartened by the current threat to our public schools. My husband and I are your target audience. We voted republican for decades. Now, we are deeply concerned by the direction of our state leaders.

Our older daughter graduated from Plano ISD with honors in 2021. She entered Texas Tech with a full year of credits and an academic scholarship. She will graduate with her masters in accounting in August.

Our younger daughter was a public school student through 10th grade. After a late autism diagnosis, we chose to enroll her in a specialized private school where she thrived through graduation in 2024. She is now enrolled in Collin College.

Along with the majority of the state tax payers, we say NO to school vouchers.

Funding for our public schools is crucial. Voucher programs may be well intended, but they are flawed and proven to weaken public schools. In the end, they serve as a savings account for the wealthy, and they grow the economic and educational divide.

My 77 year old mother grew up as a white student during segregation. She lived in blissful ignorance. She is ignorant no more, and she too sees the ills of the voucher scheme.

I implore you to be better. Say NO to vouchers.

Choose to do the right thing. Protect and INCREASE funding for our public schools. Allow our dedicated educators to do their jobs with fewer hurdles, and pay them equitably.

In the interest of ALL Texas students,

Jennifer Jensen

Kathryn Jensen

Self

Lubbock, TX

This bill is dangerous to our quality of education and is outright theft of taxpayers' dollars. This will further degrade the state of our public education and propel us towards the bottom of national education rankings. This will make Texas a worse and less desirable place to live and start a business.

marian strauss, Dr

Taxpayer

Georgetown, TX

My family is adamantly opposed to school vouchers or ESAs.

As a grandparent of both private school and public school students, we believe that public tax dollars should not go to private schools. Separation of church and state! Public schools must be fully funded. Stop the lies and do the right thing by Texas students.

Sarah Gomez

Self/Homemaker

Seminole, TX

My name is Sarah Gomez and I am a homeschooling parent to five children. I am writing to express my opposition to SB3 because I am concerned that the autonomy we have now as a homeschooling family will be lost in the near future if this bill passes.

As a homeschooling parent, I value freedom from the government strings and regulations in private education and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment". I believe the \$1 billion investment made through public money should not be used to fund private school education of any kind but instead be used to fund public education institutions that desperately need the funding to pay teachers or make much needed improvements to the schools. If the government helps pay for private education, then most likely private schools will lose their autonomy on what curriculum they want to use and the subject matter that is taught. Government money should be used to fund government establishments.

I enjoy the many freedoms that the state of Texas offers in comparison to other states. Raising and educating my children the way my husband and I feel is right for them is one of the most important freedoms at this time. Many other parents feel the same and that is why they are willing to spend their own hard-earned money to invest in their children's education and not rely on the state to endure this task. Please allow Texas to continue to be a stand-out state by opposing SB3 and allowing private education to keep its value.

Thank you, Chairman Brad Buckley, and members of the committee for reading my testimony. Your consideration for my concern is very much appreciated.

Nancy Simoneau

self / former teacher, retired

Clyde, TX

I do NOT support vouchers at all. Our tax dollars should not support private schools. You will hurt our public schools with this law. Knowing that people were elected to support Greg Abbott, I suspect that vouchers is a done deal. If that is so, there should AT LEAST be equality for students. The vouchers should not be any amount above the payment to schools per students enrolled. You will definitely hurt small towns with this path.

Marlene Gonzalez

Self

Houston, TX

Leave the school system the way it is!!!! The vouchers will not help all children only the wealthy ones. Us middle class people will not benefit from this.

Jennifer Simpson

Self

Frisco, TX

Against this bill Education savings accounts would hurt marginalized communities

Ashley Weathers

Self

Houston, TX

Opposed to this bill!

Kayla Glover

Shannon Elementary PTA

Rockwall, TX

Okay

Holly Demond

LewisvilleI ISD & self

Lake Dallas, TX

I have been a public school teacher for 30 years and deeply believe in the benefit of public education. DO NOT pass vouchers - we need to keep tax payer dollars in Public education. Please join the thousands of others to NOT defund public schools!!!!

Deborah White, White

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote against HB 3 . It would harm our public schools.

Aubrey Jaklich

Self

Helotes, TX

As a former Texas educator with 14 years of experience, a husband who is a current educator, and 2 children in public education, I strongly oppose HB 3, which seeks to create an Education Savings Account (ESA) program. This bill is nothing more than a voucher scheme that will take taxpayer dollars away from public schools and redirect them to private and unregulated institutions. Public funds should support public schools—not private interests.

Texas public schools serve all students, regardless of income level, ability, or background. Private schools, on the other hand, are not required to accept all students, provide special education services, or follow the same academic and financial accountability standards. Yet HB 3 would allow taxpayer dollars to be used for private school tuition without ensuring those schools meet the same expectations as public institutions.

At a time when Texas ranks near the bottom in per-student funding, it is unacceptable to divert resources away from our public schools. Teachers are leaving the profession due to low salaries and overwhelming workloads. Schools are struggling with overcrowded classrooms, outdated materials, and a lack of essential student services. Instead of addressing these pressing issues, HB 3 would drain even more funding from the schools that serve the vast majority of Texas students.

Additionally, ESAs do not truly provide “school choice” for all families. They disproportionately benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition, while lower-income families are left behind. Rural communities, where private school options are scarce or nonexistent, would suffer the most. The reality is that vouchers and ESAs do not expand opportunities—they widen inequities.

If Texas legislators truly care about education, they should be focused on fully funding public schools, raising teacher pay, and providing the resources students need to succeed. HB 3 fails to do any of these things. I strongly urge lawmakers to reject this harmful bill and prioritize real solutions that strengthen our public education system rather than dismantling it.

Lori Lee

Self

Dripping springs, TX

I do not support this bill. Please fund public education for Texas, not private education special interest groups.

Samantha Lott, LMSW

Texas Social Workers (School/Mental Health)

Denton, TX

Texans DO NOT want vouchers!!! As a school social worker, I see first hand that we are struggling due to lack of funding and resources. Elected officials have done nothing to address the mental health crisis and have enacted policies that only make things worse. Taking funding from schools with exacerbate these issues. Do the right thing for Texans and students and vote no!!!

richard whites

self

houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Richard Whites, I am a parent in Spring Branch ISD in Houston and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical education programs that serve our students.

The data from SBISD's state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend -- our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

For example:

- **Special Education:** The state allotment for special education in 2023-24 was \$31.5 million, but actual expenditures reached \$53.5 million, leaving a \$22 million shortfall. This gap is projected to be \$20.3 million in 2024-25. Without adequate funding, students with disabilities may not receive the legally mandated services they need to thrive.
- **Safety & Security:** In 2023-24, the state provided only \$0.9 million, but the actual cost was \$8.9 million, creating an \$8 million deficit. For 2024-25, the gap is projected to grow to \$10 million, putting school safety measures at risk.
- **Transportation:** The 2023-24 state allocation was \$1.5 million, while the cost of maintaining transportation services was \$10.4 million, leading to an \$8.9 million shortfall. In 2024-25, the gap is expected to be \$8.3 million, making it difficult to ensure students have reliable and safe transportation to and from school.
- **Pre-Kindergarten:** This critical early childhood education program faced a \$3.7 million funding gap in 2023-24, with an estimated \$3.2 million shortfall in 2024-25. Underfunding pre-K limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities that set children up for future success.

Our educators and administrators are doing their best with limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with actual costs of running these programs. These includes:

1. Increasing the Basic Allotment at a minimum of \$500
2. Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.
3. Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.
4. Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.
5. Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation for academic success.

I urge you to prioritize our students by closing these funding gaps. Texas schools cannot afford to keep operating with such large deficits, and our children deserve better. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Melissa Burkett

Self, retired

Houston, TX

I oppose HB 3 because it will result in underfunding of public schools, which need increased funding. In addition, private schools typically have uncertified teachers and provide an inferior education. The few excellent ones will remain unaffordable by poor parents trying to use vouchers. Please take the money planned for vouchers and invest it in our public schools.

Megan Raby

Year

Austin, TX

As a Texan and higher ed educator, I urge you to reject vouchers and fully fund our neighborhood public schools. All Texans deserve a high quality education to prepare them to be fully engaged citizens, and to be ready for college if they desire. Vouchers will sap strength from Texas's already under-funded public school system, funneling public money into expensive—but less publicly accountable—private institutions. Especially in rural areas, public schools play a critical role in local communities. Vouchers are a threat to the long-term financial health of neighborhood schools, and to the access to high quality public education that all Texas children deserve.

Margaret Beach
Self, homemaker
Allen, TX

Please support public education by voting AGAINST HB 3. We need to keep public money in public schools.

Sarah Perez
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose this bill it will hurt public schools and private schools don't even want to participate

Grace Heis
Self
Denton, TX

Doing this is not in the best interests of Texans, not by a long shot. If at any point you got into public service with genuine interest in making people's lives better, there is no way you can vote for this with a clear conscience. Public education is one of the key pillars to successful democracy. Choice exists right now. Bit a single state that has done this so far has a better showing in education for it, the data is clear as day, if you care. Don't do it.

Kristen Miller
Self
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Barbie Mosley
Educators
Schertz, TX

Statement on HB 3 and Its Detrimental Impact on Public Education. VOTE NO!!

The lack of support among educators for HB 3 is a direct reflection of the devastating consequences this legislation will have on public education in Texas. Rather than strengthening our schools, HB 3 threatens to deepen disparities between districts, undercut the ability of teachers to provide quality education, and divert critical resources away from the students who need them most.

Educators across the state recognize that HB 3 fails to address the real challenges facing public schools—underfunded classrooms, increasing student needs, and a teacher workforce already stretched thin. By imposing unfunded mandates and prioritizing punitive measures over meaningful support, this bill will exacerbate inequities, particularly in rural and low-income communities, where schools already struggle to keep pace with wealthier districts.

Public education should be the great equalizer, ensuring every child, regardless of zip code, has access to a high-quality education. However, HB 3 moves Texas in the opposite direction, creating a system where only the most privileged students thrive while others are left behind. Texas educators are united in opposing policies that weaken public education, and we urge lawmakers to listen to those who are on the front lines of our classrooms every day. Our students deserve better, and the future of our state depends on a strong, well-supported public school system—not one dismantled by harmful legislation like HB 3.

Faith Morin

Self - executive assistant

Flower Mound, TX

I ask you to vote NO. Our public schools are the bedrock of society. To intentionally underfund public schools is unethical, immoral, and in direct opposition to your duties to your constituents. Public schools should be FULLY funded.

I live in a wealthy district with wonderful schools - one of the main reasons we bought a house here is because of our public schools. However, I had no idea how schools were funded and therefore didn't understand how my vote contributed to intentional underfunding. Sadly, due to Republican inaction, my district is having to close 5 elementary schools this year. My children's school is one of them. The hole this creates in our lives - educationally, socially, emotionally, and physically - is enormous. And entirely preventable had you given us the funds we needed. The funds that were there. The funds we deserved. Now my children will bear the mark of this forever. It became personal. And I will not stand by while billionaires and certain religious groups try to privatize what is a right to all children. I voted Republican for years and years with great ignorance at how that choice has now taken so much away from my family. This is wrong. Consider the irreparable harm this causes to all - but especially the most vulnerable. You are pushing constituents away. You are enraging them with your false statements and callousness. Any vote other than "no" is a vote against most of the children in Texas.

As a mother, as a human, I ask you to stand with the people and against the lure of political power. Principle over party. This should not be a difficult choice.

Thank you for your time.

Melissa Endicott, Dr

Self

Houston, TX

As a parent of 3 neurodiverse children, I strongly support public schools not vouchers or ESAs. While on the surface it might sound appealing, private schools don't have to accept my kids, can remove them based on their disabilities (and keep their funding), and don't have to provide accommodations or FAPE. Private school tuition would be well in excess of any voucher you provide, limiting the benefit to families already more financially stable and able to afford tuition. Private schools are also not providing transportation, limiting even more those who can benefit. Vouchers are likely to wide the achievement gap and further destroy public schools. Well educated constituents benefit our state and all children deserve to be educated in strong public school.

It's time to say no to vouchers and support schools by fully funding them. We need at least a \$1000 increase in the basic student allotment. It's time to add an automatic inflation adjustment and a cost to educate adjustment. Bring back the early recapture payment discount. Support districts already reducing property taxes using homestead exemptions by allowing full credit for those exemptions in the funding formula.

You have manufactured the "failing public school" narrative by using a poorly written STAAR test, forced unfunded mandates on schools and failed to provide a basic student allotment that our schools need (our kids deserve better than the bottom 10 in funding in the nation). Stand up and do what is right for our kids and not your financial supporters.

Before you vote, I encourage to investigate how many private schools are in your area, the average tuition and added expenses, their application fees (yes!), the policy about kids with disabilities, and exclusionary policies. If you are lucky enough to have a special education private school, consider if they can only address one or two disabilities, their cost and added fees, and how many kids they can actually accommodate (hint- on average about 15% of kids have a documented disability).

I would encourage to listen to the dialogue from your constituents. Deciding that a majority of Texans want vouchers based on one question on a republican primary ballot is not strong support of your viewpoint. Public schools might help you understand a the quality of supporting documentation used to argue your viewpoint.

Sincerely,

Melissa Endicott, DVM, ACVIM

Jessica Brysch
Self engineer
Floresville, TX

Please support public schools and not special interest groups. School choice is aimed at lining the pockets of those who are already wealthy, and doesn't provide support for special needs, bussing, childcare and other elements necessary for this bill to be a tool that equalizes the ability for anyone to choose a 'best' school. Our government should not be subsidizing private education. Our government should invest that funding into our current education system to make it better for everyone (not just those who can afford it)

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Blair Nash
Self, attorney
Fort Worth, TX

Please reject HB3. It will irreparably hurt Texas public schools and thus its children and Texas itself.

Meredith Sealy
Self
Houston, TX

Stand with Texas families, not special interests! This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. It comes with a hefty price tag and zero accountability to the state or taxpayers!
Testimony on HB3 is clearly against this bill. Please listen to the people of Texas! This is a guaranteed way to damage the education of nearly all children in Texas by pulling funding away from public schools, including my own children. No to vouchers!

Kathy McCowan
Self
Mesquite, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3
No vouchers!!

Marston Meador
self/retired
Carrollton, TX

Oppose the establishment of education savings account program. It will benefit families who already can afford private schools more than low income families.

Fabiola Lujan
Self
Wylie, TX

"I oppose HB3"

Phillys Hill, Dr.
Self
Little Tuver, TX

To the Honorable Brad Buckley:

I have spent 36 yrs. in K-12 public school education. I have worked as a teacher, a campus administrator, and a central administrator; therefore, I have witnessed first-hand the difference public schools make. I have also seen the learning gains that new students who came to our school often had when they entered from private schools with curricula that lacked math and science rigor. I have also seen private schools in the area turn away special needs students that we readily served in public schools.

As the principal of a Title I school (Reeces Creek Elementary), I conducted two to three home visits weekly because many of the parents of students who attended our Title I school had no transportation. These students excelled in our school, and it became a nationally recognized National Blue Ribbon School.

We were continually looking for additional funding to provide opportunities and academic support for our students. It is such a disappointment to see our elected officials support vouchers. I understand your political pressure of getting "primaried" and losing your position, but I want to ask you to think about your own family: how has public education served you and your family? Please give others the opportunity to have the opportunities and support they need.

We should not divert our tax dollars to private schools when public schools in Texas have been inadequately funded for many years.

Also, why are invited guests (often vendors) allowed to speak without time limits during hearings, while others are timed and forced to wait through these long-winded sales pitches? This should be changed.

Respectfully,
Dr. Phillys Hill

Paula Rogers
Self
Jefferson, TX

I do not support this bill. Vouchers are not conservative in any way. This is a blatant attempt to create a two tiered educational system. One system gets more money and less accountability while public schools serve all students with less money and have accountability. Many public schools offer transfers thus creating choice. If schools accept public money they should have to accept all kids including kids with disabilities and second language learners and take STAAR.

This is an absolute travesty and public schools will never recover.

Erica Guerra
Hartman PTA
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3

Charlotte McHale, Mrs.
Self/Educator
Houston, TX

Vouchers are a way for the rich to stay rich and for the poor to be denied an education. Please vote no to HB 3- it threatens to shut down the Texas public school system, which is the last thing our students in this state need.

Karen Mills
self
San Marcos, TX

Please don't vote for school vouchers.

James Cheshire, Mr.
Self
Weatherford, TX

I am against establishing an ESA program. Vote against this bill!

Tiffany Nall CO Gilbert Zamora
Just Us for Justice
Amarillo, TX

This system is inherently unfair. It benefits the rich.

Holley Simons
Self
Austin, TX

Texans are against vouchers. We want public dollars to stay in public schools. Education is a public good that should be accessible to all.

David Howard
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am 100% against school vouchers. I keep hearing that people want them, but I've asked almost 1000 people and no one said they did. Although, none of them were current private school attendees. Get out of your elite echo chamber circles and listen to the people of Texas.

Amos Veltkamp
Self
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Tammy Olsen
Self/Teacher
Farmers Branch, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3 and encourage the House to listen to its constituents. Public Schools deserve funding. Private schools should not be funded by taxpayers. I am a private school mom and a public school teacher. It is MY responsibility to pay for my children to go to private school. It is also my responsibility to pay PUBLIC SCHOOL taxes so ALL students are educated. I know that the House heard from more citizens that oppose this bill than they did that are in favor of this bill. Please read all comments in your social media platforms and you will see that the majority of Texans OPPOSE HB 3. Please do the job that we voted you in for. Please listen to your constituents.

Shere Kossie-Driver
AFT ALDINE
Shepherd, TX

I am on the frontline as a Texas teacher, I have experienced the negative impact of underfunding public schools to erroneously fund school vouchers. STOP the madness. I say 'NO' to school vouchers.

Mary Gregory

Self - nurse

Kerrville, TX

In full support, I continue to not agree with the public education system and their lack of accountability in Godly education so I choose to send my daughter to a Christian education program yet none of my tax money supports the varied education that parents have the right to in decision for their children.

. MAE MARGARET CROSBY, CHAPLAIN, DR

NAACP, NCNW, WFG, WSB, BEMER, MOREMITO, MANUTECH

DALLAS, TX

THANK YOU HB-3

Heidi Saenz

Self- Educator

Cleburne, TX

Even though my children are blessed to attend private school, I am a product of public school. Because of our public school system, I was able to go to college, earn several degrees, and now teach at the University level. Some of us are blessed to be able to send out children to private school- for whatever different reasons we make that decision- but for those who can't (and let's face it, most people, even with vouchers will not be able to) we need to fully fund a public school system that sends out competent, confident, successful, young men and women who will be contributing members of society- like I am today, thanks to the public school system and teachers who poured into me and my dreams.

Kristi Walston, Mrs

self retired

Round rock, TX

I am vehemently opposed to private school vouchers. It will be a huge, insurmountable financial burden to public schools. No more subsidies to the ppl who can most afford private school. Stand up against the scam of our tax dollars!!!! We're watching!

Ryan Fuhrmann

self - Utilities

Denton, TX

The vast majority of Texans oppose this bill or any version of it representing school "choice" or vouchers. As we have seen in other states implementing similar systems, the effect would be draining funding from public schools and putting it in the hands of wealthy Texans who already send their kids to private school. This is nothing more than an attempt to put the public's tax dollars into the hands of the wealthy, which has become an issue across all facets of public funds. Abbott is pushing this entire issue for no other reason than to appease his wealthy donors who would directly benefit from this kind of legislation. There is not much in the political landscape that unites voters across the spectrum, but this issue does. Texans of all walks of life and political leanings oppose this legislation and know it as a distribution of wealth to the haves from the have nots. Enough is enough. Grow a backbone and do your jobs for TEXANS, not the wealthy donors funding your campaigns. It is disgraceful and a slap in the face to the public educators and administrators who are in the trenches each day fighting for Texas kids while being under-funded and over-mandated. Oppose this and all other related bills.

Abby Foreman

Self

Carrollton, TX

As a mother of 2 children in public school in Dallas ISD, a product of public school, and a child of a mom who taught special education in public schools for over 45 years, I strongly oppose public schools. My children go to highly-rated, public magnet schools in DISD. I literally stay awake at night, sometimes in tears, dreading what will happen to those schools if the district uses untold millions in funds from vouchers. To ensure their high-quality teachers and extracurricular activities, such as orchestra, art, and math and science competitions, don't get snatched from them what the legislature should be doing is FULLY fund public schools. By allotting far more to each private school voucher than they do to each public school child, the legislature is making it clear that they do not truly care about public school children, who make and will continue to make up the vast majority of students in Texas. In short, if the legislature cares about Texas kids, it will look out for them, instead of pandering to the ultra-wealthy, by fully-funding Texas public schools and opposing HB3.

Christy Hood

Self/32 year Texas public school teacher

Temple, TX

HB 3 is not fair or equitable to Texas public schools. This vast measure should be sent to the voters of the great state of Texas. This HB will benefit politicians that are supported by wealthy donors. Neither group does not know anything about educating our future Texans. As a life-long supporter of the Republican Party, I can honestly say that I am quite ashamed of these ideals and beliefs. Please reconsider HB 3 so that the great state of Texas will continue its legacy of greatness.

Carrol McDougal, Mrs.

Self

Salado, TX

I am AGAINST school vouchers. Our state is way behind in funding our public schools. If attention & funding throughout the past years had been provided we would not have the drastic number of parents seeking private or home schooling. We are losing our teachers because of wages & the STAAR test.

Jake Rugg

Self

Corinth, TX

This bill is grossly negligent in how it will separate the 'haves' from the 'have nots'. Please keep funding our public schools and do not aid the rich with needless vouchers.

Bibianna Maddox

self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3 for the establishment of an education savings account program. I would like to see more efforts being put into helping our public schools rather than taking money away from them. Many school districts are having to cut staff and find other ways so they are not going into a budget deficit. Private schools do not need state money. There are areas of Texas that do not even have access to private schools. This type of program does nothing but create a bigger gap in learning disparities between those who are wealthy and those who are middle to lower class.

Private schools are on held accountable to the state for ADA requirements and providing the support for those with handicaps and special needs. If these types of schools want state funds, then there should be the same requirements that public schools are held accountable.

Linda Frerich

self - part-time bookkeeper

Rowena, TX

I want to be marked on the record as against HB 3.

Laurie Pompa
Self, Attorney
Austin, TX

Dear House Public Education Committee,

I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Private schools pick and choose which students to admit. While the current bill is supposed to prioritize children with disabilities and low-income children, if there are no requirements, or even incentives, for private schools to accept these children or to open schools in rural and poor areas, it is unlikely vouchers will increase access to public schools for these groups in any meaningful way. Vouchers will instead end up in hands of the privileged few who already had access to private schools. If you want to ensure a quality education is available to ALL children in Texas, you must fund public schools, not underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future.

Thank you,
Laurie Pompa

Joni Owen
Self/ retired public school teacher
Dallas, TX

This is a scam to provide additional monies to families who aren't in need. Funding public education has never been a priority for the Texas legislature as evident by our national ranking. School vouchers wouldn't improve this, it would hurt it. If Texas school children really were the focus of concern, then vouchers wouldn't even be a thing. Increasing funding for PUBLIC schools would be the focus!

Ashley Prevost
self - director
Austin, TX

I oppose education savings accounts because private schools aren't held to the same accountability measures to public schools, over time they have the potential to bankrupt public schools especially in rural locations where they serve so many community functions, and because we shouldn't be supplementing private education with public dollars.

Rebekkah Dellaccio-Bazley
NORTHWEST ISD
FORT WORTH, TX

I completely understand the complaint that people are forced to pay taxes that support public schools even when they do not send their students to public schools. However, we are also forced to pay taxes on hospitals that we might choose not to use or roads that we avoid due to our preferred route. I am from Louisiana where parents pay \$10,000 to \$30,000 or more per year per student for private schools. Here in Texas, we have an amazing public school system that was the #1 reason we chose to move to this state. In Texas, private schools are not a necessity but are a status symbol for the wealthy. There are gifted teachers, beautiful facilities, and more resources than a private school can offer. As a nurse married to a police officer, we are homeowners, automobile owners, and we spend money for food and entertainment as well as our necessary living expenses. Multiply that millions of times over for other people who, like us, moved to Texas just for public schools. Please realize that adequately funding public schools is an investment in Texas's economy because so many companies and families move here specifically for the public school system. When you see it this way, it is hard to argue, right? Please provide the minimum \$7500 allotment per student for public schools so that we can continue to benefit from this truly essential part of what makes Texas such a special place. Thank you.

Adam Perez
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote NO on school vouchers

Elizabeth Walters, Ms.

Self/student

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB3. Public school is the biggest reason for my success in college, and all students, regardless of wealth should have the opportunity to receive a good, fair, and accessible education. Also, we should not be forcing students into private schools where there are fewer regulations and rules to follow. Every Texan has the right to an education, the state of Texas has no right to decide that only wealthy students deserve the chance to learn.

Brandi Black

Self, provider service advocate

Rusk, TX

I DO NOT SUPPORT you all taking money out of the public school system. Education is a right in this country. It is very obvious by the amount of times Abbott has brought these voucher proposals to a vote that he is in someone's pocket and is not concerned about the education of our children. A dumb populace is not good for our state or our country. Couching these vouchers as school choice when people of lower incomes will still be unable to afford private schools, which also have the right to pick and choose which students they accept, and avoiding town halls where your constituents are voicing their concerns about said vouchers, is ridiculous, to say the least. You should not be taking money from public education to fund vouchers that have been shown in other states to not be beneficial and that will lead to lower quality education (especially for those of a lower socioeconomic background who, again, even with vouchers, will most likely not be able to afford private schools), segregation, and perhaps a host of other issues. You're supposed to be representing ALL of your constituents, not just the wealthy. Invest the money you all want to spend on vouchers on paying our teachers better, providing the students and teachers better resources, IMPROVING OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM.

Steven Baxley

Self, minister

Haslet, TX

It is time for the Texas legislature to adequately fund Texas public schools. The per student rate should be increased at a minimum to \$7500. If Texas has funds for vouchers, then it should have funds to dramatically increase funding for public schools as well. I am a life-long Republican voter.

Mallory Jones

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Increase the basic allotment to AT LEAST \$7500 and create just as much financial accountability as you do academic ANYONE receiving taxpayer funds.

Arlin Alvarez

Self

Austin, TX

I still remember my favorite teacher from 1st grade, Ms. Cheatum—stern but loving. I quickly learned the lesson of “not talking while others are talking” after writing it on wide-rule paper, line by line. She was patient, understanding, and ensured we had the educational foundation we needed. Our 5th-grade talent show revealed hidden talents among my classmates—and how bad I was at singing! Of course, the best part of the day was recess, playing “Bar Tag” on the parallel bars, where I usually came in second place. ?? Middle school was... well, middle school, but the teachers handled it with grace. My 8th-grade history teacher taught us U.S. history and the stock market—my stock had the highest gain! With the help of my middle school counselors, I got into a Magnet High School that helped shape my career. My public school years were full of phenomenal memories (too many to list)!

Think back to your childhood public education—those inspiring teachers, the friends you made, and the experiences that shaped who you are. Now, imagine if those opportunities were taken away from today’s kids. That’s what HB 3 will do if it passes, and I’m asking you to vote against it because it diverts money away from our public schools.

My daughters (ages 8 and 5) deserve a strong public education system—better than what I had, better than what WE had. Voting for this bill will harm our public education system, just like we’ve seen in other states.

We Want Fair Funding: Support an increase in the basic allotment, move to enrollment-based funding, and policies that support districts.

Worsens the Teacher Shortage: Underfunded schools mean fewer teachers. Teachers need real pay raises and smaller classes to stay in the profession. We need policies that focus on teacher retention and increase staffing.

Lacks Accountability: Public schools are held to strict standards, including STARR testing. Private schools taking voucher money have no real oversight. If they get to set their own rules, why are public schools held to higher standards? And it's OUR taxpayer dollars—where’s the accountability?

This Isn’t About School Choice: Public resources should NOT fund religious, private, or homeschools. Families can make their own educational choices, but my tax dollars should not be used for that.

Vouchers Have a History of Discrimination: Vouchers were originally used to avoid integration after Brown v. Board of Education. HB 3 continues this trend by prioritizing families who can already afford private schools, widening inequalities.

We’ve come so far, only to go backward. This isn’t about being “woke”; it’s about ensuring every child gets a quality education.

The Bottom Line: This Bill Hurts Public Schools

This bill drains billions from public education, worsens the teacher shortage, and lacks accountability.

If YOU truly care about education, invest in public schools, not take resources away.

Please vote NO on HB 3 and focus on real solutions that help all Texas students.

Christin Jones

Self

Rhome, TX

Please consider upping the cost per kid in public school to \$7100

Jeleah Roth

Self

Plano, TX

As a homeschool mother of 4 I oppose this bill.

Misti Naples

Self

Austin, TX

I am against the school voucher program. It will hurt our public schools and tge families that rely on these schools. The amount offered to individuals isn't enough to cover full tuition and will be detrimental to those that can't afford private schools to begin with. This is simply greed on the part of our governor and his wealthy friends that stand to profit from this Bill. This isn't what families of public school children want. We are already not receiving our fair share in Austin and this bill is insult to injury. I will not support any member of the state legislature that supports this bill.

Melissa DeGraff

Self, mother of 3 children in Texas schools

Pflugerville, TX

Vote no on HB3. Public dollars belong in public schools. This voucher problem will only help a small number of students and will raise private tuition prices. Its a money grab and will weaken our public schools. Public schools need support. Our education system is one of the worst in the nation.

Alisha Fickle

Self, teacher

FORT WORTH, TX

Please Increase Basic Allotment for public schools to \$7500 to allow for ISDs to account for inflation and increase in expenditures. We need to keep our teachers and our student/staff ratios. Without this increase, our school will have to lay off teachers. Please save our public schools!

Rodela Rosaisela

Self

Schertz, TX

NOBODY wants public finding for private schools except Abbott, who wants to line his pockets. This will be **DETRIMENTAL** to the public school system and the majority of Texas children, especially the most vulnerable--SPED, 504 and EB students. **NO TO PUBLIC FUNDING OF PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS ONCE AND FOR ALL!!**

Sara Cauble

Self

Tolar, TX

Requesting an increase in allotment due to inflation and cost of living

Angela Gonzalez

Self

El Paso, TX

We need school choice. Parent would be able to find a school that is a best fit for their child and family. All parents should be able to get a school choice voucher.

Valerie Sisk
Northside ISD
San Antonio, TX

Representative Buckley,

As an education leader in Northside ISD, I see firsthand the growing gap between the funding our schools receive and the rising costs of providing a high-quality education. HB3 must be the way forward, and absolutely can't be giving a student a pencil without any lead, helpful in theory, but not enough to get the job done.

Inflation has risen nearly 20%, yet the state's Basic Allotment remains stuck at \$6,160 per student—the same as it was in 2019. Meanwhile, school districts across Texas are struggling to keep up with teacher salaries, student resources, and operational costs, all of which have increased dramatically. To put it in perspective, if we had adjusted the Basic Allotment for inflation, it would be over \$7,000 per student today. That's the difference between hiring a quality teacher or leaving a classroom overcrowded.

In Northside ISD, we educate over 100,000 students, and we're seeing firsthand how these funding gaps impact our ability to recruit and retain the best educators. Districts are in deep deficits and are dipping into their reserves just to keep schools running—it's like trying to fill a leaky bucket with a teaspoon.

We know Texas values education, and we know you do too. Investing in our schools now means stronger communities, a more competitive workforce, and a future we can all be proud of. So, let's not let inflation steal opportunities from our students. We're not asking for a handout, just for the state to keep up with the times.

Representative Buckley, please keep the faith, as I know Texans believe in doing what's right, and right now, increasing the Basic Allotment is the best way to ensure our schools remain strong. Let's make sure Texas stays a leader in education, not just in spirit, but in actual dollars. I remember the "Don't Mess with Texas Public Schools" movement, and we need you to assure we meant that then, now, and always.

William Brummett, Mr.
The Brookside School (Austin, Texas) & Self
Austin, TX

As a Texan, teacher, and school leader who is unable to afford private education for my own children and who desires to help other families have access to high-quality educational options, I am FOR HB 3 and support empowering parents with ESAs. This program would empower parents and create a new educational landscape and marketplace rooted in the principle of freedom rather than feudalism. It would enable educational entrepreneurs like me to create new private schools, including ones that are more affordable than many current private schools that are designed to serve very wealthy families. I strongly believe that Texas will see new private schools in small rural towns and urban neighborhoods where many people have complained that "there are no private schools so how would this benefit families from that town or neighborhood?" I am so thankful for so many brave Texas House Members and Senators willing to stand up for parents, faith, and freedom, as well as teachers and school leaders, by supporting and co-authoring ESA bills this session. May God bless your resolve to stand with the Governor, each other, and the majority of Texas families and get this accomplished with haste!

David Vaughn
My grandchildren
Waco, TX

I have three children. One is a physician in Waco. One has a masters degree and works for Apple Computer in Austin. One is a police lieutenant in San Angelo. Two sibling brothers and myself are Electrical Engineers. My sister is an CPA. All were educated by the Texas public school system. Our education had been the foundation of generational wealth. I want the same opportunity for my grandchildren and ALL TEXAS CHILDREN. Please do not rob them by supporting the voucher system.

Barbara Watterson

Self/Educator

Austin, TX

While I acknowledge that families want more educational choices, this school voucher program does not create real choice for families. There are certainly many issues with our public education system that prevent it from effectively serving students, but funneling money out of this system and into private institutions through vouchers is not the solution to our problems. A strong public education system is integral to our democracy, and vouchers undermine public education. Additionally, these programs as implemented in other states lack proper accountability, exacerbate inequality, engage in exclusionary practices, fragment communities, exacerbate segregation, and decrease academic achievement. Instead of diverting funds to private institutions, perhaps you should focus on strengthening our public schools to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality education. This issue matters to me and I vote. Thank you.

Maria Redecop

Self, homemaker

Seagraves, TX

Please oppose HB 3!

Rachael Morales

Self

Abilene, TX

I demand that you represent your Texas constituents and vote against this bill. This bill is will jeopardize educational opportunities for thousands of children and only lines the pockets of the wealthy. Do your job and vote "no!"

Kenneth Shier, Teacher

Self

Corinth, TX

To our Representatives, from your constituents -

We urge you to stand firmly against HB3.

By providing taxpayer dollars for private school vouchers that will exceed the basic allotment for public school students by thousands of dollars, we risk undermining the very foundation of our communities and our state.

By prioritizing private school vouchers, we are effectively placing the interests of a few individuals above the needs of the many. This is a direct contradiction to the values of equity and fairness that our public education system strives to uphold. We must resist any efforts that prioritize profit over the well-being of our children.

The financial burden placed on taxpayers to support private education, without the checks and balances that govern public schools, raises serious concerns. We must ask ourselves: who truly benefits from this legislation? The answer is clear: it is the billionaires and special interest groups who stand to profit from the privatization of education. Their influence has already corrupted the integrity of our political system, as seen in the support of Governor Greg Abbott and others who prioritize profit over the future of our children.

It is imperative that we prioritize public education and the recapture dollars that are being held hostage by Greg Abbott. These funds should be utilized to enhance the quality of our public schools, ensuring that they have the resources needed to thrive. By investing in our public education system, we are investing in the future of Texas—our children, our workforce, and our communities.

I implore you to listen to the voices of your constituents who believe in the value of a strong public education system. LISTEN. NO ONE WANTS THIS. Opposing HB 3 is not just a political stance; it is a commitment to our children's future and to the principles of accountability and transparency that our public schools uphold.

Please stand against HB 3 and ensure that our public schools continue to receive the support they need to provide every child with a quality education.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

Emily Weems

Self

Houston, TX

Here's why I oppose School Vouchers:

1. There will be tax dollars going to schools that are not required to meet any state accountability standards. The Catholic church schools are often excellent, but many private schools are not on that level. Many private and parochial schools maintain their academic ratings by rejecting below-average students. Comparing private schools vs public school achievement so unfair. Private schools are not required to take anybody.
 2. The vouchers most likely will not cover the cost of the schooling. Private and parochial schools are expensive, with students often having to pay for e-textbooks and other things that public schools provide. Private schools do not have subsidized lunch programs for low-income families. Private schools also typically require uniforms, which is an additional cost. The reality is that this will really just funnel money to people rich enough to already send their kids to private schools.
 3. There is a provision to pay parents a reduced amount for home schooling. I knew one couple who home schooled their kids for medical reasons and were really good at it. The many others I have known that home schooled should have left their children's education to professionals.
 4. Private schools usually do not have any form of school transportation, which makes them completely impractical for families with two working parents who depend on neighborhood schools and school buses.
 5. Private schools are not required by the state to have any special education programs. Approximately 13% of Texas public school students are enrolled in some form of special education and require a wide range of services that private schools are not required or able to provide.
 6. Texas public schools are chronically underfunded. Texas ranks 44th out of 50 states on funding. This is despite billions of dollars of surplus tax dollars. It is intentionally underfunded by the same governor and State Legislature that want to take more money out of the system to reward their rich friends who send their kids to private prep schools.
 7. The cost of the program is probably being vastly understated. If you want to see what can happen with the cost of a school voucher program, just look at the state of Arizona. Their voucher program is completely breaking the budget for education in the state. I doubt Texas will be any different.
- The reality is that school vouchers are not a way to improve education in Texas. Adequate funding from the state and parental support of a system that is trying diligently to serve everyone's needs would be a big help.

Sincerely,

Emily Weems

Parent of two boys in public ed

Charles Phillips

Self, aerospace

Houston, TX

This bill MUST be defeated. It is clearly a gift for the wealthy, the amount of money made available cannot pay for a good education. Some schools will open that will accept this amount of money but they will soon be shown to not meet any recognized educational standards. So the wealthy that now send their kids to private schools will just get a big check. The public schools will be forced to cancel art and music classes, cancel Advanced Placement classes, because they cost additional money. I am NOT a "liberal" in any form, I have a BS in Physics from Angelo State University in San Angelo. I am a retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel. We should improve public education by making the school years longer, we should raise our expectations for graduation. But this will lower the learning in public schools and will produce a number of low quality private schools (that will soon fail). We will have to hire people to run our complex economy from other States and from other countries, we will not produce enough Texans with the skills to operate our systems.

Anne Stryker

Self

Houston, TX

I am AGAINST school vouchers. The Republican Party is destroying Texas. They've been in power almost 30 yrs and we have nothing to show for us. Just extremist politicians who are bought and paid for by special interests. Our public education system is one of the lowest in the nation because the Texas Legislature and governor don't spend any money on it. They aren't about "kids." Vouchers will only elevate the "elite."

Jennifer Lyon

Lee Elementary

Austin, TX

AISD Austin has provided so much value to our family beyond being free appropriate public education for all. My daughters, 12 year old twins, have various special needs. Our family considered the ability of a private school to create an environment we can trust, and time and time again, we have found the support of the local public school to be the best fit for them.

Therefore, our family of four opposes Texas HB 3 and the establishment of an educational savings account program.

Thank you.

Linda Montoya, Executive Director of School Leadership

Bryan ISD

College Station, TX

I vote NO to Education Savings Accounts and Vouchers. Public school funding needs to go into making the public school system the best and strongest in the state. Sitting at number 42 is not ok. Holding public school funding hostage after the last legislative session 2023 when vouchers were attached and did not pass after numerous special sessions was not a good decision for our Texas children nor was it good for teachers. Using public funds for private school students is not the answer. Our Texas children and teachers deserve better. I strongly vote NO to ESAs and Vouchers! This is not a political issue this is a Texas issue that will affect all 5.4 million children in the state of Texas. 158 out of 254 counties in Texas do not even have private schools. Taking public funds and making them available to the wealthy is shameful. Taking 12 million dollars from a billionaire donor is also shameful. It is a sad day in Texas when the governor is not fighting for public education which is the backbone to our communities. You are creating a system of haves and have nots! There is no research that proves ESAs and vouchers provide a better education for children. On the contrary, what has been proven is that has made the wealthy wealthier. I have worked in public education for 33 years and have watched our public school system decline over the last 10 years because of the lack of support from Governor Abbott and the legislature. Do what is right by the 5.4 million children in Texas by making the public school system #1 in the nation, compensating our teachers who educate every single child who walks through our public school doors. Build these heroes up and support them in every way you can. They educate our doctors, lawyers, nurses, musicians, politicians, teachers, artists, athletes and they receive few accolades! NO to ESAs and Vouchers! Fully fund our public schools!

Erin Cotter, Dr

Self, author

Austin, TX

I do not approve of this bill. Public funds belong in public schools and as a Texan taxpayer I'm not sending someone's else child to a private school with my money.

Jeanette Castelan, Mrs

self

Leander, TX

I have three children who have been in the Texas education system. One who is currently in high school with an IEP. Our journey has been tough getting appropriate support throughout her time in school. Even with proper rules in place, they are vague and difficult to enforce. Taking money OUT of the school system for vouchers to go to the ALREADY privileged families, hurts the entire system that Gov Abbott is keeping underfunded with his hold on the school budget. The DEA found our state to be illegally capping the number of students receiving special education services and demanded the cap be lifted. They did, however no additional funding was provided and we have been doing more with less ever since. Children with special needs do not thrive in private schools as they can be legally discriminated against if admitted at all. Our schools and children deserve a proper education that is properly funded, not shuffling around money with the recapture that has been going on for years. Now this bill wants to gut it further. This is insane that it is even being considered. Please vote against robbing our children for the privileged few and lining the pockets of the private school sector. Public institutions are to provide and serve the public, not profit and abuse them.

Carol Hollaway

self

Galveston, TX

I am steadfastly opposed to HB3 and SB2--two private school voucher scams. These efforts serve only to subvert the public education of Texas' children using my tax dollars. Instead of appeasing three billionaires with their white Christian nationalist agendas, you could better serve your constituents by improving education for all children. You should concentrate your efforts and state funding on improving our public schools, which you have systematically shortchanged for so long. No one is fooled by this attempt to segregate our state's school children into whites and nonwhites, haves and have-nots. Your constituents do not want this. When will you give them a chance to be heard? Where are your town hall meetings? You are fooling no one so stop touting this legislation as an answer to better education. Put that \$1 billion into the state fund for public education and concentrate on improving the education of all our children.

Jacqueline Flesher

Kealing Middle School PTA

Austin, TX

As a parent of middle schoolers, Henry and George, who attend an Austin magnet school, I understand the importance of school choice. However, I believe that school vouchers are not the solution. Rather than diverting funds away from public schools, we should focus on improving and adequately funding the schools that serve the majority of students, ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has access to high-quality education. Our magnet school is a fantastic option for my children, but we need to ensure all public schools have the resources they need to provide exceptional education for all students. Let's invest in our teachers and public schools, not in programs that undermine them.

I strongly support increasing funding for Texas teachers to ensure they are among the highest-paid in the nation. Teachers play a crucial role in shaping the future of our children, and it's time we prioritize their compensation to reflect the immense value they bring to our communities. Investing in teachers will have a lasting positive impact on our education system, benefiting students, families, and Texas at large.

Brandon Broom

BSc Ocean Engineering - retired, Aransas County Democratic Party

Rockport, TX

From the perspective of my stated career background, I have found no studies or analysis to support any claim that the proposed Education Savings Account program will contribute to advancing goals of achievement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in Texas. From what I have gleaned in reviewing the TEPSAC website, I find it appalling to see statements on the TEXAS LEGAL REQUIREMENTS webpage such as: "Accreditation: optional, Registration: no requirements, Licensing: no requirements, Approval: no requirements" and under the TECHNOLOGY category it reads "No state policy currently exists". Looking at the robust state of private institutions existing in Texas today, it also seems that a dire need for assistance from the State of Texas for parents wanting to embark on this risky path for their families is not a reliable claim. Furthermore, while there are existing programs for STEM development under TEA and none that I can see recognized under TEPSAC, why on earth would the vast community of professionals in the great United States of America committed to the ideal of protection the public interest through standards of accreditation in STEM related professional societies be blithely accepting of entry level prospects schooled in formative years under such a paucity of oversight? This program is not even close to passing a test for noxious components! . I urge every member of the 89th Legislature to support, enhance and improve standards of public education in Texas.
I DO NOT SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVE BRAD BUCKLEY'S LATEST BILL!

Kristine Robinson

self / social worker

Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. School savings accounts, aka vouchers, are a way to further extract funding away from our underfunded public school system. Our public schools need an increase in their basic allotment. This bill essentially provides subsidies for higher income Texans to send their children to private school. Bills should focus on the good of all, not the good of a few.

BobbieAnn White, Dr.

Self, Associate Professor

Salado, TX

As a former school board member (Salado ISD) who served 6 years, I became quite familiar with school funding. Additionally, I am a product of public-school education (Corpus Christi ISD) and my husband Dr. Heath White is a product of public school education (Daingerfield ISD). We and all our friends/colleagues are against the voucher program.

Our state constitution is one of the few that promises to educate our population, yet we are behind and continue to cripple our public schools. Public school has not been appropriately funded for more than 10 years, despite the state continuing to have a surplus in taxes. And, despite Dr. Brad Buckley's previous attempt to do so (thank you Dr. Buckley for trying to fund our schools). When other states are in surplus, taxes are refunded to the taxpayer, yet our state continues to keep the money rather than spend it where appropriate (on public education). We need quality education for all not just for those who can afford it. Vouchers take our hard-earned tax dollars out of our underfunded public schools and gives those dollars to private schools. We (the state) may have enough money to pay for both vouchers and public-school funding now, but when that surplus runs out - we know what will be cut - not vouchers - it will be our public schools...

Part of the reason we have been able to thrive as a state is that we are fiercely independent. Please continue to be so and stand for ALL students in our state - uphold our state constitution: "state legislature is responsible for establishing and maintaining public schools." - Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Erin Valdez

Self, Higher Education Professional

Austin, TX, TX

Texas has an historic opportunity to improve the lives of millions of children by creating an education savings account program. I was homeschooled in the 1980's in Florida. Neither of my parents had a college education and we were very poor. Nevertheless, my mom and dad wanted what was best for their kids and were resourceful in identifying curriculum and support groups to provide us an education that gave all of us a chance to be successful and happy. If ESAs had been available at the time, the program would have made a huge difference to my family. As early homeschool pioneers, we faced skepticism from family and scrutiny from strangers. But my parents were confident in their choice and made enormous sacrifices to educate us at home. Texas needs to join the 15+ states with universal school choice to allow ALL families to educate their children according to their values. I hope that this legislature will make history by voting with parents for HB 3.

Jessica Payan

Community member

San Antonio, TX

Our public tax dollars need to remain at public schools, not private. If allowing private schools access to these funds is unavoidable then they MUST have the same accountability as public schools and required to serve students with disabilities.

Heidi Gibbons

self retired

Austin, TX

Please vote no on HB 3. We all want well-educated Texas children. Strengthening public schools I believe is a smarter use of Texas funds. Accountability, qualified teachers, all students are welcome at public schools. Assistance is in place for children with disabilities. Private schools have none of those traits. Didn't you attend public schools? Please, as a 48 year resident of Texas and long-time voter, I'm asking you to just vote NO on HB 3. Thank you.

Jania Villarroel

Srlfy

Arlington, TX

Dear House Committee Members,

I am a Latin, conservative, homeschool family in Tarrant county and a masters level professional. My family chose for me to focus on educating our son and on one income. We take education very seriously and after researching educational methodologies from around the world we settled on homeschooling since we are life long learners and no model fits our educational beliefs. As proud Texans we value our homeschool freedoms and we proudly fund our son's educational needs ourselves. We are not interested in any government subsidy to continue to homeschool our son. Nor are we interested nor believe in standardized testing or public funds going towards private interests. We strongly believe in the Leeper ruling of homeschooling being defined as a private education. As you can see, we already have and execute our "school choice". Our only position of consideration would be our homestead taxes being exempt as homeschoolers to utilize as we see fit in our son's education. As your constituent, we ask that you do not support government education subsidies in our beloved state of Texas. If people are interested in these limited government subsidies then they are welcome to go to states like California that embrace big government and subsidies of all kinds. We the people of Texas are more interested in our freedoms and we ask that you protect those freedoms by not voting for HB 3. In our vast homeschool communities we have yet to meet anyone in support of this bill this session nor as history has shown in past sessions. If for whatever reasons you feel the best position for you would be to not listen to your constituents by voting for this bill, please add language that distinguishes between accredited private organizations vs unaccredited private entities like homeschoolers which would keep the Leeper ruling intact and our freedoms in place. However, moving forward with this bill would also be fiscally irresponsible to the people of Texas. We don't need more government and we homeschoolers do not educate with the government. Please vote no HB 3.

Kelsey Wise
self-teacher
Grapevine, TX

I am opposing HB 3 because it directly undermines the quality of education that Texas students receive. The bill proposes funding cuts and prioritizes property tax reductions over adequately investing in schools, which can lead to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and potential job cuts for educators. Something, I have personally experienced in my 7 years as a kindergarten teacher. As teachers, we're already stretched thin with limited resources, and HB 3's measures would make it harder to provide the individual attention students need to succeed. It also fails to address the real issues of underfunding that have disregarded our education system for years, further burdening teachers who are already working tirelessly with fewer resources. Simply put, this bill doesn't support educators or students—it deepens the challenges we face in the classroom. I am strongly opposing this bill and hope that you follow suit with what the majority of Texas constituents want, not what is of benefit to you, personally.

Debra Haer
Self/retired
Richardson, TX

I oppose vouchers! You're stealing money away from public education!

Amanda Verell
Self, parent and digital product manager
Leander, TX

Vote NO!
Fully fund public schools. No vouchers!

April Siver
Self
Sanger, TX

I am writing to request that you vote against the education savings account program. I am 100% positive that this bill will be of no benefit to the students who need help with their education, nor to the majority of the students in the state. Please be warned that we Texans are getting tired of those we entrust to manage our money in our collective best interest, doing the exact opposite. If you can't understand what is in the best interest of our state system of education, we are capable of finding your replacements. We are all watching what each of you vote for. This is not a threat; it is a promise!
Thank you for reading this.
April Siver

Jennifer Tyson
Self/ hairstylist
San Antonio, TX

HB3 goes against Texas constitution Article 3, Section 51, of the Texas Constitution provides in part: "The Legislature shall have no power to make any grant or authorize the making of any grant of public moneys to any individual, association of individuals, municipal or other corporations whatsoever.

Y'all better rethink this bill.

Maranda Lehnerz

Self

Austin, TX

Please do not vote HB 3 out of committee. Our students deserve fully funded public schools, not a system that siphons public tax dollars to 1.8% of the student population. If we want to make Texas #1 in Education, public schools need the full support of the state. It is not fiscally responsible nor does it align with fiscal conservative values. How will the education savings accounts be funded in the future? Why are you ok with spending that much money on so few students?

I am the parent of a child who receives special education services. Our public schools provide services for my child like ADHD accommodations and accommodations for dysgraphia. What private schools in Texas offer these services and would take my child? If private schools are not required to meet the same standards as public school how can you tell me that she would be treated fairly? How many available spots are there for students with disabilities? You need to provide a list as a resource for parents. Prove your assertion that you want to give students with disabilities a "choice."

What aid will be provided for transport and additional costs needed for private schools? A better option is to competitively fund our public schools. Don't let Texas be at the bottom of state funding dollars in this country. Our kids deserve well funded public schools. Texas could be a great driver of innovation if we invested in our students. Imagine the possibilities if we didn't have to worry about budget deficits!

How would you vote if you were beholden to our kids and no one else? Stop HB 3—Texan students deserve it.

Andrea Alaniz

Self

Hutto, TX

A private school voucher scam will defund our neighborhood schools. Even the smallest voucher program being proposed would result in millions of dollars drained from our schools. As DontDefundMySchool.com demonstrates, class sizes will grow, teachers will get laid off, and neighborhood schools will close.

Chantelle Valdez

Self

Round Rock, TX

I do not support school voucher systems. This will impact my family greatly and take away support within the public school for my children. Please think about the families that will not be able to utilize the voucher system and consider the deprivation of support this will cause.

Martha Flores

Self/education

Lubbock, TX

I would like to request a 1500 increase in the Basic Allotment for all public schools in Texas. Please.

I would also like request for you to Vote NO on the Vouchers (HB3).

Arden Decker, Dr.

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose ESAs (education saving accounts) as outlined in HB 3. I support public money being used for public education.

Kelly Peschke

Self- pharmacist

Dallas, TX

Please vote against the education savings account. We want more money going to public school funding. Please don't support vouchers. Support an increase in the basic allotment for public schools.

Kaylynn Burns

Self

Friendswood, TX

An education savings account would be providing money to mostly those who already choose to put their children in private schools. The amount this would provide would not cover the tuition at private schools and most low income to middle income families cannot afford the difference. Also, private schools do not have to accept all students so many would not be accepted. Private schools do not provide the needed services for many students with special needs. In addition, there is no transportation and most activities will have additional fees. If a student gets removed from a private school, the money would not go back to public schools. Public schools accept all students and provide needed services for all students. Public schools are required to meet state standards but private schools are not. Private schools do not require teachers to meet state certification standards. Texas public schools receive funding based on attendance so more students in private school means less funding. Texas already does not provide adequate funding for students. Texas needs to provide more funding for public education and not education savings accounts (vouchers) that would mostly benefit the wealthy.

Kelly Grey Carlisle, Dr.

Self

San Antonio, TX

No! No! No! to school vouchers. Private K-12 schools don't need welfare and they shouldn't get state funds unless they are forced to accept and support all students. Our neighborhood schools are something a Texans can be proud of and they deserve our support. My children thrive in their schools, especially in the marching band, honors courses, and stem. Their teachers are caring professionals who devote their careers to our students. Do not destroy our amazing public schools to give a handout to already well-funded private schools who have no interest in educating the vast majority of our children, especially those who are struggling, have learning disabilities, or come from disadvantaged families. No!

Erica Courtenay-Mann

Self

SPRING, TX

The Hidden Dangers of Education Savings Account Programs

Education Savings Account (ESA) programs are often marketed as a way to expand school choice, but the reality is that they **undermine the quality of education for working-class families** while funneling public tax dollars into institutions that are not held to the same standards as public schools. These programs primarily **benefit students who are already in private schools**, rather than expanding opportunities for those in struggling communities. Studies of similar programs have shown that the vast majority of voucher funds do not go to new students seeking better educational options but instead subsidize tuition for families who were already paying for private education.

Unlike public schools, **private institutions are not required to admit all students**, particularly those from low-income backgrounds or those with disabilities. Families who rely on specialized support services may find that the schools accepting ESA funds are unwilling or unable to meet their needs, leaving the most vulnerable students with **fewer options** rather than more. Additionally, **private, religious, and home schools receiving these taxpayer dollars operate with little to no oversight**. They are not required to adhere to state curriculum standards, provide certified teachers, or demonstrate academic success in the same way public schools must.

Ultimately, ESA programs **redirect public funds away from the very students who need them most**, benefiting a select group while leaving many behind. These policies **enable institutions that lack accountability** and often turn a blind eye to the mistreatment of marginalized students, further widening educational disparities rather than closing them.

Carmen Deluna

Self

San Marcos, TX

Dear Texas Legislator,

As a proud Texan, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. I believe private school subsidies are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair. Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Public schools in Texas are underfunded by billions of dollars every year. The Comptroller is projecting a large increase in state revenue over the next two years compared to the past two years, and that money should go to fully funding public education.

Private schools pick and choose which students to admit. Vouchers force taxpayers to subsidize private schools' preferences. And without elected boards or state oversight, vouchers give away tax dollars with no financial or academic accountability. Public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students, serving all the students in their boundaries. They build the workforce that powers the Texas economy. We can't afford to underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future.

We elect legislators to represent the interests of their communities. Responding to their communities, Texas legislators have rejected private school subsidies time after time.

In the face of increasing pressure from special interests, I pledge that I will stand with my legislators in opposing vouchers. When they vote against private school subsidies, I will make sure all their constituents know they did the right thing

Sara Burleson

Self

Midland, TX

I am against HB3 due to private schools receiving tax payer funds. Texas was built on public schools and educating all students in Texas. Not only will a few students be able to use the money but you are also building another bureaucracy to funnel the funds to schools. The absurd amount of waste is enough to vote no. Texas needs to fund public education not private schools. Tex's should set the highest standard for public education in this nation.

Also the private schools will not be held to the same standards as public schools regarding mandates and testing. How is this fair? Please stop and think about what you are Texans to support when the support is not there for this bill.

Andrea Brothers

Self

Austin, TX

We do not want vouchers in Texas!

Phyllis Webster, Ms

Self

Plano, TX

As a retired public educator I saw first hand the effects of funding on public schools. Public schools are the backbone of this nation. State funding for private and charter goes against every public school child. It promotes segregation , teaching of religion, etc. Americans have a choice to send their children to private school if they want a religious or segregated education for their child, but that should not be supported by our tax dollars. Low income students , inner city and rural students will suffer. It's a disgrace that dollars intended for our public schools are being held hostage by our governor so he can get the vote he wants. Please stand up for public education. Please put our tax dollars to work where they are needed the most.

Beth Warmerdam

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Please say NO to HB 3.

Thank you.

Julie Minnick

Self / Parent/Consultant

Austin, TX

I have two children who attend Cypress Springs Elementary in the Dripping Springs ISD. We LOVE our school, teachers and administration and want public dollars to stay with public schools. A main reason we moved to Dripping Springs was because of the wonderful public education that our children would receive. The dollars paid by taxpayers should continue to fund the 5.5 million children that attend public schools and not the small minority that attend private schools. We want to see MORE funding for public schools, not less! Please vote NO to HB 3

Casey Feldt

Self

San Antonio, TX

Education is the foundation of our society and it is our greatest equalizer, if appropriated fairly. Giving money to a private school takes public funding away from public education. Private schools do not have to follow the same regulations and requirements as public schools and are "rated" by a separate set of standards. If you want to give public dollars to private institutions then make them play by the same rules.

Jessica Hayes

Self -teacher

Anna, TX

Our schools need funding and support. There are so many important positions that need their roles to be safeguarded. When funding is taken, pivotal roles are being lost and teachers and students will suffer the consequences.

Terry Krotz

Self

Bryan, TX

Dear Members of the Texas Legislature,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed school voucher bill, which aims to allocate public funds to private educational institutions through education savings accounts. While I understand the intention to provide families with more educational choices, I believe this bill, in its current form, may have unintended consequences that could negatively impact our public education system.

One of my primary concerns is the potential diversion of essential funding from public schools to private institutions. Public schools rely heavily on state funding to provide quality education, and redirecting these funds could exacerbate existing resource shortages, particularly in underfunded districts. This shift may lead to larger class sizes, reduced extracurricular opportunities, and diminished support services for students who remain in the public school system.

Additionally, the bill does not mandate private schools to accept all students, which raises concerns about equitable access. Without such requirements, there's a risk that private institutions might selectively admit students, potentially excluding those with special needs or from low-income families. This could leave the most vulnerable students in under-resourced public schools, further widening the educational disparity. ?

Transparency and accountability are also significant issues. Private schools are not held to the same standards as public schools in terms of curriculum requirements, standardized testing, and public reporting. Allocating taxpayer dollars to institutions without robust oversight mechanisms may result in inconsistent educational outcomes and a lack of public accountability.

Furthermore, the proposed voucher amounts may not fully cover private school tuition, especially in more expensive institutions. This could limit the practical accessibility of private education to families who can afford to pay the difference, thereby not effectively serving the low-income families that the bill intends to help. ?

Given these concerns, I urge the Legislature to reconsider the implementation of the school voucher bill. Instead, I advocate for increased investment in our public schools to address existing challenges and ensure that all students, regardless of their socioeconomic status, have access to quality education. Strengthening the public education system benefits not only our students but also the broader community by fostering a well-educated and equitable society.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Terrance Krotz

Paula Lezama
Self - Research Assistant
Manor, TX

I am writing to express my deep concern about HB2 and the proposed \$220 increase per student for Texas public schools. While any increase is appreciated, \$220 falls far short of the \$1,000 to \$1,400 that education experts say is necessary to properly support our students. This also does nothing to address the \$4,400 gap between Texas's per-student spending and the national average.

It's especially disheartening to see how the pride Texans feel about everything being "bigger and better" doesn't extend to supporting our children's education. This is painfully evident in the lack of investment in our schools, where teachers, staff, and administrators are doing their best with a steady decrease in resources.

My own experience as a parent has been a mix of both hope and heartbreak. My 6-year-old son was born prematurely and has developmental delays. He has been fortunate to have a dedicated team of teachers and staff who have gone above and beyond to ensure he has the tools and support he needs to overcome these challenges. They've developed individualized plans for his needs and offered after-school help, all while working with a stretched budget.

However, despite their best efforts, the needs of our children are so vast, and the resources so scarce, that many things simply fall through the cracks. Whether it's classroom supplies or specialized services for children with developmental delays like my son, we are forced to make do with the bare minimum. Teachers and staff are working tirelessly, but they are constantly running up against the limits of what is possible with the resources at hand.

My son's school serves a community where over 60% of students live under the poverty line. We cannot rely on the goodwill of philanthropists to fill the gaps left by a government that has failed to properly invest in our children. It is frustrating to hear that we are "blessed" because things could be worse, but that's not a solution—it's a reflection of how far behind we are compared to other states.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed funding and to increase the per-student allocation to better meet the needs of Texas students. However, I also strongly urge you to immediately disburse the \$220 per student from HB2. While this amount is far below what is truly needed, it will still make a difference in the short term. Our teachers and staff are doing everything they can, but without the necessary funding, there is so much they can do. We saw what happened with educators leaving the system in masse, we see the inability of our schools to retain the best and brightest. How are we supposed to rise innovators and creators ready for the challenges of this changing world when we are unable as a society to provide even the bare minimum?

Please listen to the voices of parents, teachers, and advocates who have been calling for change. The future of our children and our state depends on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carol Hubbard
Concerned Texan
Georgetown, TX

Dear Texas Legislature -- you are serving your state at a historical time in Texas. Public Schools are on their last leg after the state government successfully cut off their oxygen the last 5 years. If you are not losing sleep at night, you should be. Now we have the last straw, you are going to concede to our governor's wishes and divert public tax dollars to private education. Some say this is a concession we must make. We do not agree. We believe you can say NO to vouchers and YES to public education funding. But if you must concede, then at least have the courage to fight for SUBSTANTIAL public school funding so we can ensure Texas teacher salaries are competitive and our curriculum is robust and truly prepares our children to future employment and participation in our democracy (or what is left of it). With teacher salaries 44th in the nation and our academic performance at 32nd, we are a failing state. Yes, a state that has one of the largest economies in the world, but we can not even educate our children properly. Shame on us, Texas. It is time to really get to work and fix our public schools -- not force them to close.

Carol Caron
Parent
Willow Park, TX

Please pass this bill. Public education is failing. My child with Down syndrome is being denied access to general education in the 4th grade. Despite laws like IDEA and ESSA the school denies my repeated requests to include my child. We need options from the school districts that regard themselves as untouchable. Vote YES!

Susan Gebren
Self
Bedford, TX

Please do not pass HB3. My HEBISD would loose over 9 million dollars. I have taught in private and public schools. Instead of paying for vouchers, let's funnel that money into public schools, public charter/ magnets, Let public schools have the freedom of private schools.

Melany Troller
Self
Georgetown, TX

As a voter, property tax payer, and mother, I oppose any amount of public funding for private schools. This is an unacceptable use of my tax dollars and undermines our public school system which sustains and supports all of our children. These funds would be better used to improve struggling schools and strengthening our communities. This bill effectively throws money away and is a drain on our economy. We, the voters and your constituents, do NOT want this.

Patricia Goode
SELF
North Richland Hills, TX

I OPPOSE THE TRANSFER OF TAXPAYER FUNDS TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS. INSTEAD, PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHOULD BE FUNDED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN ORDER TO EDUCATE ALL STUDENTS AND INCREASE TEACHER PAY. RAISE THE ALLOTMENT PER CHILD AT LEAST BY \$1000 AND BASE THE ALLOTMENT ON ENROLLMENT, NOT ATTENDANCE. FOLLOW THE LAW OF TEXAS AS DELINEATED IN THE STATE CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 7, SECTIONS 1,5C, AND 7. DO THE RIGHT THING FOR RIGHT THING FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

David Wiley
Self - retired
Lakeway, TX

I am completely opposed to this bill and the concept of school vouchers. They are effectively a tuition subsidy to the wealthy and the term "school choice" is a serious misnomer. Our state has a huge budget surplus and our public schools are seriously underfunded on a per student basis. Vouchers will add further to this mess by diverting funds which should be going to public schools. Let those who choose private and religious schools fund their own tuition. Now THAT is school choice. The least fortunate and well off of our population will not be helped by vouchers, either because their locality has no private schools, or because their incomes are so low that even with a voucher they can't afford them. This is a serious matter and the governor is completely disingenuous, if not dishonest in his campaign for vouchers. He is completely beholden to a few wealthy campaign donors. Most Texans, including many republicans are against vouchers. Listen to the voters! Vote no!

Alondra Deleon
Self
Rockwall, TX

Juan Cervantes

Self

Plano, TX

I am in opposition for the education savings program. Using tax dollars to help pay for private programs that do not have any regulatory requirements for admittance and are free to push their own agendas isn't supporting education for all. It's just a tax break for those that can already afford private education. Any local leader that votes for this is doing this for a few instead of looking to provide more tax dollars to our public education system already in place.

Cynthia Engel, Ms.

Self

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose the school voucher program. Public schools are already underfunded and would be hurt by vouchers. I also strongly oppose cutting property taxes, since they fund our schools.

Patti Burks

self - retired

Dallas, TX

I do not believe that the school vouchers system creates real choice for families. While it may help a small number of families, it will be to the detriment of the majority of Texas children and public school districts. A strong public education system is integral to our democracy, and vouchers undermine public education and enrich private institutions. We need to strengthen our public schools so that all Texas children, regardless of background or economic ability will have access to a high quality education.

Michelle Jordan

Self

Fate, TX

School vouchers defund public education (my kids are students and I am a teacher at a public school), they allow tax payer money to go to private schools that have no accountability, they benefit mostly the wealthy, they are bad for rural communities, and they leave students behind especially those with disabilities. A parent is free to send their kid to private school, but you can't ask the tax payer to foot the bill. We have a limited budget for public schools and we simply can't afford it. Public dollars should be for public schools.

Ashleigh Diacogiannis, Mrs

Self

Austin, TX

I plead with you to pass this bill! I am the mom of exceptional kids and we have turned to public, private, and homeschooling to educate them. I would love to take the full allotment of government funds they could benefit from at public school, but even a fraction of that would seriously lighten the burden our family has had to bear. I know this legislation won't solve EVERY problem, but that doesn't mean we can't solve ANY problems. And this legislation will be a godsend for many Texas families, including my own!

Diane Watson, Retired

Self retired

Pflugerville, TX

The Texas State Constitution outlines the duty Texas has to make suitable provisions for and maintain an efficient public education system. Any vouchers passed in Texas should not take away from the goal of educating the 5.5 million students currently enrolled in Texas public schools – young Texans who are the future workforce and driver of our economic success for the long term.

The 89th Legislature should focus on investing in public schools and strengthening the teaching profession, so current and future generations of Texans will continue to have high-quality educational choices in our neighborhood public schools. No Vouchers

Amy Hwan
Self
Houston, TX

This bill is a voucher scam. How is it not crystal clear that providing school vouchers or ESAs is simply welfare for the wealthy? The entire school voucher idea is a terrible idea designed to line the pockets of those wanting to profit off our kids. The states which have tried school vouchers had disastrous results and Texas should avoid following their footsteps. We already have school choice. Those of us who wish to take our kids to private schools can do so at their own expense without using taxpayer funds. Using public funds for private charter schools and private religious education institutions is a serious breach of our state's constitution. What Governor Abbott needs to do is fund public education, not starve it and then declare that it is broken and in need of repair by school vouchers. What will prevent private schools from increasing their tuition costs by the same amount of the vouchers? How will they be accountable to the public? Who will enforce compliance among pop-up charter schools? What standards will they be held to? What certifications are needed to open up a school or teach at a private school? What if there are no such schools available in the area? Who will provide transportation to these schools? Who are the select few that will benefit from these vouchers? Private schools can pick and choose who they want as students. There's nothing prohibiting them from refusing to teach special education students, non-English speakers, or those in need of accommodations. What then? The funding for the public schools which already have standards in place will have been siphoned off by this voucher bill. The solution is simple: fund public education with public funds per our state's constitution. Do not create a voucher system ripe for fraud, waste, and corruption.

Sabrina Ogle
Public School Teachers and Students
Dallas, TX

I am writing you today to defend the foundation of our communities—our public schools.

Public schools educate the students private schools don't want.

When private schools reject students with disabilities because they require too much support, public schools provide the resources they need to succeed.

When private schools turn away children with behavioral challenges, public schools give them structure, guidance, and a second chance.

When private schools refuse to enroll English language learners because they require extra resources, public schools teach them, support them, and open doors to their future.

When private schools push out students who struggle academically, who can't afford tuition, or who don't fit their mold, public schools lift them up, meet them where they are, and help them thrive.

Vouchers don't expand opportunity. They take taxpayer dollars away from schools that serve everyone and hand them to private schools that pick and choose.

Public schools don't turn students away. They don't sort kids into "too difficult" or "too many resources." They educate every child, no matter what.

We must invest in public schools because public schools invest in all of us. Let's fund them, strengthen them, and fight for them—because every child deserves a school that won't turn them away. Vote NO on HB 3 and support those who support ALL students.

Thank you.

Shawna Ostlie
Self/Parent
Fort Worth, TX

I am very concerned about how HB 3 will effect my daughter's education. She has Down syndrome, which is already misunderstood by many. With the many changes in DEI, please remember the children like her that inclusion positively helps. I know many parents that have conservative values that are concerned about this bill.

Judy Crowe, Mrs
myself, Professional Fine artist and teacher
Bluff Dale, TX

Please vote against school vouchers...please protect our public schools! Our public schools are the backbone of every community, including our small community. Our public schools are essential in providing quality education for all children and young adults. Thank you for your vote to protect our communities by protecting our public school systems.

Stephanie Harding, M.Ed, LPC
Self, Licensed Professional Counselor
Lubbock, TX

Over the past three years, Texas' ranking for youth mental health care access has declined, highlighting a growing crisis in the state's ability to provide adequate mental health services to its younger population. This drop is credited to factors such as a severe shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists and limited mental health resources in schools. FCCWELLBEING.COM Once they get to college, it's much worse. When it comes to providing access to mental health services to college students, Texas ranks last in the nation with a 0.0 score on a scale of zero to 10, according to a new study released recently. "The obstacle Texas students face in getting care is the lack of an available workforce in mental health, the analysis by addiction treatment facility Origins Recovery found. The behavioral-health researchers crunched numbers from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and rankings from Mental Health America.... Texas placed second-to-last to Arizona in mental health workforce availability, which the study identified as the biggest problem to access, alongside one in five Texans not having insurance. What's more, even more Lone Star State residents have insurance that doesn't cover or inadequately covers mental health treatment." The \$1 billion in funding for this program could instead be used to fund mental and behavioral health programs in public schools. Also, consider more funding for the Children's Behavioral Health Strategic Plan, instead of the school voucher program, which has failed in other states.

Mariann Jones
Self
Lewisville, TX

I urge you to vote against this bill. We need to fund our public schools not private schools. All students deserve an education. Diverting funds to the private schools will hurt the public schools and teachers in this state

Deborah Harkness
Self, artist
Lago Vista, TX

Do not support defending our public schools to give wealthy people money for their kids to go to private schools. Every student deserves a fair education

Rebecca Bain, Mrs.

Fruitvale ISD

Fruitvale, TX

Vouchers are segregation of rich and poor, this is welfare for the wealthy and it is not at all about parent choice but about huge donors in your pockets. We the people, all educators are banning together like never before and will vote out all who support this push for vouchers.

Public dollars belong in the constitutional requirement for free public schools, outside of that everyone should fund their own choices, if they don't believe that what the government is providing (which by the way is great public schools- have you been to Van Zandt County? Every district is fantastic, come see us.) is sufficient they are welcome to transfer districts or pay to go to a school that chooses who they allow in, chooses what they will teach and who they allow to teach it and has zero accountability to our great state. Public education has guardrails, public accountability, and is open to educate all students!!! ALL, this voucher push is embarrassing our great state- with fantastic rural schools. If you need to fix Dallas, Houston and San Antonio- create legislation for those areas, the rest of the state is in great hands.

You have no way of policing the chaos this will bring, we already have a mess with so called home schooling which really outside of a few really good folks is parents who don't want to hold their kids to standards and let them quit school and we sign off that homeschooling is happening. So, we end up with uneducated youth and now we want to hand them money and no accountability? It makes zero sense.

The super majority of Public schools in Texas are providing a wonderful education to all children!!! Not just some students but all, and we need to fully fund and fully support those efforts. Teacher are the best we have in this world, they sacrifice themselves for the greater good- our children. They are underpaid, overworked and unappreciated by the state of Texas- and you want to further hurt them and our children. It is shameful!

It's never too late to rethink, reconsider and make the right decision, never to late- everyone can respect that...

Shirley Izbrand, Mrs.

Self

San Antonio, TX

Support our public schools! Support our communities. Support accountability. Support education for kids of all abilities. Support fairness. No taxpayer dollars for public schools.

Theodore Croy, Dr

Self

China Spring, TX

Will the difficulty that children and their families have in accessing these ESAs be less than or equal to the difficulty that property tax payers have experienced in accessing the \$24billion in surplus funds that the legislature seized and continues to hold? This precedent shows that the money only flows one way in Texas and that is away from taxpayers. Will taxpayers be able to choose to opt out of paying for the failing system that we are already saddled with? Please discuss.

David Diehl, Dr.

Tax Paying Home-Grown Texans

Houston, TX

Texans do not want Greg Abbott's private school voucher scam. If people have them money to place their children in private schools, let them do it. Do not take tax money to fund private schools. We don't want lower income children being denied anymore than they already are. And by the way, we damn sure do not want a select religion to be the focus of curriculum. Choice in the religion one follows is personal. Christianity and Catholicism can never be forced upon Texans as a state religion.

Katina Osth

Retired teacher

College Sta, TX

Support public education. Vouchers are smoke and mirrors. I don't want my tax dollars used for private schools.

Joni Groom
Self. Retired.
Cedar Creek, TX

SB2/HB3 grows government, weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money with zero accountability. It strips rural schools of funding, could send tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools, and violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education. Say NO to SB2 & HB3!

Dianne Miller
Self. Retired Public School Teacher
Buda, TX

Public Schools are the main education avenue for most students in the US. Public Schools need public tax monies to go to Public Schools ONLY! Public School Teachers must be supported with proper equipment and supplies as well. I do not want my tax dollars going to any type of private school or charter school. My tax dollars must go solely to Public Education.

Amy Wolford
Self—teacher
FRISCO, TX

First of all, the name here is misleading. This is not an "education savings account program." Thus is a way to give rich people a coupon for the private schools they're already using (while pandering to them for votes), and simultaneously destroying public education under the guise of "school choice." It is stupid, it's wrong, it's unethical, it's unconstitutional, and it's not what the VAST MAJORITY of people want. Pleas

Barbara Wiggins
Self
Killeen, TX

This bill will defund public education in the state of Texas. Please don't pass this bill. All children in this state have the right to a free education. There's no such thing as an education savings account program. No private school in this state has tuition for just \$10,000. Poor students and their families cannot pay a remaining balance out of pocket. So what would be the plan? Have those kids parents clean the school?

Ann Valme
Self/social worker
Austin, TX

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 3. I am asking my Representative and this Committee to vote no and to instead fully fund public education. We already have meaningful school choice in Texas - what we need are resources so that our public schools can deliver the education that each child in Texas deserves, and that which has already been mandated, with accountability and due process ensuring that delivery. We do not need resources for privatized schools to thrive with no or little accountability to the public. I don't believe proponents of this bill can point to any examples of similar laws in other states achieving any of the objectives that are the supposed motivation for this bill. To the contrary, voucher systems like this are a failed experiment, and if this bill moves forward, this will predictably harm more families than it helps. Thank you.

Shawna Rasco
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am a long time educator and this bill will have devastating impact on public schools. Everyone deserves a fair and equal education!

Linda Elmer
Self
Houston, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers. Please fund our schools!

Evelyn Matthews
Salado Area Republican Women
Jarrell, TX

By implementing HB3, parents will have the opportunity to choose what they feel is best for their children.

Traci Marlin, Mrs
Taxpayer, voter, parent, spouse of a teacher
McGregor, TX

My public taxes should not pay for someone's choice to go to a public school or home school. If the money follows the student, the same amount should go to public schools. And funding tied to education should include equal ties to mandates, special programs, and accountability. Be fair.

Mary Oconnell
Self - educator & parent
Round rock, TX

Please do not pass this. It will HARM the children of Texas. All of society benefits from having quality public schools. Tearing funding away through vouchers (even if they're paraded as something else) is a detriment to our schools. Texans love their public schools! It's the reason we moved to this state. Parents already have school choice, both within public schools and the private sector. Those families already choose to pay for private Ed and don't want vouchers to cause their tuition to increase. This bill helps no one except the billionaires who poured into the campaigns. The people who benefit are the ones who get richer (hint: it's not the general public).

Travis Thompson
Self
Graham, TX

I oppose.

Alan Gant, Dr.
self, retired
Plano, TX

This bill removes funding from the Texas public school system, which is already struggling for more funding. In much of rural Texas, there are no available private schools, so the reduction in funding will be especially hard felt. In other states that have funded similar voucher systems, only those already able to afford private education are using these voucher funds, so no additional access is provided. Public schools in Texas are popular throughout the state, and polls show that a significant majority of Texans are opposed to vouchers like this bill proposes. Please vote what Texans want and against this bill.

Kelly Strzinek
Self
Keller, TX

Public school funding should be first. Increase allotment to catch up to inflation. THEN create a voucher program with what's left.

Zabel Kimberly, Mrs.

Self

Ingleside, TX

No vouchers!!! I have worked in Public education for 34 years. It's already underfunded. I'm not against people choosing where their children attend school, but it shouldn't be paid by the public school system. Please don't demolish public education and the future of educators.

Marilyn Crain

None

Austin, TX

I do not approve of funding education vouchers using tax payer money. This will weaken public education in Texas. Vote no

Ashley Marling, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

The education savings account program will devastate communities across Texas and bankrupt our public schools. We are already operating on a very limited budget for education and calling it school choice is a lie. We cannot afford already decide on where to send our children. Teachers, counselors, school administrators work tirelessly with our children to provide a meaningful education and strive for a safe learning environment with what resources our govt provides. This program is a lie and will have significant severe implications. NO SCHOOL VOUCHER!

Julie Rounsaville

Self

Grapevine, TX

VOchers are NOT an emergency ??

Increase basic student allotment is an emergency

Tomorrow, March 11, the Texas House Committee on Public Education will hear HB 3. Let's make it clear: Public money demands public accountability!

Texans have rejected vouchers since 1957—yet lawmakers are once again pushing them through with SB 2 and HB 3.

?? Vouchers drain public school resources.

?? They don't improve student achievement.

? They aren't about "parent choice"—private schools choose their students.

Ellen Morris

Self

Graham, TX

This bill will do irreversible damage to all public schools but especially to rural schools . Our schools must have financial support from the state and teachers must be compensated for the position they have. The money spent on testing (all phases from creating questions to analyzing data) should be spent on students and teachers. The industries that are locating to Texas will not find a workforce that has the skills necessary to work . Texas is far behind in supporting vocational/technical education in schools. Please vote against HB3. Your responsibility is to do the best for the students of Texas

Lynda Rhodes

Self

Odessa, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.”

Tamey Williams
Self
pflugerville, TX

The voucher program proposed in HB2 has been rejected over and over by the Texas legislature for good reason. The overwhelming majority of Texans, both Republicans and Democrats, do not want taxpayer dollars meant for public schools going to private education, including religious schools.

Vouchers have been tried for decades in other states and, without exception, do not promote improved academic outcomes. Numerous studies have proven this point.

States that have tried vouchers are ending their programs. Voters in Nebraska repealed their program, and the legislature in Illinois cancelled its voucher program. There's no need to jump on a bandwagon that is already in the ditch!

The two largest existing voucher programs (Florida and Arizona) have been disasters both academically and financially. The major beneficiary of vouchers can already afford to have their school-age children in private schools. This has been the experience in Florida and Arizona.

The majority of counties in Texas do not have any private schools. Even where there are private schools, most do not offer transportation and are located in areas inaccessible to low-income families.

The amount offered does not begin to cover tuition at most private schools. Families would also need to cover other expenses, including uniforms, books, field trips, sports, enrichment and lunch. It just does not make any sense, except as a subsidy for wealthier families.

The Texas legislature should be focusing on its main job, which is supporting great public school education! Schools are grossly underfunded, with a \$10 billion cut in real dollars since 2019 due to inflation. Put an additional \$1,300 dollars per student into the basic allotment first, before you consider giving the public's money away to voucher and provide school funding based on enrollment, not average daily attendance.

Greg Piwonka
Self
Austin, TX

I am against school vouchers. Fund public schools. I don't want my taxes going to private schools who are not accountable.

Angela Newman
PISD/teacher
McKinney, TX

I oppose HB3 and support full funding of our public schools instead. ALL students need the support and HB3 doesn't support ALL kids. Vote NO

Laci Car
Self-teacher
Paris, TX

Vouchers will do nothing but destroy our public school system! Please say no!

Cynthia Rauzi
self
Round Rock, TX

Please do not use our tax dollars to subsidize private schools. Parents currently have a choice of education, they can use our public schools or pay for private education. Private schools have different standards than public schools and should not be funded by the taxpayer. I resent the idea that I will be subsidizing someone else's education. Good schools happen not just because of funding, but also from being part of a vibrant community of parents and neighbors who are invested in its success. As a resident of TX and a parent of 3 children that were well educated in the Round Rock Public school system, I ask that you sideline this voucher program and instead invest in our public schools. It is important for our community, our workforce and our way of life to have a well educated population. Let's fund and invest in our public schools, work to improve public schools and stop encouraging parents to leave them. I fear that the people of lower income will not benefit from a better education but will still be priced out of private schools and have to rely on a depleted public school, the same for rural families. I am also deeply frustrated that this measure is being pushed through after years of being voted down. Texas does not want school vouchers. If you truly believe that we do, put it to a vote. Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Kanin
Self/nonprofit professional
Austin, TX

This destruction of public education stands to benefit only the richest Texans. Please stand up for the rest of us. Vote this bill down.

Laura Cannon
self, Retired Teacher
New Braunfels, TX

I taught in Texas Public Schools for 41 years, my 4 children graduated from Texas public schools and now one grandson attends a Texas public school. I believe in public schools and their very important place in the education of Texas youth. Often they are the cornerstone of a community, the gathering place for community members from all walks of life who care about their children and gather together in mutual support of those children. Splintering Texas families to various private schools will not support Texas values. Public schools need funding now and that funding should not go to private facilities that are not bound by the rules that public schools abide by. I once had a child who had been schooled at home enroll in my third grade class. He was very behind in reading and he told me they hadn't worked on reading. There are no checks on home schools. Please save our tax money for public schools.

Robert Sormani, Dr.

Manor ISD

Manor, TX

Honorable Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB3 relating to the establishment of an education savings account program.

First, I do not see why we would provide public money to finance a private citizen's choice. While I have no issue with private schools, I know many great private school educators, public tax dollars are collected to promote the public good. We pay taxes for police and fire protection and roads and libraries, all things that are a public resource. We do not pay taxes for private police or fire protection or private roads or book collections. I do not understand then why we should pay tax money for a private school that by its nature limits enrollment to only those families it wants. If families want to attend private school that is their choice, but their choice should not be supported by our tax dollars.

Second, all the public money that is provided to public schools comes with accountability measures designed to ensure the tax money is well spent. There is an elected school board that exerts local control and oversight and determines whether the local community's desires are being implemented. Why would the legislature send money to private schools with no accountability to the public? Private schools do not have to disclose any financial information or even prove students are growing in their knowledge and ability. Public money should not be given away freely.

Finally, I want to remind legislators that public schools, when properly funded and supported, produce amazing results. America has put a man on the moon, discovered cures to diseases, and built skyscrapers. All these things were done long before there were such things as vouchers. The men and women leading the way are products of the PUBLIC school system. Instead of allocating funds to a private school voucher system, use those funds to support the school system that built Texas into the economic powerhouse that it is today.

Thank-you for your consideration, Dr. Robert Sormani, Superintendent of Schools, Manor ISD

Mary Mesa

Teacher

Granbury, TX

This is wrong! It will tank public education, taking away so much when we do have enough right now. We have a spoiled rotten Governor who is a bully! Any elected office that puts his needs /wants above that of the voting public who strongly opposes something is a sham. He and you should be ashamed of yourself. You are ripping money out of the hands of your voting public and putting into the hands of wealthy white people. I went to private school and wanted to kill myself on most days. I hated it. It is one sided and preys on the weak. We do not need this in Texas!

Jamila Morrison

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose Texas voucher bills, as they take vital resources away from public schools. Instead, we should increase the basic allotment to \$1300 for public schools and fund them based on student enrollment, not attendance. Let's ensure schools have the stability and resources needed to educate every child, regardless of attendance challenges. Let's invest in public education, not undermine it with vouchers.

Matthew Moore
Self, Financial Software Developer
Cedar Park, TX

Dear House Education Committee,

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Kay Clum
Talkington School for Young Women Leaders
Lubbock, TX

This bill will directly impact the education of children who rely on public institutions instead of private ones. Education shouldn't be something that needs to be bought, especially for anything below college level education.

Amy Irvin
Self
Arlington, TX

I am against this bill. This bill would take resources away from public schools like mine (Arlington ISD) - my family is reliant on the teachers and special education support staff who provide services to my children. One of my children receives speech therapy support, and I know the district is already constrained on speech therapists - if they lose funding and are not able to keep staff like speech therapists, that will directly harm my child's development. She has flourished because of the special education services and teachers at our school. Do not take away funding from schools who are already resource constrained.

Catherine JOHNSON, Ms
self/financial advisor
Farmers Branch, TX

I know many people who work in education, including my 2 sisters, Mary and Amy. All agree that this is bad for public education because it takes much-needed funds from the districts and gives the money to parents who don't need it and can already afford the cost of private school. We are robbing the poor and the middle-class to subsidize schools for the rich. Terrible idea.

Natalie James
Self
New Ulm, TX

I strongly oppose any public funding for vouchers, education savings plans, or any financial support for private/home schools. Fully fund public schools without strings attached or hoops, like TIA.

Erica Linebaugh
Individual
Fort Worth, TX

I am against vouchers. Public schools should be funded appropriately with our tax dollars. We already have school choice in Texas and the people that have money are already going to private schools. Texas children deserve better. Vouchers will only increase inequity and serve as a disadvantage to those with no choice but to go to public school. Texans have spoken and constituents are against this program and as an elected official your vote should represent the interests of the people you serve.

Natalie Hendrickson

Self

Boerne, TX

Strongly oppose school vouchers. Fund our public schools.

Matt Arend

Self - Sales

Mckinney, TX

As a voter, I oppose HB 3, ESA's will strip much needed funding from our public schools and divert it to private institutions. Texas public schools are already starving - 80% are in deficit. Please keep public tax dollars in public schools. Our kids are counting on us to do the right thing!

Please reject vouchers and fully fund public schools to ensure every child can access a quality education.

Sincerely,

Matt Arend

Collin County

Allison Biehl Garson, Mx

Self, public school teacher

Houston, TX

I am writing to strongly urge you to oppose any and all voucher bills, including HB 3. I am a public school teacher and a parent of a public school student. I oppose vouchers for three reasons. First, they do not help our vulnerable students. Vouchers are predominantly used by wealthy families who already have the means to send their children to private school. Vouchers send public money to schools that are allowed to discriminate based on religious, LGBTQ, or disability status. This is NOT how we create a generation ready to lead. Second, vouchers take money away from public schools. Numerous studies have shown that spending more per student IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS is an effective way to improve student outcomes such as test scores and graduation rates. Third, vouchers will cost more money than they save. In Arizona, the voucher program cost 1400% more than its proponents states. In Texas, introducing vouchers would also create an additional 80 plus million dollars of new state administrative bureaucracy.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to vote NO on any and all vouchers bills, including HB 3.

Normali Cruz, Teacher

Irving ISD

Fort Worth, TX

I am reaching out as an educator within your district to share my concerns regarding HB 3, which I understand will soon be reviewed by the House Public Education Committee. I kindly ask that you oppose this bill.

As a member of the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE), the largest educator group in Texas, I actively participate in shaping the legislative priorities of our organization. The ATPE Legislative Program clearly opposes any form of voucher system, including tuition tax credits, education savings accounts, or any similar programs that would funnel public funds to private, home, or for-profit virtual schools.

Thank you for considering the perspective of educators in your district

Chad Walters, PA

Self/society

Abilene, TX

I have one child in private school, and one in public school. The child in private school already has special privileges due to smaller class size, better teachers, and not as many behavioral issues at school. The child in public school faces issues with disruptive conduct from other students, large class sizes, and the quality of teachers will continue to diminish as pay eventually decreases. I oppose the bill for school vouchers and think the money should be kept in public schools. Also think there are ethical concerns due to our governor receiving gifts from rich donors who support vouchers.

Wendy Mueller

Self

San Antonio, TX

Public education as required by our state constitution is for the public good, not the betterment of individuals, and as such education dollars must serve the common public good. Pulling funds from Texas' public schools to pay for private for-profit schools will severely underfund our public schools. Additionally, for the vast majority of rural Texans, there aren't any private schools as alternatives to their local public schools so they will lose money, lose programs, lose educators, and submit their children to more crowded classrooms without any of the so-called benefits of the ESAs.

I have no school-aged children but happily pay my taxes to support my local public schools because I want a well-educated community, and good public schools support strong property values.

VOTE NO ON HB3!!

Alison Spurlock

Self, parent

Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3, which would divert public taxpayer dollars to private school voucher programs. This bill threatens the integrity of Texas' public education system by siphoning much-needed funding away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students.

Vouchers do not improve student outcomes and primarily benefit private institutions that are not held to the same standards of accountability and transparency as public schools. Instead of weakening public education, the legislature should focus on fully funding our schools, increasing teacher pay, and ensuring that all students—regardless of ZIP code—have access to a quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families, educators, and communities by voting NO on HB 3. Public funds should remain in public schools.

Further, there needs to be a significant increase to the basic allotment to account for inflation since 2019 and all current and future mandates need to be fully funded.

Banks Miller

Self

Plano, TX

I write to oppose the school voucher bill. It is my belief that it includes all insufficient oversight of how monies will be spent at these schools.

Sharon Kremer
Indivisible Denton
Denton, TX

This bill alleges to solve a problem that doesn't exist: school choice.
Parents have a choice already.
This bill makes a mess of school funding and is fiscally unsound, per Legislative Budget Board.

The real solution for Texas Public Schools is to fully fund them, which restores them.
Public schools have been financially sabotaged for 10 years. The committee heard Paul Colbert's expert opinion last week. Use that evidence to do the simple act and Constitutional act of fully funding public schools.

Gana Crenshaw, Mrs.
Retired public school teacher in Texas for Texans.
Flower Mound, TX

Please save Texas public education by not voting for vouchers. The U.S. system of free public education has served Americans well for all these years. Why not continue to improve public education by your support? Remember our constitution provides for the separation of church and state.

Charlene Krenzke
Self
Spring Branch, TX

HB3 would reduce funding for public schools in Texas. Currently both students and teachers do not receive enough funding from the state of Texas Government.

Amber Ward
Retired/Self
Spicewood, TX

Good morning. My husband and I both attended Texas public schools, kindergarten through college graduation, and a graduate degree for him. We benefited from our Texas public school education as we moved around our nation as he served in our United States Navy for 21 years, and I worked at a variety of civilian jobs and in volunteer positions in support of our military families. We retired home to Texas to raise our two sons in our public school system after our life experiences confirmed our positive opinions of the value of public school education. I grew up in a rural Texas school district and we both grew up in families that could not afford private school. Private schools did not exist in my home town, just as they don't in many rural Texas towns today. I am grateful for my public school education and want the same for our children. We support the opportunities and life lessons of a public school education. We support the right to a quality public school education for all Texas children. I believe that the quality of education for our Texas children directly affects our state, nation, success, strength, and national security. While he is sadly not my state representative, Representative James Tallarico speaks to my beliefs on this matter and always reminds me of the "love thy neighbor while minding your own business" Texans that raised me. For love of our state, our nation, and all of our children, please vote "no" and against public school vouchers. Thank you.

Anthony Deahl
Self
Frisco, TX

Single Parent in a Wealthy Zip Code in Frisco. I see MANY wealthy families everyday, they don't need ANY help subsidizing their children's private school tuition. Just say NO to destroying Texas Public Schools.

Connie Garza
Self
Edinburg, TX

No school vouchers

Kristin Williams

Self

Austin, TX

HB 3 by Buckley

Stephanie Franklin

Self- public school teacher

Centerville, TX

I oppose House Bill 3 because public funds should not be used to support private schools, especially when Texas has yet to fully fund its public education system. Instead of diverting taxpayer dollars, we should prioritize strengthening our public schools to ensure all students receive a high-quality education.

Felecia Lloyd

Self

Garrison, TX

This will shatter and destroy public education!!Our children deserve better..especially those with any type of special need

Matthew Jones

Self

Elgin, TX

I oppose this bill. There are no restrictions on the use of vouchers for those who are already enrolled in a private school those allowing discounts for wealthy households. It has no provisions for children that live in rural areas and their ability to get to a private school. Just like Arizona, Texas will start to see a deficit in its budget in a few years.

Cindi Rockett

Myself

Eules, TX

I firmly oppose this bill on the following points:

- Private schools are hard to find in our expansive rural areas. These constituents will rarely have a choice, but will suffer the adverse effects of depleted funding.
 - Private schools will retain the right to refuse admission of applicants. This defies the definition of a choice.
 - The state of Texas' abysmal funding of public schools will not be able to improve while funding private education. Texas laws clearly state the responsibility of the state is to fund public education.
 - This bill will only increase the disparity between the wealthy and the non- wealthy in the long run due to the disparate funding amounts being provided towards education. There is no future where that education could be equal.
- Do the honorable thing for your current and future constituents. Vote no on this bill. It is wrong for Texas.

CINDY ROQUE

MATA MONTESSORI SCHOOL - DISD

Dallas, TX

Please no vouchers. Our public schools need all the funding they deserve to better serve our population

Julie Dickerson

Self and students attending public school / therapist

Austin, TX

I am vehemently opposed to the establishment of the educational savings account program. It does not benefit the majority of our students in the state of Texas.

Mark Cichock, Dr.

Self

Houston, TX

The very idea of school vouchers is an affront to education designed to enrich charter schools for the wealthy and compartmentalize students in underperforming schools to their detriment. It is not some form of “noble” experiment and will only serve those seeking to infuse the educational curriculum with religion while further demeaning the abilities of our children to think critically. Oppose this bill!

Terri McDaniel

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will hurt the 5.5 million public school children. Vouchers are a scam! Vote NO to billionaires taking over the education of Texas children!

It's proven in other states to be a scam! Fully fund our public schools! The children of Texas deserve better than this! Parents have always had school choice!

Isaac Rodriguez, Dr.

Santa Rosa ISD

La Feria, TX

This proposed bill would negatively impact public education in the state of Texas. As a sitting Superintendent in a small rural school, this would hurt public funding across the state of Texas for all public schools.

Natalie Zambreski

Self, Mother and Small Business Owner

Weatherford, TX

As a Texas mother of two school-age children, including a child who receives special education services, I am urging you to oppose HB 3. With this vote, you hold the future of millions of Texas children in your hands. Passing this bill means choosing to undermine public education, defund schools, and strip resources away from students and teachers who need them most.

Texas lawmakers cannot claim that public schools are fully funded while also arguing that they are failing students so badly that tax dollars must be rerouted to private institutions. Which is it? If Texas schools are so well-funded, they should have everything they need to serve all students—but we know that isn't the case. Texas ranks among the bottom 10 states in per-student funding, and the basic allotment has not increased since 2019, despite years of inflation, rising costs, and teacher shortages.

Public schools are already struggling under these conditions. HB 3 will make it worse. It will drain even more funding by incentivizing students to leave for private schools that are not required to accept all students, provide special education services, follow state curriculum standards, or hire certified teachers. These private institutions are not obligated to serve all Texas families—so why should our public tax dollars be funneled into them?

Meanwhile, public school teachers—who already dedicate their lives to educating Texas children despite low pay and increasing workloads—will be hit even harder. Fewer students in public schools means fewer resources, staff cuts, and even greater demands on teachers already burning out at alarming rates. Many are buying their own classroom supplies and taking on second jobs—how much more must they sacrifice before lawmakers invest in them?

Additionally, Texas public schools are funded by attendance, not enrollment. Every student who leaves through this voucher program means less money for those who remain, leading to larger class sizes, fewer teachers, and fewer resources, disproportionately harming low-income students, children with disabilities, and communities where public schools are the only option.

If lawmakers truly want to improve education, they should fully fund public schools—not dismantle them.

This vote is a defining moment—one that will have real, long-term consequences for millions of Texas children, teachers, and families. If you vote to pass HB 3, you are voting to weaken Texas public schools, punish hardworking educators, and create even more inequities in our education system.

I urge you to listen to the parents, teachers, and students you were elected to serve and oppose HB 3. Texas families are watching, and we will remember who stood up for public education—and who chose to dismantle it.

Sincerely,

Natalie Zambreski

Gennie Westbrook

Self

Cooper, TX

I oppose HB 3 or any other form of school vouchers. The Texas constitution requires the legislature to provide adequate funding for public schools. I can't fathom how anyone who understands that Constitutional provision could advocate taking a single dime of public money to support private schools. Public money belongs in public schools. We need at least a \$1500 increase in the allotment for public schools and no vouchers ever. We already have school choice in Texas. Parents can put their children in any school they want. In other states vouchers have resulted in exploding costs, shutting down of public schools, and lower achievement. The voucher turns out to be a coupon for the wealthy to keep their children in the private schools they already attend, because the infusion of public money causes the private schools to increase their tuition, and the private school is still out of reach for low income families.

Zulema King

Self

Boerne, TX

Parents already have school choice with charter schools. Vouchers will hurt non title 1 districts that are already hurting like Boerne iSD. We are losing great teachers due to pay.

Graciela Melendrez

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Good morning Representative Buckley and House Public Education Committee Members. My name is Graciela Melendrez.

I am writing to voice my opposition to House Bill 3, which proposes education savings accounts, also known as vouchers. I am a firm believer that public dollars should be allocated to fund public schools. Public schools are facing significant financial challenges, including the impacts of inflation, inadequate ADA funding, the need for mental health resources in the aftermath of the pandemic, a substantial deficit in special education funding, and largely underfunded mandates for safety and security. If we have additional treasury funds due to our budget surplus, it would be more beneficial for communities—rural and urban alike—to invest in public schools, raise the per student allotment by \$1,300, move to enrollment based funding, add a COLA, and fully fund special education, mental health services, meaningful teacher and staff raises, retirement benefits, and safety and security requirements.

I believe there is already choice within public education, and with increased funding, we can offer even greater opportunities in areas such as the arts, athletics, STEM, gifted and talented programs, dual language, CTE, and more. Public schools are accepting of all students, providing 504 services, and fostering a sense of community, all while maintaining elected oversight, accountability, and performance reporting. This is simply good governance of our tax payers' hard earned money at work.

Private schools, while valuable options for some families, are not required to accept all students, and they are under no legal obligation to accommodate students with disabilities. Additionally, they lack accountability to the public regarding how funds are spent or how students and educators perform. It is not school choice, but rather the school's choice on who they will and will not educate.

I am also concerned about the long-term fiscal health of our state. Education savings accounts have the potential for significant financial implications once implemented. Many Texans value fiscal stewardship and accountability for the contributions they make to their communities. While I believe our representatives have good intentions, it has not gone unnoticed that our governor has received record donations from individuals who stand to benefit financially from these savings accounts. I hope our state's children and the

Jacqueline Serrano
Self/public school employee
Austin, TX

This bill needs to not pass. I am speaking for myself as a parent but also for all the children I help as a public school employee. I am begging as someone who sees how much our children need public schools on a daily basis.

Kimberly Darden
Self
Pearland, TX

Public education and the necessary funding must not be gutted for vouchers. Public schools in Texas have been inadequately funded by the Texas Legislature, directed to do more with less, and is now threatened with a false "school choice" proposition. As a parent, tax payer, and educator, I do NOT support the establishment of an education savings account program (or voucher program) in Texas.

Tracy Kindla
Self / Small Business Owner
San Antonio, TX

This bill is not what Texas students needs right now. Fix public school funding first. Representatives in rural areas know some of their districts are already running at a deficit. Deeply disappointed

Kristina Schaeffer
Self
Belton, TX

This is absolutely ridiculous. Just fund the public schools. Texas is so low in public education and letting the rich only get education will not help. You will have less doctors, nurses and teachers not providing adequate education. You are going against your own people. Very few are rich. There are more us middle and lower income people.

Abby Olsens
Self
San Antonio, TX

Public education is the backbone of our country, giving every child the chance to succeed, no matter where they come from. But right now, public education in Texas is struggling because it's been underfunded for years. For the past decade, state and local governments have cut funding, leaving our schools and teachers to make do with less and less.

As a mother of four kids in Texas public schools, I've seen firsthand how hard teachers and staff work, often with outdated materials and overcrowded classrooms. They do everything they can, but it's not enough. Our schools deserve more support, not less.

That's where school vouchers come in, and that's where the problem is. Vouchers may sound good—they promise more "choice" for parents. But what they really do is take money away from public schools and send it to private ones. This hurts the public schools that need funding the most, especially in lower-income areas.

Vouchers don't fix the real problems in education. Instead of improving our schools, they send tax dollars to private schools, which mostly help wealthy families who already have options. Meanwhile, public schools are left with even fewer resources to support the kids who need it most. Vouchers deepen the divide between the rich and the poor.

Let's be clear: private schools that take vouchers aren't held to the same standards as public schools. They don't have to follow the same rules for teacher qualifications or special education services. They can even choose who they accept, meaning many kids—especially those with disabilities or extra needs—get left behind.

The truth is, the voucher system is just a way to make money for private companies, not a real solution for our kids. It doesn't fix the problems in public schools—it just takes away the funding that could be used to make them better.

What we need is a real investment in our public schools. We need to pay teachers better, reduce class sizes, update materials, and give every child the support they need. We shouldn't be giving our tax dollars to private schools; we should be funding the schools that serve every child, regardless of their background.

It's time to say no to the voucher scam. VOTE NO on HB 3, and let's focus on the real solution: fully funding our public schools. Our kids deserve better.

Susan Sparks
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am a public school mom! I cannot afford private school even with the savings! I'd prefer my money for my children to go to Public School! I am one of many that are in the same boat! Fund public Schools!

I DO NOT support education savings account!

Cynthia Dockery
Self, Director of Curriculum
Waxahachie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Maryam Jafarnia
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force. HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents. Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools. We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!
- Maryam Jafarnia (Parent in SBISD)

Brin Stoner
Self
Del Valle, TX

The proposed bill presents serious concerns for education funding, equity, and community cohesion. It would strain already limited resources for both rural and urban schools by enabling student departures without addressing the fixed costs these institutions must maintain regardless of enrollment numbers.

The exemption of charter schools from standardized testing requirements like the STAAR exam creates an uneven playing field. When different institutions operate under different accountability standards, we cannot make fair comparisons or ensure consistent quality across all educational options.

This bill essentially provides a subsidy that fragments our educational community. Rather than bringing parents together across income levels to work toward better schools for all children, it enables withdrawal from the shared project of public education.

Most troublingly, data from neighboring states like Louisiana demonstrates that similar charter school initiatives have not delivered improved educational outcomes. On average, charter schools perform worse than their public counterparts despite operating with different rules and standards.

I urge you to vote against this bill. Our focus should be on strengthening public education through evidence-based improvements that benefit all students rather than diverting resources to alternatives without proven success. We need solutions that unite our communities in supporting education rather than fracturing them.

Sholom Lazaroff, Rabbi
Self
Houston, TX

As a religious Jew in my early twenties trying to raise a family, I know recognize the struggles and challenges my parents had to go through to give me an education according to our tradition. As I've never been a recipient of the public school system and G-d willing neither will my children, I sincerely hope that this bill passes, enabling a reclaiming of the tax dollars my family and I pay to go to education for a few more Texas residents than before

Justine Cherne, Ms.
Self; Legal Assistant
Needville, TX

I oppose taking \$1 billion from Texas taxpayers and give it to wealthy families who are already sending their kids to private schools. This will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties (more than 150 Texas counties don't have a private school to send kids to even if they could afford the difference between what the voucher pays and what tuition costs!).

I have witnessed how such a program has ruined public education in other states. I had the good fortune to move from a state with poor education to Texas in 1980 when education was generously funded. Because of the great education I received in the Texas public school system, I am a productive citizen and tax payer of the State of Texas.

It's bad for the Texas taxpayer, bad for public educators, and bad for the kids in our public school classrooms.

Hope Soliz
Self
San Antonio, TX

A public hearing at the Texas Capitol is happening on the school voucher bill (HB 3). Use the link below to ensure your opposition is on record. Not a drill.

Here's what I said:

“Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.”

Craig Campbell
Retired self
Austin, TX

Washington is cutting funding for school lunches. Save the money for the chaos from Washington.

Manuela Haberer
Self
San Antonio, TX

Public schools need appropriate funding and need to not have standardized text! Do not support vouchers! They vouchers will only make things worse and inequitable for public schools. Vote Pro- Public Schools

Elizabeth Leckbee
self
Pflugerville, TX

As a mother and a Texan, my family and I are AGAINST this voucher bill. Please listen to the parents that have children in school in Texas and kill this bill !

Dawn King
Self
Houston, TX

I am against school vouchers. This is not the same for poorer people because they will not be able to afford private schools even with vouchers. This will draw money away from public schools too.

Kimberly Leaverton
self
Stephenville, TX

I oppose the creation of an education savings account. 1) Public tax dollars must be used for public services. 2) Data does not support the use of vouchers to improve school choice among those who cannot afford private schools. 3) There is little to no accountability by private schools to the state for these public dollars. 4) Texas needs to address public school funding and improve public education for ALL Texans. 5) If the “appropriate “ amount to allot to private schools per student is \$10,000, how is that not the appropriate amount for public schools? Other money allocated to public schools are required to be used for legislative-mandated purposes, which do not apply to private schools. 6) The creation of this program is fiscally irresponsible. 7) Public schools serve ALL Texans but private schools can choose their students - or exclude them. Public dollars must be used for public purposes. 8) Accountability. Transparency. Where are these guidelines in this proposed program? 9) Stop allowing out-of-state billionaires influence Texas. 10) Texas public school teachers deserve better. Texas public school students deserve better from you.

Soumya Nagesh

Self

Austin, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

Dear Education committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lathen

Self

Denison, TX

Is the education savings account open to all Texas student or only 100,000? Before this bill moves forward, teachers basic pay and increments need to be addressed. If this makes it so only increases to teacher pay are by merit, then this voucher program should be redrawn and put priority in funding public schools and increasing teacher pay across all 254 counties of Texas.

Lorie Barnett

Retired teach and business owner

Paige, TX

Absolutely NO on vouchers/ESA!! Just fund public education to the highest dollar amount! Not \$200!

Meredith Watkins

Self

wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3!

Andrea Cole
Myself
Palacios, TX
No to vouchers

Brent Johnson
Self
Happy, TX

As a parent of a student for Happy ISD, I do not support vouchers. Our public schools are struggling and our tax dollars should go to our public schools. If the rich want to send their kids to a private school, that is their choice and they can pay for it. My tax dollars should not go to their private school. Sending my kids is unrealistic. This is all just a political stunt by Abbott and he refuses to listen to anyone, but the ones who have bought him. Like they always say, follow the money. Abbott has shown his true colors. It's about time he listens to those who actually voted for him.

Karen Walters
Self
FORT WORTH, TX

No to vouchers. Rural Texans have no access to "private school". We need more money in public schools!

LaTaShaw Thomas
self
Allen, TX

House Bill 3 threatens to weaken our public education system by diverting funds away from public schools and pushing harmful policies that do not support students, teachers, or communities. Texas schools need more funding, better resources, and real solutions—not political agendas that prioritize privatization over public education.

Say NO to HB3! Support our students and teachers! ??????

#IOpposeHB3 #FundPublicSchools #SupportTeachers #NoToVouchers

Tammy Clark Clark
Self
Tolar, TX

This Texan is against esa/voucher programs. There is nothing conservative about public funds going to private entities. There is nothing proper about not fully funding public schools and fixing that system to be the best for the public good as it can be. I only support public monies going to entities that have the same rules, regulations, oversights and accountability as the public schools are held to... same access to funding should mean same standards, reporting, and oversight. This conservative Texan opposes ESA/voucher bills.

Terri Nathan
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I work for a Title 1 school. Even if you give out students \$10,000.00 they still couldn't afford private school. And you will take the money they need to fund their public school. Please don't pass this. Texas students need these funds for a strong public education.

Leslie Weston
Self/Family/Community
Keller, TX

I am writing today to express my extreme concerns about vouchers/ESA. Your impactful position determines the fate of public education and all of our young (and future) Texans. School voucher programs have negative consequences, such as increasing racial segregation, providing inequality, harming public education funding, and lacking accountability and transparency. Several studies found that voucher programs negatively impact student achievement. I, along with most Texans, are not in favor of ESAs or Vouchers. I hope I can count on you to be equitable, in providing justice for our great State of Texas by voting against ESA/vouchers.

Carlie Wofford-Chen
Self, Marketing
Plano, TX

This bill is not based on what is best for Texas students. This is solely an attempt to appease wealthy donors. What is best for students is to increase funding to public schools. Of the 5 million public school students in Texas, over 3 million depend on the schools for more than an education, including meals. This is not a burden, but our responsibility. Offsetting the cost of private school for those families who CHOSE that path will make providing for the 60+% of economically disadvantaged students even more difficult.

Our family is not ED and we consider it our ministry, our privilege to stand up for, work for, and protect the students whose parents are not even getting by at this juncture. Our very special elementary school is struggling as it is to make ends meet. This year our PE coaches had a budget of \$200 to replace equipment. Luckily our PTA spent \$2400 to get them the supplies they needed for a 40 year old school that serves 520 children in north Texas.

This bill is not widely supported by Texans. Only by the elected officials whose greed for power and money wants the financial backing from already wealthy donors who want to further line their pockets.

We see you. We know who is not listening to their constituents. The tide is turning and a few wealthy donors can't keep you in office forever when the rest of your district looks for someone who actually wants to make things better.

Carol Cate
Self
Allen, TX

I am asking you to vote no to the school vouchers bill. Our tax dollars should stay in our public-school system that serves all Texas children, including the kids that need it the most. It ensures they have access to the kind of education that grows the Texans of the future. Neighborhood public schools are the glue that helps hold our communities together and funding them only serves all of us versus the select few. Please vote NO, thank you.

TaNeika Driver-Moultrie
Texas PTA
Killeen, TX

Rep. Buckley, I am not in favor of the vouchers as you are well aware. I, as a parent of a public school student, want more funding to be allocated to Texas public schools, please and thank you.

Brandy Griffith

Self

Wylie, TX

Passing this voucher will remove the protections Brown VS. Board of Education established. School choice freedom is nothing more than a guise for discrimination. All the children that are white, privileged, talented and gifted, and affluent will access the best education, while the brown and black, special needs, impoverished, and at risk will remain in underfunded schools. Public school staff will be left with an overwhelmingly large class size, even less resources and supports for students that don't just get it the first time hearing the information. Special education programs and 504 plans are at risk. What about TRS? The vouchers were made to satiate a small group of wealthy donors who want more money for the schools their children attend. Public education has flaws, but this is because it is ran by people who have never worked in a classroom.

Lucy Stowell

Self/Librarian

Sachse, TX

Please do not vote for school vouchers. It will undermine public education. It is an ideology that will ultimately benefit the wealthy. As a middle-class parent with five children my resources are spread thin. I need to be able to count on quality public education. Finding private schools and transporting my children there would take away valuable time and resources that we do not have. Please continue to fund and increase funds for quality public education in the state of Texas. That is the whole reason my family chose to locate here. Thank you.

Jaylyn Sprinkel, Mrs

Pta

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3!!

Michael Jenkins

Self

Haslet, TX

As a husband and a father, I strongly oppose House Bill 3 because it threatens the future of Texas public schools and the quality of education our children receive. Public education is the backbone of our communities, and this bill will only weaken it, leaving families like mine with fewer options and fewer opportunities for our kids to succeed.

Governor Abbott has previously stated his support for public schools, yet this bill goes against that promise. Instead of helping teachers, students, and parents, HB 3 pushes harmful policies that will drain resources from our schools, making it even harder for educators to do their jobs and for students to get the education they deserve.

We've seen the impact of similar legislation in other states—school districts left scrambling for funding, teachers leaving the profession, and children paying the price. Texas cannot afford to go down that road. If we allow this bill to pass, we are putting our children's futures at risk, particularly in rural areas and lower-income communities that depend on public schools the most.

As a father, I want my children to have access to the best education possible, but that won't happen if our public schools are underfunded and unsupported. Teachers are already struggling with overcrowded classrooms, low pay, and a lack of essential resources. Rather than addressing these issues, HB 3 only makes things worse. If we truly care about our children's future, we should be investing in our public schools, not dismantling them.

On top of that, the state has been withholding millions in funding from our schools since 2019. It's time to release those funds and put them where they belong—into the classrooms, helping teachers and students. That money should be used to improve school facilities, raise teacher salaries, and provide better educational opportunities for all Texas children.

I urge our lawmakers to reject House Bill 3 and stand up for Texas families. We need policies that strengthen public schools, not ones that take away critical resources. The success of our state depends on ensuring our children get a strong education, and that starts with fully supporting our public schools.

I pray that our leaders will do the right thing and put our children first. Now is the time to protect Texas public education and secure a brighter future for all of our kids.

ANGELA HARVEY

Self retired

Saginaw, TX

Please do not do this to the children of Texas. We need more money for public schools not less. I want my six grandchildren to be able to go to their neighborhood public schools. It's the start of community awareness that shapes our country. Our teachers are already under paid and under valued. Every child from every background deserves the same great education and opportunities. This will tear down our Texas education when it needs to be built up. It will caught parents to leave Texas. Please don't destroy our public schools. Let's work together to make them great again.

bryan lyde

self

wylie, TX

I support school choice with an expanded budget beyond \$1B.

Jami Snodderly

Self

Cedar Park, TX

No to school vouchers this will hurt children with disabilities because charter schools are not equipped to handle and educate them

Rebecca Ugalde
Self
San Angelo, TX

I AM A TEACHER AND DO NOT APPROVE OF VOUCHERS AT ALL!!!!!!

Heather Johnson
Self, LPC Associate, Educator
Spring, TX

I'd like to first applaud you for your membership in such a very important committee. The education of Texas children is one of the most important jobs society has, and it is our patriotic duty as American citizens to ensure that children are educated fully.

With the above statement in mind, I'd like to express my full opposition to the proposed House Bills 2 and 3, which both vastly undercut the financial needs of our Texas students, teachers and communities. Legislation about education requires your direct participation in the communities, schools and classrooms you represent. Yes, you clearly attended school, and perhaps have children who attended school many years ago, but until one can directly see how irresponsible and uninformed legislation has lead us to where we are today, they have no business deciding what is best for TODAY's children. Today's children operate on a different paradigm that was decided for them by legislation that did not consider all the aspects of childhood development.

On behalf of our children, our teachers, and our great state, please consider the long term repercussions in enacting either of these bills in their current form and vote NO to ESAs!!

Gregory Daniel
Self
Belton, TX

I believe school choice ESA go hand in hand with public schools. Parents need access to "every tool in the tool box" to educate their child. When public school isn't a good fit i believe the money for education should follow the child where ever the parents decide. School choice is about competition, free enterprise and unleashing American creative talent to solve education challenges. ESA will reduce cost of education over time and get parents more engaged and empowered. God bless Texas!

Jeff Howard
Self
Belton, TX

I speak in favor of HB 3. Texas is long overdue offering an educational option for Texas students and parents. Currently 64% of the States in the country offer some type of School Choice, Idaho just passed a version last week making it the 32nd State to give parents and children an option. Education is not a one size fits all endeavor, in fact "one size fits all" is the worst possible model for anything. Parents as the primary educators, know the needs of their children, and should have the option to meet those needs. Again, I stand in full support of HB 3. Thank you.

Cristie Montgomery
Self/teacher and mom
Lorena, TX

I am a 5th grade public school teacher and a mom of four kids in our public school system (1 graduate, 2 high school, 1 middle school). I am writing to ask you not to pass HB3. I don't believe it's what the people in our state want, and I don't believe it's best for our state's children or the future of our state. I love our local public schools (Midway ISD), and I can say as a TIA Master teacher that I believe that what happens in my classroom is incredible—engaging, full of love and encouragement, and focused on helping kids grow. I'm so proud of what is happening in my classroom.

At the same time, I know that as public schools we can continue to grow. We should have far less testing and more engaging and hands on learning to help kids love to learn. Let's talk about that all day. In fact, I got my master's degree in school leadership and would love to be part of bringing about change to make our schools even better.

But I can tell you with certainty that taking money away from schools for education savings accounts will not help our public schools that serve almost 5.5 million kids each day. In fact, the majority of the money will end up going to families who can already afford private school while taking money away from kids whose only option will still be our public schools. Let's not make education worse for 5.5 million kids to pay for 100,000 kids to attend private schools—many of whom already attend those schools.

If you are set on making tax money available for private schools, I would ask that any private school that takes the funds be required to give STAAR tests and be required to accept any student. Let's make our tax money be distributed fairly so we can really compare apples to oranges!

Please value our kids and our educators who are doing the good work every day by voting no for HB3. Strong public schools are good for kids and good for Texas, so let's put our attention and our money there!

Annie Good
Self/ office assistant to a construction company.
Belton, TX

This program has not been successful in other states. See the report of a news channel in Oklahoma that published the results and data since it was implemented: https://kfor.com/news/local/data-reveals-oklahoma-school-choice-program-sending-significant-share-of-funds-to-wealthiest-families/?fbclid=IwY2xjawI67tdleHRuA2F1bQIxMQABHRUgiStaXV-i1vVbT6KNOZvxQj0wnmKetj4dsgwwiZYmNT67MZOQ8vdQA_aem_lsR4RDD_dOh69UJVxIgJBg

As a Texas homeowner, I am very concerned that our Public Schools will continue to struggle to provide equitable education for ALL Students! Charter Schools and Private Schools are not held to the same testing accountability, fiscal accountability, or provide services for students with disabilities as public schools are required to provide. Charter and private schools DO NOT have to enroll or educate ALL students, as public schools have to do. Public Schools DO NOT GET THIS CHOICE! Parents already have a choice of public charter schools or public school, along with the option of private schools. Yes, private school means they as a family may have to make financial sacrifices to provide this option for their children. It is their choice or option. Public school students deserve to be funded with the best education, we as a state can provide, if we want to encourage students to be productive members of society. Please support our public schools, educators, and the majority of your Texas Constituency that wants a good public education for their children. These vouchers will not provide enough funds to pay for private school tuition. The average and disadvantaged families will still not be able to afford private schools even with this option. LOOK at the DATA from other states and how this has only benefited those who make over \$60K and how it has mostly benefited those who make over \$100K. I am very disappointed that our legislature is wasting so much time on this bill rather than trying to fix other important issues in our state.

Alice Washburn
Personal / myself
Austin, TX

Please keep public money for public education.
Our public schools are underfunded, understaffed, so our children are underserved..
All of our children deserve the best education. The f parents choose to send to private schools, then they should be able to fund their choice.
Vouchers will not bring better education to the underprivileged, it will only make the services they receive less. Texans should want better for all our young Texans

Rebecca Gross
self / manager
IRVING, TX

I strongly oppose using any taxpayer, public funds to support non-public schools. Our public schools have a mandate to educate all students, regardless of ability, disability, or income. Public schools are also obliged to follow standards and have public accountability. These schools need full support from taxes intended to support public schools. IF any funds are used outside the public school system, institutions or individuals receiving those funds must be held to the same standards as public schools. Public schools are what make American and Texas great NOW. Let's keep it that way.

Paige Brown
Self, editor
Houston, TX

Public funds should not go toward private schools, period. Those schools can cherry pick their students, kick them out at any time, send tuition costs higher anytime they choose, and skip the wildly unpopular and expensive STAAR test, etc. Our public schools are willfully starved for funding right now, and our beloved CFISD made painful cuts because of this. When my veteran English teacher friend tells me she simply can no longer be the teacher she has always been because all of her classes are larger, AND she has an extra class of 30 students because English teachers' planning period was taken away, I sit up and listen. ESAs would be an outrageous financial drain on the state budget, and they still will not help those with discipline issues, those with special needs that they are unwilling or unable to work with, and those who can't afford the sticker price of private schools. Our most vulnerable students deserve fully funded public schools, and our public school teachers deserve the resources that will help them be their best at work (and not quit to find a new vocation, leaving our students in the lurch). Ditch the ESAs, continue with the school choice we already have (CFISD has a 70 campuses open for student transfer next year, not to mention charter schools, private schools, and homeschooling), and fund our public schools as your constituents want you to do.

Claudia Lambert
Self
Kyle, TX

This bill will hurt our public schools, plain and simple. If lawmakers would properly fund public education, we wouldn't need vouchers in the first place! Right now, our public schools are understaffed, overworked, and teachers are underpaid. Despite these challenges, public school educators remain dedicated to their students and work tirelessly to provide a quality education.

However, passing this bill will only make things worse for both students and teachers. Public schools will be hit hard, while these "choice schools" aren't held to the same standards. They don't have to provide essential services like special education. This leaves public schools with an influx of students in October when parents are told their child's needs aren't being met, and they have to return to their home school.

We can't let this happen. Please vote NO on this bill to protect our public schools and ensure all students have access to the education they deserve.

Leticia Trigo
Self
Edinburg, TX

Please save our public education from vouchers that are welfare to the rich!

Kathy Griswold
Self
Plano, TX

I would like to say that I am definitely against HB 3 as i believe this will ruin our schools in Texas. Public money needs to go to public education and teachers salaries. If this passes I see children getting left behind in public schools. This is not a good direction as we have seen it fail in other states.

Meghan Harper
Christie Elementary PTA
Plano, TX

I am the proud mom of kids in public school. I am also the product of a private AND public school education. When I decided in 8th grade to move to public school, my decision was largely driven by the vast choices of extracurriculars offered in public schools. What I did not expect was how far behind, academically and socially, I would be compared to my new public school peers. There's no oversight in private schools. The academics, nor the teachers are help to ANY standard. I've watched over the past 30 years as this state and Republican leadership have purposely kept the same public schools underfunded. I've watched as programs have been cut, and now, schools are closing all over the state. This Bill claims to be school choice. We all already have school choice. This bill is meant to drive public funds away from public schools and into private institutions. It stands directly in violation of the Texas State Constitution. Why does Republican leadership stand up and speak ill of Texas public schools when they've directly controlled funding, curriculum, and all state-wide control since 1994? Why does Republican leadership punish our students and our teachers when the state was a multibillion dollar surplus MEANT to fund schools? I stand directly opposed to ESAs because I believe in the Texas Constitution and believe EVERY student in Texas deserves their public education to be fully funded.

Nissa Lind
self
Austin, TX

How dare you take tax player dollars and fund private schools with no requirement for accountability and STAAR Testing hoops that you make public schools jump through. I do not support vouchers, coupons or ESAs for private schools in Texas. It's a huge waste of money increases the size of the government to operate a new ESA system. I guess big government is just fine with the author of it benefits the wealthy in the state. We live near several private schools and are a solid middle class family just out of living paycheck to paycheck. We could not have put my son into any of the private schools besides the fact that even with a voucher we could not afford it, but primarily because they do not offer dyslexia support and special programming that he received in public school. They do no offer the incredible International Baccalaureate program and are much more limited in AP or ACC dual enrollment options than the closest public high school. The public high school does a much better offering of college prep than a small private school. The difference at the small private schools is they have a college counselor that helps and in some cases over the boundary to make those students sound better. It's anecdotal, but I've heard some interesting college application processes at private schools that gives those students an advantage. We are paying less per year for the first year of college than the closest private high school costs! Even with an ESA that high school is for the wealthy. ESAs sound like welfare for the wealthy to me. The people I know who send their kids to private school don't need a coupon and the neighbors that can't afford to send their kids to private school, \$8-10K off the price isn't going to enable them to send their kids to a \$30K a year school. So if you are so intent on giving tax payer dollars to private schools, then why don't you take accountability in the form of the state testing system? Yet another unfair advantage to private schools. If public schools receive state money and have to spend months on accountability testing, then private schools should too if they are going to receive state money. Every other state that has a voucher system has all kinds of headlines about how the test scores have dropped implementing vouchers or coupons for private schools. Just in the past week alone, I've seen negative headlines about the Oklahoma, Arizona, and Indiana voucher system problems and their test scores dropping. Is that what you want for Texas?

Kathleen Fowler, Retired teach, school administrator and district administrator

Texas Public Schools

Lubbock, TX

Seeing town hall meetings, which are meant to be a discussion with attendees asking specific questions have been a lectures on what's best in your opinions about HB3. When do you plan to listen to your constituents? When do any of you who are advocating so hard for HB3, visit public schools so you can see the truth about what's happening there? HB3 will segregate low income and special needs students just as certain communities have been segregated in years past with funding going to upper middle class and wealthy as it's stripped from public schools.

Your unfunded mandates have been doing that for decades then money was held hostage because the people of Texas didn't vote your way last year.

You are to be mouthpiece for the people of Texas, not for a few people who donate money from all over this country to strip public schools, and in doing so, segregate our children.

Please listen without your mind made up. There's much to learn by listening to those who know public schools and their students the most intimately.

Kathy Fowler

806-790-4275

79424

Michelle Helmers

Self

Leander, TX

HB2: I support increasing the Basic Allotment to at least \$7500 per student

HB3: I oppose the creation of school vouchers. Please fully funded public education instead.

Lisa Prewitt, Mrs.

Safe communities across Texas grandma

San Marcos, TX

No education vouchers in Texas. Support public schools don't divide our children anymore to haves and have nots. It's not healthy and safe for children nor communities. Children don't get to pick their families income and the state should not choose their destiny because of the families's income.

Kelly Villanueva

Self

San Antonio, TX

I oppose this bill because it hurts public schools that are already struggling with funding. It also takes away supports for special education students because private schools and charter schools often do not have the resources or staff to support these students so ultimately it falls back on the now underfunded public schools to support these students. As you know there is currently thy no cap on the number of students that can be in a self-contained classroom and currently our self-contained students with the highest needs are sitting in classrooms with class sizes larger than some general education classrooms. As a teacher at a low-income school, most of our families rely on the public schools to provide these students real resources that their students need. Even if the supports were available at a public or charter school , many families aren't able to even get their students there due to constraints around transportation or their work hours. Most charter schools and private school do not offer bus services to their students. Even with priority funding and possible additional funding for special education students, the hurdles that low-income families face to attending private schools are great. Additionally there are no private schools in our immediate area so the distance to get students to is a huge barrier in itself. I strongly oppose this bill and hope that the Senate will stop this bill from defunding our public school system.

Bethany Yates, Dr.

Self

Sachse, TX

This bill is offensive and an insult to Texas schools. I am a teacher. My Republican family sees how public schools are treated by GOP politicians. The Republicans in my family have agreed to not vote for another Republican solely based on this issue. People are angry about giving a coupon to the wealthy on the backs of poor children. This is a cruel bill based on a lie. Your constituents are far more against this than you give them credit for. Don't let Greg Abbott destroy your job.

Amanda Torres

Self - Public School Educator & Parent

Cedar Park, TX

This voucher bill is highly detrimental to fellow Texans and our society as a whole. Wilks, Dunn and other wealthy/billionaire elites are the select few that will benefit financially, but this financial greed and power grab will come at a cost for them. Their immoral, corrupt intentions and those that follow (as opposed to lead) will stifle in their greed and disdain for self. Our educational systems should only be led by the people of Texas and not by those that have financial gain and power. This bill will lead to a dystopian society where no one benefits. The oppressed will continually rise causing more fear-based living for ALL. Our society deserves better and should have free and equitable education for all. It's shameful and quite embarrassing that we are choosing to descend rather than ascend. Education needs to evolve with humanity. Be better humans and do what you are elected to do which is to support the best interest of your constituents, not the billionaire/wealthy elite. Texas and our nation are for all of us to share equally. Vote no to any voucher pushing bill. Morals, values and emotional maturity should drive all legislative decisions not money, greed and power.

Holly Dunham

China Spring ISD

Waco, TX

As a school board trustee for a Texas public school, I am appalled that our legislators are still considering passing vouchers (ESA). Mountains of research* regarding vouchers in other states show it's NOT the solution we need in Texas. What we need is for legislators to get off their high horses and fund public schools properly.

As a Republican, I am embarrassed by my representatives and governor. You should all be ashamed of yourselves for not listening to the public, who's resoundingly opposed to this legislation. For not listening to school districts, who are begging for funding help since we have not had a basic allotment increase since 2019....but the cost of everything has gone up, and for not listening to parents; parents of public school students as well as parents of both private school and homeschool students, who are overwhelmingly opposed to this bill.

To quote one of your testifiers yesterday, "This bill is a skunk we're trying to pass off as a kitty cat." Please, for the sake of ALL children in Texas, do not pass this skunk of a bill, or any other voucher or ESA bill, and PLEASE fund public schools appropriately. Put an end to the madness of the governor holding public schools hostage because he hasn't succeeded in getting what he wants in a voucher bill. Show teachers, parents, and school districts across the state that you want Texas to be amongst the very best education systems in the country by funding public schools properly, saying no to vouchers this session.

Research and articles addressing the many issues voucher programs are fraught with in other states:

*<https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/no-accountability-vouchers-wreak-havoc-states>

* <https://time.com/6272666/school-voucher-programs-hurt-students/#>

* https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3376234

Jordan Fruge

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to submit my support for flexible ESA's and school vouchers. I believe that parents and students deserve a choice and that the introduction of choice will encourage all educational institutions to improve the level of education provided to their students. I also submit that Robinhood is a broken program that must be dramatically overhauled so that tax dollars are raised and used within districts more fairly and equitably.

Kay Pruett, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

Our public schools need this money. Students at risk do not have the necessary funds to make use of a voucher. Education is a right that needs to be equally available to all.

Andra Villegas

Self. Retired educator and tax payer

N Richlnd Hls, TX

Public schools should be supported. Vote no to vouchers and vote NO to education savings account. Public money should support public schools and ALL children.

Donna Beto, Mrs.

Self

Bryan, TX

I am a retired Texas teacher with 36 years serving in public education. I urge you to vote "NO" to HB 3-the so-called savings account. This voucher is misrepresented as a 'school choice' issue, when it is nothing but an extra benefit for families of students already enrolled in private schools. Nothing about this bill benefits low or middle income parents, students with disabilities, students in rural school districts, or public education in general. Please listen to the teachers and not Governor Abbott's office. Please listen to your constituents. The majority of Texans do not want school vouchers.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Beto

Gilpatrick Peyton

self

San Antonio, TX

I think a true education savings account should consist of a Texas parent keeping his/her own property tax in a savings account so that a private school/homeschool could be paid for. I do not think the state should pay for private schools and especially not homeschooling.

Jamie Williams

self

Oakwood, TX

There are several reasons why I believe Texas should not pass educational savings accounts (ESAs):

Diverting Funds from Public Schools: ESAs drain resources from public schools, which are already struggling with funding. This would lead to larger class sizes, reduced programs, and fewer resources for students who remain in public schools.

Lack of Accountability: ESAs lack oversight and accountability, making it difficult to ensure that our tax dollars are being used appropriately. In other states, ESA funds have been misused for non-educational purposes.

Equity Concerns: ESAs primarily benefit families who can afford private schooling, widening the gap between wealthy and low-income families. This would lead to increased segregation and inequality in our education system.

Impact on Rural Areas: There is little to no access to private schools in rural areas, making ESAs not beneficial for families in these regions. This would exacerbate educational disparities between urban and rural areas.

Potential for Fraud and Abuse: Without strict regulations, fraud and abuse will occur in the administration of ESAs. Ensuring proper use of funds (our tax money) would require significant oversight and administrative costs.

ESA's Undermine Public Education: ESAs undermine the public education system by promoting a market-based approach to education, which does not address the needs of all students, including those with disabilities, those in foster care, those living in rural or impoverished communities.

Lauren Smith

Self, Educator

Lubbock, TX

Vote NO on Educational Savings Accounts and Vouchers

My name is Lauren Smith, and I am a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) with 11 years of teaching experience in Lubbock. I am a proud public school educator, and I am urging you to vote NO on Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and vouchers. I care deeply about my students and their future, and I believe these policies will harm, not help, our education system. For over a decade, I have witnessed the incredible work happening in our public schools despite dwindling funding. Our educators create magic every single day, making a profound difference for the 5.5 million public school students in Texas. Public schools provide so much more than just academics—they offer stability, nourishment, and a safe place for students to learn and grow.

Every day, students arrive at school excited because they know they will receive a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and end-of-day snacks. They come seeking safety and a place to thrive in a world that can often feel chaotic. They are given the opportunity to learn math, reading, science, social studies, health, music, art, digital citizenship, and so much more. They engage in enriching extracurricular activities such as chess, robotics, drama club, honor choir, student council, UIL, Destination Imagination, cross-country, and countless other programs that shape their futures. Not to mention the Career and Technical Education opportunities our Middle Schools & High Schools offer. Across Texas, our educators go above and beyond, investing their time, money, and hearts into their students. Yet, they are doing so under increasingly difficult financial constraints. Our public schools are not failing—our state is failing to fund them adequately. Imagine if your resources were continuously stripped away and handed to others while you were already struggling to make ends meet. That is exactly what ESAs and vouchers will do to our public schools.

The reality is that many of our best veteran educators are leaving the classroom because they simply cannot afford to stay. Those who remain often take on second and third jobs, driving for Uber, delivering for DoorDash, and even selling plasma just to cover their basic needs and support their families. Diverting public funds to private entities will only worsen this crisis, further reducing teacher pay and forcing more passionate educators out of the profession. This is not sustainable.

Instead of funneling money away from our public schools through ESAs and vouchers, I urge you to spend time in our classrooms. Talk to real public school educators. See firsthand the challenges we face and the incredible work being done despite those obstacles. Rather than dividing limited funds, I challenge you to be bold and fully fund public education. Together, we can address the issues facing Texas education, but vouchers are not the solution. Stand with Texas educators, stand with Texas students, and vote NO on Educational Savings Accounts.

Sandra Hicks

Self-Retired public elementary school teacher

Lumberton, TX

I spent 35 years as a public school teacher, and am very concerned for the future of our state's education system. Our school system is not perfect and is in need of some changes, but many of the problems have been directly caused by our state's lack of commitment to properly funding programs, salaries, security, etc. State mandated testing has not only cost monies that could have been put to better use, but also has demanded increased expectations that are unreasonable for our students. While educators are aware of our schools' shortcomings, we also know that providing much needed funds meant for public schools to private schools instead, is not the answer. What a farce to say that the citizens in Texas want this!! On a previous Republican ballot, the question was asked if citizens supported "school choice". At that time, many were not aware of just what that meant. What a shame that voters were misled and not told that "school choice" really meant taking public tax dollars and using it to pay for private education through vouchers. I know a lot of people, and am not aware of anyone who supports this awful bill.

Our representatives are elected to support and carry out the needs and interests of their constituents, but many seem to have turned their back on us and our children to push through bills that Gov. Abbot is insisting on.

Again, shame on those of you who know better and are voting for vouchers supported by our tax dollars.

Please Vote NO on HB3 and any other bill that diverts moneys to private education. Stand up against Gov. Abbot and for the children of Texas! They are depending on you!

David Mustol

Self

Missouri City, TX

This bill will effectively rob middle class and working schools of much needed funding. Please stop this bill!

Christine Maynor-Burchsted

Grandparents/ Parents for Public Schools (GPS)

Round Rock, TX

I am reaching out to ask that you vote NO on HB3, the ESA/ School Voucher bill. As a parent and concerned Texan, I want my state to invest more in our public schools and into our Texas communities that rely heavily on the health of their local public schools.

HB3 will take tax dollars away from our public schools which will ultimately harm all Texans and especially hard hit will be our rural communities, less affluent communities and students with physical or learning disabilities, like my son, who relies on his public school's Special Education services and IEP to access a quality education, which all of our children are required by law to receive. The bill claims to give priority to children with disabilities and low income students; however it fails to address the lack of private and charter schools that can accommodate children with disabilities and it makes no requirements for private schools to follow federal and state laws ensuring students with disabilities receive proper evaluations and learning accommodations. The lack of private school options in rural and less affluent communities and the absence of school busing to these schools puts them out of reach for many communities.

ESA/ School Vouchers mostly benefit the wealthier families that already enroll their children in private schools. Families making up to \$156,000 are given priority but the bill does not put in place an income cap so very wealthy families making over \$156,000 per year can use our tax dollars to pay for their private school educations which is not right. As a result, school vouchers increase property taxes which most Texas are opposed to.

As a Texas parent, I am asking that you say NO to HB3.

Thank you for you time,

Christine Maynor-Burchsted, DVM

Brittany Johnson
self
SOUR LAKE, TX

I am a mother of two from Sour Lake, Texas. I am also a former teacher and the daughter, daughter-in-law, and niece of amazing Texas teachers. Our public school district, Hardin-Jefferson, is composed of 250 square miles. It is an amazing district but unfortunately we do not have a lot of industry for us to operate with unlimited funds. Passing this bill will cripple our school district financially and we will be forced to eliminate valuable programs and staff positions. This is cruel and unnecessary as we don't even have any private school less than 30 minutes from us. Please vote NO to this asinine bill and save our rural public school districts.

Traci Dunlap
Self, Teacher
Austin, TX

My name is Traci Dunlap. I'm a Kindergarten teacher, and a proud member of Education Austin, Texas AFT, and the Texas State Teachers Association. I'm here to speak in opposition to HB 3.

Public schools educate over 5 million students in our state, and yet we are grossly, and perpetually, underfunded. But here we sit, spending yet another legislative session focused on siphoning money away from our public schools and the vast majority of Texas students who attend them.

Vouchers, or ESAs, will hurt our students. Our public tax dollars should not be diverted to unaccountable private schools. We know from other states, such as Arizona and Oklahoma, that student outcomes are no better, and are often worse, when students use vouchers to attend private schools. We also know that most students using vouchers are from wealthy families who use them to subsidize their private school education. Vouchers are promoted as a way for families to have "choice," but in reality, it's the private schools that have the choice, and unlike public schools, can deny students entry as they see fit.

Vouchers will also hurt public school employees. After years of underfunding, most school districts in Texas are currently operating in a deficit budget, closing schools, cutting vital programs, increasing class size, and even laying off employees. We can't afford vouchers!

I'm a veteran teacher of 37 years. I love my students and my school, but retirement is on the horizon. I've made sacrifices over the years to stay in this profession, but one of the reasons I could tolerate the low pay is the promise of a pension that I could never outlive. Now I'm hearing that a voucher program could destabilize TRS and put my pension and retirement at risk. As someone who has spent my entire career in the service of my community, this is unconscionable and infuriating. I should be able to count on my pension and retire with dignity.

We have a record surplus in our state budget, and you have a real opportunity to do right by our public school educators and students. ESAs are not right for Texas. We are counting on you to keep public dollars in public schools.

Leslie Dominie
Self
Wylie, TX

Protect public education. Give public education the resources that have been promised yet not given since 2019.

Ana Tijerina
Self
San Antonio, TX

Already established public schools are the more logical, business-minded investments anyone can make. With all the overhead costs already built-in, public school funding only need cost of living adjustments. A voucher will not make a strong dent as the additional funds toward public schools. Stop trying to make individuals rich by funneling funds to their charter schools. Fully fund public schools to get the best bang for your (our tax) bucks.

Damian Gonzales
Self-General Manager
Garland, TX

Texas House Bill 3 is a direct attack on public education. Instead of properly funding our schools, supporting teachers, and ensuring students have the resources they need, this bill pushes a voucher scheme that siphon taxpayer dollars away from public schools to fund private education with little accountability. Vouchers are NOT the answer—they divert critical funding from already underfunded schools, widening the gap between privileged and struggling students. Even with bipartisan opposition, Greg Abbott is forcing this through, ignoring the will of the people and the lawmakers who know this bill will do more harm than good. If we truly care about the future of Texas education, we should be strengthening our public schools, not dismantling them for political gain.

Barbara Roberts, MS
TCTA
Richmond, TX

Vouchers are not for Txs they are for the rich. While serving just of handful of Texans it will further under fund Texas schools and cost tax payers more to operate feuding educational systems.

Faye Inglis
Self/ former public school teacher/ retired
Dripping Springs, TX

School vouchers are a subsidy for the rich and will deplete public schools of much needed funding. Many rural counties and school districts do not even have a private school. Private schools can turn down any student for admittance. Public schools cannot by law refuse admittance, setting up extra costs for special education. Public tax dollars should not subsidize private enterprise and profit.

Blythe Barajas
Myself
Plano, TX

If vouchers are worth \$10k, then the basic allotment per student in public school should be \$10k.

Linda Collins, Ms.
Retired Teachers
Austin, TX

Please vote NO on HB 3. Parents and students need public schools that are fully funded. Please put our hard earned tax dollars into the public schools, not away from them. It is the responsibility of the legislature to establish quality public schools for the families of this great state. Please don't let them down. Thank you for your service to the people of Texas.

Linda White, Mrs
Texas AFT
Corpus Christi, TX

Public tax dollars should be spent on public education

Mary Green
Self
Galveston, TX

Tax dollars need to go to public education, not private. Stop holding back money from school districts.

Deborah Jones

Self

Malakoff, TX

I belththis bill will decimate public education. You have legislated what must be taught and then complain about the result. This will do a disservice to our challenged special needs children and will not help the lower economic students. Do not pass this bill.

Camille Cavazos

Self-public school educator

Harlingen, TX

I DO NOT want vouchers!! Absolutely not!

Amy Servat

Teachers

Houston, TX

Nobody wants this! This is merely a money grab that will look very bad in hindsight. Be on the right side of history.

Sue Lasseigne

self

Houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sue Lasseigne, I am a parent/community member in Spring Branch ISD in Houston and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical education programs that serve our students.

The data from SBISD's state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend -- our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

For example:

Special Education: The state allotment for special education in 2023-24 was \$31.5 million, but actual expenditures reached \$53.5 million, leaving a \$22 million shortfall. This gap is projected to be \$20.3 million in 2024-25. Without adequate funding, students with disabilities may not receive the legally mandated services they need to thrive.

Safety & Security: In 2023-24, the state provided only \$0.9 million, but the actual cost was \$8.9 million, creating an \$8 million deficit. For 2024-25, the gap is projected to grow to \$10 million, putting school safety measures at risk.

Transportation: The 2023-24 state allocation was \$1.5 million, while the cost of maintaining transportation services was \$10.4 million, leading to an \$8.9 million shortfall. In 2024-25, the gap is expected to be \$8.3 million, making it difficult to ensure students have reliable and safe transportation to and from school.

Pre-Kindergarten: This critical early childhood education program faced a \$3.7 million funding gap in 2023-24, with an estimated \$3.2 million shortfall in 2024-25. Underfunding pre-K limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities that set children up for future success.

Our educators and administrators are doing their best with limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with actual costs of running these programs. These includes:

Increasing the Basic Allotment at a minimum of \$500

Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.

Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.

Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.

Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation for academic success.

Patricia Romano

Self-retired

Leander, TX

I am opposed to using tax dollars for private school vouchers unless those private schools are held to the same admission standards and testing requirements as public schools. Defunding the public education system will be detrimental to the Texas economy in the long run.

Heather Ramirez

Self

Baytown, TX

The HB3 bill will hurt our public schools which are at the heart of the Baytown community. Public schools are already underfunded. The tax dollars being held hostage need to be released so that our students have what they need to succeed. Please fulfill your role of serving and representing your constituents and vote no on HB3.

Shannon Jorge
Self
San Angelo, TX

Please do not approve this bill. Public schools are the foundation of our freedom and democracy. This voucher bill will take the already limited funding from public schools and give it to private schools that don't need it and are not held to any standards. This money belongs in public schools. Let's keep it there.

Krista Milam
Self
Austin, TX

As a parent, I strongly oppose this by bill for the havoc it would cause in public education. All Texan children deserve access to a great education and this bill funnels money away from that cause. Please stop moving money away from our public schools. We will vote you out in a heartbeat when we can, if this passes. No one wants this, not republicans nor democrats - this is a deeply unpopular move.

Kathryn Zimmerman
Self, Occupational Therapist
AUSTIN, TX

A voucher program in Texas would significantly undermine public education by diverting critical funding away from public schools, exacerbating inequalities, and weakening educational accountability. While those of this Committee might argue that school vouchers increase choice and competition, the reality is that they create a system that benefits a few at the expense of the majority, where many rural and underserved communities depend heavily on public education.

Public schools in Texas rely on state funding, which is primarily based on student enrollment. When students leave public schools for private institutions using vouchers, the funding that would have gone to their education in the public system follows them to private schools. This creates a financial shortfall for public schools, forcing them to operate with fewer resources while still having to meet the same operational costs, such as teacher salaries, facility maintenance, and student support programs.

Vouchers also disproportionately benefit families who already have the means to supplement tuition costs. Most private schools charge tuition far above the value of a voucher, leaving low-income families unable to afford attendance even with financial assistance. This leads to a system where wealthier families receive public money to offset their private school tuition while lower-income families remain in an increasingly underfunded public school system.

Moreover, rural communities, where private school options are limited or nonexistent, would see no benefit from a voucher program. Students in these areas would remain in public schools that face declining resources due to funding losses. This creates a two-tiered education system in which well-funded private institutions cater to a select few, while the majority of students face worsening conditions in their underfunded public schools.

Public schools are legally required to provide special education services to students with disabilities, ensuring that they receive appropriate accommodations and support. However, private schools are not bound by the same obligations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Many private schools lack the resources or willingness to accommodate students with special needs, meaning that voucher programs often leave families of children with disabilities with fewer educational options rather than more.

A voucher program in Texas would ultimately harm public schools by diverting essential funding, exacerbating educational inequality, reducing accountability, and weakening special education services. Public education is designed to serve all children, and policies should focus on improving this system rather than undermining it. Rather than pursuing a voucher system that benefits a select few, Texas should commit to strengthening its public education system for the benefit of all students.

Sandy Burton
Self retired
Cedar Park, TX

Public education must be the focus of state government. Taking public money and diverting it to a voucher system for private schools is no substitute for improving public schools. I urge all committee members to consider the results in other states that have adopted this system. Nothing good has come of it in other states. Please remember we have 158 counties in Texas with no private schools. How could a voucher system possibly work for the children in those counties? Thank you for your consideration.

Amanda Lyn Schulze
Self and my son
Mckinney, TX

Due to federal and state funding my son's school is cutting the services he needs the most like Special Education, Fine Arts, Interventionists, the GT program (because he is twice exceptional like a lot of kids). They're cutting more than 70 positions. I should be clear we live in a great school district, we moved here for the schools. It's a very affluent area but yet the public schools here are cutting necessities bc of the lack of funding. Stop this nonsense with the voucher program which only benefits people who can either already afford private schools can almost afford private schools. Those schools don't support kids like my son, who have super high IQs but are also on the spectrum or with ADHD. If you want to make a difference, make charter schools and private schools offer Special Education and be held to IEPs. Or fun public schools enough they can offer buses to all kids, not just ones who live over 2 miles from the school. Do better!!!

Nicole Daniel
Self—parent
Austin, TX

This voucher bill is will do nothing but defund public schools and divert public dollars to families who already choose private school. It provides no new access to families in rural areas where there are no private schools to choose from, and will just bleed their existing schools of resources. Texas public schools are already facing impossible budget cuts that I see first-hand as an elementary school parent. This is a failed experiment that has been tried before in other states. It doesn't work, and I am opposed.

Linda Murdock
self
Buda, TX

Please save our public schools and vote 'NO' on HB 3. I am against vouchers.

Brad Wynne
Self
Little Elm, TX

I formally testify against the HB 3 bill.

Jessica Barlow
Self Stay at home mom
Midland, TX

To whom it may concern,

My Name is Jessica Barlow and I am a stay at home mom,But I am a home schooling parent also.I like that I have the freedom to teach my children in the best way that works for them. But that they also get the one on one attention that kids in public schools don't. I started homeschooling knowing that our tax dollars would still go to the public school system,and We are were and still are okay with that.We also like that is homeschooling is free of government strings . That there are no restrictions or regulations holding us down. Government strings would take the love we have for homeschooling. Please vote against HB3 relating to the establishment of education savings accounts.

Sincerely Jessica Barlow

Paula Everett

Taxpayer

Haskell, TX

Protect our Public Schools!

Protect our Texas children!

Protect and encourage our Public school employees!

Protect our Retired Teachers!

Vote No to Vouchers!

Thank you

Paula Everett

Retired teacher

Retired school board trustee

Walt Rivenbark, Mr.

Self and thousands of others in CISD

Southlake, TX

This bill is horrible for the kids of Texas and will make education even worse for public schools. You held public school funds hostage for over 5 years to try to get this voucher scam approved. Please fund our public schools properly. We already have school choice. So not vote for this voucher scam bill.

Chrissy Beltran, Instructional coach & consultant

Buzzing with Ms. B

El Paso, TX

I absolutely oppose this bill. This bill will take funding from our already under funded public schools and give it to private schools who have a few accountability measures. I do not approve of my tax dollars going to a school that teaches whatever it wants, however it wants. I do not approve of my tax dollars funding a Christian fundamentalist educational program. I do not approve of an education savings account program because public education is the one thing we provide to every person in this country. How dare we got the funding from public education to provide it to private schools. I am absolutely not in support of this bill.

Debbie Zintgraff

self

San Antonio, TX

As a mother of three adult children, my husband and I have used both public and private education in Texas. I was very involved in my children's education volunteering as room parent, PTA member and officer, theater-mom, band-mom and field-trip chaperone. I found the education they received in both schools to be outstanding. The separation of church and state is a very important principle to our family. As a Christian, I support the public schools to provide education in academic subjects like reading, writing, math, science, computer science, theater, art, foreign languages and extracurricular activities like sports, drama, language clubs, etc. but do not support the indoctrination of any religious education. It is up to the parents to share their faith at home, to take their children to church, to pray and worship together, and to read their sacred books like the Bible together. The private school is not accountable to the Texas government and has its own admittance criteria and curriculum. Our tax dollars should be used to fund public education for the good of all citizens who may or may not share the same religious beliefs. Keep religious education out of the public schools and keep tax dollars out of private schools. This is for the good of both institutions. If our tax dollars are funding a private education, then the private schools must be held to the same accountability as public schools such as student standardized testing, financial reporting, and must make changes to admission criteria. As a parent of a student in a private school, I would also be concerned that the private school's curriculum would also be influenced by the secular state, which is a conflict for the private school. And don't school vouchers contradict The Texas Constitution, Article I, Section 7 which explicitly states that no public money shall be appropriated for the benefit of any religious sect or institution? Bottom-line, in my opinion, I think it's best to keep religious education funded by parents and churches SEPARATED from public education funded by public taxes.

Julia Borg

Self

San Angelo, TX

As a Texas resident, I am against the school voucher system. In no way shape or form do I support it. Parents already have school choice. It's the parents decision to be involved in their child's academics. I'm a voice for those that private schools will refuse and decline. We need to support the public and all of our children. Better never means better for everyone, it means worse for some. Worse for our public schools including the children and staff.

Rachel Miller

self

Dallas, TX

Greg Abbott's HB 3 voucher is a scam. Save our public schools. Please vote against vouchers.

Sanford Dochen

self: retired community/gov't relations exec

Austin, TX

I am totally against school vouchers. Acknowledging that many public schools aren't performing at top expectations, I believe the solution is to rethink our approach to education, create more school/community/business partnerships and provide more assistance to families in order to better support their kids who are struggling.

As we've seen in other states, what starts out as a relatively minor expense can balloon to major budget challenges. Mingling public dollars in a religious-oriented school seems a clear separation of church and state---the First Amendment. There have been so many trends in education, but some are fads that are tried but disproven. Vouchers are the latest fad to address issues with public education when instead, upholding the values and virtues of community-based public schools contribute to our economy and free society. **VOTE NO ON THIS BILL!**

Amy Thomas
self
Cibolo, TX

I am a lifelong Texan, a conservative Republican, a parent of former and current public school children, and a grandparent to public school children, and a public school board trustee. I strongly oppose HB 3 and urge lawmakers to reject any attempt to divert public funds away from Texas' public schools through an Education Savings Account (ESA) program. This bill is nothing more than a voucher scheme that will weaken our public education system, undermine transparency and accountability, and leave Texas students behind.

1. ESA Vouchers Undermine Public Schools

Texas' public schools educate over 5 million children, yet they remain underfunded, with many districts struggling to provide competitive teacher salaries, maintain safe school buildings, and afford essential instructional materials. Instead of addressing these pressing issues, HB 3 would siphon tax dollars into private schools, many of which lack accountability, do not serve all students, and are not required to meet the same academic and financial transparency standards as public schools.

2. No Real Accountability or Oversight

Public schools are held to strict academic, financial, and ethical standards, ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly. Private schools that accept ESA funds are not required to follow these same regulations. They do not have to serve students with disabilities, provide services for English learners, or follow state curriculum standards. This lack of oversight creates an environment where funds can be misused, leaving students and families without recourse.

3. ESA Vouchers Favor the Privileged and Leave Rural Students Behind

Vouchers primarily benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition. The average cost of private school tuition in Texas far exceeds the proposed ESA amount, making it inaccessible for lower-income families. Additionally, most rural areas in Texas lack private schools altogether, meaning families in these communities would see no benefit from this program. Instead, their local public schools would suffer funding losses without an alternative option.

4. The Real Solution: Fully Fund Public Education

Rather than diverting funds to unregulated private institutions, Texas must invest in solutions that strengthen public schools for all students. This includes increasing the Basic Allotment, raising teacher pay, ensuring schools have the resources to meet the needs of special education students, and improving access to mental health services. Lawmakers should focus on real solutions, not policies that dismantle public education.

Texans want strong public schools, not privatization schemes. HB 3 is not about parental choice—it's about defunding our public education system in favor of an unaccountable program that benefits a select few. I urge the Legislature to reject this bill and instead prioritize policies that truly support Texas students, educators, and communities.

Andrea Krieger

Self and my school aged children in the public school system.

Mckinney, TX

Do not pass HB3 out of committee. Please focus on making our public schools whole instead. Fully fund them, so all Texans can benefit from a state of the art public education system. Funding should be tied to inflation, based upon enrollment, and any mandates should be fully funded in addition to basic allotment. Our public schools, children, teachers, and district staff are counting on you to do the right thing. SB3 should not leave committee. Instead let's pass a bill that fully funds our public schools.

Marlo Rockhold

Self

LEANDER, TX

Republicans say "the people want this," but the only vote we've had was in the primaries on the Republican ballot. In no way does this fully represent "the people" of Texas or what they want. Put your money where your mouth is, and put this to a statewide vote. Let all of the people tell you what they want instead of assuming. If you cannot give solid numbers of how many of the full voting population want this, what are you even doing as a REPRESENTATIVE of THE PEOPLE.

Lynne Ferguson
Self / book editor
Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB3 which will be a disaster for public education. I believe that access to free and fair public education is one of the bedrock principles of our democracy and that undermining it by taking money out of the system is un-American. If this passes Texas will cease to be a state that is competitive on the national stage because in order to be a successful state we need to be educating our children, not starving them and our schools of resources. Stop this pointless, wrong-headed, and harmful legislation.

Nico Willis, Ms.
self- university student and retail manager
Austin, TX

The fact of the matter is this—school choice vouchers will hurt the children of Texas. There is no scenario in which school choice vouchers do not systematically disadvantage poor children. If the goal is to prevent Texans from succeeding, that's what this bill will do.

Erin Tigelaar
Self
Austin, TX

Do not pass HB3 out of committee. Focus on fully funding and supporting public education - the system that educates the vast majority of Texans.

Jennifer Knight
Self
San Antonio, TX

I STRONGLY DISAGREE with taking money away from public schools in Texas to give money towards school vouchers. I think vouchers will just weaken our public schools which will weaken our Texas workforce. If people want their children to go to private schools, they should pay for the tuition themselves.

Sara Stewart
Self
Little Elm, TX

No vouchers! You are defunding public education to privatize education. It's shameful and disgusting. Honestly, I do not know how you can call yourself about public servant.

Lisa Stone
self, educator
Houston, TX

You already know the facts about public schools vs school vouchers. Most Texans want to support public education because it's helped so many Texans better themselves and their eventual families' lives. Public school education saves money because it gives people tools to earn their living and contribute positively to their communities.

I join all those asking you to NOT give tax money to fund school vouchers in any form.

Please do the job you're elected to do by caring about the majority of Texans' well being: preserve tax funding for public schools NOT for school vouchers.

Katie Newell
Self, Project Manager
Austin, TX

I am expressing my strong opposition to HB3. As a constituent and Texan, i expect the legislator to oppose HB3 because it's bad for Texas.

Elizabeth Diebold
Self/Retired
Argyle, TX

Please vote no on vouchers. Our tax dollars need to be spent for our public schools. Unlike private schools, our public schools do not pick and choose students , but educate ALL our children. Public schools are the backbone of our society and our future.

Alexia Haywood
Myself as a taxpayer
Austin, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers. Public taxpayer money should stay in public schools! Vouchers will serve the wealthy while further draining our public schools that are struggling due to lack of funding. You were elected to serve ALL Texas families, not make money for the rich.

Anna Stratton
self
Amarillo, TX

I do Not support the establishment of HB3 an establishment of education savings program. Vouchers give choice to private schools and NOT most Texas families. The voucher doesn't even cover the cost of most private schools. This is a scam that benefits the wealthy only and not the average Texas family. We are outraged about it. Texas citizens want our public schools fully funded

Joel Tijerina
Self
Boerne, TX

I do not support the passing of this bill. This bill will not benefit all Texas students and will hurt the majority of the children in public education. By passing this bill, only the wealthy will benefit which does not make a majority of the Texas students. Please do not vote this bill in.

Molly Cohen
Self, homeschool mother
Pflugerville, TX

I am a homeschool mother of two children. I do not want to see our public schools suffer under a bill like this. I do not support an ESA or vouchers. I want the kids in my community to have everything they need. We should be giving more money to public schools, not distributing it out in the name of "choice." Texans already have choice. As a homeschool mother, I am an example of that choice. I do not want to take a dime at the expense of my neighbors' and friends' children who are all enrolled in public school. I do not want to take a dime at the expense of my friend who is an elementary teacher without the resources she needs as it is. Invest more in public schools so parents don't feel the need to look elsewhere. Invest in our teachers and the students. Provide more special education funding, pay teachers more, hire more support staff. That's where the money should be going.

Suzy Richards
Self, teacher
College Station, TX

As a public school teacher, I am well aware of the challenges facing public education in Texas due to lack of funding by the state government. I oppose HB 3 because it would be detrimental to public education by draining funds from public schools and putting public money into private schools. Teachers need raises without strings attached. Per child funding for public education needs to be increased by the state. Public money given to wealthy private citizens to send their children to private schools is a scam, no matter the face backers of this horrendous bill try to put on it. Support public education by eliminating vouchers and increasing funding to public schools.

Patricia Contreras
AFT
Socorro, TX

I say no to school vouchers

Judy Cole
Myself
Canton, TX

I oppose HB 3. This bill does nothing but take my tax dollars from my public schools. Texas is ranked 45th in education and this bill will make us 50th.
The Governor needs to release my tax dollars he has been withholding for years from our teachers, and schools.
This issue has been opposed by the taxpayers for years. Governor Abbott needs to open his ears. No to Vouchers No to the scam. No to Mr Abbott taking money from outsiders & wanting to inflict his will on Texans.
No to HB 3!

Mark Klyn
self/School Psychologist
Henrietta, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB 3 a school voucher boondoggle. Many of the reasons for this being bad for Texas have already been stated. The debate is settled except that it appears that the supporters of this bill have been unduly influenced by outside (of Texas) or wealthy oilmen with alternative motives for passage. It is clear that the supporters of this bill are not listening to the majority of their constituents. Other states who have implemented similar vouchers disguised as ESA's have blown their budgets while the majority of the money has gone to those already enrolled in private schools. This will be schools' choice not school choice. School choice is already abundantly available in TX.

Meanwhile, over the past 20 years, despite the false information put forth by those in our highest offices in Texas, true funding for Public Education has been strangled by the legislature. I have been around long enough to remember the phrase, "Starve the beast," as a way that some members of the legislature have described public education funding. There has been a purposeful and well schemed effort to starve public education in an effort to demonstrate in propaganda that our schools are failing. To the contrary, our public schools are providing amazing services under weathering support. Support our public schools! Vote no or allow Texans a statewide vote on vouchers! Let the public decide. Pay attention to the majority of constituents, including many private or home schoolers, who are opposed to vouchers.

Candace Myers
self
Austin, TX

I do not support diverting money from public education in Texas to unaccountable parochial schools. Please find a different way to fund private education choice, rather than pilfering our already under funded public schools.

Nikhil Batra

Self

Austin, TX

Please do not vote for this. Rural families will suffer!

Vanessa Bingham

Self

Arlington, TX

We don't need tax credits or vouchers for private schools. Sooner or later you'll come for homeschoolers. It's always the way of a govt program. Please don't stick your nose under the tent to let yourself in. Just say No to Vouchers!

Donna Beto

Self-retired teacher (Life Member of TSTA)

Bryan, TX

I am a retired teacher in public education for 36 years. Please vote "NO" to school vouchers! The only people who want this are Governor Abbott and wealthy parents who already send their children to private schools. That is a minority of your constituents. I am asking you to vote with the majority of your constituents who want state funding to continue going to their local public schools.

*Private schools are private businesses

*Private schools do not have to hire certified teachers

* Private schools are not state regulated regarding special education

*Private schools do not require state testing

*Private schools do not have to accept all students, because they have their own set of criteria

*Private schools have the freedom to turn away students with special needs such as autism

*Private schools set their tuition levels way beyond what the voucher savings account would pay for each student

Most Texans are against using tax dollars to pay private school tuition for selected students while undermining public schools where the vast majority of Texas students are educated.

I urge you to vote "NO" to vouchers, educational saving accounts, and school choice (by whatever name). It is still funneling taxpayer dollars to private schools when the money belongs in public schools.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Beto

Lonnie Perez

Self

Georgetown, TX

We do not need vouchers. Support public education!

Kathy Mochel

RootEd/Self

San Antonio, TX

Say NO to Vouchers. Vouchers will take money away from public schools. They serve to increase inequity in our education system. I am already paying taxes for my student to attend public school. I love my neighborhood public schools. I love the teachers and the opportunities they have to pursue sports, the arts, clubs, multiple pathways to careers at graduation or furthering their education at top notch universities. Fully fund public schools and don't be fooled by this voucher scam. Vote NO!! Please. For the future of our Great State!

Tamiqua Rhodes
Self, School Counselor
Pearland, TX

This is not the answer to our broken school system in Texas. We should focus on having the right people working for TEA to ensure school districts are held accountable.

Jack Moon, Educator
Deer Park Ind. School District
Pasadena, TX

vouchers divert essential funding away from public schools, which serve the majority of students, to private institutions that often lack accountability and transparency. This shift can exacerbate inequalities, as public schools may struggle to provide quality education with reduced resources. Additionally, vouchers may not cover the full cost of private school tuition, leaving low-income families unable to afford the difference, thus failing to offer true choice. Furthermore, private schools are not required to adhere to the same standards and regulations as public schools, potentially compromising educational quality and inclusivity. Overall, the introduction of school vouchers could undermine the public education system, widening the gap between affluent and disadvantaged students.

Cassidy Lane
Self
Clyde, TX

I am against this bill!

Greg Hendrickson
Self
Kingwood, TX

Protect public education by killing the school voucher bill. All Texas school children deserve the same education.

Pamela Williams, RN
AFT
Houston, TX

I am totally against taking tax payers money to support PRIVATE EDUCATION. If a person wants their child and/or children to attend a private school they should send them with their personal funds not taxpayers money, I sent my children to private schools (not charter schools) and pay for it by working extra jobs.

Susan Grantham
Self
Austin, TX

I benefitted greatly from being raised in Texas and being educated in its public schools. My children are going to Texas public schools now, and they have already lost services available to me a generation ago. Please reverse course and invest in our public school system, where I, as a secular citizen, felt protected and welcomed. Where my classmates from a wide range of socioeconomic conditions lived the "melting pot" promise of our democracy.

I do not want my tax dollars to be taken and spent on students choosing private schools, which are unregulated and violate the separation of church and state.

I would reconsider this voucher system if public school teachers were given higher salaries and children in public schools were being funded equally to those with families choosing to attend private schools.

Ami Gandhi

self, guest educator with Round Rock Independent School District
Cedar Park, TX

I am a Texas resident, a parent, an educator, and a local PTA board member, and I am strongly opposed to HB 3. I am a strong advocate for public education and believe firmly that every child deserves good schools, good teachers, and a good education. It is the job and responsibility of publicly elected officials in Texas to support and adequately fund Texas public schools. It is the job of publicly elected officials to VALUE public education and to work to improve it in all areas of Texas that have struggling schools. The answer is not to give up on public education and use taxpayers' dollars to privatize education. The state government is not entitled to redirect public funds from public schools toward private schools; public officials were elected by Texans to represent ALL of their best interests and not just the minority that can afford and has access to private schools. Not to mention that there aren't nearly enough private schools in Texas to house all of the public school students in struggling districts so HB 3 will serve to help only the privileged and significantly hurt the underprivileged.

Last year my children's school district paid 10 million dollars of OUR community's taxes to recapture and yet the state government is sitting on this money and failing to use it to adequately fund Texas schools and adequately compensate Texas public teachers and staff. It is failing to support public education in this state even though it has "recaptured" billions of taxpayers' dollars to do so. HB 3 is not the answer; HB 3 is an example of public officials failing to meet the needs of ALL their diverse and numerous constituents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Julie Degollado

Self

La Feria, TX

I fully support this bill!

Glen Hill

Self

Haskell, TX

I do NOT support an ESA bill of any sort. If you fully fund public schools first (and truly fully fund not claim the numbers are what they aren't), improve teacher pay, and increase the SPED weights then we can talk about ESA's. Until then, let's work on the system that supports ALL students and not just those we choose.

Laura Salinas-Soria, Mrs.

AFT

Corpus Christi, TX

No, to vouchers...no to Greg Abbott!

Pamela Rogers

Self

Katy, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school vouchers in the state of Texas. Vouchers divert crucial public funds away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas children, to subsidize private and charter schools that are not held to the same accountability standards.

Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education, support, and opportunities to students of all backgrounds. Instead of funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions, we should invest in strengthening our public school system by increasing teacher pay, improving resources, and ensuring every child has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting any voucher proposals and focusing on policies that uplift public education for all.

Thank you for your dedication to the future of Texas students.

Justin LeFoll

Self

Katy, TX

I do not understand why you are pushing private vouchers that help wealthy people. This bill does not aide those who need it most. Abbott keeps pushing this political agenda but it does not help those with poverty, special needs (unless you have money), and most demographics. Where is the data that this is working? What I have read this is not working in other states. Stop the political agenda and support things that truly will make a difference.

Marcy Sabol

AFT

Sheridan, TX

I am opposed to Education Savings accounts or vouchers. The legislature should focus FIRST on fully funding PUBLIC education.

Chartle Burns

Dallasisd

Dallas, TX

Not i favor

Ann Glaess

Self

Mount Vernon, TX

This bill will harm our rural public schools. We don't want it.

Janet Sweezey

self - retired

Houston, TX

I am asking you to not pass HB3. Texas legislators can not say they prioritize raising teacher salaries and adequately funding public schools when the school voucher program will divert taxpayer dollars and decrease funding for public schools due to lower attendance figures. HB3 is flawed because it directly funds approved vendors instead of students, leads to budget overruns, increases costs for private schools that do not want to participate and establishes a framework that invites future regulations, based on the legislature's past actions regarding charter school and ISDs. In addition, while HB3 has a tier system of providing vouchers (vs. SB2 which states that the low income family threshold is \$156,000 per year), none of the measures propose that vouchers be used for families at or below the federal poverty level (\$32,150 or 14% of Texans). Even if the vouchers focused on Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed families (43% of families trying to stay afloat according to the United Way), \$10,000 would not be enough for these families to send their children to top-ranked private schools. In Arizona, only 1% of the families in the poorest zip codes had a voucher while the wealthier zip codes had up to 25% usage. Another concern is how will these poor families transport their children to the private school. Finally, while HB3 promotes vouchers first for families with special education students, private schools and vendors are under no obligation to accept and serve students with special needs. Even if a student with special needs attends a private school with a voucher, they will likely forfeit the protections they have under federal law. In public schools, students are guaranteed admission, transparency of funding and services as well as accountability for academic performance and protections under IDEA which private schools are not required to follow.

Again, I implore you not to pass HB3 as a parent of children who attended public schools and a speech pathologist who worked in the schools for over 30 years. Our public school students, teachers and faculty deserve to be fully funded in order to provide an exceptional to all students, not just ones that can afford a private school tuition.

Amy Hickox, Mrs

Self

Dallas, TX

The voucher program is not a data driven decision. Public money being funneled to private schools and charter schools with no oversight or accountability will negatively impact our rural and city school systems that are already stretched thin.

Adrianna Henderson

Self

Kyle, TX

As a former public educator of 16 years, parent of a public school student, and current substitute teacher in Hays CISD, I strongly oppose the school voucher scheme. This is simply a way for the governor to further cut funding to public schools and line the pockets of his donors. A majority of counties in Texas do not have private schools. This will gut rural education. The governor must fulfill his duty and fully fund public schools. Governor Abbott knows a vast majority of Texans are opposed to this voucher scheme and if it was brought to a public vote, it would fail miserably, which is why he's trying to force it through the legislature. I urge you to vote no on this terrible bill that will do nothing to improve education for the students of Texas.

Heather Cuevas

self

Austin, TX

This voucher program would cost the state over \$2 billion and will primarily benefit wealthy families. Not only are they costly, but they have been shown time and time again to not improve educational outcomes and likely worsen them. And unlike public schools, private school voucher programs lack accountability and oversight. Vouchers put power and choice in the hands of private schools NOT parents. Vouchers are the waste, fraud, and abuse we need to get rid of!

CARRIE GETZ

self

Austin, TX

Vouchers divert funds away from public schools, which already face budget constraints. Vouchers can discriminate against students with disabilities and exacerbate racial segregation. Vouchers give money to private schools that are not accountable to taxpayers. There is no reliable evidence that vouchers improve student success. In fact, some programs have shown negative effects. Vouchers raise concerns about the separation of church and state and civil rights protections. Vouchers can lead to wasteful spending and tuition increases at private schools. Vouchers may not be a realistic option for families in rural areas or low-income families. Vouchers may worsen educational conditions for middle and low-income students.

Sherrie Hendrix

Self, Retired

Montgomery, TX

I graduated high school in 1957, a significant year in my memory of Texas attempting to pass a Jim Crow school voucher law. School vouchers weren't intended as a purpose for good then and they still aren't. For 85 years, I've had high hopes that our local, state and federal governments would only consider bills aimed for the good of the majority of their citizens and residents. I urge Texas lawmakers to recognize that Greg Abbott's obsession with school vouchers takes us back to a dark place and time. Calling them an ESA doesn't make them any prettier. Neither my great grandchildren, nor anyone else's should be deprived of the best education available with the public school system. If it's not obvious, I'm registering my Texas born/mostly raised/retired opposition to HB 3. I remain hopeful.

Elyse Munselle

self

Austin, TX

I strongly urge you to vote against the HB 3 legislation. First, I am concerned that this bill would negatively and disproportionately affect children of color, children in rural areas, and other low-income families, while helping families that do have enough money to pay for private school get a discount. Taking funding away from our public school systems means that so many children will miss out on critical student services, security measures, and other educational programs. The low-income areas are the public schools that benefit the most from those programs, and you would be knowingly and purposefully underfunding them. In addition, A singular focus on armed personnel overlooks many other proven safety strategies. Secure campus design, improved communication systems, early threat assessments, and community-based partnerships play a significant role in preventing violence. True school safety goes beyond firearms and requires a multi-pronged plan that includes student well-being, family engagement, and local mental health services. By neglecting these facets, HB-3 offers only a short-term, piecemeal approach to a complex issue. I strongly urge the Legislature to engage a broader coalition of stakeholders—educators, parents, mental health experts, law enforcement, and students themselves—before moving forward with a bill that will profoundly shape the learning environment. Such input can help refine the legislation so that any new measures are both effective and fiscally responsible.

THERESA DAVIS

private Citizen

AUSTIN, TX

VOTE NO FOR SCHOOL VOUCHERS.

Deborah Garcia-Lopez, Mrs. Garcia-Lopez

Self

Brownsville, TX

I am a local resident of Brownsville and I do not want the school vouchers to be approved!!

Vicki French

Tax payor

Austin, TX

I disagree with the vouchers. Rich families can afford to send their children to private school without any money but will get more money anyway with the vouchers. Poorer people can't afford private school even with the money/credit they get so the rich get richer & the poor stay the same. Also it will hurt public education.

Sarah Gonzalez

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please do not vote yes on this. Public education needs the funding, not parents of kids already going to private school. This will not help students who live in areas with no private schools. What this will do is take away needed money from public schools and cause less qualified teachers to work in public school. This will have a huge effect on our future society if public education declines in quality. This means less kids graduating and going on to higher education. This will mean more kids dropping out of school. When public education declines, our qualified work force will also decline. What I don't understand is how so many people who grew up in public education and became successful, would now want to take that American Dream away from our next generations. When people start talking about school choice, it already is there. In San Antonio alone there are tons of options for free charter schools. School districts are letting parents have school choice where they can attend any school on the district. It is flabbergasting that our representatives are taking money from rich donors and voting against the future of Texas education and work force. Since when does money determine what is right? This bill is so wrong. Please vote no to save the future of Texas.

Naveen Nattam

Self

Austin, TX

I am against the establishment of a public savings account for schools in Texas. Not only does it deny funds that are better served to bolster our public education system, it gives my tax money to people who do not need it and can already afford to send their kids to private school. The total allotment neither covers the entire cost of attendance including tuition, uniforms, or supplies required by these schools, nor does it do anything to prevent private schools from then raising their prices after the voucher has been put into place. There are already scholarship programs that are readily utilized for the few they want to include in their programs. Many rural counties don't even have private schools available to them within a reasonable distance, making it impractical or even impossible for them to attend. Where is the choice in that? Furthermore, public schools are given money based on daily attendance and enrollment, so assuming this program actually did what you claim it will (which it won't), it will further remove money from our public schools which are already sorely underfunded. This bill is outrageous in its blatant move to privatize public education, further a religious agenda to erode the separation between church and state, and garner more power and money for those that already have it, making the divide between those that have and have not even greater.

Amanda Stark

Self

Mckinney, TX

I was born in a small town in the Texas panhandle. I grew up in the agricultural industry and I know the meaning of community. I also know that school choice is important. My parents chose to homeschool myself and my siblings for the majority of our education. They also taught us that public education benefits us all and never wanted funds from the government to help with our private homeschool education. I believe this today as an active member of the Texas PTA, and advocate for fully funded Texas PUBLIC schools. Say no to public dollars going to private schools. Fund our schools fully and give them the help they actually need to see our children - the future of Texas THRIVE. My faith has taught me to take of all, and that is what tax dollars do in public schools. I also implore you to think about the lasting impact this will have on TRS, the teacher retirement. Think back to your education and your favorite teacher or public university professor. Think about the cafeteria workers, the custodians, the music directors, the coaches. Do not defund their retirement they worked tirelessly for while educating you- our future. Think about the librarians who provide a safe space and what this bill will do to the teachers, staff and ultimately our children and their level of education.

Kirk Swann

Self photographer

El Lago, TX

I am completely opposed to this school voucher bill. The continuing dismantling of public education in our state is horrible. This effort is nothing more than providing a discount to people who can already afford the choice they ALREADY HAVE to send their children to private of religious schools. Appealing to struggling parents in schools that are doing their best with dwindling resources is at best misleading. Private schools have little accountability and no requirement to enrollment children with special needs or discipline challenges. This bill allows private schools to cherry pick the students who are already achieving and thus dooming neighborhood schools to more funding challenges. I am steadfastly opposed.

Regina Martinez

self employed

Pflugerville, TX

Our oldest daughter has ADHD and learning differences. She gets the best of both worlds in her collaborative model school - 3 days at school in a classroom and 2 days at home where we can work with her 1:1. ??A traditional school with 5 days of in-class instruction would not be the best option for her since she thrives on this collaborative model. Her 2 days at home gives her more flexibility to complete assignments and 1:1 help to work through difficult concepts. It helps catch anything that 'falls through the cracks' during her 3 days in the classroom. But classroom time helps give her structure, education from a certified teacher, and time with peers & friends. Our school's model gives her the BEST possible chance to succeed without burnout or discouragement.

?We sacrifice a LOT to make this happen each year. Tuition at our child's school is around 7k-11k per child. While not out of reach, it's a struggle. We carefully budget every single penny and postpone many things we'd like/need to have. Our vehicle has 272k miles. We can't afford both a car payment and tuition. Every creak and rattle reminds me that our child's school choice is a ticking time bomb we can only afford for so long. So tell me, how long can I push my 2011 Kia Sorrento before we need to cave, buy another car with payments, and give up the best possible option for our child?

With vouchers, more middle/lower class families like us can experience the peace of finding a school that gives your child the best option possible for their learning differences. It should no longer be for the upper middle class only.

Ellanor Cook

self

Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Ellanor Cook and I am a constituent in zip code 78731. I am writing to ask my representative to vote NO on HB3. Voucher programs in other states have exploded beyond their initial budgets, draining resources from public schools. Worse, vouchers do not improve student achievement and, in many states, lead to a decline in achievement. Furthermore, the reality is that vouchers are not about "parent choice" because the only choice in a voucher program belongs to private schools that can hand-pick their students and are not accountable to taxpayers or the state. Texas parents already have school choice, and vouchers undeniably funnel public tax dollars away from our already-strained public schools. In a state that currently has a surplus of roughly \$24 BILLION, it is unconscionable that we continue to be one of the lowest funded public education programs in the country. We are currently \$4,000/student BELOW that national average. I am asking for full, longterm funding of public education in the state of Texas.

Julia Jonas

Self, attorney and parent

Austin, TX

I am strongly against private school vouchers. Adopting a voucher system would not only harm public school students and their families. They're also bad for all Texans. By diverting funds away from public schools, vouchers weaken the education system that fuels our workforce, economy, and communities. They increase costs for taxpayers while benefiting only a small percentage of families, often those who can already afford private tuition. Rural Texans, who rely almost entirely on public schools, see no benefit. Strong public schools are essential for a strong Texas, and voucher plans only drain resources while offering little in return. Please use state funds to strengthen the schools that we already have.

Derrick Almeida, Mr.

Self, teacher

Richmond, TX

I oppose vouchers and as a public servant you should oppose the use of public funds to go to private entities. You have taken an oath of office to help the public, not private interest. Vouchers in other states have taken more and more public tax payer money to fund it. There is already school of choice with charter schools. A voucher program would take money from the public education system and holds no accountability to the private schools on how to spend public tax payer money. Please vote NO for any voucher bill or voucher scheme.

Teresa Myers

Self

Emory, TX

We do not want vouchers. Funding should be made to our public schools above all else. To do less is a disgrace to our state and Tre people you serve.

Purva Patel

Self-LPC, Parent, Homeowner

Houston, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 (HB 3) currently being considered in the Texas legislature. As a taxpayer, homeowner, and parent, I have deep concerns about the potential negative impacts this bill could have on our state's educational system.

Firstly, HB 3's provision to allocate taxpayer funds for private school tuition and homeschooling resources diverts much-needed funds from public schools. Public schools rely on these funds to provide quality education and resources for all students. By reallocating these funds, we risk undermining the quality of education in public schools, which are the backbone of our community.

The governor likes to say on his social media that "school choice" gives parents the freedom to decide what education is best for their child. In fact, the bill would take away my choices as a parent who cannot afford to cover the extra costs that would come with private school beyond what the voucher provides, nor can I provide an education via homeschool as effectively as a public school teacher. Thus this bill would leave me with NO CHOICE but to send my child to a public school facing lower and lower funding.

Moreover, rural areas may be disproportionately affected by HB 3, as they often have limited or no access to private schools. This could lead to a decline in enrollment and funding for rural public schools, further exacerbating educational disparities between urban and rural communities. While I may not live in a rural area, I believe all Texans deserve access to quality education.

Additionally, as a homeowner, I worry about the resale value of my home if young families no longer have confidence in the schools associated with my neighborhood. Property values will fall and thus tax revenue as well, further depleting available funds for public schools.

As a concerned taxpayer, homeowner, and parent, I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of HB 3 on our state's educational system and to oppose this bill. Our focus should be on strengthening and adequately funding public schools to ensure that all students have access to quality education, regardless of their socio-economic status or geographic location.

Laurie Pompa

Self, Attorney, Casis Elementary PTA President Elect

Austin, TX

Dear House Public Education Committee,

I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Private schools pick and choose which students to admit. While the current bill is supposed to prioritize children with disabilities and low-income children, if there are no requirements, or even incentives, for private schools to accept these children or to open schools in rural and poor areas, it is unlikely vouchers will increase access to public schools for these groups in any meaningful way. Vouchers will instead end up in hands of the privileged few who already had access to private schools. If you want to ensure a quality education is available to ALL children in Texas, you must fund public schools, not underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future.

Thank you,

Laurie Pompa

Brittany Young
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to request the committee to vote NO on HB 3. As a lifelong Texan, who proudly attended public school and a mother with two children in public school, I am incredibly disappointed by HB3. A quality education should be accessible and available to all. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy. Thank you.

Carl Medders
Self
Dallas, TX

I am opposed to any bill that takes funds away from public or prevents public schools from meeting their future demands. As I read this bill, it does both and does not require the accountability for private schools taking public money as it does public schools.

Courtney Howe
Self
Argyle, TX

I am against the education savings plan. Public funds belong in public schools. Majority of Texas counties do not have private schools. This is not something that will benefit the majority of Texas students. Private schools can deny entry to any student for any reason. Please see the outcomes in Oklahoma and Florida where tuition of private schools has skyrocketed after introducing vouchers. This is welfare for the rich, to line the pockets of the even richer.
We are a higher income family, my husband is a physician, but if Texas doesn't fund public schools appropriately we will be looking to leave the state. Thank you for your time, thank you for serving our state, thank you for representing the wishes of your constituents. Vouchers should be put to a statewide vote, not pushed through by Abbott.

Kevin Lebanik
self
Fort Worth, TX

You are voting to allocate \$10,000 if I want to register my children at a private school but only \$6,200 if they remain in public school. Make that make sense? You are voting to give \$10,000 to transfer to a private school, that some NEW state dept will "approve". Sounds like we are spending more tax money creating more bureaucracy, additional govt depts that as we've seen with DOGE, will just steal, launder and waste tax money. This bill as written is horrible. It makes no common sense. The only thing it does is waste more tax payers money and creates more ways for politicians, state employees and select "private schools" to steal money.

You want "school choice", its simple. Give us parents \$10,000 account to give to whatever school we decide to register our student at. I decide to keep my student at a public school, they get \$10,000 per student. I decide to transfer to a private Christian school, boom they get \$10,000 towards that tuition. I decide to home school, i don't need the brick and mortar so maybe that account allows \$2,500 to use for schooling. I submit a receipt just like an HSA account.

Just like that school choice initiative is solved. Remove stupid STARR testing. Remove recapture(robinhood) tax relocation. Like most things, this is way simpler than you politicians are making it.

Justin Torres
Self - Calibration Technician
Houston, TX

Dear Texas Legislator,

As a proud Texan, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. I believe private school subsidies are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair.

Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Public schools in Texas are underfunded by billions of dollars every year. The Comptroller is projecting a large increase in state revenue over the next two years compared to the past two years, and that money should go to fully funding public education.

Private schools pick and choose which students to admit. Vouchers force taxpayers to subsidize private schools' preferences. And without elected boards or state oversight, vouchers give away tax dollars with no financial or academic accountability.

Public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students, serving all the students in their boundaries. They build the workforce that powers the Texas economy. We can't afford to underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future.

We elect legislators to represent the interests of their communities. Responding to their communities, Texas legislators have rejected private school subsidies time after time.

In the face of increasing pressure from special interests, I pledge that I will stand with my legislators in opposing vouchers. When they vote against private school subsidies, I will make sure all their constituents know they did the right thing.

Sogol Ahmadinia
Self
Dallas, TX

I do not have children. But as a Texan I have a vested interest in the future workforce having a proper education. This voucher scam will destroy public education in Texas, taking money from the poor to give to the rich. It is shameful. If we want our Texas economy to continue to thrive we NEED a competent t work force. We need our children to have access to quality education and to not be excluded due to finances. Please do not set Texas back for generations. Let us continue to be a successful economy.

Regan Mangiameli
self-teacher
The Colony, TX

Properly funded public schools will benefit the entire state of Texas. All children deserve to have a strong education that is free, accessible, and reliable. "Education savings accounts" have been proven to be unsuccessful. Use the funds to increase the basic allotment per student—no strings attached. Texans deserve fully funded public schools.

Sandra Farmer
Self
Houston, TX

This is a scam. It creates an entitlement for people wealthier than the average Texan. Put the money into special education and help dyslexic kids read. It is not your job to pay off Abbott's political donors. It is your job to make sure ALL Texas children get a good public education.

Emily Wheelwright

Self

Georgetown, TX

Please vote no!! I have 5 children in Texas public schools and the budget cuts are already significantly impacting their education. Our middle school principal, who we love, was laid off today. Please vote no to school vouchers and release more funding for public schools. Texas can do better than this for it's public education.

Leslie Wright

Self

Katy, TX

If private schools receive public funding they should be held to the same standards as public schools and they should be required to provide the same services as public schools. A school that does not serve disabled students does not deserve public funding.

Lauren Benson

Self; admin associate

Dropping Spgs, TX

I vehemently oppose HB3. As a parent and lifelong Texan, I want the children and future of Texas to thrive by fully funding and investing in our public schools, NOT through vouchers that benefit the wealthy. All children in our state deserve quality public education.

Kayla Clendeninn, Dr.

Self Physical therapist

Houston, TX

This is a terrible idea. Tax dollars are for public schools, NOT private schools. Fund our public schools! Texans already have school choice. Greg Abbot is an out of touch, corrupt, incompetent governor. Elected officials should represent the people, not the billionaires who buy them. The people overwhelmingly do NOT want this. A popular vote would end this immediately.

Erin Trujillo

Self

Justin, TX

Our children cannot succeed if they cannot keep up with inflation prices. Say no to vouchers, it's just welfare for the already rich and they don't need it.

Jodi Barr

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Our teachers work tirelessly and spend a tremendous amount of their own money to help fund their classrooms. Students and teachers deserve better. Please help to get this increase to pass.

Casey Helmick, Dr.

Self

Haslet, TX

Public schools need increased basic allotment per student. No increase since 2019 is leaving our students with less than they deserve. Support public schools instead of defunding them!

Jeffrey Pernoud, Mr.

Self

Houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jeffrey Pernoud, I am a parent in Spring Branch ISD in Houston and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical education programs that serve our students.

The data from SBISD's state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend -- our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

For example:

Special Education: The state allotment for special education in 2023-24 was \$31.5 million, but actual expenditures reached \$53.5 million, leaving a \$22 million shortfall. This gap is projected to be \$20.3 million in 2024-25. Without adequate funding, students with disabilities may not receive the legally mandated services they need to thrive.

Safety & Security: In 2023-24, the state provided only \$0.9 million, but the actual cost was \$8.9 million, creating an \$8 million deficit. For 2024-25, the gap is projected to grow to \$10 million, putting school safety measures at risk.

Transportation: The 2023-24 state allocation was \$1.5 million, while the cost of maintaining transportation services was \$10.4 million, leading to an \$8.9 million shortfall. In 2024-25, the gap is expected to be \$8.3 million, making it difficult to ensure students have reliable and safe transportation to and from school.

Pre-Kindergarten: This critical early childhood education program faced a \$3.7 million funding gap in 2023-24, with an estimated \$3.2 million shortfall in 2024-25. Underfunding pre-K limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities that set children up for future success.

Our educators and administrators are doing their best with limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with actual costs of running these programs. These includes:

Increasing the Basic Allotment at a minimum of \$500

Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.

Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.

Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.

Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation for academic success.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Starla Huebner, Mrs.

self and homeschoolers

WYLIE, TX

Hello. We are among the many homeschoolers in the North Texas area that are in opposition of HB 3. We have actively opposed these bills for over a decade for these reasons: Texas already has "School Choice" because parents are totally free to educate their children in public or private schools, including homeschool. ESA's contribute to the creation of control drawing private schools into the public school system. "School Choice" legislation that has passed in states like AZ, OK and NJ has created debt that legislators have had to resolve. Additionally, similar legislation in other states has created an influx of money into the private sector changing the market and increasing education costs from tuition to curriculum for private schools and homeschoolers. Further, in its current state HB3 looks more like a "vendor bill" pumping money into companies rather than a true "school choice" bill for all. Further, the 1.6% of students able to utilize these ESA's doesn't assist the greater population, takes potential funds from the public school system, and communicates a negative message to the 1,000s of public school teachers and staff who are working to serve our next generation. In addition, as seen in other states like OK, bills like this create the real potential for more regulation of homeschoolers. Less than a year into Oklahoma's program legislation was brought to their floor to increase regulation for all homeschoolers whether they were participating in the program or not. True education freedom will only come through the autonomy of private schools away from strings like testing, curriculum alignment, and government intervention. Please consider directing these funds to improving the public school system that is already in place instead of offering an "opportunity" to 1.6% of the public school population. For these reasons, and more, I oppose HB3 and ask that the House legislators do the same. Thank you for your time.

Crystal Nguyen
Self/business owner
Houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Crystal Nguyen, I am a parent and community member in Spring Branch ISD in Houston and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical education programs that serve our students.

The data from SBISD's state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend -- our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

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Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.

Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.

Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.

Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation for academic success.

Krista Guerrero
Self
Jersey Village, TX

Public Education Funds should only fund public education. Not a single cent should be taken from public education and given to those who can afford private school education. This bill and the people who are pushing it are misleading those who believe they will have a "choice." This bill needs to be voted down because it shows no benefit. This bill robs the poor and gives to the wealthy.

Hannah Elmore

Self

Grapevine, TX

I believe this bill would be a huge mistake. This bill doesn't give choice as it claims. A very small percentage of students would even be able to use this money. I believe in the long run this will drain much needed funds from public schools which serve the largest percentage of Texas students. There are multiple counties in Texas that don't even have access to private schools. This bill does not serve students. It only serves our governor who has been bought out by someone who isn't even from Texas. This is bad for Texas & bad for Texans.

Rachel Beavers Beavers

Self

Corp Christi, TX

Public funding should go to public schools. Public schools serve all students. Public schools need increased funding.

Danilo Colop

self

St. Paul, TX

Thanks for the opportunity. I disagree with the Vouchers, and I disagree with SB3. No to Vouchers and No to SB3. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

Toshia Kimball

McMillan Junior High School

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3 by Buckley.

Carol Hubbard, MS

self

Georgetown, TX

Public Dollars should be going to Public Schools -- NOT Abbott's white christian private schools! Say NO! to Abbott's agenda!

Rachael Abell

self

Grapevine, TX

Our public schools are already underfunded and burdened with excessive regulations. Redirecting taxpayer dollars to private institutions that lack accountability does not improve student outcomes.

Even a small shift in enrollment impacts every public school. Fixed costs remain, but funding shrinks—leading to school closures, larger class sizes, and the loss of essential programs. Despite ISD's making painful cuts this year, 70% of school districts are operating at a deficit while covering billions in unfunded costs for special education, transportation, and safety.

Research from multiple states shows that voucher programs do not lead to better academic outcomes—and in some cases, they make them worse. If we want real solutions for students, vouchers are not the answer.

Instead, Texas must invest in its public schools by increasing the basic allotment, adjusting for inflation, and funding schools based on enrollment rather than attendance. Our children's future depends on it. Vote no to HB 3.

Zina Wormley
Self
Westworth Village, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools

Stephanie Boothby
Self, Texas PTA member
San Antonio, TX

I'm writing as a parent of 3 kids in public schools and a longtime PTA board member at my kids' high school, middle school, and elementary school. Please vote no on HB 3 and any other so-called "school choice" voucher programs. This will only help students who are already able to afford private schools. Lower income students will still not be able to afford private schools. It doesn't help students who have special learning needs, as private schools are not required to help special education students. Additionally, please remember that our public tax funding should not be going to religious schools who have no accountability standards required by the state. The most concerning part of this bill is that it doesn't specify that public schools will receive funding through this. Instead, they will lose funding. If our public schools receive money from attendance, it doesn't take a genius to figure out that they will lose money if students move to private schools. Please do your job and help our public school students and do not give into special interest groups.

Gena Ray
Self
Claude, TX

I do not want to use public funds to pay for church schools or other private schools. Public funds need to fund public education only.

Eileen Bauerschlag
Self
Boerne, TX

My family and I are against HB 3. We homeschool and still believe all money should stay in public schools. We don't think it should be used for vouchers for private schools and don't want the money as homeschoolers either. The public schools need the money. The teachers need to be paid more AND the money should not be used for vouchers. They have their hands full, have you seen the students they are dealing with? We urge this bill to be dead and the committee to vote no on it.

Ashly Thompson
Self
Spring, TX

As a public school educator in a Title I district, I see firsthand the impact of underfunding on our most vulnerable students. I also write to you as a parent of a high-exceptionality child who relies on the resources and support that public schools provide. HB3, which promotes school vouchers, is not what Texas needs.

Vouchers will divert much-needed funding away from public schools, further deepening inequities and harming the very students who rely on us the most. Instead of funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions with little oversight or accountability, we should be investing in strengthening our public schools—where all students, regardless of background, are guaranteed an education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by opposing HB3 and prioritizing equitable funding for public education. Our students deserve better.

Shelley Hines
Self/Brinker Elementary School
Plano, TX

I wholeheartedly oppose this bill. Our public schools are financially struggling as is. If this bill passes, it would severely undercut funding for public education. Furthermore, most low income families can't afford private school tuition even with the vouchers (annual tuition at most Private schools in Texas is double the financial assistance provided by these ESA vouchers).

Keri Thomas
Teachers
Corpus Christi, TX

Hell no to school vouchers!!! Fund our schools accurately. Give public school education the money it deserves.

Melissa Torrez
Self, public school teacher, voter
San Antonio, TX

I DO not support this bill. Public education is already underfunded and this will further deepen its deficits. Additionally, Abbott and those who support this bill have been deceitful in representing the need for this and have ignored clear data from other states that have implemented similar funding.

Jennifer Wollock
self professor of English
College Station, TX

This program drains funding from the public school system of Texas and leaves children throughout the state without any suitable options, since private, charter, and religious schools are not appropriate for many students. An outstanding public educational system is being dismantled in favor of a form of Sunday School, and not a good Sunday School at that. I have watched this happen as a parent and as a teacher of 41 years standing, now illegally retired from teaching at my former school. I have witnessed bullying at all levels, from the top down, in the course of this project. Nothing good will come of it. If it is intended to strip the students of moral clarity, dumb them down as voters, and limit their options for future employment to slave labor, then it would seem to be well designed for that purpose. If that's not what you are trying to do, please stop it right now. Enough damage has already been done.

Sarah Rothan, Dr.
Self, radiologist
San Antonio, TX

Myself and my family are staunchly against school vouchers. They will steal money from our public schools to line the pockets of families who can already pay for private school. This is not the choice Texans want for their families. Strong public schools create an educated society, which is something we should all want.

Gary Sweet
Self
Lancaster, TX

Hello. Please reject the school vouchers. This bill is a misguided misnomer. It is not school choice. Most reputable private schools will not accept the majority of students who apply. Also, these private schools are not capable of servicing all students, especially those with special needs. With all the money in surplus we should be financing our public schools, not destroying them. Supporters claim this does not take money from the public schools but each time a student is withdrawn that school loses money as our system pays schools BASED ON ATTENDANCE. Thank you for your consideration.

Jasmin Brown
Hartman elementary PTA wylie tx
Wylie, TX

NO TO hb3 no to school vouchers. It will hurt the families of texas.

Jeffrey Poole, Mr
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am not in favor of the school voucher system you are trying to pass. Republicans are lying, in saying it will not take funds away from public schools. Every student that is pulled out of a public school, that school will lose funding for each student that gets to a private school. We know that and we know the Republicans are outright lying, in saying public schools will not lose funding.

Stacy Gray
Self
Arlington, TX

Having 2 children in the public school system, we as a family are AGAINST this.

Megan Henderson
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly disagree with the establishment of school voucher programs that will steal money from public schools and funnel funds to private school where school standards and equity are not required to meet public school standards.

Susan Bridges
Self/Retired Teacher
Lubbock, TX

I stand firmly against and oppose this bill! I personally do not know ANYONE who supports this scam legislation. Greg Abbott and all of his puppets need to be voted OUT of office. They do not represent what is in the best interest of Texas public school students.

Larry Banks
Self
Dallas, TX

I'm requesting a no vote on HB 3 by Buckley

Justin Reed, Mr.
Self - teacher
San Antonio, TX

It's imperative we think of the most vulnerable populations when considering defunding public education- because this ESA plan will do exactly that a según education for the masses. Instead of giving a tax break to those who can already afford private education - we should double down and reinvest into the greater good of the majority. ESA's will not get more children into private schools but rather give a "coupon" discount to those already there and take away from those who could never afford private education ever. If you have public education the investment you talk about in funding private schools - public education could fix many of its shortcomings. Increase teacher pay and offer diverse enrichment programming with additional funding currently being withheld. We owe our students that! Please reconsider your efforts in pushing ESA's and let's fix public education!

William Longino, Dr
Self, Dentist
Sulphur Springs, TX

I oppose school vouchers. I want public schools fully funded.

Courtney Lorence
Self
Richardson, TX

I do NOT agree with vouchers. Public money should never be mixed with private. There is a reason you pay if you choose to go private as a parent, its a LUXURY that you can afford. Taking public money away is the start of spiral and opens an opportunity for mismanagement.

Jenny Nelson, PharmD
Self-Pharmacist
El Paso, TX

Thank for the work everyone has done. For far too long the TEA has been allowed to control education in Texas. As a hardworking parent, I would like the freedom to choose where I want my children to receive an education without being financially stretched to do so.

Katie Moncivais
Self
Round Rock, TX

Just because I am pro-public education does not mean I am anti-private school education. I am an open-minded adult who acknowledges that every child learns at their own pace and that some children thrive in the private education system. That's fine and that is a choice that families can already make for themselves. What I don't agree with is the proportional imbalance of the money that you propose to underfund or take away from the majority of public school students vs. the small percentage of families who could benefit from vouchers. As my children do not need any accommodations at school (yet), I won't even get into the imbalance of legalities, restrictions and regulations on private schools. What I hope for is a Texas that supports education by investing more in the system that over 5 million students already use. How can we say that Texas is great when we are in the bottom 10 in state funding per student? We should be near the top as we invest in the future.

Tara Rowe
Self
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3. See my previous submission for commentary. Apparently saying "I'm against it" was insufficient. This is one of the reasons the average person can't stand politics. You try and make it difficult for people to not only voice their opinions, but to be COUNTED.

I oppose HB3!

Kristina Neighbors, Mrs
Self public school teacher
Era, TX

I am a public school teacher with ten years of experience struggling to barely make \$50,000. I have a masters degree in education. My three daughters go to a Texas public school and my husband is also a Texas public school teacher. Our lives revolve around school and it's activities. We do not want vouchers. We use every cent of the money we receive for students. The citizens of our communities donate to fund so many of the things our students need at school- smart boards, magnetic white boards, teacher trainings, student technology and so much more. These are the type of foundational things that the state should be providing for our students already. Please, for the love, pay teachers more! I just read that the \$10,000 supposed pay increase for teachers only includes classroom teachers and is riddled with red tape. Please do not embezzle the taxpayers hard earned money for your own personal gain. The Texas public school children need this money and the teachers, who are so underpaid, are so tired of paying for our own supplies. Where your treasure is, your heart will be also and it looks like you treasure the private school kiddos who already have choice. I am a Christian who chooses to make my local public school better. My precious public school is amazing despite the state's lack of funding. Do not fund vouchers.

Kelly Tyler
Self - special needs mom and special education teacher
Fate, TX

As a special education teacher and a mother of 2 children who are neurodivergent/special needs, these school vouchers trying to be passed are a slap in the face. Private schools can still deny anyone, and almost 100% of the time the students I serve would be at the top of the rejection list. My own children would also most likely be denied entry due to autism and ADHD respectively. Our public schools are severely underfunded, our teachers and aides don't get paid nearly enough, and these vouchers would take even more money away from us. Please think about ALL children, not just those that fit into the box of what perception private schools put off.

Jane Rupp
self -- Speech-language pathologist
Austin, TX

I am a mother of two children who attend public schools in Texas. I am also a speech therapist who has worked in a Texas school district. As a business owner, I understand and appreciate the value of competition in driving positive change. At the same time, I don't see how the voucher system as presented thus far will create healthy competition that will improve our schools. What we really need is more funds going directly toward serving students. The voucher system does not appear to fully account for the needs of children in special education and the limitations families would face in being able to use vouchers for an alternative school option. Creating a voucher program, in my view, puts special education programs and the children within them at significant risk. There is also a risk for students who need 504 accommodations and protections that private school typically does not and will not provide. The voucher system also seems unfair in that only a small percentage of people would be able to benefit from its use. On top of all that, when there is little to no accountability, a program is likely to fail. I see many logistical issues with how the program would be run and can't see how there will be a significant increase in value for students in Texas with the proposed plan.

Adam Dyer
Self- Teacher
Plano, TX

HB3 is an unnecessary and irresponsible attempt at defunding public education. Every instance of "school choice" this century has led to lower scores, worse conditions, and poorer outcomes for everyone involved. A no vote is the only responsible vote.

Jennifer Nelson, Mrs.
Hallsville ISD
HALLSVILLE, TX

House Bill 3 and school vouchers in Texas present significant concerns for public education. HB 3, while aimed at improving school funding and teacher pay, also imposes rigid mandates that burden educators without addressing systemic issues like classroom overcrowding and the need for sustainable long-term funding.

School vouchers, on the other hand, divert public funds to private institutions, which often lack the same accountability and transparency as public schools. This shift undermines already underfunded districts, particularly in rural and low-income communities, where students rely on public education as their primary pathway to success. Instead of improving educational outcomes, vouchers create an inequitable system that prioritizes choice for a few at the expense of the many.

Rather than funneling taxpayer dollars into private education, Texas should focus on strengthening its public school system—ensuring equitable resources, reducing teacher shortages, and providing targeted support for students with diverse learning needs.

Mary Woodard
Self
Desoto, TX

I oppose HB 3 and urge the House to fully fund public education as required by the Texas Constitution. Thank you.

Stephen Cryan
self; home builder, rancher
Sealy, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL.

Brandy Shaw
Self, CPA
MISSOURI CITY, TX

I am writing to say that I am against House Bill 3. The republicans in the Texas State legislature have for years underfunded our public schools and held funding hostage for their pet projects. They have literally put the education of 5.5 million Texas children as a low priority and are now prioritizing the wealthy donor and families and not what their constituents want. This bill should be put to a full state vote at the voter level, but you will never do that because it would fail drastically! No one wants this bill, and the voters will remember. We will remember for the next election, and by the Grace of God you will all be voted out for politicians who actually care about all the children in the state and not just the 1%. Welfare for the wealthy is not ok! Giving free money to for profit institutions is not even in the realm of conservative values. And let Abbott know that helping the wealthy over the poor is absolutely against his so called "Christian values" also.

No to vouchers!! Listen to your constituents and not your donors that fill your pockets.

Sandy Heiman
Self
CANYON, TX

Absolutely 100% against school vouchers. They will destroy our public schools and TRS. Please listen to the people, not the politicians.

Laura Hess, Dr
Self/High School Teacher
San Antonio, TX

I would like to advocate for: Significantly increasing the Minimum Salary Schedule to ensure educator starting salaries are at least \$45,000. This will help shrink the pay gap between small/rural districts and large/urban districts.
Ensuring all teachers, librarians, counselors, nurses, and diagnosticians with at least two years of experience receive a raise.
Ensuring all educators with five or more years of experience receive a raise of at least \$3,000.
Ensuring all educators with nine or more years of experience receive a raise of at least \$6,000

Rachelle Ray
Self, concerned mother
North Richland Hills, TX

Vote no to vouchers.

Stephanie McGrew
Self, Homeschool Mom
Killeen, TX

Hello, my name is Stephanie McGrew. I am contacting you regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to ask Representative Buckley to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3. Thank you!

Arye Shapiro, Dr.
self, artist/educator
Austin, TX

Everyone deserves a quality education. Most people receive their education in a public school as not everyone can afford private schooling. This bill will shunt funds away from public school systems and toward private schools. Public school systems desperately need additional funding to educate ALL children, including special needs kids. Rural school systems will be especially hard hit by any funding cuts.

Thomas OConnell
Self - CFO
Austin, TX

The Texas Constitution says to fully fund public education in Texas. This bill furthers the gap between fully funded and minimally supported. When 5 students leave a public school for a private one, the public school does not use less electricity, they don't need fewer custodians, in fact, almost nothing changes in the expenses related to those students, but now that school will lose money, and have to employ the same staff, in the same building. In fact, they are still held to the same high standards set forth by Texas.

On the other hand, you will have a private school, with far less accountability to the state and to their students, able deny students with disabilities, employ non-certified teachers, profit off of their school, among other concerns. The state has not had public education fully funded in over a decade, let's try that before siphoning that money to private entities. Please please do not pass this bill.

Patricia Abril-Gonzalez, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Representative,

I urge you to stand with Texas families and prioritize the future of our public schools over the interests of private institutions and vendors. This bill is not about empowering students, teachers, and communities—it's about diverting public funds to private entities with no accountability to taxpayers or the state.

As an educator and parent, I see firsthand the devastating impact of underfunding our public schools. This bill threatens to further drain resources from the very institutions that serve the majority of our children. The ones paying the price for this decision are our students and their teachers—those who are already stretched thin and deserve better.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities. They need robust funding to provide quality education, support dedicated educators, and ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed. Please stand with our kids, our teachers, and the future of Texas by rejecting this harmful bill.

Sincerely, Dr. Paty Abril-Gonzalez

Liesal Miller

self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Alec Draganski, Mr.

Self

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Richelle Smithee, Pastor

Self. Pastor

Burleson, TX

I am in support of HB 3. I ask that you please support and pass this bill. Thank you!

Amanda Thomas

Self/cyber security senior analyst

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Lori Sloan

Self

Beaumont, TX

If people want to their kids to private school, they need to for it themselves. They should NOT take it out of the hands of our already underfunded public schools. It isn't fair to anyone!

Jacob Lusk
Self, educator
Longview, TX

I oppose of the school voucher program as outlined in HB 3 for the following reasons. 1) There is no mechanism in place to measure how successful private schools are compared to public schools as private schools are held to lower standards and aren't required to participate in STAAR assessments as public schools are. 2) The core of this bill violates the basic, conservative principles that republican voters share. 3) This bill will establish a segregation of wealth among our communities where the wealthy will use government assistance to fund a private school education and less fortunate students will have no other option than to attend an under-funded public school.

Please vote NO on HB 3. It does not serve the interests of ALL Texas students. School choice already exists, just as for-profit book stores exist along side municipal libraries.

Stephanie Seuser, FAC Teacher
Self
Austin, TX

Education of students is critical for future success for the student their families, cities, counties, states, countries. Texas has both urban and rural students. Both are important. Public schools are the best choice for all students in all areas of the state. All students need monetary support from the legislature. Stop putting money in the pockets of private business and support all students across the state by funding public schools. Private education doesn't support Special Education that money comes from the federal government. Public schools provide education for all students across.

Jacob Lorenzo, Mr
Self
Houston, TX

I am writing today as a firm supporter of school choice and the proposed voucher system for Texas. Parents deserve the right to choose the best education for their children, whether that be public, private, charter, or homeschooling. The future of our students should not be limited by their zip code or financial situation. If we truly want to empower families, we must give them the ability to decide where and how their children are educated.

The voucher system is not about dismantling public education—it's about improving educational outcomes for all students. Competition breeds excellence, and when schools are incentivized to perform at their best, everyone benefits. Public schools will have to innovate and improve, and families will finally have real options that fit their children's unique needs.

For too long, Texas lawmakers have debated this issue while families continue to struggle with underperforming schools and a one-size-fits-all system. Enough is enough. The time to act is now. If legislators fail to pass school vouchers this time, my support will go elsewhere—to candidates and organizations that truly prioritize parental rights and student success.

This issue is not going away. Parents are more engaged than ever, and we demand action. The next election cycle will reflect the choices made today. Texas has the opportunity to lead the nation in educational freedom, and I urge our lawmakers to stand on the right side of history. Pass the voucher system now, or risk losing the trust and support of those who put you in office.

Texas families are watching. Do the right thing.

Myrtha Munoz, Teacher
Self
Canutillo, TX

Vouchers are a joke. Only high income families will qualify, but yet, they don't need the help. Meantime low income families suffer for less school benefits and founding. Public system it's been a blessing, and if it's going down it's because the useless STAAR requirements that put students and teachers and nervous breakdowns.

Meg Young
None
Pinehurst, TX
Say no to this bill !

Elena Cataldo
Self
Spring, TX

Vote NO to the Voicher program! This is a scam to severely defund public schools which should be strengthened to allow ALL children access to excellent education AND allow teachers to be paid a respectable wage! NO to vouchers!!!

Linda Barrett, M.ED
Self
Austin, TX
Don't approve vouchers!

Sara Amanda Reed
Self
Burkburnett, TX

1. Vote "Nay" to HB3. No Vouchers or ESA of any kind.
2. Fund public education through increasing the Basic Allotment by \$1100 or more.
3. Pay Texas Teachers with a raise that is not an unfunded mandate or 2 yr sunset bill.

Voting in favor of HB3 will result in being primaried as you do not listen to your constituents.

No Vouchers. No ESA. No Subsidies.

Jandel Crutchfield
Mansfield ISD school board
Mansfield, TX

I urge the opposition against Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) that siphon public resources away from our public schools. ESAs are detrimental to our public education system as they redirect public dollars to private institutions. As per the Economic Policy Institute, this can lead to a disparity in the allocation of funds and potentially widen the gap in educational quality between public and private institutions. Mansfield ISD is a high performing district that deserves to keep its funding in tact for all of the learners in the district. We intentionally hold high standards and go above and beyond to provide staff like instructional coaches to assist teacherd in ensuring their lessons meet each student needs. We have a registered nurse at every campus, and pay the extra money to make this happen even though it isn't a mandate because we value our students. Students are also able to transfer schools within our district should they face any issues on their current campus. We offer a multitude of choice programs in our district including STEM, Fine Arts, P Tech, dual language, early college high school, etc. We cannot afford to have funds divertef away from these programs and continue to remain the high performing district we are. Please do not defund our success.

Katelyn Byler
Self
Mt Enterprise, TX

I oppose using tax dollars to fund ESAs. Parents in Texas have always had a choice. Any use of public funds should include ALL oversight and accountability expected of public school.

Mindy Sullivan

Self

Goliad, TX

I am a retired Texas public school educator with 37 years of experience. I am against vouchers. I live in a small, rural South Texas town. There are no private schools in this town. The closest ones are 30 miles away. People who these vouchers are supposedly for (poor, underprivileged) would have no means of transporting their children. Public funds should not be used for attendance at private religious schools. Private schools do not offer same level of services to sped children and can remove those who do not meet their criteria. Private schools are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. All in all, a terrible bill and idea. NO to vouchers.

Jessica Aaron, Public School Teacher and Parent of 2 Children with Special Needs

Self

Longview, TX

I highly encourage all parents to do research about what is going on right now. Please consider the following to see if HB 3 would benefit your family:

1. A child may not get the supports he or she needs in a private school setting if he or she is struggling. If your child does develop a need for tutoring, intervention, and/or testing, you may have to pay out of pocket for the necessary consults, evaluations, therapies, academic assistance, etc.
2. A private school is not required to implement any strategies included but not limited to differentiated instruction, accommodations, and/or modifications to help a child be successful in the classroom as well as provide inclusion for activities.
3. A private school reserves the right to deny admission or dismiss a student at anytime if a child struggles behaviorally, academically, and/or the family is unable to cover costs.
4. Vouchers alone will not cover the full cost of sending a child to private school. Along with tuition, a parent/guardian is required to cover the cost of registration, meals, supplies, and uniforms(if applicable). Also, this does not include field trip fees, enrichment activities, or extra curricular activities.

In conclusion, HB 3 will provide financial assistance to families who have children that attend private schools. These schools would most likely not be able to accommodate the needs of my two children with special needs. HB3 would not benefit my family due to the fact that my children would not be able to attend private school.

Sheri Cantu

Self

Montgomery, TX

I do not support HB3! We do not want vouchers in Texas. Support public education and not the private entities.

Jennie Birkholz
Self
Round Rock, TX

Vote No
I am a taxpayer, small business owner, parent of two kids that receive special services from public schools and a wife of a public school employee. We are also a strong Christian family, actively involved in our community and schools. When evaluating options for schools for our kids, the only local private school was on our list because our kid went to pre-K there. Despite him already being enrolled, the bar was set too high and we knew he not only would not be accepted but he would not thrive. My child has a dyslexia and other learning disability which put him "behind" in pre-k. He was also curious and a critical thinker and had many questions about God and scripture and was not afraid to ask them. To be accepted into the school you have to submit test scores, grades, letters of support from a pastor and attest your faith in Jesus Christ. As faithful Christians, we believe that a child's faith will grow and with his baptism we commit to growing that as his parents. My tax payer dollars should never go to an entity that would reject a kid based on a statement of faith or already proven academic abilities. Education is where you go to learn, so why would you screen out children that need that very service the most? This is a bad bill that only seeks to float churches that are floundering with decreasing butts in the pews and dollars in the collection plates. I know, because I work with these churches everyday.

Use our taxpayer dollars wisely. They should go to public schools that serve every child, and are the economic backbone of our communities. This is not a R or D issue. This is about doing the right thing for the people of Texas.

Carolyn Franks
Self
Kilgore, TX

I urge you to consider how deep of an impact this bill will make on public education for years to come. As students leave so will teachers. I heard yesterday one of the members said you can have a class size of 15. Tell me where that is possible? We are a small rural district and had to cut 32 employees this year because of our deficit. Those teachers are no longer contributing to TRS. The students in those classes are now spread into other classes, where they were already crowded. I would invite anyone of you to come spend a day in our district observing our students and teachers. Yesterday I heard many speak on how private school teachers have good relationships with their students, and how they are willing to help them any time. Guess what, that happens in our school too. Please be courageous and not a coward! Vote no on HB 3.

Thank you,
Carolyn Franks

Kim Caston
Self - retired
Dallas, TX

I oppose all Vouchers and ESAs. I am a lifelong Republican and will no longer vote Republican in my district if this passes.

LISA PETTY

self - retired educator - 29 years serving Public Education in Texas. TRS Recipient.

CLEBURNE, TX

First, according to TEA Commissioner Mike Morath's testimony at the Public Education Committee meeting on February 25, 2025, presented the following handout:

<https://capitol.texas.gov/.../f8e1a795-659d-43d9-8290...>

According to slide 3 of the handout, Texas families have the "Current Learning Options," which could be rephrased as "Existing School Choice":

Public Charter Schools: 422,930

Virtual and Hybrid Schools: 51,904

Private Schools: 286,624

Homeschool: 494,251

1,255,709 students are in charter, private, homeschool, or online.

230,858 more students are transfers to another public school district.

In other words, they are "not trapped by their zip code."

1,486,567 students are already taking advantage of school choice without the use of my taxpayer dollars. PLEASE STOP calling it school choice - this already exists according to TEA.

Second, Private schools do not have to admit students who need special education services, nor are they required to provide special education services to any admitted students.

How is a voucher to attend a private school beneficial to special needs students?

If the proponents of school choice TRULY want to help low-income and special needs students of Texas, then 100% of the vouchers should go to students who are not currently attending a private school. The data from several states with school choice programs shows that approximately 75% or more of issued vouchers go to students already attending a private school. I believe there are two main reasons for this: 1. Low-income students cannot make up the financial difference between the voucher and the tuition and thus end up not accepting said voucher, which leaves more funding available for other students. 2. Private schools are more than happy to retain students that are already admitted. Please do your due diligence in researching the results of school choice programs in other states and who the actual beneficiaries are:

<https://www.ncpecoalition.org/voucher-recipients>

Thirdly, if the proponents of school choice TRULY want to help low-income and special needs students of Texas, they would visit those students in public schools. The governor's visits to private schools - where hundreds of thousands of students already have school choice without the use of taxpayer dollars - only promote the false narrative that this is for "every" student. The people of Texas see straight through the façade of who Governor Abbott is trying to cater to, and it is far from an altruistic desire to help our low-income and special needs students.

Finally, please review the effect of this legislation on TRS, per the Actuarial Impact statement:

<https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/impactstmts/html/SB00002IA.htm>. It is well known that teachers are so undervalued by our state legislature that we have to secure post-retirement jobs to maintain our meager lifestyle after retirement. Please don't take that meager amount away through ESA legislation.

Faith Barnes

Self

Granbury, TX

I am in opposition of house spill three for many reasons. The most obvious concern for me is as the government you have a constitutional duty to give all children a free education this does not include private entities. If house Bill three is passed this will further damage, the public education system you say is damaged. I do not agree that this bill gives low income or special needs children priority. If this bill was to pass, it should have a cap. I also do not agree with private schools getting my tax dollars for marketing. I beg of you fix the broken system put the money where it belongs until we see address difference. what needs to be changed is the ADA needs to be tied to enrollment not attendance. Put the billions of dollars to students and families in the public school system and beyond that help with mental health counseling or emotionally disturbed children. This is not the bill to pass through for ESA. You will be creating another broken program On my tax dollar.

Jennifer Knight
Self-teacher
Midlothian, TX

As a public school teacher in a title 1 campus, I do not support vouchers. My students would not benefit from losing money for their education being sent to a private school. If money would be released and sent to public schools appropriately, then our students would be properly educated. Instead, we are spending more of our own money, making budget cuts and increasing class sizes due to lack of funding. Vouchers will not hold private schools accountable like public schools, which is not equal or fair. If public dollars are going to private schools, the expectation and accountability needs to be the same as a public school's accountability.

Jennifer Miller
All Students of Texas
Marquez, TX

I oppose HB 3. Public schools should be fully funded. Just as public park dollars don't support private parks and public security dollars don't support private security initiatives for the chosen few, public dollars should not support private schools. Private schools are not mandated to follow state requirements or to allow ALL children attend. If all schools were made to follow the STATE mandates, testing, and entrance requirements then this would make sense. This bill is not setup to improve education for the state of Texas.

Hillary Kaupert
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. The voucher program is a scam designed to reinstate segregation and further drive disparity between student resources. It is also unconstitutional as it uses my taxpayer dollars to pay for and support religious institutions, which I have no interest in doing - as is my constitutional right. This bill is designed to enrich privatized business at the expense of the taxpayer and our children's educations and futures. I dissent and the people of Texas do NOT support this bill.

Pamela Willey
Self/ Retired teacher
LUBBOCK, TX

I oppose this bill because it will weaken public education, which is already underfunded. Education has been underfunded for several years, and teacher pay in Texas is lagging. It is not fair to give more money to private schools that are mandated to take all students who live in their attendance zone. My grandson, who is Autistic, will not have student choice because private schools do not accept or are not required to offer the services that he needs. I taught in a lower socio-economic area in Lubbock, and these students will not be able to attend a private school because they do not provide transportation. All this bill will do is help people who already attend private schools. Please consider fully funding public schools so that they will continue to provide the best education for all students.

Larry Hosek

Self

Hutto, TX

Vouchers are a blatant attempt to destroy public education. I urge all of you to vote against HB3. Without well funded public schools our democracy will die and you cannot fulfill your constitutional duty:

"A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools."

The legislature has NEVER fully funded public education. That has caused the many issues we have in public education. Especially the neglect you have show to our teachers - it's despicable.

HB3 does nothing to fix public education and will only make it worse. I again urge you to do your constitutional duty and vote against HB3.

-Larry Hosek

Sheryl Horton

self

Austin, TX

I am writing as a former public school teacher and a mother of students who went to public schools for 12 years each. NO PUBLIC FUNDS FOR SCHOOL VOUCHERS. This is only helping those with money to send their children to private schools. Our monies should be used to IMPROVE our public schools, not bleed them dry till they collapse entirely.

Annette Wills, Grandmother

Self/Grandson

Weatherford, TX

I say NO to Vouchers, ESA's, whatever you decide to call them. I say NO! Parents already have school choice: public school, private school, or home school. Our schools aren't underperforming, they are under-funded.

Jennifer Tacon

Self, teacher

Waco, TX

I have been a school teacher for over 20 years. By diverting public funds from public schools, HB 3 will weaken already underfunded public schools. Teaching is already a difficult profession and feeling unsupported by my elected officials makes it even harder.

Taylor Nelson

Self - marketing director

Pflugerville, TX

No to school vouchers! This takes away money from public schools and gives it to families who can already afford private schools.

Kortni Harris
Eustace ISD
Mabank, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Thank you,
Kortni Harris

Billie Curtis
Self
Burleson, TX

Vote no to vouchers! Our tax dollars should not go to private schools. Fund our public schools! This has been voted on multiple times and has failed because Texas residents do not want this! Vote No!!!

Judy Whitley
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

I am a retired teacher and a grandmother to a child with Down Syndrome. I oppose the school voucher program. Private schools are not going to be able to meet her needs, and neither will public schools if there isn't adequate funding.

Jennifer Mills
Self
Spring, TX

I am a teacher in public school, a parent of public school and I went through public schools to obtain my master's degree in family therapy. The funding that is currently given to schools is based on attendance. If students are not at school, I still have to plan to teach them but yet my school only gets money if the student shows up. That is not the same deal being proposed in this bill. There are no strings attached to the private schools getting money and they are not required to do all the testing that the state of Texas mandates us to do. The district already must pay for transportation for students or as a great state of Texas- we are willing to say Texans should not be educated??

The students I have that try public schools typically come back within one year or less, would their money come back to public school? The students that try private school, which there is no legislation dictating what they have to teach or not teach so they may not be taught, typically come back within big gaps in there learning. I am extremely disappointed in our states lack of funding for children's education. This will be another chapter in the history book for future Texans to learn about and how embarrassing that politicians cannot make decisions for all children.

Cynthia Walker
Self
Allen, TX

I oppose HB3.

Katie Saylor
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please vote NO for vouchers.

Shonda Cady
Self
Dallas, TX

I oppose HB 3

Rachel Harris
Self
Coppell, TX

I am concerned that pushing school vouchers will undo neighborhoods, penalize communities and weaken the overall well-being of the residents of Texas. I was born and raised in North Texas and am raising five children here. We have benefited from public education. I started substituting in the schools during Covid to keep schools open. I often sub in sped classrooms as well one-on-one with students who need additional help. I fear the resources would be depleted for these kids who are showing up and trying. I see exponential benefits of educating everyone. Please do not support school vouchers. States who've implemented this program has not seen growth. It has harmed overall education and devastated communities. A strong community is based on a well educated community. It is our duty to provide strong education to the residents of Texas and not a select few who would benefit from "school choice." I would be happy to further share my thoughts as needed. God bless, Rachel Harris

Kathryn Langley, Ms.
Self
Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to using public tax dollars to fund education savings account. I will not list all of the reasons for my opposition to this bill, but I will say that using tax payers dollars to fund private schools (which is usually what education saving accounts are) is fundamentally wrong. I firmly believe (and polls reflect) the majority of Texans are opposed to this bill.

Melissa Gray
self
Nevada, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Patrick Balaguer
Self/Account Manager at database company
Austin, TX

I am not in agreement with vouchers for private schools. This will drain tax dollars from public schools, who must take all children. Private schools can pick and choose. Vouchers for private schools will hurt our public schools, and is a mis-use of my tax dollars.

Tyler Farrer
Self - Banker
Wylie, TX

Vote NO to school vouchers. Vouchers will pull funding from our public schools which are already underfunded. Our public schools need more support, not less. School vouchers will primarily benefit those who are already in private schools while causing a significant strain on the state budget. Public tax dollars do NOT need to be used to fund private schools which have no accountability. Support our administrators, teachers, and students by voting NO to school vouchers.

Susan Rader

Self

Dallas, TX

Against vouchers. Money for public schools should go to public schools. I attended DISD public schools and graduated from a public high school to attend a public state college.

My father was a teacher after he completed his Master's through the GI Bill at SMU. He later became a principal in DISD.

Public schools work if you fund them accordingly. Give teachers and public schools the funding that is being withheld from our children. Public schools work!

Yolanda Morales

Self

Harlingen, TX

Vote no for school vouchers

Elizabeth Gray

Self--retired

Austin, TX

NO to vouchers--do not privatize our schools. Thank you.

Kebran Alexander

Self

Dallas, TX

I am against any expenditure of public education dollars into the private school market that falls outside of IDEA and IDEIA (Special Education) requirements. Further, I believe that all local money should be required to stay in the geographical area of the state and district from which it was taken. The investments in public education are investments into the future of our workforce. We should look to improve our product with focused spending rather than water down our educational opportunities by diluting the impact of state dollars by increasing the number of potential recipients of the same state dollars.

Cassandra Osterhoudt, Mrs.

self, legal assistant

Arlington, TX

Representative Buckley: My name is Cassandra Osterhoudt, and I live in Arlington, Texas. I was born and raised in Texas and attended public school growing up. I am forever grateful for all my teachers during those years, and for the experiences I had. I was very involved in band from 7th grade through 12th grade, and then joined the Goin Band from Raiderland. I have two boys in public school right now. One in 5th grade and one in 9th grade. Both of them have had excellent teachers and experiences while in public school. My oldest is in band and plans on joining marching band next year. They have both really excelled in their classes thanks to teachers who truly invest in their students. It is, and has been, my choice to send my children to public school. If I wanted to send to private school or charter school, then I would. I believe they are getting a great education where they are at in public school. Vouchers/ESAs, whatever you want to call them, are not what is best for Texas. It is truly sad that funds are being withheld from public schools so the Governor can appease donors. Put public money into public schools! Thank you for your time.

Erik Wilson, Hon.

Dallas ISD Parent

DALLAS, TX

Why I Oppose HB 3 as a Proud DISD Parent

House Bill 3 (HB 3) imposes unfunded mandates on school districts like Dallas ISD while failing to address the real issues affecting students, teachers, and families. Instead of investing in education, this bill forces schools to redirect resources away from classrooms to comply with state-imposed security requirements.

Unfunded Mandates Strain School Budgets

HB 3 requires costly security upgrades without providing the necessary funding. While school safety is a priority, forcing districts to cut programs, raise taxes, or shift funds away from student learning is not the solution. The state should fully fund safety measures rather than leaving schools to bear the burden alone.

Takes Resources Away from Student Learning

Schools already face budget shortfalls, and HB 3 forces them to prioritize compliance over education. This means fewer resources for STEM programs, arts, mental health support, and teacher salaries—all essential to student success. Instead of improving learning conditions, the bill diverts funds from where they are needed most.

Fails to Address Teacher Shortages & Public School Funding

Texas faces a teacher shortage crisis, yet HB 3 does nothing to raise salaries, reduce class sizes, or support educators. Retaining quality teachers should be a top priority. Still, this bill ignores teacher attrition's root causes and adds new bureaucratic burdens on schools.

Lacks Community & Parental Input

As a DISD parent, I believe education policy should reflect local needs and not be dictated by state mandates. HB 3 was passed without meaningful input from parents, teachers, or administrators. Schools should be given the flexibility to determine the best safety measures rather than being forced into one-size-fits-all solutions.

A Better Approach

Instead of HB 3, the state should:

- ? Fully fund school safety without cutting student programs
- ? Raise teacher salaries and improve retention efforts
- ? Engage parents, teachers, and administrators in decision-making
- ? Support mental health resources as part of a holistic safety plan

Conclusion

HB 3 fails our students, teachers, and schools by prioritizing mandates over meaningful solutions. As a parent and community advocate, I strongly oppose this bill. I will continue fighting for policies that genuinely strengthen public education in Dallas and beyond.

Lorraine Hammer

School Counselor

Austin, TX

Vouchers are not a positive for Texas families. Schools already suffer from low enrollment, losing funding due to property tax disparities. Trying to retain teachers and staff. Students deserve to receive the best public education at all Texas schools.

Alison Clare

Self (certified teacher, LMSW, JD)

Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Alison Clare and I am a constituent in zip code 78735. I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 3. I am asking my Representative and this Committee to vote no and to instead fully fund public education. We already have meaningful school choice in Texas - what we need are resources so that our public schools can deliver the education that each child in Texas deserves, and that which has already been mandated, with accountability and due process ensuring that delivery. We do not need resources for privatized schools to thrive with no or little accountability to the public. I don't believe proponents of this bill can point to any examples of similar laws in other states achieving any of the objectives that are the supposed motivation for this bill. To the contrary, voucher systems like this are a failed experiment, and if this bill moves forward, this will predictably harm more families than it helps. Thank you.

Holly Anderson
Self - General Counsel
Houston, TX

As a rational person who is beholden to no donor I oppose this bill. Providing vouchers only benefits those who can already afford to send their children to private school and does so at the expense of gutting public school funding. It is our responsibility as taxpayers and yours a legislators to fund a functional public school system that provides equal access to educational experiences for all children. Public school dollars should not fund school that lack accountability and do not satisfy the requirements applicable to other u schools. Private schools do not have to accept children with learning disabilities and can provide whatever education they choose. Many rural areas don't even have access to private schools. Texas parents already have the choice to educate their children in whatever manner they choose - homeschool and private schools included. We do not need to divert public funds from public schools to provide choice. This is the clear request of big donors putting pressure on the governor who in turn pressures the republican legislators. It is not in the best interest of Texas or the voters.

Nathan Bray
self
McKinney, TX

To whomever this may concern,

My name is Nathan Bray. I attended school in the McKinney Independent School District for almost every grade. I consider myself blessed for being zoned for this district in particular, for it has sought excellence in education for the duration of my time there. I especially feel gratitude for my special education coaches. I was put on a 504 plan for something called a processing delay, which I now think had something to do with a later diagnosis of inattentive type ADHD. The person I am today is one who loves to learn and is not afraid to study a difficult subject. Though one can never be certain of the would-have-beens in life, I surely doubt that I would still be as curious as persistent, if it were not for the model staff of McKinney ISD. They showed me that my learning disability does not bar me from academic success.

What brings me to write this open letter is my concern for the wellness of all public schools in Texas if ever the voucher program is implemented. What programs might shrink if a voucher program siphons funds out of the public system? Will there be fewer special education teachers on staff, and will all of the next generation of students receive the needed interventions to succeed? I understand that not every public school passes muster. A year in an intercity school in Phoenix has kept me from becoming complacent about one's quality of education, and it saddens me to think that not every school in the U.S. manages to deliver the same level of support to its students. We can all hope for a day where each school district is in a place where it can pursue excellence and not just survival.

We must do more than hope, because society is built from, and is maintained by, the efforts of the many. I think of 1 Corinthians 12:21-26 that speaks of how vital each part of our body is, and how they are all co-equal to each other. Like the organs in our body, each professional is dependent on the efforts of other professionals for their industry to prosper. This is the reason why I never want to be shopping for the best private schools in town. I want the public school to be pursuing excellence, for what good does it do for me to afford the best private school for my would-be children, if the state on the whole is in decline, because it has chosen to not invest in itself?

I have full confidence in what a well supported public school can provide for Texans. I ask that we do not divert funds from the public school system with a voucher program, or do anything else that would tie the hands of our teachers.

Respectfully,

Nathan Bray

Jaclyn Wiggins-Camacho

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students. As the President of Reed Elementary PTA and a parent of two kids who attend public schools, I've personally seen how public education provides so many benefits. I would rather see our state fund and improve our public schools than funneling it into private schools.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Kylan Francis

Self

Silverton, TX

Vouchers are not the way to help education in Texas. The only people who will benefit are the ones who are already paying for private schools. They can already afford to pay for their kids to attend private school, why should the citizens of Texas be required to pay for their choice. We need the legislators of Texas to focus on fixing the public school system by removing the STAAR mandates that are making our kids stupid. The government focusing solely on a standardized test that wants to trick our kids instead of seeing if they have learned a topic. Our kids have lost the ability to problem solve and it is because of how our teachers are required to teach because of the standards set by the government! No one in rural Texas or low income neighborhoods want vouchers and HB 3, we want our public school system to get better and removing the 'smart and rich' kids out of the public school system isn't the answer. I don't know what Governor Abbott gets by pushing this agenda but we need our legislators to step up and vote for what the people want. Vote NO!

Cassie Thomasson

Self educational diagnostician

Keller, TX

Sometimes when I think about all of us in public education absolutely busting our butts to educate ALL children while you sit on the outskirts and make asinine attempts to defund public schools I am too angry to function.

Parents already select where their kids can attend school by living in a district or attending elsewhere. School "choice" is an absolute sham and fear grab and every single person pushing for it knows it. If you actually cared about students with disabilities you wouldn't have gutted MHMR. If you actually cared about communities you would know strong public schools lead to strong communities. If you actually cared about ALL students you would know that public school are rural kids only option. If you actually cared about individuals with disabilities I wouldn't have parents crying in ARDs because they have no where for their 22 + age student to go because facilities cannot keep their doors open. How many of you have stepped foot in a public school? Walked the halls, met the teachers? I'll personally invite you out to central high school in Keller Isd. While our PAC bought school board has fraudulently misappropriated THOUSANDS of dollars in funds adults still show up for the most vulnerable of our society day in and day out. No raise, no step increase. While having to wear armour for the way parents speak to us because you and yours have used fear mongering as a tactic to push your ... or should I say your handlers ... agenda. While doing more with substantially less me and my team maintain dignity, overcome insurmountable obstacles, and ensure student progress. Stop with the crap. FULLY Fund public schools and let those who wish to educate their children in private schools (schools that do not have to accept children with disabilities) continue to put their money where they would like. So no to this house bill. The other option is to put it to a vote and let your constituents make the choice. You are a party of people to say they hate government overreach, yet from where I am standing yall are nothing but arms grabbing things that don't belong to you and not releasing money to the most vulnerable and impacted of all Texans. Grow up.

Stephanie Hardy

Self, financial analyst.

Lumberton, TX

I am in support of education vouchers for Texas. I went to school in a district with multiple elementary, middle, and high school campuses. The quality of education varied greatly from on school to the next. My sister and I went to two different set of schools (by using a relatives address) because my education was so sub par. I know so many parents of kids from my high school that would have loved the opportunity to send their kids to a different school to give them a better education.

Donna Wright

Self/teacher

Mansfield, TX

Vouchers have no place in Texas. Fully fund public schools and let us reach ALL Texas students! Voting for vouchers is the surest way to guarantee catastrophic results for our children's futures.

Linda Akins

Self. Retired

Haltom City, TX

I oppose the efforts to establish a school voucher program. This will rob public schools of much needed funds and use taxpayer dollars to help wealthy families. Middle income and poor families cannot afford private schools, even with voucher funds. We need to support public education in Texas.

Janine Fields

Self

Mesquite, TX

I am strongly opposed to the education savings account program. It is clear that through this entire process there has been no attempt to put in place true accountability measures for the recipients of this funding. As long as private schools do not have the same expectations or accountability as public schools, public funds should never be used in this manner. I am a taxpayer and a consistent voter, and I strongly oppose this bill.

In addition, the use of taxpayer dollars to fund programming and curriculum that is religiously based clearly violates the separation of church and state.

Mary Jane Hetrick, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

Riley Gaines, an advocate for fairness on the playing field, recently visited our Texas Capitol on behalf of ESA proponents. The irony is that ESAs as currently championed are analogous to athletes like Riley being forced to compete with hands tied behind their backs while wearing weighted vests. Alternative schooling options cannot impartially be compared to a public school district unless there are the same accountability standards for student outcomes, including the same testing mechanism, the same fiscal performance and budget transparency requirements, open records and meetings, and provision of the same special education and other required services, including Individualized Education Plans as determined by an ARD committee. Otherwise, public school districts are being forced to compete on an uneven, unfair playing field.

While I also feel strongly that a voucher system is not fiscally conservative and I'm horrified at the creation of an entirely new level of bureaucracy at a time when we are supposed to be looking for areas to cut, from what I have heard, you are hearing that message from the multitudes. So, I will highlight one other area that does not seem to be discussed as much, and that is the unintended consequence of public tax dollars going to religious schools (e.g., Muslim schools, Hindu schools) that do not believe in the same God. Again, ironic given the number of bills focused on The Ten Commandments, "In God We Trust" signs, prayer in schools, etc. I will highlight a couple of articles covering this eventuality in other states. From The Brunswick News/Orlando Sentinel (3/16/23): "Most Florida students using state vouchers to pay for private school spend their scholarships at religious schools, as their parents select campuses where lessons from the Bible, the Torah and the Quran are taught alongside traditional academics. At two of Central Florida's Islamic schools, girls must wear hijabs, a head covering worn by some Muslim women, as part of their school uniforms. IBN Seena Academy — its mission to nurture children "in an Islamic environment" free of the "evils of modern society" — and Leaders Preparatory School combined received more than \$1.6 million in taxpayer-funded scholarships this school year to educate more than 430 students." (https://thebrunswicknews.com/news/national_news/taxpayer-funded-vouchers-in-florida-go-mostly-to-religious-schools-pay-for-it-yourself-rabbi/article_a93761f9-3ea0-5ca8-af33-42b9dee16da2.html.) And, from WFAE in Charlotte, NC (7/4/23): "Mecklenburg County's top recipient was Intellicor International Academy, an Islamic school on the grounds of the Muslim Education Center in east Charlotte. It got almost \$1.3 million for 214 students." (<https://www.wfae.org/education/2023-07-04/ncs-school-voucher-program-pays-for-a-lot-of-religious-education>.)

There are just so many reasons to oppose vouchers or ESAs with public tax dollars.

Christy Bowling, Mrs.

Self, public school principal

McGregor, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Juli Miller

Self

Freeport, TX

Public funds should go to public schools. Vouchers, school choice, education savings programs do not work as we've seen in other states. Money should be put into improving public schools. Funding for teacher raises, student resources, special education, smaller class sizes, fine arts etc. All Texas students deserve a good education not only the rich ones. A generation of poorly educated citizens serves no benefit to anyone. In a state as wealthy as Texas, it's abhorrent that more money is not spent on Public education. Shame on everyone who supports this bill!

Taylor Kraft

Self, maritime

Celina, TX

By doing this you'd be taking away funding from public schools that truly need it and be forcing students to go schools that don't truly care about them

Amanda Gavin

Self

Princeton, TX

No, I don't want vouchers.

Marlene Bullard

Self

Tornillo, TX

I oppose vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than 11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with 4.6 billion spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Wren Fair

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please do not support HB3, which gives public education money to private schools. These schools don't have to serve students with disabilities and many counties in Texas don't have a private school options. My son is entering kindergarten this year and I want him to have a well funded public option. Free, quality K-12 education makes our state stronger and more competitive globally. Don't sell out Texas students and teachers with this bill.

Cheri Liess

Abernathy ISD

Abernathy, TX

Please vote "no" on the school choice bill. Students in rural areas do NOT have school choice. Students in rural areas need to have their needs met where they live - which is not near a private school - and your voucher to "help them" will not cover transportation OR tuition.

Please FUND our PUBLIC SCHOOLS. And please, please, listen to those who voted for you and not outside money who has a school choice already.

Carlie Fullam, Mrs

Self

Hutto, TX

Please vote no!! We do not support this bill.

Heather Wells, Mrs.

Self

Midland, TX

Make our public schools better by increasing funding per student instead of giving it to private school vouchers! Rural areas and children with disabilities won't benefit from vouchers. As a public school employee, we don't want this. Vote no!

Cristina Deleon
Self, Public School Teacher
Royse City, TX

We, the people, teachers, and parents of Texas demand you to say NO to HB 3 and school vouchers. As a public school teacher we know that these vouchers will only cover a small fraction of the 5.5 million students in Texas. We KNOW school choice is already an option in Texas — how do we know? We currently use the “open-enrollment” option for our son to send him out-of-district to attend the public school of our choice. Don’t choose to make everyday life worse for our public school children and teachers by depriving them of funds to succeed.

We also know private schools do not require teachers to be certified nor do they have to accept every student (or accommodate them.) This is UNETHICAL to push this on Texas families, their children, and taxpayers. Texas Teachers and Parents DO NOT support leaving any child behind - we believe in and support Public Schools and you should too. We must fight for EVERY child like they are our own.

SAY NO to HB 3. Help preserve our education system not DESTROY IT! Thank you for your time.

Deanna Clemens
Self
Pflugerville, TX

As a school psychologist who worked with at risk students and students with disabilities for close to 20 years, I beg you not to do School vouchers. These accounts will be appealing to parents of kids with disabilities who often feel their kids are overlooked or that they have to fight to have their needs met. But if they get a voucher, then they have to find a school that will take their child and that can provide the types of services they need. And if the school says that they can they still have to waive all of their federal rights under IDA? Their children will no longer have protections. There is no recourse if their children are not getting the services that they need. And you know where they’ll go back to when the private school says oh sorry we can’t help your child. They’ll go right back to the public school because the public school can’t say no to any students. It’s completely unfair. That private schools are not held to the same standards of accountability and that parents of children’s disabilities would have to give up their rights to try and experiment to see if the private school can meet their needs and if they can’t meet their needs, their child is just lost a year or more of education. Public dollars need to go to pay for our already underfunded schools pay to give more special education pay to pay teachers more do not give taxpayer money to families for private school. The only constituents you want this are those who already have their kids in private school look at other states this is a failed experiment.

Skylar Plunkett
Fort Worth Independent School District
Fort Worth, TX

This bill will only help those already paying for private education.

Linda Perkins
Self
Abilene, TX

I am totally opposed to any tax money being used to pay for private schools. As a retired teacher, I've watched legislators bleed the public schools dry for decades. If you couldn't fully fund public schools for the 30 years you've been in power, you have no business funding private schools. Your gimmick (by whatever name you choose to call it) is nothing but transferring money to the families who have plenty to pay for their children's education if they choose to not send their kids to public schools in their community. It is nothing but providing a stipend for the higher income families and starving the disadvantaged and difficult to educate. Curriculum can be designed to teach whatever they choose with no state accountability or consistent standards. Other states have tried this and it never goes well for taxpayers. Put all the money you're proposing for your gimmick into public schools and watch what can happen to improving education in Texas schools. You owe it to the families and children in Texas to look out for all their interests. VOTE NO FOR ANY VOUCHER BILL!

Briana Aguilar

Self

Alice, TX

I do not support school vouchers. Tax dollars are for public schools.

Verna Mages, Mrs.

Self - Retired

Lindsay, TX

Please vote no on school vouchers. We need to support our public school system.

Lauren Ehrlich

Self, teacher

Weatherford, TX

As a supporter of Texas public schools, I am writing to express my opinion on House Bill 3.

I oppose HB3 and educational savings accounts/vouchers in any form.

Support our public education system & our Texas children over corporations, profit & billionaires.

Texas students deserve strong, well-funded public schools. I'm asking that you ensure all schools that receive state funding are held to the same transparency requirements, accountability standards, and enrollment practices as public schools.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Texas public schools.

Angelica Stoner

Self

Austin, TX

To whom it may concern:

As a parent and a concerned taxpayer, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed school voucher system that would use public funds to reimburse families for private school tuition. While I respect the right of parents to choose private education for their children, I firmly believe that taxpayer dollars should not subsidize that choice.

Public education is the foundation of a strong, thriving society. Every child deserves access to a well-funded, high-quality education, regardless of their background or their family's financial status. Redirecting public funds to private schools weakens our public education system and undermines its ability to serve all students.

This bill would also make families with considerable financial means eligible for vouchers, allocating taxpayer money to individuals who do not need the assistance. Private school is a luxury, and it should not be publicly funded at the expense of the schools that serve the vast majority of our children. Instead of diverting funds away from public schools, we should be investing in their improvement—raising teacher salaries, reducing class sizes, expanding resources, and ensuring that every child has access to a world-class education.

I urge you to reject this proposal and prioritize strengthening our public schools, which serve as the cornerstone of opportunity and economic prosperity for our state.

Thank you for your time,
Angelica Stoner

Emily Perry

Self, Bookkeeper and MOTHER

Austin, TX

I am adamantly opposed to the school voucher scam that Abbott is pushing to benefit his wealthy donors. It clearly does not benefit the nearly 5 million students in Texas' public schools. If passed, this scam will lead to decreased funding for public schools, as well as increase segregation and inequality in Texas. I am not good with words, so will keep this short. But we all know this is bad news for Texas. This voucher program will be used to undermine public education and further prove that our state is not serious about improving the quality of public schools. **FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND LEAVE PRIVATE, PRIVATE - AS THE LITERAL TITLE DESCRIBES, IT IS PRIVATE AND SHOULD STAY THAT WAY.** Please do what is right for our kids. They are our future and we depend on our lawmakers to act in the majority's best interest, and not that of the elite 1%.

Marissa Banegas

Self

Bedford, TX

This bill is not what's best for ALL students. If we put the money going towards these vouchers back into our public schools we truly would be working toward the good of EVERY Texas kiddo. This bill will help a handful of students while harming the majority. With that in mind, please vote against this bill.

Gloria Brown, Ms

Self/retired

Blanco, TX

As proud product of Texas Public Schools & a Texas Public University I am shocked & appalled that our RICH state with MILLIONS of dollars in rainy day fund can not fully fund public schools & is trying to destroy what our tax dollars are meant to support PUBLIC schools NOT private schools! Public funds belong in public schools ONLY! I do not support vouchers/ school choice etc whatever you call it. The idea still STINKS!

Cassandra Barreda

Self

Brownsville, TX

Against

Abigail Hernandez

Self- parent

Dallas, TX

I want to express my strong opposition to the school voucher scheme, HB 3 and ask Texas to vote against it.

Public funds should stay in our public schools, not be divvied up to unaccountable private schools. Do not sell out our kids for billionaire donors — Texas families are watching.

I implore our representatives to vote NO on school vouchers and stand for strong public schools, not corporate billionaires.

Private citizen cannot take funds from the Texas Parks to redo their backyards. Nor take from the Texas highway fund to redo private driveways. Public monies should remain for public schools

Gloria Vela, Ms.

Self

San Antonio, TX

I do not want my school district to lose \$23,522,042 and force parents to drive so their kids will get an education.

William Shelby

Self

Boerne, TX

While HB 3 looks well intentioned on the surface, it leaves no room for public tax dollars to be siphoned off for private education. These lottery conditions may be the only political way you can propose a bill that "appears" to help those most in need, but we both know those most in need either don't have enough to fund private education even with an ESA or private schools won't accept students with special needs making your prioritization just a ruse to satisfy those who might be less informed. I have read nothing in the HB 3 summary that says how many students this bill might actually positively impact nor any research after implementation in similar states that support the bill. I recommend going back and looking at more research on how ESAs have impacted other states longer than standard election cycles. Remember students are in schools for 12 years or more while election cycles are as short as 2 years.

Patricia Carey

Concern Grandmother

Arlington, TX

The passion of this bill will be detrimental to the public education. It will not help special needs so all the special needs that it's been done now with Texas public schools will be lost. We have a lot of kids that depend on that and need that and now we do have a choice of schools you can go to you. Can you can go to any school you want to But now you're taking money from taxpayers giving it to people that have the sources to go to a private school or whatever do not pass this bill please you would hurt Texas school students.

Jane Aguirre, Dr

Self/Retired

Temple, TX

I support School Choice. Public school has failed for decades academically. It makes sense to provide for the education of the public by distributing the taxed dollars back to families for school selection of their choice. Forcing children to attend substandard public schools is poor governance. HB 3 addresses the issue for a limited number of Texas students initially, hopefully with expansion in coming years. Thank you for your prioritization of students over politics.

Alison Prince

Self, Program Manager

Pflugerville, TX

Do not use our tax dollars to fund these private school vouchers, which truly only end up benefiting the middle and upper classes who can already afford these. I say this as an upper class citizen that we must take care of the those who cannot afford proper education. If you are truly Christians and people of God you will look inside your hearts and understand that we must not pass this bill. Funding MUST remain with public schools.

Luke Orth

Self, Social Worker

HOUSTON, TX

Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) threaten public education by diverting critical funding from already underfunded schools. Redirecting taxpayer dollars to private accounts reduces resources for the majority of students who rely on public education.

ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families who can supplement costs, widening educational inequality and limiting opportunities for lower-income students. Additionally, private schools lack the accountability and oversight required of public schools, raising concerns about transparency and quality.

Rather than weakening public education, we should invest in strengthening it. Please oppose this bill and instead increase the base allotment by \$4,000 per student to align Texas with the top 25 states in education funding.

SAMUEL BOULTON

Self

Austin, TX

No

Stephen Wyman, Mr.

Self: retired

Georgetown, TX

There does not appear to be any benefit for public schools in this bill. The credit for private school vouchers, though it might be couched in non-threatening language, offers naught but less money for the far more important function of properly funding the public schools of Texas. Directly fund only public schools. No to the, "savings account program."

Julie Davis

Self

Sherman, TX

Texans do not want school vouchers. We want our public schools funded. Voucher scam is welfare for the rich.

Kayla Allen

Self

Bullard, TX

As a public school teacher I am strongly opposed to giving state funds to private schools. We work very hard under strict guidelines and are held accountable for our students' performance on state testing. Private schools will be getting this funding with none of that affecting them. We keep hearing and reading that "this doesn't take away from public school money..." However, if a student goes to a private school under this proposal, the daily allotment from that child goes away. Also, the daily allotment is severely lower than what you want to give parent to go to private school - even with raising it! To add to that, the daily allotment is affected by a student's attendance - it is not a blanket amount. Our profession is being diminished by our governor, legislators and representatives and it is affecting the numbers of graduates going into education. Our governor has held billions of dollars hostage that could be giving teacher raises, raising base salaries to make our profession more inviting and instead of doing any of this he just keeps pushing his own personal agenda. If the voucher system is really what you believe the people of Texas want, then put it to a statewide vote and let the people decide. Because the people who have been elected to represent us are not listening.

Kim Barton, Dr

Myself

Boerne, TX

I'm opposed to school vouchers when it means diverting public school district funds away from public school districts. Please fully fund our public schools.

Susan Terese
Self
San Antonio, TX

This is unacceptable and will bankrupt our public schools. I am so tired of Texas children getting the least amount of funding for their health and education. This is the future of our state and we want them to be healthy and competent. Private schools are mostly Christian in Texas and many do not even teach proper history and evolution. Public school needs to separate from religion as the law states, separation of church and state. Our public school systems give children so many opportunities and benevolent teachers give so much of themselves, they deserve more from our state government. If Texas is the land of opportunity then show it by properly funding our public school system and keep our tax dollars in the system. I have had 3 children go through the Texas public school system and have so many unique experiences from band, chess club, Latin competitions, varsity soccer, dance, journalism and French honor society, their teachers and these programs have taught them so many invaluable life skills. Please don't bankrupt our school system. These teachers that have meant so much can't take another cut their pay and a failing public school system. The voucher program will not work for public schools as it has not worked in other states. I will be leaving this state of this bill passes. It is too sad for our children to not have funding for education and bright futures.

Libby Johnson
Self - Homemaker
Temple, TX

There's no way to spin the ESA bill in a good light. Funneling public school funds that are already scarce to essentially cut more privileged parents a discount for private school is not okay. We already have school choice. All this will do is hurt a massive group of vulnerable children. The general Texas population is largely against this; take a look at Governor Abbott's public Facebook page to see just a sampling of the people upset about it. This bill is NOT for ALL Texas children. It needs to die in the House.

Alicia Olshanski

Self

San Angelo, TX

As a concerned constituent, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the school voucher proposal, HB 3. This bill threatens to siphon vital funding away from our public schools, compromising the quality of education for the majority of children in our community.

Public education is a cornerstone of our society, offering equitable opportunities to all students, regardless of their background or socioeconomic status. School vouchers undermine this fundamental principle by diverting public funds to private institutions that often lack the same standards of accountability and transparency. These programs widen inequalities, leaving already underfunded public schools burdened with greater challenges and even fewer resources.

Our public schools not only educate our children but also serve as the heart of our communities, fostering inclusivity, diversity, and civic engagement. Instead of dismantling these institutions, we should be working to strengthen them. I implore you to listen to the voices of your constituents who value a strong public education system. Please stand with us and vote against HB 3.

Governor Abbott's persistent efforts to withhold public school funding in pursuit of his voucher agenda represent an alarming disregard for the well-being of Texas students and communities. For years, his actions have jeopardized the future of countless children to advance a scheme that Texans have overwhelmingly rejected. The blatant manipulation of public funds for private gain is not only unjust but deeply unethical.

Moreover, it is troubling that the governor continues to push a policy that stands to benefit his own family, as his wife serves on the board of a new private school in Dripping Springs. Such a conflict of interest raises serious questions about integrity and transparency. Texans deserve better than these dishonest and self-serving practices.

HB 3 is nothing more than welfare for the wealthy. Passing this bill will cause irreparable harm to our public education system, driving hardworking families out of our state in search of better opportunities.

I urge you to protect the integrity of public education and the future of Texas students by opposing HB 3. Our children, communities, and state deserve policies that build up our schools, not tear them down.

Barbara Yerby

WCRTA

Taylor, TX

Vouchers are devastating for public schools, teachers, retired teachers, students, etc. There are many reasons why we should not have our public taxes pay for private schools. We know that Abbott was given money to pass vouchers and students are not the reason why. Many private schools are not accredited and many of their teachers are not certified. They are not held accountable to the state. Give the money Abbott is holding hostage to the public schools where it belongs and not to private schools. Keep separation of church and state. If a parent wants their children to go to private schools, they can find a way to pay for it. If public schools had the money they needed, we wouldn't be 44th on the country.

Jennifer Garcia

Self

Lubbock, TX

Please say NO to this bill. Homeschool parents don't want it. Public school teachers don't want it. Education needs an overhaul, but this is not the way. Homeschooling families want government meddling nowhere near their children. This is why than ran from public education to begin with. I've been watching many comments under the posts of different reps, influencers, as well as Gov. Abbott. There is little to no support for this. Please scrap it. Do something, but not this!

Respectfully,
Jennifer Garcia

Kryisia Lynes

Kryisia Lynes

Houston, TX

I am the parent of a special needs child who attends private school. I should be happy about this bill because it will benefit me. However, I am aware that I am extraordinarily privileged because I live in a city with many private school options, including ones for children with special needs and I have the financial wherewithal to pay the higher tuition that is needed to provide these children with an appropriate education.

My child was refused admission to the neighborhood school as a result of the magnet program allowing the school to select against him. His test scores will not improve a school's performance.

The fact is that many families do not have \$25k-\$50k pre-voucher and that even if they did, most schools have waiting lists and are pretty competitive. Private school turn down more difficult candidates regularly.

Parents want a good education for their children. Underinvestment in public schools has created the situation where a decent education is simply not available to many families within the public school system. Given inadequate public schools, of course parents want an alternative. But what they would prefer is a public school system where their children are safe and they receive a good education that meets their needs.

Rather than vouchers to further impoverish the public system and enriching private schools, we should be investing in the public system ensuring that we as a society live up to the promise of caring for each other and building a better society.

In other jurisdictions that have implemented vouchers, schools have increased tuition in an amount similar to what is paid. The data is not promising. Polling to ask if parents want a better education for their children is meaningless at best.

I will say that the suggestion binding the amount available for vouchers to public education spending is commendable. But for children with special needs, it will not make a difference: there are not enough spaces in private schools and it is not something that the profit motive can solve.

Please invest in public schools. Educate the children of the great state of Texas.

Natalie Betts, AVP Sustainability

Self, AVP Sustainability

Austin, TX

As a Texas parent of an elementary student, I strongly oppose this bill. This will take resources away from our public school systems, which offer all Texans transparency, accountability, and reliability, none of which is offered by private schools that would receive our public funds under this program. We need to be focused on investing in the success of our public schools. Please vote no.

Ladhawndra Elmore

Self

Midlothian, TX

I do not agree with the voucher system. It is not equitable to all.

Belinda Villarreal

Self

San Antonio, TX

Good afternoon,

I am a parent in favor for ESA program. Three years ago my husband and I removed our kids from public school because we were not happy with the curriculum, class size, and environment. We have been homeschooling since then. Our children have excelled academically. My husband and I would have enrolled our children in private school but it is too expensive for us. The ESA program would enable us to enroll our children in the private school of choice because our children don't belong to the state; they are a gift from God to us. I believe our tax dollars should follow our children to the school of our choice. The public schools don't care about our children they are just dollar signs to them. We value our children and their future!! Please vote in favor for the ESA program.

Heather Blachly

self

Plano, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3. This is a direct attack on our schools, our students, and our educators. Please try fully funding our public schools for a change! There is no accountability requirements for private schools in order to receive taxpayer money through vouchers. Private schools can decide who to accept in their schools. Private school are not required to follow federal and state laws for learning accommodations. There was a 24 billion dollar surplus last year, Texas HAS the money to fund our schools! I VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE HB 3.

Audria Lewis

self

Wylie, TX

I oppose this bill because it isn't fair across the board. We all know that not EVERY parent will have a choice, and we also know that those public funds WILL NOT be accessible to lower income families. PUBLIC FUNDS ARE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS - NOT PRIVATE. Maybe those Private school parents should contribute financially to public schools if that's the case. Gregory Abbott does not care about the lower - middle class families. He only cares about the wealthy. If he did - he wouldn't be trying to push this so hard. He knows the majority of Texas families DOES NOT WANT THIS. I can't wait until he is finally voted out - HE DOES NOT LISTEN TO US NOR DOES HE CARE. Why would you take public school funds especially from already underfund schools. Put the money there.

Jill Mccord

Self/chef

Allen, TX

I oppose HB3. Public money should stay in public schools. Parents have a choice currently on where they can send their children. There is no reason to take public money away from schools that have legal requirements for all students regardless of their status or intelligence. Do not pass vouchers for people who are already sending their children to private schools.

Meredith Cress

Self, business woman

Sugar Land, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Jeannine Lee

Mothers for Democracy

Garland, TX

One would think that after voting against the voucher scam for 3 sessions that Gov. Abbott would understand what Texans want. Instead, he's letting his personal vendetta and billionaire bros place us back here once again. This time with Republicans that he and his donors funded. These are rural Republicans and this scam will harm our Rural communities the most. They don't have the private schools (nor the income for private schools) and what about the needs of special education?

I'm 66 years old and grew up in East Dallas. My dad and his family went through DISD as did I and my 3 siblings. My children were educated in Arlington, Texas. I am a strong supporting of public schools and strongly believe that the taxes collected are meant to support public schools, not private. Private schools only follow the rules that they have created within their own school. Private schools are a choice and a very expensive one that few Texans can afford. The vouchers will only support a small minority amongst the millions of school aged children in Texas. This is a sham and it's pro-Abbott. There is nothing here that benefits our children, especially those in lower income families and in the rural areas. That our taxpayer dollars that we pay for our public schools have been held hostage until the governor gets his way is childish and selfish. When will this state (and this country) stop thinking about their own selfish needs of money and privilege and more about the future of our children?

This needs to stop. Vote NO for HB3.

Jessica Grady
self
Fort Worth, TX

Public dollars are for public schools! Taxpayer dollars shouldn't be entrusted to private corporations. Private schools aren't accountable to taxpayers, aren't subject to testing, they are allowed to discriminate, and they can pick and choose their students. Fully fund our public schools, that are open to EVERYONE without discrimination and have full transparency.

Katie Sanders
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Vote NO on HB3. I want all education money to stay in public education where it is needed.

There is nothing to prevent private schools from raising their tuition to make it just as hard to attend for those without means.

Let's invest in and improve public schools so it's the best and cheapest option for the most people.

PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP ON PUBLIC EDUCATION!

Kristin Black
Self/Media Buyer
GEORGETOWN, TX

I am a concerned Texas parent and oppose HB3. HB3 has no income limits, meaning rich families could use our tax money to send their kids to private schools. Private schools get the choice of who to let in, not the parents. Private schools are not forced to take the STAAR test. Public schools receive less funding if their accountability/testing scores are undesirable. Most Texans don't want vouchers; take a look at all the comments against vouchers on Governor Abbott's posts. Texas schools are already underfunded—about \$4,000 behind the national average in per-student funding. This bill will make things worse. Schools are paid based on how many kids attend. Here's what we're asking to fight for instead: Fund schools based on enrollment, not attendance. Increase the basic allotment by at least \$1,300 to help fix the \$4,000 gap in funding. Support pay raises for teachers and school staff so we can keep the best educators.

The bottom line is that public taxpayer dollars should not be going to private education. Texas will only be strong and successful when we do more to fund public education.

Michele Smith
Self
Austin, TX

I am very much against the proposed school voucher system. I believe it is part of a systematic plan to take apart the public school system in the state. The bill, as written, would only allow children of already affluent families to attend the better private schools, as working class families could not afford those schools even with voucher funds. Meanwhile, public schools would be drained of funding to pay for vouchers. The voucher plan would be particularly harmful to rural areas, which have few private schools.

I am distrustful of legislation that is bankrolled by billionaires who are not even from Texas. I have to wonder what their motives are. Please vote against this legislation.

I moved to Texas from Louisiana, where a voucher system was put in place years ago. It wasn't long before it was discovered that numerous private and religious schools receiving voucher money were subpar and were not state accredited. Therefore, students who went to those schools and wanted to attend college could not. I suspect the proposed Texas system would fail everyone but the wealthy.

We cannot be a success as a society without an educated population. Please vote against this legislation

Sincerely,
Michele Smith
Zip Code 78759

Mariana Kuhl

Self- public school teacher.

San Antonio, TX

I do not support school choice/vouchers. These essentially defund public education, which would result in major cuts for my district.

I would like to request to raise the funding for public schools so that we do not have to have the budget cuts that are coming to my district.

I have a kindergartener starting school next year and feel that class sizes of 22 are already too big and am worried that the programs we want to enroll him in will also be cut due to the budget. Please do not pass the school vouchers. Save public education!

Jacline Contrino

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this school voucher program. I think it will leave behind the kids that need it most - low income and special needs kids.

Loretta Aguilar

Self

Tornillo, TX

I oppose vouchers and ESAs.

Tammie Gilfillian, School counselor

Self

Stowell, TX

Vote NO !! This is not good for the majority of the school children who need assistance.

Anna Sundarababu

Self

Austin, TX

The voucher program proposed has been rejected over and over by the Texas legislature for good reason. The overwhelming majority of Texans, both Republicans and Democrats, do not want taxpayer dollars meant for public schools going to private education including religious schools.

- Vouchers have been tried for decades in other states and, without exception, do not promote improved academic outcomes. Numerous studies have proven this point.
- States who have tried vouchers are ending their programs. Voters in Nebraska repealed their program, and the legislature in Illinois cancelled their voucher program. There's no need to jump on a bandwagon that is already in the ditch!
- The two largest existing voucher programs (Florida and Arizona) have been disasters both academically and financially.
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY-** The major beneficiary of vouchers can already afford to have their students in private schools. This has been the experience in Florida and Arizona.
- The majority of counties in Texas do not have any private schools. Even where there are private schools, most do not offer transportation and are located in areas inaccessible to low-income families.
- The amount offered does not begin to cover tuition at most private schools. Families would also need to cover other expenses, including uniforms, books, field trips, sports, enrichment and lunch. It just does not make any sense, except as a subsidy for wealthier families.

The Texas legislature should be focusing on its main job, which is supporting great public school education! Schools are grossly underfunded, with a \$10 billion cut in real dollars since 2019 due to inflation. Put \$1,300 dollars per student into the basic allotment first, before you consider giving the public's money away to vouchers.

Sherry Waldrop

Self

Arlington, TX

I absolutely oppose diverting billions of dollars from our public schools towards private school vouchers. Private schools primarily serve the well off, private schools don't give disabled kids enrollment, private schools don't provide basic transportation and the quality of teachers is sub par. Public schools allow students of all socioeconomic backgrounds learn, all races, our disabled & special needs youth are cared for too. We need our public schools that are full of wonderful, caring and dedicated teachers. By the way, our teachers deserve a raise. Please do the right thing and fund our public schools with the budget surplus!

Becky Renfro

Texas Teachers

Runaway Bay, TX

Vote no on vouchers!! The money needs to stay in public school. The people that attend private school don't need a coupon!! I'm a retired teacher and want to see our public school funded with government money!! VOTE NO ON VOUCHERS!!

Sabrina Mayberry

150517

Red Oak, TX

Dear Representative,

As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want an Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) Program. I pay my public tax dollars and, therefore, want my money to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Public school funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had inflation of over 20%. Our children and all the educators, and staff, deserve to have the funding. To be clear, I want to reiterate the following:

? I do NOT want vouchers/ESAs.

? I support an Increase of the Basic Allotment.

? I support Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Again, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.

Sincerely, Sabrina Mayberry

Cynthia Martin

Self, retired teacher

Houston, TX

Vouchers have been found to be devastating to all populations especially those that are in need such as our disabled and lower income students. I strongly encourage you to vote against this bill!

Tammie Harness

Teachers

El Lago, TX

Please fully fund public schools and not give public money to private sector...stealing from poor to give to rich.

Jacqueline Kelly Dodson
Self- public education teacher
Sunnyvale, TX

Abbott's lies have gotten us here and he needs to be stopped. "School choice" already exists as in parents have the right to choose local public, private, charter, or homeschool. Giving vouchers that won't cover private tuition to a very small portion of parents in our state will not fix or improve anything but will continue to destroy public education. Abbott wants public schools to fail so the rich can get richer. He does not care about students, definitely not about teachers, and does nothing to support public education. The success of our state and country depend on public education. He needs to stop the vouchers because that is not what Texans want and definitely not what we need. Stop holding money hostage to get what you want and FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS with every penny possible. Give equal opportunity to every single child in our state, not just the ones with rich parents. If Abbott ever spent any time in public schools, he would see where the true needs are

I do not support House Bill 3 as a tax-paying citizen, as a parent, or as an educator.

Do not pass this bill.

Fernanda Marques Fulkerson
Self
KINGWOOD, TX

I oppose HB3 and do not want you to vote for vouchers. Please fund our public schools. Only the rich that do not need the money will benefit from this. The \$10000 won't even get close to paying for private school so that won't make a difference for low income families, they won't have a choice regardless

Michelle Moseley
Self, dental hygienist
Cedar Park, TX

Say NO to ESAs and YES to Funding Public Education

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Margaret McKinney
Frisco ISD/Self/Parent and Teacher
The Colony, TX

My name is Margaret McKinney, and I have been a public educator in the State of Texas for 24 years. I am a product of Texas Public Schools, and my children are products of the public school system in Texas. My mother, father, brother, grandmother, grandfather, two aunts, 1 uncle, and 2 cousins are all current or former educators and administrators in Texas Public Schools. I teach 6th, 7th, and 8th grade in Frisco ISD. Today, we were told that one school in Frisco is closing because we do not have the budget to repair the building. As a result, the wonderful school where I teach is going to get more students from the school that is closing. This means that our class sizes are going to increase. As it is, my 6th grade GT Language Arts class had to combine this year. This means I have 32 children in a small space trying to do amazing and wonderful things. If our schools were fully funded, I would not have such a full class and more space to move around while we do our projects. School vouchers are for the rich. They are not for the poor. That is a trick being used by the government. My 6th grade class was able to 'get' that easily, so I am confused why your committee seems to question it. In order to illustrate how they work, I turned a stuffed animal in my room into "Poverty Phil". Phil's family got \$10,000 for the State to attend Legacy Christian Academy. LCA costs \$24,000 a year. Poverty Phil is not going to be able to go to LCA even with you \$10,000 gift. The state has not helped him. The state has helped "Rich Ricardo". Rich already attends LCA, and if vouchers are passed, Rich's family can finally take that Disney cruise they've been saving for because the state just gave his family a \$10,000 bonus. To attend a fundamental Christian school. This is wrong. My GT classes are learning AP Literary and AP Language terms, they are learning high school level literary analysis, and they are building Utopia models and inventing governmental structures. My students deserve a fully funded school. All students in public education deserve a fully funded school. Our schools have been doing more with less for years, and vouchers are going to hurt students and teachers by stretching them even more than they are already stretched. I am a 50-year-old single mom, and I deserve to be able to retire at a reasonable age. TRS is a mandate. I didn't choose it. Teachers had no say in that decision, but it is OUR retirement. It is OUR social security. For TRS to be dismantled because vouchers have disrupted its continuity is not OK. Teachers, once united, have a LOT of voting power. We will remember what happens here today, and we will remember who made the decisions. Many of the politicians who are enjoying their position today will not be there anymore when we have the chance to vote out those who did not support public education today. Support your schools, your students, and your teachers. Vote NO for HB 3 and against ESA/Vouchers. Thank you for your time.

Flora McCracken
TaxPayer
Dallas, TX

Dear Representative,

As a grandparent, parent, and taxpayer in the great State of Texas, I am appalled that our elected officials are withholding the finances from our children and teachers and have been since 2020. The cost of living has increased since 2019 (the last time received funding) and is over 20%. This is not the proud Texas that I know. We love our children and take care of them.

Representative, I do NOT support vouchers, nor do I agree with an education savings account program. I believe in our Public Schools in Texas. So, I want to reiterate the following:

- We need an Increase in the Basic Allotment.
- We need Funding for Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Representative, let us take care of our children in Texas.

Sincerely,

Kelley Watts, Dr
Self
Houston, TX

Please support keeping all funding for public schools in the public school system and oppose any voucher program that would redirect these funds.

Kathryn Holzer

Self

Frisco, TX

I oppose an education savings account program. This program will not help more families obtain better education. Texans already have the right to choose their education. This bill sounds like it will add restrictions/mandates to homeschoolers where there currently aren't many. It will still allow private schools to turn families away. It will take funding away from public schools where the majority of Texas children have no choice but to go due to their location (rural towns without private/charter options), financial ability, or services that are offered (special ed, dyslexia, etc). This program is not in the best interest of the children in Texas.

I do not believe taxpayer money should be available for funding private education.

Amy Millar

Self, Teacher

Bedford, TX

As a former public school student, former public school teacher, and current parent of public school students, I believe in the power of public schools. Public schools can create an environment rich in encouragement, support, security, and knowledge for its students. I know many public school staff members and their dedication to their students to provide a positive learning experience. Great schools across the state of Texas create great communities across the state of Texas. To continue providing great education experiences and great schools across our state, we need increased funding to our public schools. Public school staff members are working to meet the very different needs of their diverse students and can be more successful in helping their students reach their full potential with more state funding. Please help our public school students and staff members to be the best version of themselves by increasing their funding and steering away from an education savings account program. Students all across our state depend on the security of their public schools in the forms of dependable adult role models and educators, peers for social experiences, and meals. Please continue to support these students and their families by allocating funding to public schools, not to education savings accounts.

Shellie Cecchine

Self

San Antonio, TX

Opposing HB 3: Support Public Schools for Real Student Success

I strongly oppose HB 3 because it diverts public tax dollars to private schools through vouchers, despite clear evidence that voucher programs do not improve student outcomes. Numerous studies, including those from states with long-standing voucher systems, show that students using vouchers often perform worse or no better than their public school peers. For example, research on voucher programs in Ohio, Indiana, and Louisiana found that students who transferred to private schools through vouchers experienced declines in math and reading scores.

Instead of shifting funds to private schools that lack accountability and oversight, we should invest in our public schools, where the vast majority of Texas students are educated. Public schools serve all children, including those with disabilities and those from low-income backgrounds, and they provide essential services like transportation, special education, and meals that private schools are not required to offer.

Rather than wasting money on a system that does not work, we must focus on strengthening our public schools by increasing teacher pay, reducing class sizes, and ensuring all students have access to quality resources. Our commitment should be to a strong, well-funded public education system that benefits every child in Texas—not to an unproven voucher scheme that only drains resources from our schools.

Cynthia Lovin

Self / Spiritual Director

Pflugerville, TX

I am deeply opposed to diverting taxpayer money from public education to ESA / vouchers for private schools.

Joe Blanda

self

Austin, TX

Dear House Committee member,

Please do not foist so-called Education Savings Accounts (aka vouchers) on Texas. ESAs (or vouchers) are a scam designed to enrich their billionaire backers at the expense of our public schools. They will drain money and resources from the entire TX public school system, which needs all the help it can get, given that it's under constant attack from you guys (mostly Republicans) in the Legislature.

I believe ESAs (or vouchers) are part of a long-term effort to get rid of public schools in Texas altogether. What will happen, instead, is that they will become a gigantic anchor on the TX economy, while their billionaire backers make off with the loot. Look at what's happened in other states that have adopted them. They have become a gigantic boondoggle. The same thing will happen in Texas. For all our braggadocio, we are not immune to stupid. I think you know this, and I hope you care.

Pollye Hunter, Dr.

Self- Physical Therapist

Sunnyvale, TX

I have been in Public Education in some capacity (teacher, coach, physical therapist with SpEd, and current school board trustee), and this is a bad deal for Texas. While I understand the intent, the proposed implementation won't work. Public schools will be underfunded, poor students in underperforming schools will still not be able to afford private schools, and private schools will get more funding without having to comply with the same state mandates as public schools. I have always been a staunch conservative, but I cannot and do not support this bill.

Jonathan Price

Self. Former teacher and Administrator for 25 years in public schools

Groesbeck, TX

This bill was about choice for ALL then it would include the following provisions or amendments:

1. No elected official past, present or future nor any family member by blood or marriage may financially benefit from an ESA
2. No family with a child currently enrolled in an education entity outside of Texas public schools may use an ESA
3. No education entity may deny admittance to any child choosing to use an ESA
4. No education entity may dismiss a child admitted via an ESA during the current school year
5. Any education entity removing or denying continued admittance to a child before 5 years or graduation must fully refund the state plus a 25% penalty
6. Any education entity accepting ESA's must abide by the exact same rules, policies and procedures as every public school

If this bill truly wanted to protect ALL children and provide choice for ALL then ALL children would have protections..... this bill allows for choice for a select few.

Additionally, all this bill accomplishes is to free public funds for the profit of a few individual businessmen.

Pay attention to the majority of the voters in this state and vote this bill down. Show your constituents that you will vote the will of the people not the will of a few Republicans beholden to their benefactors.

Suzanne Potts

Self/nonprofit staff

Austin, TX

As a parent of two incredible young men who attended Texas public schools, I strongly oppose School Vouchers. Our oldest son was diagnosed with significant learning, physical, fine and gross motor skills, speech delays and autism at a young age. I am sincerely concerned about what the proposed voucher bill and education savings account program will do for students with disabilities like my son. He was not eligible for his "school choice" as many of the charter and private schools would not accept him because of his significant learning challenges. With the limited resources that public school offered him, paired with incredible paraprofessionals, special education staff and dedicated teachers, he was able to thrive in a public school environment. I feel that every Texas child should have the opportunity to learn where they can be most successful, that they should be welcomed into learning and that public schools should be fully funded. I believe that public school dollars should remain in PUBLIC SCHOOLS, not just offered to a select few who are able to utilize them. I worry about rural Texas, where private or charter schools are limited and public school dollars will be drained even more. And lastly, I worry about discrimination that our son and others like him would face within a private or charter school setting. Children of all abilities, socioeconomic status and regions of Texas should have equal access to an incredible education here in our great state. Please vote no on this voucher/education savings account program and uplift all Texans who want to succeed.

Rebecca Robertson, Mrs

Self, retired teacher

Coppell, TX

Fully fund public schools! The proposed \$289 annual increase is not sufficient. This amount needs to be increased by \$1,300 just to get back to where we were in 2019. Texas schools are having to close and are in danger and cuts will have to be made to fine arts and many other enrichment programs and special education. Texas football programs are also in danger. Have the courage to do what the majority of your constituents are asking you to do and what's best for the children of Texas. Vote NO to HB2 and fully fund our public schools!

Ealina Melton

Self

Boyd, TX

I am against HB 3 and this is being twisted to say the majority want this. This is not what was voted on and I oppose school choice/ HB 3

Katie Keith

Self

Dublin, TX

As a conservative, lifelong Texas resident, I adamantly oppose school vouchers. Public funding should always stay with public schools. The money allocated to funding school vouchers should be placed into the public school system. Texas is among the lowest per pupil funding states, despite claims made by our governor via social media. Our local, rural school districts are suffering from lack of funding - teachers are leaving nonstop, being replaced by non-certified replacements. My junior high student can't had a 7th grade math teacher all year because they cannot find anyone willing to accept the job. The situation is dire and something has to change for the betterment of our kids and future generations. School vouchers are NOT the answer. Fully funding our schools districts is the answer. Allow them to operate with the proper resources and you'll see our schools system flourish as intended.

Erin Bierwagen

Self/teacher

Dallas, TX

Done

SB2/HB3 grows government, weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money with zero accountability. It strips rural schools of funding, could send tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools, and violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education. Say NO to SB2 & HB3!

Janie Blackwell

Teachers

Fate, TX

No for vouchers!!! This is not in the best interest of students and Texans!

Bradley Davidson

Self, Educator

WAXAHACHIE, TX

I'm a lifelong Texan. I've also been a Texas educator for 17 years. I've worked in a public ISD, and I'm currently an instructional coach at a large public charter school. I believe in the power of a public education, and I also think that choice is important. The public charter movement gave parents a powerful choice, but it also gave them the security of knowing those schools would have a level of accountability from the state.

HB 3, on the other hand, is a mistake. It claims to offer parent's choice, but in reality, the private school is the one with the true choice. They choose whether or not to admit students, including those with disabilities. They also choose their tuition rate, and can raise it to match any new demand. They choose the standards they feel are important and they choose how to hold themselves accountable.

Finally, when you look at data from other comparable states that have implemented voucher systems, the vast majority of families who take advantage of the program already had their children in private schools. Thus, the program simply subsidizes the wealthy who use private schools rather than expanding true choice to parents who need it. Please, say "no" to HB 3 and instead, fund our public schools. We desperately need the funds to continue the incredible work we're doing every day.

Janet Bond

Self - retired public school educator

Cross Plains, TX

SB2/HB3 grows government, weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money with zero accountability. It strips rural schools of funding, could send tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools, and violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education. Say NO to SB2 & HB3!

Mary Harris, Dr.

Texas Impact

Denton, TX

I have worked for 44 years as a teacher in public schools or in teacher education at public institutions of higher education. I support public education and oppose HB3.

Public schools serve as the centers of community in most Texas neighborhoods and towns. They provide opportunities for communities to receive immunizations, for limited English proficient students to learn English, for disaster-struck students to continue the school year, and for parents to directly support the education of students. Where would Texas communities be without Friday night football?

The ESA proposal of HB3 will destroy the public schools that are centers of Texas communities wealthy enough to host private and religious school businesses run by people who may know very little about child development, how to teach reading, or how to manage a school budget that addresses the overwhelming number of regulations for schools established by the Texas legislature over the years. I am sure you are aware that other ESA-adopting states found many of the students served were already in private schools, suggesting lack of need for public funding by their parents. The Center for Intercultural Development (IDRA) includes on its website the story of Edgewood ISD, where in 1998, the Children's Educational Opportunity (CEO) Foundation offered tuition for private schools. The parents of a third of the children sent them to private schools; about two thirds kept their children in public schools. Within one year, the school district had a \$3M shortfall due to the loss of no longer enrolled students. The IDRA website offers parallel calculations for each Texas House district.

Already, in Texas, due to failure to adequately fund public education, most new teachers are uncertified. Teacher certification guarantees that an individual has passed a criminal background check in a system that has reciprocity with other states. Teacher certification guarantees a teacher knows how to manage a classroom, has updated knowledge of the curriculum and methods of teaching at the relevant level in the field of certification. Certification should be required of teachers of any state-funded student.

When I first moved to Texas, we were adopting statewide standardized testing that led to annual administrations of what is now the STAAR. As you know, test results are important in the current state rating of schools and districts. How the state curriculum and accountability system may apply to private and home-schooled students receiving publicly funded vouchers is an important question. I think that schools whose students are publicly funded, should be accountable for teaching the state curriculum as is currently accomplished by the STAAR. I urge you to insist on accountability for learning of all state-funded students.

Texas is a wealthy state, and we deserve excellence in P-12 education for all students!

Amanda Pfeifer

Self / Database Engineer

Leander, TX

I grew up in a small rural school district. We had school spirit and were proud of our school and our students, but we did not have a lot of resources. Luckily the school had a few band instruments we could use if our parents couldn't afford to buy one; we always managed to have new(ish) sports team jerseys, even if the ancient air conditioning system in the gym sometimes malfunctioned. We had to buy our own cheerleading uniforms and do fundraisers for class trips because there wasn't budget to the school to pay for us to go. Our parents and community gave what little they could to make sure the kids had what they needed, even if it wasn't always the newest and shiniest. A voucher program that removes thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars out of a school like mine would have a devastating effect not just on the school, but on the entire community. How can a town rally around a football team if the school can't afford to keep on the Friday night lights? How can we provide a quality education to the next generation of Texans if we can't afford to pay the teachers? When the arts programs are the first ones cut as a result of budget shortfalls, the silence where there were once fight songs will be deafening. When there's not enough funding to support dual credit or vocational programs, our children will be less prepared to continue their education or enter the workforce, which will cost Texas even more money. Top talent such as physicians will continue to flee our state as it becomes clear we won't provide quality education for their children. I was proud of my Texas education and I have been successful as a result of it. So has my husband. My husband's mother was a school superintendent who worked tirelessly to ensure every single student in her district had what they needed to be successful. We are proud of our Texas educations and we want our daughter to have the same opportunities to attend great Texas schools. HB 3 will break our education system even more and destroy that dream. Please, don't destroy the future educational opportunities for millions of Texas school children.

Kelley Lawrence
Self, registered nurse
Allen, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Julie Nance, Educational Diagnostician
Self
Carrollton, TX

Please vote against this. We are already losing the DEA, which may be good and may not but do we really need to dismantle so much at the same time?

Susan Pascoe
Self - retired
Austin, TX

Vouchers will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties (more than 150 Texas counties don't have a private school to send your child to, even if you could afford the difference between what the voucher pays and what tuition costs!

The push for vouchers is bad for the Texas taxpayer, bad for public educators, and bad for the kids in our public school classrooms. The public school system needs money to pay teachers, upgrade classrooms and provide essential services. Please use state money for activities that really require it - prison reform, improving the state foster care system to mention two areas.

Julie Peckham
Self
Austin, TX

Please Please support and fund Public Schools with PUBLIC money. Our Texas Constitution ,Article 1, Section 7, and Article 7, Section 5 instructs us to do that, not support private schools. A voucher is a diversion of public funds. Tax dollars are public funds. Schools are accountable to all voters, who have a say in curriculum, teaching standards and performance measures. this is how we prepare our future workforce and future leaders. Faith communities were instrumental in starting the first public schools in the U.S. and remain among its staunchest advocates. Please stand up to Abbott and say "NO!!!" to public vouchers. Do the right thing

Benita Reed, Dr.
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

Dear Representatives,
I am a parent, taxpayer, school board trustee, and educator (of over 30 years) in the State of Texas. I oppose HB3; I do NOT support vouchers, nor do I support education savings accounts (ESAs). I support and advocate for Public Education and, therefore, want our State Legislature to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Public School Funding has been stagnant since 2019 while the cost of living has increased, and we have had inflation of over 20%. I am paying my taxes and want them to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Our children, educators, staff, and all who care for our children deserve more respect; thus, they deserve the Funding. To be specific, I want our Texas Legislature to assume their fiduciary responsibilities by doing the following: Increase the Basic Allotment and Fund Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.
Again, I want my public tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.
Sincerely,
Benita Reed

Beverly Rogers
ROGERS & CO
Dallas, TX

Vouchers take funding from public schools, which serve most students, and give it to private schools. This can hurt public schools that are already struggling.
Public education needs MORE funding and passing this bill could be catastrophic
Please consider the children

Senada Perkins
Myself
Denton, TX

As an educator and wife to an educator and three in middle school, public funding should stay in public school. My children deserve an education where schools are properly funded and teachers are given an appropriate raise to deal with inflation. Furthermore, private schools are able to turn away any student that doesn't make their school look better. Public schools accept any child, no matter how aggressive or high needs. Our classrooms are large and we have to purchase materials to fill in the gaps. All to make our students successful. We vehemently oppose any public money going outside of where it is needed and where it's needed is public schools.

Dawn Candler, Counselor
Public school children in Texas
Grand Prairie, TX

Vouchers will destroy public schools in Texas. We are already one of the lowest funded public school systems in the USA. This will only make things worse. Our children are our future so if the goal is to destroy our future, HB3 will do that. Abbott wants to attract companies to move into Texas. Education is what attracts people to states. Our underfunded schools will not be something that attracts people to move. If Abbott truly believes we are "indoctrinating" students then he needs to look at the TEKS - Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills - what TEA requires us to teach. The attack that public schools are under is a shame. Our kids deserve better.

ANNE WOLFE
Self
SEGUIN, TX

Please DO NOT pass school vouchers!

Dianna Freeman
The children of Texas
Kyle, TX

I respectfully request that Texas taxpayer dollars be used for Texas Public Schools only! Tax money does not have a place in financing private schools. Please consider the importance of funding public schools for the children of Texas!

Suzanne Miller
Self
Arlington, TX

I strongly oppose the concept of school vouchers and fully support public education. An education is the debt we owe to future generations and benefits us all. There is no greater investment society can make. If parents choose to send their children to private schools, they do so at their own expense, not at public expense. I strenuously object to public taxpayer dollars being withheld and diverted away from our public schools. The continued efforts to bring this to pass is an erosion of trust in our legislative system which is supposed to represent ALL Texans.

Paul Dunk
self
KATY, TX

The writing is on the wall that the political majority in Austin will be forcing Gov. Abbott's voucher plan on Texas... NOT because they care about Texas children, but because they FEAR the attacks that will come from the billionaires backing this new plan to access the pockets of Texas taxpayers. The rhetorical question, behind the push to establish a taxpayer subsidized private school system in Texas, that begs to be answered is WHY are a few billionaires willing to spend millions to manipulate the Republican primary elections on this issue. Do they care about kids... or making more millions off of taxpayers? The schools voucher scam is wrong for Texas for many reasons... they are NOT parent choice, the voucher school picks who gets in not the parents... they pull funding from public schools in the form of the basic allotment of any student who leaves... they violate the intent of Art 1 sec 7 and Art 7 sec 1 of the Texas Constitution... they will create a taxpayer subsidized segregated school system that further divides Texas children based on issues of socioeconomics, religion, and political ideologies... AND THEY ARE THEFT from the pockets taxpayers in the form of your way to common vendor bill that serves a VERY FEW at the cost of the VERY MANY. WAKE UP lawmakers... you are on the wrong side of this issue!

Shannon Horner
My family
Round Rock, TX

I'm against this bill as it will negatively impact our public schools. Please use this money to support public schools instead

Tasha Blagg
Self
Clarksville, TX

School vouchers are not what TEXAS voters want. We want our public schools to be fully funded with teacher wages secured completely. Vote no for vouchers that take public money away and give to private accounts.

Carley Newlin
Self - real estate agent
Royse City, TX

It is your job as our constituents to support the ideals of the people you represent and the people have spoken - we do NOT support this push for a voucher program. It is time for you people to actually do what is best for the people you supposedly represent, not for only the rich. The working class does not support this bill. This is a bipartisan issue and the majority agrees. Please do the job you were elected to do by the people - not what Greg Abbott and his rich cronies want.

Jason Blake
Self
McKinney, TX

This bill does not support freedom for home school families. Please vote no today.

Kyle Atwood
Self
Holliday, TX

I am saying NO to vouchers!!!

Jamie Justus
Self
Austin, TX

Please oppose this bill. I am concerned that this bill will lead to less money in our public schools and will widen the gap in opportunities for children from families with lower incomes.

Tom Ausley
Self/retired attorney
Austin, TX

I have four children and ten grandchildren who have received excellent education and graduated from Texas public schools. Two of my daughters and one granddaughter now teach in Texas public schools. They and their students have suffered from lack of proper funding of public schools for the last few years. Please do not further erode Texas schools with public school vouchers by using public dollars for private education which will be a further drain on our public schools.

Kristi Giemza
self, nurse practitioner, co-founder of Every Child Every Day
Lubbock, TX

I am a mother of two children, one of whom graduated last year, and one who is a thriving junior in Lubbock ISD. As someone who cares very much about my community and public education, HB 3 is going to be not only a financial boondoggle down the road, it is going to continue to erode the resources of the public school system. I live in the 84th district, and it is no wonder that Mr. Tepper is scared to have a public town hall. I have met no parents, teachers, or community members who think vouchers are a good idea. Tepper seems to have no interest in listening to his constituency, or vote in the best interest of the community.

I'm going to provide some excerpts from an op-ed I wrote for the Avalanche-Journal earlier this year, and I think it summarizes most of what Lubbockites are thinking:

families remain the final decision makers, even when public schools area social norm. If they do not care for what's on offer, they can (as they have always been free to do) educate at home or pay for a private education. When Salter compares education to "other goods that are essential for communal flourishing," he invokes the example of "wholesome and nutritious food, [without which] we could not have a community." The comparison holds, but not for the reasons he thinks. Public education is meant to serve the most for the highest good, and it offers nutritious fare to as many as possible at minimal cost. But if you don't like the cafeteria food that is served there, it doesn't mean that you're entitled to a steak dinner on the taxpayer dime."

ESAs or vouchers, or whatever you want to call them, are in no way conservative. Instead of creating a parallel system with little to no oversight, please consider funding our properly funding current public schools (aligned with inflation since 2019) and creating more choices within our local districts.

Moreover, as a parent of a bright child with ASD and inattentive ADHD, there are no opportunities and choices within the private schools on offering in Lubbock. I'm sure in rural areas the offerings are even more scarce. If you do pass some sort of ESA bill, which would be harmful for Texans in the long run, it must have the same quality measures, regulations, and oversight that we require of our public schools. Schools that accept vouchers must accept students regardless of learning differences, as 20% of children are diagnosed with some type of learning difference. This is only fair.

Thanks for your time and consideration,
Kristi Giemza

Julia Lynch
Just me
Marble Falls, TX

I am against school vouchers. Public funds (from my taxes) are for public schools. Giving taxpayer funding to private schools violates separation of church and state. The founding fathers made this separation fundamental in our constitution and it is not outdated.

Stacey Blackstone

Self

Sunnyvale, TX

I am against HB 3 for several reasons. First, I do not think that public dollars should be used to fund private education, especially if it is religious in nature, as I believe in the separation of church & state. In addition, this bill is deliberately continuing the trend of underfunding our state's public schools by barely raising the basic allotment (& still not to inflationary levels since the last change in 2019). At the same time, HB 3 will provide \$10,000 for private school vouchers. Why are private school students worth so much more than the 5 million public school students in Texas? Why do Texas Republicans continue to insist on underfunding our public schools when Texas has the 8th largest economy in the world? We could be leading in educational outcomes if we would make more of an investment in our children but we are not doing that. This is why we rank in the bottom 10 states for educational outcomes. You can't be for Texas children & Texas teachers & continue this massive underfunding of our public schools. Furthermore, this bill does not require private schools to be held to any of the same standards that public schools are held to in order to receive public funds, so there is absolutely no accountability. Private schools do not have to accept or keep students with complex special educational or behavioral needs, yet this bill again, rewards them with almost double the funding. There has been significant public pushback to this bill, will you listen to your constituents?

Kristina Giometti, Dr.

My children / pharmacist

Plano, TX

The establishment of an education savings account program is detrimental to an already suffering public school system in Texas. Our elementary school has an operating shoestring budget of only \$34,000 for approximately 600 children. Our school serves many children on a subsidized school meal program. Our school district is suffering and reducing programs due to shrinking funding. The establishment of an education savings account program in Texas will further limit funding for our public schools. It is not a solution for Texas.

Mark Smith

Self - retired

Austin, TX

I write to oppose HB 3. The plan to take funding from public schools to give to parents to use in unaccountable private schools is a terrible idea. First, in many rural parts of the state, people don't have the option of private schools. Second, these schools, unlike public schools, are not required to serve all students and may reject, among others, students with special needs. Third, these schools are not accountable according to the same standards as public schools so there is no assurance that students will receive the same quality of education as in public schools. Finally, this takes key funding away from public schools that have been the bedrock of education in our country and that have a mission to address the learning needs of all students, and are fully accountable to the state and taxpayers. Please oppose this bill. Thank you.

Danielle Mitchell

Self- my children

Frisco, TX

Where to start.... I am a lifelong conservative and I am opposed to this bill. It is NOT conservative in any way shape or form. It grows government and harms our public school children. The only people who benefit from this bill are out of state vendors. You have managed to unite people from all political spectrums in opposition to this bill.

It is frustrating to see all that my home district has had to cut knowing that that state has failed to properly fund our schools. This bill is not popular with anyone that I know. This type of legislation has been a bust in Most states that have passed these types of bills. You must vote no on it.

Patricia Ray, Ms.

Self - Instructional Coordinator

Katy, TX

I do not support the voucher system. First of all, I do not understand how it is O.K. to not give public schools their money the last two years after the voucher system vote failed. We are a democracy. The governor does not have the right to hold back money because he did not get what he wanted.

At this time, private schools do not take students with discipline problems, and most only take students who make good grades. Also, public schools do not have to give the STAAR test. Are the private schools going to have to follow the same rules as public schools if they are funded by the government; teach ALL students, even if they have behavior problems and don't always make the highest grades? Are the private schools going to teach students who need special education services? At this time, the public schools test students in the private schools. Are the students in private schools going to have to take the STAAR test? All schools funded by the government should have to follow the same rules. How much more money is going to be needed to have someone run the voucher system for the private schools? We currently do not have a committee that is charge of private schools because the schools are PRIVATE and run by private entities. It does not make sense to use our tax dollars to support private schools as if any school is funded by the government, the school should have to teach all students, behavior problems or not behavior problems, smart or students who need special education services, and should have to take the STAAR test. This then would eliminate private schools as we know it. This would take away needed funds from public schools. The school voucher system does not make sense. I voted for our current governor, but I do not support a person who keeps money from the public schools because he did not get what he wanted. I did not vote for this.

Frank Maldonado

Self

Justin, TX

I oppose this bill. The privatization of public education should be admonished by all. We put our children's livelihood at risk when we reduce access to public education!

Yelin Martin

Self

Austin, TX

Please do not put these resources anywhere other than back into our public schools. We need schools to be supported so that we can support our community and our children. Say NO to vouchers and show them all true leadership!

Minda Anderson

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote NO for all vouchers/ESA bills. Our public schools deserve to be fully funded. Voters do not want vouchers, we want to have strong public schools which will only come with better funding. Thank you.

Lisa Trittin

Self- public school admin

ROUND ROCK, TX

The responsibility of our elected officials is to support the WILL OF THE PEOPLE! The state of Texas does NOT want vouchers. Fully funded public schools give our students many choices and provide for the needs of the children of Texas. Please do not steal from them to help wealthy people for a program that has proven unsuccessful in any state that has tried it.

I have been a public school educator for 31 years and am so proud of what we have accomplished, even without the proper level of funding. Our work is critical to the lives of the children of Texas. Please support our children.

Crystal Intfen

Self

Azle, TX

As a supporter of Texas public schools, I am writing to express my opinion on House Bill 3.

Texas students deserve strong, well-funded public schools. I'm asking that you ensure all schools that receive state funding are held to the same transparency requirements, accountability standards, and enrollment practices as public schools.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Texas public schools.

Shannan Murray

Pearland

Pearland, TX

I absolutely disagree with everything about this bill. My public tax dollars should not pay for private education with no accountability. Stop calling it school choice. There is already a choice - its about money and public schools are held to different standards. Private schools can deny access to anyone they want- i dont want my tax dollars paying for this. Keep public money with public schools.

Lauren Bennett

Self teacher

Round Rock, TX

If vouchers are provided to families for alternative schooling (private, charter, etc) it would be the demise of our public schools. I am against vouchers.

The public schools in states who currently have a voucher program retain unequipped educators, lack of resources and technology and the pool of students are at a disadvantage.

Private schools are still expensive. Even with voucher, parents will need to still pay an obscene amount of money for an education that is paid for completely by their tax dollars.

Jeremy Graslie

Self

Dallas, TX

I do not believe that HB 3 will help our education system and believe it will have negative impacts our on community. I ask the House not to pass HB 3.

Cheryl Cunningham

Self (retired educator)

Abilene, TX

Educational savings accounts will only help the rich, to the detriment of public education. This viucher system is a scam that is harmful and ill advised.

Jennifer Lee

Self

Temple, TX

I oppose this bill in it's entirety. This bill will destroy public education, and that's the point. All over the US, the states who have vouchers have had to begrudgingly admit the vast majority of the ESAs/Vouchers/Coupons have gone to wealthier families who were already sending their children to private school. Oklahoma is the most recent example of this. This "program" will be taxpayer funded discrimination. Private schools will receive taxpayer dollars while being able to select their students, deny entry to those who don't fit their version of "greatness", and have no financial transparency. ESAs/Vouchers do not provide ALL parents with choices, every household will not benefit from this program. Families deserve to have fully funded public schools as a choice, rather than having a private school they cannot afford, public schools that are crumbling, or homeschooling by someone who may or may not be qualified to teach their child.

Honestly, this is a test for the Republicans who were purchased by pro-voucher billionaires. What will it be? The millions you received, or the masses who have shown up at town halls, on social media and in Austin?

Eleanor Bryant

Self

Austin, TX

We must, for the sake of our society, our economy, our future of innovation, educate ALL children to the best of our ability. Taking funds from public schools and giving to the wealthy, who are the ones more likely to use the voucher funds, will seriously inhibit our ability to have a society where anyone can thrive and innovate.

Rebekah Marchbanks

Myself and my kids

Cleburne, TX

School vouchers & special needs students

I am the single, adoptive mother of four children all from foster care here in Texas. Three of my kids has 504 accommodations and one has IEP special needs plan. One of the four has extensive medical needs and currently has home health nurse with him most of the time. From my understanding the house bill would fund my children with vouchers as they fall into a certain category of special needs but also possibly lower income as my income. I want to ask before you vote if you would please consider that you are leaving my children with what will be the leftovers of the public school system when you pull a mass of its funding. My kids are already at a huge disadvantage in this life. Pulling funding from public schools to give to private schools will hurt my kids. There are absolutely no local private schools that will even remotely consider my kids with 504s much less mass amount of medical needs and an IEP, that's just laughable to think they even would. It's private school because they can pick and choose. Not to mention that the yearly costs of private school near me is roughly \$30,000 so the voucher barely scrapes the surface and won't cover books or uniforms. I'm the only income for these four precious kids and we definitely can't come up with the rest that the voucher won't cover. Not to mention that none of the local schools would even consider admissions for my kids. If we drove to a private school that would admit them with special needs it would be an hour both ways to school on a good traffic day and then I wouldn't be able to work due to drop off and pick up as times, lack of transportation for the kids that far from home, and so on. I can't even begin to explain how complex it is to just care for one medical needs child and that driving that much in the car daily is extremely unrealistic and uncomfortable for him. My hope is that you can see from this single moms perspective how this would hurt my kids, take the funds from their school when they are the ones that need it most. Please think of them. Thank you!

Gail Shooter
Self, teacher
Lubbock, TX

I am a teacher and a parent in Lubbock ISD.

Lubbock ISD has been careful with funds, but with no increase in the Basic Allotment in 6 years and other pressures like inflation and increased needs, we have had to close two elementary schools and one middle school this year. Our district has had to propose a bond to close four more schools. Every campus has had to cut teaching positions, and district administration in the curriculum department has been gutted. I am angry about this; it will affect my child's school experience. I demand that Gov Abbott stop playing games with my child's future and FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. I also demand that you VOTE NO ON THE VOUCHER SCAM so that our limited money and resources can be put to the best use for our students - and we have full accountability and transparency of that money.

Instead, I want to see these things:

- The basic allotment tied to inflation indexes, so Gov Abbott cannot hold it hostage anymore
- The basic allotment become enrollment-based vs. attendance based
- Full funding to make up for 6 years of missing funding

While I strongly oppose vouchers, I recognize that they are likely to pass and become law. That said, I would like to urge the Representative to either file or support the following amendments.

1. Lower the lottery priority qualification for low income families from 500% above the poverty line to 185%, aligning it with qualifications for reduced-price school lunches.
2. Ensure funding for students with disabilities by matching, dollar for dollar, the voucher amount used by these students with additional funding for special education programs in rural districts that do not have private options.
3. Match the funding for vouchers to the funding for public school students by either reducing the voucher amount by \$4,000 or raising the per-student allotment for public school students by the same amount.

Elizabeth Molter

Self, retired certified teacher k-6, K-8 Reading
Midland, TX

As a veteran educator of 33 years, I am against ANY bill bound to cause further dismantling and destruction of public schools in the name of "free choice." We already have free choice for families to send their students anywhere they decide and follow the process the schools require including tuition and admissions. That may mean residence in certain districts and an achievement test score to qualify. Parents who want more for their children should work and sacrifice to make that possible, and not be entitled to withhold their fair portion of taxes in order to pay for private school choices. This entire proposal is a sacrifice of the education of a majority of students, to give public funds to a select privileged few. But it will be enough to cause a further shortfall of funding and of numbers of students for schools already struggling.

The entire path to this type legislation is appearing to have been proceeded with speculations of inappropriate manipulation of support as well as funding support for personal gains and favors. I have seen a massive campaign to manipulate the public to encourage this unconstitutional misuse of taxes for this proposal. I have responded to so many social media posts that I am able to argue against any claim that this is good for Texas. Public Education is a promise and dream of every family, not just the wealthy, or those persons with connections to upper-middle class or elitism. I am very opposed to SB2 and any other legislation that impulsively claims this will benefit the future of Texas. Government has caused the decline of public schools over the years that I taught with rigid testing that has derailed true teaching of knowledge and all content area skills. It has pushed certified, expert veteran teachers out of classrooms by requiring a mandatory Reading Academy participation. Who benefitted from that program I would like to know! Mandates of DEI and refusing to stand up for schools to correct students with discipline that caused toxic and unsafe classrooms filled with unruly students. In schools we were told not to send discipline reports to the office which led to discouraging discipline for bad behavior. Look into what is truly needed. I say vote NO. Big politics, favors, and discrimination against supporters of public school should raise eyebrows to cause concerns and an investigation into the very ethics of these bills. Look into the real purposes of this proposal and the true effects it will cause.

Margaret Soderholtz

Self, teacher

MCFADDIN, TX

If parents of private school students can get a voucher for \$10,000 to pay for their student's education, then Texas should provide \$10,000 for every student enrolled in a Texas public school.

Texas has a strong economy but ranks in the bottom 10 states with regard to per student spending and teacher salary.

Public schools have to accept every student who lives in their attendance zone. Students can't be denied admission because of behavior, poor attendance, or special education needs. Texas public schools are held accountable by state through the STAAR tests and financial audits. Texas public schools are required to follow the TEKS and use state approved instructional materials. Texas public schools must comply with federal laws as well.

Private schools can deny admission to any student, they aren't required to follow special education guidelines, and they aren't required to administer the STAAR test or follow the TEKS.

If a private school accepts state funds or tax payer money for a student's tuition, then they should be held to the same accountability standards as public schools.

Enrollment in education programs has dropped. There aren't enough certified teachers to replace teachers who retire or leave because they are frustrated with heavy work loads, large class sizes, and having to fill multiple rolls. Vouchers for private schools will contribute to the dwindling teacher workforce.

The approximately 348,000 students currently enrolled in private schools have never been accounted for in the state budget. Although there is a surplus now, what happens when there isn't a surplus? In 2011, the state cut over \$5 billion dollars from the education budget. What happens to vouchers if the state cuts the education budget again?

If a parent receives a school voucher from the state of Texas to send their child to a private school and then enrolls the child in a public school during the same school year, do the parents or the private school have to pay back the money?

Kerri Hirsch

Self

McKinney, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. We need to properly fund our public schools to keep dedicated staff and essential programs. More and more people in the community are becoming outraged at the state officials pushing this measure. This is not in the best interest of your constituents.

Angela Cabrera

self

ABILENE, TX

I am against school vouchers. It does NOT help the average Texan student. There are parts of districts that offer public school choice within their boundaries. Public school money should NOT go to private schools. When the money goes to private schools, it deprives many of the general public of their basic educational rights. If a parent wants to spend the money for private school, it should come out of their pocket, not take the money from public schools.

Jody Slaughter

Self

Lubbock, TX

By most accounts, we are on the precipice of a recession. Texas is fortunate—we have enjoyed a surplus for the last few legislative sessions. However, there is no ongoing funding mechanism for this ESA program.

So what happens next session if there is a deficit instead of a surplus? Where does the money come from to continue or expand it, as its proponents have already indicated they plan to do?

It will come from public schools—a system that is already critically underfunded. Do they have too many administrators? Yes. But those administrators are required to fulfill thousands of mandates imposed by this body and state regulatory agencies. If you want to fix our education system, that is the perfect place to start.

Your job as legislators—your sworn duty—is to protect and defend the Texas Constitution, including Article 7. You alone have the power to do that, to create the efficient system of free public schools that our Constitution requires. Do not let special interests convince you that this is impossible. It is possible. And it is what our children deserve.

Whether it's in 2, 4, or 6 years, the day will come when Texas no longer has billions in surplus funds for entitlements like this. When that day comes, will we shutter the ESA program and force children to change schools yet again? Not likely. Instead, it will come at the expense of our already struggling public schools.

Private schools do great work and should be applauded. I urge you to look to those schools to see what makes them successful. You will find that they do not have high-stakes standardized testing or mountains of mandates. If such restrictions were imposed on them, many have already said that they would refuse ESA funding—because they know it would hinder their ability to educate students effectively.

Our state's education system does need reform. But it does not need an expensive, government-funded, inefficient parallel system. It needs relief from excessive mandates and bureaucracy so that local educators can focus on their mission: educating the children of Texas. Let's empower them to do that. If we do, we will see better outcomes at a fraction of the cost of an unsustainable ESA entitlement program.

I know this isn't easy. There are powerful forces aligning in support of this bill. But deep down, I believe you know that it is not the solution to our state's educational challenges.

As Plato said:

"Courage is knowing what not to fear."

I know you have heard the voices of the people in your district. The real people. Not the bots online, not the paid lobbyists, not the out of state special interests. The real people in your communities. Those who don't have the resources to drive to Austin to speak with you today, but only want a quality education for their kids at the school right down the street. They are the ones who need your courage today.

Thank you for your time, your service to our great state, and your courage to protect and defend our state's children.

Tammy Turner, Dr.

Self

Frisco, TX

I am deeply concerned about school vouchers. Vouchers will, admittedly, provide little to no relief for individuals who are not currently able to afford private school. They will simply offset the cost for parents who already send their children to private school at the expense of fully funding public education. Public education is the bedrock of democracy and serves all students regardless of socioeconomic status, ability, etc. It provides the opportunity for students to realize the American Dream of achieving an education and becoming a contributing member of society, yet Republican lawmakers in Texas, swayed by billionaire donors, continue to try to defund and cripple public education. They have withheld funds for years and are now claiming public education doesn't work, yet, had they supported public education and fully funded it, they would have seen immense growth in our students. As an educator of 24 years and mother to three children who attend public schools, one of which is classified as Special Education, I have seen miracles performed by teachers, yet I've known they did it in spite of funding constraints and lack of government support. Imagine the miracles they could have worked had they had the full support of our elected officials. It is past time to quit forcing the rhetoric that public education isn't working and provide the support it deserves instead of cutting off funding and then claiming it isn't living up to expectations. Public funds are for public education. Private education is a choice and should be funded fully by the parents making that choice.

Beyond the concern regarding level of support for our students is the very real possibility to that vouchers will bankrupt TRS and leave educators who have worked for years, putting money into TRS, without retirement funds despite their service and financial contributions. That is unconscionable. Teachers should not have those retirement stolen by billionaire donors any more than students should be left stranded due to lack of funding.

No one should be looking at children and see dollar signs. Privatizing education is not in the best interest of our students. No amount of political theatre or propaganda will make it so.

Elizabeth Wakehouse Werzner

Self

Austin, TX

I am a 47 year old mother of two elementary aged students who attend public school. My mother and grandmother were teachers. My other grandmother was a librarian. Multiple generations of aunts and uncles in my family were & are still current educators in the public school system. I believe in the right of every American to an education through the public school system. We should be funding our existing system and supporting our teachers, rather than wasting money to establish a new system that will be devoid of parent's voices. In the public school system parents vote for school board members, advisory committees, we are seen and heard. Education is a right, not a privilege. This proposed voucher system will take education from those who need it most. There will be huge numbers of children left behind who's families will not be able to afford school. Higher education has become so much more expensive than when I attended college. My husband and I used to worry about being able to afford college for our kids. This voucher program now has us worried about whether or not we'll be able to afford High School. This proposal HB 3, SB 2 has already caused such stress to our committed public school teachers. They work so hard with so little. Paying for their own supplies, having to rely on PTA and parent support for resources that should be part of the budget. I read the spending budget for AISD has not increased since 2019. The US inflation has risen 23.45% from 2019 to now. Instead of waisting time with these proposals that take away a system that works, why don't we make the existing system better? It would be more fiscally responsible to invest in our public schools than create a new system. Economists say our middle class is dwindling. If we make access to education more challenging the middle class will vanish. The key to our economy is the middle class. We can not allow HB 3 SB 2. Whatever your political views, this proposal is not good for children, or their parents, and their communities. This bill will do irreparable damage that will affect everyone. I do not support this bill and implore you do the same.

Sean Close

Self

Austin, TX

I am against HB3. School vouchers are simply a way to funnel money away from public schools into the pockets of the wealthiest Texans that need it the least.

Geraldine Rasmussen, Mrs
Self, Teacher (EC-12)
Harlingen, TX

As an American and more specifically a Texan, we are instilled with choice as a cornerstone to our freedoms. Peddling a bill that will unequivocally destroy the quality of public education as a choice, is not only manipulative but a purposeful misdirect. Voucher programs have been proven to disproportionately benefit those who already send their children to private schools. And those districts who do not have attainable alternatives will not only lose funding, but never actually have a “choice” as this bill implies.

My greatest concern lies with our students who do not classify as traditional learners; our 504 and IEP students. They require services that are not required in most private schools, and certainly not for the number of students that any public school services. Private institutions will always maintain the right to deny a student entry; this can be for religious belief, economic status, or availability of academic resources. If we as Texans allow this type of selective education to be government funded, our children will be the ones to suffer.

Rachel Adams
Self/Teacher
Arlington, TX

Public teachers and public school staff work exceptionally hard to meet the demands of the state and work to educate and push students to their fullest potential. We do this with limited resources and constant scrutiny and criticism from our own state government. Please quit withholding funds and provide appropriate funding to public education. The public has voiced their opinion. We do not want vouchers or ESAs or whatever they are called today. We want funding for public students attending public schools.

Beatrice Smith, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is horrific for Texas schools and children. It gives the wealthy even more opportunity and the poor even less than they have now. This legislation is anti teacher and anti student. This worsens the “the rich get richer and the poor get poorer” already in existence in Texas schools. This bill only helps children already in good schools in good districts and puts even bigger limits on schools who desperately need funding, teachers and support. What happens if all students in a county want to attend the same school with their voucher? This is a classist bill meant to hurt those already vulnerable. Texas students deserve support and funding in their public neighborhood schools, and those schools need to be uplifted. Public money needs to go to public education! Do not pass this bill. PUBLIC MONEY NEEDS TO GO TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!! All children deserve a quality public education in their own community supported by public tax dollars. No vouchers!

Johanna Parrish
Self - substitute teacher
Austin, TX

Dear members of the committee,

I am writing a simple letter to encourage you to be brave and vote down this voucher scheme. As a substitute teacher in Austin ISD, I am witness to the great things our schools have to offer our children. Vouchers would truly take away from the incredible collective effort we have in our schools today.

What a joy it would be to live in a place where I know that the public education has my kids backs.

Honestly, we have spoken year after year on this subject. This needs to end, it simply is not in our best interest.

Thank you,
Johanna Parrish
847-769-5982

Diana Savage

Self/teacher

Lubbock, TX

This bill is an absurd misuse of public funds. We already have school choice, of any of the public schools in our areas. Parents who want to send their kids to private school or homeschooling already have that right and exercise that right. By defending public schools, you are removing school choice for thousands of young Texans. This will end up costing us more in the future when our children are unable to compete in the job market, because they are not educated. This bill is stealing from taxpayers and damning underprivileged children to lives of hardship and societal regression.

Hayley Thomas

Self

Waco, TX

I'm a Texan. I care about our K-12 public education system being well-funded for all students. I do not support HB 3, the education savings account bill, and I ask for all representatives to oppose this bill.

Sam Leonard

Self

Austin, TX

I do not support using public funds to pay for private education. In my opinion, this will have a long term negative effect on our public education system, that is already underfunded. A better option, in my opinion, would be to create a property tax credit or exemption for families that send their kids to a private school, similar to the homestead exemption.

ZEPHYR STONE

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Education Savings Accounts are just another way to funnel money that could be supporting public schools away to private and religious schools. This bypassing of the constitutional use of our tax dollars is blatantly wrong and ill-spirited. If those dollars were invested in public schools, more students could get a better education rather than the few who could use the ESAs effectively. If the goal is to actually improve education and move Texas out of the bottom 10 rated states for education Savings in the country, you would find ways to utilize our tax money to help ALL Texas children get quality public education rather than scamming the taxpayers to benefit a few....and not to benefit donors who are on private school boards (like Gov. Abbott's wife).

Cole Weaver

Self, Peer Support Specialist

Cedar Park, TX

I urge the House to do the right thing. Don't defund public schools and vote no on this bill!

Jennifer Ottinger

Self

Plano, TX

This hurts children in public schools. All education funds should go to public education.

Tyler Gray

Self

Irving, TX

I, Tyler Gray, a resident of Irving, TX, STRONGLY oppose HB 3 and school vouchers.

Connie Turner
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Please do not go against the constitution.
Public tax dollars should not go to private schools.

Anne Schellekens
Self, Homemaker
Austin, TX

I want you to know that this Voucher Scam represents a fight between a bi-partisan, pro public education coalition vs. billionaire mega-donors who control Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick. Your constituents love their kids, believe in public school teachers, support our neighborhood schools and want them fully funded. We don't want a Voucher Scam that will eventually defund our local schools.

I would like to see these things:
the Basic allotment tied to inflation indexes to Gov Abbott cannot hold it hostage anymore
The basic allotment become enrollment-based vs. attendance based
Full funding to make up for 6 years of missing funding
Vote NO on the Voucher Scam.
Thank you.

Alison Fader-Brock
self - (social worker/part-time student)
Austin, TX

I am writing to ask you to protect neighborhood schools and oppose House Bill 3 in Texas. I believe that our state should provide quality, accessible public education for all. Every Texas student deserves an education that prepares them to succeed, not just students at exclusive private schools.

The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our neighborhood public schools for students, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private and religious schools that pick and choose who will enroll.

I am a concerned Texan and a proud parent of two children currently attending our neighborhood public school. I ask you to vote down House Bill 3, which diverts tax dollars from neighborhood public schools. Public dollars should stay in public schools.

Please say NO to vouchers that use tax dollars to fund the tuition at exclusive private schools.

Brenda Black
Self
Pollok, TX

This is an overreach of our parental rights regarding our faith and how our children are educated.

Stacy Lugo
My family
Georgetown, TX

I strongly encourage you to NOT pass the school choice bill. Texas already has school choice, and this bill adds more government to our education system. My children left the public school system because it is failing, and we choose to homeschool. It has been a huge blessing for our family, and that was our choice. This bill opens the door for government to control homeschool curriculum and especially private school. It takes away our choice. Public school needs help, but this effort needs to go towards fixing school to what it used to be. We do not know any families that want this bill to pass so it leads me to believe that special interest groups, maybe those who would control curriculum, are pushing this. This will harm our children, and if it passes, it will add more taxes to Texans. This bill is not the answer, and we beg you to not pass it. Thank you.

Amber Clark
Self
Conroe, TX

I do not want vouchers. Public schools are not fully funded and this will only cause segregation throughout our public school system. Parents who can afford private schools are already going and don't need tax payers money to do so.

Dovid Wohlgelemerter
Self
Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Kimberly Pendleton
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am opposed to passing a bill allowing for educational saving's accounts in Texas. As public representatives, your focus should be on fully funding public education in Texas which is required to serve all students and has accountability measures to demonstrate where they are successful and areas that need additional assistance. Parents have always had school choice. This isn't the voice of the people of Texas. You have an opportunity to do what is right by the parents and children of Texas and focus our public dollars into appropriately funding a school system that has the responsibility, one they don't take lightly, of serving every student that walks through their door.

Jonell Randall
Retired teacher
Ben Wheeler, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Luziris Pineda Turi
Self
Houston, TX

I am against the "education savings acocunt program" which in reality is not offering savings to anyone. This program would further underfund already ailing public schools and negatively impact public school teacher pay. This would also funnel government funds to private religious education which goes against separation of church and state. H3 is harmful for our public school system. Taxpayer money needs to go directly to pubich school districts and not private schools. The priority for the Texas government needs to be public schools and not helping individuals send their children to private schools. Additionally, there is not oversight about how private schools will use these taxpayer funds.

Jennifer Donato
Pleasanton ISD
Poteet, TX

For our kids right now, funding was held back the last 2 years.

Holly Edwards
self
Corpus Christi, TX

School voucher programs are for the rich and keeps funds away from the poorer and rural schools. Only private schools will reap the rewards. And why did a wealthy investor donate so much money for this to happen. I implore you to vote against this bill so every child gets a proper education.

Sherrie Caplan
personal
Austin, TX

This bill will take away funding for the vast majority of children who rely on a quality public education. Those who are financialoly priveleged to send kids to a private school if they choose will only be receiving a cut on tuition. No school is only A\$10000 making it unattainable for any but the wealthy. And many areas do not have a private school choice making this NOT a bill for ALL Texans

michelle filer
Self
Alto, TX

I am against this! No vouchers!

Margo Green, MS
Green
LUBBOCK, TX

I find it interesting that our elected officials, who swore an oath to represent the citizens, are refusing to listen to them. We do not now and have never wanted vouchers. We want good reliable public education for our children. We pay for good reliable education for our children. Vouchers will decimate rural school districts specifically, under served children and special needs children and programs. If we are forced to use vouchers, then the state should shoulder all the costs and not our tax dollars. You must vote NO on HB3. No one wants vouchers. So please do what you were elected to do and follow the lead of your constituents by voting no.

Alexis Miller
self-registered nurse
Houston, TX

As a Houstonian and Mother, I am against this bill. It will hurt the underserved and vulnerable in our community. It will further the gap between the haves and have nots and children who do not have parents that understand or are willing to put in the work will be hurt by this bill. Many low-income children benefit from public schooling to better themselves and many at time do so without the assistance of parents, as they may not have this family support. I am one of those kids due to drugs and alcohol taking my parents ability yet became an educated and productive citizen through public education. This Bill will hurt Texas Education, not help. We need to look at how to fix public schools versus privatization of the Education system. I, as the person who votes and follows politics, will remember who votes and how and will not let my community in Houston forget how you voted and will go out in the streets and educate my neighbors when the time comes. Please do right by our children and not your personal agenda. If you are religious (any religion) you will at some point have to answer on your judgement day, please do not have this be one you will have to answer for, as taking away from the least is not morally correct. Thank you for taking my comment into consideration and for doing the work of the people. Remember listen to the people as that is who you serve.

Kathy Goss
self Pre -K 3 teacher
Houston, TX

Please fully fund public schools before approving a voucher bill. Offer the same amount of money per student to public schools as you are funding for vouchers.

Jeana Actkinson
Self - Retired Educator
Runaway Bay, TX

Our duty to the students of Texas is to provide them with an education that will contribute to our society in general and them specifically. The future of our state and country is dependent on this and was recognized by the men that wrote our constitution.

Cameron Wiley, School Board Trustee
Self/Abilene Wylie ISD School Board Place 7
Tuscola, TX

I come before you in strong opposition to HB 3 and any form of voucher program that continues to siphon critical resources away from public education.

I wholeheartedly believe in healthy competition among educational institutions—but that competition should take place on an equal playing field. Right now, we do not have that. Voucher programs, including ESAs, divert taxpayer dollars to private and homeschool options that do not face the same accountability, transparency, or mandates as our public schools. Public schools serve every child, regardless of ability, background, or socioeconomic status. Private schools and ESA programs do not. They can set admissions policies, charge additional tuition, and dismiss students who require additional resources. This is not competition—it's a system designed to undercut public education while holding it to a different, higher standard.

While some argue that public education funding has increased, the reality is that no meaningful increase has accounted for inflation. As our state sees record growth, we are expected to educate more students with fewer dollars in real spending power. Public education does not have the luxury of turning students away—we welcome every child with open arms. And yet, we are being forced to do more with less, while teachers continue to leave the profession in droves.

Rather than diverting public funds to unaccountable alternatives, we should be prioritizing significant investment in our public schools, including:

- ? Meaningful teacher raises across the board—not selective increases tied to specific programs.
- ? A substantial increase in the Basic Allotment—not the mere \$220 being discussed, which falls woefully short of covering rising costs.
- ? An increase in the Security Allotment—ensuring schools can invest in the necessary measures to keep students and staff safe.

Our school finance system is failing under the weight of outdated formulas and underfunding. While SB 26 shows some promise, no proposed bill has adequately addressed the real needs of public education. We need solutions that put students and teachers first—not a program that diverts public money into an ESA system with zero meaningful oversight.

If the state is determined to pursue an ESA program, it must have equal accountability, transparency, and oversight. But even then, the priority should be strengthening public schools—where the vast majority of Texas students are educated.

I urge you to reject HB 3 and any voucher-style program that weakens public education and instead focus on real funding solutions that benefit all Texas children.

Thank you.

Carolyn Spahr

Self

Arlington, TX

I believe this bill will only benefit the wealthy that are already attending private schools. This bill will defund public schools and will harm students with physical and learning disabilities. Low-income students will suffer. Public schools are struggling now. This bill will harm public schools.

David Fink, Dr.

Myself - Attorney

Fort Worth, TX

School voucher is another abdication of a central role of government. There is not governmental role more important than providing for the education of the people. Vouchers are a gift to the rich and theft from those who are not. Every year since I was child Texas education has had less and less funding this will destroy public education in Texas, ensuring that only the rich can get a decent education. Remember when the Texas lottery was supposed to fund Texas education? That was as bid a lie as the voucher system being good. If this passes, I will devote the rest of my life to ensuring that those who voted for it are never elected to anything ever again.

Nefia S Peterson

Myself, retired

Pearland, TX

I am opposed to spending taxes on private schools for many reasons but mostly because I am Republican and truly want less government and less taxes. Not another bureaucracy and a give away of a billion dollars. This money could be more wisely spent on providing appropriate facilities and therapies for the very disturbed, mentally ill kids in our public schools. It is awful for our teachers and our kids to be exposed to such abnormal behavior. These kids truly need more appropriate therapy and psychiatric care. Government created the problems in our schools nor fix them instead of admitting you can't by saying here is some money find a better school. The only way this should pass is if it is a level playing field, same regulations across all schools including private and home schooling. Why are billionaires pushing this so hard? Very suspicious!

ANGELA TENG

Self, operations leader

Austin, TX

I oppose the school voucher program. I do not want my tax dollars to fund private school tuition. It will take away from already low funding of public schools. Thank you

Michael Idemudia, Dr.
Forney ISD, family nurse practitioner
Forney, TX

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to have a voice on this matter. I write to you today as a parent and as a school board trustee. The issue before us today is not about what “parents have overwhelmingly demanded” because we know if that were true, the easiest way to bring school choice to life would be to put it to the voters, and let them decide at the ballot box. But instead the real issue before you today is to determination ways to kill public education in Texas.

HB 3 is the first step in killing public schools in Texas. Here is what will happen if HB 3 passes.

- [] Public schools, with limited funding, will still be required to bring every child that comes through its doors to the same educational level by the end of the reporting period, regardless of the child’s prior educational background. Failure to accomplish this will give the school a low performing grade, which will eventually lead to less funds and increased exodus to private schools. Private schools on the other hand can pick and choose who to accept into their programs. Why wouldn’t they perform better than public schools? After all they can curate their own students.

I implore you to kill HB 3 because it does not serve Texas parents. HB 3 serves only one purpose - special interest groups. Last time I checked, lawmakers in Texas are not for sale. Texas lawmakers serve the people of Texas. The problems ailing Texas public schools is not going to be solved by diverting money away from it, and giving it away to private entities. What we need is all hands on deck. This includes adequately funding public schools, demanding accountability, celebrating successes, and investing in our children - especially among the most vulnerable population.

Thank you for your time.

Dr. Michael Idemudia

Stefanie Mott
Self
Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you!

Toni Milburn

Self

Murphy, TX

Dear Representative,

As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want an Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) Program. I pay my public tax dollars and, therefore, want my money to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Public school funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had inflation of over 20%. Our children and all the educators, and staff, deserve to have the funding. To be clear, I want to reiterate the following:

I do NOT want vouchers/ESAs.

I support an Increase of the Basic Allotment.

I support Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Again, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Toni H Milburn

Lorrie Culpepper, Retired

Canton ISD

Canton, TX

Completely oppose!

Haileu Gowens

Self - teacher

Lubbock, TX

I am a teacher at a public high school. Passing this bill would decimate our education system as we know it. So many schools are already in a deficit and topping it off with the voucher system is going to lead to GOOD teachers being laid off and/or leaving education forever. Teachers and students at title one schools will be punished by this voucher system. Private schools will up the cost of their tuition and this will have all been for nothing in the first place. PLEASE support your public school teachers. We are begging for people to listen to teachers who have actually been in the field. I have been a supporter of Greg Abbott all my life, but he has lost my vote for this.

Teri Zatopek

Self

Leander, TX

My children attend public schools, and that's where my tax dollars should go!

Andreaz Zolas
self/Cornerstone Academy
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!
Andrea Zolas

Mary Nelson
Self
Waco, TX

I'm very opposed to the voucher program. I have been working in and with Texas schools since 2010. Majority of that time was and is in Title 1 schools. This bill will only harm those schools more than the continual lack of full funding they already face. My children go to a title 1 school and the teachers are so dedicated and loving but they are so limited with support they really need. The vouchers are only a way to help wealthy families who already send their kids to private schools. And most of the private schools in my area won't comply with the 504 plans my children have. Fully fund Texas public schools so all students have a chance to thrive!!!

Kathy Hughes
self/teacher
Houston, TX

I support public schools. I oppose HB 3. We should be putting more funding into public schools so that they can better serve all students in our state. Public schools are essential to all communities throughout our state. It is the responsibility of our state government to fund them fully to educate all Texas students.

Clifton Beene, LTC retired
Concerned retired educator
Mexia, TX

It appears you are determined to give money to private schools. All I can say is if you do make SURE ALL RULES, POLICIES AND REGULATIONS that apply to public school goes with the money; transportation, meals, special education and they must accept anyone that applies. Thank you

brianda delgado

Self/ self employed

Austin, TX

Don't continue in the steps of ruining this entire country. Those in power are aiming to keep the majority of humans at or below poverty line. Adding school vouchers that only help those in certain tax brackets, is wrong and a shame. Looking out for the rich will only empower the poor to continue fighting injustice for themselves and others. Public school got me where I am today. 3 owned businesses and 3 owned cars and a lifetime of advice and Knowledge.

Carole Howard

Self as a Public educator in Texas

Canyon, TX

As a teacher, I strongly oppose Texas HB3 and the negative impact it could have on our students and the future of public education in Texas. The bill falls short of addressing the true needs of our classrooms, educators, and most importantly, our students. While the proposed funding may seem like a step in the right direction, it does not do nearly enough to ensure that every student, regardless of their background or ZIP code, has access to the resources and opportunities they deserve.

Texas students deserve a fully funded public education system that provides equitable opportunities for success. Our classrooms are already underfunded, with teachers spending their own money on supplies and struggling with overcrowded classrooms. We need a comprehensive, long-term solution that fully funds public schools, supports teacher salaries, and ensures that every student receives a high-quality education.

HB3 fails to meet these needs. It is essential that we prioritize real, sustainable investments in public education, not just short-term measures that fall far short of addressing the systemic issues. Texas has the resources to make education a top priority, but we need leadership that will commit to fully funding schools and providing educators with the support they need to succeed in preparing our students for the future.

Every child in Texas deserves the opportunity to succeed, and that can only happen when we invest in them through a fully funded public education system. We must stand up for what our students deserve and push for policies that reflect their potential, not just political expediency.

Chris Reyes

self

Bryan, TX

I vehemently oppose school voucher programs. I based the opposition based on the following:

- Exclusion and Accountability– with no oversight or regulations, private and charter institutions can exclude individuals from their program. This will be done to insulate success metrics they value and will result in discrimination of special needs students and children from poor communities.
- Funding – This would divest funds from public schools that will primarily hurt rural and poor communities. I do not believe pulling funding is the correct path. Public school teachers are underpaid and not supported by the current state administration. The Governor has been republican controlled since 1995 and control of the senate and house since at least 2002. This funding shortfall has been created by this leadership and should be addressed probably not but subsidizing affluent families.
- Access – Rural and Poor communities will not be able to truly access this voucher programs. Creating an additional obstacle for those in these communities will result in less access not more. The lack of ability and support will reduce these communities access and result in more affluent communities receive subsidies.
- Success – Voucher implementation success metrics are mixed at best. There is not successful measure that says these programs work. In some cases the only people who benefit from programs are those who were already in private school to begin with. To base billion-dollar funding on these measures shows a wanton decision made on ideology backed by campaign contributions, not realistic and sound judgement.

I am not a single-issue voter but education is by far my most important issue for me. Moving forward I will not support any candidate that votes in support of this initiative.

Jennie Dancer

self, parent, substitute teacher

Austin, TX

I am a parent and current substitute teacher, a Texan who opposes HB 3 and any private school vouchers. Our children and teachers deserve fully funded public schools. Tax payer money should support public education and not be given to private schools without accountability.

Sarah Orendorff, Dr.

Self

Sunnyvale, TX

As a parent of three children in Texas public schools and a long-time educator and local PTA executive board member, I oppose this bill. We do not want this. This bill not only takes away from our public schools, but takes away rights for those that choose to homeschool and utilize the funds. Thank you.

Trevela Gaines

Self

Amarillo, TX

In the past 6 years, we experienced Covid and having to go to an online platform or home schooling our children. Some parents enjoyed it and other parents hated it. Where I agree where the choice should be given, I believe it may be offered without enough guidelines in place and could take away from the public educators that pour everything into teaching and providing for their students. We have seen the aftermath of what Covid allowed. A lot of children are farther and farther behind and teachers are working day in and day out to work with these students to caught them back up to their grade level. This could be the same result of allowing the choice to home schooling and cause a bigger amount of students to actually be behind and not ready for the next grade but yet, we keep pushing them forward because that's what we have to do, even though they aren't ready. As well as taking away from the public school funding that gives teachers their salaries and allows us to stay dedicated in our career even though thousands are experiencing burnout out year and year, as a result of more behaviors, farther behind, and other issues.

Brittany Deen

Self- Registered Nurse

Mansfield, TX

Vote to Fund our PUBLIC schools. ESAs do our children with IEPs a disservice as private schools do no implement nor do they follow IDEA. VOTE NO on HB 3

Shauna Young

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am shocked that Texans have no say in vouchers. I am a proponent of public and private schools, my children attended both. I think vouchers are a huge mistake. This is only for the wealthy. My nephew goes to school in a voucher state. The special needs service s have suffered. Our society needs great public schools who serve ALL. Holding funds until a bill is passed is not doing what is besr for children. This life long republican will have to vote differently in the next election.

Clayton Waters

Self

Arlington, TX

Committee members, I'm writing you today to ask you to fund public schools FIRST. Public schools across Texas, including my district, Mansfield ISD, are in desperate need of a \$1,340 increase in the Basic Allotment. The State must prioritize getting public education back on track and ensuring our school districts are fiscally sound. Please vote NO on any Educational Savings Account legislation. Public funds should be kept in public schools. The most good can be done by fully funding public education.

Deborah Barrow

Self

Cypress, TX

Vote no for vouchers . Care about public education in texas

Alison Stoltzfus

Self, parent and editor

Cedar Park, TX

As a Texas parent and constituent, I strongly oppose HB three and any bill that progresses voucher schemes, which promote using public tax fair dollars to fund private schooling. This is an improper use of taxpayer dollars, does not benefit the children of this great state, and is deeply unpopular with parents in the state. Congress's duty is to protect all Texans, and this bill D funds our public schools and rather than providing broad solutions.

JACLYN LANG

SELF

Ballinger, TX

NO. NO. NO. Taxpayer money needs to stay in PUBLIC schools. I live in a rural district - my children DO NOT have a private school choice - but this bill will take money from my kids' school and funnel into more wealthy areas of Texas. NO. NO. NO.

Julia Ray

Self Daycare Supervisor

Pollok, TX

I am in opposition of HB3.

Marcia Sherrod

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. I do not support school vouchers

Dawn Forrest

Self - retired

Lewisville, TX

Paying for school vouchers will only benefit the wealthy students because vouchers will not cover the entire cost of tuition. This is just to re-segregate schools and deprive middle class and poor students from getting an education. I do not want my tax dollars to support this nonsense.

Cindy Vandiver

Self

Midlothian, TX

This bill will only benefit those who are wealthy and is giving parents of school children the false hope that they will have this opportunity. And even if given a voucher, it will not be enough to cover costs. Our public schools need to be funded (and funds being withheld by Abbott need to be released; shameful he's been allowed to hold these) to provide adequate dollars for schools/teachers/administrators to do their job appropriately and in good form for their students. Supporting this bill opens the door to the billionaire who has contributed to Abbott (which in itself should be illegal) to bid on opportunities this voucher program opens up to the rich. It's baffling to see how grown, educated adults can do such harm to children and families then go home and sleep at night. Our Republican leaders have no moral compass or ethical values left in them. They are not leaders that can be looked to in valuing any voice of their constituents let alone to represent them. All children deserve the right to an education and this bill will close schools and force parents into difficult decisions that they should never have to make...all because of a men and women that only seek to get richer while disregarding their oath and the people they are supposed to be helping.

Mary Fero

Self

Austin, TX

The Legislature has failed to meet its constitutional obligation to adequately fund public education for decades. This voucher / ESA scheme is guaranteed to further drain resources from public schools and at the same time drive expenditures to unsustainable levels as billions of dollars are diverted to private entities that do not have to accept all students. Nor will these institutions meet the same accountability or fiscal transparency requirements as do public schools. This is not conservative leadership. It is reckless stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Please vote NO.

Emily Williams

Voting constituent

Fort Worth, TX

Texans do not need an ESA program. We need funding for public education which is in a shambles. Just say no to taxpayer money for private school education and all the unwanted regulations that go with it.

Elizabeth Russo

teacher/ self

Austin, TX

As a public school special education teacher I want to say that Vouchers are a scam and are hurtful to the most vulnerable population the most. I understand that Texas politicians like Abbott, Paxton, Cruz etc are all wanting this. Those men do not care that it hurts our children. VOTE NO to Vouchers.

Barbara Terry
self, attorney
Austin, TX

If this bill passes and becomes law in Texas, my school district - Round Rock ISD - will lose almost \$20 Million dollars in funding as that money is siphoned off to private schools. That loss of funds would mean a loss of over 300 teachers, a larger teacher/student ratio, fewer library books, and a decrease in extracurricular activities for our kids. I am a product of the public school system in Texas and I chose to have my only child attend the public schools in RRISD because I've always trusted that our public schools were the best system for educating our next generations. Under HB3 as written, the private schools that these vouchers would fund would have no accountability. Unlike our public schools, their curriculum and their staff and their students can be whatever their founder and/or board decides at any given moment will be. Claims that vouchers improve academic performance are false. Look at the data from Louisiana, Ohio, Indiana and Alabama. Children are not learning more or better; parents are not satisfied. The only entities who succeed in a state voucher program are the private schools, who will run en masse to Texas to grab some of our taxpayer monies for their school. And with no accountability by the State of Texas, how long do you think it will be before we start hearing stories of entire schools of children left behind? Please do not defund our public schools so that a few wealthy donors can manipulate the private schools to their benefit. HB3 and vouchers are NOT the solution. It will be to the detriment of all our citizens, and mostly importantly our children.

Alyssa Ketner
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you!

Ava Coates
Self
Austin, TX

I am a proud product of the American public school system. Private school and charter school vouchers take money away from hard working Americans children and undercut the very foundation of American education. We are not a dumb nation let's not allow our children to be. Fund public schools, support public school teachers, support public education!

Bailey Williams
self
Kyle, TX

I oppose the education savings account. Why should my tax dollars go to private schools that do not have the same accountability as public schools? If they are getting state, tax paper money, they should have to meet the same standards as public schools for that money.

Michael Don

self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and I'm against school vouchers.

Sara Coburn

Self

Richmond, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas.

Amy Wilson

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3, the largest and most expensive school voucher scheme ever proposed in Texas. This bill takes taxpayer dollars meant for public schools and redirects them to private schools that lack transparency, accountability, and equal access for all students.

Public tax dollars should support public schools, which serve every child, regardless of ability, income, or background. Texas lawmakers have not increased the basic per-student funding allotment for public schools since 2019, despite rising costs, inflation, and a record budget surplus. If there is money in the budget for education, our priority should be fully funding public schools first—ensuring teacher raises, better resources for students, and improvements to school infrastructure—before sending tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

Furthermore, HB 3 does not even prioritize the students who need the most support. It allows families already in private schools—including those making over \$200,000 per year—to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers. Wealthy families will get a discount on private school tuition while public schools lose funding, harming the vast majority of Texas students.

This bill also fails students with disabilities. While HB 3 offers larger voucher amounts for special education students, private schools are not required to accept them or provide the necessary services. Public schools are legally required to serve all children, yet HB 3 shifts funding away from them to schools that are not obligated to meet these needs.

Texas public schools educate more than 5.4 million students—far more than private institutions ever will. If we truly care about education, we should be investing in strong, well-funded public schools that serve everyone, rather than subsidizing private schools that can pick and choose their students.

HB 3 is bad for Texas families, bad for students, and bad for our public schools. I urge legislators to reject this costly and irresponsible voucher scheme and instead invest in fully funding public schools, raising teacher pay, and ensuring that every Texas child has access to a high-quality education.

Sincerely,

Amy Wilson

Austin

Dana Wilson
SELF
Fort Worth, TX

158 out of 254 Texas counties do not have a private school option.
This means that approximately 62% of Texas counties lack private schools.
NO to Vouchers!
Stop the Greed! Higher Property Taxes!
Put Vouchers on a Ballot and let Texans VOTE!

Keenan Tuck
Self, stay at home mom
Deer Park, TX

I oppose this bill strongly. My son's school district will lose almost \$5 million in funding and almost 100 teachers (who deserve the money more than any parents sending their children to private school). Abbott's complete disregard to what his constituents want is disgusting.

Gema Barrera
Self
San antonio, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan and 1st generation college graduate with 2 science degrees as a product of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Kayla Bachmeyer
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers because they divert essential funding away from public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students. Under the proposed system, private schools would receive significantly more funding per student than public schools, creating an unfair advantage and deepening resource disparities.

Public schools are already struggling with teacher shortages, low paraprofessional pay, and transportation challenges. Meanwhile, private schools are not required to provide transportation, nor are they held to the same academic and financial accountability standards. This system does not create more choices—it simply weakens public education for the students who rely on it most.

Texas should focus on strengthening its public schools rather than funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions that are not obligated to serve all students. I urge lawmakers to vote against vouchers and prioritize funding for public education.

Kristen Keys
Indeed
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and am against school vouchers!

Andrea Wootton, Mrs.
Self
Allen, TX

I strongly oppose the establishment of an education savings account program using taxpayer money towards private school education via vouchers. The school voucher program will defund our public schools further and create devastating consequences for our communities. NO ON HB3.

Lucinda Mendoza

Self

Conroe, TX

This "savings account program " does NOT support every single Texas student. Our education dollars are to support a public education. We owe it to our students and our tax payers to nurture and generate the best and brightest of Texas future. Regardless who their daddy happens to be or which zipcode they live in. Favoring charter schools over public schools takes away valuable resources from rural schools, and will abolish the social mobility an education can provide. This bill only supports families that do not need the support. Stop selling the future of Texas and actually support that future.

Kimberly Kofron

CHILDREN AT RISK

Round Rock, TX

Chair Buckley, Vice Chair Bernal, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the importance of a mixed-delivery system in early childhood education and the impact of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). My name is Kim Kofron, and I am the Sr. Director of Education for Children at Risk.

A mixed-delivery system—including private child care centers, faith-based providers, home-based providers, and public schools—is essential to ensuring that all Texas children have access to high-quality early learning experiences. Since Texas does not offer universal public Pre-K, private and community-based providers fill a critical gap for families who do not qualify but still need early education options. Without a strong mixed-delivery system, many families will struggle to find suitable care for their children.

While ESAs are designed to expand parental choice, they must be structured to strengthen—not undermine—the mixed-delivery system. Key concerns include:

1. **Access:** ESAs have the potential to assist families seeking quality Pre-K. ESAs may also disproportionately benefit families who can supplement costs beyond the voucher amount, leaving lower-income families with fewer options. Many private child care providers operate on thin margins and may not be able to accept ESA-funded students without financial losses.
2. **Sustainability of Providers:** Increased ESA-funded enrollments in private schools could reduce enrollment in private child care centers, threatening their financial viability. Since public Pre-K serves only eligible children, private child care providers must remain a strong option for all families.
3. **Quality, Transparency, and Accountability:** Child care providers receiving public funds must meet high-quality standards to ensure children receive the best possible education. Strong oversight is essential to protect taxpayer dollars and ensure programs maintain essential health, safety, and educational benchmarks.

To ensure ESAs enhance rather than disrupt the mixed-delivery system, I urge the Committee to:

- **Encourage Public-Private Collaboration:** Strengthen partnerships between public Pre-K and private child care providers to create seamless early learning opportunities.
- **Ensure High-Quality Standards:** Require ESA-funded programs to meet clear quality benchmarks to provide a safe and enriching environment for children.
- **Provide Adequate Funding:** Ensure ESA programs offer funding levels that sustain high-quality private child care providers.
- **Maintain Transparency and Accountability:** Implement strong oversight and reporting requirements to ensure funds are used effectively.

Texas has an opportunity to expand parental choice while building a strong mixed-delivery system. Thoughtful policy design is critical to ensuring ESAs do not weaken private and community-based providers, particularly those serving our most vulnerable children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Martin

Self

Bandera, TX

Living in a rural area where students have no access to other schools, it is shameful to consider taking funding away from local public schools. It is even more upsetting to learn that Greg Abbott has received millions in donations from an out of state man in exchange for pushing for vouchers.

Nadia Elhaj, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

I am against the school voucher for initiative!

Jessica Kelton Dean

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no on HB 3. I don't want my tax dollars paying for private education vendors.

Heather Hullum

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB3. This bill does not provide the financial support that Texas needs to fund its public school system appropriately. I am from a small town in Texas in a rural area that does not have private or charter schools. This bill does not support or better the rural areas of Texas with limited options for school choice. I would like the state to increase the funding for public education without any option for school vouchers. Fund the school system so many Texans already rely on. I have two children in the public school system that have already experienced budget cuts within their school districts in the last few years. Fund our schools and remove voucher language from all bills. My family and I strongly oppose this bill.

Cynthia Laster

Self

Plano, TX

A public hearing at the Texas Capitol is happening on the school voucher bill (HB 3). Use the link below to ensure your opposition is on record. Not a drill.

Here's what I said:

“Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.”

I oppose HB3. Our taxes are supposed to fund public schools and should be used for that purpose, not for private vouchers. I am a native Texan, a product of public school. My children attend public school. Taking billions away from public schools will only hurt our state and give our children poorer educations. My school district is facing hundreds of job, facilities and program cuts because of funding insecurity as caused by the Texas government. This is not what is fair on our families and mandated public education systems.

Frances Sullivan

Self

Austin, TX

I am against this bill. I am disappointed that the legislature is working to undermine our education system instead of working to improve it. I do not support school vouchers in any form.

Lisa Johnston
Self - SAHM
Brenham, TX

Please vote against this bill. It is not what public schools need and will only try out students. Funding private schools should not be tax payer responsibility

Michelle Sammon
Self-Ag. Science Teacher
Dawson, TX

I encourage you to consider what will benefit the majority instead of the minority. Public schools serve to educate ALL students despite disabilities, financial standings, or religion. Even with the "choice" to attend private institutions, this will not be a possibility for students in rural areas across the state. The passage of this bill, therefore, will diminish funding for the public schools already struggling to provide the "free and appropriate education" our government tasks them with providing.

Eva Guzman
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vote No on HB 3.

Atlanta Holland
Self. Homeschool mom.
Lubbock, TX

No no no. This is only good for rich people.

Scott Bailey, Owner
Double J Farm
Austin, TX

We don't want school vouchers. This will harm our public schools.

Randi Koehler
Self
Wimberley, TX

I am firmly against the school voucher program.

Erin Miller
Self
Spring, TX

I oppose HB3

Haley Rose

Self, independent consultant

Dripping Springs, TX

I recently attended PTA Rally day at the capitol with my 8-year old, and we observed some heated discussions during the day. I was trying to explain to him what the conversations were about. I framed it up for him this way. "What if you had a twin brother who received a lot more allowance than you did, but he didn't have to do any chores?" He said, "That would be totally unfair!" I explained that that's what would happen to our schools under the current voucher bill. Suddenly, he understood.

Please consider the impact this bill will have on Texans. Like many, my family relocated to a school district in order to access a quality education, leaving a very underfunded, underperforming rural school district with a limited tax base, a community with no private school options. Vouchers would only have helped kids in that district who could commute 45 min each way each day to a private school or whose parents could afford to stay home and homeschool them. (At the opposite end of the spectrum, our current school district is hamstrung from many student-focused goals by the funding limitations of Recapture.) Not all Texans have this flexibility to relocate, but ALL Texans would see their affordable education options REDUCED by this bill.

Vouchers for wealthy families in good school districts should NOT exist. Vouchers for private schools that do not have to meet the same standards as public schools should NOT exist. Funding for vouchers should NOT be based on enrollment when public school funding is based on attendance. Funding for vouchers per student should NOT exceed allotment per student. Fundamentally, public funds should be directed to public education. And public school property tax dollars "recaptured" should be spent on public education.

For my family, increased pressure on school district finances (as a result of inflation and Recapture) is gradually eroding some aspects of our fantastic schools, resulting in more limited library staff and time, increased class sizes, reduced staffing counts, and limited bus service and increased responsibilities for teachers who are underpaid. Everything costs more, so basic necessities for operations take a larger share of a flat budget. Great teachers are leaving the profession. Frustratingly, not even all of our Recaptured budget is being released to help schools like those in our previous community.

Our kids and educators deserve better.

Lastly, consider that private schools provide no transportation, which is important to families with working parents, fewer extracurriculars, and no standards to assure parents of the quality of education. There are not enough desks at private schools for the students in our public schools, so the vouchers would drive prices up, further DECREASING access for Texans to quality education.

Please consider other ways to improve access to quality schools and abandon or overhaul this voucher bill.

Katreeva Phillips

Self/Educator

Fort Worth, TX

Absolutely against. Say no to anything that racist, sexist, piece of shit oligarch proposes. Which one? Take your pick. Your children will suffer if this goes through. You don't need public schools to be defunded down the road, you need a new generation to be educated enough to fix the mess we're in right now.

David Ansley

Self

Houston, TX

My name is David Ansley, and I oppose HB 3. As a homeschool dad of 5 children, I highly value the freedoms Texas currently gives to homeschool parents to educate their children in the best way they see fit for each child and their family as a whole. HB 3 sounds appealing with the promise of funds to go toward curriculum each year, especially for a large family like mine, but in reality, few homeschoolers spend that much money per child per year on educational materials thanks to purchasing pre-loved books and most curricula not costing anywhere near \$2k.

Additionally, I do not agree with the promise of such funds still giving me 100% autonomy in making the best educational choices for my children based on their individual needs and our personal and religious convictions. History and current homeschool bills and laws in other states have shown that when the government gets involved with financial incentives for homeschool families, the freedoms of the people suffer.

I do not believe it would take very long for the government to start telling me how I should educate my children and what curricula I should use if this bill were to pass.

Again, I oppose HB3 and encourage you to do the same.

Lisa Phillips

Self/ retired

Houston, TX

Opposed to this bill-send the \$1billion budgeted to this to public schools. The income limit of \$150,000 is way too high to qualify as a "poor" student. Public funds deserve to be used in public schools.

Jane Bomer

Klein isd parent

Spring, TX

Please say no to school vouchers. Fully fund public schools first!

Patricia Kea, Ms.

Self

Buda, TX

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity - which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept - NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability - any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue.

Vouchers would use public dollars for private education

- Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable.

Public funds are for public schools.

Thank you.

Sarah West

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is not in the best interest for most Texans. We should fully fund our public schools!

Diana Robertson

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Do we really want no set standards for Texas students? I remember getting students from another state who were taught to lower or no standards as what we maintained in Texas. The children and the parents were so confused as they thought their children were doing fine. HB3 will make that more common for Texas children. It is naive to think that every business if private schooling will do what is academically best for every student, on its own with no accountability to set standards. Private schools need happy students or the student might move elsewhere. Many children could find themselves unwelcome at the their private school for various reasons—hard to teach because of physical, cultural, social issues. These students then return to their public school now impoverished from lack of the public funds now siphoned to private schools. Do you see a problem here? Vote no to school vouchers. Keep public funds in our public schools.

Britney Taylor

self/Assistant Principal

Forney, TX

I believe that public educational funds should not be used for private institutions.

Hilah Tanev

self/physician assistant

Plano, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Kate Waters

Self, ADA Consultant

Austin, TX

I STRONGLY oppose the proposed voucher/ESA program. I do not want my tax dollars paying for private education. Keep public money in public schools!

Tina Lacey

Self--Retired Special Education Teacher

CLARENDON, TX

I vote for no education savings account. I believe it will segregate public schools even more. School choice is available now, and giving more money to one group over another is wrong. Each student has value. Public money should stay with public schools. Public education has not been given an allowance increase since before 2011. It is time to put the ISD students first instead of private schools. Do the right thing for Texas and not those who have a money trail. Listen to your constituents.

Rachel Powell

Self

Fort wortg, TX

The will of the people is clear. We overwhelmingly do not want vouchers/ESA. It has been proven in every state that has passed a similar program, that these become bloated expenses that take money away from our kids. We need to fund public schools, not take money away. Texas currently is ranked 29th overall in education with score of less than 50/100!! We rank 42nd in school in school spending. 42nd!! With such a large, diverse state and population, we should be in the top ten. Especially since we have the surplus in the budget to FUND our schools and PAY our teachers. It's shameful what this current administration in Texas has done to our schools. Abbott promised to fund schools in 2019, and he has failed.

Fund our schools. Say no to voucher scams!!

Louis Tanner

self

Austin, TX

I am against this bill. It will deplete badly needed tax revenue from public schools and benefit in the most part people who already have the means and choice to send their children to private schools. There are so many more reasons to oppose this bill I can't list them all here.

lori healy

Self

Friendswood, TX

Stop this insanity!! There is NOT a one size fits all answer to improving public schools. In fact, there are a lot of districts that are great just as they are. This bill will destroy those great districts and cost them amazing teachers and extra curricular programs, and further divide the privileged from the economically disadvantaged students. They ALL deserve the opportunity to get a great education. This will NOT offer that. It doesn't hold private institutions accountable, and gives less money to public schools. The education isn't worth more at a private school. This bill penalizes students who have parents who work and rely on school transportation. There is SO much wrong here, that I'm only skimming the surface. Do the RIGHT thing for our children!

Rossana Dondeo

Self

San Antonio, TX

Cutting public education will hurt the future of this country. Uneducated children leads to unprepared adults.

CLAUDIA TORRES-YANEZ

Self

PFLUGERVILLE, TX

I was born and raised in Del Rio, TX and grew up with my abuelitos (Grandparents). We were low in income, but rich with love. When I was a child, they would say to me, “estudia, porque la educación nadie te la puede quitar.” ”Study, because an education, is something no one can take away from you.” I believe that opening the door to use public funds for private education providers with HB 3 will start to IN FACT erode access to quality public education to many MORE students than those it purports to benefit. I have heard about the size of this ESA program, that it is small in relation to public schools. I don't believe that it can BOTH NOT be a threat to public schools AND also be beneficial to MOST families.

In my professional life in the tech industry, I learned the theory of Occam's razor, a problem-solving principle that states that the simplest explanation or solution is often the most likely to be correct. The framers of the Texas constitution created that simple solution for us in Article 7 that states “public education is a right and that the state legislature is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of free public schools.” Period, full stop.

Texas has a public education system, and HB 3 will create a separate system, bureaucracy and government monitoring that will add complexity and split attention and focus from its obligation under Article 7 in my view, to the detriment of Texans.

As a human resources leader, I believe what has made the Texas miracle possible, has been investments long ago in public education. Public education is the cornerstone of economic prosperity - helping uplift families and communities like mine, and it creates a virtuous cycle>generating job growth and economic prosperity. My school district superintendent TODAY stated that our campuses are averaging 20 years old and the proposed basic increase allotment in HB 2 of \$220 is NOT EVEN CLOSE to what's needed. We need \$1,114 just to keep up with 2019-2020 levels, and \$892 of that just for personnel.

No one can argue that parents want the best for their children, but diverting public funds for private education that is not accountable or necessarily even available across our large state will only serve to erode quality public education, cripple communities and economic prosperity in our great state at a time that the challenge of preparing our kids for the future is more daunting than ever.

Thank you.

Laura Martinez

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3. I have a daughter on an IEP in public school. She deserves to have as much funding as a private school child. Keep property taxes in public schools!

Melinda Brasuell

CTE Teachers

Lufkin, TX

Support our public school teachers! The Texas children need us not vouchers. As a CTE teacher, I see daily how much value we bring to the schools and our students. Vouchers will do nothing but undercut our most vulnerable students. Support us!
#proudCTEteacher34years

Katherine Wallace

Self/Public school teacher in Region 8

Sulphur Spgs, TX

This bill is harmful to our public schools and does not proportionally help our students that are at the greatest risk of not graduating or dropping out. Public schools funding have been held hostage over this bill and is an absolute disgrace. Texas parents already have school choice in that Texas is one of the most friendly states for homeschool/private school. In addition, most parents who choose to homeschool or send their student to private school have chosen do so to get away from standardized testing. This bill is a complete farce in that helps students. That is 100% not the case. I, along with every teacher & parent I have talked to, have no desire for this bill to pass. Please vote NO on HB 3.

Ray Salinas, Mr.

Ingram Elementary School, Ingram ISD Teacher

Kerrville, TX

I DO NOT support HB 3 which establishes Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) that divert taxpayer dollars to fund private education which is not accountable to taxpayers.

Chris Smith

Self

Rising star, TX

As a Texas voter and retired teacher, I urge you respectfully to vote against this

Richard Faidley

Self -- securities trader

Austin, TX

As a Texas voter and taxpayer, I am fundamentally opposed to the diversion of public dollars for private education. This bill -- regardless of whether you call it a voucher, school choice, etc. -- seems particularly haphazard when the present funding of our public schools can best be described as miserly (Texas ranks somewhere around 45th in the nation in dollars allotted per public school student). These programs have not been a glowing success in the states where they have been implemented -- quite the contrary, they have burdened state budgets and undermined public ed. Wouldn't it make more sense to properly fund our public schools rather than siphon away money to private schools that are not accountable to the state? That's what I'm asking you to do. Please do not support the poorly conceived HB 3. Thank you.

Cecily Dennis

Self

Smithville, TX

This bill is about anything but choice nor does it secure quality education for Texas children. This bill will have serious negative impact on public schools and transfer desperately needed funding to private institutions. This bill should not pass. If you vote for this bill I will assume Texas representatives loath and despise the children of Texas (unless they have enough money to buy their own education), and seeks to dumb down the population rather than raise the standards for education. Do not vote for this lie disguised as a bill to help Texas students & families, it is exactly the opposite.

Belinda George

Self

Katy, TX

Vouchers are not the solution for a majority of Texas residents. Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution. Please stop taking the opinion of out of state billionaires and listen to the people in Texas.

Christie Milner

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to the school voucher program. It will deteriorate the quality of our public schools and only benefit those who are already sending their kids to private schools. Please vote no on school vouchers.

Jackie Anderson, Ms

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the use of school vouchers and their impact on public education. While school vouchers are often promoted as a way to provide families with more choices, I believe they come with significant drawbacks that could harm students and the broader education system. It's schools choice not school choice. Let's be clear.

One of the major concerns with school vouchers is their effect on public school funding. Since vouchers redirect public funds to private institutions, they can drain resources from already underfunded public schools. This can lead to larger class sizes, reduced programs, and fewer resources for students who remain in the public school system.

Additionally, private schools that accept vouchers are not always held to the same standards of accountability as public schools. They may not be required to follow the same curriculum, administer standardized tests, or provide services for students with disabilities. This lack of oversight raises concerns about the quality of education that students receive.

Another issue is the potential for increased segregation. Many private schools have selective admission processes, which can exclude students based on academic performance, religious beliefs, or financial ability (since vouchers often do not cover the full cost of tuition). This can deepen educational inequities rather than providing equal opportunities for all students.

Rather than expanding school vouchers, I urge policymakers to focus on strengthening public schools by increasing funding, supporting teachers, and improving resources for all students. Ensuring that every child has access to a quality public education should be our top priority.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will take these concerns into account when evaluating school voucher policies. I look forward to your response and further discussion on how we can best serve all students.

Amanda Deibel

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution. Support our teachers, students and families by shutting down this voucher program.

Lisa de Oliveira

self

Denton, TX

As a veteran homeschool mom of 25 years, I have homeschooled in Rhode Island as well as in Texas...what a world of difference! please simply let parents have their parental rights accepted and protected and not tainted by money from the state. We know what is best for our children and we don't need federal bureaucrats assigning our curriculum or preventing us from using our faith-based curriculum.

Donna Ferry

self

Boerne, TX

VOTE NO to vouchers, why are you using my money to help the rich, You need to support public school and teachers!! DO what is right for all , not just the rich!!why are we helping the rich when they can already afford schools? What about the teachers that will need to find other employment d/t vouchers, and yes this will happen
You need to represent the people who say NO!!

Meghan Watkins

self, teacher

Waco, TX

There is not evidence to support positive outcomes for students because of vouchers. Public schools and public school employees in Texas work hard to provide the very best they can for every student, no matter the barriers they may face. Private schools do not have that same responsibility or a history of putting themselves to work for all students. The very students who are purported to be helped by vouchers are those who will not be able to take advantage of them: students with barriers that would prevent them from getting transportation to a private school, students with learning disabilities or in special education programs, kids with a lack of parent support/interest, and those who cannot pay the difference between total tuition and voucher amount (which will become the case for everyone as private schools inevitably raise tuition as they have in other states). Private schools will still be able to deny admittance to prospective students, effectively taking away the so-called choice that wasn't even available to see many in the first place. As higher performing students and families who already have the means to send their children to public school take advantage of the ESA program, students who are left behind will be in schools that are made weaker by this bill.

An educated citizenry is essential to our democracy, and that means educating ALL students. Our public schools have worked hard to do just that for generations. Support our public schools by improving funding and support for students there. Do not establish an ESA program that will undermine public schools further.

Katie Saunders

Self

Allen, TX

STRONGLY oppose school vouchers! Let Texans vote on if WE want this!

Aaron McAdams

Self

Haslet, TX

No state has successfully increased student performance with vouchers. They are simply discounts for current private school families. Representative Nate Schatzline told me personally on Wednesday, March 5th in his office that New Hampshire was a successful model. Even New Hampshire vouchers went to over 80% of families that were already in private schools. Defunding public schools and sending public dollars to private schools is a transfer of wealth from the poor to the wealthy. It is equivalent to using parks and rec dollars to landscape my yard or taking money from the police to pay for my own private security. It is against our state constitution and is literally stealing from children and schools. As a registered republican, I am working with hundreds, if not thousands, of educators to rally against any form of a voucher scam and to instead fully fund our public schools and increase the basic allotment, which has not been raised in 6 years despite record inflation.

Mary Ghim

Self

Double Oak, TX

I oppose this bill, please **DO NOT PASS** this bill, as we would like as parents to continue to have the freedom to choose the education for our children. Anytime government money/tax payer's money is given, there is always the catch of government overreaching. The current freedom we have in Texas is one of the freedoms we enjoy, and why we live in Texas!
PLEASE OPPOSE THIS BILL! Thank you!

Martha Blalock

Self, 5th grade Public School Teacher

Christoval, TX

The voucher program is akin to punishing your whole class because 2 or 3 students are misbehaving. It is not effective. As a public school teacher in my 20th year of teaching, I fear the changes coming in the future. Eventually, teachers in good standing may have to relocate to go where the jobs are if enough students change schools. I also worry about students who qualify for Special Education and 504 services, which are not mandated or tracked nearly as vigorously in private schools. Parents are not educated about the fact that their SpEd/504 students will not receive the services and accommodations they need to be successful from private schools. Furthermore, I'm married to a high school basketball coach. He is rightfully worried about losing athletes to private schools. Private schools are allowed to recruit, and with vouchers now offered to these athletes, his job security is in danger as he loses talented players.

Jackie Knutson

Citizen/ public school educator

Eules, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded. My tax dollars I pay should go to public education and not private schools. Especially without accountability.

Silvia Revello, Mrs

self

Roanoke, TX

Private schools want it EASY. I quickly learned that the private school sector wasn't interested in welcoming my autistic son.

He had been in daycare since he was six months old without any issues. However, when he was late to start walking and talking, we were asked to leave the first school. They were concerned he might be deaf and that their school wasn't equipped to meet his needs, even though he could hear, say a few words, and had no behavioral issues. They simply preferred an EASIER child to take his place.

The second time, he was almost two years old. The teacher disliked having to hold his hand to help him walk, as all the other children could walk independently. They would call us to pick him up at 10 a.m. almost daily, using subtle excuses to encourage us to find a new place for him. My son had no behavioral issues; he just needed more support. However, a for-profit private company doesn't pay its staff enough to do more than the minimum, so we left.

When he was three, he joined Northwest ISD PPCD program, which is designed to provide early intervention for children like mine. The staff not only loved their jobs but also had impressive qualifications, including doctorate degrees. The change in my son was nothing short of miraculous. He was catching balls and talking, and he finally felt like he belonged with his peers.

As the years went by and my son learned to socialize, we tried other private sector institutions for sports, summer camp, and math tutoring. However, the only places where he was truly welcomed and never rejected were those provided by NISD.

Private schools prefer the EASY route, avoiding the need to hire highly qualified staff by cherry-picking their students. When politicians claim that school vouchers will benefit our special education kids, they know nothing. The only children who will benefit are those already attending private schools. These vouchers will divert funding from children like mine, so that rich will have it even EASIER.

Kristen Paterson

Self

Conroe, TX

This takes away from the support of public schools, which are the backbone to our communities. Students will not benefit from this if they are in special programs or if they live in a rural area where there aren't public schools. The amount given per child for school choice is over the amount given per student in public school and they is not right. If this passes the decline of public education will have impacts on the families, staff, students and communities in the state of Texas. From a 20 year educator I urge you to vote NO!!

David Sanders

Self- Retired Teacher

Austin, TX

ESA/Vouchers WILL accelerate the erosion of our public schools.It will make the local funding crisis worse. Subsidizing private schools is wrong. Vote No!

Kelly Fair Fair

Self

Cypress, TX

Vote NO to school vouchers

Maricela Bustillos Rodriguez

Self

Lewisville, TX

As a special education teacher at a Title I campus in LISD, I strongly oppose HB 3 by Rep. Buckley. LISD's One Ask is clear: fully fund public schools and reject vouchers. This bill diverts public funds to private schools that are not required to serve all students, follow IDEA, or provide accountability for taxpayer dollars.

Texas already underfunds public education by \$4,000 per student below the national average, yet HB 3 would funnel millions away from the 5.4 million students in public schools to benefit a select few. In LISD alone, 44% of students are economically disadvantaged, and our Title I schools rely on public funding to provide critical services.

Instead of ESA vouchers, lawmakers should invest in teacher pay, special education, and student mental health resources. Reject HB 3 and fully fund public schools—because Texas students deserve better.

Geleen Friemel

Self

Round Rock, TX

NO to HB 3!

Teresa Grundstrom
Self -software development
Lewisville, TX

I am against vouchers or “education savings accounts”. Public funds should only be spent on public schools and should never be given to private schools. It is the responsibility of the state of Texas to adequately fund and support public schools. Tax money should not be taken from hard working Texans and given to rich families that choose to send their children to for-profit private schools that discriminate against students on the basis of religion, race, disability, or academic ability. Vouchers have grown out of control in states that have implemented them with no measurable benefit in student performance. In addition to sucking money from taxpayers and public schools, vouchers invite waste and corruption. We especially do not want our public tax dollars going to out of state grifters who want to administer the program and open sham schools for profit. Vouchers will waste taxpayer money and grow government. They are an entitlement program for the rich and should not be implemented by the state of Texas. If you are truly concerned about the education of Texas students then adequately fund public schools including fully funding or removing mandates and revamping student testing to actually measure a student’s progress and provide valuable information about their needs to their teachers.

Pamela Stewart
Self
Austin, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Lori Izaguirre
Self
Cypress, TX

Please vote against school choice to save our public schools in Texas. As a public school educator for over 30 years, a parent of three public school educated young adults, and as a Texas tax payer, I do not support school choice & vouchers. Please listen to Texan citizens and vote against vouchers.

Subha Yeshwanthapur
Students
Austin, TX

We oppose the School vouchers, they funnel money away from already-struggling public schools and children and redistribute tax dollars to private schools and middle-class children.
They do not improve the quality of education and infact make it worse by turning qualified teachers away from public to private schools.
They will cause discrimination among kids between private and public schools, bullying and entitlement among the private school kids.
All in all it is in no way in the interest of the kids in public schools who actually need a well funded/rounded education system.

Glenn and Debra Kovar
retired
Brenham, TX

Please say no to school vouches. Sounds like we're going back to the 60's.

Jennifer Bettis

self/homeschool community/fellow tax payers

Houston, TX

As a homeschool mom of 6 children, going on 17 years, I VEHEMENTLY oppose this bill regarding ESAs! Texas homeschoolers already hold the choice and freedom to school our children the way we see fit, which the Leeper Decision gave us over 30 years ago! We do NOT need taxpayer dollars to attach us to any potential and inevitable strings that would come through a newly opened door of legislation that allows us a false sense of freedom. As a tax payer, I believe that there SHOULD BE strings attached to our money as it is handed out because there SHOULD BE accountability and justification as to how the taxpayer money is being spent. Anyone who somehow believes that homeschool families could dip into public funds—other people’s tax dollars—to pay for their family’s homeschool (or private school!) use without any accountability is naive at best. For the government or any “homeschool coalition group” to say that “there won’t be strings attached” to any money given to homeschoolers (via ESAs or other modes) is intellectually dishonest!

Furthermore, history and the testimony of other states’ homeschool families have shown that, as they were “given” money by their state governments to use in their homeschooling, the requirements to report to, document for, and be under supervision by the state either began or increased, leaving them without the freedom from such overreach. This is easily researched!

Nothing the government “gives” is free. It comes from somewhere...the tax payers, and it never comes for “free”.

We respectfully demand our parental, homeschooling, and tax-paying voices to be heard and reflected in your vote of “Nay” for HB-3, and continue to uphold our freedom to homeschool that the Leeper Decision gave us. Thank you.

Robert Rose

Self

Bryan, TX

I don’t support using public funds for private schools and home schools. This benefits a very small number of families and would harm public education. In addition, I believe this violates the letter and spirit of the U.S. Constitution. My previous experience as a public school teacher also informs my position. I also look to the experience of Arizona and the experiment has not gone well.

Tarah Lantz
myself/homemaker and community volunteer
Plano, TX

Dear Chairman Buckley and committee members,

I am writing today as a Texas citizen and not in my official capacity as a school board trustee. Today, I am sending the committee personal commentary regarding House Bill 3 to establish Education Savings Accounts (ESA)s giving taxpayers money to send their children to private schools. I was always taught that if something is broken, you fix it. You don't sweep it under the rug to fix later. This bill creates an entirely new way to pay for education in the state of Texas. Not only does this bill sweep an education system that needs fixing under the rug, it's building a whole new system! According to the fiscal note for this bill, 38 full-time employees will be needed in the Comptroller's office. I know you have been patient with this issue and have spent a lot of time reviewing documents, testimony, meeting people, and listening. Isn't it a principle of conservatism to focus on smaller government and efficiency? This effort to create legislation for a minority of voters and taxpayers in the state of Texas is antithetical to how I was taught legislators should be making policy. One should be making sweeping policy that does the most amount of good for the most amount of people. HB3 caters to a subset of Texas parents and is couched in the language of choice and freedom as if parents don't have those options now. They do. Period. Parents already have the ability to seek the best educational opportunities for their children. I believe the implementation of this program will be costly to the citizens of Texas. I believe it will benefit those who intend to open new private schools. I predict that in a few years the data will show what we see in other states that the majority of ESA recipients will be those who already attended private schools. I know my words don't matter in the end, but as a Texas taxpayer I'm bemused. You won't even entertain reasonable amendments and additions to the bill limiting ESAs to those less fortunate or of modest incomes. I hope you add some transparency to this bill allowing for those entities receiving public funds to be held to the same rigorous accountability measures as public schools. I want to see these private school budgets. I doubt they spend as little on central administration as our public schools. How come the private schools get to use taxpayer dollars to advertise and market to families about their offerings? I view this bill as a stain on the great state of Texas. Public education is a constitutional given and one that is struggling to meet the needs of our students. You have the ability to fix that and not sweep it under the rug. You may try to glue it together this session with HB2. Let's face it, you can't even get back to 2019 funding levels from that HB3. You'd need to raise the basic allotment \$1,340. The priority of public education to the state legislator is lacking and this bill is part of that reason. I urge you to not vote this out of committee.

Amelia Gunter
Self
Leander, TX

I urge you to vote no! Public money belongs in public schools. I urge you to fully fund ours schools at a minimum of \$1300 per student. Our kids all kids deserve better!

Leslie Steward
Self
Hempstead, TX

We are so grateful for our current homeschool freedoms. We understand that our students' education needs are nuanced and therefore cannot be adequately met or assessed outside of an ongoing relationship. We do not wish to begin such a relationship with the state. Please vote to protect families from interference from the state with failed and controversial policies such as standardized testing.

Deanna Darr
Self, public educators
Bedford, TX

No. No. No.

Please listen to the people of Texas. If there's doubt that the majority of people in our state DON'T WANT THIS, put it to a statewide vote. Read the comments on Abbott's daily Facebook posts. Think about the future of Texas. We educate ALL of Texas students in the public schools. Please don't let us down or bring us down.

Amy Collinsworth
Self
Highland Vlg, TX

I oppose this in all aspects. Not only as a teacher, mother, tax payer and public educated myself. There is no benefit to this other than to help out the wealthy that already attend private schools. This will not help any child nor better their education by passing.

Alissa Stolz
Self retired teacher
Cypress, TX

Please give the money to public schools not private. School vouchers are not going to be available to all students. Our districts need your financial support. Parents already have choice.

Dmitriy Belyi
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. We are already underfunding many individual public schools across the state, this bill will make it even worse.

Debi Riggs
self
FORT WORTH, TX

We do not want vouchers in any form in Texas. This is not beneficial for public schools in any way. Follow your constituents wishes and vote no to vouchers.

Rosellen Matthews
Self
Houston, TX

NO!! ABSOLUTELY NO!!! Taking much needed funding from our public schools and in essence giving wealthy families a subsidy is out of the question! What on earth are you people thinking? Given the huge number of counties which have NO private schools and the fact that the middle and lower income families cannot afford the remainder of the tuition anyway, this is nothing more than THEFT! If our leaders have been bought and paid for to advocate for this, they should be ASHAMED and thrown out! NO, NO, NO on vouchers!

Dixie Davis
Self, public school parent
Fort worth, TX

No vouchers for private schools! Fund public schools.

Sara Borchardt

Self

Brenham, TX

I have committed my whole life to serving as a public educator. It is my life's work. Public education deeply affects the future of our state and communities. Texas public schools need more funding to meet the diverse needs of all students to ensure they all are future ready. In providing a voucher to allow a student "to escape" a said struggling public school instead of providing the adequate funding and resources to the said struggling public school to fix it for ALLLLLLL students not a select few who receive a voucher. Teacher pay needs to be pay that attracts the best and the brightest to the profession. Currently , teacher pay does not. Public educators are passionate about serving our students. When given the correct funding to provide the needed support all schools can be successful. Thank you for your continued belief in what together we can do to serve the children of Texas. Public educators are counting on each of you to fully fund our schools, so we can serve our communities children through public education. Thank you.

Renee Boydston

self

FORT WORTH, TX

Public funds should be used for public education, not vouchers for private schools. FULLY FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION!!!!!!!

Kinzee Blend

Self

Burnet, TX

I oppose HB 3 as a rural Texan. If I wanted to send my child to a private school the options are scarce and beyond my pay scale even with a voucher scam. I love our public school and would never want to take funds away from them to give to the wealthy. This bill does not benefit lower or middle class rural Texans! I say NO to HB 3.

Layne Myatt

Self

Lubbock, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3 and the creation of vouchers for students in the state of Texas. I believe that it seriously damages our state's ability to provide high quality education to all students in Texas. I also oppose the proposed education savings account.

ERICA Robinson

self

Lubbock, TX

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing to plead for your vote AGAINST HB 3 by Buckley. Millions of Texas residents are against this bill, but our governor is not listening. This bill will only further hinder our state's education system. Roughly 62% of school-aged children in Texas are economically disadvantaged. Most private school tuition and other associated fees required for attendance will not be covered by the amount allotted in these vouchers, leaving their families to cover the difference. These poverty-stricken children will not have the opportunity for school choice. I encourage your consideration of the schools across our state that are currently suffering because of the lack of state funding, giving funds to private schools will only hinder their ability to provide a quality education. This bill will increase the disparity that our schools and children are facing. Most private schools do not offer programs for children with disabilities. Lack of funding for programs such as 504 will decrease schools' ability to provide proper care and accommodations to these children, leaving our most vulnerable children who already suffer because of their disabilities behind. Public tax dollars paid by Texas residents are to provide for public education only, giving that money to privatized institutions is unconstitutional. Please, consider your vote seriously and listen to your constituents' cries against HB 3 by Buckley!

Thank you,

Minh Le
Self
Plano, TX

This is not a bill that helps the majority of students, this bill helps the few that already have the privilege while adding more reductions to the majority that aren't afforded these privileges.

This bill is using taxpayer dollars to fund private education while taking critical resources away from public schools. Public education is already underfunded, and diverting resources to private institutions will only harm the majority of Texas students. Instead of taking money away from public schools, we should be investing in them to ensure every child—regardless of income—has access to a quality education.

If we have a billion dollars of “surplus” to initiate this program in the first few years, how do they plan to sustain if it's not cutting costs elsewhere?

Many ppl don't have private school as an option. Lower income families will not be able to afford private school tuition even with \$10k. The majority of Texas counties are rural and don't have private schools within a reasonable driving distance. And many private schools don't offer programs for special needs.

Jeri-Ashley Bremer
Self
San Antonio, TX

My name is Jeri-Ashley Bremer and I'm a constituent in zip code 78248. I strongly oppose HB3 and urge our representatives to vote NO on HB3. As an educator of almost 15 years I have seen what a lack of funding to public schools does to our most vulnerable communities. It takes away VALUABLE resources, and in this case redistributes them to private schools that have a steady flow of resources. This will not only harm public schools in our major Texas cities but will also disproportionately impact families in our rural communities who already have limited choices and a lack of resources. We have seen how vouchers have negatively impacted other cities and communities who have them and that is NOT what Texans want nor deserve. Again, I urge my representatives to vote NO to HB3.

Eliza Morse
Self
Dallas, TX

I oppose vouchers for many reasons, but the one most disturbing to me is that very wealthy people who want vouchers, even though who don't live in Texas, have contributed millions of dollars to elect Legislators, who will vote in favor of a voucher and will promote vouchers at every opportunity to the detriment of the 5.5 million students in public schools. If parent choice is so popular, why not put it on a ballot for voters to decide instead of the very wealthy?

Katrina Keener
Public school parent
Palmer, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Bridget weir, Substitute teacher

Self. Substitute teacher

Spring, TX

Please do not vote for vouchers. You will be hurting children across our state. Children are our future. Don't let the governor get rich off our children.

Kimberly McLaren

self, physician

Austin, TX

Please vote NO against school vouchers and increase basic student allotment to \$7500. Texas kids deserve public education funds to be used to build our public schools!

Gregory McKenna

self

Austin, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, Greg McKenna

Eva Malina

self retired teacher

Bay City, TX

I urge you not to let this HB 3 bill come to the house floor. It will undermine and short change public and create a small group of favored students. All students deserve a good education and funding to public schools for each student should be the same as the proposed voucher amount. As a former public school teacher, I know that there are increasing demands on teachers and students. Teachers often fund things out of their pockets due to underfunding of public schools. We need to respect all students and not just some. Please equitably fund all public schools at the same rate as the proposed voucher rate. It is unfair to students and teachers to do otherwise.

Alicia Smith

Self

Fairfield, TX

Public Education Committee Members,

I am against HB 3. I've been against vouchers/ ESAs for years since I learned about them. Vouchers/ ESAS take public money and give to private intencies with little to no accountability of the money, curriculum, and certification of teachers. HB 2 as it is now has some of these things added in it. I have listened to the committee/ testimonies and I am even more concerned by this bill HB3. Tge passing of this bill will greatly grow the government offices that administer all the different parts to roll it out and keep it going. Now I'm hearing of third party admisters msking

Derek Thorn

Self

Bedford, TX

Please vote no on HB3! Taking monies away from Public Education for vouchers that support Private schools will help cause the breakdown of public education even more. Public education is already underfunded as it is. Homeowners already are receiving a break on school taxes. Vouchers will only help the wealthy and there is no proof that vouchers will improve the education of the middle and lower class. Private schools will increase tuition and place higher restrictions on who they will accept. Also, all who receive public funds must all follow the same rules with accountability. This bill does not force Private and Charter schools to follow the same rules that Public Education has too. Make it fair, make it make sense!

Jenny Brown

Self

Canadian, TX

Vouchers are against the fundamental principle's of the Texas constitution which requires the state to fully fund public education. Vouchers do not support or help the vast majority of Texas students and the rural areas of the state will dry up and blow away because when schools die, so does the town. And when you live 45 miles to the closest place with a Walmart, alternatives for public school and private school are few and far between. Texans don't want this. Teachers don't want this. What we ALL want is for public schools to be fully funded with no strings attached. Vouchers steal public funds to the detriment of everyone EXCEPT those with money to send their students to private schools. Our district pays millions in recapture because Gov. Abbott refuses to release public funds to provide for educational needs and to meet the continuous onslaught of unfounded mandates. Buildings need reparations, students need qualified and skilled teachers, everyone needs to have fair access to resources, even when we live 450 miles from Austin. Vouchers will take away funding for public schools and will take away opportunities for students to shore up their college resumes with extracurricular activities, which will go away when we can't pay for them. Traveling to football games, band contests, basketball games, theatre competitions, the upkeep of buses and school vehicles, the maintenance for facilities to host those events all cost money. It's demoralizing and exhausting to continuously have to do more with less. We want to continue to celebrate ur students' many accomplishments from way up here in the panhandle. You are threatening to take away our students' abilities to do these things by taking even more funding from us all so wealthy folks can subsidize the cost for a private school education they are already paying for because they can already afford it. Vouchers are a scam. For The betterment of Texas, vote no. For The sake of our rural communities, vote no. For the betterment of our students, vote no. You have a constitutional obligation and a duty to the citizens of this great state to vote no and keep our public schools great by fully funding our schools. No vouchers!

Peggy Adams Edge, Rev.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Public education deserves our full funding. It serves all people without bias. Please refrain from issuing vouchers.

Melissa Crosby

Self

Hempstead, TX

Please fund public education and ensure our children are not less valuable than those in private education settings. We must keep public education as a quality and viable option to ensure opportunity is afforded to all Americans.

Kendall Sullivan

Self

Houston, TX

As a concerned parent and active voter in Texas, I support educational freedom including educational savings accounts.

Israel Ackerman

Self

Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Lauren Richardson, Mrs.

LAUREN RICHARDSON

Fort Worth, TX

This voucher bill will ruin the public school system in Texas, much like what is happening in neighboring states like OK. This will take away tax payer money away from public schools and give it to the rich as a discount towards private, unregulated schools. I moved to Texas in 2013 when my oldest was 6 weeks old, and I was really excited for him as well as much future children to grow up in Texas and receive an education here, as I did not have a great public education in the state that I grew up in. Now if vouchers get put into place, I am worried my kids will not have the opportunities that they should have, that my property value will go down because the public schools around me will get worse, and I will be forced to move my family out of this state to seek a better education for them. PLEASE do not pass this scam of a bill and support the majority of students in this great state!

Kelly Patrick

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Vote NO!!!

Carole Peltier

self/my private school aka homeschool

Converse, TX

Please consider voting against the so called "school choice" or voucher bill that is coming for a vote. As a part of the homeschooler community, we do not want this!! We already enjoy true school choice and freedom. Keep your money! Government money = government regulations 100% of the time. We rather have the freedom we already have than have all the money in the world and have more regulations.

Laura Lee Daigle, Mrs

Self

Austin, TX

NO to HB3! Our public schools need to be fully funded before public funds go to private schools. As the parent of two kids in SpEd, private schools are not an option, no matter who is paying for them. Kids like mine deserve a fully funded, robust school system. Past votes show that Texas does NOT want school vouchers! Please listen to your constituents and vote no. Thank you for your time an service to the state!

Violeta Guerra
self, Elementary School Principal
Corpus Christi, TX

To whomever it may concern:

Holding desperately needed funding for public education hostage until school vouchers are passed is a travesty! This has only hurt Texan children and only benefits the most wealthy families and their children. Community schools will be closed because operating costs become too much to pay for. Governor Abbott and the TEA do not have the best interest of ALL Texan children in mind and everyone needs to understand that. Please oppose HB 3. It will eventually ruin public education (what TEA wants) and end up costing more than it should've in the long run.

Rachel Stern
Self
Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

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Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

David Mider
SELF, Graphic Designer
Austin, TX

School vouchers are purported to be school choice for all. However, the scale is tilted to families of wealth.

- no limit on income. So the state pays private school tuition for wealthy families.
- Private schools can accept, or reject any student
- Private schools are not held to education standards or testing.
- Lower income students don't live in areas where those schools can be accessed, and those schools aren't required to provide transportation.
- Unlike public schools, private schools will receive voucher money regardless of attendance, while public schools lose funding when students are absent. This creates an unfair system where public schools are punished while private schools get guaranteed taxpayer dollars—with no oversight or accountability.
- Texas has the resources to fully fund public education. With a \$24 billion general fund surplus and a \$28 billion rainy day fund, we are the second-richest state in the nation. Yet, lawmakers plan to spend \$1 billion on vouchers/ESAs that will benefit only 1% of Texas kids, with costs set to balloon over time, draining even more taxpayer dollars and strain TRS.
- Over 150 counties in Texas don't even have a private school available making vouchers inaccessible.
- Private/Charter schools are not required to accommodate students with learning disabilities, special ed needs, or 504 designations. They simply reject their enrollment.
- Texas has the money to pay for a good education system, but for some irrational ideology, our lawmakers don't want that.

Please oppose this bill. It leaves too many families behind.

Sincerely,
David Mider

-

Amy Gross
Self
Houston, TX

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Nancy Salisbury, Ms
Myself
Houston, TX

This bill does not benefit the overall public and will take away from Children's education who are unable to go to a private school.

Yaffa Rubin
Self occupational therapist
Dallas, TX

There should be funding for all educational choices

Caitlyn Fowler, Dyslexia specialist
Self
Ackerly, TX

"I strongly disagree with this bill's approach to school funding and teacher compensation. It does not adequately address the root causes of educational inequality and may disproportionately impact underfunded districts, particularly rural communities. Additionally, it fails to consider the unique needs of students requiring special services, potentially widening the gap in support for these vulnerable groups."

Keri Haarde
Self
Dallas, TX

I am a Texas resident and want my tax dollars to fund public education, not a voucher program for private schools. Please use my public tax dollars to fund public schools for Texas kids.

Shawna Haynie
Myself as a tax payer
Shallowater, TX

It is absolutely unacceptable for my PUBLIC tax dollars to be given to PRIVATE schools that are required to meet any PUBLIC school requirements. Either the public schools don't have to play by the rules or the private ones have to play by the same rules!! Period!! Private schools are allowed to CHOOSE who they educate. Private school do not have that option. You can make it less fair than it already is!!

Patricia Myers

Self

Keller, TX

Excited for this bill to get passed!!! I am in need of the right to education... in Southlake texas they are allowing ramadan (muslim) influence and lunches for teachers but do not allow christian influence.. i want my son to attend a christian school where yhe lord is the influence and not liberal agendas/propaganda!!!

Rachel Keesee

Self

Abilene, TX

Against public school vouchers!

hershel Gross

Self - underwriter

Houston, TX

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Shanna Sulak

self

Buda, TX

I oppose school vouchers

Jill Hutchings, Ms

Self

McKinney, TX

Fully fund public education!

Vote NO on vouchers!

Lynnette Liska

Self- teacher

Three Rivers, TX

Passing this bill would put an end to the public education system as we know it. There is no accountability system in place for this bill. Literally any student can go to any school with \$10,000 in hand when the students sitting in a public classroom doesn't even bring that to a district. If the public education system is so bad that we have to allow parents and student a way out of it then shouldn't it be fixed? Instead this bill just puts a bandaid on some of this issues but it will eventually cause a "hemorrhage" of money and more issues! Fix our public education system first!!!

Dayna Jones
Self - attorney
San Antonio, TX

These vouchers will harm all children and only help the wealthy. Do not allow the voucher scam who to hurt innocent children.

Amanda Rojas
Self
Carrollton, TX

This would be a disgrace to the Texas educational system. It would be HORRIBLE to all public schooling but devastating to our rural population. If you pass this bill you are actively punishing low and middle class families and their children by depriving them of a well funded education and actively creating wealth and educational disparity that will be felt for decades to come. NO VOUCHERS!

Stacey Beckworth
Self
Austin, TX

Vouchers for private schools are a terrible idea for the average Texan. They take from the poor and middle class and give to those that can already afford private school. Private school is actually not available to everybody. I taught in public schools for many years. They are already underfunded. NO TO VOUCHERS!

Zach Montandon
Self - Software Support
Lubbock, TX

I oppose the private school voucher concept.

Public/government funds should be for the public sector, not private schools.

Ezriel Weinberger
Self
Houston, TX

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Mara Pfund
self, teacher
Austin, TX

As a teacher who has taught mainly in public schools and 3 years in a private school, I strongly oppose the concept of school vouchers. They mainly help people of means and will gut the public school funding on which low-income families depend. I believe strongly in the rights of all to a good quality public school education. Those who would benefit already can afford private schools. Vouchers will create a two-tiered system that we must reject as people who believe in good education for all. Please reject the voucher program, as most Texans do. Thank you.

Brian Dresher

Self

Austin, TX

I am deeply opposed to this bill. If passed, this bill would do extreme damage to the services available to my children. Further, it would greatly erode education in rural areas where private schools aren't an option.

Anysia Trevino, Dr.

Alice Independent School District

Alice, TX

As the Superintendent of Alice Independent School District, I strongly oppose HB 3 due to its lack of accountability and transparency in how taxpayer dollars would be used. Texas public schools must meet rigorous academic, financial, and operational accountability standards, ensuring that funds are spent effectively and that students are receiving a high-quality education. HB 3 circumvents these safeguards by funneling taxpayer dollars to private institutions that are not subject to the same level of oversight.

Public schools are required to administer standardized assessments, report student achievement data, comply with state curriculum requirements, and undergo financial audits. Private schools and other ESA-approved entities, however, are not held to these same standards. Without proper accountability, taxpayer dollars could be spent on low-quality or unregulated educational services that do not guarantee student success.

Moreover, HB 3 creates the potential for misuse and fraud. Other states with ESA-style programs have encountered cases where funds were used for personal expenses, unapproved services, and even fraudulent vendors due to weak oversight. Texas should not risk taxpayer dollars on a system that lacks financial controls and academic accountability.

If the goal is to improve education for Texas students, we must ensure that all schools receiving public funds meet the same high standards. Instead of diverting resources to an unregulated system, Texas should be investing in public schools that serve all children and are held accountable for student success.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3 and instead support policies that strengthen public education with transparency, accountability, and student outcomes in mind. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lisa Fletcher

Self / teacher / parent / voting citizen

Flower Mound, TX

I strongly oppose Texas HB3 and the proposed educational savings program and voucher system. These initiatives divert much-needed resources away from public schools, undermining the core principle of equitable education for all students. By funneling taxpayer dollars into private and charter schools, which are not held to the same standards of accountability as public schools, HB3 threatens to deepen educational inequality, particularly for low-income families and communities of color. Instead of investing in programs that help strengthen and support our public schools, HB3 exacerbates disparities by enabling wealthier families to access better educational opportunities, while leaving public schools with fewer resources to serve the majority of students. It is critical that we focus on improving our public education system, ensuring that every child—regardless of their background—has access to high-quality education. This voucher system will only serve to weaken public schools, dilute accountability, and leave our most vulnerable students behind.

Jeremy Chen

Self

Cedar Park, TX

My name is Jeremy Chen and I am an educator writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3 and any voucher legislation that diverts public taxpayer money toward private schooling. Vouchers have been tried before in other states and have been proven ineffective. Above all, public funds should be used to support all of Texas's kids, not provide welfare for the wealthy.

Nathaniel Stern

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

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Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

June Dyke

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill

Taryn Pendleton

Self

Lantana, TX

Fund public schools! Our children, teachers, communities deserve that!

Melissa Fritsche

Self

Tomball, TX

I homeschool and I am against HB 3. Please keep Texas a great place to homes school without strings.

Howard Gatewood, Sgt. Major

Venus ISD

Grand Prairie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Tim LaPoint

Self/ cybersecurity engineer

San Antonio, TX

Vote NO on HB 3. This is an attack on public schools and Texas education

Lauren Sims
self, parent
College Station, TX

I am a Conservative Texan who is strongly opposed to the school voucher program that is being proposed. I respectfully request that you consider my feedback regarding this as a resident of College Station with children currently in the public school system. Instead of this approach, I would support investing in providing more funding and opportunities to our current school system, and we can work together to come up with a better way to help all children in Texas. They are our future after all. Not just the wealthy or middle class, but all of them. I was not concerned until recently when I started to research and review more detail regarding this bill and the changes it presents, and despite the rhetoric and viewpoints that supporters of this bill continue to share, I am convinced that this mostly benefits those families who are already using private schools to educate their children. These families likely already have the financial means to do this pretty comfortably (which I applaud them for), but even with vouchers, families like mine still would not be able to afford the same private school tuition. I don't believe the introduction of the voucher program is appropriate at this time. As it stands it will present better opportunities for a small group of children and families who are already benefiting from the advantage of schools with private tuition. Please consider this and all children, not just a few. They need us and a good education more now than ever. As a proud, and born and raised Texan, I ask that you please do not pass this bill, and instead we continue to work together to find more appropriate and meaningful ways to provide additional and necessary funding to our public school system.

Amy Friend
Parent of school age child
San Marcos, TX

NO vouchers!

Sheryl Russell
Self
Wolfforth, TX

I feel that Texas should put all the efforts into improving public schools. This bill strictly supports middle and upper middle class families. The private schools will not be required to waive whatever fees/tuition the voucher does not cover, so in effect, the wealthy will only continue to benefit, the private schools can select only the students they consider "the best". This bill would be bad for Texas public schools!

Krista Sankey
Self
San antonio, TX

Stop lowering the USAs spot in global education.

Margaret Martinez
Self, Mother
Fort Worth, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Bobby Hooten
self, marketing
Lubbock, TX

Until public schools are fully funded, staffed, and given the resources they need to make EVERY Texan successful, there is no place for conversation about allocating funds for other education. Texas's constitution charges you, our public servants with our public school system, in Article IX, Section I: "It shall be the duty of the Legislature of this State, to make suitable provisions for the support and maintenance of a system of Public Free Schools, for the gratuitous instruction of all the inhabitants of this State, between the ages of six and eighteen years." Until this is fulfilled in its entirety, any other funding of education outside of that charge is negligent and irresponsible. Public funds are for the public, not the wealthy outliers. All children in our state deserve a chance at quality education. My wife is a public school teacher, and my oldest child attends our public schools here in Lubbock. Is there room for growth in our public schools? Of course—and much of that could be fixed by adequately equipping those teachers and administrators to succeed with our students, and in turn, the future of our state. To look at the problems in our system and then assert that the answer to that question is to abandon that system for a private, largely unregulated sector of education instead of addressing and working to fix and mend those problem areas, is deeply irresponsible and abandons your duties as public servants and to the constitution of this state.

Additionally, there have been numerous problems with similar programs in other states. The results speak for themselves: the beneficiaries of such programs are far more likely to be already wealthy families whose children already attend private schools than lower-income families who wish to send their children to private schools—only further widening the gap between the wealthy and those with less.

Do not abandon our public schools, children, staff, and administration. Fulfill your charge to ALL Texans.

Elena Carrizales
San Antonio ISD
San Antonio, TX

No Vouchers!! Not equitable for all Texas families. It's welfare for the rich. Proposes no accountability for private or home school education.

Public school needs to be funded. Texas is the bottom of the barrel in the country regarding education. You will soon get what you pay for if education funding is not increased to prepare our future workforce.

Alyssa Leal
Self/Teacher
Round Rock, TX

This bill is absolutely harmful to our children, teachers, and schools. Our schools need MORE funding, not less. The future generations we produce will be stunted by a lack of accessible education for all. Our students are ALREADY behind. If you want our children to be put behind even more, then sign the bill. If you care for the FUTURE of Texas and America, DO NOT sign this bill. Any signature is a result of selfishness, greed, and shows that you do not care for Texans. It would be absolutely disgraceful.

Pat Gabriel

Self, Advertising agency, creative dept.

Fort Worth, TX

I was raised by my mother who was divorced and my father never paid child support. My mother would get down to pocket change between paydays.

In spite of that I got a good education - I'm proof positive that the public school system does work. I only have a high school education, but I have put two children and my wife through college.

I've had a full-time job since I was 16 years old, so have paid toward public school taxes for 48 years.

The idea that all that money put toward the Texas public education system could be for not - That the taxes that I will now continue to have to pay, even though I'm about to retire from full-time work could be diverted to a private institution makes me very angry.

If I wanted to donate money to a private school, I would do that. What I want is the public education system in the state of Texas to be properly funded. I want teachers to be paid properly and for everybody in my state to have the opportunity I had growing up. That was, to get a good education.

As important as this state is nationally, how could it its school ranking possibly still be at 29 out of 50?

If you would just properly pay teachers, properly invest in the Texas public education system that already exists, we could pull that number up into the top 10.

Please do not vote for the voucher system!

But even more important than that - do something about paying teachers better and funding our public education better.

Really, it's disgusting when you think about it. Why can't the great State of Texas have great public schools too!

Sincerely, Pat Gabriel

Thank you for your time and service and for reading my letter.

PS: Private schooling is never going to be for the average child. This is just a giant money grab for people who are already somewhat wealthy and very wealthy. It's disgusting!

Monica Wetzig

Self/community

Port Lavaca, TX

I absolutely oppose this bill and can honestly say that I haven't spoken to one friend or neighbor that is in favor of this. I am in favor of fully funding public schools. The children in Texas deserve this.

Megan Estep

Self

Stockdale, TX

As a long time homeschool parent I absolutely do not want ESAs and pray that there be an opt out or opt in clause. We pay well over the \$2,000 out of pocket to homeschool our four children and do not want there to be any changes in the liberties we enjoy in the great state of Texas. These ESAs will inevitably create a change to the laws regarding homeschool (see the study of the education system in Sweden over the last 20 years). Where there is government money there will be government oversight. I am accountable to God, my husband and my children when it comes to their education. The governments standards will be lower than mine and will inevitably get in the way of providing a superior education to my children. ESAs will destroy the current free market of homeschooling in Texas. There is no long term proof they are effective in any states. Tax exemptions or credits, with minimal demands, are the only way to benefit homeschool families with out infringing on our current liberties.

Daniel Fletcher

Self (Writer)

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3 and school vouchers

Jessica Nunley

Self

Highland Vlg, TX

Voucher programs divert funds away from already underfunded public schools which disproportionately affects students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds who have no option to attend anything but public school. Private schools are not required to admit anyone, including special needs children, follow any set state guidelines or requirements and they don't provide transportation for students, this automatically makes attendance to a private school for children of lower socioeconomic means not possible. Private schools have zero oversight and are using tax payer dollars fund schools that may not have the educational requirements we have come to expect of Texas Students. Texas already ranks in the bottom percentages of public education.

Lisa Roberts

Self

Austin, TX

I am an Austin resident and tax payer saying that I am VERY opposed to this bill. No one in our neighborhood wants this except the 2 multi multi millionaires with kids already in private schools. Just show you actually care for ALL residents and actually put some money into our public schools that are poised for success - if our state would just support us. This is all just ridiculous and a waste of time. Let's get to educating our children. Efforts to "keep Texas dumb" have got to stop.

Daniel Ben-David

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Nancy French, Mrs

Self

Lantana, TX

I am against school vouchers and want public schools to be fully funded. All Americans should have a free and appropriate education, and for that to happen public schools need to money!

jonathan schreiber

Self

Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

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Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them

Courtney Palmisano

self

Princeton, TX

Please keep taxpayer money in Texas public schools. As an educator for over 25 years, I believe Texas children deserve the best from our legislature. Please increase the student allotment so that our students have the resources available to them. Many districts across our great state are shutting down schools due to lack of funding. School vouchers do not belong here.

Debra Gaston

Self

Elgin, TX

I totally disagree with the reasoning behind this bill. I am a retired public school teacher. My children are grown. My granddaughter is in middle school. What if everyone wanted to go to private school? Will there be some type of lottery? Will public schools be left with all the ED and special needs children? Will private schools go through the same stupid test requirements that public schools must adhere to? What about multiple children from one household? Will the STATE increase ADA funding to public schools to make up for lost capital to run mandatory school programs? Is this a Republican pushed Bill? For what purpose? To dismantle public education all together? Please explain better and answer my questions?

Anastasia Gabriel

Self/artist

Fort Worth, TX

As your constituent, I am writing to oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. Public schools in Texas are underfunded every year, yet public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students. They serve all students, they do not pick and choose whom to educate. Texas families and educators deserve a well funded public education system. I request that you reject private school vouchers again and properly fund Texas public schools. Private schools select students for admission many do not have a plan for special need students. They do not hold elected boards or have state oversight, private schools offer no financial or academic accountability. Why would you divert publicly collected funds to entities without oversight? VOTE NO ON VOUCHERS.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely

Anastasia Gabriel

Kathleen Hayes

Self/semi retired teacher

Stephenville, TX

Public schools are in crisis but IT CAN BE FIXED. Ignoring the problems and creating vouchers will cause more teachers to leave than already are. Public schools need to be remodeled not destroyed. The people who are designing education in this state don't have the experience in schools that make for good management. The state level is the worst but the district level is just as bad. We need teachers making decisions. The TEA committee that convened two years ago originally had ZERO teachers involved. How could that possibly make sense. You politicians have a high level of conceit if you believe you know better than teachers how to run schools. Allowing people with no or minimal classroom experience to manage those who know how to teach is ludicrous. It is insulting. You , collectively, have ruined education. I challenge you to work in a classroom for a week. In fact, it should be a requirement for anyone touching educational decisions to have to spend a week or two in the same school until they understand the hands on issues. They should be required to take the same professional development as teachers. Education shouldn't be making state or local administrators wealthy. Teachers should be driving the decisions made in schools. By creating vouchers you are demonstrating that you have no desire to educate the future voters/citizens of this state. Your intention to destroy public education can be for nothing but personal gain. That's called prostitution.

Lisa Sitzes

Self

Cedar park, TX

Vote NO to VOUCHERS. We need funding for PUBLIC SCHOOLS- \$1300 Basic Allotment.

Gina Anderson

Self

Denton, TX

As a higher education administrator in a college of education as well as a former public school teacher, I opposed HB 3. School vouchers will drain funds from public schools, which will also shrink the TRS funding base. These actions will lead to weakened schools and communities as well a crippled Texas economy.

Eric Hartman

self--retired

Austin, TX

For at least the past 35 years in the Texas legislature, we have heard the hype that taxpayer-funded subsidies for private-school students' tuition are the wave of the future and will inevitably pass. Yet session after session, such voucher bills ultimately have failed, for good reason. Lawmakers have recognized that our state constitution directs the legislature to provide for a system of free public schools, not for taxpayer funding of an entitlement to private-school vouchers. I urge the committee to reject this latest attempt to drain taxpayer dollars from the public schools to subsidize private schools. Instead, the legislature should put those dollars to work in support of Texas public schools as the state constitution mandates.

David Wilson

Self

Georgetown, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 3 due to the damage it will do to small, rural school districts and underserved communities. This bill is disingenuous in its nature and will only benefit individuals seeking private education who can already afford it. Please do not allow this bill to pass the committee.

Menachem Twersky

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Shirley CAESAR

Self

Justin, TX

1) If rural community school student gets voucher and no private school in their community, how will transportation be addressed so that parent can afford to drive longer distance?

2) will families with children in private school (already paying for school), still be considered for vouchers? Does not seem like we will be helping others get into privates if those already in private will now be getting basically a subsidy to apply to what they are already paying.

3). Let's fund our current schools and teachers rather than using our tax dollars to supplement the rich getting more assistance. Public schools are the backbone of our country,

Heather Berger

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas HB 3 due to its emphasis on law enforcement solutions rather than investing in critical mental health interventions for students. While ensuring school safety is of the utmost importance, this bill fails to address the root causes of violence and instead places an undue focus on policing measures that may do more harm than good.

Research consistently shows that early mental health intervention, access to trained counselors, and social-emotional learning programs are among the most effective ways to prevent violence in schools. However, HB 3 does not allocate sufficient resources toward these evidence-based strategies. Instead, it increases law enforcement presence without ensuring that students have the support they need to address trauma, bullying, and other underlying issues that contribute to behavioral concerns.

This approach risks criminalizing students—particularly those from marginalized communities, including students of color, those with disabilities, and those from low-income backgrounds—who are already disproportionately affected by disciplinary policies. Increased policing without corresponding mental health support can lead to higher suspension and expulsion rates, further fueling the school-to-prison pipeline rather than fostering a safe and supportive learning environment.

A truly comprehensive approach to school safety must include robust funding for school counselors, mental health professionals, social workers, and restorative justice programs. Schools should be equipped to intervene before crises occur, rather than relying solely on punitive or reactive measures. I urge lawmakers to reconsider HB 3 and instead focus on policies that prioritize the well-being and long-term success of Texas students.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3 in its current form and advocate for a more balanced approach to school safety.

Cathy Thomas

self, retired Associate Professor of Special Education at Texas State University
San Marcos, TX

School vouchers/school choice/privatization of schools in Texas will be hugely detrimental to children, families, and all school personnel. First, there are few existing private options for rural children, and in many cases, these options do not exist. There is no evidence that the few existing private rural options are providing a quality education. In fact, while there are exceptional charter/private schools, research shows that few do provide a quality education, and many of those are extremely expensive, and would only serve the richest families in Texas. I think that the majority of those wealthy families already have their children enrolled in such schools. Rural schools in Texas historically and perennially struggle to staff their schools with licensed teachers, and already offer reduced options at the secondary level for dual credit and a range of coursework that makes them competitive in college. Regarding teacher education, every year since 1990-1991 school year, Texas (along with most states) has reported statewide teacher shortages, most often to fill math, science, special education, and bilingual education positions. Texas is not competitive nationally for teacher salaries and benefits. Texas has one of the largest alternative certification pipelines which has served to institutionalize turn over and attrition--alternatively certification programs often require limited/no field practice, and these underprepared teachers are more likely to leave their field. Vouchers will not improve educational outcomes for Texas children and are most likely to cause further teacher attrition. Typically, private school options may not require licensure (a gatekeeper of quality, even with Texas' low standards for teacher preparation--in comparison to many other states). Private schools do not have to provide services for students with disabilities and may choose to exclude students. I personally find this a violation of equal protection, citing the 14th amendment, Section 504, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Texas, a state with a large budget surplus, by any group ranking is near the bottom for school spending, and below average in school quality. Texas has the capacity to have one of the best school systems in the nation, but we do not...by choice. School vouchers/school choice/school privatization will result in poorer outcomes for Texas children and reduce the quality of our schools. As a concerned citizen, as a retired teacher and teacher educator, I strongly recommend against this bill and I am against any legislation that would move toward a system of vouchers, choice, privatization of public education. Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment. Also, I would be happy to provide references for all of my comments.

Dayna Corley

Self

Benbrook, TX

HB3/SB2. This is an absolutely awful bill and should never have been considered. We are not interested in this type of state controlled student outcomes. Stop using our children as guinea pigs and pawns in your socialistic agenda! We need less government controlled programs, less intrusive surveillance. You want more control and we the people want less of your failures. This bill is NOT about choice for the parents at all! We don't approve of your choices. We do not give you the right to dictate what is taught, that is a parents right and different schools can offer different curriculum. You have proven failures in our public schools, stop trying to control our other options.

Blair Dowdy

Self (marketing manager)

San Antonio, TX

I strongly disagree with HB3, for some of the following reasons:

- Private schools are great for those that can afford them, but they do not provide REAL choice for ALL Texas residents
- Private schools can deny admission to any child, for any reason they want.
- The majority of Texas counties do not have private schools.
- Providing funding to the families that can already afford private schools will only accomplish less funding for our already struggling Texas public schools, just giving a discount to already wealthier families.
- Private schools do not have to provide transportation or special education services, further limiting those who can actually benefit from a voucher.
- HB3 will essentially use the tax dollars of hard-working families to fund benefits that only the upper-class can use.
- PUBLIC dollars should stay in PUBLIC education
- Texas, who prides herself on being bigger and better, is in the bottom 10 states in the country for per-pupil funding. Vouchers will further diminish that number.

Angel Fuentes

NA

Houston, TX

The essence of a truly flexible educational system lies in its ability to allow students to seamlessly enter and transition between diverse career paths without facing unnecessary barriers or delays. Despite notable progress toward this ideal, our current educational framework still exhibits substantial areas for improvement. Students often encounter rigid curriculum tracks that may impede their ability to explore various fields or adapt their career trajectories in response to evolving interests and shifting job market demands.

To effectively address these challenges, several strategic initiatives are proposed:

Cross-Disciplinary Opportunities: We need to develop programs that foster cross-disciplinary learning and skills development. By integrating elements of technology, business, and creative arts into various curricular tracks, we can equip students with a well-rounded skill set that is applicable across multiple industries.

Modular and Stackable Credentials: Implementing a system of modular learning where students can accumulate credits or certifications that are stackable and transferable across different institutions and programs is essential. This flexibility allows for a more customized educational experience and better accommodates students' changing interests and the demands of emerging industries.

Career Exploration Platforms: Investing in comprehensive career exploration tools will enable students to make informed decisions based on their interests, skills, and market trends. These platforms should provide insights into various career paths, including emerging fields, and offer practical experiences like virtual job shadowing and internships.

Advisory Services: Enhancing advisory services is crucial to guide students through their educational journeys. Advisors should be trained to help students navigate their options and make strategic pivots in their career plans as necessary.

Partnerships with Industry: Expanding partnerships with diverse industries ensures that educational programs are aligned with real-world demands. These partnerships are vital for facilitating smooth transitions from education to employment, especially in high-demand sectors.

Moreover, for working adults, particularly those with family responsibilities like parents or those considering homeschooling, the educational system's structure must accommodate unique time constraints and responsibilities. The challenge of balancing a job, family obligations, and education should not impede educational advancement due to a lack of temporal flexibility. Additionally, stringent reporting and management of transition services, including a clear timeline for advising and accessing services such as housing and state benefits, are crucial. These measures are particularly important in communities where Section 8 zoning limitations restrict portability and may impose special hurdles.

Carleigh Cody

Teachers

Shallowater, TX

Please consider not doing the vouchers. This will end our rural towns. This is just a way for private schools to make more money. They will only increase their tuition so that the voucher can't cover the tuition. Public education is in danger.

Georgee Ruiz, Ms.

Self/ Educator

Amarillo, TX

This voucher bill is a SCAM by Governor Abbott for his oligarch friends & his wife. This only benefits the WEALTHY. Wake up Texas it's a SCAM!

John Ruffier

self, student

Austin, TX

Ensuring that Texas remains a robust and productive state starts with creating a skilled, educated workforce. Depriving our public schools of dollars will create chaos and confusion, ultimately ridding Texas of what makes it appealing in the first place. This item is a waste of taxpayer dollars and will harm every inch of this state, not just cities.

Stephen Meyer

Self

Austin, TX

I support public schools and strongly oppose HB 3. Fully fund public schools first!

Chaim Weinberg

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Kelly Buchanan

Self

DENISON, TX

Vouchers for "school choice" are a bad idea and will affect all Texans negatively. Vouchers have failed before because law makers know that they will have a negative effect on their communities and constituents. Parents currently have school choice, they just have to pay for it if they want to send their children to private schools. I don't want my tax dollars to go to a handout for wealthy families who already have their children in a private school. I want my tax dollars to go towards making Texas Public schools the best in the country. I know we can do it, our state has the resources. The effects of high quality education in Texas public schools, available to all children, will be an immeasurable good for our state and individual communities.

Andreanna Ditton, Ms

Self, Editorial Director

Buda, TX

The voucher system is just another way to disenfranchise students and families from equal and equitable public education. This money (and effort) should be going towards the current school systems in Texas, not wasted to promote private companies and privatizing education. Texas HAS school choice, and we should be voting against systems that strip access (no matter how they're worded to fool people into thinking these voucher programs will pay for private schools instead of just further enlarging the gaps between wealthy students and those who most benefit from public education). Please vote against this bill.

Cheletia Johnson

self

college station, TX

Vote NO to HB3!!!!

Jennifer Sinopoli

Self/Parent

Austin, TX

Dear Education committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers & Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably. I request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Regarding vouchers, please look to other states to see what's happened elsewhere. Studies of voucher programs in Louisiana, Indiana, Ohio & Washington DC have shown that students that use vouchers to leave public schools perform worse than their peers that stayed in public schools. Public school vouchers do not treat children with disabilities equally. Vouchers fund schools that are allowed to discriminate in ways that public schools do not. Look at other states and learn: the majority of these vouchers go to children already enrolled in private schools. In Florida, it was 69% of applicants to the voucher program were already enrolled in private school. In Arizona, that number is 75%. Please, Texas needs to go the way of Colorado, Kentucky, and Nebraska, which are all states that rejected ballot measures that would have allowed public school money to go to private schools.

I also want to add, I hate how this is framed as argument around "school choice." My children are enrolled in public school & we have school choice within our public school system. My kids don't attend the school we are zoned for, we have instead chosen to transfer to a different public school & couldn't be happier. What you should be doing is looking at the states with the best K-12 educations: Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, New York, New Hampshire, Utah. What can Texas do to be at the top? Not this.

Jennifer Sinopoli

Mary sue Blackwell

Self retired educator

Hudson Oaks, TX

HB 3 is not an education savings account. It is \$10,000 for wealthy families to use toward private schools alone. Middle income and poor families will not be able to pay for private schools with \$10,000. The idea that they can borrow money or apply for scholarships is unreasonable and unfair as they don't have the same access as the wealthy families do. Also, no matter what has been printed in the paper by Governor Abbott, the billionaires, and the legislators that Governor Abbott has placed in their positions over the last election, the money will in fact be taken from the public schools. The public schools have been held hostage over the last two years by the governor and the legislature because the vouchers were not passed in the last election. Teacher pay raises were held hostage funding for public schools was held hostage. In the future, if vouchers are allowed, Families will receive the \$10,000 yet if they have special needs children, private schools will not have to provide education for their students and they will not be able to access those schools and will return to the public school no matter what. It is hard to believe that the legislators within the state of Texas have no children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, or other family members who have special needs and would not be affected by the voucher bill in a negative way Think long and hard, people. It also seems odd that the legislature isn't listening to teachers and public school, educators, superintendent, but is only listening to apparently the governor and his cronies. That's a big concern.

Marcy Antiuk

Self

Houston, TX

Please do not have this voucher plan. It will take funds from our already underfunded schools. I am a constituent and please vote no

Donna Coffelt

Constituent

Spicewood, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Rhonda Boylson

Self

Granbury, TX

Vote no because this bill will harm public schools in Texas , only benefitting a limited number of families . Our children deserve better, all of our children not just children of the rich minority .

Vote no on this school voucher program,

Cassie Weaver

Self, Texas Teacher

Ennis, TX

Texas Teachers and parents are not for ESA's (vouchers). Public tax dollars belong in public schools. Please make Texas students a priority this legislative session. Do not be railroaded by big money. Our children need you to support them!

As a Texas educator of more than 30 years, I implore you to consider the choices you are making. I have taught in affluent schools and title 1 schools.

This bill will benefit only a small percent of Texas children while leaving other children with less funding.

These stud day I teach in public education depend on you and us to make the schools the best place they are. Help us keep it that way! Say NO to Vouchers!

Sarah Cassara

Self

Arlington, TX

This bill does not benefit the majority of Texas students. Parents who choose private schools have already made their “school choice”. This bill is wrong for Texas and bad for the students. Please vote No!

Sharon Raney

Self

New Boston, TX

I do not support using tax payers' dollars to fund vouchers. This is detrimental to our public schools, students, and teachers - especially in rural areas of our state. We already have school choice.

Geoff Hanshaw

Self

Mansfield, TX

I do NOT support this bill.

Cara Bond

Self

Houston, TX

Terrible idea. Most private schools will increase and not be "equal" to free. Not to mention the special needs kids will be left behind. As a speech-language pathologist I firmly object to this. In rural communities there isn't a private school for hours. How will those children be provided school?

Stacie Gooch

Self

Wylie, TX

No

Patricia Marshall

Self

San Antonio, TX

I oppose the voucher system and the elected officials need to represent their constituents and not their pockets

Tricia Reed

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am AGAINST HB 3 and fell all representatives should VOTE NO. Our elected officials should quit catering to the wealthy and start taking care of ALL children by fully funding public education!

Stacy Kyle, Mrs.

Self

Kempner, TX

Good morning, my name is Stacy Kyle and I am a teacher for GATESVILLE ISD. The current voucher scam, let's call it what it is, gives parents school choice. Wait.... I'm confused as I thought they always had a choice where they wanted to send their kids to school. They did.... I'm just confused then as to how you are putting something out there that's "new". When it's not. The only new part about this is that you will be taking money from public schools to help only a small percentage of Texas students. This is by no means fair at all. So my question for you all is this, is the state going to start paying for things that I cannot afford but I want because that'd be the right thing to do. While I'm on the subject of doing what's right... I'm hearing that this may take money away from trs, cause it to go away or raise how much I have to put in. I've spent 12 years almost 13 educating Texas children and now essentially by even mentioning something about my TRS, you are telling me that you don't care about me. In our very unpredictable world at the moment can you all do away of all this talk and shine a bright light on the line star state burning a good way.... Please just once do something right for everyone.

Mandie Sanchez

Self

Round Rock, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

John Irish
self - education
Bridgeport, TX

I have dedicated the past 25 years to public education in Texas and strongly oppose the ESA (school voucher) program. I believe this bill is unconstitutional under both the Texas and U.S. Constitutions. Its passage would have a detrimental impact on public education in Texas, diverting much-needed funds from public schools and weakening the Teacher Retirement System (TRS), which I have contributed to for 25 years. By discouraging new educators from entering the profession, the bill threatens the long-term viability of TRS.

Furthermore, the claim that vouchers provide school choice for low-income families is misleading. No state that has implemented a voucher system has seen a significant increase in low-income students attending private schools. Instead, these programs primarily function as subsidies for wealthy families already paying for private education.

While I recognize that Texas public schools face significant challenges that must be addressed, this bill does nothing to solve them. Rather, it deepens economic divisions, exacerbating disparities between the wealthy and the rest of the state. Public education is essential to the preservation of democracy and the cultivation of an informed electorate, and policies like this undermine its foundation.

Jaylyn Sprinkel, Mrs
Wylie PTA
Wylie, TX

This is a complete joke for our public schools. We do NOT want vouchers!!!!

John Squier
Self
Longview, TX

Vote no on school vouchers. I don't like having vouchers forced upon us and I don't like not getting to vote personally on this issue. Please look at the polls that are being taken on TV. They show majority of Texans do not want school vouchers. Thank you for your time.

Jack Wehner
PTA, WylieISD
Wylie, TX

OPPOSE VOUCHERS and ESAs

Julie Fulgham
Self
Victoria, TX

As the spouse of a public school teacher as well as a parent who spends in excess of \$10k a year on private school tuition for my child, I am vehemently opposed to education savings accounts and any program that sends public funds to private schools. This is not the solution for improving public education. It will negatively affect both public and private schools in the future and degrade our already fragile educational system in Texas. Please listen to the majority of your constituents and vote against this bill and any bill that attempts these types of programs.

Shanna Bodenhamer, Dr.

Self: parent and educator

Spring Branch, TX

As a special educator and a parent of a child with disabilities that attends public school, I strongly oppose HB 3. As some researchers have testified during the hearing on HB 3, school voucher programs/ESAs do NOT improve academic outcomes. Further, in states that have implemented similar legislation, vouchers cost more than anticipated, leading to budget shortfalls. It is fiscally irresponsible to allocate a billion dollars to a discredited education policy that research demonstrates is NOT effective for improving academic outcomes.

The legislature should focus their efforts and our tax dollars towards strengthening our public schools and addressing actual barriers to quality education. Texas is facing a teacher shortage crisis, especially in areas like special education. We should focus on fixing issues that address our teacher shortage, such as, recruiting and training the next generation of teachers, and improving teacher working conditions and salaries so our schools can retain teachers.

This bill has been touted as "parent choice" and "parent empowerment". I am a parent and I want my child to attend a fully-funded public school in our community. I want my local public school to have the resources and training to implement evidence-based practices. I want my daughter's teachers to experience improved working conditions with smaller class sizes and to receive a salary that appropriately compensates all their hard work.

When my daughter was preschool age, I wanted to enroll her in a private school but her acceptance was declined because the school said they were not equipped to handle children with "behaviors". This was in Houston, a large urban area, with more opportunities than most Texas regions. It was our local public school district that provided the individualized services my daughter needed within an intensive early intervention program. And because of these services, she learned how to talk, follow a routine at school, make friends and be included in her community.

Because of my experiences as a parent of a child with autism and as a former special educator in our public schools, I do NOT support HB 3. Public tax dollars should NOT go to private schools that can discriminate against students with disabilities through denying their admission or refusing to provide necessary interventions and supports.

Brittany Castillo

Self

Justin, TX

Vote no!

Karen Pulver

Self retired

Granbury, TX

Please vote NO on HB3.

I implore you to consider the negative ramifications of HB 3 and vouchers in all Texas schools however exponentially more detrimental to our rural schools where communities come together around school activities to support one another. Students needing extra educational support to be successfully educated members of our state will be left behind without the services and support necessary from the public programs. This bill does so much harm to our Texas families.

Having 2 of our 5 grandchildren who are currently benefiting from these special programs will thank you!!

Kathyleen Wilson

Public schools

Austin, TX

I have a special needs son who has Autism and is non verbal. If we did not the wonderful teachers at his public school then we would be in debt trying to get a specialized education. It cost over 30,000 a year for care with no transportation service available if choose a private school. That is that private school would even take him. You are giving welfare to the rich to give to their private schools that they already attending. This is not school choice, only for the school that can get extra money from you and they get to choose their students.

Stacy Blanchard

self

Sachse, TX

Please make sure the vouchers do not pass. They do not work for majority, and I have not been proven to be successful in other states

Camille Knight

Self-retired public school teacher

Henderson, TX

No to vouchers. Don't rob our public schools to give to wealthy.

María López-Rogina, Sra

Retired Teacher

Houston, TX

I am opposed to the use of public tax dollars for vouchers. that is a means of stealing our tax money and limiting resources for public use. we need improvement for our school buildings and better funding of special education as well as general education to assure we have prepared citizens that can function and work in our society. less funding will increase crime, drug use, and poverty rates. Save our schools and our communities!!!! NO VOUCHERS

Jerilyn Reagan

Arlington ISD-18 PLUSS

Mansfield, TX

I am writing to you as a public school teacher with 29 years of experience, a product of public schools, and a parent of children who have attended public schools. I strongly oppose the proposed school voucher legislation, as I believe it will have a detrimental effect on our public education system.

For years, public schools have been chronically underfunded, and despite our best efforts, we continue to be asked to do more with less. Yet, the narrative that public schools are failing is continually perpetuated. The truth is that it is not public schools that are failing students—it is the lawmakers who have consistently failed to provide adequate funding and resources to support our students and teachers. We cannot expect our schools to succeed when they are not given the tools they need to thrive.

Vouchers, by diverting much-needed public funds away from public schools, will only further exacerbate these challenges. Public schools are the cornerstone of our education system, serving every child, regardless of their background. Instead of focusing on draining resources from these schools, we should be strengthening them, increasing funding, and addressing the root causes of educational disparities.

Furthermore, it's important to note that parents already have the ability to choose where they send their children. In many states, charter schools, magnet schools, and open enrollment policies already offer a variety of choices. What vouchers really do is redirect public money to private institutions, many of which are not subject to the same accountability and oversight as public schools. This is not about providing choice—it's about undermining the very system that serves the majority of our children.

As a teacher, I've seen the dedication and hard work of my colleagues and the resilience of our students, but we are continually being held back by a lack of adequate support. We need to invest in public education, not drain its resources. The future of our children depends on it.

I urge you to reconsider your support for school vouchers and instead focus on policies that will adequately fund and strengthen our public schools. Public education is an investment in the future of all our children, and it deserves our full support.

Amy Johnson, Mrs.

self

Plano, TX

As public school educator, I am against this bill because it prioritizes private school education over public school education. My private school teacher friends are against this bill as well for the same reasons. This bill is not fair, it will not help economically disadvantaged students attend private school - it will only give the ones who can already afford private school a monetary boost. If anything, more money needs to be designated for public school education as private school is just that "private" and their financial support should come from private sources, not public sources like the government. Our Texas government should really prioritize the improvement of public education because that is where improvement needs to be dedicated. For the good of millions of students who attend public school, for the good of the many public school educators who work tirelessly for their students, this bill does not need to be approved.

Mary Taylor, Mrs.

Self

Angleton, TX

Public funds should not be used to fund private enterprises. Public schools are our hope for the future. Fully fund mandates and use surplus funds to make our schools the best in the nation. We the constituents are not beholden to billionaire donors.

Jim Schneider

Self

San Angelo, TX

The pattern is clear: once universal #schoolchoice programs are enacted, their costs escalate far beyond original estimates, creating massive funding gaps that disproportionately harm public schools as it has clearly done in other states. #HB2 / #HB3 sets the stage for similar expansion in Texas, risks following the same trajectory, jeopardizing the state's long-term education budget and straining financial resources. Don't be by the propaganda!! Texas Republicans will own this and be on the wrong side of history.

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Julie Lorberbaum

Self/teacher

Houston, TX

I am a constituent in Spring branch a neighborhood of Houston. My child's public school is directly impacted by your decision to vote on this bill. Please vote no on this bill. A yes vote will severely cripple schools' ability to provide quality education for all students, regardless of location or socioeconomic background. Vote no in favor of our families!!! Once again, I am a parent of a school child in spring branch ISD. Please vote NO!!!

Julie McCarty
True Texas Project
Grapevine, TX

As CEO of True Texas Project and as an individual voter, I am opposed to HB 3. While I was determined to keep an open mind regarding a school choice bill, and will I've mostly stayed out of this debate for years (contrary to what some have said about me), now that we have the details about the bill, I cannot support it. A school choice program needs to utilize existing dollars in the education budget, not create a new category. Likewise, the new bureaucracy required for this plan is not acceptable. This is not a bill that will make education better... It seems to merely be a bill to get something passed to say they did it. We can definitely do better than this.

Katie Hembree, Mrs.
Self; stay at home mom of 3
Richardson, TX

Hello,
I am a public school mom of 3 children in Richardson, TX. I am very concerned about the possibility of school vouchers being approved. Public schools are already under extreme financial strain and vouchers will not truly fix the problem you are trying to address. We need to prioritize giving adequate funding to public schools so they can provide quality education for every child.

Voucher programs in other states have exploded beyond their initial budgets, draining resources from public schools. Worse, vouchers do not improve student achievement and, in many states, lead to a decline in achievement. Furthermore, the reality is that vouchers are not about "parent choice" because the only choice in a voucher program belongs to private schools that can hand-pick their students, often denying children with special needs, learning disabilities, neurodivergent disorders, & behavioral issues - admittance into their schools. Private schools are also not accountable to taxpayers or the state. Texas parents already have school choice, and vouchers undeniably funnel public tax dollars away from our already-strained public schools.

ACTION IS NEEDED NOW. The 5.5 million children who rely on and choose Texas public schools deserve better!

- Studies show vouchers do not equate to improved academic outcomes.
- HB 3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas families already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity with public money.
- Public money means public accountability. Any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing, and accountability requirements as public schools.
- Texans should decide! Vouchers would use public dollars for private education—Texans deserve a voice in this decision. Urge lawmakers to put the measure on a statewide ballot and let the people vote

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter!

Gratefully,
Katie Hembree

Sherry Montgomery
Self
San Antonio, TX

We object to HB 3. I have three grandkids and we consider ourselves and our children to be middle class. Even with a voucher, private school is beyond our reach. And it will be beyond the reach of those with an even lowered income. This bill will mostly benefit those already enrolled in private school often the wealthier class that can already afford to pay private tuition. Stop making decisions that affect the wealthy. If parents need a choice to send their kids to a private school, give a tax cut for those with moderate or low income if their child attends private school!

urmila gupta, Dr

Self

Plano, TX

Please stop the steal of money from public schools to few elite private schools. Public schools already don't have enough resources and sometimes teachers have to buy the supplies on their own . A community is known by the standards of its public schools. People who want to send their kids to pvt schools have too much money and public schools shouldn't pay for tuition for religious schools. These hard working students going to Public schools often have both parents working so that they can save for the college education of their children . America is a secular country and there is no place to take money from public schools to send to private schools and religious schools. Greater good of many outweighs the tiny money saved for people who are already sending their kids to private schools. It is not enough for a poor person to send his kid to a private school. America is known for its excellent public education system and let's not downgrade this status . Among the developed European nations all kids have opportunity to get the same education, even college in many. Hope you will keep our education Great in Public schools.

Loren Morris

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB3. While I feel Representative Buckley is coming from the right place, I feel that this honestly going to cause more damage to students with disabilities. Please vote no to HB 3.

Atisha Manhas

Self

Dallas, TX

I am a longtime resident of Dallas and I urge representatives to vote against school vouchers. Allowing all families to have vouchers will amount to gutting out public school system, which is funded by the state! The absolute only way a voucher system would make sense is if there was a cap for income so that in-need only students would benefit. There are plenty of public schools which are functioning well and we don't need to punish those schools and property owners in those areas. Vote against HB3!

Laura Li, Mrs.

Self

Denton, TX

I do not agree with the public savings account being passed until there is an appropriate increase in the basic allotment for public schools. Our Texas constitution requires we provide an appropriate education for ALL Texas students. This bill prioritizes the small minority who will benefit from it. It's unethical to fund ESA for the small minority who will benefit while refusing to properly fund and support education for ALL Texas students, regardless of their socioeconomic status or where they live. A majority of small Texas counties don't have a private or charter option, and many charter and private schools require travel, financial investment, and parent involvement that a significant amount of our population cannot abide. We cannot leave behind our most vulnerable populations and take away from their educational opportunities while we elevate those who already have ample resources and access. It's unethical. Texas is a state where we have prioritized being neighborly and kind, and this is anything but neighborly or kind to rob from our public schools and give to for-profit institutions.

Nancy Lawrence

Self

Plano, TX

No, no, no. Private schools have funds to support low income families. Keep state funding for education in public schools.

Shelley Ames

Self, I am a homemaker

Arlington, TX

I am a homeschooling mother of 4. We currently enjoy THE MOST education freedom in this state. I do not want government intrusion into my homeschool. Our family makes sacrifices so I can stay home and educate our children and I do not want government money. I also don't want my tax dollars to support private schools, opening the door to government intrusion into private education. I do not want to open the possibility of requiring any standardized testing for homeschool or private schools. These bills claim that we can simply not take the money, but eventually, there will be a call to regulate everyone if even a few people submit to regulations in order to get this money. The best way to help us educate our children is to end the evil that is property taxes and let us keep our own money. Use this surplus on public schools, but don't use it to fund private and homeschools. I don't know a single homeschooler who wants this bill to pass. I do know several public school teachers who plan to quit teaching to start schools so they can get in on this money-is that what we want? To encourage teachers to leave public schools? This bill does nothing to fix the problem it sets out to fix, rather it just creates more problems. We know there are corrupt politicians getting bribes or kickbacks in exchange for passing this awful bill, and that will be the only thing we know about the republicans who vote for this-we will know they are corrupt because this bill doesn't help students, as they claim it will. So that is the only option left. Leave homeschoolers alone. Leave private schools alone. We don't want government money. It's not right for government money to come to us anyway, so stop it.

Emily Voigt-Bandurski

Self

Trophy Club, TX

I'm pleading to the committee to please vote AGAINST school vouchers. The impact of vouchers will create an even more devastating blow and result in even more staffing and program cuts than we're already experiencing due to the legislature's refusal to properly fund public schools. My children's class sizes have already been increased due to the lack of state funding, they will increase significantly in the fall, and if the voucher bill passes, they will be increased more. This will be devastating to our students. My children have already been impacted but the cutting of programs due to the lack of funding.

My perspective is unique, as my children have been educated in public schools, homeschooled, and in private schools until last year. I can unequivocally say that a school voucher bill IS WELFARE FOR THE WEALTHY on the backs of public school students who will suffer more. Even after being enrolled at two different non-elite, "moderately priced" private, NON-urban Christian schools, I can attest that only parents who own second and third homes, take lavish vacations and drive luxury cars, sent their children there -- and not for the academic reasons Gov. Abbott claims private schools provide. Having had kids in two different private schools, they were no comparison to the rigor, accountability, academic opportunity, skilled and accredited teachers, and exposure to diverse opinions and experiences that public schools provide. The majority of private schools are adept at providing a carefully curated cohort of children with like-backgrounds, but not for providing exposure to the careers of the future, diversity of thought that children must navigate as adults in the workforce, challenging curriculum, and future workforce preparation that our public schools do. Parents already have a choice to send their children to private schools, but the vast majority of Texas parents who cannot afford private schools or have a lifestyle that enables them to self-transport their children to private schools - do NOT. Please don't further defund public schools and further punish the vast majority of Texas children. Please vote AGAINST school vouchers.

Trent Lewis

Self/storm water consultant

Pottsboro, TX

I am against HB 3. Please vote no.

Emily Lewis

Self - business owner

Pottsboro, TX

I am against HB 3. Please vote no.

Jennifer Spivey

Self, teacher

Magnolia, TX

Stand up for public schools by putting aside politics and fully funding our schools. Public money should not be spent on private schools. Our representatives that vote in favor of this bill do not represent the will of the majority and do not support or value our public schools or teachers. Stop holding school funding hostage over governor Abbott's misguided priorities. Parents have always had school choice and vouchers will only help affluent families.

Marsha Shaw

Self retired teacher

Georgetown, TX

I oppose state funding for charter schools and/ or vouchers. There is little to zero accountability for charter schools. Public schools are the bedrock of our country and must be protected. The Texas legislature has woefully underfunded schools throughout the 44 years I have lived here. We are shamefully one of the lowest funded states in the country with teacher salaries so low that second and third jobs are needed for survival. With a large surplus of revenue of which the governor is so proud, one would think some of it would be used to remedy this dire situation. School districts have limited ability to raise revenue from property taxes due to constraints placed on them by the legislature. Many districts are functioning in the "red" as income does not cover expenses. Our children are the future and if their education is not a priority, we are all doomed.

Amanda Fierro

Self, Accessibility Consultant

Austin, TX

While I acknowledge that families want more educational choices, I am concerned that this school voucher program does not create real choice for families. I taught students with visual disabilities in public schools for twelve years, and I agree that many issues with our public education system prevent it from effectively serving students. However, funneling money out of this system and into private institutions through vouchers is not the solution. A strong public education system is integral to our democracy, and vouchers undermine public education. Additionally, these programs, as implemented in other states, often lack proper accountability and exacerbate inequality. Private schools, unlike public schools, are not legally required to provide special education services, and they frequently do not have the resources, expertise, and staff to provide high-quality instruction to students with disabilities. Instead of diverting funds to private institutions, I support strengthening public schools to ensure that every child has access to a high-quality education.

Carol Winters

Self. Retired educator.

McKinney, TX

The voucher plan will benefit only a small percentage of Texas families while harming a greater percentage by taking money from public schools. If you want to provide true choice, give the parents of EVERY child \$10,000 to spend as they see fit—for the local public school or private one. But don't give private schools more taxpayer money than you do public schools. Too many communities don't even have private school options. You're forcing public school districts to cut programs because they are underfunded. And vouchers will only make things worse. **VOTERS DO NOT SUPPORT VOUCHERS.** Put it to a vote and see just how unpopular the voucher program is among Texans.

Jordan Pollock

Self - attorney

Dallas, TX

I am a parent of a student in Dallas Independent School District (DISD). I am writing today on behalf of myself and my husband to express our strong opposition to HB3. In our time at DISD, I have been consistently in awe of its incredible teachers and how they meet students where they are academically and socially. These teachers take children from varied cultural, socio-economic, racial, and religious backgrounds and create an environment where children learn not only from their teachers but from each other.

I have seen what these schools have achieved despite inadequate funding from our state. And I know what heights they could reach if our legislature funded them properly. Giving away taxpayer dollars to private schools would do nothing to educate the leaders of tomorrow but would instead harm our communities. DISD already provides families with an incredible array of school choices. There are ways to improve school choice and quality throughout Texas without funding the voucher privatization scam using taxpayer dollars.

Despite being one of the wealthiest states in our nation, Texas consistently ranks near the bottom in funding education for our children. The proposed voucher program would only make this shameful situation worse. A voucher program would not only undermine public schools and harm their students. It would open the floodgates for unregulated for-profit schools that offer poor academics. Most counties in Texas don't even have private schools and would therefore receive almost no benefit from vouchers. Those rural communities would be particularly vulnerable to low quality for-profit schools, which this bill would incentivize. In the cities, which do have private schools, the cost greatly exceeds the proposed vouchers. Accordingly, these vouchers would do nothing but provide an unnecessary cash break to wealthy families who already have their children in private school—coming at the expense of middle class taxpayers.

Parents in Texas do not want the measure passed. Listen to the PTAs, listen to the parents, and think about what a beautiful future Texas would have if it actually invested in our public schools and students. If you truly want to improve public education in Texas, fund it. Don't reduce the already meager amount you allocate to our children's education. We are watching our representatives now; we will remember their actions when election day comes. Stand alongside your constituents and oppose this bill that poses a grave threat to our communities and our children.

Debi Derrick, Ms.

Self-retired energy sector communications specialist

Beaumont, TX

I deeply oppose a bill that will transfer money away from public schools and lavishly shower it on schools whose students/parents are mostly among the wealthier among us. It is a 'land grab' only instead of land barons spitting in the face of farmers, we have ill-informed legislators spitting in the face of children who deserve educations that can propel them into brighter futures. The very idea of giving more money per pupil to private schools than to public schools is a travesty on the face of it.

Shannon Hix

Self

Mckinney, TX

Please don't vote for vouchers. Public school need to be fully funded. Public schools are reducing teachers and increasing class sizes, discontinuing student programs, and even worse, closing schools.

Allison Estolas

self

Fort Worth, TX

Public dollars belong to public education. I oppose the school voucher program.

David Fusco
Concerned Citizens of Texas
Arlington, TX

Please vote "NO" to vouchers in our state. Let the wealthy pay their OWN money to send their children to private schools. Do NOT do anything to defund or lessen the protection of our already stressed public school system. Instead, work to INCREASE the pay for public school system educators.

Crystal Taylor
Self
Round Rock, TX

As a parent, I stand firmly against the school voucher bill HB 3 proposed by Buckley. My primary concern is the diversion of public funds from our already underfunded public schools to private institutions. Public schools are the backbone of our educational system, serving the majority of children in our community, and they desperately need more resources, not less. Redirecting funds to private schools will only widen the gap between those who have access to quality education and those who do not.

Public schools are required to adhere to state educational standards and provide services to all students, including those with special needs. By contrast, private schools have the autonomy to select their students and are not bound by the same regulations. This selective admissions process can lead to a system where public schools become the only option for students with special needs or from disadvantaged backgrounds, further straining their resources and limiting their educational opportunities.

Moreover, the introduction of vouchers could lead to an increase in segregation within our educational system. Historically, vouchers have been used in some areas to create more homogenous school environments, which can result in diminished diversity and fewer opportunities for students to learn from and appreciate different perspectives.

Another critical issue is the lack of accountability in private schools. Public schools are held accountable through standardized testing and public reporting of their performance. In contrast, private schools are not subject to the same level of scrutiny, making it difficult for parents and policymakers to evaluate their effectiveness. This lack of transparency can lead to a misuse of public funds and undermine the goal of improving educational outcomes for all students.

I also worry about the long-term implications of this bill on our public education system. If vouchers become widespread, we risk creating a two-tiered education system where only those who can afford the additional costs associated with private education can access high-quality schooling. This outcome would be detrimental to the principle of equal opportunity and undermine the foundational idea that education should be a public good accessible to all.

Furthermore, the administrative costs of implementing a voucher system can be substantial. The funds spent on managing the voucher program could be better invested in improving public schools, hiring more teachers, and providing essential resources to support student learning.

In conclusion, as a parent, I believe that HB 3 will do more harm than good. It will divert much-needed resources from public schools, increase segregation, reduce accountability, and ultimately create a more unequal education system. Our focus should be on strengthening and improving our public schools to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality education.

Shannon Washburn, Dr.
Self
College Station, TX

I am vehemently opposed to school vouchers. It will destroy the public education system and hurt WAY more students than it will help. I have put 4 kids through public school and am a university professor. VOTE NO TO VOUCHERS!

Nick Macha

Self

Amarillo, TX

If we have money for this, we have more money for public schools. This will solve nothing, private schools won't be able to handle more students anyway and will drive the cost up further keeping it inaccessible to most people. This is the most half baked money grab since the PUF that alienates a giant swath of Texans.

Jeffery McMahan

Self

Dayton, TX

I am a resident of Liberty country Texas. And I support school choice for Texas. And am proud of all those who stand for School Choice and those fighting to uphold truth, justice and righteousness for our Texas school children.

Kelly Coleman

Self

Kyle, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to voucher bill HB 3. The bill for creating vouchers to fund private school education for students using tax dollars and public funds will significantly impact our local schools, potentially taking millions of dollars from local schools, which are already extremely underfunded. I am an advocate for funding schools using enrollment based per student allotments in alignment with national averages (Texas is currently 42nd in the US in funding, and has a funding deficit of approx \$4,000 per student).

We need to stop trying to line the pockets of Billionaires from out of state, and start educating young Texans, as they are our future. Jeff Yass, Tim Dunn, and Farris Wilkes do not represent us, and should not dictate the education of our children. Say no to HB3, and instead fund Texas public schools appropriately!

Catherine Gault

Self

Houston, TX

I am not in favor of this bill. There are no plans for accountability and sustainability. It is maddening to siphon public dollars from public schools. Look, I pay roughly \$6000/year in property taxes. Only part of that is directed toward the school district. I have two children. So I would PROFIT \$14,000 with this bill? Not only is that stealing from public schools, it's stealing from taxpayers. I can see why wealthy people or those who buy more house than they can afford want this - it's theft. A well-educated population and robust middle class is healthy for society. If you continue to dismantle public education, then the onus to educate employees is going to fall on the business owners. They need employees who can read and who have critical thinking skills! And not everyone can afford private schools. I can't for my two kids. We are solidly middle class, own our home, have college and post-undergrad degrees, but we do not live outside our means. That \$14,000 I mentioned above would not be enough. Public schools work best because EVERYONE benefits and EVERYONE contributes. Yes, even those without kids continue to benefit by having a population that is educated. Finally, I went to private schools all through my bachelors degree. I have no problem with private schools. I get it! But even when I was a student I understood why everyone funds public schools and even benefitted from public schools. At the time, our schools were well-funded and I was able to take extra art classes and music lessons and drivers ed over the summers. Wouldn't it be better if we had comprehensive drivers ed again!? I was able to take English classes over the summer and my local high school to help get ahead. So, yes, as a private school student I STILL benefitted from public education. Please reconsider this bill. Thank you.

Delinda Wells

Self

Poolville, TX

We are against this bill

Jaylyn Sprinkel, Mrs

Pta

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3!!!!

Landry Sprinkel, Miss

PTA

Wylie, TX

I opposed HB3!!

Ashley Hopkins

Self/Katy ISD parent

Katy, TX

Texans value our public schools. We do not want funding steered into private schools when the majority of Texans attend public schools, which desperately need updated funding. It's clear this bill will serve to protect a privileged few and hurt the majority. Many Texans specifically choose to reside in areas with strong public schools, and we want them to remain so. Without adequate funding you are hurting millions that have no interest or ability to send children to private schools.

Diana Dale

Self

Andrews, TX

I am NOT in agreement to send my money to any entity that is not public education. Our tax payer money should only go to public schools. It's in our Texas Constitution so why am I having to state this! These ESAs are a scam to get at our tax payer money & in the end they will ruin public education. Our forefathers were correct that we MUST maintain a free and public education for all to get the best citizenry. I am officially and loudly declaring my stance against Hb 3.

Jepilyn Matthis

Self

Montgomery, TX

If you are going to have vouchers then make all schools adhere to equal rules to get the money. That means private schools must hire certified teacher, have required amounts of subjects daily, and have to meet criteria for state testing. They should also have to admit all students.

Debbie Lee

self/financial project manager

Colleyville, TX

Education savings account programs, or vouchers for private school students, only serves students who are already attending private schools. It is welfare for the wealthy, since typically the voucher is not enough to cover all of the tuition. Other states who have adopted voucher programs are now going bankrupt as wealthy people use the vouchers to fund their vacations without any sort of accountability. In addition, why are public school students only worth \$6000 while private school students would receive \$10,000 per student? It is very sad to know that our elected officials, who are supposed to work for the public, actually have been bribed by billionaires who do not even live in this state.

Nicole Verkerk

self - teacher

Austin, TX

Do not establish a education savings program. We need our public schools funded and not to give welfare to the rich who can afford private schools. This bill is more hand outs for the rich. Fund public education!

Melanie Brown
Self - Consultant
Coppell, TX

I am OPPOSED HB 3 for school vouchers and FOR increasing funding for public schools and teacher salaries.

Dr. Johnny Cordero
My Dreams Academy
Ft Worth, TX

We are fully supporting school parental choice and the voucher program.

Jody Elverum
Self
Fort Worth, TX
Oppose

Marco Guajardo
self, Organizer
El Paso, TX

I would like to urge the committee to reject HB 3 and vouchers in general. The pro-voucher testimonies did not adequately address the needs of families in our state and taxpayer money should NOT go to private schools. We have a brilliant and dedicated workforce of public educators (teachers, paras, nurses, counselors, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, and all others) serving our students faithfully - let's show them the respect they deserve and focus on giving them pay raises and improving their working conditions.

Brittany McElroy
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I DO NOT support the voucher bill. Public tax dollars should stay in public schools. Period. This will be welfare for the wealthy and will have a terrible impact on treasured public schools that the Texas legislature has already done a horrendous job of supporting. Please vote no on House Bill 3.

Heather Reck, Mrs
Self/ IT Project Manager
Fort Worth, TX

What a mess of an idea during the worst possible time in history. Do you really want to risk collapsing the systems in favor of education the future generations? Now? While they watch classmates disappear from ICE visits? After learning through a pandemic? While hiding in corners during active shooter lockdowns? While the economy goes to shit? You want to 'f' educating our kids too? So entitled private school kids get MORE entitlement?

I want public schools funded. Stop. I want taxes for educating all kids in public schools. Stop.
Why are you doing this? What is the problem this bill is trying to solve? What problem?

Danna Watkins
Self/teacher
Lubbock, TX

This is one of the worst things that can happen to public school. School choice will only be for the wealthy that can provide transportation and fund what the \$10,000 will not (which is the larger part of it for most all private schools). Neighborhood schools will continue to be full of underprivileged children and there will now be even less funds to provide the education they badly need. This has been presented in a very idealistic way, but it is anything but ideal. The majority DO NOT want this!! Listen to your voters!

Dorothee Irisson Smith

Self

Flower Mound, TX

No to the voucher scam. Stop distorting public education.

Stephanie Barajas

Self

San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB 3, which will benefit the wealthy Texas and hurt the rest of our state. We need to ensure that ALL student have access to to a high quality education, not just for those that can afford it. We need to to strengthen our neighborhood schools.

Scott Sharp

Self

Lybbock, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill for the reasons that (1) any voucher program will detract from the appropriate funding of public schools; and (2) this particular bill contains no appropriate oversight or accountability. The distribution of public funds without accountability is neither conservative nor financially responsible.

Monica Golemo

Self- management

League City, TX

Education is the great equalizer. Vouchers, which will but be accessible to all students, are in contrasts to all this. Every state that has passed vouchers shows a majority go to those already attending private school, thus making the impact minimal for additional students. Please vote no to vouchers.

Jim Windham, Mr.

Self. Former banker and founder of the non-profit Texas Institute for Education Reform.

Houston, TX

HB 3 is one of the most important Texas education reform initiatives of the past century. It will begin to transform the delivery system by putting children and their parents first in choosing what is best for their education needs with funding following the student.

Carolyn Ireland

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am against vouchers. Data shows that voucher programs in other states are overwhelmingly used by and benefiting the wealthiest citizens who could already afford private school and whose children were already attending private schools. All it would be is a handout to the wealthy at the expense of public school funding. Public schools need all the help they can get and this just takes away. It also disproportionately funds students in private schools more than those in public schools as per pupil funding is behind 2019 figures when adjusted for inflation. It is disgusting how public education has been demonized in recent years. Support your public schools and educators.

Eric Anasco

Self - Tutor

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Paul Aguilar
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Strongly oppose how much this bill would hurt my children and our community this is nothing but a scam for the rich

Theresa Williams
Self
San Antonio, TX

I don't want my tax dollars going to this program. Helping rich people that are already sending their kids to private school or homeschooling, does not help the public schools in my area. This will not help public schools in general. This will not help rural areas that do not have private school options. If you want to leave choice to the parents, I choose keeping tax dollars going to public schools and not vouchers.

Patti Wade
CISD
Coppell, TX

I have strong beliefs for our public schools and that all children not only in Coppell, but all of Texas should have the funds and opportunity to be educated equally. I therefore am against Bill HB 3

Cynthia Ford
Self
Dallas, TX

I do not support school vouchers. Even though I have no children, I am happy to pay for public school funding to improve our state's standing related to education. From my research into this type of program, I see no true benefit to the groups of people who have an economic roadblock to sending their children to private schools. Our state's rural areas do not have easy access to private schools and any help through this program, would not provide enough money start help to provide children with true access, as there are a number of things other than tuition that create expenses for the families of students who might want to attend. This will only help those already enjoying private schools, by giving them a discount. I encourage all to vote no.

Maria Elena Ortiz, Mrs.
Myself
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose vouchers. Please vote against vouchers and school of choice.

Please increase the cost spent on education for children to \$1300.

Elizabeth McCullough
Self
Red Oak, TX

As an educator for 15+ years, I am on the front lines. We, one of the wealthiest states in the country, have been underfunding public education my entire career. As of late, we have been held hostage in efforts to pass this voucher scam. Yet, we are still trying to do what is best for kids. Imagine if we invested in public education? Spent the money necessary to put us in the top ten in the nation. We could knock down so many barriers for these kids. Lower class sizes. You name it. And then the second is investing in teachers, retaining teachers, and recruiting teachers. Nobody wants to be a teacher any more and who could blame them!?! The way no one wants to listen to our opinion (when we are the experts in the field) but then blame us with the results they get. Yet there are some of us holding the torch in the darkness waiting for the state to come to its senses. Texas already has school choice. Fund public education. Invest in teachers. Don't provide welfare to the wealthy.

Alicia Baker

Self

Frisco, TX

Vote No to HB3.

Annie Bray

Self

Lubbock, TX

This bill DOES NOT have average working Texans or their children in mind. VOTE NO!

Teresa Douglas

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am a retired teacher and I am VERY MUCH against the voucher program, and very much in support of maintaining our public school system for ALL children in Texas - and some of why:

We need a consistent and quality education standard for teaching and testing of ALL of our students throughout our state. Private/voucher schools do not have to follow such standards for their students.

Many of our families cannot afford non-public schools, even with the help of a voucher system, and voucher schools do not have to take special needs children. These children are also deserving of a quality education. We ALL live in this world together, and we all learn from each other. If parents want to put their children in private schools, they can choose to use their own money to do so - but a voucher system reduces the option of a quality of education for ALL children.

Community life, strength, and livelihood has historically and largely been built around the local public schools in rural communities, and the voucher system would dilute this, and have a disastrous effect on these communities throughout the state.

Emily Petrisky

self

Port Lavaca, TX

This is NOT a liberal issue. This is for ALL Texans. ESAs (vouchers) are anti-public education. In public education, we take ALL of the students regardless of creed, socioeconomic status, race, or intellectual ability. Our economy thrives when the masses are educated. This will greatly impact all public schools, but especially the Title I schools in low socio-economic areas. ESAs are welfare for the wealthy, but truly hurt all middle-class and low socio-economic families that may not be able to afford the difference between the voucher amount and the actual price of the private school, as well as the transportation costs as private schools do not offer transportation. This program will also hurt public schools in rural areas, as they may not even have access to private schools to "choose."

ESAs undermine the very foundation of public education by introducing measures that prioritize partisan agendas over the needs of our students, teachers, and communities. I believe this bill will place an undue burden on our already underfunded schools and further exacerbate the challenges faced by our students and educators. We are already dealing with overcrowded classrooms, a lack of resources, and a system that is struggling to support all students equally. Instead of investing in solutions that improve our schools, such as increasing teacher salaries, reducing class sizes, and ensuring equitable access to resources, This bill seems to prioritize political motivations that hurt our students in the long term.

I ask you to reconsider your stance and listen to the voices of educators, students, and families who are directly impacted by these decisions. We need lawmakers who will support public education, fund it properly, and focus on creating an environment where all students can thrive, regardless of their background or the community in which they live.

Vahista Ussery

Swlf

Fort Worth, TX

Vote no! Do not defund public schools. You are destroying the future of our state, our children's education!!! We cannot handle more deficit, less funding to our district. Republicans and democrats are united in this cause - it's time to listen!

Shohreh Polozadeh

Self

Rowlett, TX

Texas does not need this. This will not help the children who need to be in public schools. This will only help parents who have money. We need more money into our public schools not vouchers for children to go to private schools!!

Cindy Miller

Self

Corsicana, TX

I am not in favor of tax dollars to fund a parents choice off private school. I have raised 5 children in attending both public and private school. Private school was a choice, but not my only choice. For many parents, they do not have a choice. Redirecting public funds only serves to reduce quality of public education and would only assist those like myself, who struggled but managed to pay for private school anyway. With the additional uncertainty of DOE funding, now is not the time to erode State funding of public schools. It would be a backwards move creating economic segregation of our kids, our teachers and our resources. I will not vote for any elected official that votes in favor of passage of this bill.

Molly Jessup

Self/teacher

Denton, TX

I oppose school vouchers because they defund public schools. There will always be families who need public schools, and those schools will always need to be funded. The school system cannot be privatized because there will always be kids who miss out.

Patricia Esquivel, Teacher

Self

Bastrop, TX

Against this most inequitable bill that is a slap in the face for public educators and the families that we serve!

Donna Lefevre

Self

Avoca, TX

Say ni to school t

Say no to school voucher

Rhonda Stratton

Self, Administrative Assistant with an education degree

Crowley, TX

In Rural Communities, Vouchers Aren't a Real Choice

Those who champion vouchers are out of touch with the realities of a state that encompasses nearly 270,000 square miles — second in size in the U.S. to only Alaska and big enough to simultaneously fit 15 of the smallest states, including Kentucky, Virginia, Indiana, Maine, South Carolina, West Virginia, Maryland, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Hawaii, Connecticut, Delaware, and Rhode Island.

Of the 5.4 million public schoolchildren in Texas, nearly 950,000 live in rural areas, where options other than their local public schools are few and far between. It's disingenuous to claim that vouchers will give these families more choice when that means driving dozens of miles every day to a private or religious school. It's not a realistic option for hard-working Texas families in rural areas of our state.

That's precisely why Texas' rural lawmakers have long opposed voucher programs. They know that vouchers would weaken their local public schools, which for generations have rightfully been the pride of their communities.

Vouchers Aren't the Better Educational Choice

A central argument for establishing a publicly funded voucher program is that students in failing schools would have access to a better education. The research clearly suggests otherwise.

An often-cited 2016 report tracked the progress of students receiving private school vouchers in Louisiana and found “strong and consistent evidence that students using an LSP [Louisiana Scholarship Program] scholarship performed significantly worse in math after using their scholarship to attend private schools” (p. 8).

In 2017, a group of researchers did an extensive survey of available studies and concluded “the evidence to date is not sufficient to warrant recommending that vouchers be adopted on a widespread basis.” They noted that awarding students a voucher is not a reliable way “to improve educational outcomes.”

Rather than funnel public money into a new voucher system with no guarantees, those seeking to expand school choice in Texas should consider how to do that within the current public school system, which already has experience in implementing new programs and initiatives to expand options for students.

Texas Public Schools Are Leaders in Choice

The data is clear on how well public schools in Texas are doing in terms of expanding educational options and choices for their students through specialized and personalized learning opportunities.

Here are some important highlights of that success, documented by the Texas Education Agency:

- Texas has nearly 200 public Early College high schools designated across the state, giving students a way to graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate degree.
- More than 1 in 5 Texas public school students in grades 11 and 12 took at least one AP or IB exam in 2019-20, helping ensure college readiness.

Continued in following message...

Richard Anderson

Self

Mansfield, TX

I strongly disagree with this house bill. This would take vital funds from already underfunded schools/districts. We cannot let him take our funds away.

Jessica Massengale

Self, parent

Plano, TX

I hope my Texas representatives stand with me and the majority of Texans in opposing ESA/school vouchers/school choice. The opposing amount increased and that's because it's a plan that is detrimental to the education of Texas children. In a country where we want to be the best and brightest, I hope our elected representatives stand with us to fight for public education - help us provide a great education for Texas children so that Texas and American can thrive!

Connie Briggs
Self/School Counselor
Kingwood, TX

I am asking you to vote No on this and any other Bill that includes voucher. This Bill is strictly political. The Texas public does not want vouchers. Vouchers will not help the average Texan or those with Special needs. Private schools will not serve these students and do not want them. Find Public schools do that we can provide an exceptional education for ALL students!! Vote No!

Sarah Hoffman
Brown County Christian School
Early, TX

First thank you for taking the time to read my comment. Though I represent a private, Christian School, I first and foremost want to say that as the bill is written right now, we would not be eligible to receive funds as a non accredited school. Our school has been open 1997 but was operated as a 2nd location of another school in Oklahoma which provided satellite accreditation. We've been operating independently for almost 2 years now without accreditation but have the goal of beginning the lengthy process soon.

Even though we would not be currently eligible, I want to say that I am in favor of the bill. A lot of comments in person mentioned that private schools often don't have special education services. This bill will give pathways to private schools to be able to start special services. For instance, at our school, we'd love to be able to offer services for Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Autism, and more as we see the growing need in our own community, however, our limited financial resources keep up from being able to hire the specialized staff. Our administrator and a teacher have already been going to trainings for Special Education in Christian Schools and have already begun small steps to move in the direction of providing additional services. I hate it every time we are unable to accommodate a child's needs due to our limited resources. Parents that sit across from me all want the best place for their child and a lot of times motivated by the desire to see their child's education rooted in the Word of God. Even if ESAs do not happen, we hope to grow to be able to offer these much needed services. In the last 2 years, we've provided more trainings to our staff on these special education topics (including Dyslexia training) and try to accommodate students and IEPs if we are able, but if their needs exceed our limitations, accepting these students would be a disservice and not in the best interest of the child. I see ESAs can provide opportunities for private schools to expand special education offerings. Many may not, but it opens the door to increase extra services.

I had not heard one person share this view point, so I wanted to make it known. I heard a lot about how private schools can turn down students, and that is totally true. However, this could allow new private schools specializing in special education and disabilities to open, give current private schools an opportunity to grow in that area, and over time give more options to children with special needs, not less.

Whether you are FOR or AGAINST HB3, ESAs, and this school choice issue, thank you for advocating for the education of Texas children. Thank you for service in the Texas House of Representatives. Thank you for hearing both sides of the issue. Thank you for carefully considering what is best for our state. Thank you for stewarding Texas tax dollars in what you believe will be best for Texas. God bless you, and God bless Texas.

Paula Collins
Self/retired
Angleton, TX
Opposed

Cheryl Treadwell
Self - retired
Lubbock, TX

No to vouchers!! No to ESAs!!
Private schools do not accept ALL students! Public tax dollars should stay in public schools which do accept all students! Support public education by fully funding!!

Kathryn Garza
Self
Missouri City, TX

School vouchers are elitist and will not serve the majority of Texas kids. Private schools can and will pick only those kids they deem as suitable for their schools which will leave our underserved kids still underserved. Evidence from other states proves that the majority of parents who benefit from vouchers are wealthy ones whose kids were already in private schools before vouchers. Public money should stay public and should not be handed out freely to a small group of families. When you're able to provide vouchers for EVERY child in our state and when there are private schools willing and required to accept whomever applies, then maybe this could be revisited.

Cyral Miller
League of Women Voters
Austin, TX

I was at the hearing from before 8am and until a little before 10:30pm without being able to speak. Not sure how y'all lasted all night! I appreciate this opportunity to submit this testimony. from the League of Women Voters of Texas.

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

I am Cyral Miller, testifying as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas in opposition to HB 3. We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today. Thank you for allowing us to share the League of Women Voters of Texas position on this bill.

We Oppose HB 3.

The League of Women Voters believes that an equitable, quality public education is critical for students and that taxpayer dollars should be allocated to public institutions subject to public review and supervision. This commitment to public education is also enshrined in the Texas constitution.

The League of Women Voters opposes any program using taxpayer dollars to fund private, for-profit, or religious schools. Education savings accounts divert taxpayer dollars to fund private education delivered by entities and vendors that are not accountable to taxpayers. Given that our Texas public schools are already underfunded, experiencing school closures, discontinuing programs, and losing highly educated, professional, certified educators, any further decline in funding will make it even more difficult to provide the high-quality education our students need and deserve.

Voucher programs have not been proven to increase student achievement or expand opportunities for students with the highest needs, they operate without the requirements for state approved curriculum, certified teachers, or academic accountability, they are not subject to mandates to address special education or English learner needs, they lack transparency and equity considerations, and there are few high-quality private options in rural areas. If private schools are to be the beneficiaries of public money, the public should have the ability to judge the quality of instruction, as they can for public schools; for example, by using state test results, attendance and graduation statistics.

Texas already allows for school choice. The League of Women Voters encourages lawmakers to prioritize the equitable and adequate funding of our public schools. Public education is the best investment we can make in the future of our children and our state. For additional information, please contact: Sharon Hirsch, Public Education Issue Chair, hirsch.sharon@gmail.com.

The League of Women Voters is one of America's oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, the League of Women Voters of Texas represents over 13,000 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the State of Texas.

Nicole Duvall
Self
Fort worth, TX

Against school vouchers. They hurt kids. Any politicians for this is either corrupt, stupid or both.

Dax Petty
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Against vouchers

Addae kraba
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Boerne, TX

Tacking tax dollars for public schools to fund private schools is egregious and unjust.

Samantha Sanders
Self
McKinney, TX

I am writing to oppose HB 3. I send my children to public schools and they have been well served by those hard working teachers and staff that put so much heart and work into providing my children with the tools they need to succeed. I want public schools to receive the funds they need to provide the best education we can offer students in the state of Texas. Other states like Indiana, North Carolina, and Louisiana have voucher programs and the academic results are mixed, at best. Why would we rob public schools of funds for a program that hasn't demonstrated its effectiveness in other states? Why do families that can already afford private school need public funds to send their kids to private school? I believe we need to do the most good for the most number of students, and I believe that is through fully funding our public schools.

Rachelle Edwards
Self - parent of 3 school aged children
Lucas, TX

Hello, I am writing today as a parent of three Texas students in a small north Texas district. My district, Lovejoy ISD, has suffered many set backs over the years due to the way Texas funds it's public schools. The ESA/Voucher programs being proposed would directly impact my district in a negative way. Funding loss estimates for Lovejoy ISD range from \$500,000 up to \$1.6 million dollars. We cannot afford ANY loss. We are constantly fundraising in an attempt to make up for the way the state short-changes us. For example, we have resorted to crowdfunding the salaries of some of our school marshals because the state requires us to meet security standards, but doesn't provide the funding necessary to meet those standards. We only had three elementary schools to start with, and we have had to close one of them. We have had to cut a class period from our middle and high school days - hence cutting classes and reducing educational opportunities for our kids. We are having trouble hiring and retaining certified teachers because our schools are so chronically underfunded. To have this voucher system implemented that would reduce our already meager funding even further feels like a slap in the face. We should not be diverting public tax dollars to private schools while our own public schools, that serve the vast majority of Texas children, are struggling to pay teachers and keep their doors open. As a taxpayer and a parent, this entire plan feels like a betrayal. Tax dollars are supposed to be used for public services, not handed over to private businesses that are exempt from oversight and allowed to, essentially, discriminate against children with disabilities by choosing not to enroll them. I want my tax dollars spent on making our public schools the best in the country. As it stands, Texas schools are ranked in the bottom half of the nation. We have no business spending public funds on private entities while our schools are slipping down the ranks. We should be investing aggressively in all students' futures; not just the ones who happen to live near a private school.

Kelly Mills
Self
Mesquite, TX

Please think again about what these bills do to public education in Texas. Public schools already struggle to adequately pay teachers and staff. They already struggle to implement government mandated programs without sufficient funding to do so. They already struggle to maintain safe and updated antiquated facilities. They already struggle to provide health and community services to students and parents. Instead of taking money from public education to fund a voucher system geared toward those already able to seek alternative education, please invest money into our public schools so that all students in Texas can receive public education at a higher level. Invest in teachers and staff so all Texas students are served by the best. Invest in programs that serve to advance all Texas students so we graduate students who are the best in their fields and who will be sought after to represent and serve our state, communities, and nation. Invest in facilities and technology that provide safe and savvy environments for all Texas students. School choice doesn't have to exist outside of our public schools. Work to create a public school system that provides for choice within the system at strong schools supported by our Texas government, parents, communities, and taxpayers. Texas deserves to be #1 in the nation for quality education for all students, not just the few.

Dave Mason
self/retired
LEXINGTON, TX

Please consider that MOST Texas student have no access to private schools and giving \$10,000 to some parents will not change this. There are no private schools in Muleshoe or Dime Box but those hard earned tax dollars will flow somewhere to private individuals who may or may not need them. Since when is \$160,000 any indication of poverty? Average income for 2023 in Lee County is under \$35,000. PUBLIC MONEY BELONGS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS as per the Texas Constitution, not billionaires who fund political campaigns. This is robbery of public funds for private purposes.

Mary Brown
Self
Georgetown, TX

As a native Texan and 23 year veteran teacher, I ask you to vote no on HB 3. Vouchers will primarily benefit families who can already afford private education, while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. Private schools do not have to accept students with disabilities, special needs or behavior challenges, thereby leaving the choice with the schools and not parents. Furthermore, this violates separation of church and state and I want NONE of my tax dollars to support someone else's religious ideology. Please uphold the Texas constitution and fully fund our public schools.

Carl Carl
Self
Austin, TX

I do not support vouchers. Stop draining public school funding.

Lily Garcia
Self, Family.
Houston, TX

My family and I are homeowners, homeschoolers, freedom-lovers. We pay over \$6k in property taxes yearly, vote, and serve as educators in our community. We stand in opposition to this bill, which serves as a slippery slope into additional regulation and loss of liberties. This bill holds little to no benefit, and the repercussions will be felt for generations. Please listen to the people.

Misty Schnabel

Teacher

Mineral Wells, TX

Vouchers hurt public schools! I'm a teacher at Millsap ISD and have been for the last 15 years! We are paid less but educate business men/women, doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, and. Etc. we educate ALL students we don't choose! We need that money in our schools to pay teachers, paraprofessionals and provide for the students who deserve the best education and that doesn't mean private schools! Private schools choose and refuse! Public do neither but we do educate ALL! Think about how many teachers you will screw over with this stupid bill! We don't have enough now! You will be putting teachers and students in danger if you pass vouchers! Over loaded classes is just asking for trouble and it's not fair to the students nor the teachers!

Pam Lougee

Self

Austin, TX

"Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As s Texan, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance. Vouchers are welfare for the rich, please use our tax dollars to help public education and educators.

Cooper Woodard

Self

Paradise, TX

School vouchers are a terrible idea and will make the state broke. Help public schools so all Texas children benefit.

Delinda Lucke

Self

Floydada, TX

I taught in public schools for over 17 years. The amount spent on each public education student by the State of Texas is not near enough for all the programs and services they are expected to get and for all the things that they are supposed to effectively learn. I believe that the State of Texas should be spending more on public education and actually fully and effectively be paying for that education, and not taking tax payers' money away from those public education students. I believe that parents that want to put their children in private schools should pay for them on their own. In most rural communities, like the one that I live in, there isn't a private school within 30 miles and it requires a lot more than tuition to pay for that private education, like gas for driving that distance twice a day. Also, private schools do not have the same standards, accreditation requirements, or any kind of accountability, like standardized testing to track their learning and results, or how their money is spent on, and for, each student. I don't believe that public education funds should be spent on private schools, in any way or for any reason.

Eve Myers
Self—consultant
Tomball, TX

My concerns about this bill are the same as last year and every time this ESA scheme has been presented since James Leininger first funded the voucher plan. Fund public education FIRST to ensure ALL students have the opportunity to attend a high quality public school. Restore the \$4.5 billion that was withheld in 2023 AND increase the basic allotment to offset the impact of inflation. Do not create a separate entitlement that will cost taxpayers billions with zero accountability as to how the funds are used. As a taxpayer, parent of two public school graduates, and community member in Tomball ISD, I want to know that any private school funded with my tax dollars has to meet the same standards as our public schools. Any schools receiving a voucher should have to accept ALL students, hire certified teachers, and test students annually using the STAAR test and report data so student achievement can be compared to public school students. Private schools should have to meet the same safety requirements as public schools. Vouchers or ESAs should be limited to those who cannot afford private schools and should not be used as a discount for those already sending their children to private schools. The ESA program should be limited to a small percentage of students so that the program doesn't become unaffordable for the state as we've seen happen in AZ and other states where it's created budget deficits. And there should not be financial benefits to vendors for managing the program. This is nothing but a vendor bill in disguise. Fund public schools and forget ESAs.

Kristen Nowell-Green
Self/self-employed hairstylist
Wylie, TX

Please, vote NO on HB 3.

Maria Robinson
"Self" Skin Therapist
Cypress, TX

I am strongly against this voucher bill.

This bill will not benefit those that need it , instead it will give the wealthy a reduction in their private school costs , which the majority , if not all , do not need assistance with - it is a waste of money that could be put to much better use .

This bill is of no use to those in the lower income bracket as they would still not be able to afford private education . This must be stopped .

The most dispicable part is that it is also taking money away from public schools - what an absolute disgrace - anyone who genuinely cares about education in Texas should not support this bill . Anyone who does support this bill needs to take a long hard look at themselves , their morals & be SURE they understand what this bill means . Think of young children & not how many \$'s you can save - be good , be kind , do the right thing & don't be selfish so those who are not as fortunate as yourself , have the chance of a good education , money not taken out of public schools & an opportunity they deserve .

Kristen Shepperd
Self
College Sta, TX

Parents currently have a choice to send their kids to private schools or home school. Our public education system needs to be fully funded. There is no other option. Parents wouldn't need alternative schooling options if the public schools were funded and could support all the necessary programs. Do not pass this bill or fund this ridiculous program. Public education first.

Eli Newman
Chabad of Allen-McKinney
Plano, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Kimberley Martin
Representing Myself as a Parent and Community Member
San Antonio, TX

I am a Republican, I strongly oppose HB 3, and I am against school choice and vouchers. Public funding should not be used for private schools. A proposal of \$10,000 a year for vouchers for private schools and raising the basic allotment only by \$600 per public school student is sickening. As a product of public education and a educator in the public school system for 28 years as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and director, I believe those who support the bill want to destroy the public school system.

Nicole Herron
Self - parent
Allen, TX

I am writing to request that the education committee oppose HB3.

School choice and vouchers are not the same thing. No one is saying that parents can't choose private or home schooling. But taking money away from public schools for vouchers only hurts the people that already couldn't afford those choices and really doesn't make it actually about choice. Garland ISD allows school choice within the district. The only requirement is that parents provide transportation if they choose a school that isn't in their neighborhood. That choice I can get behind. But vouchers only take away from the schools that are doing everything they can with as little as they already get for their students.

Again, I request that the committee vote NO on HB3.

Sincerely,
Nicole Herron

Kristy Ybarra
Self/Parent
San Marcos, TX

We already have school choice! No to the vouchers. It will not help those who can not afford private school! Want to help schools get rid of the STAAR Test!

Juan Cortina
Macedonian Christian Academy
McAllen, TX

My kids have always attended private schools. My daughter is currently a public school teacher and thrives on strong biblical foundations. My son is currently in a private high school and is thriving in community service and I strongly believe that Christian schools impact our youth.

Lisa Bushong
Self retired teacher
Houston, TX

FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS FIRST
By increasing their basic per student allotment which hasn't been intended since 2019. DO NOT divert taxpayers funds from public to private schools.

Tiffany Baban
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose vouchers & I implore you to vote against this bill.

Lauren Nygard

Representing my self, my children, and all the children of Texas.

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Beth Crowley

Self

Spicewood, TX

I oppose school vouchers categorically.

Michelle McVey

Self, public school teacher

Brookshire, TX

I want to strongly express that I do NOT support HB3 and the education savings accounts (vouchers). Our public schools are sorely underfunded, forcing class sizes to grow, certified and experienced teachers to leave the classroom, and forcing ISDs to hire inexperienced or uncertified teachers. Our public schools are educating the next generation of Texans, and I know we would all appreciate being able to hire well-educated workers in every sector of the workforce, as well as be able to elect well-educated leaders. It is a constitutional obligation to fully fund our public schools. Please listen to the public who actually uses the public schools and vote AGAINST HB3 and educational savings accounts.

Julie Weidemann

Self, RDH

Brenham, TX

This house bill is a disgrace. I do not understand how any of those who voted for it actually believe it is what the people of Texas want and believe it is a good idea. This bill is not fare in any way and will only make the education system worse. I am a republican but I am ashamed of all the republican representatives that voted in favor of this. I am still trying to wrap my mind around the fact that people actually think this is a good choice. It is absolutely crazy!

Carole Harbison, Mrs

Self

Lubbosb, TX

Please vote against HB 3. This bill serves 2% or less of Texas students but causes a great disadvantage for 98%. We must protect public education.

Tara Fitzpatrick

Self

Houston, TX

FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS FIRST by increasing the basic per-student allotment, which hasn't increased since 2019, to offset the impact of inflation and RESTORE the \$4.6 billion in funding that was withheld in 2023. Also, restore bus service to neighborhoods for the safety of students. NO TO THE VOUCHER SYSTEM.

CARA FULLER

Self

Sanger, TX

This bill does not benefit the majority of Texas students. This money should go to public schools to help fund the items public schools are currently struggling with including unfunded federal regulations.

Rachael Jenkins

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Public schools are dying! You need to fully fund them! As at MINIMUM the per student allotment needs to be raised \$1,300 to get to 2019 levels if you account for inflation. There is no more fat to be trimmed in these districts! Please! They need to be FULLY funded! Now!

Diana Bridges, MS

Self church staff

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers disproportionately benefit the wealthy and also subsidize religious education. It's the job of the legislature to fund public schools for the benefit of all Texas children--not to do the bidding of Greg Abbott and his billionaire enablers.

George Edwards, Mr

Self

Center Point, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3 and any other bill that promotes the voucher scheme. Passage of such legislation will destroy public schools and rural communities. It will only benefit the rich. It is also unconstitutional as the Texas Constitution calls for free public education for the diffusion of knowledge. It also creates a significant divergence between haves and have nots. The American Dream is based on the ability to rise above one's circumstances. And the key to that is education. This bill will close off opportunities for those born in less fortunate circumstances to succeed. It also goes against the basic premise of public education to create a community of successful citizens. Not merely pawns for billionaires and religious fanatics. Grow some balls and do your job. Even if you are a Conservative. Nobody voted for this bullshit or the line of bullshit you are trying to sell. Don't allow yourself to be a prostitute for special interests.

Ashley Anderson

Self

Spring, TX

Texans do not want vouchers! We want public education to be fully funded. We have a lack of resources to help our students because the state has a surplus they are refusing to use to help students. These students need all the resources we can give them!

Pat Ridlehuber

Self education

Woodway, TX

Have you thanked the teacher who taught you to read? You might do that by supporting public education that you messed up by creating this bill. Fix your mess by voting NO.

Jerri Pool

Self, retired educator and grandparent

Round Rock, TX

Texas school children deserve better than under funded public schools. Taxpayer money should not be used to fund private education especially since there will not be the accountability that public schools face. If legislators are wanting to change the education system in Texas by funding vouchers with taxpayers money, then I feel that voters/taxpayers should have a chance to vote on the issue. I am absolutely against funding ESAs with taxpayer money.

Sarah Dyer

Self

Georgetown, TX

I support public education and DO NOT support vouchers!!!

Joyce Litwitz
Self
Round Rock, TX

No school vouchers for private schools

Steve Cook
Self
Austin, TX

Our schools and teachers need better funding! NOT USING ALREADY UNDERFUNDED SCHOOLS TO HELP THE RICH PAY GIR PRIVATE SCHOOLS. Our students and our state deserve better!!!! Do the right thing and VOTE AGAINST SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Nicole Zunker
Self
Cypress, TX

My name is Nicole Zunker, and I am a parent, an educator, and a resident of Cypress, Texas. I am here today to urge the committee to oppose House Bill 3. This bill would have significant negative consequences for our education system and the students it serves.

I'm employed in the third largest school district in Texas - I teach in a high school that has a student population that is close to the total population of my hometown (about 4,000 people) - it's quite the change. This year my largest class size is 32 students. I don't have enough desks for each student as each classroom is allocated 30 desks and there aren't any more to be had on campus, so I purchased two folding tables so my students had a place to sit and learn. If this bill were to pass, my district would have to make even more budget cuts to cope with the loss of funding, likely in staff reductions this time - which could mean I could be looking at class sizes of 40+ students. How are students supposed to learn in a class that size? How am I supposed to get to know my students? Building relationships is the reason I am in education - people matter. Their stories matter.

Shifting our tax dollars to private schools in the name of "school choice" is robbery. School choice for who? Not my Special Education students who are almost always denied entry into private schools because of their disabilities. Their only choice is public school and it's criminally underfunded now. We barely have the resources we need to serve our vulnerable student populations. Teachers barely make enough to make ends meet - I should know. I'm a single parent to two kids on a teachers salary. It's becoming untenable.

Instead of implementing the measures outlined in HB 3, I urge the committee to prioritize policies that strengthen public schools, invest in teachers, and provide equitable opportunities for all students. Texas should focus on improving education through increased funding, reduced testing pressures, and policies that empower educators and local school districts. Our public schools go beyond preparing the next generation for the future - they are the lifeblood of the present.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 3 and advocate for legislation that truly supports Texas students and teachers. Please, think less about the wants of the wealthy that help line your pockets and more about the needs of your constituents who are lining the Capitol today. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Frieda Schuck

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Janann Pittman

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) introduced in 2025, which seeks to expand school vouchers in the state. As a concerned citizen and advocate for quality education for all Texas students, I believe this bill will harm public schools and undermine the core values of equity, fairness, and opportunity in our education system.

Expanding school vouchers would divert much-needed funding away from public schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children. Public schools are the cornerstone of our education system, legally required to accept all students, regardless of background, abilities, or socioeconomic status. By funneling taxpayer dollars to private schools, HB 3 would severely weaken the resources and programs available to students in public schools, especially those who rely on them for a quality education. This move would disproportionately impact students in low-income and underserved communities, who are already facing significant challenges and disparities.

Instead, I recommend increasing funding per student, as research shows this approach has a proven impact on academic performance. A 2023 study from Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research found that increased funding directly improves student outcomes, including academic achievement, behavior, and future employment (source: Rice University Study: <https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/when-it-comes-education-outcomes- we-get-what-we-pay>).

Hispanic, Black, and other marginalized students face disproportionate financial barriers due to systemic racism and historical inequities in education. Increasing per-student funding would help bridge this gap, offering these students greater opportunities for success. A 2021 study from Rutgers University calculated the cost of bringing the average test scores of the poorest 20% of students in each state up to the national average. The study found that in Texas, \$12,682 per student annually is needed to close this performance gap (source: Shanker Institute Study: <https://www.shankerinstitute.org/sites/default/files/The%20Real%20Shame%20of%20the%20Nation.pdf>).

While the gap in funding is substantial, it is not insurmountable. By prioritizing alternative legislation that invests directly in public schools, we can ensure all students receive the quality education they deserve.

Public School Funding = a Strong Texas!

Anne Price

Self, Nurse Practitioner

Hurst, TX

I am a native Texan who grew up using the Texas public education system. Because of my education, I was successful in college and was able to achieve a master's degree and Nurse Practitioner certification. I am now raising two children who are also using the public education system, and I love their schools. However, funds are already short and we are often having to fundraise and donate, both time and money. And this is in a zone that I would consider to be one of the more advantaged in our school district, so I can only imagine what challenges schools in a lower socioeconomic area are facing. A voucher system in no way benefits a student who cannot afford private school as a voucher would not cover their entire tuition. As our state elected officials, it is your job to advocate for a robust public education system in your state, a system that is accessible to all children and that provides a strong educational foundation regardless of socioeconomic status. A voucher system takes away even more funding from our students who rely on public education. I cannot understand why it would be prudent to market "school choice" when this is already an option. A discount for the rich does not improve outcomes for the majority of Texas children. Please advocate for your Texas children and build up our public education system instead of stripping it away- this is your job!

Julie Welch

Aisd

Austin, TX

Nooooo on school vouchers!!!

Pamela Wilson

Self

Cypress, TX

Vouchers are good but state needs to regulate charter schools and require standardized tests the same as public schools. But people should have a choice. When public schools compete, they will not keep bad teachers and teach liberal agendas.

Nancy Marston

Self

Dallas, TX

I am totally against this bill. We need more money in public education. This bill will benefit the wealthy families with students in public schools. And will cause schools to be opened that charge the exact amount of the vouchers that won't be required to provide special education.

Krista Conner

Self; Teacher

Abilene, TX

Parents and guardians currently have the choice of where they want their children to attend. All funding should be used for public education, not for vouchers.

Taylor Tidmore, Dr.

Self - Physician

Abilene, TX

I just recently joined the Abilene ISD school board in June of 2024. I am still learning a lot, but I have really enjoyed the job so far. I have had children in AISD for 15 years and it was my deep love for the district that motivated me to run for school board last year. While I have always been very appreciative of the district, being on the board and getting an insider's look has made my love and appreciation of our district, our administrators, and our teachers grow exponentially. I get to witness on a regular basis a group of people giving their heart and soul to better the lives of the children of our community.

While the work they do is so impressive, it often seems they are fighting an uphill battle. It often feels like they are not getting the support and appreciation they need and deserve from the state level. While money cannot solve every problem, it sure would make their jobs easier and their chances of success seem much more in reach.

In August the AISD school board, like 50-60% of the districts in our state, adopted a deficit budget (\$14 million in our case). We did not adopt a deficit budget because we are not being good stewards of our money or because we are being wasteful. It is because our public schools are not being funded at a level that has kept up with inflation and allows us to do the job of educating kids at the highest level. In the last six months we have made major changes to help us move towards a balanced budget—implemented a hiring freeze, enforced a strict staffing matrix, voted to close two elementary schools (one of which my kids attended for 14 years), and asked principals to begin cutting expenses by 5-10%, just to name a few examples.

I am asking you to fight for an increase in the basic allotment. While special moneys for safety, implementing new curriculum, and teacher raises is great there is no guarantee the money will be given in the next legislative session. The basic allotment is the money schools can count on to be there consistently and that they can base a balanced budget on. A \$500-\$1000 increase in the basic allotment would go a long way towards allowing districts like ours and others across the state to do the job they are asked to do.

I would also ask that you vote against Governor Abbott's Education Freedom Plan / ESA / vouchers. Using state funds for private school education is unacceptable in my opinion. We have a lot of low-income families in our district. Even if you give them \$10,000 they still cannot afford one of the few private schools in our city. And even if they can come up with the funds there is no guarantee the private school will accept them. Not to mention all the rural communities in our area have no private school options to even consider. Taking money from struggling and hurting schools and giving it to private schools is not the solution.

I think you are aware that the large majority of the Texas public is against vouchers. Please listen to them!

April Hughes

Self

Moran, TX

I am asking you to vote not to HB2 AND HB 3. Passing these bills will tell me all I need to know as far as the value you place in me as a public school teacher. I have wanted to be a teacher for as long as I have been alive. I have poured my blood, sweat, and tears into this profession. I have seen students find their passion and been there when they find success in the classroom in something that was a struggle for so long. By taking funding from my classroom and giving it to a private school because parents made a CHOICE to send their child is wrong on many levels. As with Joe Biden's student loan forgiveness program, parents make the choices to send their children to private school or homeschool their children. Those same parents should figure out ON THEIR OWN how they will find that choice. No one is forcing them to do that. If you want those who choose to go to college to pay their own way, then it should be the same for parents who choose private school for their children.

Yvonne Beatty, LTC(R), US Army

Self

Lakeway, TX

The voucher scam is just that, a scam that misrepresents what funding for vouchers will do or not do. More importantly, it will take already insufficient funding of public schools, down and away from where it is needed, and give it to people who have plenty of money, and can already afford to pay for their kids to attend private schools. There is already a "choice"; and unfortunately those who cannot afford this "choice" will be even more disadvantaged by less funding to public schools. The Governor is lying to Texans. It's shameful. Educating our children is the best thing we could do for them, and stripping funding away public schools is robbery. We the public aren't stupid, as much as Abbott may think we are. I know he owes his billionaire buddies brothers from Cisco, who run a weird private church/ school, because they believe in religion and tailored schooling, also called "grooming", but we aren't buying it, and we know AND YOU KNOW, it's bad for average Texans. Please do not vote for school vouchers.

VIRGINIA JENTSCH

self & neighbors

Arlington, TX

As you have seen in the news, private schools have no oversight as to what they pay administrators. One religious school district of 1000 kids was paying the superintendent \$800k+ in salary & bonuses. Much of the money controlled by the parents will be spent on private lessons--horseback riding, rock climbing, etc. Arkansas allows this as do other states. Most of Arkansas' vouchers were spent at the urban private school used by the governor.

Why would I want my tax dollars going to pay for a child's hobby?? Welfare for the wealthy!

Parents already have choices in public schools--a lot more than they will get in a little private school with uncertified teachers. Give public schools the funds they should have gotten 6 yrs ago and maybe this state wouldn't be so far behind in reading & math. Private schools only work for rich parents who can provide transportation, can pay the rest of the tuition, their child has no disabilities, the child can pass the entrance exam & provide references, and the child is white. Keep our public schools strong--they are the foundation of our Democracy.

Karen Trost, MS

Self/editor

Keller, TX

I am against HB3; establishment of an education savings account program would fund school vouchers with taxpayer money. Instead of funneling funds toward unregulated private schools, I recommend that the Texas legislature focus on fully funding and supporting Texas public schools so that every Texas student has an equal chance of success. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Phyllis Prycer, Ms

self

Mesquite, TX

Please put a stop to the School Voucher bill!! It places a disproportionate burden on those least able to go to private schools. Properly fund public schools and raise the bar there. Then, more will be wanting public education!! Abbott's additional concern to encourage training for the trades is admirable, but seems contra to the vouchers. Folks in private schools are less likely to want a vocation with plumbing, electrical, etc than those in public schools.

Just say NO! to school vouchers!! Small districts and rural counties will suffer!

If state of Texas can afford to fund private schools at \$10,000 per student, it can't afford to do less for those who attend public schools! We should have "Students over Billionaires!" Most likely those kids won't have transportation to the fancy schools because their parents work! If you give a portion of Texas school-age students a certain amount, ALL Texas school-age students should get the same amount!!

Please stop this School Choice/Voucher nonsense OR take it to the voters!!

How many Congressmen have a direct connection to a private school?? Would be interesting to know and definitely a conflict of interest!

Ann Jones

Self

Austin, TX

No to school vouchers!
We need an educated society.

Sam Graff, Mr.

SELF

Austin, TX

Please consider leaving the education system in place as it is. Only the rich will benefit from school vouchers. The citizens of Texas and the United States deserve better than this proposal.

Nicola Toubia, ESQ

Self -- Attorney

Houston, TX

Dear Elected Officials, I am strongly against vouchers for public education. From 2010 - 2017, I served as a Commissioner to the Houston Housing Authority, which is responsible for distributing Section 8 vouchers to eligible persons. In 2014/2015, my fellow Commissioners and I opened up the housing voucher waiting list for new applicants. We had over 80,000 folks apply for 2,000 vouchers. I STRONGLY OPPOSE education vouchers because supply will never ever equal demand. Further, I do not want my hard-earned tax dollars to subsidize education costs for wealthy students. That is ridiculous and inefficient. My tax dollars will go farther by providing good public education to more Texans. I favor a strong public education system because I want to interact with educated Texans -- whether they are drawing my blood, fixing the roads, or repairing my car -- because educated folks will do a better job. These vouchers are a very very bad idea.

Elizabeth Strand

Self

Buda, TX

I urge you to reject the establishment of an education savings account. Give that money to public schools. Texas ranks in the bottom 10 states for per-student funding. Put your efforts and money into making public education in Texas the best it can be. Say no to vouchers!

Angela Sherr

Self/ teacher

Richardson, TX

Vote NO on HB3

Katherine Storck

Self

Austin, TX

As a teacher and voter, I oppose the school voucher programs because it takes money away from schools and therefore children.

Robert Szafran

self

Nacogdoches, TX

Please vote NO on HB3. It will ultimately hurt all Texas public schools. It will particularly hurt rural public schools. It will disburse public monies to private organizations without adequate monitoring.

CLOEVA SPITZER

PTA/ Parent/ Student/ Self

Carrollton, TX

This is not good for public education. Stop holding our public funds! Uphold Article VII of our state constitution that requires the state legislature to establish and maintain a system of free public schools. Article X prohibiting the diversion of the fund for other uses (private school funding). FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jill Black

Self

Fort Worth, TX

As a former public school teacher in Texas and a parent of 3 children who attended public schools, I want to register my STRONG opposition to vouchers. Vouchers do not offer low income people access to private school, they essentially provide another financial incentive to the wealthy. Our wealth gap in Texas has increased and our testing scores have dropped. We need to FULLY fund education and restore basic allotment by at least \$1340 to return to 2019 levels.

Jeremy Matthews

self engineer

Plano, TX

I am opposed to HB 3, because it diverts state funds away from "the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools" as required by the Texas Constitution. Public schools are the schools that need help, and they should be the legislature's focus. HB 3 is a diversionary effort that does not put faith in or a best effort into our public school system. It undercuts our public schools. Public schools are foundational to our communities. Instead of strengthening that foundation, HB 3 weakens it. HB 3 is about very wealthy people pushing the state legislature around with their financial contributions to get their wishes for private and religious-based schools. They don't need any help. They're doing just fine and can fund their favored private schools themselves. Do not make ordinary middle-class and poor taxpayers do this. Finally, tax dollars should not go to schools which are highly unaccountable compared to public schools which must meet many standards and can not turn away students.

Madeline Thorpe

Self, teacher

Cypress, TX

I am a concerned constituent from Cypress, TX and I'm urging the Texas House of Reps to vote NO to HB 3 and the educational savings account program. Instead I would urge you to advocate for increased funding for public schools that does more than simply keep up with inflation.

I am a private school teacher who supports full funding for public schools so that ALL students in Texas have access to high quality education. The proposed educational savings account program is expensive and yet will only serve a very small percentage of Texas students. While it claims to serve low income students, the income threshold is high and it does not provide adequate funding to allow truly low income students to attend private schools. Thus, this will amount to a coupon for select families who already have the means to attend private school. Additionally, it only funds enough educational savings accounts to support a very small percentage of Texas students and only some Texas counties even have access to private schools. All our students deserve a high quality education, regardless of their family's income or which county they call home.

This is not school choice. Abbott has curried favor with billionaires to push an educational savings account program that Texans on both sides of the aisle do not support. PLEASE VOTE NO on HB 3.

Angela Briggs Briggs

Self

Trophy Club, TX

Public money should go to public schools only. Stop trying to hold public funds hostage by trying to create a voucher system to give public dollars to private religious schools.

Rhonda Greene, Ms

self

Austin, TX

Texans do not want to have school voucher programs created, implemented or funded. We want our Public Schools to be fully funded as promised by the implementation of a State Lottery. What happened? Why are 73% percent of our school districts underfunded? And 14% drastically underfunded. We need to fix our current education system, fund it correctly and stop trying to complicate the system along with adding additional, not well defined, oversight. Where did this idea come from and why are we still discussing it?

Lindsey Deringer

Self

Wimberley, TX

Hello,

I am a parent of three Wimberley ISD kids and am also a newly elected Wimberley ISD school board member. I ask that you please consider our public schools and how we have had to pass deficit budgets the last few years. We cannot afford to lose any more public funding, that includes funding to vouchers. I have seen so many people against this bill, including republicans and democrats. I have rarely seen, if any, people for this bill. Please REALLY listen to your constituents. Seek us out, ask us. Funding is in a dire situation in districts like ours and we hope that you hear that and consider that when contemplating your vote. I ask that you vote AGAINST this voucher bill. Thank you for your time and commitment to doing what is best for Texas public schools.

Lindsey Deringer

Samantha Armbruster

Self

San Marcos, TX

Please don't dismantle our public education system. Our school district is a community and family support system and needs MORE of our support and funding, Not less.

Stand up for Texas kids, stand up for the future of Texas-do not pass this bill and move forward with vouchers

Leonora Boulton

Self, stay-at-home-mom

Austin, TX

Let's slice through the rhetoric and call this what it really is; one more way for billionaires to make money and destroy the lives of regular Americans. All of your talking points are outright lies that I don't have time to refute here. We have school choice now; people are free to transfer to schools. They are also free to talk with their school if they have an issue, and the school is pretty likely to listen to them because they're so desperate for enrollment and funding after a seventy-one-year smear campaign by the Republicans. Because, let's be honest, vouchers were an idea in response to school integration. A ticket away from black students. A way to ensure that white people didn't have to share any of their resources with the people they had been taught to hate. I've watched Senator West politely bring up this point. I won't be so polite. Vouchers were a way to avoid integration in the 1950's, and they are a way to further segregate our schools today. They are absolutely rooted in racism and white supremacy. I'm not worried about my family, we can afford for me to stay home and homeschool when our schools disintegrate. I'm also not worried about Christian Nationalists who are terrified of their children being taught truth, it's about time they return to reality. I'm worried about the rural poor and the black children who will be victims of a new form of structural racism. Your president has banned that word, as if we live in a country without free-speech. Forbidding things doesn't eliminate them.

After he suggested to southerners that they create a voucher program, Milton Friedman went on to found Ed Choice. Milton Friedman is an economist. I'm not sure why anyone thinks an economist is the person to listen to when it comes to education, but I guess if he's singing the tune you want to hear, you'll listen. In the bits of the Senate Education Committee hearing and the floor debate, I heard Senator Creighton reference this non-profit and their research several times. It's funny, when I want to make a case for or against something, I don't use biased sources. That was literally what I taught my 8th grade students. I'm happy to lead a seminar if any of you need a refresher on an 8th grade persuasive essay. Milton Friedman is also a Libertarian. Libertarians fundamentally do not believe in public education. Here's where that funny piece about listening to an economist about education comes in. They think schools are better with the free-market. Here in America, we worship at the feet of the free-market, but we haven't actually been living with one for over one hundred years, in my opinion as a non-economist, former educator. Public schools are not businesses, this is a fallacy. I'm not sure what type because I'm not an attorney, but I know rotten logic when I see it. Our schools exist for the public good and they serve every child in our community. They are not profitable, and their nature as a space for everyone necessarily means their "sc

Anita Acharya, Mrs.

self, wife, mother, school volunteer, events coordinator

Austin, TX

I am deeply concerned about the proposed education savings account program (school vouchers) in Texas, as similar programs in states like Indiana, Louisiana, and Ohio have failed to demonstrate meaningful educational improvements. Research shows that students using vouchers in these states often experience declines in academic performance rather than gains.

In fact, these programs disproportionately benefit students already enrolled in private schools, diverting taxpayer dollars away from public education without expanding opportunities for the majority of students. Vouchers also fail to provide equitable access, particularly in rural and low-income areas where private school options are scarce, and no transportation funding is provided to help students reach distant schools.

Texas families know that our lawmakers have both the ability and the expertise to do better for our students and teachers—investing in fully funding public schools, increasing teacher pay, and ensuring all students, regardless of zip code, receive a high-quality education. Instead of diverting resources to programs that have repeatedly failed elsewhere, I ask legislators to focus on strengthening our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students.

Donna Ferry

Self

Boerne, TX

This is a terrible idea. Really you are helping the rich. There will not be public education any more. Only a voucher system. And what about special ed. ? Who is going to help them ? Be proud of what you do

Carolyn Shirley
self retired RN
Lexington, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 By Buckley because it gives tax payer money allotted for pulic school students to private entities offering educational experiences to wealthy families who choose not to allow their children to attend school with ordinary Texas students. Our public schools are and long have been underfunded to a crisis point where teachers and other staff cannot make a living.

Ashton Landers
Self, CPA
McKinney, TX

I am urging the House of Representatives to vote NO on HB 3. Public taxpayer dollars should not be used to subsidize a student's private school tuition. If the Texas government feels that public schools are lacking in such a significant way that we need to use taxpayer money to fund "school choice," meaning we need to use tax dollars to send children to private school, the issue at hand is only being worsened. Public schools are already suffering from inadequate funding, which leads to inadequate resourcing. Pulling money away from public education is not the answer. I have multiple close friends who used to be teachers, who were amazing leaders and examples for today's youth, but they have left teaching because they are unable to provide support for their families with the salary they made teaching. One of these friends recently had to re-interview for her tenured job due to budget cuts, which would result in her making the same salary she started at a decade ago. With an average annual inflation rate of 2.6% in the past ten years, this is unacceptable when it comes to how our teachers are being compensated. Approving this school voucher bill will only make this problem and other issues facing public schools worse. Recent polls show that the majority of voters oppose this school voucher program. Also, 85% of parents polled reported that the voucher amount being discussed would never be sufficient to fully cover private school for their child. Therefore, the only people who will benefit from this bill are people already sending their kids to private school (i.e. people who already have school choice). Please listen to the voices of your constituents and vote no on HB 3.

Helena Dobay
retired
San Antonio, TX

The Texas Constitution requires the state to provide an adequate education for all students. Yet Texas ranks 43rd in the nation in public school funding and teachers are paid lower than in most of the country. Having a well-educated population is crucial for a functioning democracy as well as to compete with other countries economically. These bills call for public school funding to be siphoned away to private and religious schools. Private schools cost more than \$20,000 per year per student. Public schools are a vital part of rural towns and are often the largest employer. Public schools do much more for less. Whereas private schools do not educate students with learning disabilities and can turn away students, oftentimes small towns in Texas do not have any public schools. Public schools are used for election polling places, community meetings, and offer vocational training, nurse care, counselors, social services, job training, sports, statewide competitions, clubs, and other benefits to the community. Public schools are required to follow the state curriculum, but private schools are not. Public schools offer standardized tests to measure academic attainment. Public schools prepare students for college and jobs. Private schools can be places in which ideologies are fostered, rather than academics. Public schools provide the foundation for well trained workers who can work in specialized technical fields. Public schools are an essential part of our state responsibility to educate all students and are a source of pride, inclusion, and opportunity. Private schools are mainly used by wealthy families. They should remain private and public funds must not be devoted to expensive and often inadequate learning facilities. Please save our public schools using some of the over \$35 Billion budget surplus so that Texas can improve its rankings. Texans deserve strong schools that are majority funded by the State of Texas. Do the right thing for Texans and follow our desires and needs. Do not keep giving money to boondoggles like the \$400 million being spent on an Alamo expansion. Use it for schools, healthcare, mental health facilities and providers, infrastructure, and job creation instead. Public school educators should also be eligible for both social security and TX TRS benefits. Thank you.

Cleophus LaRue, Mr.

Self

Kemah, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 that would use public money to pay for children's private school tuition. I strongly support public school education and urge the Texas legislators to vote against this bill. .

Ruth Harmon

Self

Georgetown, TX

Taxpayer funds need to go to Public NOT Private Schools!

Our Public Schools have been neglected for 5 years - DO NOT send Public dollars to Private Schools.

Greta Davis

Self, Counselor Educator and Professional Counselor

RICHARDSON, TX

Dear Committee,

My name is Dr. Greta Davis and I am a counselor educator and administrator and professional counselor. I am also a parent of two children who attend public schools. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3 and to urge you to reject this legislation. The introduction of school vouchers is a recipe for disaster in Texas public schools by siphoning off money to be redirected to private school. It will most certainly destabilize the public school finance system in Texas. Our public schools are underfunded, and taking taxpayer dollars away from the public system through vouchers will cripple our public schools. Many of the costs of having a school open are fixed and taking dollars away to fund private institutions is one less dollar available to our students, teachers, and schools. Also, unlike public schools, which are subject to rigorous oversight, accountability, and transparency requirements, private schools that accept voucher funds are not held to the same standards. There is no guarantee that these institutions will provide a high-quality education, and taxpayers have no means of ensuring that their hard-earned money is being spent effectively. If we are going to spend public funds, those funds should go toward systems that are accountable to the public, not unregulated private institutions. Vouchers also disproportionately disadvantage rural and marginalized students. Low-income students and students with special needs, are less likely to have access to private schools that can meet their unique needs. Vouchers will further entrench inequality and widen the gap in educational opportunities for those who need it most. I believe that public schools should remain the cornerstone of our educational system, and I urge you to stand with our students, teachers, and communities and the majority of Texans who through polling are opposed to vouchers. Please reject HB 3 support our schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Greta Davis

David Tuthill, Mr.

School tax pkayer via property taxes

Dallas, TX

Several thoughts regarding school vouchers:

- 1) Why will this not be voted on by the citizens in an election?
- 2) Availability of students to benefit from "Vouchers"-those who come from under privileged families, disabled students, and rural families where there are no private schools in the area.
- 3) Home schooling; Seem to recall that a sizeable amount of money (10,000?) per student has been mentioned, Large families with many children would receive how much money from the state taxes? Can easily see that this income per family would grossly exceed the amount they would have paid in school property taxes. Also to what level of "competence" would these home schools be held to-would the student be able to pass a GED for example?
- 4) I have always been concerned regarding the amount of money paid on such items as football stadiums -here in the Dallas area there are several high \$\$\$ priced/valued football stadiums (Allen, Garland and Plano come to mind). Perhaps a "structure" outside education should be devoted to sport-
- 5 As an old person (geezer) I am wondering after all these years of paying school related property taxes why are those over 65 burdened with this at all?

Nicholas Cardenas

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am a parent and former teacher. I made a choice when my daughter turned 5. I chose to send her to a public school. I had the funds and means to send her to a daycare. I have the funds and means to send her to a private school. I choose not too. Every parent has this choice. This new bill will not strengthen my choice or give me a new choice I never had before. Please understand that I am completely opposed. My school district is underfunded because this Legislature is withholding funds if they do not get their way. Please fund the schools we have and do not pass this bill. If people are concerned about the content of education, please remind them that this Body, a Republican based Body, is responsible for the standards taught, not teachers. Teachers take the standards and teach them. For parents who want their children to be in a Christian environment, it starts at home. Please do not pass this bill.

Kasey Havens

Self

LUCAS, TX

Please consider students who are low income and parents will not be able to commute them to a private school. The proposed savings will not be enough for low income families to still afford private school. Provide funding for public schools so that they can hire and retain good teachers to provide a good education for all

Amanda Erickson

self

Austin, TX

I'm going to keep this short as you probably won't read or consider any of these testimonies. No one wants vouchers. Not Republicans. Not Democrats. Not Independents. If you actually listen to your constituents (which I'm pretty sure you don't care to do) you will find that NO ONE wants vouchers, especially rural republicans. This is a solution looking for a problem. We all know from looking at other states that have implemented vouchers that it ends up going to a limited amount of people and absolutely balloons the budget to give away money to people who are already in private schools. I wish I had the bandwidth to provide a more eloquent response with all sorts of facts and figures (as I'm sure you are getting) but at the end of the day are you actually going to listen to the people who voted you into office??? Guaranteed that the program will balloon and only support the wealthy while taking money away for the other 5.5 million kids in public school. Just imagine what type of society we could have if we actually funded schools appropriately! Cures for cancer, alzheimers, better and more interesting work, etc. The sky's the limit, but without actually funding public education you are limiting what YOU could be benefiting from.

Jonathan Blundell

self

Forney, TX

I am firmly against school vouchers or "education savings account programs" in Texas. They will do nothing to assist my family in selecting a better school but it will take money away from the public schools they currently attend. The closest independent schools to us is 20-30 minutes away and we've already heard that one of them in our area already plans to deny vouchers because they don't want the state dictating curriculum. Other schools in the area are further away and they may take vouchers but at \$15k a year for tuition, my family would have to pony up \$15k for three of our kids to attend as well as be responsible for transportation to and from the school and after school activities. We already have school choice in Texas. If I want to homeschool my children I can, if I want to spend money on tuition to an independent institution I can. I can also enroll my kids in dual credit courses at the local community college if I choose. Public schools need more funding, not less. Vote no on HB3.

Molly Thornberg

Self

Lucas, TX

NO to HB3. This has got to be a joke. Let's solve real issues, fund public education properly, pay our teachers what they deserve and stop with talk of ESAs/vouchers. Neither party wants this, stop with the games and fund our public schools.

Mitzi Behnke

Self -Mother

Murphy, TX

Vote NO on Vouchers!

Ellen Bennett

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools. We need Public Schools to be properly funded so the next generation of Texas can be smarter. Reducing the amount allotted to public does not help create a better future for all out little Texans.

Esra El-Haraty

Stinson Elementary School

Richardson, TX

I am asking you to vote no to the school vouchers bill. Our tax dollars should stay in our public school systems that serve all Texas children, including the kids that need it the most. It ensures they have access to the kind of education that grows the Texans of the future. Neighborhood public schools are the glue that helps hold our communities together and funding them only serves all of us versus the select few.

Paula Bales

Self- data analyst

Austin, TX

I am strongly against vouchers of any kind. I am an upper middle class parent of a teenager in a private school and I would benefit financially from this bill, but that does not make it right. Fund our public schools. Pay teachers. This is a cash grab in the guise of school choice. It's not going to help poor families—only leave them further behind. \$10,000 does not cover tuition at most private schools, meaning they are still out of reach for most families. Private schools are not required to accept any and every student. They can discriminate. They can reject. They are not required to provide accommodations for those who need extra help—and those that do often place a hefty price tag on that assistance. Vouchers are a scam and school choice an illusion. Be better. Do better. Vote no on school vouchers.

Megan Herdman, Mrs.

Self

San marcos, TX

I oppose this bill as it is an attack on public education.

Ann Ideker

Self

Dallas, TX

I am against this bill. As a home owner/ resident of Dallas for the past 40 years, I have always been in favor of having and fully supporting/funding a public system. For those who wish to go private school they can with their own finances. A country is as only strong as its weakest and least educated link. The voucher system would take away money from public schools and hurt the poorest of the poor who live in the most marginalized neighborhoods.

Claire Heath

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3. It is not a clean bill. We already have school choice. Private schools should stay private and not have access to government funds. If you care about the future of the state of Texas, you would invest in ALL children not just some.

Colby Cress
Self, business man
Sugar Land, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Janell Moyes
Children
Austin, TX

We should be proud of our Texas Education system. We should the model of how to educate all students. While we should laud parents who scrimp and sacrifice to provide their children's best education -- We must also be deeply ashamed we failed those children and their parents. The proposed educational savings will not improve our education in Texas - it creates a new point from which Texas to bleed money and a point where we will not have any improved measures of student success. Parents should be free to choose to decline public education -- yet absolutely law makers should be unwaveringly focused on making Texas the best state for public education.

Lauren Nix

Self, executive board member PTA

Houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren Nix, and I am a parent in Spring Branch ISD in Houston and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical education programs that serve our students.

The data from SBISD's state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend -- our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

For example:

Special Education: The state allotment for special education in 2023-24 was \$31.5 million, but actual expenditures reached \$53.5 million, leaving a \$22 million shortfall. This gap is projected to be \$20.3 million in 2024-25. Without adequate funding, students with disabilities may not receive the legally mandated services they need to thrive.

Safety & Security: In 2023-24, the state provided only \$0.9 million, but the actual cost was \$8.9 million, creating an \$8 million deficit. For 2024-25, the gap is projected to grow to \$10 million, putting school safety measures at risk.

Transportation: The 2023-24 state allocation was \$1.5 million, while the cost of maintaining transportation services was \$10.4 million, leading to an \$8.9 million shortfall. In 2024-25, the gap is expected to be \$8.3 million, making it difficult to ensure students have reliable and safe transportation to and from school.

Pre-Kindergarten: This critical early childhood education program faced a \$3.7 million funding gap in 2023-24, with an estimated \$3.2 million shortfall in 2024-25. Underfunding pre-K limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities that set children up for future success.

Our educators and administrators are doing their best with limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with actual costs of running these programs. These includes:

Increasing the Basic Allotment at a minimum of \$500

Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.

Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.

Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.

Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation for academic success.

I urge you to prioritize our students by closing these funding gaps. Texas schools cannot afford to keep operating with such large deficits, and our children deserve better. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Holly Saunders, Mrs.

Self

Houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Holly Saunders, I am a current parent/community member in Spring Branch ISD in Houston, as well as a former SBISD special education teacher and speech language pathologist in HISD. I am providing written testimony that is the opposite of what I have spent years supporting with my fellow area parents. The schools and district are failing to meet the academic needs of the students. My family has now decided to pursue private school, even though it will be a financial burden for us on top of paying high school and property taxes that support SBISD. I don't think that my family will meet the requirements for the voucher system, but something has to change and we'd like the opportunity to try for private school financial support. I urge you to support legislation that will allow for the voucher program.

My family have been huge advocates for public school, and wish our schools could provide the academics as well as private schools. We still support increasing the allotment so that the public schools have a chance to close the funding gaps in critical educational programs that serve students. We especially would like to see funds and support directed towards gifted and talented students, as well as those with dysgraphia and dyslexia, all of which have been underserved.

My husband and I have been very active participants in school and district level committees over the last 9 years in attempts to improve the academic components of our children's education. Both our sons are identified as GT and one is identified as having dysgraphia. These special needs areas have received minimal support, but the general academic needs have also been neglected. All things considered, our academic-focused family is having to leave the public school system that we've supported our entire lives. What do you think would help a family like ours? Vouchers? More money for academic support in the public schools? Both? Something has to change in our education system. Please try to do your job well so we end up with a well-educated next generation.

Brian McFarland

Self

Plano, TX

I oppose HB 3!

Micah Murphy

Self

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Amy Vega

Self

Vidor, TX

I do NOT support HB3! My tax dollars should NOT be going to vouchers for private schools in any way! The public school systems should get every dime of that money!!!

Heather Hammer

Self

Mckinney, TX

This morning I am praying that Texas listens to their people! In an increasingly divisive climate, we all seem to agree on this one thing- school choice vouchers are NOT in the best interest of Texas. As the mother of 3 public school students and the wife of a teacher, I have seen how our public schools are building our communities and creating leaders of the next generation of Texans. Each year it becomes a little bit harder as budgets are cut and our schools continue to be under funded. Invest in ALL the children of Texas!

Christine Gibson

Self

Richardson, TX

I am firmly opposed to vouchers. School choice already exists but it does not require funding from public schools. Support appropriate funding for public schools now in order for them to effectively run.

Samuel Hallerman

Self, Freight Forwarder

Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to state my opposition to establishing an education savings account program. My primary concern is that this program does not help, and could even be detrimental to the poor population's education. The amount of money laid aside by this program is not enough to cover full tuition at a private school, so the only people who already afford private schools would benefit. Public transit to private schools is limited, so people with working parents would not be able to use this. Private schools in rural areas are also next to non-existent. Put together this means only wealthy people in cities would be able to use this program. This is welfare for the wealthy. This program will also reduce the amount of money in our already poorly funded public education system. The way to fix our education system is to fund public education, not to seek alternatives.

Moishe Traxler, Rabbi

Chabad Outreach of Houston

Houston, TX

This bill is VERY IMPORTANT to me and our community.

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Holley Rider

Public education

Weatherford, TX

HB 3 is nothing more than pandering to the elite of Texas. The Texas education system is for the people, by the people. It is the education system that brings fair education to all. By pushing vouchers, this imperfect system will continue to fail. Not only will it serve a small fraction of the Texas private school population, there is no evidence that has been presented by Governor Abbott that this will in fact improve education for all Texans. Private schools are not held to the same standards like hiring certified teachers, accepting all students no matter their intellectual or physical abilities, no standardized testing from STAAR, having a nurse on staff, providing transportation etc. These are standards that are "good enough" for public education kids but not for the elite. This is an elitist push to satisfy the top tier income earners in Texas, and it wouldn't even cover all of them, only 100,000 students. That math isn't matching. There are over 5 million students enrolled in our public schools. Public schools haven't received an increase in funding since 2019. Through covid our schools were pinching pennies to meet the needs of our students and now inflation has made our funding unsustainable. We need a funding increase to continue meeting the needs of our students. Our public system is not perfect, but there is no one offering to pass a bill that improves the school system, only tear it down. Our children, future tax payers, and constituents deserve more. The way that Governor Abbott has handled this is deplorable. Holding funding hostage unless the Senate passes this bill is outrageous and shameful. His agenda is not to truly improve the school choice for Texans, it was to get a fat paycheck from Jeff Yaas. This bill will not only send a strong message to the students in public education, it will send a strong message to the teachers. Teachers make up a great deal of your voting population and this will certainly set a standard of care which you display for us all. This is a non-partisan issue. Check out Governor Abbott's Facebook comments. He is being reprimanded and destroyed by everyone in Texas even though he keeps trying to push this forward. Your constituents are speaking, but are you listening?

Ruth Noel, RN
Self Registered Nurse
Belton, TX

I support public schools and request that you provide uniform education for all students. I am opposed to the voucher system, as I believe it will negatively impact students that are not from wealthy families. Wealthy students should not receive special treatment and tax payer money to fund private schools that others cannot afford.

Crystal Meadows
Self, Director
Spicewood, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Victoria Cutaia
Texas public schools
League City, TX

Constituents do not want vouchers.

Kevin Smith
Kids
Buda, TX

This bill is bad for Texas and our kids

Debby Schmucker
Teacher
Rockwall, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

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Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Cynthia DeNard
Public school - teacher
Cypress, TX

What about public school?? What about teacher and professionals in public schools? My child working in a different field makes about 5000 less then me after I have been working 28 years. I have steered people away from education for the lack of support from the government. What about public schools, what is being done for them.

Abigail Restrepo
Self -Graduate Student
BUDA, TX

Please Vote NO on HB3 today. Our children deserve so much better. No one wants this bill in Texas. Let's be clear: Texas ranks among the lowest states in the nation for state funding of public education, contributing a mere 32%. This forces local districts to shoulder an overwhelming burden. If this legislature truly seeks to decouple funding from zip codes, it must invest in public education at the state level.

Furthermore, Texas has a shameful history of violating federal law. The state has illegally decreased funding and artificially capped the number of students receiving these vital services. The U.S. Department of Education and federal courts have repeatedly intervened, yet problems persist.

HB 3, as it stands, does not solve these problems. It exacerbates them. This bill in effect diverts public funds to private schools, offering \$10,000 per student while public schools receive a mere \$6,500. This disparity is not only unjust but also unsustainable. Proponents of this bill tout "school choice." But for families like mine, it's a false choice. There are few private schools equipped to serve students with complex needs, and even with vouchers, they remain unaffordable. More importantly, private schools are legally permitted to—and will—deny admission to students like my son.

This is not "school choice." It is a system that further underfunds public education, erodes the civil rights of students with disabilities, and creates a two-tiered system where some children are deemed worthy of investment, and others are not.

We don't need vouchers. We need the state to fulfill its constitutional obligation to fully fund public education. We need to safeguard the civil rights of all students, ensuring they receive a free and appropriate public education, regardless of their needs. Public education is the cornerstone of our democracy. As John Adams wrote in 1785, "the Whole People must take upon themselves the Education of the Whole People and must be willing to bear the expences of it. there should not be a district of one Mile Square without a school in it, not founded by a Charitable individual but maintained at the expence of the People themselves."

I urge you, members of this committee, to uphold that fundamental principle. Reject HB 3, and instead, invest in the future of all Texas children.

Christina Hernandez
Self - legal analyst
HUTTO, TX

I urge you to vote NO to defunding our public schools. We know the majority of Texas students and families will not benefit from the "school choice" bill. Parents already have the freedom of choice for their schooling needs. Do not take taxpayer money away from our children! NO to school vouchers.

Ashton Alkire
Self
Austin, TX

Please do not do this and support our public schools.

Sidney Nance

Self (Student and scientist)

Austin, TX

While this bill is packaged in pretty packaging, it is only to hide the fact that you are selling our children's education. This bill would only further strip funding for our public schools causing even greater education disparity for underprivileged students. The focus should instead be placed on sufficiently funding our public school system. Paying teachers fair wages, updating curriculum and technology, repairing infrastructure, etc. Please take a moment to listen to Texas' teachers. They are the professionals, they know what students need. Focus on what is best for all of Texas's children. Vote no. Keep our public education public.

Roger Schafer

Self

Canyon Lake, TX

Please do not use public money for private schools. Please do not allocate tax dollars to unaccountable schools. If you think that the public schools need improvement, then properly fund them. If you think that private schools, which don't face any accountability or measurement of student ability, are better than public schools, then consider removing the accountability "grades" and tests. I am against the state providing tax incentives or money for private school tuition.

Courtney Albright

Self

Richmond, TX

No to vouchers. We already have school choice in Texas. No to another educational agency and more taxpayer money going towards a program that is going to negatively change the private, public, and homeschool arenas. If the public system is broken - IT needs to be fixed! Start there. Lack of discipline, lack of family priorities, lack of accountability, crazy testing, moving children ahead who have no merit to do so, not giving teachers the ability to teach bc their rooms are full of behavioral problems and kids with needs that cannot be handled by a teacher alone in a classroom of 20 kids... etc. Please say no to this bill!! We don't want it for our kids or grandchildren or future Texans.

Ashley Baker

Self, parent and educator

Spring, TX

House bill three will decimate Texas public education. As Texas parents, we have always had school choice, and now you are taking public dollars to fund private institutions with not even close to the same accountability measures. If public dollars are going to other educational systems, then they too should be held to attendance expectations, certification requirements, and state testing mandates. Please fund public education first and foremost, the billion dollar surplus should go to public schools to help improve the system that we have been running on a deficit budget since 2020. If appropriate funding is provided for public school districts, then they can increase salaries, helping to retain high-quality teachers, and support the numerous programs that educate our various student populations. House bill three is not conservative spending for Texas. It is disappointing to see my representatives backing a bill that will not only negatively impact the students in public education, but the families and communities in my district and throughout our state. The negative portrayal of public education from Governor Abbott's office is disheartening because many of the factors that inhibit public educators from being successful were mandated by Governor Abbott and TEA. Fund public education first, then you will see improvements in the systems and structures when they are not having to do all of the mandates with a significantly limited amount of money.

If Houseville three is passed, then please even the Plainfield and remove the TEA and Governor Abbott mandates on attendance, certifications, and state accountability testing.

Gladys Gonzalez

Self

Uvalde, TX

We don't need vouchers we need our state legislators to increase public school funding. Our rural communities are in desperate need.

Larry Lentz, None

Myself

Austin, TX

Don't find private schools for the well to do parents. If they want their children to attend private schools they can fund it. Public schools need more funding not less.

Texans like to do things in a "Big" manner, except for education!

Janet Cloud

Self

Wylie, TX

No school vouchers

Emma Duncan

Self, student

Dallas, TX

I am strongly against the introduction of vouchers. Vouchers will make public education in Texas harder to access and less effective.

Matthew Vela

Self

Kyle, TX

I do not agree with this

Amy Denton, Keeping Homeschool Freedom

Self/bookkeeper

PFLUGERVILLE, TX

I am a home educator of 7 years and a mother of 2. I do not approve of HB3.

For the price being paid, not enough children will benefit from this voucher system. This will only benefit those who have invested parents, transportation, the skills/time/education to fill out these forms, and the extra money to cover the rest of tuition. This week also only benefit those who have educational options near them. This means our lowest income kids, who this is intended for/being marketed for, will not have the means to use this. Meaning, it will go mostly to lower middle class kids and Not to those it is saying it will help. Rural kids will not have a secondary option. This is educational welfare that will only help those that already have the means and options to privately educate.

Secondly, as a homeschooler, this is very concerning. Currently we are by law considered private schools. This re-categorizes us and will change how the educational laws apply. We fought hard to be considered private schools and will lose our protections. We are blessed to have one of the most free states regarding homeschooling and do not want to see this change. You can see in other countries and states that pass this voucher system slowly impose more and more requirements for homeschool and even outright ban it like in Sweden. My oldest child would have many SPED labels if she were in public school. On some subjects, she's 3 grades head of her peers, on the other subjects, almost 3 years behind. Because of we homeschool, we can work as long as we need to on any topic until she fully grasps what we are learning. This bill is foreshadowing the requirement of standardized tests for all Texas students and that will not work for my child. We sacrifice a lot for me to stay home with our children and educate them and will not be applying for this voucher. We are definitely qualified to receive this but will not be applying. I want to keep our hand selected curriculums that are working quite well for us and would not want to be limited to only those who are on the Texas payroll.

The idea is good but this bill is not. This is a huge tax burden that does not help enough children. Thank you.

Kathryn Rutherford

Self/retired public school administrator with 36 years of experience.

Johnson City, TX

Vote NO to HB3- please vote NO to vouchers

Elizabeth Navarro

Self

Melissa, TX

Vote no!! Vouchers don't work and there's data to back that up! Don't privatize education for Texas students!! Every child regardless of income deserves an education.

Julie Ham

Self

CANTON, TX

Listen to the people!

Cheryl Stepp

Teachers

Spring, TX

Why do we continue to cripple our education system? Stop putting bills into place, that hurt the teachers that are teaching our future.

Matt Brewer

Self, Teacher

Commerce, TX

I urge you not to support giving public money to unaccountable organizations, like charter, private, or religious schools. Public money should stay with accountable public schools. Not all students will benefit from education savings accounts or any other voucher like program. If it's not open to all students, it's not equitable and should not be supported with taxpayer money. Public schools are the only schools that provide an education to all students. If you want better public schools, invest in public schools.

Meaghan Peters

Homeschool/ Self

Hockley, TX

I strongly oppose Bill HB 3. As a single parent of a child with learning disabilities, I made the decision to homeschool after the public school system failed him through fifth grade. Despite my efforts, they refused to conduct the necessary testing, so I took matters into my own hands—at my own expense and by my own choice.

Since homeschooling, my son has thrived without unnecessary interference dictating what he can or cannot do. This has always been my choice. I have the financial means to send him to private school or relocate to another district if I wanted to—but again, that is my choice.

By implementing these bills, you are stripping away that choice. Eventually, government overreach will dictate how I educate my child. I carefully select the programs and specialists that best support his success, all funded out of my own pocket. Texas already offers choices—this bill is unnecessary and threatens the very freedom that allows parents like me to make the best decisions for our children.

Nathan Lammert
Just myself as a taxpayer
Mcgregor, TX

This will only help the wealthy. Whatever amount you are giving to a child for private education will only fund a portion of the cost. Tuition at these schools is so expensive no one but the wealthy could pay the remaining balance. Also a person chooses to move to a big city for whatever reason, usually high salaries. The school system you get is part of that choice. You have a publicly funded school system there like I have in Crawford. All is fair. Now you want me to fund what amounts to a luxury item because you don't like what you got with your life choice of a move to a big city. I cannot afford private school and there is not a private school within reasonable distance from my house. So I am being asked to fund something that is not possible for me to cash in on. It isn't possible for 90% of rural people because we don't make enough to fund private school tuition and there is not a private school nearby to the vast majority of rural school districts. Also, many of us own property and pay taxes. This is wrong. We are being asked to fund something for wealthy people only.

Leca Addison
Self retired teacher
Seagraves, TX

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William Weber
Self
Buda, TX

I am the father of a now 26 year-old autistic child. My son now has a job, pays taxes, has his own apartment, and contributes to the state in multitudes of ways. My son wasn't speaking until he was about 5 years old. The only reason he has succeeded to the level he has is because of the education he received from our public. When he was in school, there were limited programs so we contributed a lot to help bring more programs into the school. Please do not move forward with vouchers, this will eliminate a lot of families being able to afford education for children on the spectrum. There is absolutely no school that can help guide a young autistic child into success that is affordable to any family even with this voucher.

Rachel Forbes

Self

Lubbock, TX

Please listen..NO ONE but the wealthy will benefit from this bill passing! Public education will suffer and those that cannot or do NOT want private school will suffer. I beg you for once listen to the masses and vote according to what the majority of your Constituents want!

Tiffany McDonald

Self

Shallowater, TX

I fully support the Voucher system. I'm beyond excited of the possibility my child would be able to go to a private school. Please pass this. I am currently a teacher at Shallowater ISD.

Lindsay Perlmutter

self

austin, TX

I am opposed to HB3. It takes much needed dollars out of public schools. I also urge you to increase the basic allotment by \$4000 or at least \$1500. Though there are many moral reasons I am opposed to this bill, I would urge all members to also think about the political consequences of supporting the bill. Public schools and districts are the community hubs, social fabric, and often largest employer of your community. Those who support this bill will have to face neighbors who know that you chose out of state campaign dollars and were weak to political pressure over protecting your neighbors' jobs at the district, what's best for the kids in your community, and the joy and support that thriving schools and their events bring to all families in your district. Please choose kids, families, and our economic health over politics and out of state dollars.

Norma Tomlinson

Self

Richardson, TX

It has long been recognized that public education is essential and needs to be fully supported. Previous attempts to deprive Texas public schools of funding have failed for decades, and for good reason. Many counties in Texas have no private school options. How many parents, if forced to home-school their kids, are even minimally qualified to provide the standards for an education in the many fields of study that certified teachers have pursued while earning advanced degrees? Depriving public education to Texas is an unacceptable choice. Please oppose the school voucher bill.

Ashley Matthews

Self

Houston, TX

Stop the voucher scam bill. Public dollars are for public schools. It is really very simple.

Reagan Moore

Self

Lubbock, TX

Please but against this bill. I believe in public education. Do what's right for all kids.

Angel Fuentes
Houston, Texas.
Houston, TX

I stand before you today, troubled by a truth revealed in my research—a truth that shakes the foundation of our commitment to justice and equity. HB R’s tax plan, together with the proposals in HB3, risk siphoning off vital funds from child welfare—a system that upholds the promise of opportunity for our K–12 students, our youth who have aged out, and our higher education institutions—redirecting these resources toward universal Catholic schooling. As the HB3 Public Forum warns, “HB R’s tax plan risks redirecting funds from child welfare—affecting K–12, aged-out students, and higher ed. Its push for Catholic schools betrays freedom of religion and increases admin complexity, undermining family unification, disability support, and middle-class workforce growth.”

Data from Texas and Houston budgets reveals billions invested in education, health, and child welfare through general, dedicated, federal, and other funds. For instance, Houston’s FY2025 Budget sees property tax revenue at roughly \$1.42 billion and sales tax revenue near \$893 million—forming a General Fund of about \$2.85 billion. Meanwhile, the state allocates nearly \$29.9 billion to public education, \$1.95 billion to students at risk, and \$1.35 billion to support those with disabilities. If HB3 channels this abundant flow into selective initiatives, then the nourishing current that has sustained child welfare, disability accommodations, and robust workforce development will be constricted.

One glaring oversight in such proposals is the depiction of an education savings account as if it were a personal bank balance “owned” by each student and freely diverted from public schools. In truth, this money is public revenue, not a private pot attached to a single child. It funds teachers, facilities, and community-wide services, ensuring that all students, including those most vulnerable, receive equitable support.

Furthermore, Houston’s legacy of inclusion—exemplified when Mayor Anise became the first openly gay mayor—reminds us that overcoming obstacles and nurturing our youth are paramount to a just society. Let us, therefore, reject any measure that would divert these public funds away from the common good. Each adjustment, measured in billions and millions, decides whether our resources will empower every child, every family, and every community, or be misdirected to exclusive ventures that leave our shared commitments starved.

Erin Inala
Self/self employed
Round Rock, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a social worker who has worked in Title I schools across Central Texas, I have seen firsthand the impact of underfunded schools on students, families, and communities. For the future of all Texas children, I urge everyone to vote against the creation of a voucher program and to fund our public schools. Thank you.”

Angela Rouse
Self
Royse City, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Having attended private school myself, I believe taxpayer money should be used to support public schools and build the community. This bill limits opportunities for the majority of Texas students. Vouchers will be more costly to Texans than is being presented. Please, reject HB3 vouchers and ESAs.

Kip Sikora
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose the privatization of public schools, especially when motivated by unregulated theocratic interests.

Ashley Zimmermann

Self

Cibolo, TX

I do not want my taxes going to vouchers. I support the public school system. No vouchers!

Traci Phillips

Self

Lubbock, TX

Please listen to the vast majority of Texans who oppose education savings account programs. These programs are designed to benefit a select group of people who wish to further drive TX into being a theocracy. Vouchers are not "parental choice" as described by Abbott. They are a scam to further the initiatives of Christian white nationalists who fail to uphold the rights of the citizens of TX. Fund public education. Fund our teachers and future teachers who are shaping the the lives of our children.

Dana Gregory

Self/teacher

Lubbock, TX

Teachers are against HB3. This bill will cause complete devastation and turmoil for public education. Instituting a voucher system will seem like an attractive concept for some; however the long term results will be on the underserved in our community, those struggling with paying their bills and making ends meet. Those children will go with food and services if this bill passes. This bill would be a terrible disservice to education in general.

Valerie Ruiz

Self

Plano, TX

Please save our public schools! 504 accommodations are so important and should not be taken away.

Lancia Stewart

Self

San Antonio, TX

I received a fantastic public school education in Texas. Schools were well funded and teachers were paid for their expertise. Now the leash is controlled by billionaires, the governor and the lege are starving public schools specifically to claim they're failing when they're the ROOT CAUSE. Everybody deserves an education, not just whoever private schools pick. Stop creating a slave class and do what the Texas constitution requires you to do.

Brooke Cunningham Koss

Self

Richardson, TX

As a homeschooling parent who relies on our school district for special services, I am against defunding public schools in favor of vouchers. Public schools provide invaluable experiences for all children in our community. I am against the voucher program. Please do not pass this bill.

Katelyn Hoffman

Self

Sachse, TX

I am strongly against HB3. I can only see how this will hurt the already underprivileged public school students and underfunded public schools and teachers. This will cause tremendous harm in both the short term and long term for our state's education. Tax payer funds should go to assist public schools that are inclusive, available in all areas, and that offer services special needs.

Candice Bellis

Self - teacher, parent, business owner

Bryan, TX

Say no to vouchers and release funding above inflation rates to increase school funding paying teachers better and all school personnel.

Stacy Renfroe

Self

Cedar Hill, TX

When such a majority of voters are against this bill, I don't understand why it is still being discussed. It will hurt the public schools - the places where teachers are actually certified and held accountable. Instead of sending money for "choice" to a small percentage of Texans, the money should be used to actually strengthen the public schools.

David Wilson

self

Dallas, TX

I AM AGAINST VOUCHERS AND HB 3! Fund public education. Fund special education. Get rid of the basic allotment "disability penalty". Texans don't want vouchers. I don't want to use my tax payer money to pay for other kids to go to private schools. Parents can already choose to send their kids to private school as we have done for one of our children. I already pay \$40,000/ per year for a private school to help my dyslexic child who Texas failed because of the 8.5% special education cap and because Texas failed to follow IDEA for our kiddos with dyslexia. I am fortunate and can choose to pay for private school but your \$11,000 will not be helpful for those families cannot. Vouchers are a SCAM!

Amy Hoag

Self

Morgan Mill, TX

This bill isn't in the best interest of Texans. It does not benefit any Texans, but the ones that can already afford the tuition for a private school. Support and fund our public schools. Support its teachers and students. Take away the high stakes testing and stop strangling the curriculum. Hire someone at the head of TEA that actually has experience in education.

Understand that education is multi-faceted. It's a difficult job. Education is the only job people think they can do by proximity. It's "I've been in a classroom". Yeah, as a student. The pedagogy necessary is never learned or known. People don't assume they can be a surgeon because they've been in a surgery as a patient, but they do have that expectation with education. The training necessary isn't seen as important. Knowledge of Vygotsky, Bloom's, and many others is constantly changing, but the public doesn't see this. The Texas government does not support its educators, and that is pathetic. Makes me think you want to keep your voter base uneducated because then they continue to vote for you. Stop with this foolishness and support PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Lauren Ladd

Self

Conroe, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As Taxpayer and supporter of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Lewis Choate

Self and disabled son

The Woodlands, TX

Unless there are the same accountability standards as public schools, this is an outrageous use of taxpayer funds. Without similar standards, how can any Texan including the government know funds are not being wasted on in-effective education. Please make sure final bill includes the same evaluation standards and consequences for all uses of public funding ob education.

Cindy Kessler
All students of Texas
Texas City, TX

I am a strong opponent to HB3. I believe it to be wrong for public money to fund private entities. Texas has had school choice for years with public, private, charter, magnet, online and homeschool. With approx. 2/3 of the state's students living in areas where there are very few private school options, how is this bill what is best for ALL Texas students? To say it sparks competition for public schools to do better is an insult. There is no true competition without having a level playing field. Private schools only take the students with good grades, excellent test scores and great behavior, while public schools take everyone. A large population of special needs children will be discriminated against if this bill passes. There are many other points I could write but I know that you know them already. I am asking you to do the right thing for the children of the state of Texas and to put that money into better funding public schools. Please do the right thing and vote NO to HB3.

Thank you,
Cindy Kessler

Corrian Thompson
Self
Spring, TX

I do not support school vouchers. It is taking funding away from our public schools.

Latoya Higgins
Self
Cedar Hill, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas.

Sara Bonser
Self
Plano, TX

The idea that subsidizing private education will benefit students across the state of Texas is false. Less money for public schools that educate the masses is not the answer. With no accountability and inequitable levels of funding, this scheme is designed to destroy public education and privatize it. At the core of this country a free and appropriate public education is required and nothing about vouchers or education savings accounts is appropriate. It takes from the poorest and weakest and gives to the richest. Perhaps things by design but it is immoral and anybody voting for this has lost my vote forever.

Lucinda Ordonez
Self
Lubbock, TX

Good morning,

I am a constituent of Rep. Carl Tepper, living in zip code 79416.
Public funds should stay in our Public schools, aka(Public fund) not billionaires funds. The funds should not be divided up to Un accountable private schools.! Do not sell out our kids to billionaires! We the People will be watching you.

Thank you for your time,

Lucinda Ordonez

Shabbir Hossain

Self

Allen, TX

This will destroy public education and we should not stand for it.

Lindsay Wood

Self

Austin, TX

Strongly opposed to educational savings accounts. Public schools are already severely underfunded due to robinhood state recapture that equates to taxation without representation. The voucher program would further defund the public schools and leave them destined to fail. Most families will not be able to afford the remaining \$10k (or more) costs that exceed the voucher amounts for private schools and even if they can, they may not find private schools willing to accept the if they have any specials needs or need any special accommodations and would have no such protections at a private school even if accepted. Further, they would not have access to school bus transportation leaving such an option not viable for working parent households. This bill should be called Every Child Left Behind! If representatives were actually representing us, they would be focused on improving the public school system by eliminating the robinhood recapture program and increasing teacher pay. Public tax money should go to public use and benefit - not only benefit the elite.

Erisbel Delgado

Jolt Action

Houston, TX

Hello, my name is Erisbel Delgado and I am a constituent in Houston. I would like the Public Education Committee to say NO to House Bill 3.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them for the future. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our public schools, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private schools. There is no oversight for these private schools and they don't disclose why they choose or don't choose certain students. House Bill 3 diverts tax dollars away from public schools, and those dollars should stay in public education.

I previously served as an elementary public school teacher and saw firsthand the lack of funding that hindered students' access to essential resources. House Bill 3 will only worsen this issue by severely underfunding our public schools, making it even more difficult for students to get the support they need. As I worked with predominantly Hispanic students, I know that Black and Hispanic students make up more than 60% of Texas public schools. House Bill 3 threatens to further undermine their education and future opportunities. This bill fails to address the real needs of our diverse student population.

I'm a concerned Texan and I ask our representatives to vote NO on House Bill 3.

Andrea Robinson

self - mother

Houston, TX

My name is Andrea Robinson and I am writing to ask that you vote against the school voucher program. Making public funding available for educational programs that have no accreditation and no oversight to meet minimum standards, while sending less money per student to the public schools, which have established goals and measures for educational goals at each grade level, is an irresponsible use of our tax money.

Our family has 2 kids in public school, and one in a private school / homeschool combo. While I agree that private or homeschool should remain an option, it should NOT be funded by the state. Our state needs to keep its focus on the public schools.

In addition to disagreeing with the vouchers altogether, I object to the disparity of the amount. Why should a public school student receive \$6380 in funding and private school student \$10,000? If you insist on going to go forward with this voucher idea, these two amounts need to be fair and equal.

Additionally, I think the funding for school vouchers will ultimately bring greater inequality and division in our society. If the public schools are not adequately supported, the neighborhoods that are joined by the fabric of the schools they share will be more disjointed. Just as the transition from the nightly news to internet news delivered by algorithm has increased the divide in our country, swapping to a system where more kids have a less common ground in their educational experience will bring even greater divides in our country's future.

Luanne Nelson

Self

Austin, TX

Please do not vote for the "education savings account program." We need to support our public schools by providing more financial support, not less. I have two granddaughters currently attending the Austin public schools and don't want their educations affected by this bill. I also worry about those families in rural areas who do not have private school choices. Their public schools should also be financially supported so that Texas children can receive the first class education they deserve.

Marguerite Monogue

Self

Dallas, TX

House Bill 3 (HB 3), introduced by Representative Brad Buckley, proposes the establishment of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program in Texas. While intended to offer families more educational choices, this bill raises significant concerns regarding its potential impact on public education.

Diversion of Public Funds

HB 3 would allocate taxpayer dollars to private educational expenses, effectively diverting funds from public schools. This reallocation could exacerbate existing financial challenges within public school districts, particularly those already underfunded. Superintendent H.T. Sanchez of Plainview ISD highlighted this issue, stating that such programs could significantly reduce public school funding.

Equity and Accessibility Concerns

The proposed ESA program may disproportionately benefit higher-income families, potentially widening educational inequities. Critics argue that voucher systems like the one proposed in HB 3 often fail to assist low-income students as intended, instead favoring those who can already afford private schooling.

Lack of Accountability

Private schools receiving public funds through ESAs are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. This discrepancy raises concerns about the quality of education provided and the appropriate use of taxpayer money. Without stringent oversight, there is a risk of funds being misused or directed to institutions that do not meet established educational standards.

Public Opposition

The bill has faced substantial opposition from various stakeholders. Dozens of local elected officials across Texas have expressed their dissent, urging legislators to oppose the statewide voucher program proposed in HB 3.

Additionally, public school advocates recently rallied near the Texas Capitol to protest the bill, emphasizing the need to prioritize funding for public education over voucher programs.

Conclusion

While the goal of expanding educational choices is commendable, HB 3 poses significant risks to the integrity and funding of public education in Texas. It is crucial to consider these potential consequences and explore alternatives that strengthen public schools and ensure equitable access to quality education for all students.

Rosanne Joseph

Self

Kingwood, TX

Representative Buckley and Cunningham,

I strongly oppose the establishment of an education savings account program. I am a speech language pathologist that worked in multiple employment settings. My experience in the public school setting was by far the most valued. I witnessed dedicated teachers and staff that worked collectively for the benefit of all students. The voucher system would create an unequal access to education and discriminate between the "haves" and the "have nots." The public generated funds should not be used to undermine and discriminate by funding private schools- who can choose their student population and are not accountable to their performance.

Josue Rosa

Jolt Action

Dallas, TX

Hello, my name is Josue Rosa, and I am a constituent from Dallas, Texas. I am writing to urge the Public Education Committee to reject House Bill 3. Every Texas student deserves access to a high-quality education that prepares them for the future. The Texas state constitution clearly states that the Legislature is responsible for funding our public schools—not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private institutions.

House Bill 3 diverts critical tax dollars away from public schools, where they are desperately needed, and funnels them into private schools that lack oversight and transparency. These private institutions are not required to disclose their admissions criteria, leaving many families in the dark about why their children are accepted or rejected.

This bill essentially uses taxpayer dollars to provide a discount for wealthy families who can already afford private education. Meanwhile, working-class families who might be interested in this discount cannot afford the remaining tuition costs, as private schools are extremely expensive. This means the bill primarily benefits those who are already financially privileged, further widening the gap between the wealthy and everyone else.

As our representatives on this committee, your priority should be strengthening our public schools, not undermining them. If you help pass this bill, let it be clear that you are diverting resources away from public education, House Bill 3 jeopardizes the quality of education for working-class families. Our schools are already underfunded, and many are being forced to close. This bill only worsens this crisis.

I urge you to stand with working-class Texas families and vote NO on House Bill 3. Our public schools need your support now.

Edgar Sanchez, Mr.

Jolt Action

Cedar Hill, TX

Hello, my name is Edgar Sanchez and I am a constituent in Cedar Hill. I would like the Public Education Committee to say NO to House Bill 3.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them for the future. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our public schools, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private schools. There is no oversight for these private schools and they don't disclose why they choose or don't choose certain students.

House Bill 3 diverts tax dollars away from public schools, and those dollars should stay in public education.

I have nieces and nephews who will depend on public schools as my sisters and I have in the past.

I'm a concerned Texan and I ask our representatives to vote NO on House Bill 3.

Margaret Wirick

Self / Teacher

Grapevine, TX

I do not support HB3 voucher bill.

Emily Herrell

Self

Mckinney, TX

I oppose HB 3

Grace McCreary
Self, Non-Profit Think Tank
Austin, TX

I wholeheartedly support HB3. Put parents in charge of their child's education by supporting education savings accounts. ESAs would allow all parents to customize their child's education for their unique needs. It's time for Texas to put parents and students first.

Nancy J Rodriguez
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Taxpayer money should be used to fund Public School as it was intended. I do NOT support Education Savings Acct. meant to divert money to private schools and take money way from public schools. Parents have a choice in their child's education. It is THEIR RIGHT & RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY FOR IT NOT TAXPAYERS.

VOTE NO on ESA & VOUCHERS!

Kellie Klotz
Travis County Resident
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and I am against school vouchers

Jane Ford
1800166784
Spicewood, TX, TX

"I oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background."

Margaret Rhoads, Mrs.
Self - nonprofit development director
Houston, TX

School vouchers only benefit those who are already able to pay for private education and effectively doom poorer and rural children to be educated in extremely underfunded public schools. Special needs kids like mine have been shortchanged for years and now the legislature wants to take even more resources away from their education? How does that make sense? It's almost like you WANT Texas children to fall further behind their peers in better funded states. Our state government should fully fund public education in Texas - which it hasn't done for decades - and FIX the problems there, not make it worse by bleeding it dry.

Shawn Blagowsky, Dr.

Self

Plano, TX

As a Texas resident I strongly oppose the education savings account program. Both of my children attended public schools in our state and my daughter taught special education for several years in Plano at a Title 1 school. This program will take away funding from the district that will widen the equity gap of students. While there are many private schools in my area, they would still be cost prohibitive for many students and especially those my daughter taught—because those schools would be unwilling to accept those students with high needs. So, once again, it isn't equal or equitable. A strong public education system is a benefit for ALL of society. Not just the students being educated. Many large districts in our state are already struggling with funding. Recapture has not been kind. And public schools provide services for all students. They do not have a choice to refuse to educate those they deem too difficult as do private schools. Consider also how a program such as this will impact smaller rural districts. In the end, should this pass, it will hurt the students who are most vulnerable and widen the equity gap. None of which is good for society as a whole.

Debby and Michael Breen

self

Jacksonville, TX

I am a retired master educator with an M. ED in Curriculum and Instruction from UT @ Tyler. HB3 is a red herring.

Deanne Murillo, Ms

Self

Anna, TX

This took me about 2 minutes to complete. If you oppose school vouchers- as they are being proposed- please consider filling this out and sending.

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Steven Jones

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

We do not need a voucher program in Texas. Almost all instances of similar program adoption in the US show net negative results, and the vast majority of students impacted will be at-risk kids who are harmed rather than helped. Our public education system needs more support, not direct challenges... and a voucher system will only succeed in shuffling money around in ways that benefit few people, raise competition and cost for private schools, and divert funding from a system that is already overtaxed.

More meaningful legislation would: improve public health support that can decrease the social workload of our educators, directly fund public schools in order to relieve the property tax burden from local districts (thus freeing money for private education in households that desire it), and overhaul our curriculum to create a more holistic approach that focuses on actual preparedness rather than testing standards.

I urge you to reject HB 3.

Julie White

Self

Austin, TX

Vouchers hurt schools and mostly help the rich. Fight for our children! They have no voice. Abbott should be absolutely ashamed of his loyalties and his disregard for ALL children.

Thomas Rolling

Self - retired

Austin, TX

This is not in the best interest of providing quality education to all; as this only allows for private institutions to profit from education. Private institutions are not readily available to everyone - so why would we divert funds from the State to a private institution that is not and cannot support everyone. I do not want you to waste my tax dollars on sending money to institutions that are not for everyone. That's an overreach of your responsibility. This will clearly hurt the marginalized and those with learning disabilities. Vote NO!

Rebecca Cook

Self

Cypress, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB3! As a former educator of 41 years, I believe in public education for all students. This bill will take money away from already underfunded public schools and funnel it into private schools who are selective in who they allow in the schools. The voucher system has failed in other states, such as Arizona, and it will fail in Texas. It doesn't help rural school districts at all. In the district in which I live, parents already have choice if they want to transfer their student to another school within the district boundaries. In addition, there was testimony that it could, and likely will, impact the teacher retirement system of which I'm a part. I gave 41 years to education with the assurance that I would be able to count on my annuity for the rest of my life. With the passage of this bill, I could possibly have to go back to work at age 78!

Please do not support this bill. It has far-reaching effects on many people, specifically students, teachers and retirees!

Melanie Roldan

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to ask you to protect neighborhood schools and oppose private school vouchers in Texas.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them to succeed, not just students at exclusive private schools. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our neighborhood public schools for students, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private and religious schools that pick and choose who will enroll. Vote down any voucher scheme that diverts tax dollars from neighborhood public schools. Public dollars should stay in public schools. Provide more resources to public schools so they can provide more to the communities.

Carol Jenson, Voter

Self

Austin, TX

School vouchers will result in further underfunding of public schools. Our public schools are being held hostage by private interests. FUND OUR SCHOOLS as required by the Texas Constitution.

Lauren Beam, Engineer

Self

Midland, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Kara Hoekstra

Self

Joshua, TX

Please listen to your constituents and vote no to HB3. Find a more sensible approach to funding public schools that doesn't involve private school vouchers. These two requests are what the majority of Texas residents want.

Marcia Grissom

Self- retired teacher

Richardson, TX

As a retired public school teacher, I urge the members of this committee to vote no to vouchers. Texas has a teacher shortage and public schools need to be able to compete with private schools for the best teachers. Private schools can offer a less stressful job (no IEPs, no TELPAS and STAR testing, smaller classes) and a higher salary. I taught advanced math classes at L. V. Berkner High School in Richardson ISD for 32 years and taught with many exemplar teachers. If there are to be vouchers, then there needs to be equal testing, private school acceptance of all students, equal student/teacher ratios and equal pay. In other words, public money given to private schools needs to be issued with accountability and fairness. I oppose HB3!

Hallie Parchman

Self, product manager

Austin, TX

I am 100% against vouchers. I have two school aged children that rely on public education.

Christi Caulfield
Self
Friendswood, TX

I want to **STRONGLY** register my opposition for HB3. As a Republican voter, I do **NOT** support any voucher bill. Fund public schools!

Mary Veasey
Self,retired
MCKINNEY, TX

This is a money robbery. Nothing in this bill for ordinary taxpayers. These voucher programs don't work as proven by many other states and studies. Our broad income levels and many rural people are being ignored, glossed over. This is a big **NO** in my household and a lie and will lead to soo many democrats being elected it will make your head spin.

Aaliyah Iglesias, Student
Self
Tyler, TX

This bill will not aid Americans. It will quite literally do the exact opposite. How long has it been since yall have been students? Exactly. And you're trying to make a bill that completely changes our life's. The bill is carelessly written, and lacks the point of view of view from real students. The public school system is already impaired, and this bill will just be the cherry on top of the catastrophe we call the American School system. If you truly do care and value your constituents opinions, you would not pass this bill that will hurt more Americans than help.

Corina Zepeda
Self, Entrepreneur
Hutto, TX

WE PARENTS CHOOSE OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS! I am a success because we f my public school education and extracurricular activities and dedication educators. **NO TO VOUCHERS.** We want invest ment in our public education system, one which is designed to accept and benefit everyone. We are voting, I'm am a BDR, actively registering more people to **VOTE OUT** those who wan to dismantle or underfund our children's schools. No to vouchers, fund public schools!

Jess Waldrop
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Do not pass any bill that diverts funds from public schools. There is reason that public schools came to exist, and let us not have to relive the history where public schools did not exist. Our future is brighter when all kids have access to education. Private schools and charter schools do not serve all and will not move good citizenship forward.

Travis Ray
Self pharmacist
Austin, TX

This bill should not pass. These vouchers are not helping the people that need it the most. I have 3 children in public schools and they are thriving. We do not need to change what is not broken. I strongly oppose the bill in favor of the vouchers

Patti Adams
self - educator
Hurst, TX

Please vote NO for HB3. We all know it will lead to several negative consequences for public schools, namely diverting funding away from public schools, which are already facing financial challenges. It will reduce the resources available for public schools, potentially exacerbating issues like overcrowded classrooms, lower teacher pay, and limited access to essential educational services. Why do most "private school parents" support it? Because school choice policies will disproportionately benefit wealthier families who have the means to take advantage of the options, leaving behind low-income families and students with fewer opportunities. This will only deepen educational inequality, especially in areas where public schools already struggle to meet the needs of disadvantaged students. Where is the accountability and oversight in private and charter schools? Since these schools are not subject to the same state regulations and standards as public schools, there is a glaring lack of transparency and inconsistent expectations. Furthermore, our highest state official, Greg Abbott, continues to spout claims that our schools are "indoctrinating students." I don't know a single teacher who has time to do so, since they are so busy providing their own resources, giving HOURS over contracted time, and dealing with parents who believe they can do a better job teaching than the highly qualified teachers IN the classrooms. Respect is at an all-time low, and Greg is throwing gasoline on the fire, whipping the public into a frenzy. This bill and our governor MUST be stopped. Please vote FOR public schools in Texas by saying NO to HB 3.

Shannon Helms
Self - Special Education Teacher
Lubbock, TX

This bill is something that I am deeply passionate about, as it is completely against the students that I teach. Here in Lubbock, our special education population is high and our class sizes are very high (even as high as some general education classes). We are unable to recruit and maintain teachers to work in this unstable environment to teach the most vulnerable of student populations. We need MORE funding for our public schools! The ESA is a joke for my students. My students would not be welcome at private institutions due to various intellectual disabilities or behavioral concerns. We need much more funding for our schools in order to increase pay and help bring many more teachers and paraprofessionals to our schools. I have two TA's, and neither one of them earn a livable wage as a full time employee of the school district. They both are single moms and are living below the poverty line. They have to seek out government assistance to just be able to put food on the table for their families and pay their bills. How is this okay? We do not have the funding to cover pay raises for them to receive a livable wage. Our students need the most support and NEED people that are willing to put their whole heart into their job. How are we to retain staff that are qualified if they can't even afford to live? My current pay went down \$400 PER MONTH this year, making me make less than I did 4 years ago due to increase in insurance premiums. We need help. I absolutely love my job, and I adore my student population. We shouldn't have to be begging for funding. We need support from the state, not for it to be spread to private schools. All this will do is cause segregation of schooling. Don't do this to us. Show us that you care about us teachers that are expected to deal with being hit, choked, kicked, bitten, cussed out, hair pulled out, etc every day. Not increasing the allotment to account for inflation is a slap in the face to us already beaten down teachers. Our students deserve better. Our teachers deserve better.

Lynda Burchett
Self
Houston, TX

How does this redirection of funding away from public schools possibly help rural areas where there are none of your voucher eligible institutions (that are not subject to testing standards)?? These rural areas already have huge challenges to find teachers and keep the doors open. VOTE NO!!

Laura Ashley Pagenkopf

Self

Fort Worth, TX

This is absolutely a poor choice. I am a Christian Republican who believes strongly in the public school system. I believe EVERY child has the right to good, true and beautiful education that represents the beauty of the world we live in. By establishing vouchers, you are stealing money that should be going towards establishing the best public school system in the nation that pays teachers well for the hours they spend teaching. That money should go to the training and support of the teachers to teach rich curriculum not based in data but based in depth. This money should go to make sure Texas kids equally have access to safe and state of the art facilities with teachers who are trained and valued and held accountable to high standards of teaching. This money should go to training all teachers in trauma informed care. It should go to making sure that even rural students are given the same opportunities to rich curriculum that city kids are. This money should go towards Texas adopting applied learning curriculum state - wide and training teachers on how to implement project based and applied learning throughout the state. Let's use this money to raise a generation who knows how to think, love and problem solve. Vouchers only benefit a handful of people who already have the means to benefit their kids. Instead let's go back to the creation of the public school system and the value that was placed on teachers and on children. Let's help Texas children be successful by pouring into their neighborhood schools and communities. Let's bring people together not give them more options to separate.

Veronica Longoria

Self

Pearland, TX

I'm for school vouchers. I stand with gov abbott

Christina Erickson

Self, mother of 4

Midland, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Vicki Ginger

Self

Cypress, TX

Don't destroy public education by diverting funds to private schools via vouchers. A voucher won't pay for all of the tuition for a private school so poor kids will be left out. Private schools will not have to meet standards, accept all students, or have accredited teachers. It's supplementing families who are already able to afford private school. If you do this the public schools will be defunded and the kids that are left there will have a hard time becoming productive citizens. We will remember who voted in favor of this bill in the next election .

Kathryn Cruzen, Mrs

Self

Cypress, TX

Texans do not want their tax dollars to be wasted when our public school students are already hurting. ESAs would increase government spending and expand the already failing TEA, and would still do nothing to address the problems in Texas public education. Other states have shown that the cost of ESA programs has exploded way past their original projections while ESAs have been proven to fail at improving students' academic achievement, the very thing they are supposedly created to do. Texas Constitution Article 7 Section 1 charges the Legislature of Texas with establishing and making suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of free public schools. It's time for our Legislators to stop looking for new programs or bills and instead to take a look at the root causes of why Texas students are failing to keep up with the rest of the country and to do something about it.

Holly Splawn
Self SAHM
League City, TX

I am a parent. My child currently attends a private Christian school and two of my children have graduated from the same. I ask that you do NOT pass the school voucher bill. I am against funding this bill. We need to keep state money in the public schools. The public schools provide needed services that are not provided in private school. My middle child attended public school in 5th grade. That year he was diagnosed with a speech impediment. He began speech therapy in that school. The next year he transferred to the private Christian school. While enrolled there he continued to receive excellent speech therapy from the public school for the next two years. It was an essential service provided by the public school. Kids in my city need those services and everything else that fully funding public school provides. Please do not pass this bill. Thank you.

Rachel Hewitt
Self
Austin, TX
Opposed

Kortney Taliaferro, Mrs.
Self/Private School Parent
Spicewood, TX

I oppose HB3!

Matt Smith
Self - Educator
Arlington, TX

Chairman Buckley and House Public Education Committee Members,
Thank you for allowing me to provide public comment against the voucher program proposed in HB 3. I am against the bill for the following reasons:

1. The Texas Constitution clearly states in Article 7, Section 1 that "... it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools." Given the fact that our legislature currently funds Texas Public Schools in the bottom 20% of the United States, I contend that our legislature has not, and will not, make "suitable provision" for our public schools. Diverting our tax dollars to private schools without fulfilling your constitutional duty to fund public schools is unacceptable.
2. School choice already exists in Texas, and more specifically, in Arlington ISD. Creating a third stream of publicly funded schools systems (public, charter, private) creates an unsustainable future. If choice already exists in our public schools, in our charter schools, and in the existing private schools, why would we create an unsustainable future for school funding?
3. Establishing a tax-payer funded voucher program that does not accept, teach, and support the learning of each and every student is a shocking proposal from our legislature. Public funds should support our public, which includes every person in our community. Every student, no matter ability or disability, should be served by any educational institution receiving public tax dollars. Establishing a voucher program without equal expectations and safeguards will establish systematic discrimination in our school system. Students with special needs deserve the opportunity, support, and protections afforded to them through our public schools.

Please vote against HB 3 and make "suitable provision" for all 5.5 million students throughout Texas by fully funding our public schools.

Greg Barra
self
Houston, TX, TX

All public schools need more resources, not less. As a former student and current patron of local private/parochial schools, they definitely have a place, but it's not with our property tax dollars. My kids attend public schools, and I expect my neighbors' tax dollars to support our neighborhood schools, and if they elect to spend additional money on private schooling, that's on them. As it would be on me and my family should we elect to attend private schools. I recognize the need for unique options for high performing students in low performing schools, but it makes no sense to me to rob those schools of resources, when those resources should rather be simply better deployed. It's a big problem, but fewer resources for the school districts is not the solution.

John Pickard
Self
DALLAS, TX

This bill is a tragedy for public education and those supporting it should be ashamed.

Brekka Larrew, Mrs
Self
Lakeway, TX

When private schools can deny children and yet use our taxpayer monies to fund theme, you know you are funding discrimination. This bill is discriminatory.

Rachel Beaulieu
Self, SAHM
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose ESAs. My daughter is in 1st grade and she receives SPED services through our school district and has since she was 3 years old. I have looked into private schooling and private therapies for her and there are no private schools or therapy practices that provide the services that she has needed, which she receives in public school.

No private school is required to accept my child. No private school provides bus service. No private school is required to provide my child with the accommodations she receives in public school with her IEP. And no private school worth sending her to would be fully covered by the amount Texas is willing to pay. And because of that, the vast majority of kids who will take advantage of this program are from families who could have afforded private school without assistance. In practice this would not provide me with any additional choices, all it does is divert needed funds away from my daughter's current best option.

Celia Mange
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB3. Private schools will not be not accountable for how they use public money. Plus, they will be able to pick and choose their students instead of accepting all students, which means that special education students will be left out.

Hilary Selden
--None--self, researcher in an academic lab
Austin, TX

Public funds should be used to fund public schools, NOT private schools. This is non partisan, the majority of small, rural communities don't have a private school option. They need their public schools fully funded! Further, similar programs in other states have been proven to lead to failure for public education in those states. Let's learn from their examples and not make the same mistakes! Texans, you already have unrestricted school choice.

Jackson Conway

Self

Austin, TX

I'm opposed of this bill because I am an 8th grade public school student that does not want to lose funding for my school.

Niki Millward, Dr.

Self

Houston, TX

Vote no, my two children go to public school and to not see why tax money is going to private schools or home schooling with no form of ensuring that these students are getting an education. My children have to take the STAR test every year and would have to repeat a grade by missing 7 days of school. In addition, this bill will take vitals funds from our public schools while not making sure that kids who do not attend public school are performing at grade level. This will weaken our educational system significantly.

Julia Blackburn

self/ Pharmacist

STEPHENVILLE, TX

This bill creates the illusion of choice but does nothing to guarantee that a parent's choice for their child will be fulfilled. It offers a chance, not a choice. Furthermore, more towns in Texas do not have a private school nearby for students to attend than towns that have them. The very small private school available to attend in my hometown does not provide the same programs available in our public school. The private school in my hometown is known to deny admission to certain students with special needs. My tax dollars should not go towards funding of vouchers for private school attendance when said private school denies admission to students. Ultimately, the true decision-maker in this system of education offered in this bill is not the parent, but the private school. I ask my representatives to vote "NO" on HB 3. Let your constituents vote on this option.

Ann Wacker

Self

Seabrook, TX

I oppose this bill and all associated or related or similar bills which seek to establish savings accounts or otherwise enable private school "vouchers". This is styled as giving a choice but the net effect is to defund or lessen public schools which have not had a significant increase in funding for years. This goes against the Texas State Constitution Article 7 which makes the legislature responsible for establishing and maintaining public schools. The proposed bill does the opposite in that it will take funds away from public education. Furthermore it appears that this bill is only being brought forth because wealthy donors have bought our public servants. Governor Abbot accepted over \$6mm from a wealthy out of state donor. Have some respect to your duty as elected officials and follow the constitution.

Jennifer Hill

Self

Cypress, TX

I'm sure you've heard it all, but I am against HB3. This will tear down public education, affect TRS, and only helps the wealthy. Abbott has held public money hostage from public schools resulting in the weakening of the school system. We are already struggling to get and keep highly qualified teachers and this will not help. I personally have been in public education for 28 years and worry about my retirement, I worry about the education of kids from all backgrounds in our great state, I worry about our future and if all students will have access to a quality education. Education is the KEY to having a successful life and future. I see so much change in the education system right now and I honestly wonder why. What has happened all of a sudden that has caused this. I have been a conservative Republican my entire life and as previously stated have been in public education for 28 years and do not see what has changed to cause this.

School choice has been available forever...want to homeschool? Ok. Want private school? Ok. Want charter school? Ok. You can wordsmith however you want, vouchers, educational savings account, etc. it's all the same. When PUBLIC funds go to PRIVATE organizations they should have the same standards as public schools. I bet you find private schools would not want that. I don't blame them. Testing requirements, attendance requirements, curriculum requirements would change private school/ homeschool/ etc. and then we would have an even playing field. I started teaching in 1993 and have seen a lot of change. Teaching used to be more fun and I had more flexibility to meet and challenge my students, more like private schools have. Maybe consider that.

I guess I want to say either keep money public or change the standards so it is an even playing field. Either way, make it fair.

Alana Meyer

Self

Houston, TX

Defunding public schools will ruin communities, the suburbs, property values, businesses who want to set roots where there are excellent public schools. Teachers are already using their own money FROM WHAT LITTLE THEY MAKE to help pay for supplies. Don't leave the schools even more financially strapped!

And, how does this help rural communities where there are no private schools?

I am tired of hearing how low Texas rates in education. We need to support and fund our public schools. Support our educators, and make Texas a place known for the best education, not one of the WORST. Say NO to vouchers. Support public schools.

Deborah Johnson

Self

Carrollton, TX

I oppose the establishment of an ESA program as it discriminates against the majority of Texas children. All Texas children deserve a well-rounded education regardless of their abilities. ESA programs help very few students as private schools for not have to provide services for all children nor are private schools required to crept all children regardless of services needed. Texas obviously does not want to provide services to support all childrens' access to a good education so they can be functional contributing adults in the future. Please instead provide the funding necessary to properly fund public education and provide teachers with the financial support they deserve.

Lisa Garza
self retired teacher
Cypress, TX

I am strongly against the passing of vouchers. As a retired teacher of public schools for 28 years, I strongly believe that vouchers would discriminate against so many of our children. Vouchers don't help ALL children. They only help the wealthy that can already afford for their child to go to private school. Making vouchers available does not help a family who has a child with any type of learning disability. Vouchers don't level the playing field at all when it comes to the type of education a parent can choose if their child has any kind of learning disability or has been diagnosed with ADD/ADHD. Private schools DO NOT address any of these issues whatsoever. Those who work in a public school go above and beyond to help a child be successful despite their learning disability. There is a process that takes place where accommodations or modifications can be made to meet the child where they are at so that they can feel successful. This IS NOT the case in private schools. Those who work in a private school WILL NOT do what it takes to meet a child's needs. Public schools have higher standards for their students and teachers are held to a very high standard when it comes to teaching, yet this is not the case with private schools. Please do what's best for ALL children. DO NOT PASS VOUCHERS. The children who are attending public schools deserve funding and by continuing to withhold the extra funding is simple discrimination.

Rachelle Siemes
Self - FinTech PM
Austin, TX

I am writing to the committee to express my deep sentiment against this bill. It should not pass. Our Texas schools are already woefully underfunded. This bill will merely serve as a discount for families who are already paying for private schools. If it is truly meant to serve low and middle income families, then there should be an income cap so that those who have already chosen to spend the money required for private school are not siphoning the necessary funds from our public schools.

There are far too many schools and districts where teachers have to put up supply lists to "Go Fund Me" to have the necessary items to start the school year. (Do you know how much other first world countries are simply aghast at this?) Far too many schools that need infrastructure and physical plant work. Far too many schools that don't have a dedicated, full time librarian, nurse, art, music program. Schools that are considering or have gone to 4 day weeks!

This will do nothing to support rural students, who frequently have only a distant public school as an option. Don't take that away from our ranchers and farmers kids.

Kids in urban areas may get shut out of options. It is not inconceivable that private schools will simply raise their tuition in accordance with the voucher. Indeed, we have already seen this happen in other states. These private, religious, and charter schools are given no requirement to accept all students. They still pick and choose their students. How is that parental choice?

I implore you to consider the detrimental effect that this will have on all of our public school students. And understand that this bill will not miraculously open all private schools to any student who chooses to attend.

Thank you.

Regina Bishop
Self
Galveston, TX

School vouchers can not pass. It would be detrimental to the public education system. We need to give the next generations the tools they need to compete in a global market, not cut down funding for their educational needs to provide for the wealthy. Funneling government funds into the pockets of families already wealthy enough to afford private school and the private voucher management companies does not help the children who are entitled to this funding at all. Every single person should feel personally invested in the education of our future generations. They will be the ones charged with caring for us all. It makes no sense to give them subpar educational resources. Keep the funds where they belong, in the public education system providing better schools, better educational tools, higher teacher pay, extended day programs, and free lunches for all students. Block the student voucher program!

LONNIE KING

Self / purchasing agent

Houston, TX

Do NOT vote to pass this or forward it through the House in any shape or form. This is a subsidy for the wealthy and of no use to anyone is purports to empower. It will not make legitimate private schools affordable for average-income or low-income families. It will precipitate a wave of bogus private institutions that will pop up merely to take money from people without providing a true education. It will undermine our public school system. Vote AGAINST this bill so that we have no reason to vote against you in the next election.

Heather Stokes

Self / Investigator

Houston, TX

Respectfully, I wish you as my representative to vote NO on this bill. As a mother to a child with special medical needs, but no developmental delays, it's imperative that my daughter receive accommodations through her 504 plan at school to be a successful student, thriving member of our community, and develop her own sense of self worth and capabilities while learning to adapt with reasonable accommodation. She is not disabled in ways that the ADA protects her because she has a very rare autoinflammatory condition. She needs some physical accommodations to meet graduation requirements in Texas, which is something supported through her right to a good public education. With vouchers, the funds provided to public schools to accommodate resources to accommodate my child it would become difficult, disruptive, and cause irrevocable damage to her right to an education. We would struggle to find a school willing to accommodate her needs to allow her the same opportunity as her peers to quality education.

Please understand the implications of this vote. This is not a partisan issue. This is an issue of upholding the rights of every Texan student to start life out on the same foot as their peers.

Jana Reid

Myself

Granbury, TX

This is NOT conservative. It will tear apart public education and endanger teacher retirement. It is NOT proven. Vouchers in other states has no t improved student performance. Vote NO.

Amy Rueckheim

Self, clinical researcher

Austin, TX

Do not make my community more weak with worse schooling for Texas children. We need more funding for daycare and public elementary, Middle and high schools. I am a foster mother of 5 foster kids since 2017 and our children are not getting what they need through public schooling. Please don't make it harder for the children. We must put all We have into their education.

Julia Weatherby

self, student

Austin, TX

To the Education Committee,

I strongly oppose Texas offering private school or home school vouchers or Education Savings Accounts.

Over ninety percent of Texas school children are in public school. Our public school funding has not kept up with inflation. I support raising the basic allotment by at least \$7500, and tying future funding to keep up with inflation.

My child attends public school in Texas, and I have seen how the school and district struggles to meet the needs of our school children. We don't have enough teachers, and the teachers we do have don't make enough in salary. The vast majority of them cannot afford to live in the community they teach in due to the high cost of housing here. My child's school struggles to keep kids warm when it's especially cold out and cool when it's especially hot out. Teachers and administration should not have to be concerned with HVAC issues. My child's school has difficulty in finding certified, qualified teachers. It is becoming more and more difficult for certified, qualified teachers to stay in the career of teaching in Texas, when the cost of living and housing is so expensive. My child's school and district is not unique. Many school districts in Texas are having a budget deficit. We can do better. Let's fund our schools and pay our teachers well, so that we have OUR choice of great Texas teachers!

Speaking of choice, here in Austin, we have choice for our students already. We can already choose homeschool, private school, public school, or charter schools. My child goes to a different school than we are zoned for, because we have choice. We don't need a voucher law for that. I also think of the many students living in rural areas where they don't get to choose between schools because there is only one available. Let's make sure every Texas child has the opportunity to go to a well supported, and well funded public school.

Thank you for your careful consideration on this bill.

Melissa Pumayugra, Madam

Self/professor

New braunfels, TX

As a public school graduate, a parent, and a professor, I value education. I choose to send my children to our local schools but I also know we are privileged in many ways because of luck, life choices and legislation.

Please don't allow vouchers to steal yet more of my public funds from our local schools.

Anamaia Goswami

Self - Student

Austin, TX

Public schools should not have to suffer, the students attending public schools should not have to suffer, they should be at the top of the state's priority list. Instead of properly funding these schools with the resources they need, tax dollars of public school teachers and parents (and older students) are being used to fund private education. If public schools are so unprepared to nurture young minds that you feel the need to provide financial assistance for students to attend private school, maybe you should focus on fixing our schools. It is ridiculous that private institutions with no mandated curriculum have these seemingly infinite resources. There is a lack of separation of church and state in Texas and this bill only serves to highlight and underline it.

Vanessa Mancia

Self/ teacher

Austin, TX

As a public educator I expected more support for our public education. The stress that is placed on well off campus are ridiculous and I CANNOT imagine other campuses. Please pick our kids and our campuses here in Texas.

Jennifer Hoskins

Self/Speech-language pathologist

Abilene, TX

It is not in the best interest of our already underfunded public school system to take money away from that system and allow it to be used elsewhere. My 2nd grade son attends a Title 1 school that relies heavily on allotted Title 1 money. Eliminating that money will cause deficits and gaps in the education of students who already come to school disadvantaged due to their economic status. Please do not require these incredible schools to jump through even more hoops just to simply educate its students. Vote "no" to the public school voucher program.

Paula Hutsen

Self

Magnolia, TX

Education saving accounts will not allow low or middle class families to gain private education for their children. Our public educators do not pick and choose their students, they open the doors and greet all students, providing each child the ability to grow to their individual potential.

The option of increasing public education by barely \$200 per student and stating private schools deserve \$10,000+ per student is appalling. Private education is not required to provide transportation, meals or even quality curriculum.

Olga Sarff, HB3

Myself

Houston, TX

I was a public school teacher and principal. HB3 will not favor the public school children. It will take the limited funds and give them to families who do not need them. It pulls money from our schools. Stop this careless decision. You are there to represent all families especially the underserved, especially the rural communities. Thank you for your goodwill for all.

Jessica Brown

Self

Aledo, TX

I strongly oppose the proposed ESAs. I am a conservative with a long history of voting Republican, but I can't support ESAs not only for the reason that it takes money away from public education but because they are not conservative when you are diverting \$3 Billion dollars of taxpayer money without accountability and benefiting only 1% of Texas school children.

Lisa Robinson

self retired educator

Houston, TX

Vote NO on this terrible bill. It is bad for our students and teachers but also really destructive for our communities. Many small towns have no private schools whatsoever. What choice does this bill give them? Furthermore, in many small towns, the school district is one of the primary employers. Are you going to destroy the job base in those communities? Furthermore, as funds are taken from schools (in communities with private schools), it will be more and more difficult to provide a quality education to the students—this goes against the mandate of our Texas Constitution and the spirit of our great state. Do not destroy our public schools. They need and deserve your support. Using our tax dollars to support private schools that have no publicly elected school board also means Taxation without Representation. This vote will have lasting consequences for our children and our state's economy. Again, VOTE NO!

Alex Kotara
Self
Karnes City, TX

It is shameful that the House is so readily admitting defeat on their constitutional responsibility to ensure Texas has the finest free public education system in the world.

The lack of evidence to support that vouchers improve student outcomes should be enough to reject it alone. But the massive fiscal impacts and the lack of ANY ability to demonstrate whether it does or does not work, make it a bad bill, and one that won't be walked back in the future, either.

It should be voted down for these reasons alone, as they don't represent the values that Republicans and conservative Texans hold.

Kali Rodriguez
Self - success coach
Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill

Matt Joyce
self
Wimberley, TX

My family is opposed to HB3 and the proposal to establish an education savings account program. Our children attend a rural public school. We believe this legislation would harm our children's education by lessening the funding for the local public school. We believe HB 3 is designed to stroke the egos of a few ideologues, including Gov. Greg Abbott, who are driven by politics and who have zero genuine interest in the education and betterment of education for Texas children. Rather, proponents of HB 3 wish to diminish education for Texans to score political points with a vocal minority of anti-government crusaders who wish to see public institutions fail at any cost. This proposal is a disgrace and a blatant attempt to undermine American Democracy.

Maggie Sandoval
Brownsville Educators and Students
Brownsville, TX

Buckley, you and Governor Abbott should be primary champions of public schools in Texas! Instead, you are sellouts! You are sellouts to the likes of Jeffrey Yass, Tim Dunn and Wilkes who are intent in the privatization of public schools in across Texas! As a conservative, I'm appalled at your lack of principles! I'm listening to today's testimony, you speak out of both sides of your mouth!

In the issue of students with disabilities, your bill places the responsibility of providing services to students in private schools back at the doorstep of public schools! So, why are you allocating large sums of money to those private schools?

Because you really don't care about students or your constituents!!

As a conservative, I'm done apologizing for you and others like you who are self serving and only want to enrich yourselves and your billionaire cronies!

Carlee Monthie, Ms.
Self
Bedford, TX

I AM AGAINST VOUCHERS!

Ezriel Neumann

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Jammie Hayes

Self--30-Year Public Educator review resenting the future of Texas

Wills Point, TX

This is NOT a Republican vs Democrat battle. This is a battle over greed and privatization of our public school system. Most Republicans and Democrats do not support ESAs/School Vouchers. We are standing STRONG on this matter and it might be the only thing Republicans and Democrats BOTH agree on in Texas. Don't think the constituents will not vote you pro-voucher supporters out of office. Power is in the numbers. Listen to the people that voted you into office to speak for them.

Vote NO to vouchers/ESAs.

Sincerely,

Jammie Hayes

Isabella Kirchner

Self

Austin, TX

House Bill 3 (HB 3) threatens to divert critical public school funding to private school vouchers, weakening resources for students, and destabilizing the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) by reducing the number of active educators paying into it. Public schools serve all children, and shifting taxpayer dollars to unregulated private institutions undermines their ability to provide quality education. Lawmakers must vote NO on HB 3 to protect public schools, educators, and retirees instead of gambling with Texas' education system. This bill will hurt students, schools, and communities across Texas.

McMunn Heidi

Self

Houston, TX

This will only harm public schools. We see what you are up to.

Timothy Chen

Self

Plano, TX

Please vote no on HB3 and any other bills funding school vouchers. If there is enough taxpayer money to fund private institutions, then I would rather you send me a tax refund instead. I do not want to pay taxes to give wealthy families a discount on tuition they can already afford. This is not fiscally responsible.

Laurel Moore

Self

Conroe, TX

I am against this bill. Parents already have numerous choices and this bill gives choice to private schools regarding who they will accept. I do not want tax dollars to pay for private schools. I want tax dollars to fund public schools. Please fund and support public schools.

Carol Jackson, Dr.
Grandparents for Public Schools
Dallas, TX

The majority of children in Texas attend public schools. School vouchers would only help a limited number of children. They are cashing in to help those right money to pay for private education with public funds. Texas tax payer dollars should fund only public education. In the DFW area, school boards are closing schools because of lack of state funding which has not increased for many years. Charter schools are part of the problem, as state money follows the student. Now the Texas legislature wants to further erode public school by taking more money away from public schools with school vouchers. It is not about school choice; it's about financial theft from public schools!

Sarah Burns
Self teacher
Dripping springs, TX
Vote NO on HB3. NO to vouchers

Amanda Piepenburg
Self
Allen, TX
Vote no to school vouchers

Nancy True, Ms
Self
Hickory Creek, TX

I urge a hard "NO" vote on HB 3, and any other legislation that expands government apparatus and/or appropriations directed to private entities and/or families.

Considering the poor (and worsening) track record of government schools, the evidence of increased dissatisfaction statistically supported by a surging statewide exodus to private and/or home schools, I advocate a "separation of school and state" policy. Further government plunder of We the People to compensate for persistent historical patterns of failure with ongoing plunder is unacceptable.

“You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can not fool all of the people all of the time.” ~ Abraham Lincoln

Julie Jumes

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

Thank you for taking public comments from those you are there to represent. I am against HB3 because it is outside the constitutional mandate to provide "an efficient system of public free schools." The 2016 SCOT called our state education funding system "Byzantine" and admonished the cutting of inefficient code. There is already much, which costs taxpayers and is seemingly not written for the good of children but for business. For example start dates, written such that students don't start classes before a certain date in late August so that vacation and tourist businesses don't lose money. Most students across our state may not start logging all their "butts in chairs minutes" in order for their INDEPENDENT School District school to get the state allotment until that state law specified date. But, there are exceptions for DOIs, year around schools, charters, and now ESA students? Exceptions are inefficient to implement and enforce. Why not strike the law? Is it not unconstitutionally inefficient at the very least? The Tim Tebow Act is similar law, passed since the 2016 SCOT's admonishing to cut inefficient code, also written to require exceptions for a very small number of the 5-6 million students in Texas. The rhetoric "we all pay taxes so we all should have access" led many to believe Rep Frank wrote it to allow all students access to UIL, but he had to exclude privately educated students who weren't home educated to protect private schools from losing players to public school teams. My question, as a taxpayer: Can't private schools write rules in their own rulebooks preventing students from playing on their local UIL team? How could it possibly be an "efficient" use of our tax dollars to keep enforcing such exceptions to the benefit of businesses, rather than children? And, isn't HB3 doing the exact same thing? Back 30 years ago the SCOT ruled in the Leeper case that a home school in Texas is a private school. They did that because, like Kamala Harris was doing for the money in CA, districts here in Texas were jailing home school parents on truancy charges. Basically the SCOT declared that there were two types of students in Texas: government school students and private school students. There were no "accredited" private schools. That sort of state regulation and the sort in the Tim Tebow Act, which requires districts, the very ones jailing home school parents on truancy charges before the Leeper decision, to distinguish between home schooled students and other private students, to protect private school teams from losing players, is inefficient at the very least and probably throwing away education tax dollars in legal battles much like we will be doing when all those photo op private school kids, whose parents heard "universal" don't win the lottery. How can anyone believe this messy defining of differing weights and differing measures at all constitutional of good for children?

Gary Willson

Self

Fort Worth, TX

As a tax payer I am opposed to this bill and my tax dollars being used for private schools. The state of Texas is required by its constitution to provide for public education. Private schools should no longer be private if funded with public funds and no accountability.

Alicia Noyola
South Texas Association of Schools
Harlingen, TX

As a former superintendent and Executive Director of the South Texas Association of Schools (STAS), I and our organization strongly oppose House Bill 3 and its proposed Education Savings Account (ESA) program due to its harmful impact on public education. While expanding educational opportunities is an important goal, this bill undermines our public schools by diverting critical funding, reducing accountability, and widening educational inequities.

Loss of Critical Public School Funding

HB 3 diverts \$1 billion away from Texas public schools—funds that should be used to support the more than 5 million students who rely on public education. These funds are essential for teacher salaries, classroom resources, special education, mental health services, and school infrastructure. Redirecting them to private education providers, many of whom lack accountability, weakens our ability to provide a high-quality education for all students. Texas would now be funding 3 school systems: Public, Charter, and Private. Currently public schools are woefully underfunded. Until public schools are fully funded, funds of any kind should not be diverted elsewhere. The \$1B should be used to invest and seek to fully fund public education.

Lack of Accountability and Oversight

Public schools are held to strict academic and financial accountability standards to ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively. HB 3 does not impose the same level of oversight on private and homeschooling providers receiving ESA funds. This creates a system where public funds can be spent without transparency or clear student performance standards. Texas must ensure all schools receiving public money meet the same high standards for student success including state assessments to ensure that parents can compare apples to apples. NAEP is not tested by all Texas students.

Widening Educational Inequities

The ESA program primarily benefits families who can already afford private education, leaving behind students in rural and low-income communities. Private school tuition, along with costs for textbooks, uniforms, and transportation, often exceeds the ESA amount, making it inaccessible for many families. Instead of diverting funds, Texas should invest in teacher recruitment, student support programs, and classroom resources to ensure all children—regardless of ZIP code—have access to a high-quality education. The fact that private schools have the ultimate decision on whether they will admit students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged students will serve to widen the existing inequities. Ultimately, it's not school choice, it's the private school's choice.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 3 and instead support policies that strengthen Texas public schools. Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue.

Wende Dwyer-Johnsen
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please do not pass any bill that would provide public school funds to private schools. Keep public funds in public schools! No vouchers.

Rhonda Landrum, Mrs
Self
Oak Leaf, TX

Please keep public education viable for all kids!!! Say NO to Vouchers!!

Sarah Dickerson
self
Austin, TX
I oppose this bill.

Christina Fragale

Self

Round Rock, TX

As someone who works with the disability community, I plead with lawmakers to PLEASE not support the school voucher program.

Private schools are not obligated to serve students with disabilities—whether that is just allowing them access to the school through school admission or even providing specialized services and education that they need. It is so important to understand that BEFORE IDEA (federal law for educating students with disabilities) and the rehabilitation act, children with disabilities WERE excluded from schools. That's right. Exclusion and denial from school was the NORM, not the exception.

Please do not let the most vulnerable of children go back to these times nearly 50 years ago. Please do not funnel away money through the voucher program that could be used to better serve these students or give teachers a reasonable pay. We are already in a teacher shortage and this will certainly drive or keep teachers away.

Thank you.

Nina Reyes

Self

Austin, TX

Vouchers are welfare for the wealthy. Public education is our right.

“Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future. Public dollars belong in public schools. Give Texas school districts the funds to keep teachers, aides, resource teachers, special education teachers, everyone who works with children employed. Give Texas children what they deserve in their classrooms.

Karen Morton

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I am OPPOSED to school vouchers.

-there are not enough SEATS for all children to be in private school.

-there are. It enough schools in rural counties which is the republican voting base so this absolutely will BACKFIRE.

-check the socioeconomic background of republicans and find most do not attend public schools.

-you will turn Texas BLUE from watching what the president is doing and now this. You are ALIENATING your base!

- stop focusing on making schools Christian and start focusing on what makes our lives BETTER. ALL our lives matter! I thought that was your slogan??!

Signed a parent of a private school & public school child!

Denise Pullin

Self

Spring, TX

I am against school vouchers and for the support of public education and services for all.

Kelly Lwakatare

Homeschool

Houston, TX

As a homeschool mother, I do not support this bill. I do not want vouchers or any state money for my child's education. Please vote against HB 3.

Nona Allen

Self teacher

Pflugerville, TX

As a constituent of the State of Tx. and a retired public school teacher, I am asking you to say NO to school vouchers. Reason 1) I drive by 4 to 5 different elementary schools, on my way to my part time job, depending on which way I go. For the last two years, I see fewer and fewer white faces, on the playgrounds. Why?? Because the economically disadvantaged, can not send their students to charter and private schools, even with vouchers. Again, why?? Because they can not afford to provide their own transportation. So what happens?? We are ending up with segregated schooling, once again; even though it is again the law. Reason 2) Charter and private schools can kick children with behavioral problems or learning problems out of their schools. Public schools can not. So with vouchers, what is happening...public schools are ending up with nothing but economically poor students, behavior problems students and students with learning disabilities. Reason 3) School vouchers mean less students in public school, which then means less teachers. Less teachers mean less people paying into the TRS system. Meaning within years, the TRS will not be able to support itself and will collapse, and many retired teachers, will no longer have an income. Reason 4) Teachers obviously don't go into teaching for the money. (Especially here in TX) We go into it because we love helping children learn! But being able to support ourselves, is essential. Again, the less teachers at public schools, the less the pay that public school districts will be able to afford to pay. Eventually, meaning that a public school teacher, could actually end up in a poverty situations themselves. Then you REALLY are going to end up with unqualified teachers, because any qualified one with have the brains to pick another profession, just so they can survive.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinion,

Nona Allen

Christopher Spenrath
Self / Region Manager in Healthcare
Waxahachie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Gwen Dixie, Ms.
Myself, voter aged 88. Retired.
Dallas, TX

I, and 50 relatives (brothers, sisters, mother, aunts, uncles, grandparents, my four children) all received education in Texas public schools, from elementary through college. Don't throw this out! Everybody needs them. My taxes should only go for PUBLIC schools. No school vouchers for private schools.

Patricia Edaburn
Self
Houston, TX

Please fund public schools. Vouchers will make the gap between rich and poor wider. As a former public school teacher I can attest to this fact.

Nicholas Feinstein

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

- Nicholas Feinstein (Student in SBISD)

Brian Harville, Mr

Self

Allen, TX

No to vouchers!!

Kimberly Chamiok

Self

Caddo Mills, TX

Why School Choice is Wrong for Texas

School choice in Texas is marketed as giving parents more options, but in reality, it drains public school funding, benefits the wealthy, and harms rural communities—all while using taxpayer dollars to fund private institutions that aren't held to the same standards.

?? It Weakens Public Schools – Texas public schools are already underfunded. Diverting taxpayer money to private schools through vouchers or ESAs takes resources away from the majority of students who rely on public education.

?? It's a Privilege, Not a Solution – Vouchers rarely cover full tuition, meaning low-income families are still priced out while wealthier families get a tax break. Meanwhile, public schools—where most low-income students remain—suffer from larger class sizes, fewer programs, and school closures.

?? It Fails Rural Communities – Most rural areas don't have private schools, meaning vouchers do nothing for these students. Instead, their already-limited public schools are left with even fewer resources.

?? Private Schools Can Discriminate – Unlike public schools, private institutions can reject students based on academic ability, income, or special needs. Why should tax dollars fund schools that can exclude children?

?? It's a Political Scam, Not an Education Fix – The loudest supporters of school choice are politicians and lobbyists, not educators. Instead of privatizing education, Texas should be investing in teacher salaries, smaller class sizes, and fully funded public schools.

Public education is a right, not a privilege. School choice doesn't help kids—it undermines the schools that serve the majority of Texas students. Instead of dismantling public education, we should be strengthening it.

Mohamed Jafarnia

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

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This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

- Mohamed Jafarnia (Parent in SBISD)

Joshua Feinstein

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

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This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

- Dr. Joshua Feinstein (Parent in SBISD)

Minou Feinstein

Self

Houston, TX

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This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

- Minou Feinstein (Parent in SBISD)

Melissa Jordan

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

36 year veteran teacher saying vote NO to the ESA. You are letting testimony from those in the field fall on deaf ears but we do have separation of church and state for a reason. Funding private religious schools is not separation. And private schools do not want academically struggling, disciplinary issues or special needs kids because it lowers their scores and image portrayed to the public. Your constituents are telling you NO but Abbott and those with million dollar donations tell you yes... who do you represent?

Cheryl Fisher

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD

Cypress, TX

I have been an elementary principal for 16 years and in education for 28 years. Public dollars are for public schools. As a taxpayer, I am not okay with my taxes going to private schools that have no accountability. Vote NO to vouchers. Parents already have school choice in Texas and vouchers have not been successful in other states.

Rachel Sollid, Mrs.

Self, self employed

North Richland Hills, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 because it is a direct attack on Texas public schools and an unconstitutional misuse of public funds. This bill is not about “school choice” – Texas parents already have school choice. What this bill really does is divert taxpayer dollars to private, mostly religious schools, something Governor Abbott has openly promoted in his push for vouchers.

If competition is truly the goal, then let’s be honest about the playing field:

- Public schools have been underfunded since 2019. Governor Abbott claims otherwise, but districts across the state are operating on deficit budgets because funding has remained stagnant while costs have skyrocketed. If the state wants public schools to compete, it should fully fund them first.
- This bill creates more government bureaucracy. Instead of piling on new regulations, we should be removing unnecessary restrictions to allow public schools to innovate—that’s real competition.
- Private schools don’t have to play by the same rules. They can cherry-pick students, avoid accountability measures, and sidestep special education laws. Giving them public dollars isn’t about competition—it’s about handing them a new revenue stream they didn’t have before. If they were truly competitive, they wouldn’t need a government subsidy.

The Texas Constitution guarantees every child access to a free public education. Yet, this bill forces local taxpayers—who already fund the bulk of our education system through property taxes—to now subsidize private, unregulated institutions. Why should struggling Texas families foot the bill for a coupon for wealthy private schools? That’s not competition; that’s a giveaway to those who don’t need it.

Texas lawmakers should reject HB3 and focus on fully funding public schools, not undermining them for the benefit of private interests.

Shannon Koonce

Self, special education teacher

Spring, TX

The impact HB3 can have on the future of Texas is pivotal. The underfunding of public education and the strong-hold on funds speaks volumes on what this bill

Is trying to achieve. Please consider the impact that this bill has on our kids and how it is not being advertised fairly to the public. This should go to a general vote and allow the people to speak!

Debbie Morris, Glen Rose Elementary Principal

Self

Nemo, TX

I'm opposed to HB3! Fully fund public schools!

Michelle Harvey

Self

COLLEGE STA, TX

Please oppose HB 3. Taxpayer dollars should fully fund public schools before considering vouchers. Currently, Texas provides about \$6,100 per student—significantly below what's needed. Moreover, 158 out of 254 Texas counties don't have any private schools, making vouchers an impractical solution for many families. Instead of diverting funds to a voucher system that many cannot utilize or afford, we should focus on fully funding our public schools to ensure quality education for ALL Texas students. Please vote NO on HB 3

Debbie Van Aken

Bilingual Special Education Teacher

Pearland, TX

The core issue with special education is not parent choice—it is funding. Special education teachers, case managers, and general education teachers work as advocates for students with disabilities, ensuring they receive the individualized support and services they need. They collaborate with parents to develop Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), identify necessary accommodations, and provide essential resources.

However, public schools often struggle to fully meet these needs due to inadequate funding. Special education requires trained staff, smaller class sizes, specialized materials, and support services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, and mental health counseling. Federal law mandates that students receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), but funding shortfalls force schools to make difficult choices, leading to understaffed programs, overworked teachers, and insufficient resources.

The focus should be on increasing funding for public education so that schools can properly support all students with disabilities rather than shifting the issue to parent choice, which does not address the systemic financial challenges schools face.

Kathryn Brannen

Self / mother

Plano, TX

As a former public school student, a former public Title 1 school teacher, and a current parent of two public school students, I strongly oppose the formation an education savings account program that would divert public monies away from our public schools. These savings accounts do not provide students from lower socioeconomic statuses access to private schools, as evidenced by similar programs in other states. And even if they did, there are no private school options in over half of the counties in Texas. Moreover, private schools can deny admission for any reason. Public dollars must not fund these exclusionary tactics. This program is undeniably a veritable gift to current private school families at the expense of our greater communal good. Who wants to live in a generally less educated society? Democracy depends on an informed and literate citizenry, and this bill diminishes that potential; it will only further widen the divide between the haves and have-nots.

Anne Baumgardner

Self

Houston, TX

Our child has attended both public and private schools from day school to high school. We are acutely aware of the financial privilege of those who attend private. This privilege will NOT be overcome by siphoning \$10K from public schools into our pockets NOR will it ensure that ALL Texas children have access to said private schools. This voucher scam undermines public schools that benefit ALL for private for-profit schools that benefit a few. Those of us with means can bootstrap our private education!

Ramiro Diaz

self

Austin, TX

I DON'T support Vouchers for Texas.

Erin Lange

Self, Public School Principal

Hewitt, TX

I am a proud public school administrator. I've been in public schools for 15 years and both of my daughters attend within the district I work. This bill will harm the students of Texas with such force, it is said it is even being considered. The public school system is already trying to work magic with Pennie's. I don't have enough staff positions to give students the education they deserve because the budget continues to shrink. This bill will pull more money from our public schools that we desperately need. Additionally; what support will the students who need help the most get? The charters and private schools in my town frequently send students back to us because they have IEP or behavioral needs. I am proud that we will work will all students, but that will become increasingly difficult when we have fewer resources and fewer staff. Just five years ago, educators were the heros- everyone saw how hard they work to care for children. Now, we've forgotten all about that and want to blast public schools to the ground. What will happen to our cities when our school districts decline? This bill is not only about education but about welfare for all citizens. I implore you not to vote this through and instead support public education and the thousands of adults just trying our hardest to make this world a better place.

Mary Amy Sample

Self

Flower Mound, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3 for many reasons. It will leave the most vulnerable children in our state without options. Private schools will not be required to accept certain students with disabilities, which will certainly leave some children behind. The bill also does not impose any admission or enrollment requirements on the private schools that choose to participate in the program, meaning they would face no state pressure to adjust their costs, ensure more racial and ethnic diversity, or accept students from different faith traditions.

Then there are the students that live in rural districts. They will be left behind with few options.

HB 3 would continue to leave low-income children behind. Children who come from homes where there is not enough food are too hungry to be able to concentrate in school. If you don't have enough money to feed your children, how will you manage the blockades keeping you from sending your child to private school? The Voucher Program is unlikely to be enough, and even if there was a private school that would economically work, how would a struggling families even get the child to the school or pay for the extras private schools would demand?

Let's make Public Schools better, making it desirable and inclusive to every child's situation. Please vote against HB3.

Kara Freeman

Self

Brenham, TX

Vote NO to HB 3

Sheila Musselman

Self

Clifton, TX

Please reconsider the voucher bill. It is only helping the wealthy parents and students. We all have a choice. We can go to public or private school. Public schools are paid by the taxpayers, and private schools are paid by parents. Why would a private parent not want extra money to help pay for their student's education?

Zenobia C. Joseph

Self - Educational Consultant/Policy Analyst, A+ WRITERS Consulting

Austin, TX

1. Federal Law: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 “is a Federal statute and provides that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance” (FTA C 4702.1B, 2012). Also, “Title VI covers all of the operations of covered entities without regard to whether specific portions of the covered program or activity are Federally funded” (Ch. II-I).

a. HB 3, “Sec. 29.3715. Collection and Reporting of Demographic Information” includes gender, race or ethnicity.

b. Research: “Of the nearly 1 million [Texas] students studied, ... African-American students and those with particular educational disabilities were disproportionately likely to be removed from the classroom for disciplinary reasons.” Black males “had at least one discretionary violation (83 percent)” in *Breaking Schools’ Rules: A Statewide Study of How School Discipline to Students’ Success and Juvenile Justice Involvement* (Fabelo et al., 2011, p. x). Disability Rights Texas’ 2022 IDEA Parents Special Education Rights Manual also noted, “In Texas, Black students are disproportionately identified as needing special education services” (p. 16). HB 3, however, is silent on discipline. Representatives Talarico and Hinojosa noted discipline concerns.

2. Nonrenewal Concern: March 11, 2025 (before 11AM), Rep. Alma Allen asked about Sec. 29.356. Application to Program noting, “The comptroller ... may not require a program participant in good standing to annually resubmit an application for continued participation in the program” (p. 8). The “good standing” language is subjective. Chair Buckley said (to paraphrase) that a student in good standing need not reapply, but program application is not synonymous with school application acceptance nor guarantee of program continuance as St. Andrew’s illustrated in 2006—denying a \$3M donor a renewal contract.

a. Example: “At Austin’s elite St. Andrew’s Episcopal School, everything from the architecture to the emphasis on tolerance is designed to reinforce a sense of community. But when an English teacher had her senior class read *Brokeback Mountain*, a fight between parents over the true meaning of Christian values threatened to tear the close-knit campus apart.” In the end, St. Andrew’s “decided not to offer the family a renewal contract for the next school year” (Spong, 2006).

b. Costs: Blacks wait 60 min. for buses, 10 times longer than whites. A \$10K “voucher” will still deny minorities access to elite West Austin private schools. St. Andrew’s: \$37K (K-5); Application: \$125; New Student Fees: \$1800; Activity: \$175 + afterschool.

3. Recommendations: Amend Program Application to compel private schools to renew student contracts; require an education savings account refund if a private school is not a good match. Be fair: Deny "DEI" private school funding!

Shannon Maloney

Voter

Huntsville, TX

STRONGLY oppose this bill and any legislation which would give public funding to private elementary and/or secondary schools. Texans have been abundantly clear about this. Stop wasting time and playing games.

Cynthia Dwyer

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

The majority of Texasans do NOT support school vouchers. Passing school vouchers will ruin public education in Texas. Other states like Arizona have implemented school vouchers and have NOT seen the results that were promised. Stop holding public schools in Texas hostage by limiting funding. Support public schools the way they should be supported. School vouchers are a BAD idea.

Valerie McKenzie

Self

Woodway, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Savannah Colbert

Self - Graphic Designer

Austin, TX

HB3 is a terrible use of taxpayer money. Stop forcing charter schools on us. Public education is the backbone of our community. Using my taxpayer dollars to fund schools that are unregulated and that can teach and push whatever beliefs they have with no oversight is an atrocious use of our money. Taking the focus and money to charter schools will also remove access to education for many children who cannot attend a charter school because of cost, location, and religious beliefs differing. Our workforce and economy will crumble if students are not given the proper education. I want all Texas children to be given the opportunity to learn. We need teachers who are certified and a learning structure that is backed by scientific research on how developing minds learn. That is what the public education system is set up on. Do not gut their funding in favor of pushing charters!

Juana Schmidt

Self

Bon Wier, TX

Against this!

Rosalinda Kitamura

Self/ teacher

Irving, TX

I am strongly against this bill.

Angela Herring

Teacher/TaxPayer

Eustace, TX

I oppose the school voucher system as it will only benefit very few. Not to mention these charter schools are not held to the same standards as a public school. Where is their data that supports that they teacher be highly qualified. Only a select few will benefit from this leaving the same children behind as always. This is a scam. FUND PUBLIC SCHOOL so we can offer our students more without having to always go to our own pockets as teachers that already have substandard pay where more and more is put on our plates every year by a disconnected legislative body. When is the last time ANY of them were in a classroom everyday, teaching children? When was the last time they were expected to live on a salary, that required to be a professional but paid as if they were a high school dropout? When was the last time half of your check went to health insurance that was a sorry HMO?? When?? If Texas is ever to be great, then it must invest in ALL children, not just a select few to cater to the upper class that make up the smallest population and already have more opportunities than most.

Andrea Rouse

Self/Driver

Dallas, TX

I am so against this.

Donna Olejniczak, Teacher

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please do not pass vouchers. It will exacerbate an already crippled system. The families I serve can not afford private education. The vouchers will not pay an entire year of school. When the kids are done using their vouchers, the parents will send the kids back to public Ed where the funding will be non existence for these kids because they were not there at the beginning of the school year. The districts have been under funded for 15 years and everyone is doing the job of five people. Voucher system will not help the majority, maybe just a minority. The far right is trying to go too far and take away Medicaid for special needs kids who need it the most!

Catherine Chesser

Self. Teacher

Richardson, TX

Public education is a backbone of society. By providing increased funding for private schools we put our most at risk Texans at further disadvantage. Students with disabilities, low income or rural students will not be able to access private schools or charters as readily as more affluent students. Further, by not imposing the same testing regulations on private and charter schools as public schools, this bill fails to hold such institutions accountable for student learning.

SANDRA ROLFE

TEXAS AFT

DESOTO, TX

I do not approve school vouchers. Our public schools will suffer.

Denise Wilkerson

Self

Arlington, TX

I do not want my tax dollars going to private religious schools. I believe it's unconstitutional. in Arlington where I live, parents have numerous choices as to where they can send their children. We have charter schools. We have magnet schools. And the school district provides transportation to any of the public schools in our school district. Vouchers do not give parents choices. The choice is with the private school, whether or not to accept the child. If Texas wants to improve outcomes for more students, they need to invest in food programs for our children, increased access to healthcare for our children, and improve the quality of our public schools through teacher retention programs.

Susan Mouser

Self, retired teacher

Abilene, TX

Listen to the citizens of Texas. Do not listen to big bank accounts who have bought most of our elected officials. NO to vouchers. YES to properly and completely funding PUBLIC Schools.

Cheryl Stockton

Self

White Settlement, TX

You are kidding! Vouchers are bad for students, parents and teachers. Stop the dumbing down of the United States. Trump is not pro US his closing the Dept of Ed is wrong, vouchers are wrong! Student, parents and the US will pay!

LeeAnne Arnold

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am against HB 3 and the creation of education savings accounts being made with public school money to pay for private schools. Please vote against it.

Katherine Meis

Self

Dallas, TX

Please protect public education and vote against school vouchers and for Texas children, many of whom rely on public schools, especially our rural and inner-city students. Vouchers would bleed the limited funds, private schools would just raise rates and are not subject to following state and federal regulations including IEPs and 504s, and vouchers have proven to not work in other states that have adopted this policy.

Sarah Yeager

Self

Austin, TX

I am a former Texas teacher and a current Texas parent with students in public education. I previously was an educator in AZ which has a voucher/esa system in their state. The absolute horrors which it caused in education caused us to move back to Texas so that our children didn't have to endure the hardships caused by this voucher scam. AZ schools were underfunded: curriculum was outdated (I used curriculum older than I was to teach struggling learners, and our maps still had USSR on them because districts were unable to purchase new) there were no supplies (pencils literally kept under lock and key and I had to justify as to why I needed paper and pencils) and teachers were paid below the poverty line (I was paid at a heightened level because of masters work earning 32k a year, a new teacher was earning 28k). Public Schools in AZ are closing left and right and parents are forced to send their students to far away schools that have no resources and very little staff due to no funds. Others have to sacrifice and pay for private schools, of which a voucher barely even scratches the surface of total cost coverage. Don't do this to Texas children. They deserve fully funded schools and more resources. They deserve the best curriculum and the best teachers who are paid more than a living wage, but a wage that shows them their worth and retains them for the future. Do not give my tax money to subsidize the rich!

Rosemary Cavazos

Self

Niederwald, TX

Please, vote no on school vouchers and commit to funding our public schools. Our children, especially our special needs children, need this voucher scam to be voted down.

Regina Ellis

Parent / self

New Boston, TX

No vouchers! Do your constitutional duty and fully fund our public schools instead of taking money from them to give to private schools.

Leah Mailman
Self- social work
Wolforth, TX

I am not in agreement with the voucher system unless there is some sort of protections/requirements that the private school provide accommodations for low income and special needs kids. The school voucher system is set to assist low income families and people who would not otherwise have access to private schools. Most low income families rely on bussing systems due to working regular school hours- thus leaving out those specific low income families. The private school can choose not to accept certain children- thus disqualifying special needs children. There also needs to be some sort of income limit. Most people who will/can attend private school can afford it and should NOT be assisted with funding. Funding/tax exemptions should only be offered to low income families or families below a certain threshold. If school vouchers do pass- they need to be regulated in ways that will actually help the populations that Abbot claims they are supposed to help.

David Chandler
Self, teacher
Houston, TX

Vote NO on this legislation. Texas public schools deserve more than to be pilfered by voucher programs. STOP THE PRIVATIZATION OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Vote NO.

Nahid Butters, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

This bill will only need to the impoverishment of our public education system. We need to save our public schools. I do not support!

Domita Clark, Paraprofessional
EPISD
El Paso, TX
Fight for what is right

Sarah Norris
self, professor
Austin, TX

My kids attend Texas public schools, as did I. I believe our society depends upon high-quality public education. School vouchers will bankrupt our public schools and harm our kids. No to vouchers. Support public education.

Kecia Adams-Wright
Self
Argyle, TX

I strongly oppose the governor's voucher plan he is attempting to push through. Voters do NOT want this yet he continues. Please represent your constituents and fight against this!

Anna Couch

My family

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill as public money should only be applied to public services, most definitely including schools. As a former Texas teacher, I know that Texas public schools are severely under funded and need to be fully funded to solve many of the problems that are brought up when discussing public schools/school choice. Currently there are a plethora of challenges that public schools face that could be solved by funding them appropriately. Why are Texas schools one of the least funded schools in the country? If we value education, then adequate funding should be appropriated to it instead of taking away more dollars by directing public funding to private schools that do not have the same programs that students need to be successful, accountability, acceptance of all students that public schools provide. Public schools make sure to meet the needs of all students without turning any away with the resources they have available. Classrooms are having to be packed due to severe lack of funding, and not being able to hire the appropriate amount of teachers and support staff. There are many school choice options currently available and parents are able to decide what is best for their child and family as it currently is. With this "school choice" plan, how many students would actually benefit from the plan? Would all Texas students be able to attend the private school paid for by our public dollars? Or is this fund intended for only a select few? How will that be decided? And how is it fair to take public money away from all students to provide more "choice" for the few that would reap the benefits? If this is not a choice for all, then there is no choice. Let's instead provide for better education for all students by fully funding public schools where districts don't have to continually cut programs, staff, teachers, and close schools down simply because the budget is always falling short. Let's provide the resources that schools need and support our teachers who dedicate their lives to students instead of setting them up for failure. Let's work together to set our public schools up for success by fully funding them and treating public school teachers as dedicated, hardworking, selfless professionals that they are. Everyone will still have the same school choices as there are many currently available but this time public schools can provide better by having the resources they so desperately need.

Scott Miller, President of Progressive Information Technology

Small business owners

Dallas, TX

Vouchers will kill our workforce readiness. Goofy "schools" like Mercy Culture will graduated scientifically illiterate kids. Texas' economic miracle would be killed by greed. Vouchers are wrong for employers who need smart, informed workers, not flat earthers.

Penny Ghinaudo, Ms.

Retired teacher

Santa Fe, TX

Don't mess with Texas teachers

Julia Jackson

Self

Katy, TX

Texas needs good public schools. They are an imperative part of the American Dream. A voucher program will leave disproportionate groups of poor children behind. If we want to be a strong state, we need to provide all citizens with a strong education.

Thalia Loera

N/A

Houston, TX

These vouchers mean the disenfranchisement of the youth of our country. Without our support, our country will never be close to the great nation we could be. Do not pass the vouchers bill. It WILL affect you. I know you don't believe it, because of all the money you'll be buried in. But believe me, you and your will reap this terrible terrible lie you are about to sow.

Leata Needham, Mrs.

Self

Gordon, TX

I do not agree with HB3. I see the hard work teachers put in daily...even before and after contract hours, and on weekend, to support their students with little government support. Taking from the poor and giving to the rich. That is all this bill will do. It is selfish, and unacceptable! As a Sped teacher, I see all types of needs accommodated for in my tiny district. Taking away from students is blatantly not caring for children and their emotional, social, and academic well being. Shame on anyone pushing for this bill! Our kids are depending on you while you play games to get rich.

Dustin West

Self

Abilene, TX

Not in support of the bill. It is not true school choice unless it is available for all Texas students. There is no guarantee that the students who will need this bill the most will be even able to use it as there is likely a limited availability of resources. Our family uses our choice to send our son to a school district that better serves our needs. That is school choice. Not public funding private school because Timmy's mom doesn't like a how his teacher teaches social studies. Giving public schools the resources to succeed every Texas child is the best way to ensure our students in Texas stand a chance.

I know there is a poll listed in the Texas republican primary that is quoted saying Texans want school choice but the poll says nothing about using public money to fund a small number of Texas children. If the question had been properly worded, I doubt it would be the "proof" Buckley and Abbott declare it to be.

Krystal Schumacher

Self-Teacher

Katy, TX

We don't want the vouchers! Title I schools are already struggling. Abbott ILLEGALLY withholding money for 2 years because this didn't pass last time has only further hurt our students. Parents in Texas deserve to know that the public school is the best option. Fund the public schools and NOT private schools. Tax dollars are supposed to benefit everyone. Not a select few. We told you 2 years ago we didn't want vouchers. And y'all are so arrogant to push for it again. We said no! We're still saying NO! You are supposed to listen to your constituents, not to a few rich people that want more money for their private schools.

Mayra Olvera-Risser

Self

Richmond, TX

Many citizens like me do not approve of this bill. It was been rejected twice before. Why are our "lawmakers" continuing to push it. How about we introduce a bill to HELP our public schools flourish? Help our students, our teachers, our families—put faith back into our schools! Please stop pushing this parental rights narrative. Parents HAVE rights now! Nobody has ever denied them or taken anything from that. Instead focus parents and families to get involved in their children's education, invest in stronger public schools and teachers, in better programs, more support to our communities, and stop this divisiveness.

Stacy Walker

Self/College Professor

Spring, TX

Vouchers will erode our public school system and undermine the quality of life for most of our residents and students.

Emily Hessing
Self
Highland Village, TX

As a parent and public school teacher, I ask you to please vote NO on this Bill. Public Schools need more financial support. Private Schools should not be able to have public funds when they do not have the same requirements such as state testing, accepting ALL students, state certified teachers, etc... Please increase the basic allotment to Public Schools and give Teachers a much needed raise.

Polly Stelzel
Self
Lavon, TX

Why are we willing to provide \$10000 per voucher for private schools and only \$6200 for public school students? That is wrong on so many levels. Public school students should be given an equal playing field.

Zainab Tinwala
SELF
Coppell, TX

PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THIS BILL. Texas needs Public School funding to be the most primary, foremost in urgency and of highest \$\$ value. Our future workforce and quality of life as a Texan is at stake. Our State needs to be the premier in public education across the country- with the rate people are moving here and the quality of companies we are attracting. As a business owner, it is impossible to find quality TX residents and we land up looking cross country or off-shore. Educating our future work force to a level beyond "standard" , "acceptable" "enough" is the need of the hour. We need cutting edge and quality of education on par with the WORLD in order to be the best manufacturing, technology units here. ESA is only helping a very very select few who can already help themselves. It DOES NOT help Texas - our people, our communities, our local establishments. PLEASE STOP.

Eddie Earwood, Mr.
self. teacher
Brackettville, TX
No Voucher

Daphne Neal, . Mrs
HFT
Houston, TX

I say no to school vouchers because private school funding takes away from public school funding. I am a teacher. My kids went to both private and public schools. I pay high taxes in the district where I live. I say no to school vouchers!!

Courtney Nesloney, RN
Comal ISD school nurse
Bulverde, TX

School vouchers are NOT what most Texans want! Public school funding is not good now and can't afford to lose any funding. Vouchers are used by students already attending private school

Patricia Murphy, Ms.
Self
Dallas, TX

I urge you to vote no on this bill. Keep public money in public schools! Don't siphon it off to schools that will pop-up just to make profit and/or to schools that do not service ALL students- who instead choose their "business clients."
will

Richard Brewe
self
Houston, TX

This bill is an abomination against the idea of a civil society and the future of all children within the state. Ruining the value and status of public education across the state will only devalue the status of private education as well. There is no benefit to this bill.

Catherine Hanks
Self
Lufkin, TX

I am vehemently opposed to this bill. Texas already has among the lowest per student expenditures in the nation; Texas' public schools are already struggling financially. This bill will only serve to bankrupt our public school system. In addition the amount allotted per student will not be enough to cover private school tuition, so those who choose to attend private school will still need to cover some of the tuition expense, meaning that this is really just a break for wealthy and upper middle class families. Additionally, private schools are not subject to the same requirements as public schools- they are not required to educate all students, they are not required to meet the same academic standards, and there is very little financial oversight to account for how our tax dollars would be spent. Similar bills which have passed in other states have proven to be fiscal nightmares. Please vote "No" for house bill 3.

Maria Lopez
Aldine AFT
Spring, TX

The vouchers are not good for public schools

Allison Carroll
Self instructional coach
Kerrville, TX

I feel like vouchers will destroy public schools. At this point education is just crowd control. We need to put more money into schools to hire more teachers and reduce class sizes. That is key to a great education!

Mitchell Sanford
Self
Canton, TX

Vote no to HB 3. Take those funds and give them back to public schools that serve over 5 million students. This is nothing but a vendor bill to help a select few (that the private schools will select). It is NOT what your constituents want. Do the right thing and vote no to HB3.

Guadalupe Avila
Public School Teachers
Houston, TX

Do Not pass this bill. It will harm our Texas children, it will bankrupt public schools. Do Not vote for this disastrous bill. We will vote you out.

Mary L Riggs Cuyno

Self /Retired

Wichita Falls, TX

I oppose school vouchers paid for by public tax dollars. This benefits few students who already can afford private school and underfunds rural schools that don't have the population to support private schools. Vouchers take money away from communities whose only option is public school. Make no mistake, this bill is supported and the campaign funded by billionaire Jeff Yass to siphon off public tax dollars to line his own pockets. Privatization is right out of the private equity handbook. Children will receive fewer services at higher costs to taxpayers. Eventually, public education will be so underfunded it will no longer be an option. The underprivileged will suffer while the wealthier benefit. For politicians that push their Christian values on everyone including the placement of the 10 commandments in classrooms and forcing teachers to incorporate bible lessons in their curriculum, you sure aren't following the Beatitudes or the 10th Commandment that talks about not coveting. What kind of Christian takes from the poor to give to the rich? Shouldn't that be the other way around? Jeff Yass could have put that money toward public schools or paid his fair share in taxes, except he is not a Texan. He is an out of state donor. He's spending money toward wrecking our public school system because he wants everything privatized and profit-driven. Public schools are neither. Furthermore, he and the politicians he supports are buying "loyalty" from the private school students and parents through schools that have no public accountability, all on my significant property taxes here in Texas. Yass has stated publicly he wants to see the demise of public schools. If you truly want to give a voice to parents, then put this measure on the ballot and let the voters decide. Otherwise, this measure is just another get rich scam where children and taxpayers are being used as pawns. NO on taxpayer funded school vouchers!

Kimberly Cockman

AFT

Katy, TX

Vote NO

Ronald Nichols

Self

Centerville, TX

Please listen to the public who overwhelmingly oppose vouchers. We all know the story.... Greg Abbotts money source, which is from out of the State, is pushing this. Vouchers are not the answer to education!

Tracey Borchardt, Executive Director of Athletics

Self Educator

Odessa, TX

Treat all kids the same dollar for dollar

Carol Rogers

Self

Denton, TX

Please stop this bill! Look closely at other states who have implemented this. It does not work! Rural communities, low income families, children with learning/physical disabilities and our public schools will suffer. Release the funds that have been just sitting there and properly fund our schools and teachers. Thank you.

Jessica Brown, Dr.

Self

Houston, TX

Please vote no on any voucher scheme for Texas. I have two children in TX public schools, both of whom require some specialized support. I am concerned that this bill will harm special needs children— which is neither pro family nor pro life. Vouchers are bad for Texas families.

Melinda Buchanan

Self

Sanger, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB 3. This bill will create an enormous burden on Texas taxpayers as it creates an additional lane of school funding by subsidizing private schools. It opens the door for government intrusion into both private and homeschools.

Javier Vasquez

Austin ISD

Austin, TX

Hello. Voters voted for representatives to pass school choice. Let's make it happen!

- Javier the bus driver

Andrea Brown, Ms.

Self

Houston, TX

Dear Members of the House Committee on Public Education,

I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill 3, the proposed school voucher bill, as it poses significant risks to public education in Texas and its stakeholders, including students, parents, and teachers.

****Impact on Public Education****

House Bill 3 would divert taxpayer funds to private schools, undermining the already fragile public education system. This reallocation of resources would hinder public schools' ability to provide quality education, particularly for vulnerable groups such as low-income families, students with special needs, and English language learners. By prioritizing private education, we risk deepening educational inequities.

****Concerns for Teachers and Parents****

For teachers, this bill could lead to job insecurity, reduced morale, and larger class sizes due to funding cuts. As dedicated professionals, teachers are essential to student success, and any threat to their stability directly affects the educational experience of our children.

Parents may face challenges navigating the complexities of private education. While some may welcome the option of vouchers, many families lack the resources or time to research and afford private schooling. This could limit their choices, rather than expand them, especially for those already struggling to make ends meet.

****Lobbying Efforts and Financial Benefits****

It is crucial to scrutinize those lobbying for this bill. Organizations that stand to gain from the expansion of school vouchers often include private educational institutions and for-profit companies. Their financial interests raise ethical concerns about the motivations behind this legislation, suggesting a potential conflict between profit and the public good.

****Effects on Retired Teachers and the Teacher Retirement Fund****

The long-term implications of this bill on retired teachers and the teacher retirement fund are also alarming. A decline in public school funding could jeopardize the financial stability of the retirement fund, affecting the pensions of those who dedicated their careers to education. Protecting the interests of our retired educators is essential, as they deserve a secure retirement after years of service.

In summary, House Bill 3 threatens the foundation of our public education system, impacting students, parents, and educators alike. I urge you to prioritize the needs of public schools and the communities they serve. Please vote against this legislation and support initiatives that strengthen public education in Texas.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Louise Champagne

Self. Retired.

Riesel, TX

I am 100% OPPOSED to SCHOOL VOUCHERS. I am OPPOSED to any PUBLIC FUNDS being used for any PRIVATE schools.

We need to FULLY FUND our PUBLIC SCHOOLS and PROVIDE the best possible FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION for all TEXAS children.

Michelle Walsh

Self - market analyst and mom

Austin, TX

I feel strongly the state should support public schools and funding should NOT be used for private or alternative school funding. The state should also review and abolish the unfair Robin Hood tax plan.

Jacquelynn Erickson

Self

Cibolo, TX

I oppose this bill. Using tax payer money to educate students in a private setting should absolutely hold private/charter schools to the same standards of public education. This is yet more money being taken from public students making it harder and harder to educate some of the most challenging students while denying them their constitutional right to an education.

Cynthia Dominguez, M. Ed

Self

El Paso, TX

I am not in agreement with this bill. It is unfair and unjust to create the school choice vouchers because low income students would be affected the most.

Clara Peden

Self - stay at home parent

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose ESA. The state has failed for many years to fully fund public education. Our Governor has stated that parents should have options if their school is failing - parents can already leave for private school and the Governor is one of the individuals that has caused failure in public education. The state has not increased their student allotment since 2019. How can anyone pay their 2025 bills with their 2019 paycheck?

Suzann Benson

Self

Port neches, TX

No public voychers

Betty Sanders

Self, retired teacher

Taft, TX

Vote NO! Please consider working with public schools to solve their problems rather than working against them. Many families in many areas in Texas don't have the ability to offer or accept a choice of school. My area would require transportation out of town; many families wouldn't be able to provide that. So this program would not help them. However, figuring out how to improve discipline issues and retain good teachers would help everyone. Vote NO. Support public education fully.

Betty Sanders

Sheri Cota
Self
Fort Worth, TX

As a state, it's important to have a well educated society. Vouchers will prevent that from happening. It will mostly hurt rural families, who don't have as much access to private schools. See the data from Arizona. It's been tried already and is a massive failure. The wealthy few shouldn't get a discount on tuition at the expense of most of our students in Texas. Private Schools can pick and choose their students and often leave out special needs students. Private schools already have more resources available to them than public schools. What's to stop them from raising their prices, leaving even more students out? They don't even have to be accountable by taking STAAR, even though the vouchers would come from public funds. I urge you to think of all of Texas's students and not just the wealthy ones. Public schools need to be properly funded to benefit all of our communities!

Thank you!

Julie Seeley
Teacher/ self
Argyle, TX

No to vouchers by any name! Raise the basic allotment! Fully fund Texas PUBLIC schools with public money. No tax dollars to private schools. Raise the basic allotment! Give all public school teachers a \$5000 raise, not some fake meet pay scheme. Preserve TRS teacher retirement! I have devoted 33 years to public school teaching. Abbott is in an unethical relationship with his friend Fass. Please do the right thing. Do not underestimate the power of teachers to vote all of you out.

Kelley Thomas
Self, Volunteer
Richardson, TX

Committee members, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 3.

I'm Kelley Thomas, a proud public school parent of two who thrived in our neighborhood schools, a former educator, and a dedicated volunteer.

Some claim an ESA program won't defund public schools, but the math says otherwise. If just 2% of students in a 50,000-student district leave, that's 1,000 students gone. Using TEA's 2023-24 average M/O cost of \$10,800 per student, that's \$10.8 million lost. Spread across 60 campuses, each loses about \$183,600—without reducing a single fixed cost like transportation, insurance, or utilities. There wouldn't be a need for a staff reduction. Schools would now need to cover the same costs with significantly fewer dollars. This is how public schools—traditional and charter—are seen as being defunded or could be described as systematically underfunded.

Some compare ESA losses to families moving out of state. But when families relocate, others move in, keeping enrollment stable. An ESA program permanently removes funding from the system similarly to an ongoing enrollment decline in many of our once fast-growth districts. We know that the impact of negative enrollment growth is forcing districts to increase class sizes, limit support staff, and close campuses. Even if only 1% of students leave annually after year one, the long-term effect will be devastating.

We all remember 2011's \$5.4 billion education cuts. Schools slashed programs, laid off teachers, and relied on volunteers to fill in the gaps. Today, with rising deficit budgets, it's happening again—but now, the gaps are getting wider and the volunteer pool is drying up.

No matter where ESA funding comes from, diverting tax dollars to new system reduces available resources for Texas' infrastructure—roads, water, electricity. How can Texas remain a top destination for businesses if we gamble with education and critical services every two years?

The eighth-largest economy in the world should not risk its future on short-sighted policies. HB 3 threatens the stability of our public schools, communities, and economy. I urge you to reject this bill.

Tracey Rudnick
Self
San Antonio, TX

HB3 is not appropriate for Texas residents. It would adversely affect the students and their right to a free and appropriate education. FAPE. Texas students that are around or below the poverty line are still entitled to a free and appropriate education! They don't have parents that can drive them to their private school, they utilize the school bussing to attend. Sometimes these students don't eat unless they attend school. We are a country for ALL people, right? Not just the wealthy, right? Please think about the legal recourse and the people you are representing. Thank you for your time.

Carolyn Potter
Richardson High School PTA
Dallas, TX

Texas funds for Texas public education, not special interest east coast money.

Alison Westermann
Self, homemaker
El Paso, TX

Vouchers are a scam. Here's what they tell you: it's about parental choice. That's a lie. Private schools, on average, cost over \$10,000 annually. Add the cost of books, uniforms, school lunch, fundraisers, gas or other transportation costs and you're looking at closer to \$15,000. Per year. Do you really think private schools are excited about welcoming your children, or do you think they'll simply raise tuition to keep them out while also cashing your voucher? As a student of history, I can safely say that I know what they'll do. Leaving aside all the benefits of public school versus private, for now, did you know that in Texas, homeschooling counts as a private school? When you realize that, it all becomes crystal clear, doesn't it? Proponents of vouchers aren't pro-private school, they're anti-school in general. They support homeschooling as a way to contravene the foundational ethics and morals learned in a public school - lessons about interdependence, the value of all of our freedoms, and the shared experiences that build empathy with and for people whose lives are very different from our own. Homeschooling is not the enemy here, but it is the reason that vouchers are being proposed - to siphon money OUT of public schools and into the hands of individuals, who will not turn around and enroll their children in private schools, contrary to what they're telling us. The facts on the ground reveal that statement as a lie: there aren't enough private schools for all the children who will ostensibly take advantage of these vouchers. Don't be fooled - destroying public education is the goal here, and vouchers are simply a tool in service of that goal, which serves the ultimate goal - weakening and destroying the fabric of our democracy. Public education is worth protecting. Public funds belong in public schools.

Carolyn DEL RIO
Self
El Paso, TX

School vouchers will not improve the quality of education for Texas children, especially those in El Paso. Our public school system here outperforms state standards nearly every year. Area private schools offer less opportunities for students than public schools. What WILL help public education is have Governor Abbott give public schools the state funding necessary. We received zero dollars from the state this year. Texas should invest in their public schools as the majority of students attend public schools.

Lannie Gray
Self- Telecommunications Manager
Sunnyvale, TX

Texas House Bill 3 is a direct attack on public education. Instead of properly funding our schools, supporting teachers, and ensuring students have the resources they need, this bill pushes a voucher scheme that siphon taxpayer dollars away from public schools to fund private education with little accountability. Vouchers are NOT the answer—they divert critical funding from already underfunded schools, widening the gap between privileged and struggling students. Even with bipartisan opposition, Greg Abbott is forcing this through, ignoring the will of the people and the lawmakers who know this bill will do more harm than good. If we truly care about the future of Texas education, we should be strengthening our public schools, not dismantling them for political gain.

Chele Bowser
Self teacher
San antonio, TX

I vote no to vouchers

Jennifer Davis
Self, homemaker
Austin, TX

No vouchers! And fund our public schools properly. So many kids depend on public schools for an education. In addition, a lot of people don't have an option to send their children to private schools nor do they want to. We have loved our public schools so far and want to keep that option!

Siobhan Lilley
Self
Saginaw, TX

Vote NO for school vouchers! Public money is for public schools-let's improve our public education system as a priority before funneling money into the private sector!

Miguel Aceves
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

Vouchers do not guarantee that a child will be accepted into the school. Private schools have the option of not accepting students whereas public schools don't have that choice. This voucher program is only for the select few. There's also accountability issues. Are we going to have the Private schools accountable like the public schools.

Monica Land
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

As a teacher for 25 years, I'm afraid for my future as I approach retirement. I'm afraid of losing my retirement because of all the outrageous decisions being made by the government. Vouchers will ruin public education and make life miserable for the special education programs and the students they serve. This is robbing from the poor to make the rich richer! No to vouchers! Education is for ALL not just the rich!

Mary Ann Knight
Self
Mansfield, TX

I am OPPOSED to the ESA program as outlined in HB 3. The State does not fully fund public schools, refused to use the surplus to lift the funding to the level that it should be, yet HB3 proposes to pay families to go to private schools & homeschools. This is not what taxes are for; it is not supposed to be coupons for the wealthy. These ESAs do not cover private school tuition, so ESAs are essentially serving as reimbursement to those who can already afford private schools. We do not give reimbursement coupons to those who choose not to utilize public parks & public roadways.

Nicki Morrison
Self- Educator
Ennis, TX

ESA, vouchers, etc. will steal money from public education. We already have school choice in TX. Public funds should stay in public schools.

Stephanie Cantrell, Retired

Self/teachers

Arlington, TX

The voucher program is wrong!!! It will demoniac the finding for public schools and will lower the amount of money going into TRS!!! Our state will not be competitive with other states since we will not have enough educational resources and well educated students. This promotes elitist idéala and not education for all. It is lowering Texas education standards even more than they are now. Public education is important for our state and country so all may be on equal footing economically, educationally and politically. We need smarter people to help run businesses and keep our communities successful. Do not vote in favor of vouchers.

LETICIA M SALCIDO

Self/curriculum Specialist

Cibolo, TX

As a public school employee (TEA designated Master teacher and now a coordinator of Curriculum and instruction) and a product of the public school system,i know first hand how the voucher bill will affect all students and their families. Taking away funding from an already struggling system means the further loss of effective teachers, loss of resources for students and school, and overflowing classrooms where students struggle to get individualized attention. This bill does not care about children. This bill only serves to help those families who don't need the help and hurts those families that need it most. Texas pays millions for a standardized test that doesn't truly capture what students know and bases teacher effectiveness on one measure. This money could be better spent on students and this is where the real legislation should be focused!

Colin Shillinglaw

Self

Flint, TX

I am against HB 3 and all other voucher mechanisms. I do not see fairness or accountability in this. I grew up in private schools and realize that was an option , just like it is now. The 1 billon to private school will not help the problems with education. Please work on the issues that will really mean change. Thank you

Colin Shillinglaw

Christine Heath, Mrs

Self

Cypress, TX

I do not support school vouchers

Daniel Kline

Self

Denton, TX

I am against school voucher programs. They only defund public education, which fully services and supports everyone. Private schools do not.

Natascha Gonzales

Self- Teacher

Garland, TX

Texas House Bill 3 is a direct attack on public education. Instead of properly funding our schools, supporting teachers, and ensuring students have the resources they need, this bill pushes a voucher scheme that siphon taxpayer dollars away from public schools to fund private education with little accountability. Vouchers are NOT the answer—they divert critical funding from already underfunded schools, widening the gap between privileged and struggling students. Even with bipartisan opposition, Greg Abbott is forcing this through, ignoring the will of the people and the lawmakers who know this bill will do more harm than good. If we truly care about the future of Texas education, we should be strengthening our public schools, not dismantling them for political gain.

Stephanie Shatt

Self- Dyslexia Practitioner

Fort Worth, TX

I have been a Texas Educator for over 30 years. Never have I felt such budget cut backs as over the past 5 years. Teachers are underpaid, over worked (larger class sizes) all the while Texas has increasing demands due to state standards and the strains of society on our children. Texas public schools, is already underfunded by the state. Since school district funding is primarily based on student enrollment and attendance, if current students were to leave for private schools or homeschool, the financial impact would be great. The amount of the voucher is not enough to cover any private school of quality. Which means this is essentially, taking money from public school and giving to those who currently have enough to pay for private school and are already doing so. If taxpayer's dollars go to private schools in the form of vouchers, what type of accountability is going to be put in place for the private schools. Are they going to have to accept any and all students? Neither the private schools or parents will want this. I have had parents whose children attend private school express their concern for the vouchers. They do not want the state funds due to the strings that will have to be attached in order to hold private schools accountable to the money they are receiving. I have yet heard anyone in support of this voucher; Private school or public schools. My only conclusion is that this is yet another political stunt being pulled to line the pockets of someone with power. We all know this is not what's best for kids. If this passes and private schools are funded without state accountability, why would a public educator remain teaching for public schools? Isn't teacher retention already a concern?

I am entrusting you to represent the people and stop the politics affecting the future of our children. Thank you for your efforts.

Susan Cowden

self - Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

Lubbock, TX

I am writing to ask representatives to vote against HB3. A strong public school system is in everyone's best interest and any money diverted from public schools is problematic. Parents and families do have the choice to attend private schools or home school with their own private funds and should not take funds away from public schools to do so. I support fully funding public schools.

Olympia McClendon

Self

Dallas, TX

This Bill would be detrimental to public school funding. Over 5 million students attend public school in Texas. Passing this bill would result in higher student to teacher ratios and fewer resources to educate those students. These outcomes with negatively impact the effectiveness of public education.

Ricky Brooks

Self

Pasadena, TX

Say NO. Stop attacking our future. Leave public education alone and support it for all children. Stop the steal.

Natalie Osborn, Mrs.

Self

Arlington, TX

I do not want vouchers. My tax money should not go toward the private sector. I have two children one of which is in public school. My second child will most likely go to public school as well. If I choose to put my students in private school I should pay for that choice. If private schools are looking to increase numbers then they should make it more affordable. However we know this is not the ultimate gain of private schools. As a public school educator this bill will cripple an already fledgling system. If the Governor and TEA want to discuss the issues that are currently effecting our public schools than please get a panel of those who are actually on the ground from large, and small districts. Parents, teachers, and administrators. These issues run deep and have been happening for years even prior to Covid. But moving funds from our public schools will not solve any of these issues. Vouchers are simply welfare for the wealthy.

Celia Rosas, Mrs.

Self

Dallas, TX

I demand that Governor Greg Abbott oppose any legislation, including H.R. 899, or efforts by the executive branch to abolish the Department of Education. Eliminating the department would devastate public schools, hurt students with disabilities, strip away civil rights protections for millions of students, and eliminate crucial workforce development programs that boost our economy. Education is a fundamental right, not a privilege for the wealthy. This savings program will not help our low/mid income students. It will completely eliminate the opportunity of the American dream. It will drown the hope of changing the circle of many including my own. I seek for a better future and our children are our future.

Morgan Kirkpatrick

Self/marketing coordinator

Lubbock, TX

As a former Texas middle school teacher, I urge the committee and all house representatives to listen to your constituents! That means you have to meet with them. If you're avoiding town halls because you expect dissent, that should tell you that we do not want vouchers. We want you to fully fund public education in Texas. We want public funds to stay in public schools.

I left public education in May of 2022 because I saw the writing on the wall - if you allow vouchers in Texas, you are allowing the destruction of public education. Are there improvements needed for Texas students and teachers and school staff? YES! That is why you must fully fund public education and keep public funds in public schools.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Arron Preston

Myself

Dale, TX

Vote no to welfare for the wealthy. Vote no to using public funds for private schools. Vote no to subsidizing the middle man industry of private school clearinghouses. Vote no to funding private schools who have no required curriculum, no required testing, no required standards, no requirements to accept children with disabilities or provide IEP services.

Vote yes to funding public schools and protecting the rights of children with disabilities.

Colleen Mladic

Self

Waxahachie, TX

This bill will irreparably harm students and lower their educational success. Public money belongs in public schools.

Daniel Wilcox
Independent
Mansfield, TX

I am in strong opposition against HB3! Fully fund public schools! Inflation and unfunded safety mandates from the last session have the majority of public school districts in deficit budgets.

NICOLE MARKER
Self
Houston, TX

Please vote no on HB 3. Public schools deserve full funding.

Beverly Avila, Mrs
AFT
Mcallen, TX

Please protect public schools and employees. No vouchers or ESA

Shannon IRISH
Self and my public school attending son
La Vernia, TX

Texas refuses to properly funded public schools now suddenly there's so much money it can start paying for private school too? Texans don't want vouchers, they want their neighborhoods public schools to succeed and flourish. They want their neighbors who are teachers to continue to have jobs. We don't want vouchers and I think you overwhelmingly heard that yesterday.

Uyen Tran Parsons
self
Denton, TX

Born and raised in Texas, I am incredibly grateful for the outstanding public education I received growing up. House Bill 3 is a threat to public education as a public good, particularly for rural areas where school funding and great teachers are already limited. I also find it concerning that there is a education savings account program that does not guarantee everyone who wants a private school education could get a private school education. Please do not allow this bill to go forward. We need a remodeling of public education in Texas but not in this form. Please consider those who are most vulnerable in our state such as single parents, families of military service members, first generation students, and students with disabilities.

Natalia Jackson
Self/Social Worker
Lubbock, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Please do not use taxpayer money to fund expensive private schools.

Jessica Allen
Self/teacher
Nemo, TX

As a public school educator it is disheartening to see that our school funds will be given to private schools. As a special education teacher and we help fund private school students to be tested for disabilities doesn't seem fair. Us teachers do not care for a pay raise right now we want funded for help of our failed education system, we want funds for behavioral programs, we want funds for our special education programs! We need help because we are drowning. Please vote NO to vouchers! Please help our education system where we need it!

Herb Cox, Dr.

Self

Waco, TX

I am a retired teacher, coach and administrator having spent 29 years serving in Texas public schools.

Texans overwhelmingly have shown time and time again that they DO NOT WANT vouchers.

Our Texas public schools have been woefully underfunded with the basic allotment having remained the same since 2019.

This is unacceptable and does not follow the Texas Constitution Art. 7.

Please fund our schools at an appropriate level. If a \$10,000 voucher is the number for students already attending private schools in the form of a voucher, why are public schools kids only worth \$6,160 in the eyes of Texas?

Fund our schools, give every teacher a pay raise, and stop bowing down to the out of state billionaires who are pushing their voucher agenda/

If vouchers are so popular you shouldn't have any problem with putting them on a statewide ballot and let all Texas decide once and for all.

Remember, private schools are exclusionary by design; special needs students will be kicked to the curb. Vouchers are a return to the days of segregation.

Texas public schools serve all of God's children.

Thank you,

herb

Jerri Wells, Ms

Self

Kerrville, TX

I believe HB3 is not in the best interest of children. Diverting funds from public education which must serve all children to private and homeschool situations where those entities can refuse services to specific children doesn't help the majority of children in Texas. It will only benefit a small number of students and families while crippling public education even further when the rejected students from private and homeschool situation now must turn back to public schools that have fewer funds and fewer teachers due to the voucher program.

Also teachers will be leaving public education as there will not be funds available to maintain their salaries which will begin crippling TRS that teachers and staff have been REQUIRED to pay into that can leave many without retirement benefits in a few short years if this bill passes. Vote NO if you care at all about students and the vast majority of teachers who sacrifice their time, money and resources for public education on a daily basis.

Megan Barrett

Self

Dallas, TX

Vouchers are a scam and only hurt public education. Public education needs more money put into the classrooms not less. Charter and private schools are not held to the same standards and do not provide quality education as much as it is promoted. Many don't even hire certified teachers.

Cara Prentice

Self

Plano, TX

I absolutely oppose the school voucher scam. The Texas government sits in millions of dollars of funds for public education, while starving schools of that funding. It is abhorrent that you want to use MY tax dollars to give that money to private schools that can refuse to accept students that they deem "not acceptable." If you want to send your kids to private school, then do it, but I shouldn't pay for some rich kid that's already in private school. What about areas that don't have private schools? Are you going to provide transportation to other parts of the city?? Will you pay for after school care so parents that work have time to pick up their kids when their school is miles away from their home?? Will private schools provide for the needs of my child who needs special education services? No, they won't. Will private and charter schools have the same oversight as public schools? No, they won't. Stop the Abbott voucher scam and do something that will help the state. Districts are already closing schools and cutting programs. STOP starving our schools

Claudia Cortez
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Mary Wilson, Ag teacher
Mary Wilson
Groveton, TX

I stand opposed to vouchers in Texas as written in this bill. No public money should be used to fund a private entity ever. Please vote No

Marcie Gollhofer
Self
Austin, TX

Vote no, please. Signed, former schoolteacher

KC West, Dr.
Self/Physician
San Antonio, TX

Please vote against vouchers. Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. There is nothing more imperative to our state than safe, quality education of our future leaders. Please fund public education for our children and our future.

Tiffany Burrell
Self
San antonio, TX

I oppose HB3 and any ESAs or voucher programs. I support the proper funding of public schools.

Sal Weston, Dr.
Self
Lone star, TX

This voucher bill is another socialist imposition on conservatives. We don't want the vouchers and their entitlements. How sickening it is to see the republican party being run by the progressives. You may pass this bill but we will not forget your actions.

Rena Curry
Self
Azle, TX

Help.our public schools....

Lisa Nelson

Self/CPA for public accounting diem

Dallas, TX

I DO NOT want vouchers or "education saving accounts" . Texas has always had a good public education system and greed is trying to ruin it by passing this bill. Fund public schools, and let private individuals who chose to go to private institutions pay for those themselves. Our state should be all about equality and not about subsidizing private school for wealth friends of the elected officials. The people of this state do not want this bill. Listen to whom you are supposed to be representing. Do not allow this to pass!

Summer Rose

Self, small business owner

Austin, TX

NO VOUCHERS!!!!

Jackie Besinger

Self

Austin, TX

Against the voucher bill HB3 by yet another progressive bill by Buckley.

This crisis goes beyond a mere financial dilemma; it is a deliberate failure born from legislative neglect, resulting in chronic underfunding, outdated recapture systems, and burdensome mandates that lack adequate financial support. As we navigate these challenging times, we must acknowledge the alarming truths about the Texas legislature and its higher political echelons, which are misleading Texans while expanding government power at the cost of our freedoms. United as conservative patriots, we have a duty to resist government overreach before it becomes too late. While school choice is often misrepresented as a strictly conservative or American concept, its origins trace back to the 1930s through the early 1980s, shaped significantly by Soviet communist and socialist ideologies. Driven by University of California–Berkeley professors John E. "Jack" Coons and Stephen Sugarman, with voucher advocacy resonating with socialist progressives during the 60s, 70s, and 80s. This raises pivotal questions regarding the alignment of the Republican Party's current ideologies with those of progressive socialist and communist movements.

Why is the Republican Party supporting a system that fosters control while diverting taxpayer funds to private organizations? Texas already offers a range of educational options that do not require excessive funding to address deliberately created educational issues. To the "Republicans" in this committee and the Texas legislature, the funds you intend to redistribute for the benefit of your oligarch donors are not yours to bestow; as Texans awaken from your gaslighting, you will face accountability in this lifetime. To truly promote the "diffusion of knowledge," it is crucial that you abolish the detrimental legislation that has precipitated the decline of education and resources in our public schools. Moreover, your education savings account program fails to empower my family in making decisions that suit our needs; instead, it amplifies government control, creates a new class divide, and enriches the select few within the system. This approach paves the way for more legislation that will invariably force your centralized education, subject to manipulation by those in power, easily dictating the learning landscape in an all-digital framework.

Sarah Newman

Self, therapist

Austin, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas Constitution.

Tammie Seay

Self

Denton, TX

Fund public schools

Lauri wiss
Self,retired
commerce, TX

A child is determined to be academically disabled. S/he applied and did qualify for a loan.Now, there is a requirement by the school to pay everything in two payments. The State sends the money.
Six weeks later the family is told the child is not a good fit,regardless of the reason.The loan must be repaid even if the child is not a good fit for the school.

The parent is now on the hook for the rest of the year's tuition!

What happens to the other two children that were admitted (PIGGY BACKED) to the school now that the handicapped child no longer attends? Will that money be returned to the state? What if there is no money?

The loan company will not return money to the state. Now what?
Will money now be given to the public school district?

The amount the state has given to the parent is more than the homeschooling amount.
Does the parent return the private school money to the state?
What about the money given to the other children attending the private school? Will they continue to attend?

So,it is only possible to go to the private school if the family can pay the amount needed for tuition over the stated amount and can afford to return the money to the state.

The private school has a physical building. Who will inspect it for ADA compliance, especially bathrooms and kitchens ?

Will private school fiscal data be on the TEA site along with their name in the private school directory?

What are the broken out costs for a special needs student in a private school ?

How will it be determined?

Who will the private school send their financial data to to confirm the appropriate spending by the

Would the per student special needs program costs be a separate category or would normal administration facility,food service,transportation, non special needs teachers and aides be included in the per student cost of the special needs

What happens if enough special needs children can't complete or progress in the school?

Does that mean other income students can then be slotted in as spaces become available?

Does the bill answer these questions?

Gary Haliburton

Elgin ISD

Elgin, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB 3 not only as a longtime public educator but also as a parent. One of the real issues I have with this legislation is that no insight has been provided into the oversight that will go into implementing these accounts. What standards will private schools in particular be held to when it comes to providing all students with the services they require? While some private schools provide accommodations and special education services that is usually the exception. While schools that accept students who have accessed ESA's be held to the same accountability standards as the public (or charter) school that could use the additional funding? Will those schools now be responsible for ensuring that students pass the STAAR test? Will they be required to show progress in the long list of areas that public schools are held to? If the real concern is to provide alternate paths for students whose families are looking for another choice, how will this plan assist families in rural areas? What about families that still can't afford tuition even with the money provided from the accounts? The average tuition for private schools in the state of Texas is just over \$11,000, an amount which exceeds the \$10,000 provided. This isn't factoring in transportation, nutrition and other student services. I think the state legislature needs to really ask themselves who this plan is really designed to help. It doesn't appear that this plan is designed to help families that need it most. What I really fear is that this is going to lead to the growth of for profit schools. The educational outcomes for these types of institutions is poor. Let's really do what is best for families and fully fund Texas public schools.

Mary Rice
Self - parent
Austin, TX

I do not support the concept of vouchers or education savings account. This is expanding the role of government in a fiscally irresponsible way. The state should focus on how to make the public schools they already oversee more equitable. This would allow the state and the legislature to adequately oversee the schools that they are funding.

Jennifer Dipasquale
Self
Austin, TX
No vouchers.

Judy Hubbard
Self
Abilene, TX

If public schools had the small teacher/student ratio that private schools had the quality of teaching would be better. Must concentrate on more pay and better working conditions to get better qualified teachers.

Heather Morrow
Public schools in Harris County
Spring, TX

My tax dollars should be used to fully fund our public schools. Want to improve education? Invest in our public school teachers and education materials. Vouchers will only disenfranchise the majority of our kids.

Lori Mitchell
self, Project Coordinator
Dripping Springs, TX

I support Public Schools and OPPOSE HB3! This will only hurt public schools and hurt rural schools and students. Public Schools need more funding to provide better opportunities for the students. Vote NO on HB3! Vouchers are wrong! OPPOSE HB3.

Kirsten Tanges
Self
Bee Cave, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Michelle Durham
Self, therapist
Abilene, TX
NO vouchers

Don Hurst
Self
Garland, TX

Please support this bill. It is not welfare for the rich because most of them won't qualify under the rules. Who it does benefit is the low and middle class families that find that public schools are not meeting their child's educational needs, however they do not have the financial ability to chose other educational options. Thus bill is for those people and I ask that you support this bill for them.

Leslie Wasson
Klein ISD parent
Spring, TX

This is the stupidest thing I've ever heard.

Jennifer Ayers-Brasher
Self, Engineer
Austin, TX

If the Texas legislature opts to have a education savings account program for folks to utilize for non-public institutions and you feel the value per student is \$10,000 per year or any other amount then I would like that equal amount to be spent and allocated for every other student including my son. I pay in far greater than \$10,000 per year through my property taxes just for the educational portion. Yet that money does not go to my schools and does not support my son's education. In fact, less than half of what I pay in for education through taxes is provided as allocation for my son's single slot. There is absolutely no reason that you should look at providing a different amount per student in the voucher program than you provide for a student in public education if you decide that a voucher program is the way to go.

To be clear, I don't think the vouchers are appropriate. We have a system that we pay money into for education and if somebody decides that that's not what they want they want something different and they have the means to take take that route then so be it. But don't take that money away from our students, in fact, give the money to our students that we're paying in and is not going to supporting their education.

Texas's education system is in the bottom of the country. Why don't we want to make ours the best? Why don't we want to be the best? Our state has so many opportunities, but we need well-educated individuals to make those things happen. Our state is a leader in energy in this country, you need individuals to do those jobs, to make those investments and that only happens by having an educated population. We're not doing our children the service of being at the top of the board when we don't give them the proper funding in education that they deserve and that is needed to make those things happen. So instead of taking away from our existing education system it needs to be funded properly and we need to become the best.

Lara Wilcox
self and Kealing MS PTA
Austin, TX

As a parent of two children in the Texas public school system, I strongly oppose House Bill 3, commonly referred to as the voucher or school choice bill. While supporters argue that this bill offers families more educational options, evidence from other states shows that such programs often lead to negative outcomes, including budget shortfalls and underfunded public schools.

Arizona, Florida, and other states have implemented extensive voucher programs that have led to significant budgetary issues. Initially aimed at aiding disadvantaged families, the program expanded universally, resulting in budget shortfalls and diverting funds from essential services and projects. This expansion has resulted in underfunded public schools and a system that favors wealthier families. Let us learn from these failures; otherwise, we will not have a different outcome in Texas.

Texas public schools already struggle with chronic underfunding, teacher shortages, and resource gaps. Instead of tackling these pressing issues, HB 3 would redirect taxpayer dollars to private schools and unregulated educational programs that are not held to the same standards of transparency, accountability, or inclusivity. Unlike public schools, private institutions are not required to accept all students, including those with disabilities or specialized learning needs, making this bill fundamentally unfair.

Public education is the backbone of our communities and economy. If we genuinely want families to have true school choice, we must begin by adequately funding our public schools. Every child in Texas deserves a well-funded, high-quality education, regardless of their zip code. Instead of undermining our public schools by diverting resources, we should invest in teachers, classrooms, and programs that benefit all Texas students—not just a select few.

I urge this committee to reject HB 3 and instead focus on real solutions that strengthen our public education system for all Texas children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lara Wilcox
self and Kealing MS PTA
Austin, TX

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I urge this committee to reject HB 3 and instead focus on real solutions that strengthen our public education system for all Texas children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Erika Hill
Self
Justin, TX

I am completely opposed to school vouchers in Texas!!!! Our schools have been handicapped for too long by underfunding. If the state government would simply value the generations growing up and the work our educators do on a daily basis then change can come for all!! There are far too many students in Texas for private schools to educate. They are unregulated compared to our public schools and should never be compared. If the same voucher cannot be provided to all students, and it cannot, then you cannot argue that the system is going to be fair and equitable for all. Vote NO!!!

Kari Ramsey
Myself
BRYAN, TX

I could go on on but I would just be saying what most people have been saying who are against vouchers (ESAs to make them sound fancy). So, I will just make a few points.
This is anti-Republican, anti-kids, and anti-education. At this point, Republicans voted for this are flat out deserting their principles and giving in to political greed. High-stakes testing, Mike Morath, and the Texas legislature are the ones who have destroyed public education in Texas not the hard working teachers, school staff, and administrators. Fix the system with adequate funding not giving that funding to private schools. Get Morath out of TEA. Have legislators do what is best for children not their political careers and bank account!

Carol Lewis, Dr.
Self
Houston, TX

The long term implication will be devastating as millions of the left behind (those not in the voucher program) are undereducated . They will not be ready for the 2040 workforce and our state will suffer. And we can't go back and change this. The fault will lie at the feet of Gov. Abbott and the rich, who don't need this. There is no state that had passed this when out on the ballot. The deficit will balloon and for what? To leave even more students in our state that ranks in the bottom half of states in student educational attainment' already. This is a bad idea!!!

Kathi Mckenzie, Mrs
Self retired
Dallas, TX

No vouchers! Vouchers take public money away from public schools.

Brett Anderson
Magnolia Montessori For all
Austin, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Kayla Kellner
Self
Mansfield, TX

I do NOT support HB 3. Please vote against it.

Sandra Nannola

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Public schools need proper funding. We do not want vouchers for private schools. Public money should stay in the picnic school system!

Chrissy Blumer

Self

Houston, TX

I have homeschooled my children for 6 years. I am adamantly opposed to this bill. We do not want access to state curriculum or state standardized testing. We homeschool so that we are able to use curriculum that works for each child, as they all have learning differences. This bill will take away our freedom to do that, as we will begin having to "teach to the test". It will impose the exact thing we are trying to avoid by not utilizing public school. We already have the choice to use public school, and have chosen not to. Our children are excelling in homeschool.

Heather Barnett

Self

Austin, TX

Our public schools need to be supported by all governments to make sure our children have fair and equal education to private schools without government helping private schools in any way, as these are private schools and need to depend on their private funding that the public schools do not get or have the same regulations. Public schools are for our public and that is where the public puts their money and trust, unless they willingly choose to go to private then that is a private decision and I do not approve of my tax dollars going to help others because they choose to do something different. If you can't afford it, it is not an option. Our children and country deserve the best and we owe this in order to have a better country. Our public school teachers and staff deserve better and can make a difference with the correct support, fairness, and funding that they deserve! It is not fair to compare public to private schools when they do not have same funding or regulations.

Erin Carroll

Self

Leander, TX

We need to say no to vouchers and fully fund our public schools. You continue to say that public education is failing, well that is because the basic allotment for education hasn't been increased since 2019. That's why you think public education is failing. We need increase the basic allotment to \$1300 per child. This will help cover the gaps that we are currently facing. Taking this money away from public education will not help those who are in need. Please say no to vouchers! Say yes to funding public education and raising the basic allotment to \$1300 per student. Thank you!

Maria Le

Self

Burleson, TX

I am a deaf mom, who have children under section 504, not may private schools provided what my children needs.

Emily Domaschk

Self, auditor

Elgin, TX

I am strongly against HB3, which continues to underfund our public schools and will redirect public monies to private schools and homeschoolers with insufficient oversight to ensure the actual students get a quality education that meets their needs. A well-educated populace is a benefit to all.

Public schools are already underfunded and this bill proposes providing even more per student to those taking advantage of the plan than public school students receive. This plan is a boondoggle ripe for misuse, as private schools profit on students without anyone ensuring the students receive a quality education and not indoctrination.

It also leaves students in rural counties without equal opportunities as there aren't private school options available. When high schools are fielding six-man football teams due to small class sizes, you're not going to be able to have a robust public school and robust private school options serving the same areas.

Texas schools are already falling behind other states; the pride of Texas should be our kids and their futures.

And no one who is complaining about the public park down the road is demanding that their country club membership be funded by tax dollars. No one is asking that the city pave their driveway. Because public monies collected for the collective use should only be used for public schools.

My two sons attend public schools and they deserve to have more funding, which would allow their school to attract and retain teachers with more competitive pay, to improve their facilities, to provide funding to students for their award-winning extracurriculars, such as theater and robotics team and sports teams.

Please reconsider the impact and true costs of this bill. Even adding riders to limit wealthy people who can already afford tuition, or capping participation, or creating requirements for oversight of curriculum would help limit the harm of this bill. Arizona implemented legislation for school vouchers and the state has run a major deficit due to ballooning costs associated with their plan.

This bill is bad for our state, our schools, and our students.

Sarah Filip

Self-teacher

Fate, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 2 (SB 2) and House Bill 3 (HB 3), which would divert critical public school funding to private institutions through a school voucher program. As a parent, community member, and educator, I am deeply concerned about the negative impact this legislation will have on millions of Texas students and teachers.

Public schools are the foundation of our communities—but vouchers will take away funding that schools desperately need for teachers, classrooms, and student resources. Private schools are not required to serve all students—they can deny admission based on disability, income, or other factors. This bill does not promote true school choice—it only benefits a select few while weakening the education system for the majority.

Instead of taking money away from public schools, we should be investing in better teacher pay, modernized facilities, and support for students with special needs. Texas ranks below the national average in per-student funding—our priority should be strengthening public education, not diverting resources to unregulated private institutions.

In addition, the Teacher Retirement System and Fund is also at stake with these bills. My husband and I have been forced for 20 years to contribute retirement funds into the TRS system with a guarantee of retirement benefits. We are very concerned about the negative impacts these bills will have on our future as educators and our retirement funds.

I urge you to vote NO on school vouchers and stand up for Texas public schools and teachers. The future of our children depends on it.

Betsy Choate
self and disabled son
The Woodlands, TX

I do not agree with the voucher program and tax payers funding it. The public schools are already struggling with budget issues and the ability to keep good teachers/staff. How do we know these voucher paid schools will have, at least, the same academic standards that public schools strive to uphold? Will their students be tested academically like public schools and held to same degree/rules as public schools? Will they submit reports to the state/public about their performance so the public knows their dollars are well spent? How will students with special needs be addressed to produce the best outcome/adult living experience as public schools have produced?

Randy Hudson, Mr.
self
Belton, TX

My name is Randy Hudson and I am a retired CTE teacher. I taught AV Production in Killeen ISD, Belton ISD and Academy ISD. I have witnessed first hand how bad legislation can affect the already difficult task of educating Texas students. Vouchers are a bad idea. As you already know, Texas is 45 in the nation in funding schools. Taking badly needed money from an already starving public institution does not resolve any of the many issues facing public education. To paraphrase a quote I once heard " you can not cut your way to excellence". Good public schools require the resources to be successful. You also know that vouchers are unpopular and have not been successful in other states. So one has to ask, Why then are we pursuing this realignment of funds? The answer is because it benefits only those families that can already afford private education and those that own the private institutions. If I owned a private school, I would be excited about this potential windfall. My school already is NOT saddled with the regulations and requirements that IS required of public schools. For example, My teachers dont have to be certified, we dont have to provide special needs services or transportation. We are not required to participate in state mandated testing or accountability standards. We can select our student body and teach any curriculum we see fit. All this already gives my private school a leg up financially because I dont have to pay for any of the regulatory mandates demanded of our public school systems. So vouchers for me means I can continue to do business at the same costs but now I can raise my tuition and make more profit. The taxpayers are subsidizing my business. To this I say NO. There is a place for private education and they are doing well with private funds. The private schools I have visited over the last year, all appear to be doing well without vouchers. Make no mistake. Vouchers are not about giving opportunities to students and parents from meger means. Its about increasing the divisions in our social and economic fabric. It is a way to limit the road to success and upward mobility to only those that have the means and to increase labor pools for those who don't. Give ALL Students the same opportunities to be what they aspire to be. Fund the public schools we already have.

Ali Coe
Self/ teacher
Fairview, TX

School vouchers should not be passed! This goes against everything that public education stands for. How can you approve money for vouchers when you are not aiding our public schools. This is not giving families choice this is dismantling our public schools! Give public schools the money not private schools! This bill would be stealing funds from public schools! Vote against HB 3!

Sarah Choate

Self

Spring, TX

If public funds are going to be applied towards private education, the same amount per child needs to be allocated, whether it's applied to public education or vouchers going towards private education. Additionally, private schools that access the vouchers will need to use the same educational teaching standards for both teachers and students, evaluation process for teachers, preapproved educational materials by the state, additional services as far as special education services if a student with a voucher that accesses the private institution has a disability (without additional payment requirement), and state assessments for students. Or the other choice is to get rid of all of these requirements for public education and no one has to do it. There are always choices for parents and there will continue to be choices, even without vouchers. But if public education funds are being used, the standards for which they are being used needs to be equal across public education and private education (when vouchers with public funds are being accessed). Otherwise, this is a misappropriation of tax payers tax money and unfair to adults and students across the state.

Martin Filip

Self

FATE, TX

?I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 2 (SB 2) and House Bill 3 (HB 3), which would divert critical public school funding to private institutions through a school voucher program. As a parent, community member, and educator, I am deeply concerned about the negative impact this legislation will have on millions of Texas students and teachers.

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I urge you to vote NO on school vouchers and stand up for Texas public schools and teachers. The future of our children depends on it.

Lisa Luedke

None

Hockley, TX

We have free choice of schools already! U can choose public or private. Vouchers is only giving the wealthy more money in their pockets. This does not help middle or lower class. They still wd not be able afford. The Bill is deceiving and should be up for vote for all Texans not just one political party!! I am a Republican and did not vote for vouchers!

Edna Suarez

Self

San Antonio, TX

I do NOT support the voucher program. Schools are already underfunded.

Debra Price

Self

Austin, TX

I am the mother of a high schooler in the Austin Independent School District as well as a college professor and the wife of a high school teacher. I oppose the establishment of the education savings account program. It threatens to reduce funding to our neighborhood public schools, which are already underfunded, and it threatens the solvency of the teacher retirement system, which my family will rely on for our retirement in future years.

Tracy Hearn

Self

Colleyville, TX

No vouchers. No ESAs. Public money for public schools only. FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

Margaret Bloodworth, Dr.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, who watched my mom teach in the system for 25 years and I followed in her footsteps as a special educator the last 23 years, we are products of the public education system. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution. I would also urge you to put the vote to the people, we don't want this!

Marisa Knox

Self

Edinburg, TX

As a Texas parent and educator, I deplore this bill that essentially defunds our public schools.

Courtney Mathews

Self

Dallas, TX

This grossly underserves special needs students who have few options for schools that are properly focused and trained in their needs. Both rural and urban schools are lacking. Twice exceptional students have zero options. My son had no school option in a major urban city. He is gifted, extremely intelligent, and needs emotional support for extreme anxiety disorder. Where would his voucher go? No school would fit or accept him because he was too smart.

Rebecca Pybas, Mrs.

Self

Burleson, TX

Vote NO!!!! Put ALL the money towards public school funding and not private entities.

Anthony Garza, Mr.

Self

Odessa, TX

NO TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS!

Freddy Ortega
Keller isd
Fort Worth, TX

Please use that money to fund public schools and not private

Dean Hendrix
Self
Hondo, TX

I am strongly opposed to the school
Voucher program. It is not equal and fair. Private schools have no accountability while public schools do. Private schools can dismiss problem students while public cannot. This bill is not good for Texas

Richard Goodwin
Self; Retired
Dallas, TX

The voucher plan is terrible legislation. It undercuts the state's traditional support of our public schools and gives rich people money to send their kids to private and parochial schools.
The plan is radical, unfair, unjust, and bad public policy.
Fully fund our public schools.

Kathy Shockley, Mrs.
Shockley family
Dallas, TX

Both of our daughters attended public school in Dallas. Our neighborhood public school has been a tremendous source of community and has truly improved the property values of the homes in the area. My daughters had friends from all sorts of backgrounds and that diversity strengthen their educational experience. It is essential that our public schools are fully funded and that if tax dollars are given to private schools, there must be transparency about test scores just like there is within the public school system. And if a \$10,000 voucher is given to a family to take to a private school then there should be \$10,000 in funding per people who remains in public schools.

Micah Timmons
Self, Public School Educators, Public School Children
Commerce, TX

Mr. Buckley,

As a veteran public school educator in the state of Texas, a product of Texas public schools, and a mother of four Texas public school children, I reach out to you today to urge you to stop the passage of HB3. The majority of Texas residents do not want a voucher system in our great state. We want our public schools fully funded as designated by the Texas state constitution. Vouchers will dismantle our public education system and leave many students behind. Please listen to your constituents! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Nicole Timmons
Registered Voter
Texas Public School Educator and Parent

Amy Hall

Self - Educational Diagnostician

Goldthwaite, TX

I oppose the current bill disguised with terms including “school choice” and “education savings account” also known as vouchers to send a select few students to private schools at the expense of all tax payers. School choice is not truly available to all students throughout the state for a variety of reasons, including geographical, intellectual, and health/physical restrictions. I firmly believe this will cause a divide among classes and ability groups at the expense of those least able to afford it. I believe that lawmakers should listen to voters, and this bill is NOT a representation of what voters want!

Kayla Hewitt

Self - Writer

Abilene, TX

I am opposed to this bill as I am concerned about its impact on public education, which, for many Texas residents, remains the only viable option for education, regardless of additional funds dedicated to private education. Having my kids attend our neighborhood public school has been a wonderful experience, and I want to preserve that for other Texas families.

Laura Daulton

Self, substitute teacher, writer

Abilene, TX

Our communities are only as strong as our weakest links. If we cannot establish a strong PUBLIC education system, our communities will weaken. Put money back into public schools instead of freezing it since 2019 and expecting more and more of our teachers. They went through COVID teaching with no pay raises. That’s criminal. Our teachers need to be paid substantially more. Texas is 49th of 50 for teacher pay. Absolutely ridiculous. Do better. Don’t give this money to private schools.

Chasiti McKissic

DeSoto ISD

Glenn Heights, TX

No for vouchers!

Jennifer Waddell

Self, stay at home mother

Dallas, TX

I am very against this bill and believe it will be of great harm to our public school System. This is my top priority at this time. Thank you.

Courtney Milleson

Self, Professor

AMARILLO, TX

As a professional of higher education in rural Texas, please do not support vouchers in the state. Research from Oklahoma has shown the inefficiency this model. This is a model that punishes everyone for the few. If there are concerns about indoctrination in our schools - deal with those ISD’s. I dare say our rural Texas schools could lead as an example of quality without indoctrination.

Moreover, the model, in today’s current financial landscape will bankrupt rural Texas education. With the total decreases in educational funding over the past five years, local ISD’s are forced to ask local taxpayers to pay more. All while the State sits on a significant surplus. Why can’t we fund all education?

Please - do what is best for our future leaders. Support Texas public schools with your wallet, your guidance and prayers.

Kevin Edwards

Self

Lumberton, TX

With everything I have researched, vouchers will be bad for public education. I have seen nothing good about this. Not 1 article that explains the pros of a "savings" "voucher". Please do not pass voucher bill

Arnetta Murray

SELF

Iowa Colony, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school vouchers and House Bill 2 (HB2). Public education is the foundation of our communities, and taxpayer money should be used to strengthen it rather than diverting funds to private schools that are not accountable to the public.

If private schools need additional funding, then those who can afford them should be responsible for creating a private fund to support families who choose that route. The burden should not fall on taxpayers, particularly when public schools are struggling with underfunding, teacher shortages, and outdated resources. Texas should be investing in our public education system to ensure every child receives a quality education, regardless of their zip code or socioeconomic status.

Furthermore, I urge Governor Abbott to stop holding our tax dollars hostage and instead allocate them to the public schools that serve the majority of Texas students. Our teachers deserve better pay, our schools deserve proper funding, and our children deserve equitable educational opportunities. HB2 does not address these pressing needs; instead, it undermines the work of educators and the strength of our public education system.

I ask you to stand with Texas teachers, parents, and students by opposing HB2 and supporting policies that fund and uplift public schools rather than dismantling them.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and hope you will advocate for the future of public education in Texas.

John Reed

self

EL PASO, TX

I am about as Republican as you can get, and even I know (after 32 years as a teacher) vouchers are a poor idea. Here is what the voucher lovers do not understand/purposely ignore.

1. Private schools pick and choose kids. If a student does not make the grade and/or misbehave, they are kicked out at any time (Texas Senators admitted in the hearing on their voucher bill that there is nothing forcing private schools to take kids if they do not want them (discipline issues, special education, etc.). Where do they go? The public schools have to take every student regardless. How are you going to account for the differences? You say competition (how with an uneven playing field)?
2. You claim public schools will still be robust. When they lose money, what do you expect them to cut (art, music, etc.)? It amazes me that this is ignored.
3. Can you cite a study that says private schools are dramatically better as you claim?
4. How are you going to prove that private schools are accountable or is that not a priority?
5. Wasn't the point to charter schools competition? It is already here
6. Have you seen the amount of schools in financial distress already (staff layoffs, loans to make payroll, etc.)? And you want them to have less money?

John Reed
public
EL PASO, TX

This is a local El Paso expert on funding but is germane to the debate:

"This will make you ask yourself 'why does Gregg Abbott hate real Public School Districts like EPISD and Canutillo and their students'.

The increase in the state Basic Allotment promised by Abbott is just a little over \$200 per student per year. This is less than 3%. This is inadequate.

This will do little if anything to help EPISD and Canutillo ISD.

This is at the same time Texas ranks in the BOTTOM 10 states for per student funding.

This is at the same time Abbott's Voucher Scam will give away \$10,000 per student with little or no safeguards or controls.

This is at the same time Abbott is adding another \$100 million to the for profit charters.

This is at the same time as Abbott sitting on an uncommitted \$24 Billion Surplus as while he starves real Public Schools and their students of funding while adding more unfunded mandates."

Mauri Wesbtrook
self
Abilene, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3. It will be costly and not in the best interest of all Texas Children. Public tax dollars should be used for public education.

Lillian Woolley
Self
Jacksonville, TX

I say no to this bill. I believe taking taxpayer money and sending that money to private schools via "choice" is a bad idea. We need to fix failing schools, not bankrupt them. We need to pay our teachers better! I also believe that it's not enough for low-income parents for them to be able to send their kids to private schools and it will only be a give-away to those that can already afford it. You'll be making a bunch of rich private schools richer and that's it. Why don't we create publicly-funded charter schools in certain areas for parents to have a "choice" of where to send their kids. I do see some benefit for helping home-school parents, but public funding for private schools is just not a solution. Or, if you really want to know what people think—put it to a vote statewide. Let us decide what we want for our kids! But this bill is not it! The biggest questions I have are:

How will the quality of these private schools be measured?

Will this create a segregated environment in certain locations?

Will this create a whole new class of haves versus have nots?

How will poor neighborhoods access these schools?

How will this help rural kids?

Will private schools move into low-income or rural neighborhoods?

How much will every student remaining in public school suffer because funds have been redirected?

Will this drain off good teachers from public education?

I understand the frustrations of parents and their concerns about education—but there are too many questions and not enough answers with the current bill!

Amy Boone
self
Abilene, TX

Absolutely no. I want ZERO dollars for vouchers. ZERO. Not a lower amount. Not an amount for certain earners. ZERO. No vouchers. This is truly the stance of 95% of Gov. Abbott's obsessive voucher social media posts and of all of the people I know in my VERY Republican city, Abilene. WE DO NOT WANT VOUCHERS.

Donna Bryant, Ms.

self

Houston, TX

I vote in all elections, & I am emphatically opposed to creating a voucher system for private schools in Texas. Vote NO on HB3—we the people will not allow you to destroy our democracy in this fashion.

Kamy Whatley

Self, territory manager

Groom, TX

HB 3 is NOT school choice! I am vehemently against HB3. It is masqueraded as school choice, but let me assure you it isn't. I served as a public school teacher for almost 20 years. Public schools do an outstanding job of taking ALL children and moving them forward. Public schools offer programs that private schools do not, while educating all children not "hand selected" ones. Removing funding from public schools is NOT the correct option. Vouchers are an illusion of free choice, and will cripple already struggling school districts. Schools need financial support to adequately run effective instruction. We live in a rural area. Our children attend a great public school. Our school depends on state funding. Our school has all kinds of special education programs, career development programs, reading programs etc., that aren't found in private schools. Many of the local kids don't have access to private schools due to our location. Vouchers would only further reduce funding to great schools providing excellent education. Vote no for this bill, let teachers do their jobs by providing adequate funding to schools for ALL kids. Private schools only serve the few they allow, they don't have mandated testing, they don't offer IEP, 504s, or other specialized programs. Public education for all kids is what's best for Texas!

Cathy Longley

Self Retired Principal

Santo, TX

No to vouchers! Stop trying to destroy public education. Greg Abbott must go if this is push!

Karen Marcucci
SELF / Quality Engineer
MANSFIELD, TX

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my thoughts on House Bill 2 (HB 2). While I support efforts to strengthen Texas education, I have serious concerns about certain provisions in this bill that could negatively impact public schools.

- **Insufficient Per-Student Funding Increase.** The proposed \$220 per-student funding increase does not keep up with inflation or the rising costs of education. Schools are struggling with teacher shortages, aging infrastructure, and growing student needs. A larger funding increase is essential to ensure schools can continue to provide quality education.
- **Restrictive Funding Allocation.** Requiring 40% of new funding to go toward teacher raises, while well-intended, limits school districts' ability to address other urgent needs like classroom resources, technology, and student support programs. Districts should have flexibility in determining how to allocate funds.
- **Charter Schools Were Meant to Offer Choice—But Haven't Solved the Problem.** Charter schools were introduced as a way to give parents more options within the public school system, yet they have not delivered the widespread improvements promised. Many still struggle with accountability, funding equity, and accessibility for all students. If charter schools have not fully addressed these challenges, why would ESAs—essentially another attempt at school choice—be any more effective? Instead of repeating past mistakes, we should focus on strengthening our existing public schools.
- **Lack of Accountability for Public Funds.** Private schools that accept ESA funds are not held to the same financial and academic standards as public schools. If taxpayer money is used for private education, there must be strict oversight to ensure funds are used effectively.

Public education should be strengthened, not weakened. I urge lawmakers to reconsider HB 2's funding provisions, provide more flexibility for school districts, and ensure strong accountability for public funds. Instead of diverting resources to unproven programs, we should invest in improving our existing public school system for all students.

I appreciate your time and consideration and welcome further discussion.

Chelsea Bradley
Self
Amarillo, TX

Strongly oppose the establishment of this program it will defund our public education and harm the majority which attend public schools. My son is in an ECSI for being delayed speech and it would hinder his program as well.

Heather Huff
Self
Amarillo, TX

I am opposed to the vouchers and think it is not the best decision for Texas and Texas Education.

Emily Pfeiler
Special Education Teacher
Copperas Cove, TX

Please vote AGAINST HB3

S. Foust
Self
Buda, TX

I am a voter in HCISD and am against school vouchers. The districts have been stretched thin with diminishing resources and further defunding or reallocating resources is not the answer. We need to be supporting our schools with funding, it should not fall back on already heavily taxed parents to fund the gap (happening today. Schools with weak PTA's that aren't supplementing equipment and supplies are evident). Look at the states where these programs were implemented. They are some of the lowest ranked states for public education. Texas has a ways to go on this front, but vouchers are NOT the answer.

Bronwen Choate
Educator
Graham, TX

Vouchers by any name are detrimental to a free public education. Follow the state Constitution which requires the legislature to provide a free PUBLIC education.

Ashley Hamilton
Self
Greenville, TX

I am a conservative Christian that votes republican. I am a homeschool and private school parent. I believe in less government and separation of church and state. I am adamantly against the School Choice bill for many reasons. Texans are speaking out against this bill and our representatives need to vote based on our will, not the big donors and career politicians pushing this through!!! The preliminary vote for "School Choice" is badly worded and most don't understand the consequences of a bill like this. People are waking up and speaking for themselves and thinking critically instead of what is being crammed down our throats.

Kelly Lazo, Teacher
Self
Caldwell, TX

This bill will be the beginning of the end of our public education system. I have talked in a low SES district for over 20 years and the fact that we are doing away with free and reduced lunches is abominable but worse is this bill & the effects it will have on the Texas public education system. Having taught in a low SES rural district for over 20 years this bill will not help any low income families. These students are working to help support their families. They do not have access to private schools because they do not have transportation, travel time, money for food etc. This is simply a way for the upper income families to get more money. Abbott has not increased funding for public education in 6 years. Where will the money come from to support vouchers? How about we fund the education system we have so that teachers & students can have supplies to teach ALL students which private schools don't do. Please look at the big picture. I know our legislators are smart enough to see what is happening here. Please stop.

Stephanie Speed
Self
Wolfforth, TX

My name is Stephanie Speed and I live in Wolfforth. I am a mama to 8 kids, ages 16 to 7. All of them have thrived because of public education. Four of our children are disabled. They learned to WALK at our local elementary school. This couldn't happen in private school. A private school wouldn't take them. Not a single one in Lubbock County. We are to love our neighbor. Our neighbor includes kids like mine who are excluded from so very many spaces including private schools. HB 3 would take precious money from kids like mine who use hearing aids, wheelchairs, walkers, and AAC devices. The services they receive are already grossly underfunded. This bill would deplete those funds and leave these kids undeserved and not having their needs met. Vote no on vouchers because ALL kids deserve to be educated and have their needs met.

Tana Weiss

Self

Katy, TX

I oppose HB 3. Fully fund our public schools. PERIOD.

Kim Stewart

Myself

Huntington, TX

I stand against HB 3.

Dixita Patel

Slef

Benbrook, TX

I do not support passing of this bill. Public wealth belongs to public schools.

Karen Holburn

Self, retired

Mabank, TX

Vouchers are not a productive way to ensure that Texas children receive a better education. Additionally, the \$10,000 that goes with the child is more than public education students receive per child, but not enough to fund private school. Our tax dollars should not be spent to support private schools as the state has no way to hold private schools accountable to the same standards as required for public education. Public schools should be fully funded instead of withholding the funds as political pressure to get legislators to support vouchers.

Corry Scheuerman

Self

Austin, TX

No to HB 3 by Buckley. No school vouchers

Mackenzie Martin

Self, patent attorney

DALLAS, TX

I am writing to voice my concerns with school vouchers! This isn't about school choice — this is about additional benefits to the wealthiest among us (and to persons and companies outside of Texas with interests in privatizing education). Our public schools need MORE—not fewer—resources. Vote no to school vouchers!

Jeff Russell

Educator

Sadler, TX

I have in education for 20 years and now serve as a Superintendent of a small rural district and a Republican voter. HB3 is nothing more than welfare for the wealthy. In the Senate hearing it was clearly stated by Sen. Creighton that all remaining vouchers would go to those already in private schools following those that qualify. 100,000 vouchers, 24,000 private school seats available according to TEA. That means 75,000 vouchers will be available for the wealthy already in private schools following. Private schools should also be held to the same accountability assessments as public schools if they accept public funded ESA's/vouchers.

Heather Haley

Self

Allen, TX

Vote no on HB 3

Diana Patricia Torres

Self

San Antonio, TX

No

Katrina Brister

Self

Lingleville, TX

Oppose School Vouchers. There are so many reasons Vouchers are not good for Texas. If passed, vouchers will threaten rural schools and divert funds from public schools. There is no data or proof of better outcomes if school vouchers are passed. Not to mention, private schools have no accountability. I am a product of public education as are my husband and kids. Both my husband and I are successful owning our own business and I am a public school educator. My oldest son had a wonderful public education where he graduated with a 105.8 GPA and 8th in his class of 293 in 2024. He now attends TCU majoring in Electrical Engineering and playing football. His public education obviously was successful and pushed him in the right direction.

Oppose School Vouchers!!!!

Michael Yoder

Self

Laredo, TX

HB3. I strongly oppose HB3, the bill to fund private school vouchers via education savings accounts. First, this discriminates against rural areas that do not have private school options. Second, private schools determine who will be in the schools, a process that could be arbitrary. Third, much needed funding for public schools would be compromised. Fourth, the benefits would largely go to those willing to pay for private school tuition anyway, in which case it would be a reimbursement, most likely funded off the backs of public schools. School choice would be best accomplished by public school district. Thank you for taking my comments into account and for counting me as OPPOSED to this bill. Dr. Michael S. Yoder, Laredo.

Susanna Butler

Self

Austin, TX

This bill only benefits the rich and will ruin public schools in Texas. Public schools are already underfunded. This will only give \$10,000 to every student-there isn't a private school in Austin that is only \$10K.

Amy Belcher

Self

Amarillo, TX

I am a Texas parent and a proud Professional Educator who is AGAINST this bill. Public dollars should go to funding our public schools.

Amy Chamberlain

Self

Austin, TX

Please do not gut our public school system with School vouchers. As a product of Texas public schools and a parent whose children attended public schools, — while not perfect- the public education system is part of the bedrock of our informed public and democracy.

Leana Dusek
Self - Mom & HR Manager
Richardson, TX

As a mom with children in the public school system, I am begging you to increase the daily allotment that is given per student and increase teacher salaries. Our students, our teachers, our school, and our community deserve it. Please make these things priority.

Cathy Nichols
Self
Centerville, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. I do not want my tax money to go to for profit or religious private schools.

Grace Davis
Self
Canton, TX

We oppose this bill.

Kelly Espinoza
Self
Lubbock, TX

Say NO to vouchers. It is not what the majority of Texans want . Please listen to your constituents and not the big donors .

Gabriela Cowen
Self
Pflugerville, TX

Against Voucher Programs in Texas. FOR funding of our public schools so every child has an opportunity to success in Texas.

Mindy Hosein
self, educator
Plano, TX

I do not approve of HB3 in any capacity because I believe vouchers would be used by families who already afford private school and would ultimately just drive up the cost of private school. It is a poaching of tax dollars that would go to the owners of these schools while the vast, vast majority of Texas students have to settle for less. I am also offended by the lack of oversight tied to the money. Schools that accept these vouchers should be held to a standard and accountable for their performance.

Camille Rex
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

I oppose

Rebekkah Hundt
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am a public school teacher. Please do not pass this bill! Texas schools have already been gutted- you are harming our students, teachers and staff if this is passed.

Clarissa Schmidt
Self and children
Buda, TX

Please keep public funds in public schools. Fully fund our schools for the future of our children and the future of our nation.

Andrea McIllwain
Self
Manor, TX

Say no to ESAs.

Paul Leazar
Self
Sachse, TX

The idea of harming our education system by filling private school coffers and leaving the public education system to rot should be a non-starter. Everyone deserves a good education, no matter who they are, or their background.

The fact that it has come this far should fill all those supporting this idea to gatekeep education with shame.

Vote this bill down, and keep giving every child the best chance possible!

Mary Gold, Mrs
Self- Educator
Brenham, TX

I'm against vouchers. Our students, parents, community and state will suffer. Public education is important for all children it gives them the opportunity to grow past their current state and better themselves. Vouchers will create an educational system of haves and have not.

Michelle Ulmer
Self
Austin, TX

"I oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background."

Carolyn Draper, LPC

Self

Cypress, TX

Subject: Oppose HB 3 – Protect Texas Public Schools

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3 and to ask you to reject this bill. As a former educator and a parent, I'm deeply concerned about the harm HB 3 would do to our public schools and the students who rely on them.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities. They welcome every child who walks through their doors — no matter their background, their family's income, or their learning needs. Every dollar we take from those schools puts more pressure on teachers, weakens programs that support struggling students, and limits opportunities for kids who already face enough obstacles. Vouchers, no matter how they're labeled, take public money away from public schools. HB 3 is no different.

I've worked in schools, and I know how hard teachers are already working to support their students. They're navigating mental health crises, food insecurity, and learning gaps — all while being underpaid and overworked. Now we're talking about pulling funding away from those schools and sending it to private institutions that aren't required to follow the same standards, accept every student, or even show how they're spending taxpayer money.

I know there's frustration out there. Parents want their kids to thrive, and some feel like public schools aren't meeting their needs. But vouchers aren't the answer. Taking resources away from our public schools — especially in rural areas where a private school simply isn't an option — will hurt the very students this bill claims to help. The kids left behind in those underfunded public schools will pay the highest price.

Instead of funding a system that lacks accountability and leaves too many students out, we should be investing in the schools that are already working hard to support every child in our state.

Please reject HB 3 and stand with Texas students, teachers, and families who believe in the power and promise of public education.

Thank you,

Carolyn Draper

Jeff French

self retired

Newcastle, TX

We do not want and cannot use any type of vouchers or educational savings program. Preserve, build, and enhance Texas Public Schools. Pay teachers more money. Pay retired teachers more money! Help local ISD's retire debts for security hardening improvements. Confiscate Assault Weapons from public hands!

Lisa Williams

CFBISD

FRISCO, TX

Please consider the negative consequences that ESAs will have on public schools.

Crystal Poole

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I am a resident in Travis county and I opposed the use of public funds to be funneled into private schools. Or property taxes are for our public institutions that desperately need better teacher salaries, quality educators, improved learning materials, healthy school meals, and better facilities where children can thrive. There is no good reason the tax prayers of this state should subsidize high tuition private schools and families that already have an economic leg up over the majority population who struggle enough. Texans are tired of subsidizing wealthy families and wealthy business, a minority part of the populating that both with a silver soon has never had to worry. We're tired of being sold out to lobbies at the behest of the wealthy donors greasing your palms. Enough! Texans deserve better so this bill shall not pass!

Carolyn Draper, LPC

Self

Cypress, TX

Oppose HB 3 – Protect Texas Schools and Students

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3, a bill that I believe would harm Texas public schools, undermine the integrity of our education system, and jeopardize the well-being of students across the state.

As a former educator and school counselor, I've witnessed firsthand the incredible dedication of Texas teachers, administrators, and support staff. These individuals work tirelessly to foster learning environments where students feel safe, supported, and inspired to achieve their full potential. HB 3 threatens to undo this hard work by introducing policies that restrict educators, devalue their expertise, and create fear in the classroom.

Texas schools are already under immense strain. Educators are leaving the profession in record numbers — not because they lack commitment, but because they are overwhelmed by unrealistic expectations, diminishing resources, and increasing hostility. HB 3 adds yet another layer of pressure, positioning teachers as adversaries rather than partners in a child's education. This bill's language, which emphasizes parental control without meaningful collaboration, risks fostering division rather than unity.

As a parent myself, I understand the desire for involvement in my child's education. But meaningful partnership is built on trust — not surveillance, intimidation, or censorship. Our public school educators are professionals who bring years of experience and training to their work. They deserve respect, not punitive oversight that undermines their expertise.

I'm also deeply concerned about the way HB 3 would impact marginalized students. In my experience working with students from diverse backgrounds, I've seen how vital inclusive and supportive educational spaces are. When teachers feel afraid to address issues of identity, mental health, or social struggles for fear of reprisal, vulnerable students suffer the most. For some children, a trusted teacher or counselor may be their only source of stability and understanding. HB 3 puts that crucial support system at risk.

Texas has long prided itself on fostering resilience, innovation, and opportunity. But HB 3 sends a different message — one that prioritizes political agendas over students' best interests. If we want to prepare the next generation for success, we must empower educators to teach truthfully and compassionately, not burden them with punitive measures that create a climate of fear.

I urge you to reject HB 3 and instead support legislation that strengthens our public schools by investing in mental health resources, reducing educator burnout, and fostering partnerships between families and teachers — partnerships built on trust, respect, and shared goals for our children's success.

Our students deserve better. Please oppose HB 3.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Draper

Susan Willis, MR

self - healthcare administration

Fort Worth, TX

Say NO to Greg Abbott and his billionaire supporter. Private education should be a personal decision, paid for by personal funds. In Texas, we support public education for all.

Joy Chappell, Mrs.

Teacher

Keller, TX

I do not understand what has happened to our country when people are having to beg to have enough money to have public education for everyone. The fact that a few rich people are guiding the whole thing with these vouchers is just so disturbing. To think that we might give kids leaving public education more money than we feel like the ones are that are staying or worth. Absolutely heartbreaking

Mary Love Wright
self- retired teacher
Austin, TX

Having been a classroom teacher 1975-1981 and a Library Clerk for many years until 2011, I know the value of supporting teachers and schools! As a classroom teacher, every year I spent many of my own money for school supplies for students who could not afford their own. As a Library Clerk, I then spent money for books to give to students who couldn't afford to buy books through library book fairs or other projects to give away books. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE AWAY SCHOOL FUNDING! VOTE AGAINST VOUCHERS!!!

Judy Frankson
Self
Spring Branch, TX

This is not beneficial for all students. As a special education educator of 35 years this bill hurts those students I have serviced. Private schools do not accept children with special needs. I work in rural Texas. There are no private schools. No options. This bill is giving those that can afford private schools a discount. Private schools cost &12k a year, and that is the cheap private school). These vouchers will not allow those on a budget to attend because it doesn't not cover the costs. Please reconsider this bill. Give this money to public schools.

Erin Bodily
Self
McKinney, TX

Texans don't want vouchers!! This is a scam. It will hurt Texans and our country.

Talia Baker
Self
Montgomery, TX

Hello, my name is Talia Baker. I am registering my statement regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent of over 30 years, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to ask the Representatives to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3.

Our families choice to homeschool was not an easy road. We made many sacrifices financially to accommodate our decision. And have never regretted any of those decisions. And now we 3 of 4 of those who are grown well adjusted, thriving adults. And the fourth is well on his way to the same outcome.

As a homeschool parents we have had the privilege and honor to raise our children in the manner we saw fit, and could tailor their education to each individual child. And I feel strongly that is a major reason they are the adults that they are today.

If this bill is really about children's education and the parent's ability to choose their child's education, then parents already have that right to choose, just as we did. As parents for our 4 children we have taken whatever means necessary to provide what they needed. We didn't need the government or any other entity in order for them to have or provide what they needed. A parent who truly wants their child to succeed will do everything to make sure that happens for their child.

I am also concerned for our public school system and how it will be affected by the passage of this bill. As I sit here in the hearing, I hear Representatives speaking out of both sides of their mouth. The honest truth is HB3 WILL affect public schools. There WILL be money taken away from the public school system. A system that is already broken!

I urge you to consider appropriating the taxpayer monies acquired for this system back into the public school system. Please put the money back into where it is needed the most, not in politicians pockets. Or the best option is to just let this go and finally never revisit it again!!

Thank you! Have a Blessed Day!

Amanda Mangelsdorf

Self, Parent

Jarrell, TX

As a proud Texan, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. I believe private school subsidies are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair.

Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Public schools in Texas are underfunded by billions of dollars every year. The Comptroller is projecting a large increase in state revenue over the next two years compared to the past two years, and that money should go to fully funding public education.

Private schools pick and choose which students to admit. Vouchers force taxpayers to subsidize private schools' preferences. And without elected boards or state oversight, vouchers give away tax dollars with no financial or academic accountability.

Public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students, serving all the students in their boundaries. They build the workforce that powers the Texas economy. We can't afford to underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future.

We elect legislators to represent the interests of their communities. Responding to their communities, Texas legislators have rejected private school subsidies time after time.

In the face of increasing pressure from special interests, I pledge that I will stand with my legislators in opposing vouchers. When they vote against private school subsidies, I will make sure all their constituents know they did the right thing.

Rachel Nelson

Self- Speech Language Pathologist

Midlothian, TX

My name is Rachel Nelson and I am from House District 10. I myself grew up in the public schools and am now a doctoral student and certified speech-language pathologist dedicating my career to serving public school students, following in the footsteps of my mother, who has worked in special education for over 40 years. This has given me a deep, personal understanding of the challenges our public schools face. I am here today to strongly oppose HB3 and any attempt to divert public funds to private school vouchers, at the behest of billionaires.

My name is Rachel Nelson and I am from House District 10. I myself grew up in the public schools and am now a doctoral student and certified speech-language pathologist dedicating my career to serving public school students, following in the footsteps of my mother, who has worked in special education for over 40 years. This has given me a deep, personal understanding of the challenges our public schools face. I am here today to strongly oppose HB3 and any attempt to divert public funds to private school vouchers, at the behest of billionaires.

Those of you in favor of HB3 have spoken primarily in hypotheticals or one off scenarios of distant family members. I have lived it. I have worked within our proportionate share funds (which is the budget for ISD's to serve private school students) and have seen first hand how private schools fail their students with special needs. This includes situations as simple as denying accommodations/modifications for students who are only mildly impacted by their disability.

That means students who require intensive support will suffer the most with this bill. I've heard some offer the solution of private schools that are available and "specifically designed" to meet these needs but this is far from include and inclusion matters. Research shows that integrating individuals with special needs into general education classrooms is not only best practice for students with disabilities but also their typically developing peers. We see not only an increase in academic performance but also social-emotional development. Inclusivity is absolutely achievable in public schools if they are fully and appropriately funded. Vouchers will do the opposite.

Our public education system is only considered broken because it is underfunded. Focus on this instead of vouchers. HB3 is a direct attack on students, teachers, and Texas' future. Texas already has a school choice. A parent can send their child whenever they choose. I urge you to invest in the one system that serves ALL Texas children.

Thank you for your time.

Rhonda Russell
Self
Montague, TX

PLEASE do this one easy step to oppose HB3 on school vouchers! Just click the link and select HB3

I oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background.

Gary Willis, MR
self - retired
Fort Worth, TX

I am opposed to the voucher program proposed by this bill. We need to spend our funds on public education, not on subsidizing private schools.

Julie Ziegelgruber
Self/dental hygienist
Whitehouse, TX

Oppose Oppose Oppose!!!!!!

Vicky Harper
self
ROCKPORT, TX

I implore you to vote against this bill.

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a former public school teacher and product of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our and future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Jennifer Rivas
Self
Lubbock, TX

Please consider the impact this bill will have on public education. I am a teacher and we are drowning with the complexities of accountability and the reality of working with amazing children with a wide range of needs. Teachers at my school work hard to provide a quality education for students. Not funding schools like ours fairly, accusing schools of failing, and then directing funds to private schools who do not encounter the challenges we face everyday is insulting. Please listen to educators and families. We are working so hard to provide for all our students, and it would be refreshing to be acknowledged for our hard work, provided with the resources we need, and acknowledged with pay respective of a professional with a special skill set.

Joseph Lewis
Self
Dallas, TX

NO!!!! NO to savings accounts to allow public tax dollars to be used for private schools. This is not good for public schools and education. It's a scam to supplement "choice" segregation and disenfranchisement.

Steven Alford
Self, Program Manager
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers in Texas. Vouchers drain critical funding from our already underfunded public schools, which serve all students, including those with disabilities, low-income families, and rural communities. Private schools, which can cherry-pick students and aren't held to the same standards, primarily benefit wealthy families who can already afford tuition—not the students who need the most support.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities and a cornerstone of democracy. Instead of diverting taxpayer dollars to private institutions, we should be investing in our public schools to ensure every child has access to a quality education.

Vouchers are not about “school choice”—they’re about dismantling public education. I urge you to reject any voucher proposal and prioritize fully funding our public schools.

Thank you.

Laurie Hemphill
Self
Georgetown, TX

Please don't pass this bill. It will hurt public schools .

Angela Reyes
Dillman Elementary
Muleshoe, TX

I live in Muleshoe. There is not a private school anywhere close to me. I have 7 children. There is not a school in 200 miles. Our school is safe, we provide for SPED students, dyslexia, we are a blue ribbon school. We have a 1st grader that has a feeding tube and in a wheel chair. We do not need vouchers for private schools. We need more money to resource public schools. We need to pay for teachers to get better teachers to get better quality people to teach our children. They will be smarter, if we have better paid teachers.

Lindsey Hunt
Self
Austin, TX

Against the voucher system. As a Former teacher in AISD and parent to Austin students, I have seen less and less being given to students, especially programs outside General Education. Teachers are doing everything they can with less every year. We are losing GREAT teachers every year due to lack of support, funding, and ability to afford living expenses. We keep getting empty promises. Vouchers do not help.

Tesslyn Mustain
Self
Houston, TX

Hard no to vouchers. Data shows states with vouchers have not reaped significant gains in improved test scores. The majority that use vouchers were in private schools already; vouchers end up benefitting wealthy families. Call it what it is: ESA = Vouchers. Public money belongs in public schools. Parents already have choices for their kids' education. Calling this parent choice is disingenuous to parents. It will refund an already struggling public education system. Which private schools are qualified for vouchers? What about pop-up schools that suddenly appear when new money floods the system?

Marnie Pate
Port Aransas ISD
Port Aransas, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any use of taxpayer dollars for private school vouchers through an education savings account plan. Public funds should be dedicated first and foremost to strengthening our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students and are essential to our communities.

Diverting public money to private schools through vouchers undermines public education by reducing much-needed resources for teachers, students, and programs. Our public schools already face challenges such as teacher shortages, outdated facilities, and insufficient funding. Rather than allocating taxpayer dollars to private institutions that are not held to the same accountability and transparency standards, we should be investing in our public education system to ensure every child in Texas has access to a high-quality education, regardless of their ZIP code or financial background.

I urge you to prioritize funding for our public schools and reject any proposals that would use taxpayer dollars for private school vouchers, also known as education savings accounts. Texas students deserve a strong, well-funded public education system that supports their success.

Diane Nguyen
Self, Sales Strategy Manager
Wylie, TX

I do not support the voucher system. It favors the rich and negativity impacts the poor. Please have a heart and do not put the voucher system into effect.

Taylor Willis
Self, Executive Director
Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school voucher programs in Texas. Vouchers are not the solution to improving education—they are a threat to our public schools and the students they serve.

Vouchers divert critical taxpayer dollars away from public schools, which are already underfunded and struggling to meet the needs of their students. Texas already ranks near the bottom in per-student funding, and vouchers would only worsen this crisis, leaving public schools with even fewer resources to serve the vast majority of students.

Furthermore, vouchers primarily benefit wealthy families who can already afford private school tuition, while leaving behind low-income families, students with disabilities, and those in rural areas where private schools are scarce. This has been proven in states like Arizona, where vouchers are primarily being used by students who were already attending private school. Private schools are not required to admit all students or provide the same level of services as public schools, creating a two-tiered system that exacerbates inequality.

Public schools are the cornerstone of our communities. They serve every child, regardless of background, ability, or zip code. Instead of dismantling public education through vouchers, we should be investing in our public schools to ensure every student has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to reject any voucher proposal and focus on fully funding and supporting our public schools. Our students, our communities, and our future depend on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Margaret Coe
None, personal
Dripping Spgs, TX

I reject the premise that everyone is entitled to a private education. I support the premise that everyone is entitled to a quality public education. I disagree that schools that do not have to maintain the same standards or go by the same rules and where children can be rejected when they have special needs or for whatever reason should receive public funds. We have schools that all children can attend, and those should be fully funded, and they should be superior where that everyone has an opportunity to quality education.. The First Amendment of the Constitution at the United States of America is unambiguous regarding freedom of speech and separation of church and state. Putting public funds into religious schools violates the first amendment. This is still the United States of America and we do still have the United States constitution. That is the law of the land.

Lindsey Mayer
self, public education teacher
montgomery, TX

This bill secures inadequate funding for public schools that will harm the public education system from top to bottom.

Jason Smith
Our family, my wife and 4 kids.
Fort Worth, TX

Vote against House Bill 3. This bill gives well off people a subsidy for elite schools and denies needed funding that could go to support public schools. And this bill damages Texas traditions like Friday night high school football.

Joan Dumais
Self
Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to school vouchers. Fund our public schools. We need strong public education. Do NOT use my taxpayer dollars to pay for private schools!!!!

Joy Cook
Retired educator
West, TX

Probably no one will read this but I am retired educator I taught 25 years in public and private. 8 years as special education teacher. I retired earlier than I really wanted but I was very disillusioned with the negativity thrown at teachers. Little to no support with out of control behaviors. I was sick from seeing teachers and staff being attacked on a daily basis. I always worked at title 1 school and even that is different levels. That 14 years was at an extremely low income schools. We had at least 10 different administrators and extreme teacher turnover. Now TEA has taken over but it's a mess. We had teachers who were not certified they were desperate to fill positions. Few to no subs to cover if teachers call in sick. Teachers many times walk before mid year.

I just don't feel that vouchers will do little to nothing to help students in this failing school. No private schools in the area and even if they could most could not pay the difference in tuition or transportation to get to schools across town.

Thanks
Joy Cook

Lastly, this type of school needs more than a ESA this money needs to be put in schools like these to attract experience administrators and outstanding teachers. They badly need a trained behavior specialist at each campus. So I feel money that would go to helping these type of schools who definitely need help.

Meshia Neely
Self
Springtown, TX

Each child deserves to be treated equal!! This voucher is complete bogus!! Why aren't all kids valued monetarily the same!

Ronny Luedke
Self - Teacher
Stephenville, TX

I am against any sort of vouchers. They would be a detriment to public education and segregation by wealth. Vote no, and don't be afraid of Governor Abbott and his rich out of state criminals.

Lynsey Littlejohn
Self, buyer and single mom
San Marcos, TX

I have watched and listened to democrats and republicans all over the state who have banded together to say they do not support this bill. In fact, I don't know a single person outside of the legislature who is for it. Please say no to vouchers.

Rebekah Ellis
Myself
Austin, TX

I oppose school vouchers. We all oppose school vouchers. Fund our schools and protect public education. Do your job!!!

Cindy Ashmore
Self
Lubbock, TX
Vote NO to HB3

Jimmy Lee, Retired
Self
Paris, TX

I want to go on public record opposing vouchers and SB 3.

Richard Wilkins
Public Education
Shallowater, TX

As a tax payer with 2 young children in an excellent school district, it will absolutely kill districts to allow the 'vouchers' program. School districts, especially those like our rural 3A district, rely heavily on our residential tax base to even have a budget worthy of the education our students deserve. Furthermore, I know first hand the importance of taxes as my wife is our district's highschool principal. I have listened to her conversations with our district superintendent and assistant superintendent on how to allocate funds in order to meet the needs of her staff and teachers. It is absolutely criminal what our State legislature has allowed with the 'holding hostage' of funds pending the outcome of this bill vote. Governor Abbott and his people have stolen necessary funds from the public education sector to get his bill passed and his personal agenda through. This is a textbook definition of what is wrong with today's political system. Our students, teachers, and districts need these funds in order to provide the quality education our students deserve. One individual being willing to sacrifice the future of our kids is unacceptable and absolutely ridiculous. I understand that every student is not as fortunate as my kids to be in a district that strives to and does excel, but there has to be a better way than taking a tax base from public schools and allowing it to be sent to private schools and other non state institutions.

Amanda Henson

Self

Lufkin, TX

We do not want a school voucher program. We want funding for our public schools. With adequate funding, public school will be an excellent “choice” for all. Then there would not be the need for choice. Find our schools!

Blake Brom

Self

Wichita Falls, TX

Public funds should go to public schools. Parents already have school choice. Do not pass HB 3

Michaella Robertson

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3 in Texas because it threatens local control, undermines public education, and imposes unnecessary state overreach. This bill could limit the ability of communities to make decisions that best serve their schools and students while prioritizing political agendas over real educational needs. Texas deserves policies that empower educators, support students, and strengthen—not weaken—our public schools.

Arif Rahman

Self

Houston, TX

I would benefit from this bill but disagree wholeheartedly with it. Public funds should not fund private education.

Mara LaViola

Texans for Special Education Reform and Self

Austin, TX

Opposition to Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and Vouchers in HB 3

My name is Mara LaViola, and I am a parent of a child with disabilities and a public school advocate. I strongly oppose the inclusion of Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) or vouchers in HB 3 because they take public funds away from schools while providing no guarantees that all children—especially those with disabilities—will have access to a quality education. I have opposed vouchers for years because they do not expand real school choice. Instead, they create publicly funded private schools for a select few, leaving the majority of Texas students behind. I have researched private schools, hoping to find options for my own child, and none would take him. Even when a school initially seemed open to admitting him, once they understood the extent of his educational needs, they would not allow him to stay. This is not about parental choice—it just sounds that way. The reality is that the power to decide who gets an education under a voucher system does not belong to parents. It belongs to private school administrators, who are not required to accept all students. Unlike public schools, which must educate every child, private schools can refuse to enroll students for any reason—academic ability, disability status, or simply because they don't want to provide the necessary supports.

Vouchers Weaken Public Schools

Public schools in Texas already face severe underfunding, with the state ranking among the lowest in the nation in per-student spending. Instead of addressing this problem, HB 3 would divert more public funds away from schools that serve all children, making it harder for them to provide quality education, retain teachers, and offer specialized programs. Rural communities would be particularly harmed, as private schools are often not available, leaving families with nowhere to use their voucher.

No Accountability, No Guarantees

Private schools that accept voucher funds are not required to:

Accept all students, including those with disabilities.

Follow state curriculum standards.

Participate in statewide assessments.

Provide special education services.

If taxpayer money is funding education, then schools must be accountable to the public. HB 3 provides no oversight of how these funds will be spent or whether students will receive a quality education. Public Money Should Serve the Public

Vouchers do not improve education—they create a segregated system where public dollars fund private institutions that pick and choose their students. Texas should be investing in solutions that strengthen public education for all students, not funding private schools with no obligation to serve every child.

Rather than diverting funds to private schools, Texas should: Fully fund public schools so every child has access to a strong education.

Raise teacher salaries to recruit and retain top educators. Expand public school choice options within public schools. Improve special education services.

Ashleigh Thomas

Self—parent

Corpus Christi, TX

Texans absolutely DO NOT WANT VOUCHERS. This political play is being shoved down our throats by the governor's social media team as something good for us, but we see right through it. FUND TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS and leave those who choose to pay for private education alone and let parents continue to choose like they already do! Give our public schools an equal chance! Fully fund our public schools!

Nicole Borgeson

Self

Manor, TX

School vouchers are welfare for the wealthy. Children deserve fully funded public schools. Teachers deserve pay raises. No to school vouchers. Invest in our public schools.

Leigh Rowan
Self / Real Estate Agent
Spicewood, TX

I oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background.

Emma Brom
Self
Wichita Falls, TX

Please use PUBLIC funds for PUBLIC schools. Gov. Abbot/ Texas has demonstrated a history of not adequately funding public schools- no budget raise even after major inflation since COVID-19. As a former Texas public school teacher, I know first hand the lack of support our public schools receive.

Sharon Rao, Dr
Self
Austin, TX

We do not approve of using state dollars to be used for parochial or religious schools or the voucher program. You are defunding public schools which educate the poorest propulsiion without the resources to go elsewhere. This ensures poor texas gets little quality education and ensure that these citizens end up with less opportunities.

Jill VanVoorhis
Self
Austin, TX

HB 3 is not an education savings account program... HB 3 is a coupon for people like me who could afford to send their children to private schools if we so choose. It appears that the intent of the Republicans in this legislature have only one intention, and that is to dismantle the public education system as we know it. In the long run, this hurts our state, this hurts our businesses, and most importantly this hurts our children.

The voters will remember this if you choose to vote for this bill. The backlash against Republican extremism is growing stronger by the day. Do what is right for our children, our schools and our state and vote against this.

Karen Miller, Ms
self/retired Social Worker Department of Defense
Austin, TX

This Bill will hurt funding for Education for the children of Texas, particularly those living in rural districts, but will hurt all students in Public Schools!

Darenda Ashby
Self
Hale Center, TX

I oppose this bill because it does not support public education in any way.

Deepika Srinivasan
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB3. I believe public school systems build opportunity to community members to access the best resources closest to home. Creating a voucher will drain and damage our public school systems, creating a class and privilege based school choice, not equal.

Melody Herrera
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please do not vote to defund our public schools, doing so will affect our most vulnerable populations in Texas. Our students deserve equitable school funding and voting for vouchers will create more of unequal playing field for students. We already have school choice, and I'm an example of a student who took advantage of school choice over 26 years ago. Please focus on paying teachers fairly and funding school districts based on enrollment and not on attendance this will help ensure all Texas students get the proper education they deserve.

Donna Peacock
Self (retired private and public school teacher)
Buda, TX

As a retired teacher who taught in both public and private schools, I am well aware that the same rules don't apply to both types of schools. Public schools accept all students. They accept the special needs kids, the economically disadvantaged kids, and the kids with behavioral issues. The private schools I've worked at won't take any of those children. How is it possibly fair to give taxpayer money to schools that refuse to help the kids who need it most? Say no to vouchers!

Jennifer McKallip
Self - teacher
Austin, TX

Listen to the teachers, listen to the parents, listen to the students, don't just listen to the money being thrown at you by religious fanatics lining your pockets and campaigns. Vouchers have proven to fail in other states, don't destroy public education for your religion. The private schools will not help the students who need the most help. They will take their money and turn them away. Leaving underfunded public schools to pick up the pieces.

Abbott has been holding a pay raise over the teachers' heads for years and has yet to follow through. I do not believe he will help us now either.

Tamara Weintraub
Self, parent
Mckinney, TX

As a Texas resident, a proud product of Texas public schools, a parent of public school children, and a member of my community, I strongly oppose school vouchers. First, this bill assumes the only valid choice for families is private education. Second, the current state of our public education system that politicians are deeming an unworthy choice is a direct result of the lack of funding, attention and care of our Texas leadership. The choice is clear: to right the ship and assume your elected responsibility to be a good steward of our tax dollars for all children by funding public education. Vote NO to vouchers.

Kevin Daughtry
Self, Parent, Business Owner
Pearland, TX

The math on this is simple, rich kids will move their tax money to private institutions and poor kids will be stuck with less resources than they have already.

This is all in the name of religious freedom and anti woke agendas supposedly ... but I can't think of anything less christian and cruel than stealing from the poor to give more choice to the rich.

There's nothing redemptive about school choice for those with privilege and closed schools for those without. This is wrong.

Jennifer Virdell

MABLE FALLS CHAPTER- TCTA

Marble Falls, TX

My name is Jennifer Virdell, and I am an Educational Diagnostician and member of TCTA at Mable Falls ISD. I am extremely concerned about any version of a voucher program, and I am asking you to oppose HB 3 or any other voucher legislation. Our public schools are the heart of our community, and the state should focus on these schools instead of diverting funds to private schools.

Please consider your vote carefully and vote your conscience, considering how it will impact ALL Texans both now and in the future.

Ashley Millsaps

Self, Project Director

Fort Worth, TX

HB3 is a shameful attempt to allow the rich to have a savings voucher that is paid for by the public. The idea of this bill is absolutely absurd and embarrassing. The rich can already pay for private school, and more money should be spend on PUBLIC SCHOOL education don't benefits more lower and middle class families. The idea that this is school "choice" is a JOKE. Our government officials need to fund our public schools appropriately and stop bowing down to their greedy rich donors.

Jana Breaux

SELF

Humble, TX

This legislative session should be focused on funding public education before funding against it. The proposed bill does address education for all, but rather education only few can afford even with the proposed educational savings account. Let's focus on helping all Texas residents and their children have the best education possible, not just an education based on what they can afford or what value of their property can afford.

Ruth Knight

Self (retired teacher)

San Antonio, TX

We want this bill to pass,

Rebecca Kepley

Self

Austin, TX

In every state that is established a program similar to this the funds have overwhelmingly gone to affluent families as basically a coupon. This is not going to improve the education or the lives of most families. It also drains funds from public education which should be the cornerstone and gold standard of our education in this country. Our children deserve the very best free education. The money for these programs would be better served by increasing teacher pay and increasing funding for resources and services for the students. My son greatly benefited from the special education programs that are going to be endangered by these programs. Voucher programs do nothing for children who receive these services. They drain the resources and provide them where they are not needed. Private schools and charter schools are businesses and I don't believe public funds should be used to subsidize private Industries. Most people making these decisions benefited from public education. Your children deserve the same. All of our children deserve access to a free education that is comprehensive and isn't afraid of factual, historical, inclusive, and equitable teachings. It breaks my heart how grateful I am that my son has graduated and is no longer dependent on the whims of people looking to penalize poor and disabled students while propping up the wealthy who already receive so many social safety net programs and tax breaks while contributing almost nothing to locally economies. Prioritize the children not those contributing to your campaign.

Yvette De Leon
Macedonian Christian Academy Alamo, Tx
EDINBURG, TX

Our family's annual income is below \$60,000 for a household of four. Despite this, we prioritize paying for Christian Academy tuition because we believe it is God's calling for us to provide our child with an education that fosters faith and purpose. This expense accounts for approximately 10% of our income, but we are convinced it is in the best interest of our child. Many individuals oppose private school vouchers, assuming that families like ours can afford them without assistance. However, this is not the case for us, as we are making sacrifices to fulfill what we believe is our spiritual obligation. It is worth noting that those who oppose the bill often overlook the fact that children from families with incomes exceeding \$200,000 also attend public schools and, in many instances, receive free lunch at taxpayer expense. Therefore, the issue is more complex than it initially seems, as both low-income and affluent families benefit from taxpayer support. Receiving assistance to send our child to our preferred school would be a significant help to our family. Thank you.

Feliza Fernandez
Cyfair isd
Cypress, TX
Vote no on hb 3

Louise Hanks
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. I have worked as a counselor in Texas schools for years and I know that this plan will harm children. Please vote against HB3.

Stephanie Blakeman, Mrs
frisco ISd teacher
Mckinney, TX

Do not pass vouchers!!! This will destroy public education!!

Yari Kemp
Self
Decatur, TX

As a parent, I take the fight to better our education system very seriously. The lack of funding for the student basic allotment compared to inflation since 2019, which you and I both know was already behind from 2011, is what needs to be addressed. PreK-12 needs to be properly funded. Furthermore, state mandates need to be fully funded state mandates for public schools. Thank you for taking care of the 5.84 million public school students in Texas.

Tammy Conrad
Self
Round Rock, TX

I have been a public school educator for almost 20 years. I oppose vouchers or educational savings accounts or anything else that takes public tax money and puts it into private schools. We must first put public taxpayer money into public education. It is part of the Texas constitution that we fund public education for all students in Texas. The per student allotment has not kept up with inflation and has not been increased since 2019. It is ridiculous to talk about funding private schools when we don't even fund our public schools appropriately. Besides this bill doesn't give parents a choice, but rather gives private schools the choice to take more money from the students that they choose. It doesn't hold them accountable for meeting the needs of every student or even accepting every student this bill will also in the end reduce the money going into TRS. We need to support educators who have worked so hard for so long. Tell our students become the best citizens that they can be. Please do the right thing and support public education. Thank you.

Ashley Pope
SELF- Tax paying parent
Dripping Springs, TX

Stop the madness. Texans don't want to fund private schools, that's not choice that's defunding public education. Public education in Texas should be the only focus. In smaller counties private schools, if they exist do not offer the same caliber of education. It was never about choice, it's about placating donors and a small roughly 20%.

If you vote this mess, we will exit you at the primaries. Enjoy your last term! Be warned!

Jorge Bosquez
Self
Cypress, TX

I oppose school vouchers. My tax dollars are meant for public schools not private schools or homeschooling. Fund public school education or stop taxing. Take the issue to the voters but do not pass this through. Texans do not want school vouchers. It's a scam!

Alexis Frezza
Personal
Cedar Park, TX

We need to find public education vouchers do not do justice to our kids. Please leave the money in the hands of our school boards so they can fund the education that's needed by our communities.

Maria Anna Barrera Esparza, Ms
Self
Spring Branch, TX

I am completely against this bill! Please oppose it! It is bad for Texas children and bad for Texas!!!!

Coretta Mallet-Fontenot, Dr.
Self - Organizer
Houston, TX

This bill would not benefit the families and communities that I come from in Houston. I have family members who are thriving in public education settings. Due to their disabilities they would not be admitted into private schools in our area. This bill would take funds out of the schools that service my family members. Please vote no on HB3.

Melissa Brewer
Self- homemaker
Dayton, TX

As a proud Texan, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. I believe private school subsidies are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair.

Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Public schools in Texas are underfunded by billions of dollars every year. The Comptroller is projecting a large increase in state revenue over the next two years compared to the past two years, and that money should go to fully funding public education.

Private schools pick and choose which students to admit. Vouchers force taxpayers to subsidize private schools' preferences. And without elected boards or state oversight, vouchers give away tax dollars with no financial or academic accountability.

Public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students, serving all the students in their boundaries. They build the workforce that powers the Texas economy. We can't afford to underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future.

We elect legislators to represent the interests of their communities. Responding to their communities, Texas legislators have rejected private school subsidies time after time.

In the face of increasing pressure from special interests, I pledge that I will stand with my legislators in opposing vouchers. When they vote against private school subsidies, I will make sure all their constituents know they did the right thing.

Jessica Faulconer
Self
Lewisville, TX

I am a homeschool mom, and I oppose this bill! There are too many hidden strings tied to the money. Leave our homeschools free from government interference!

Heather Rangel, Mrs.
Self
Round Rock, TX

Vouchers will only benefit those families who can already afford private school. It will take funds that are already lacking in public schools and just be given to those who do not need the help. Public education is a vital need for our Texas communities, many students rely on these school for their education, some would never be able to afford the luxury of private schools. Teachers already break their backs for our students to do everything they can for them, they are underpaid and under appreciated. As a Texas native, I, as well as my children now, are all products of public education. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please continue to fund public education for our children and our teachers, who deserve the best chance at fair education.

Jane Chaya
Self
Tomball, TX

Please vote down school vouchers. This is discriminatory to economically challenged families

Rebecca Coon

Self and my 4 Keller ISD kids

Fort Worth, TX

Our local CBS featured myself and husband and special needs daughter. You can watch that or read this. Vouchers will take our sad 44th place in education and make it 50th. It will pad the wallets of the rich, and leave the most vulnerable with nothing. My daughter could not go to any private school with her chromosomal condition. She is not alone. TX has thousands of wonderful sped ed kids—why is Abbot failing all of them so heartlessly???

Laurie Schaefer

Self

Allen, TX

I am absolutely against the voucher debacle and FOR funding public schools. You will turn the state blue in the next election if you continue with this nonsense.

Leah Anderson

Self

Brenham, TX

I oppose this bill.

John Litzler

Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission

Dallas, TX

I write in opposition to HB 3. Thank you, Chairman Buckley, for listening to those who asked for public school funding and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) to be addressed in separate legislation. I also appreciate that HB 3 prioritizes the most vulnerable students and families. This is something we care greatly about and I know it is the result of listening thoughtfully to constituents and stakeholders. That said, even as carefully as this ESA was crafted it doesn't assuage concerns of infringement on religious liberty and freedom of conscience. Public funds shouldn't be used to provide private religious instruction and worship. HB 3 would provide an ESA in an amount of over \$10,000 per student to fund private education expenses. However, the average Texas household only pays a fraction of that amount in taxes for public education. The difference in what a family pays in taxes for education and what the family would receive in ESA funding will come from the taxes paid by other Texans, most of whom will not have kids enrolled in private school. Many people promote the idea that a parent's money should follow their child. Under HB 3, however, not only would that family's tax dollars follow their child, but other public funds will follow that child as well. That money will come from a diverse body of Texans who hold to all different beliefs and faith traditions. It violates the freedom of conscience of many of those Texans to compel them, through taxation, to fund private religious teaching with which they do not agree. It's understandable, for example, that a Muslim family may not want their tax dollars to fund a private Baptist education which teaches things contrary to the Muslim faith. Conversely, many Baptists would object to their tax dollars being used to fund a private Islamic academy which teaches things contrary to the Christian faith. We believe in choices for education for families, but HB 3's opportunity for "education freedom" comes at the expense of religious freedom. Therefore we must, respectfully oppose.

Brenda DuBose

Self

Etoile, TX

No vouchers!

Catherine Porter
Self
San Antonio, TX

Public education for our children is required by the state constitution. Using vouchers to siphon off funding is counter to the constitution. Vouchers only benefit those already wealthy enough to afford private schools, while not improving education for students. Fund public education fully for all students in Texas

Karen Turner
Self. Retired school nurse!
Jefferson, TX

I'm against school vouchers! 100 percent! Save our Public Schools!

Tracy Biediger, Dr
Self, retired
Boerne, TX

Please vote No to establish a voucher-like education, savings account program in Texas. This type of program has already been shown to fail in other states, such as Arizona, Arkansas, and Florida. It will primarily put money in the hands of wealthier families who are already sending their children to private school at the expense of the public school systems, which are sorely in need of additional funding. I do not want my tax dollars to go toward private, often for-profit, schools who will have no accountability and no obligation to serve students with disabilities or learning issues.

Jessica Picard
Self
San Antonio, TX

I want my tax dollars going to fund public education. Private schools don't need help, public school does. If you want to send your child to private school that is the responsibility of the parent to pay for that, not the tax payer.

Brooke Wise

self

Dallas, TX

Please do NOT support the educational savings account program. Vouchers in Texas education will be detrimental to students and schools by potentially reducing funding for public schools, leading to inequitable access to education, and undermining the separation of church and state. Vouchers will potentially harm students with special needs, and undermine the state's commitment to public education.

Here's a more detailed breakdown of the arguments against vouchers:

1. Financial Impact on Public Schools:

Reduced Funding:

Voucher programs could siphon funds from public schools, which are already struggling with inadequate funding and facing budget deficits.

Constitutional Obligation:

Texas is constitutionally obligated to fund public schools, and voucher programs could undermine that obligation by diverting funds to private institutions.

Impact on Rural Schools:

Rural school districts, which rely heavily on state funding, could be particularly hard-hit by voucher programs.

Teacher Salaries and Resources:

Reduced funding could lead to teacher layoffs, cuts to extracurricular programs, and even school closures.

2. Concerns about Accountability and Transparency:

Lack of Oversight:

Private schools are not subject to the same accountability and assessment standards as public schools, raising concerns about transparency and oversight of how voucher funds are used.

No Guarantee of Quality:

Private schools are not required to meet specific standards for curriculum, teaching, or special education services, which could result in a lack of quality education for students.

Limited Access for Students with Special Needs:

Private schools are not obligated to accept or serve students with special needs, and even if they do, these students may lose the protections they have under federal law.

Segregation and Inequality:

Vouchers could exacerbate existing inequalities in education by allowing private schools to selectively enroll students, potentially leading to segregation.

3. Undermining Public Education:

Erosion of Public Trust:

Voucher programs could erode public trust in public education by suggesting that public schools are failing to meet the needs of students.

Focus on Private Interests:

Voucher programs could shift the focus of education from serving all students to serving the interests of private schools and corporations.

Divisive Policy:

Vouchers could further divide communities by creating a two-tiered education system, with public schools serving those who cannot afford private education and private schools serving those who can.

Lack of Parent Choice:

Vouchers do not necessarily provide parents with genuine choice, as private schools may not be accessible to all families, and may not serve all students.

Dovie Carrell

None

Nacogdoches, TX

Please vote no to HB 3 regarding the establishment of educational savings account programs. Until private schools have the same oversight that public schools have, our tax dollars should not go to ESA's. Until private schools are required to accept ALL students, our tax dollars should not go to ESA'S. Until private schools have to teach the same TEKs as public schools, our tax dollars should not go to ESA's. Until private schools have to administer the same standardized tests as public schools, our tax dollars should not go to ESA'S. Competition is good but the playing field should be level. ESA's do not level the playing field and only benefit a small percentage of students in our state. Quit selling out to Wilkes, Dunn, and Yass. Listen to the people of the State of Texas. Vote "NO" to HB3.

Scott Camp

Self

Fort Worth, TX

NO to school vouchers. They do not work!

Sonja Shackelford

Self

Mineral Wells, TX

Fund public schools. You all should be ashamed of yourselves!! Parents already have a choice. It's ridiculous to hold funding hostage to get an agenda pushed through. I'm thoroughly disgusted. No one supporting this will have my vote...and I am a Republican!

Kenneth Barnhart

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Vouchers = Subsidized Segregation by Race, Class, and Special Needs. Vouchers = Welfare for the Well Off. Where are the private schools in small towns? Where are the private schools in impoverished urban areas? How are the people in impoverished urban areas supposed to get across town to suburban schools that may not even accept them especially if the student has special needs. How are poor people supposed to make up the difference between the voucher and the cost of tuition. They aren't, because this is for the rich people who already send their kids to private schools.

Amanda Candler

Self

Houston, TX

Strongly oppose!!

Emely Pereira

Self

Humble, TX

As a public school teacher myself, I serve low-income students and families. This bill would be harmful to the communities my district serves as we are already limited in the materials and resources to provide the best education possible that EVERY child deserves and has the right to receive. This bill would take away funding for public schools such as the ones in my district, this would result in having even more limitations on resources for us to use. This bill would not benefit thousands of students and families who are unable to enroll or afford in a private/charter school. Public education deserves just as much as private schools. This bill would harm teachers, other school staff, parents, and most importantly, our students who have the right to receive the best education possible.

Bonnie Russell
Concerned citizen
Roanoke, TX

Stand up against Gov Abbott and vote down the voucher scam. How can anyone support giving money to a school with NO accountability! It's reckless and nothing but a scam. Any school receiving dollars from the state should be held to all the same rules. Let them submit PEIMS reports and take accountability tests. Level the playing field or it's discriminatory against public education. How about some support for public education? Why are schools being held hostage with funding because a governor's deep pocket contributors want it? Put it to a citizen vote!

Emily Ueng
Self
Plano, TX

Texans- specifically Texas teachers and families, do not want this bill passed. Please do not initiate a savings account program for school vouchers. As a speech language pathologist working at a Title 1 school with children with disabilities, can you truly explain to me how this will help the families I serve and work with daily? My community needs funding provided by title 1 programming, counseling services, home training programs, free lunch and breakfast, access to trained SPED staff and SPED programming, all of which are not guaranteed or required in private schools. Additionally, the families within my community could not afford to attend the private schools in our area- even with a discount. And many families in my community would not be accepted due to the extreme special needs and services they require (e.g. OT, PT, ST, AT, and other therapies and services provided in the public school setting.) I urge you to consider what the majority of Texas actually want. We want thriving communities with flourishing and supported public schools- not a coupon for the upper middle class to enjoy while the rest (and large majority) suffer. I am a proud Texan who takes joy in serving children and families in my community. True Texans look out for the little guys, stand up for what's right, and look for opportunities to support one another. This bill strives to do the opposite. It aims to further the divide by helping a minimal number of people, while impacting everyone. I know this because unlike the public officials proposing this bill, I will experience the negative effects of this bill everyday along with the majority of Texans. Please look at the actual statistics and effectiveness of "school choice" in other states and see if that's truly what we want Texas to become. Thank you.

Teresa Rau
Self
Longview, TX

I am against ESAs!! ESAs do nothing to help the parents that need help. What happens when the low income families aren't able to participate due to being rejected by private schools or financial constraints? The wealthy will be the ones using them. They would benefit more by using the money to help pay for rent or mortgage in the school district of their choice. That would be the only way the parents actually have the choice.

Simon Slot

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Simon Slot and I have been a Texas resident for the past 15 years. I am opposed to the passage of HB 3 and I hope my testimony may persuade this committee's members to join me in opposing this damaging bill.

I am a product of Texas public education. It is because of the high quality of education and resources I received at Memorial High School in Houston, Texas that I was able to pursue my higher education dreams at the University of Texas at Austin. If I did not have access to high quality public education in my local area, my life would have been impacted for the worst.

This committee must oppose HB 3 for one simple reason: it deprives our Texas public schools of the funds they need to give Texas kids a quality education. In 2022, Arizona implemented a voucher program similar to the one outlined in this bill. In 2 years, the program's costs quadrupled and, as of 2024, Arizona now ranks dead last in quality of public education. Florida's voucher program siphoned billions of dollars from the public education budget, severely cutting much-needed resources from struggling public schools. If this legislature enacts the same voucher program model, as HB 3 calls for, Texas will follow both of these states in seeing the quality of our education system be severely affected.

Right now, 4 of my siblings are currently enrolled in Texas public schools. I fear that if this bill is passed they, and their classmates, will not have the same opportunities I did because I was privileged enough to attend a well-funded public school.

Our public education system in Texas is far from perfect, but HB 3 is a massive step in the wrong direction. It will defund thousands of neighborhood public schools, like the one I attended, while subsidizing private schools that are unaccountable to the government and the local community. I hope every member of this committee will take my testimony into consideration and stand against HB 3 for the sake of millions of Texas students and their futures. Thank you for your consideration.

Wesley Ruff

Self

Round Rock, TX

I do not support HB 3. This is an obvious scam to move public tax dollars into private institutions. Our existing public education system needs funding. Quit holding the needed funds that exist hostage. This will only hurt public schools that so many small communities depend on.

Stacy White

Self

Azle, TX

I'm opposed and request you vote against HB3. Texas schools need to be fully funded before vouchers are considered for private and home schooled children. Texas public schools are significantly underfunded and need an increase in funds to continue to serve students appropriately. Funding vouchers will cost the taxpayers of this state much more than what is being advertised. Private schools have no accountability therefore there's no way to measure the success of their students. As a taxpayer, voter, and public school administrator, I oppose HB3.

Emma Garrett

Self

Austin, TX

I support public education and do not want tax dollars diverted from public schools to pay for private schools. I also do. I want to maintain a clear separation of church and state.

Tim Hicks

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this.

julie wilson
Self
Lakeway, TX

Welfare for the wealthy!

Sarah Moore
Self, along with all the other mothers and children across the state.
Austin, TX

School vouchers will further decimate an already broken public education system. The vast majority of our students live in rural areas where private schools either don't exist, or are impossible for them to get to because their regions and cities have no public transportation.

This is just another example of our corrupt state leaders stealing tax dollars from the poor, so that rich families who already send their kids to private school can receive a discount on their tuition. The value of these vouchers won't even cover tuition costs for poor families, let alone the other costs that go along with attending a private school.

And I share this feedback as a mother who had the privilege of sending all three of my children to private schools. I don't need a discount on my tuition. I need you to fix education for all the millions of kids who don't have the privilege my children have.

Katie Abrego
Self
Buda, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 (HB3), particularly its provisions regarding school choice and funding for public schools. I understand the desire to provide diverse educational options, but I am concerned that this bill, in its current form, risks undermining our public education system and jeopardizing funding for our students' needs. Public education is already underfunded and school vouchers will take away from public schools while providing a discount to families that can already afford private schools. Instead of focusing on diverting funding to private options, I urge you to prioritize investing in our public schools and ensuring they are well-resourced to meet the diverse needs of all students. Please oppose this bill as it harms Texas students that are enrolled in public education.

Thank you,

Katie Abrego

Tammie Harness
Self
El Lago, TX

Fully funded public schools and say NO to the voucher SCAMS!

Joyce Hoover
Individual
Georgetown, TX

No vouchers!!! Only giving the rich money!!!

Ella J McGovern McGovern, Dr

Community Member/ self

Arlington, TX

I am a retired teacher of 41 years. I have worked in the public schools for all those years. It is very important that we keep our public schools because public schools take everybody public schools educate everyone. I do not want my tax money going to private schools while my public schools do not have the money they need. I think it's very important that if you're gonna give private schools money, you make it an even Playing field and give public schools the same money

Joseph Brunson

self

Cypress, TX

My wife and I homeschool our three children and oppose this bill.

Amanda Broccolo

Self

Austin, TX

I am against this bill. The state should have the public vote this at the ballot box.

Solaris Ortega

Self

Austin, TX

To representative Brad Buckley,

As a resident of Austin and a dedicated advocate for public education, I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB3 and any legislation that diverts public funds to private and charter schools through vouchers or similar mechanisms.

Having worked in education, non-profit, and both the public and private sectors, I have witnessed firsthand the invaluable role that public schools play in building strong, equitable communities. Public schools are designed to serve all students, regardless of background or ability, and are held accountable to the public they serve. In contrast, private and charter schools have the ability to selectively admit students, establish their own criteria, and exclude those who may require additional support or resources. Allowing public funds to subsidize these institutions fundamentally undermines the principle of equal opportunity in education.

Public education is already underfunded and struggling to meet the needs of students and educators. Redirecting scarce resources away from public schools will only exacerbate existing inequities and hinder our ability to provide quality education to all students. Rather than funding private institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards, we should be investing in strengthening our public school system to ensure every child, regardless of zip code or background, has access to a robust and comprehensive education.

Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, and every dollar spent on vouchers is a dollar taken away from teachers, classrooms, and students who depend on public education. I urge you to oppose HB3 and any similar efforts to divert public funds to private and charter schools. Please stand with our students, educators, and communities by committing to fully fund and support public education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Solaris Ortega

Austin, Texas

Tiffany Thomas
Self- Sales
Nacogdoches, TX

Vouchers should NOT be passed! The current bill only allows 1.8% of Texas School children. In rural East Texas there are a limited amount of public schools . HB3 will HURT Texas School children. They deserve better!

Shirley Dulworth
Self
Spring, TX

I do NOT support HB 3. The representatives and governor of our state government ARE NOT listening to the constituents. If they truly believed the majority of Texan voters supported the bill, they would put it to a vote. This is a scam that will benefit the rich and the rest of our Texan children will suffer the governors selfishness of still withholding money from Texas Public schools as he has done since 2019. He is holding funds hostage to get his way and make billionaire donors profit from privatization. Shame on our Texas Government for NOT listening to your constituents.

Claudia Moreno
Self/Educator
Red Oak, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Sarah Callihan-Lewis
Self
Poteet, TX

I am a hard-core republican! Vouchers will be a detriment to our public schools. Private schools will not and do not have follow the same rules and regulations as public schools. This will just benefit those that can already afford it. As for homeschooling, there is technically no accountability for that either. Legislatures voting on this do not understand how public schools work and they do not care. Unfortunately, many republicans will jump ship because of this.

Traci Sigmon
Self, executive recruiter
Austin, TX

I support funding public education fully in Texas. I am a parent, PTA member, and a member of the Casis Elementary Campus Advisory Council. Gov. Abbott is holding hostage millions of dollars that could benefit our children. As a voter and parent, I ask that you support public education, not a voucher program.

Brigitte Grimm
Self/teacher
League City, TX

A closer examination reveals that school vouchers could have far-reaching negative consequences for public education, including reductions in funding, increased inequity, diminished accountability, and adverse effects on vulnerable populations such as low-income students, rural communities, and students with disabilities. These outcomes collectively threaten to weaken the public education system and undermine its ability to serve all Texas students effectively. When students use vouchers to attend private schools, the money allocated for their education is transferred out of the public school system. This loss of revenue creates a financial strain on public schools, which must continue to cover fixed costs such as building maintenance, utilities, and administrative expenses regardless of enrollment numbers. Unlike private schools, public schools cannot selectively reduce their operations based on fluctuating student populations. If even a small percentage of students in a district opt to use vouchers, the resulting loss of funding could lead to teacher layoffs, larger class sizes, and cuts to essential programs such as arts, music, and extracurricular activities harming quality education. This disproportionately harms students who rely on them most—those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds who may lack access to similar resources outside of school. Private schools have greater discretion over admissions policies than public schools and may choose not to admit certain students based on academic performance or other criteria. This selective enrollment process can lead to further stratification within the education system, where affluent families gain access to better-funded private institutions while disadvantaged students remain concentrated in struggling public schools. Many rural areas lack private school options altogether, meaning that vouchers provide little or no benefit to families living in these regions. Unlike public schools, private schools are not required to adhere to standardized testing mandates or report performance metrics publicly. This lack of oversight raises questions about whether voucher-funded private schools are delivering quality education or using taxpayer money effectively. Additionally, private schools are not obligated to follow federal laws like the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which guarantees accommodations for students with disabilities in public schools. Studies from states like Indiana, Louisiana, and Ohio have shown that students who transfer from public to private schools using vouchers often experience declines in academic performance rather than improvements. Public education is designed to ensure equity by offering every child—regardless of background or socioeconomic status—a chance at success through free access to quality schooling. Vouchers threaten this mission by prioritizing individual choice over collective responsibility for educating all Texas students equitably.

Laura Santos Farry
Self -retired
Austin, TX

I oppose sending public funds away from public schools. Please listen to the people- they don't want school vouchers!

Emily Souza
Self
Austin, TX

Our school districts are already struggling to make ends meet because of the Robin Hood system and now you want to take more money away. I grew up in a state with excellent public schools and Texas is severely lacking, even without this bill. We are 43rd in education! That's embarrassing! Wealthy people can already afford to send their kids to private school and our tax dollars shouldn't need to fund their choice not to attend public school.

Bree Kimball
Self
Little Elm, TX

Please do not approve this, it is bad for Texas children. There do not need to vouchers, just provide more funding to public schools, not private schools.

Loraina Paiste
Aledo
Aledo, TX

We need education funded!

Thais M, Ms

Self

Cypress, TX

I oppose this bill. I believe students deserve strong public education

Megan Lorenz

Self

Austin, TX

Please don't divert money from public schools that are already so desperately under funded.

Rebecca Henson, R.N.

Self. Retired School Nurse, RN

Willis, TX

Vote NO to HB3. It's not good for TEXAS Public Schools or Texas Tax Payers.

Rosie Stevens

Self

Coppell, TX

Please do not fund private school vouchers. If you feel you must fund vouchers, please limit the funding to those that actually need it - low income families.

It is a responsibility of the state to properly fund our public schools which ensures that our children are educated and can provide a stable workforce for businesses in Texas.

Nancy Crichlow

Self/teacher (retired)

Austin, TX

I sent my child to a private school and taught in one, but I do not support HB3. Good public schools benefit all Texans by attracting businesses and educating the next generation of Texans. People who want to enroll children in private schools should have that prerogative, but public tax dollars should go to public schools.

John Roylance

Self

Conroe, TX

Texas House Bill 3 proposes Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), a voucher-like program that diverts public funds away from public schools to subsidize private education. While framed as expanding school choice, this bill primarily benefits private and homeschooling families at the expense of the 5.5 million students in Texas public schools.

Public schools, especially in rural and low-income areas, rely on state funding to provide essential services, including special education, transportation, and extracurricular programs. HB 3 would strip these schools of critical resources, further deepening educational inequities.

Additionally, private schools are not held to the same accountability and transparency standards as public schools. They can reject students based on academic performance, disabilities, or other factors, leaving vulnerable children behind.

Instead of weakening public education, Texas should focus on investing in teacher pay, classroom resources, and student support programs to improve education for all. Strong public schools benefit everyone, not just a select few.

Marsha Munoz

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed school voucher system in Texas. While I understand the intention behind the voucher system is to provide families with more options, I believe it poses significant risks to our public education system and undermines the foundation of equitable education for all children.

Public schools are the bedrock of our communities, serving children from all walks of life. They are responsible for educating the vast majority of Texas students, and diverting public funds away from these institutions will only deepen inequalities. Vouchers would disproportionately benefit wealthier families, who are more likely to afford private schools and who already have greater access to educational opportunities. Low-income families and communities of color, on the other hand, would be left behind, as they often lack the means to supplement any shortfall in education funding caused by this system.

Additionally, the introduction of vouchers could lead to a depletion of resources for public schools. Texas schools are already struggling with overcrowded classrooms, teacher shortages, and underfunding. Reducing funding for public education to support vouchers would only exacerbate these challenges, ultimately hurting the students who need the most support.

Public education is a cornerstone of a strong and vibrant society, providing all students with the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background or socioeconomic status. Instead of diverting funds to private institutions, we should be investing in the improvement and expansion of our public schools so that every child in Texas has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to reconsider this policy and instead prioritize the strengthening of our public schools. Our future depends on providing every child with the tools they need to succeed, and vouchers are not the answer.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kelly Rizk

Self

Austin, TX

Public funds should stay with public schools. Please reject this bill to establish education savings funds or vouchers. ESAs are bad for public schools, communities, and learners.

Jason Miller

Self

Palacios, TX

I'm in favor of the bill HB 3, this will help small towns and communities. This will give money to help community home schools, more students will be able to attend. This will make public schools fight for students and make public schools go back to teaching basic subjects. One day this could lead to cutting the STAR. Test out.

Katherine Mesches

self

Austin, TX

I am completely against Abbott's voucher scam and want the lege to vote it down. It isn't choice, it is welfare for rich folks who already send their kids to private. Over 150 counties in TX don't even have a private school! So, they pay for a program they cannot even take advantage of? Privates are not held financially or organizationally accountable to the state (or anyone else) which is creating a situation ripe for unconstitutional policies and unethical business practices to thrive unchecked. Vouchers promote discrimination because these privates can choose to not admit a student for any reason; race, gender, religion, disability, etc... We need to put that \$8 Billion into public schools throughout the state. TX schools are ranked #29th in the country. There is no excuse that we can't have worldclass public schools. Schools are a benchmark of a successful society and a growth-driver for communities. If we had a governor who wasn't obsessed w/passing vouchers because he's a handmaiden of MAGA and christian nationalists, we could use that \$8 Billion to make TX schools the best. Why doesn't our Gov care about all TX children? Why has he spent years in the republican-controlled lege trying to pass vouchers and failing every time? It's obvious TX doesn't want vouchers. Not urban or rural, Dem or Republican. Stop pushing this voucher scam and start working on real issues that will benefit TX children, adults and families

Kay Hall

Self

Austin, TX

No Vouchers

Keep tax money for public education

Lisa Beyer

Self

Cypress, TX

Public tax dollars should not be sent to private education industries. The passing of this bill opens up much opportunity for fraud. It is a very expensive bill that will only aid less than 2% of Texas children. I am against this bill and hope that it is not passed!

Yvonne Rossman, Ms.

Self

Victoria, TX

I urge you to vote NO on HB3. Public schools are not adequately funded to meet all the demands of the students and the mandates which you all impose on public schools. Create a new bill which will help fund public schools.

James Hickey

Self

Del Valle, TX

Simply, the taxpayers should NOT be paying for tuition for private schools. Private schools should be paid for by the families attending them, and only those families or sponsors that choose to support to those schools. If vouchers are passed, there's no reason private schools won't choose to increase tuition costs by the voucher amount. So if a school charges \$10,000 per year, and a voucher brings tuition down to \$5,000, the private school could easily increase tuition to \$15K or \$20K to receive more money, or rather, receive *taxpayer* money when they're already receiving tuition payments from wealthy families already attending these school. Vouchers will take away so much money our public schools need. Governor Abbott talks all the time about how vouchers are good for ALL Texans, but that's a lie. And he's lying on behalf of TX billionaires Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks. Governor Abbott would rather benefit from his megadonors than ensure public schools receiving the funding they need so literally ALL Texas students receive a quality education. TX also has many rural areas that are served only by public schools. These vouchers will hurt those communities, those teachers, those kids, whose livelihoods and futures will be compromised because their local public schools will lose so much funding just so wealthy families can receive a small discount at the private schools they attend. If Governor Abbott wants to "save" education in TX, he needs to start with fully funding public schools so all TX students can receive the services they need to have successful futures. Public schools will never turn any student away because the public school must accept all students and determine which services are needed for each child to thrive from where they are. Does the child need special education? GT? Speech? Occupational therapy? Section 504 accommodations? Bus transportation? Free or reduced-price meals due to being from a low-income family? **ONLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFER THIS. PRIVATE SCHOOLS DO NOT.** Private schools can deny any student admission. It's extremely unfair to even consider vouchers when only wealthy families will benefit from these. Vouchers ensure affluent families get help and lower-income families are left to fend for themselves. Vouchers are a horrible idea and will hurt the vast majority of Texans. I urge all TX Legislature members of the House and Senate to **OPPOSE HB3!**

Jennifer Miller

Self/bookkeeper

Dripping Spgs, TX

The majority of Texans don't want this. It will come at the expense of public schools and will benefit few. We want more invested in our public schools, higher teacher pay and more overall funding for the vast majority of Texas children who are currently and will continue to attend public schools. This bill goes against the Texas constitution and I urge you to stop it in its tracks NOW. We will remember who promoted and pushed this bill forward and will vote accordingly.

If it must pass, ensure funding is the SAME for children attending private or public schools, instead of this disparity of over 3k less for public kids. Ensure that ANY private institution which takes our tax dollars follows all rhetoric guidelines that our public schools must.

As a parent of a child with special needs to receive services from a public ISD, my money should not be going to private schools who will outright refuse my child because of his disability.this bill is not the answer to improving the dismal educational system in Texas.

Cassandra Hall

Self

Spicewood, TX

I oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background.

Mark Schupp

Self

Marion, TX

Public money should not fund private education. This will cost Texans more money. Use the existing money for more teachers and lower the teacher/student ratio to 15-16. That's how you improve education for all not just the upper class! That's also how you keep educators in the profession when they can actually teach. Public money should not fund private education!

Dana Thompson
self
Leander, TX

Keep private school vouchers out of public education!

Jon Hester, Mr
Self/ minister
Plainview, TX

My main concerns about using public funds for private schools and home school are 1) fairness and 2) control.

As for fairness, it doesn't make sense to me to fund at different levels. A student is a student. Costs are costs. Why are the amounts different? Sending more to private schools than public shows favoritism to private schools and would indicate that our state is indeed hostile to public schools. Make the amount the same, regardless of what school type is chosen.

As for control, the public school system is broken. Forcing schools to teach towards a standardized test and tying funding to the test results is illogical. Students don't learn the same and standardized tests penalize many learning styles and favor good test takers. Public school officials rightly are complaining that for their funding to be tied to test results and for private and home school funding not to be is unfair.

I don't believe the answer is more state control but less. Do away with funding being tied to test scores. It's a carrot and stick technique that has failed over and over again.

Thank you for reading my thoughts!

Joyce Peggram
Self/retired
Hale Center, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers. We do not have enough in the area to support them. Would require travel which would not be good. public schools would suffer. Many of them have bond elections pending! Please vote no! Thank you

Kristi Swice

self, Licensed Behavior Analyst, Executive Director

Dripping Springs, TX

I am writing as a parent and special educator to urge you to oppose Texas House Bill 3 and any efforts to implement school voucher programs in our state. Vouchers pose a serious threat to our public education system and the well-being of our communities.

Here's why school vouchers are harmful:

1. Divert Funding from Public Schools – Texas public schools are already underfunded, and vouchers would siphon away much-needed taxpayer dollars to subsidize private schools, leaving public schools with fewer resources to support teachers, students, and programs.
2. Lack of Accountability – Unlike public schools, private schools that accept vouchers are not held to the same academic, financial, or ethical standards. There is no guarantee that students will receive a quality education or that tax dollars will be used responsibly.
3. No Protection for Students – Private schools can discriminate based on religion, disability, academic ability, or socioeconomic status, leaving many students—especially those with special needs—without equitable access to education. Public funds should not support institutions that can pick and choose their students.
4. Fails Rural Communities – Most rural areas in Texas do not have private schools, meaning vouchers do nothing for families in these communities. Instead of helping all students, vouchers disproportionately benefit wealthier families in urban areas, while rural schools continue to struggle.
5. Higher Costs for Families – Vouchers rarely cover the full cost of private school tuition, making them an ineffective solution for low-income families. Instead, they often serve as a subsidy for families who can already afford private education.
6. Weaken Our Public School System – Strong public schools are essential to thriving communities, a skilled workforce, and a prosperous economy. Redirecting public funds to private institutions undermines our commitment to providing a free, quality education for all children.

Rather than diverting money away from public education, Texas should invest in fully funding our schools, raising teacher salaries, and providing students with the resources they need to succeed.

I strongly urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by opposing HB 3 and rejecting school voucher programs. Please fight for policies that strengthen, not weaken, our public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Kristi Swice

I urge you to oppose this bill and instead focus on solutions that prioritize the well-being, safety, and rights of all residents. Please stand against HB 3 and advocate for policies that truly serve our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[Your Contact Information]

Ann Jenkins, Dr
Self
Cypress, TX

School vouchers will destroy the public school system. Many children, especially those from poor families, will be left behind. We are completely against school vouchers. Please listen to your constituents!!!

Greg Cooper
Self
Joshua, TX

Chairman and Committee Members:

I urge you to vote no on HB 3! HB 3 is not aligned with the Conservative planks and just the appearance of 75 Co-Authors signing on at the same time on February 26th, 2025 looks suspiciously staged! To those Reps who have potentially been under substantial pressure I urge you to lean on your District and Constituents to really gauge whether or not this is a bill worth championing!

Thank you for your time!

Greg Cooper

Corrie Peach McCulloch
Self. Paralegal.
Spicewood, TX

This is an absolute NO from me. This will gut our public schools and hurt the kids in rural counties especially while benefiting private schools and their owners. We would be better off funding our public schools more and providing better support to our teachers and families, while also providing Pre-K and other programs. My children are grown now but I care about my grandkids and their futures as well as the other children and families in our district and throughout the state. Please try to do something to help our public schools and not hurt them, and also to keep them free from religion. I could go on but I don't know if anyone will read this, but please please please do not approve this voucher program unless you are truly in the pockets of the private school owners and their financial institutions. Thank you

Betbirai Vera
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future.

Ronald Fathauer, Mr.
Self
Brenham, TX

I strongly oppose.

Sean Ragsdale
Self
Austin, TX

As a father of 2 boys in AISD, we DO NOT WANT a school voucher program. The public has already said NO to this many times despite our governors misguided attempts to go against the will of parents and educators. This has been implemented in many states already and has been an abject failure. The results are in: SCHOOL VOUCHERS DON'T WORK!

Tabitha Romero

Self

Hockley, TX

Leave homeschooling alone. Though the money seems tempting, it comes at a price that is too high. Homeschoolers want to be left alone to educate how we see fit.

Sarah Dalton

Public school parent

Sachse, TX

Public schools need to be FULLY funded with public tax dollars. Parents ALREADY have a choice regarding education. There has never been a state school voucher program implemented that has been successful. Texans DO NOT support school vouchers!

Michelle Thorn

Self

Tomball, TX

I am a homeschool mom in TX, and I oppose this bill.

Kevin Ready

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3, which would divert taxpayer dollars away from public schools to fund private school vouchers. This bill undermines Texas' commitment to providing a strong, equitable public education system for all students, regardless of their ZIP code or economic status.

Public schools serve as the foundation of our communities, educating over 5 million Texas children, including those with disabilities, English language learners, and students from low-income families. Redirecting tax dollars to private institutions—many of which are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools—weakens our public education system, leading to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and diminished opportunities for students who rely on them the most.

Furthermore, school vouchers do not guarantee access to quality education. Private schools are not required to accept all students, and they can impose selective admission criteria that exclude those with special needs or behavioral challenges. Public funds should be invested in strengthening our neighborhood schools, not subsidizing private institutions that operate without public oversight.

Texans overwhelmingly support strong public schools. Instead of diverting funding, we should be increasing teacher salaries, expanding student resources, and addressing school infrastructure needs. I urge you to stand with Texas families and vote against House Bill 3.

DeDe Church

Self - lawyer

Austin, TX

I adamantly oppose these bills that do nothing for so many districts without any private schools at all and take money away from public schools.

Janet Jones

Self

Bryan, TX

I am against vouchers. I haven't met anyone that is "for" vouchers. Democrats nor republicans. Vouchers will take funding away from public schools. We need to make our public schools stronger, not weaker. I also don't want my tax money funding private school ideals I don't agree with. I am a life long, born and raised Texan and attended private school 8 years, public schools 4 years.

Jason Pitts, Mr.

Self - Athletic Director

Diana, TX

Vouchers are a scam that only hopes to give discounts to the wealthy and keep middle and lower classes uneducated. Fully fund public education, as is your constitutional obligation.

William Lane

Self - Student

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

I respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because as a Texas high school student, I have read numerous studies that show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated workforce. HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents. Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools. I support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

William "Arch" Lane

Brittany Fowler, Mrs.

Self

McKinney, TX

The voucher system is only going to benefit those who do not need it. It will take funds away from public schools in TX, the public school system that educates our kids, who the public school system belongs to. I have two kids in the gifted and talented program and one of them has a 504 that he depends on as a cross gifted and talented student. Please do not allow this bill to take this away from them, they deserve it. Private school is for parents who choose private school and do not need or want public schooling. Please do not do this to our children.

David Belote

Concerned parents, self

Mineral Wells, TX

Please vote NO to school vouchers! Fund PUBLIC SCHOOLS!! Let those who can afford private schools attend them. Most of us cannot afford them and we want better pay and less union interference in our public schools. This is of the utmost importance. Stop doing what rich campaign contributors want and do what is RIGHT FOR TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

Greg Vidal
Self
Leander, TX

As a parent of young children in public education and an educator, I vehemently oppose the great state of Texas allocating any funds to subsidize a state voucher program in any form.

Parents already have access to school choice. The proposed voucher programs the governor and lieutenant governor, as well as all republicans are proposing is contrary to the essence of the State of Texas Constitution and benefits a small, small group of wealthy republicans. Furthermore, education should not be sold and the quality education of five million students should not be subverted to by those who yield from personal gain that would come through the allocation of public funds for vouchers.

Amy Gillis
Self
San Marcos, TX

This is unfair. Taking from under privileged children giving to the wealthy! Stop

Arturo Amezcua
Self
Pflugerville, TX

Do not move forward. Concerned Texan with children.

Cathy Hicks
Self / retired
Cypress, TX

Free public education is the cornerstone to democracy. Knowledge is power, and great teachers are present in every school in Texas. Educate children now, give them the tools they need to be successful, and society flourishes. We don't need to subsidize private education for the wealthy; private schools are their choice and should be paid for by them.

Dallin Wootton
Self, Physician Associate
Allen, TX

I strongly oppose the use of public funds to fund vouchers for private education. These vouchers will defund our already underfunded public schools and will have lasting, devastating consequences for our communities and schools. Vote NO on HB3.

Roxanne Williams
Self/ Retired teachers
Decatur, TX

I am a Retired PUBLIC SCHOOL teacher as is my husband. My daughter is a PUBLIC SCHOOL teacher now. We all oppose School Vouchers as students in the PUBLIC SCHOOL will not be treated fairly. We are also concerned about how the PUBLIC SCHOOL teachers will be treated as well as our TRS. The people in Austin need to listen to the voters as the majority of people are NOT in favor of this bill. We all know this is being done for the rich students and parents that attend private schools. PUBLIC SCHOOLS are for all as well as for the communities. PLEASE VOTE AGAINST THE PASSAGE OF SCHOOL VOUCHERS!

Amber Ruff
Self, educator
Round Rock, TX

The fact that this bill is even up for discussion is blasphemous. There are a lot of ways education can be improved, this is the OPPOSITE and will have no positive impact on education. Several states have already adopted a school choice program and NOT ONE has shown improvement. In fact, these programs are siphoning money from the state budget far over the estimated amounts.

Taking money from our public schools (that are held to standards) to hand out to private schools (that have to answer to no one but themselves) is not the education reform we need. Get REAL teachers, REAL principals, REAL support staff into a committee and make a plan for real change— do this with real statistics and case studies, not blind following. I'm embarrassed of Texas's current leadership and their willingness to degrade the education of its rising and future residents. Our CHILDREN are important. Our TEACHERS are important. Our EDUCATION is important. The egos of *some* of our state leaders and those padding their pockets are not important and should not be catered to.

Joan Stiver, Ms
self Retired Registered Nurse
Fort Worth, TX

Although I am retired, I have grandchildren who live in Texas. They attend public schools. Their parents cannot afford private schools. One grandson is special needs. Vouchers would be very harmful to public schools, especially in smaller districts in o Even though I am retired, I have grandchildren who attend public schools. Their parents cannot afford private schools. One grandchild is special needs. Vouchers would be very harmful to schools in smaller districts and schools in rural areas. Please do the RIGHT thing for children and parents and schools and vote NO on the school voucher bill!

Anthony Rigoni
Self
Killeen, TX

I am against passage of this bill. Taking money away from public education would be a tragic mistake for the tax-paying citizens of Texas.

Peter Witt
Self
College Station, TX

Destroying public education via vouchers is a bad idea...no matter how worded, the bill gives into rich donors who have a vested interest in profiting off of private, but voucher funded non-public education...we all know children with disabilities and learning disabilities, LGBTQ children, and children from poorer families will be greatly hurt by public funds being expended in this way...

Courtney Ivy
Shallowater ISD
White / Caucasian, TX
For bill

Kelly Brooks

Self

Temple, TX

I have several concerns with the voucher program. I believe a student should have to take all of the state mandated tests that are required of public school students if they receive any voucher money. It appears to be a way to get funding without having to have the requirements of public schools. The Texas legislature has places SO MANY requirements on public schools, some of which are ridiculous and excessive. Also this voucher system doesn't truly help the low income and rural students. I am especially concerned with any decrease in funding for our public schools. They are not funded enough to truly operate schools and educate students. Texas used to be the best state in the nation and it will only get worse if we do not educate our student. My last issue is that I think the vouchers should be no more than the parent pays in taxes to the local school.

Cynthia Kennedy, Rev.

North Texas Coalition against Christian National

Pilot Point, TX

State taxpayer vouchers will hurt our public schools by taking much needed funds away. It also uses taxpayer funds to pay For religious education which is a private choice. Keep our public schools strong for everyone.

Diana Elizondo

Self

Portland, TX

If people want to send their children to private schools, they need to pay for it. DO NOT deprive the children who attend public school, as it is, they don't have all of the material needed to provide a good education, depending on school district. Why should we pay for someone else's to receive a better education than most parents can afford, depriving our child the best education our tax dollars can provide. If someone can't afford private schools, send your children to public schools like the rest of us. I worked so my children could attend public schools and I helped them be the best they can be. So should privileged children from privileged parents.

Bonita Overbey, Teacher Aide

Self

Sherman, TX

I do not want this Voucher! Abbott has lied in so many ways on this Voucher! That money will not follow that child! Arizona is struggling from this Voucher! Let Texas Vote on it! If I want to Homeschool my grandkids, eventually Abbott will make them do background checks! That's ridiculous! The Government should not be running homeschool what they teach or not teach! NO TO VOUCHERS!!

Denise Patti, Mrs.

Self

Dallas, TX

No school vouchers. We sent 2 kids and now 3 grandkids to public school
Even though we could afford private.
No more freebies to wealthy people please!

Robert Jones

Self / IT Professional

Bryan, TX

I do not want the state to use my tax money to fund this. It only helps a small percentage of students. The money should instead be used to lower property taxes that will benefit more people.

Paulette Helberg

Grandchildren

Kyle, TX

I support public schools and strongly oppose HB3. If we have money for vouchers, we have money to fully fund public schools first!

Pamela Brown

Self retired

Austin, TX

I am a former longtime resident of the Rio Grande Valley and I've retired to Austin. So many if the public schools are already underfunded, especially when it comes to kids with special needs. I see no reason to do very our precious tax dollars to school vouchers for private schools. Many rural areas don't even have proper privates schools, so this is basically a transfer of tax dollars from the rural to the urban. Please don't vote HB 3 out of committee!

Jennifer Clarke

SETX Impact I initiative

Nederland, TX

Say No to vouchers. There are 5 million kids in Texas with a right to an education. Parents already have choice. Homeschool allows parents to be in charge of their child's education. Voting for state leaders also allows parents to dictate their child's education since the state controls it. Parents can also communicate with school staff and attend board meetings to be a partner in their child's education. And none of that requires starving millions of Texas kids of equitable access to education for a select few just so lawmakers and billionaires can make some extra cash.

Marisa Morales, Mrs.

Self

Uhland, TX

I write this as a public educator and a product of public education. Vouchers will not better the educational opportunities of a majority of our children. It has been said time and again vouchers are to the benefit of the wealthy and the detriment of the low income. Public schools have been there to support, educate, and guide students and provide them opportunities. Taking away funding from the masses and pretending this will provide them opportunities isn't fair. We know exactly who this will benefit and have no plans as to what will be done for special populations. Students who are considered title I & require special education services, 504 plans, IEPS will all be left on the wayside. Private schools have always proudly held the power to decide who they will accept and educate. Vouchers mean nothing to the families who have students that don't meet the criteria of these schools that will raise tuition rate once they're given this leg up anyway. Vouchers are against the every day people. Texans deserve better than to be given the boot because they're not rich. The rich have enough.

Jennifer McClarren

Self - Geologist

Gilmer, TX

I don't support this. It will not help anyone who needs it.

Elizabeth Archey

Self/Public School Teacher

Lewisville, TX

I've been a public school teacher at title I schools for 9 years now. Our public schools are underfunded. These vouchers will not help students whose families are struggling to pay rent or buy food. Students rely upon public schools for free meals. I do not agree with using taxpayer money to fund private school tuition. As a parent myself, I want my son to be at a funded public school and would never send him to private. Even with the voucher, I could not afford private school. Please vote against this. It will only harm public schools.

Tom Sagona

Self

Austin, TX

I attended the committee meeting this morning, March 11. The meeting was well run, although quite long with no breaks that I could see. I would like to have delivered comments in person, but couldn't stay that long. I have two comments to make.

1. I feel strongly there needs to be a cap on earnings to qualify for a subsidy. Many members expressed interest in helping those who aren't as fortunate, but the chair indicated he saw no limit to who receives help. There's a guy called Elon Musk, who lives in Bastrop and has something like 12 kids on a compound. It appears that the committee chair would have no problem with the state subsidizing Elon Musk to the tune of \$125K. That's wrong. Let's put a reasonable cap on who gets help and save some of the money for those who truly need it.

2. Several members who supported the ESA seemed offended by the audience response. I thought the audience response was remarkably restrained and not invasive. And the chair seemed to agree, because he never called to silence the room, at least as of 1 PM or so. These members who were offended seemed to be implying that those opposed were somehow unfair. But this is a democracy and not everyone is required to have the same opinion. Instead of being offended that people seemed to have a different opinion, perhaps these members should read the room and realize that there is demonstrable resistance to subsidizing wealthy families. That was actually by far the biggest opposition to the ESA's. Maybe the committee should listen to the attendees and put some limits on who qualifies for an ESA.

KHEANAN TAYLOR

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I oppose

Brittany Miller

Self

Austin, TX

I vehemently disagree with the establishment of an education savings program. For the states that have pushed this through in the past, it has created a significant money pit. Also, as shown in previous states that have gone this route, the vast majority of people that will use this money are already attending private school and don't need the government subsidy. A strong, well-founded public education system in Texas is imperative to ensure a quality education for everyone, regardless of their socioeconomics. Vote NO for this bill.

Ruma Singh

Self Homemaker, Community Volunteer

Round Rock, TX

This bill only serves to undermine public school education and give money to already wealthy families. Taxpayer money should only be used for public school education that gives admission to all and has accountability and serves all kinds of children. Private schools have no accountability, they get to select who to admit, they have no school bus - they are only going to benefit the wealthy at the expense of public school funds which are already low. I do not want my taxes to fund this voucher scam. Both my children went through the public school education system and greatly benefitted from the diverse school population and the variety of academic and extracurricular programs. We need to strongly support this system by putting more funds into it to pay our teachers well, provide resources for our children, support a strong inclusive curriculum and provide the benefits of a well rounded education to all the children in our state free of cost. An educated population is the greatest asset for our nation and the world. We should not compromise this in any way. Instead of putting funds into the voucher system, we should invest more into public school system so that most parents can make that their school of choice. Our taxes should NOT be used to fund private faith based schools. That is totally unacceptable. Any school receiving our tax dollars should have accountability, should give admission to anyone, should provide transportation, should include programs for children with all kinds of needs and should be free of cost.

Megha Sethi
Self
Leander, TX

We don't want vouchers. We want funding for our public schools and basic \$1300 allotment per kid. Those are basic requirements.

Rebekah Hinojosa
Parent of children in public schools
Houston, TX

Absolutely against vouchers. Fund and support our public schools. This bill will disproportionately hurt economically disadvantaged and special needs children.

Gina Busey
Self
Argyle, TX

I am the parent of two students in Texas public schools and am OPPOSED to the establishment of an ESA program. My tax dollars should be funding the public education system that our Texas Constitution requires. The public school system goes above and beyond to educate and care for over 5.5 million Texas children and it is sadly doing so right now without the support of those mandated to maintain it. As a parent, if I want to send one of my children to a charter or a private school, I already have that choice. For my other child who receives special education services, however, I would not have that choice and vouchers/ESAs would not help. Private schools are allowed to choose who they admit, and I'm comfortable estimating that the majority of them do not have the capability to serve students like mine. The Legislature is going to take money away from the public schools that can serve BOTH of my children (which then prevents the public schools from fully operating) in order to give it to private schools that can not only pick and choose who they accept but do not have the public oversight/accountability that is required from our public schools. If so many people in Texas want ESAs, why has this not been allowed to appear on a ballot?

It is time for our Legislature to fund our public schools. Not only that, it is time for our Legislature to respect our educators and support them instead of allowing the hostile, inaccurate, and never-ending negative political narratives to bring them down. My children deserve better from this state, and so do everyone else's. Our public schools serve 5.5 million children who are the future of this state. Uplift them, properly fund them and their educators, and watch them thrive instead of rooting for them to fail to fulfill a political checklist that does not serve the majority.

Brekka Larrew, Mrs

Self

Lakeway, TX

As a 29-year public educator, I have serious reservations about HB3. I care deeply about our public schools, which are the last bastion of connecting our pluralistic communities and helping our citizens growing up not in fear of people different from themselves. I've experienced first hand in my own life as a student in Houston ISD and seen in my students in both HISD and Lake Travis students connecting with those of other races, religions, and socioeconomic classes; these are connections that would not have been forged across such lines in many private school settings. Public schools educate all children regardless of disability or economic standing. It is an equalizer. Public school protects the American dream in our country. I worry that vouchers could undermine this essential institution in modern life. Affluent students and high academic performers who can qualify for private schools will take the money and run. Public schools will be left with the disabled and those with behavior problems. Those without the means to pay the difference in price between the voucher and the cost of private schools will take will be trapped in an untenable situation.

Please don't pass HB 3. If you want to privatize education, keep the playing field level. 1. Require STAAR and EOC from recipients of vouchers, or eliminate these requirements from public schools. 2. Require teacher certification in private schools, or remove certification requirements from public schools. 3. Provide equal dollar amounts of per pupil funding for public school students and voucher recipients.

If these three conditions are met, then the passage of vouchers may not undermine the institution of public education. If voucher are a must, please don't sacrifice our public schools in order to get your way with them.

Leila Anderson

Self/Marriage and Family Therapist

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose taking more money away from our public schools. This bill will only help those who can already afford private schools. As a parent of children in public school, I can vouch for their already being underfunded. It is absurd to think that our educational prospects as a whole will be improved by pulling more money from public schools.

Zachary Dunnam

Self

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you!

Melanie Sementilli

self

Austin, TX

School vouchers divert much-needed public funds away from public schools, undermining the quality of education for the vast majority of students. Instead of improving public education, vouchers primarily benefit private and religious schools, often with little accountability or transparency. They can exacerbate inequality by subsidizing tuition for families who may already afford private education while failing to cover full costs for lower-income students. Public dollars should be invested in strengthening public schools, ensuring all children have access to quality education regardless of their background or zip code.

Kristen Saarloos

My family

Fort Worth, TX

I'm opposed! This is not good for our public schools!

Liana Gonzales

Self

Austin, TX

No to Vouchers, Fund our public Schools!!! Each child needs at least \$1300 basic allotment per child.

Scott Kowalski

Self/Senior Business Analyst

Houston, TX

NO TO HB3! NO TO SCHOOL CHOICE! NO TO VOUCHERS. Say No to School Choice in Texas

As a Texas community member, I want every child to have access to a strong, well-funded public school, no matter where they live. School choice programs take money away from our public schools and send it to private institutions that aren't held to the same standards and don't have to serve every student. This hurts our neighborhoods, weakens our education system, and leaves many families with fewer real options. Instead of diverting funds, we should invest in improving our public schools so all kids have the opportunities they deserve.

Victoria Matus

Self

Austin, TX

I am a Texas parent against school vouchers and education savings accounts. I have a child in public school and I support fully funding our public schools.

Eliz Markowitz, Dr.

Self

Katy, TX

Vouchers will only serve the affluent and divert taxpayer money to private institutions.

Donna Schmidt, Mrs.

Myself

Farmers Branch, TX

I vehemently oppose HB3, I am a teacher, this bill helps destroy public schools

Leigh Velasquez
Self retired
College Station, TX

I am totally against using my tax dollars to help rich people get their children into private schools. By using the tax dollars, the public school systems will suffer greatly. Some school districts are already at a disadvantage and this bill will undercut them to where children in rural areas might be without a school. Louisiana has a horrible public school system, most children attend private schools. They rank at the bottom of the US in standard scores. Do you want Texas to be right behind them?? No one would move to Texas because of a poor performing public school system.

Please reconsider for the sake of all of our children, not just the ones that can afford private schools, but want the public to pay for it.

Kayla Parker
Self
Denton, TX

Funding for public education has taken an unprecedented cut in the past 5 years causing deficits across the state as public school districts attempt to retain teachers and staff by continuing standard of living-related raises each year and some districts are sacrificing much needed facility repairs to keep up with budgets. There is suppose to be a separation of church and state and that is painfully clear in the way that private religious based schools do not follow any of the same guidance and laws implemented within the public school system especially related to health and safety. To provide funding to these private entities would not only cross the line of the separation but would also set the precedent that a "state-funded" private school entity did not have to follow the same state laws that public schools do. Perhaps if the public school funding and the individual school districts management of those funds were investigated and scrutinized to resolve budget deficits, then the quality of public school education would increase and resolve the issue of families seeking private school educations. Additionally, the families that can afford private school do not need a "price break" by the government to afford tuition and by providing that funding, the government would effectively be aligning with or endorsing specific religions. I stand in opposition of this bill.

Kelly Thompson
Self
Buffalo Gap, TX

I oppose vouchers. People already have school choice. What you view as "good" for 100,000 children does not work for the whole. Fund our public schools, pay our teachers.

Lisa Sellers
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am in favor of school vouchers. I put my 5 children in public school which was a terrible mistake! I homeschooled them for a while and then put them in a private school where they were taught by teachers who really cared about their academics and their character. We are a middle class family and private school was a financial sacrifice. We have 9 grandchildren now and they are or will be in private schools and one is home schooled. Our public education needs an overhaul and our teachers need to be empowered to teach and model good citizenship. Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Tana DeGraffenreid
Self
Rankin, TX

I am a public school teacher. I do not believe tax dollars should be given to schools, even through a savings account, when those schools are not held to the same high standards of public education and the rigorous testing required in public schools.

Alicia Torres
Self
El Paso, TX

We need to fully fund public schools! As someone who went to catholic schools her whole life, I understand that public schools are an even playing field for all. They service all needs and don't pick and choose who they educate.

Miranda Diaz
Self
El Paso, TX

Vouchers will only HARM our future. Our learners need all the support possible!!!

Chris Marek
Self/Sales
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3 because I support all Texas students and teachers.

Adam Holmes
Self
Lubbock, TX

Against! No to HB 3!

Laura Fisk, Mrs
Self
Austin, TX

I am a Texas voter. The allotment for TX students in public education has not raised since 2019. The vast majority of children in the state of Texas, who are the FUTURE of the state of Texas and our nation, attend public school. There has not been an increase per student in over five years. That in itself should be enough to be concerned as a citizen of this state. You are choosing to abandon children and defund not only their schools but their future by diverting funds with this voucher program.

If you want to pay to go to a private school - that is that family's responsibility to fund it. It is NOT the state's. The state's responsibility is to the children who are part of our public education system. The education of the majority of children is the most important right for any student. Every student accepted. Don't you want to provide the best opportunity through creating the best schools? Use the money to bolster students and public schools! Fund and support public education, our Texas children need it!

Elaine Andersen
Self
Pflugerville, TX

Public education should be your priority!! Providing a quality education to everyone, I literally mean everyone.. every race, every gender, every economic status, EVERYONE! Stop putting money as the focus for whose pockets it fills. Do the right thing! How can you sleep at night?! Be a good person, not a bad one! (And I'm refraining from my word of choice). Sincerely, concerned mom for not just my kids, but all kids!!

Elissa Marek
Self/Attorney
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3 because I support and want what's best for all Texas public school students and teachers.

Leonce Hall III

Community Voices for Public Education (CVPE)

Houston, TX

"I am a public school educator and a voter. I am deeply concerned about how school vouchers will harm public schools, particularly in the most underserved areas of our state. I urge this body to vote no on vouchers in any form, including Education Savings Accounts (ESA) in HB 3.

Milton Krumm

Self

Burleson, TX

I am against using public tax dollars for private schools. This bill will only line the pockets of the rich and continue to underfund public education as the Texas government has done for many years. Instead of lining the pockets of the rich, fund public education adequately and stop all the mandates imposed on public schools.

Dionne Anglade

Self, teacher

Katy, TX

I strongly oppose use of public funds, tax dollars being diverted away from public schools to vouchers that will benefit only a small fraction of Texas kids. As a teacher and a mother I know how important a robust public school system is to our states' children and our society. Having a well educated population benefits everyone. We must do everything we can to fully fund our public schools who serve all children. We cannot create the kinds of educational environments that our students need to thrive if we continue to strip money away from public schools. Please vote no on school vouchers.

Cecilia Villasenor

Self

Houston, TX

I have a special needs son in Houston ISD public schools and it's not fair to lose a program that benefits him to better his future just so someone can get a voucher so they can enjoy a better school just because this affects a lot of people in many ways

Carolyn Meredith

Self

Buda, TX

No school voucher program. Fund our public schools. Education savings account do not improve students education or provide choice for students who cannot already afford private education. Please fund the public schools which offer educational opportunities to all students.

Tracy Mitchell

Self

Austin, TX

This is a terrible bill and will continue to funnel money and opportunity away from those who need it most and to those who have much already. So many children will be left behind. An educated populous benefits all of us. No one wants this terrible bill. Fund public education and give the teachers the resources they need to be successful.

Sarah Morales

Self- school counselor

Aubrey, TX

I am an educator, a school counselor, I am AGAINST this bill of vouchers! Although I live in an area with an abundance of private and charter schools, they do not accept the students from my school. My school is over 50% free and reduced lunch. We are the most racially diverse 6A high school between the metroplex and Arizona. Our families cannot pay the difference the voucher offers them. They struggle with truancy due to lack of transportation, and are fighting the prison system. This is not giving school choice- school choice already exists with the transfer systems in place in local school districts. This bill gives a discount to the wealthy and privileged who are accepted at the private and charter schools. I am against giving my money and funding to schools who do not have to follow the same level of educational standard that Texas public schools have to follow. I am against funding schools with my taxes who don't have to accept all students.

Brianna Bischoff

Self

Cypress, TX

By establishing vouchers kids will suffer. We are already tight on funds with the public school system and education is a right. Please reconsider vouchers and do not pass this bill.

Sonya Letson

self

Claude, TX

I oppose vouchers to send public money to private schools. The legislature has woefully underfunded our public schools for years. Do the right things and make public schools a priority!

Julianne Matula

Self, Leander ISD, TCTA

Leander, TX

Until you can guarantee vouchers does not affect funding for public schools, teachers pay, teachers retirement, access for ALL students to benefit from vouchers, and full and transparent accountability from any school receiving funding from tax payer funds then we should NOT pass the voucher bill yet. We should focus on public education reform and funding policy FIRST and since we already have school choice I would like a full investigation on why parents who chose to leave public education and then return to see if it was cost/access or other concerns that affects students before approving a voucher program that could fund another broken system.

M Diane Dwight

None- Concerned Taxpayer & citizen

Austin, TX

Against public money for private schools. Particularly opposed to public money to subsidize private schools for those who are already attending them or have no financial need. Support public schools. Compromise by giving vouchers to low income parents in low performing districts

Alexandra Bohigian

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and am not in favor of vouchers. Public tax dollars belong to our public schools.

Tracy Wuster, Dr.

self, Professor

Austin, TX

I am opposed to the creation of education savings account program, which will divert much needed money from public education and does not provide protections for students with disabilities. I support the bill raising student funding for public education, but the increase is not enough to make up for inflation. Texas public schools are the backbone of our economy and our communities. They need more support, and I am opposed to public money being given to private schools and other options which are not accountable to state rules and standards. Our public schools have to educate everyone, they are accountable to the public, and they are filled with great teachers and great kids who deserve our support--and your support.

Patsy Gillham

Self

Cypress, TX

Vouchers will not serve children with special needs. Public school decreasing funding for special need student will be daunting! Private schools do not demand teachers to be certified. Many private schools are religious based and already supported by the church members that the school is associated with. The citizens most effected by this bill need to be the decision makers not just a few positions trying to stay in good grace with Abbott. Put vouchers on a ballot and rule by the people for the people, not special interest groups that will profit from a voucher system. Most don't have school buses so transportation for low income families will be a burden they can not over come.

Diana Dull

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because I want what is best for all students.

Paulette Garza

Self

Round Rock, TX

Please do not vote for Texas vouchers.

Alan Hutcheson

Self

Austin, TX

I am against HB3

Liezl Kwak

Self

Austin, TX

I am against this bill as it is fundamentally against the Texas Constitution.

Beverly Perrin

Self

Allen, TX

I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to this bill that will take funding away needed from public schools and will only benefit a small fraction of Texans.

Kimberly Crumedy

Self

Houston, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I am a product of both public and private institutions and believe that my public education aligned more to what America looks like. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas Constitution.

Lisa Tehseldar

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing an opposition to HP. 3.

school vouchers will take money away from our public school system, and deprive our students with special needs of much needed funding. Private school should be funded by the families who choose to send their families there, not by the public. Our education system in Texas needs support for teachers, curriculum, and all students. Private schools who receive voucher money will have the opportunity to select the students that they want. They do not have to offer services for students with special needs, they can choose to accept students only that are high-performing, and will not offer transportation or other services that are typically provided by public schools. In addition, private schools do not have the same regulations for curriculum, teacher credentialing, and other programs that public schools must offer. Please do not support the voucher bill.

James Maldonado

self

San Antonio, TX

I am against school vouchers. My daughter has been doing well in her special needs class at her public school. She has been achieving her goals. Vouchers would take away resources from this.

Monica Arste, Mrs.

Self

Round Rock, TX

I do not support vouchers!

Jacquelyn Padgett

Self

Austin, TX

I am expressing my opposition to HB3. As a graduate of TX public schools, wife of a public school teacher, mom of a public school student and board member of a public school district foundation, I know firsthand how crucial state funding is for public education in Texas. HB3 would allow taxpayer dollars to be given to private and home schools that have no accountability measures in place to ensure the funds are being spent responsibly. Additionally, the voucher scam will be used as welfare for the rich instead of to support Texans who need access to quality education. I strongly oppose HB3 because I have seen the evidence that school vouchers in other states do not end up doing anything aside from robbing public schools. Please vote in line with what the majority of TEXANS - not just Republican primary voters - want: vote against HB3.

May Nguyen
self, family physician
Houston, TX

We should not use public funds toward vouchers. Vouchers subsidize private school tuition for the wealthy; 70% of voucher recipients nationally were already in private schools. Additionally, vouchers come in way over budget. Arizona's voucher scheme costs 1400% higher than advocates promised. Furthermore, vouchers have caused the largest academic declines ever recorded, surpassing learning loss from Hurricane Katrina and the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, many voucher-funded schools discriminate against LGBTQ+ students or those with special needs. They have the ability to pick their students and kick out students that don't meet their criteria.

Tira Faison
Self
Houston, TX

Texasans need to keep the freedom to homeschool with liberty, without governmental limitations. The state has a responsibility to better manage and support public schools, private schools and homeschooling should remain options outside of influence of state regulations.

Elizabeth Hunt
Self
Midlothian, TX

No vouchers.

Candice Sendejas
Self
Round Rock, TX

I stand with public education. This bill only helps private schools. The students that attend those school can afford to do so. Public schools, specifically public charter schools, have higher testing scores, public education, and severely under funded. Those vouchers help the rich get richer and keep the low income struggling. Reallocate those funds to help all students. Tax payers funds should not go to a minority group. Use for the majority. Use our funds to help our students. Our funds our community.

Sarah Gabriel
Self/teacher
Cypress, TX

I am a Texas teacher. I started my career during COVID-19 and have loved my job ever since. It is not just a career, it is a passion. It is a need and desire to help the upcoming generation gain knowledge, while still ensuring that they know they matter. The students who walk into my classroom are the future. Not just the future for Texas, but the future for the US. The future for generations to come. In my five years of teaching, I have seen teachers, quality teachers, burn out and leave education. We are losing teachers who would have helped shape these students to be kind, smart, educated human beings. I have seen money that is supposed to be for public education held hostage in the name of school choice. I have seen teachers lose time to grade, time to plan, and time to prepare their classrooms because of budget cuts. We are losing the very people who can make a difference. We are losing the people who can ensure that our students graduate as critical thinkers. We are losing those who matter and we are using school choice as a bargaining tool. How can we ensure that Texas has the highest quality public education in the nation if we are pushing out good teachers, taking money away from districts, and calling it school choice. By doing so, we are ensuring the our public education system will lose the resources needed to thrive. We are saying that public education doesn't matter. That students don't matter. That teachers don't matter. We are making it impossible for teachers to survive and we are putting their retirement, their funding, and their passion for teaching at risk. I chose Texas as my home. I chose to teach in Texas. I chose to raise a family in Texas. And I chose to help my fellow Texans in an way I can. Please don't take away funding from public schools. If you do, it is a decision that will impact teachers, students, and public education for many years to come. The generations that come after us are the ones who will pay the price.

Haim Kamman

Self

Houston, TX

Support the bill!

David Wells

self

Splendora, TX

I stand in opposition to this bill. This bill does not adequately fund traditional isd students. this bill prioritizes the few in lieu of a few. This bill is not conservative and creates a whole new arm of the government. As a life long Republican i will tell you that you're wrong on this bill and is dangerous. Our public schools are the backbone of this great state, treat them that way by adequately funding them, create in inflation adjustment mechanism, raise the ada by atleast \$1500.00, create a discipline mechanism that allows schools to actually punish the disruptor who cilontinously disrupt the education environment of other students. Schools should be safe, yet they're underfunded. take care of the public ed students before we ever consider privatized education. Help schools aquire the tools needed to educate our students.

Chriss Simmons

Self educator

Odessa, TX

I am a special education teacher in a Title 1 school asking you to vote NO on HB 3. The loss of funds to public education will be disastrous for the students I serve. I am also a taxpayer who doesn't want my hard-earned money going to for-profit private schools. Do the right thing for our children and our state!

Melissa Waelchli

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose education savings accounts. I understand the goal is to give parents a choice in schools but Texas parents already have that choice. As the parent of a child with special needs that receives special education services, I can tell you that we looked into private schools for our child. None were a good fit or willing to work with our child's behavioral challenges. Thankfully, our child qualified for, what was called at the time, public preschool for children with disabilities. Our child was three years old when she began her public school journey. It was challenging, yes, but she graduates this year and it is all due to the dedication of the staff, specialists, and teachers at her public schools.

I can only imagine how much more incredible that journey could have been in a fully funded public school. Please don't deny families like mine the quality education their children deserve. We all know the ESAs would take funding away from our public schools. I know you say the goal of these ESAs is to give parents like me a choice in where to send our child. It turns out, no private school would serve our child, so what good would an ESA do for us or other families with children like mine? I think we all know the answer.

Fully fund our public schools and you'll see there is no need for an ESA program. I've seen the incredible work our schools can do while they are critically underfunded; imagine the heroes you all could be if you fully funded them.

Jill Baggett

Self

Buda, TX

I reject this and am against school vouchers

Pam Ward
Self
Abilene, TX

Fund Public Schools properly and see what a difference that makes. Do not pass Greg Abbotts private school agenda, he is being paid to push. He has lost the support of this republican Grandmother because of this money grabbing agenda!!!! Texans support our Public Schools.

Patricia Kelly
Self, Texas film worker
Woodway, TX

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3 and any efforts to implement a school voucher program in Texas.

Vouchers divert critical public funds away from our already underfunded public schools, weakening the education system that serves the vast majority of Texas students. Instead of increasing educational opportunities, vouchers primarily benefit private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards, do not guarantee student protections, and often exclude students with disabilities or special needs. Public tax dollars should be invested in strengthening our public schools-ensuring smaller class sizes, higher teacher salaries, and better resources for all students-rather than subsidizing private institutions with little oversight. Please prioritize the future of Texas children by rejecting HB 3 and keeping public funds in public schools.

Breann Sanders, Teacher
Self
Caddo Mills, TX

My vote is NO!

Denise Evans
Self - Retired PUBLIC SCHOOL teacher
Denton, TX

I come to you as a proud educator who taught in Denton ISD for 35 years, and a current professor of education at the University of North Texas. As I look into the eyes of future educators, it is heartbreaking to know that they are going into a profession that Governor Abbott, Dan Patrick, and other state leaders despise and refuse to support. The profession I love, and the state I have been proud to call home are letting us down. Since taking office, Governor Abbott has done nothing but vilify public schools and public school educators. He has held funding hostage, and refused to release funds unless vouchers passed. I ask you, WHY has he been so adamant about vouchers? The answer is simple. Follow the money. When multi-millionaires who are from outside the state of Texas make huge donations and just happen to be vocal supporters of vouchers it's easy to see where Abbott's loyalties lie. I beg you, as an educator, and as a grandmother to say no to HB 3. Please do not support what WILL be the end of public education in Texas. Support our schools, support our teachers, and, most of all, support our children. We're counting on you to take a stand. Say NO to vouchers and save our schools!

Kat Munro
my kids
Kyle, TX

all this bill will do is give wealthy family a gift and take from my title 1 school that is freaking amazing i would never take my girls from Kyle elementary and wallice middle school bothe title 1 but both amazing teachers you are trying to kill the schools who foster low income kids

Shelley McCarty, Mrs

Self

Aledo, TX

Vote NO to HB 3

It is not fiscally responsible

It grows government

It's a universal lottery

Erin Murdock, RDH

District 13

Fort Worth, TX

Don't you DARE VOTE FOR THIS SCAM! I swear in all that's holy if you take my kids' education and jeopardize it in ANY WAY, I will homeschool them with your vouchers and teach them to honor the Constitution and take you all down politically! You will not, with my tax dollars, ALLOW PUBLIC EDUCATION TO BE DESTROYED WITHOUT REPERCUSSIONS AND EXTREME DISSENT! Spend ONE MORE DIME OF MY MONEY WHILE DENYING MY VOICE AND MY KIDS' RIGHT TO FREE AND FAIR PUBLIC EDUCATION!

Holly Thoden

Self

Austin, TX

Absolutely Oppose! I have 3 kids who have benefited from Austin public schools!

Christine Martin

Self

Cypress, TX

This program takes vital dollars from public schools that support all families, including low and high income. The program sends money to wealthier families who choose to send their kids to private schools while pulling funding from public institutions. This was verified by our esteemed governor. This isn't a political movement. This is an active attempt to defund and destabilize public schools. This is wrong for the families you serve.

Monzerrat Gonzalez, Mrs.

Self

Dallas, TX

I urge you to vote against HB3 and stand in support of Texas public schools. School vouchers do not benefit public schools or the majority of Texas families.

Public schools are the backbone of their communities. They provide special education (SPED) services, a safe learning environment, and essential resources like free meals—all of which many families depend on.

Vouchers do not make private schools accessible for lower- and middle-class families. For example, Alcuin School in Dallas charges \$41,200 per year for middle school and \$34,300 for lower elementary. Even with a voucher, most families simply cannot afford these costs. Furthermore, private schools do not provide the same SPED services as public schools. At Waypoint Montessori in Colleyville, we paid an additional \$600 per month for dyslexia services and \$300 per month for speech therapy—on top of tuition. These essential services should not come at an extra cost to families.

Public schools save lives by ensuring that every child—regardless of income or ability—has access to quality education and critical support. I urge you to reject HB3 and protect the integrity of Texas public schools.

TIMOTHY PRINCE

Self / retired

Austin, TX

Please vote NO on HB 3. I have nothing against an individual member of the public choosing to send their child to a private school but I am against the state using taxpayer dollars from the general public at large to subsidize the private school costs of others. I believe tax dollars from the public at large should instead be devoted to funding public education for the benefit of the public at large.

Rosanne Hensley

Self

Manor, TX

Please vote against HB 3. It will ruin our entire education system in so many ways and essentially make it less affordable for normal people to get a good education. Why would we support a bill that gives the rich more advantages?

Erika Conway

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 due to the concern for even less funding of our public schools. I am the mom of 2 public middle school kids.

KELLY ABBETT

Self

Austin, TX

I am not ok with my tax dollars supporting private schools at all. Private schools are a school of choice and are already funded by parents. Public schools are already in desperate need of more funding and taking tax dollars and giving them to private schools, which again, parents pay for their children to attend, is not ok. We shouldn't be making our public schools jump through hoops to get funding that is needed and deserved.

Christa Donalson

Self

Cypress, TX

This is a coupon for the wealthy who already attend private school. Parents already have a choice in schools. Fully fund public schools to make them better!

Kim Pernell

Self

Austin, TX

As a Texas taxpayer, I would like my tax dollars to go towards supporting a high quality public school education for my children and all other Texas children. I believe that the education savings account program will undercut these goals and I do not support it.

Deborah Branch, Ms.

self

Fort Worth, TX

Vouchers take money away from public schools. Please get behind public schools. Our children graduated in 2020 and 2021 from public school and overall had a great experience. Fort Worth ISD already provides parents a choice. Work with the system not against it. Vouchers may benefit those parents whose lives and means allow them to drive their kids around town, whereas there are many who cannot do this and would be left behind. No one has to be left behind if we support our public schools.

Kristi Peeples
Self- Texas Certified Educater
Lubbock, TX

I am a proud Republican Texas teacher and I do NOT support HB3. Texas parents already have school

choice. Texas public schools do not teach woke topics, they do not try to help students become transgender and hide it from parents. TPS do not support boys in girls sports. We just don't have these problems in Texas schools. We aren't California. Abbott is gaslighting the public to make them believe TPS are all under-performing. This simply not true. Public education is for all students: rich, poor, learning disabled, physically disabled, high achieving, and of average intelligence. How are private schools going to handle all these types of students? They can't! Therefore, how is HB3 fair to all Texas families? It's not. This HB is blatant discrimination for any student covered under special education. Rural families don't have access to private schools since most if not all are in larger cities. In Lubbock, Texas, which has been coined one of the "Points of Light", has a handful of private schools with enrollment ranging 11 up to 750 students. The big 3 districts, LISD, LCISD and Frenship Isd, serves 44,450 students of varying levels of needs. Money sent to private schools is taking resources from MOST of the students in Texas. This bill is simply not fair. Are TPS perfect? No. This is a systemic problem starting in Austin by Abbott holding the money hostage that belonged to Texas schools. Texas does not spend \$16,000 per student, it's \$1,600. Texas needs to support Texas students and Texas teachers. Stop wasting time and money by bullying the people of Texas to bend to the will of Abbott.

To Governor Abbott, you need to fire your social media content creator. The pictures of you with heads of companies and private school board members with big smiles on your faces talking about school vouchers is not a good look. It looks more like sleazy backroom deals. Where are shots of you visiting schools or talking with teachers? And fyi no one is concerned about high school football. That comment was so condescending and completely out of touch.

Praying you all vote with your conscience and listen to the majority of your constituents. Do what is right for all Texas students. God Bless Texas!

Paula Gorham
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

What happens when the kid can't pass the private school and goes back to public school 6 weeks into the year?

Del Van Cox, Mr.
Self
Abilene, TX

Public dollars should NOT be used for private schools!!!

Jennifer McDonald
Self
Wichita Falls, TX

This will weaken public schools and goes against conservative Republican ideals. Public education should be a top priority of the state and this bill will harm it by sending funds that should be used for public education into private interests. This is a vendor bill benefiting the wealthy while taking from Texas' most important resource—its children.

Michael Wright
Daughter teacher
Mansfield, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Cassi Sweeney
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose

Amanda Alexandrowicz
Self, VP Finance
Allen, TX

I am against HB 3 and request my representatives to vote against it.

Carolyn Darden
Self
Shallowater, TX

Politicians whose family members do not attend public schools should not be making decisions that will affect the thousands of children who do attend public schools in Texas. You do not fully understand the negative impact this will have on Texas. You are allowing big money to cloud your vision of what is right. I have been a public school teacher for 40+ years.

Karen Cash
Myself/public schools in Texas
Nacogdoches, TX

This is a disgrace and a slap in the face to all Tx teachers, students in public schools with no opportunity to attend a charter school! For the many years that accountability was demanded of public schools, now you are considering giving state monies to schools with zero accountability. And this will most likely benefit the pockets of someone’s friend, campaign donor, blah! I beg you to give the public schools the money instead of someone who has plenty already

Brooke Rodriguez
Self
Mckinney, TX

I am opposed to HB3. It removes funds from already underfunded schools and does not provide the public education for all students that is required by the Texas constitution.

Christina Taylor

Self

Pottsboro, TX

I am a public school teacher and urge members to oppose the establishment of the ESA. Public schools are an integral part of our communities. They are often one of the largest employers and provide multiple resources for students and families. As a special educator for the last 16 years, I have taught students with some of the highest needs. Students that have required tube feedings, support with toileting and diapering, and support for regulation of behaviors. These students would not be accepted by private schools due to their complex needs. They deserve to have access to all the same educational opportunities as other students. However, private schools would be able to deny these students admittance. This alone creates a disparity in access for these students. Many of these students rely on school transportation services for students receiving special education services. Therefore, programs outside the LEA would not be accessible due to a lack of transportation available. Furthermore, public schools must also provide a variety of services for special education students including speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy to name a few. Private schools are not required to offer these services. Due to the fact that the ESA cannot afford all students equal access to school choice options, it is necessary that members vote "no". Thank you.

Deborah Harvey

Self

Houston, TX

Do not pass vouchers. This will only help the rich. Many rural areas do not have access to private schools. Thus is a class division. Poor vs. Rich. Shame on any if you that try to vote this in. Vote NO.

Lindsay White

Self

College Station, TX

I will never support vouchers for Texas. I never have & never will. They are a scam & deprive our children of the education they deserve. My son is autistic & has needs that private schools won't enroll him for. Only public schools accommodate him & this scam looks to undermine these vulnerable children who deserve equal chances. I've been the parent calling every single daycare in town, desperate to find ONE who will accept an autistic child just because they got diagnosed at two years old. Regardless of needs, the diagnosis alone excluded my son from all but two in a town with dozens of facilities. Imagine how that schools could do the same. That's what these bills would do in the end, putting money and power into the schools that would deny enrollment to those they deem less worthy. It's sad that lawmakers continue to push this under the guise of a good thing, some "savings". Our children, our future, should matter more to this state. This farce is the closest I've come to wanting to leave despite being from an Old 300 family and knowing nothing but Texas for generations. I hope the vision for Texas can begin to right itself soon.

Megan Kite

self, librarian

Austin, TX

I do not support the voucher proposal. Strong public education is a cornerstone of any healthy democracy; we need to support it, not chip away at it. Our public schools face many challenges, most of which are due to inadequate funding. With fully restored funding, schools will be better equipped to meet these challenges and prepare our future Texans for success. Please vote to FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS and VOTE NO on any voucher/ ESA bill. In particular, I would like to see the basic allotment tied to inflation indexes and become enrollment-based. Thank you.

Jane Williams, Retired after 25 years in public school

Self - retired

Denison, TX

Why are you trying to ruin education in Texas? My family has a total of 83 years in the public schools and I have 3 children , 1 a doctor, 2 a Licensed Professional Counselor, 1 a stay at home mom with a finance degree and they were all educated in public schools. Don't let a governor who is bought with big money bluff his way into ruining public schools. We will remember who voted for this bill when election time comes around again.

Christy Dorr

Self - Owner/Broker of Real Estate Agency

MINERAL WELLS, TX

I am against vouchers and this so-called savings account. It is completely non-sensical. My children went to private Christian school and I taught there prior to moving them to public school in their later years. I had a choice back then, and parents have a choice now. Private schools have the option to refuse certain children. How is that choice? Public schools are required to teach to standardized testing. How is that choice? This bill has nothing to do with choice. I don't know a single citizen in Texas (who isn't in politics or part of a PAC), who is for vouchers! Please vote "NO" to this bill!!

Bonnie Clements

self / retired

Houston, TX

VOUCHERS / EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAMS HURT PUBLIC SCHOOLS! NO TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS!

Jenna Amadi

Self- home maker

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 because it diverts critical public funds away from Texas public schools and funnels them into unregulated private institutions. This bill threatens the quality and accessibility of public education, particularly in rural communities that rely on public schools.

Texas is already facing a teacher shortage crisis, and underfunding public schools will only make it worse. Teachers are leaving the profession due to low pay and lack of support, and instead of addressing this, HB3 worsens the situation by draining resources from schools that need them most.

Public education is also a key driver of Texas' economy. Major employers choose where to invest based on the availability of a well-educated workforce. Without strong public schools, Texas risks losing out on business investments and high-paying jobs. 77% of Texas voters support increased funding for public schools, and up to 94% favor investments in teacher salaries, tutoring, and mental health services. Lawmakers should listen to their constituents and prioritize funding for public education.

I urge you to reject HB3 and instead invest in strengthening public schools, supporting teachers, and ensuring Texas remains a competitive, thriving economy for future generations.

Stephanie Wright

Daughter / teacher

Mansfield, TX

My daughter works at a low income school in McKinney Texas . This bill would hurt her students as they do not have good home lives and this school is their safe place . To many Texas schools are closing in the lower income areas. All children deserve the right to learn and without funding we are telling these children they are not worth it. Thank you

Alison Baker

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and I'm against school vouchers.

Susan Deaton

Self

Burkburnett, TX

This bill is welfare for the wealthy.

Dora Camarillo

Self

Arlington, TX

A public hearing at the Texas Capitol is happening on the school voucher bill (HB 3). Use the link below to ensure your opposition is on record. Not a drill. Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.” I work in the public school system with special needs children. What we need is more funding and supports to meet fully meet their needs. These students are entitled to an amazing school experience as well!

Brandy Nagel

Self

Pflugerville, TX

As a parent of a student in public school and with close friend and family of several ISD teachers and former teacher that have taught in charter/ private schools I feel strongly that vouchers should not be granted. Placing more focus on upgrading the curriculum and facilities of current public schools is something to be reviewed and focused on.

Stephanie Ramirez, Mrs.

Self

Tomball, TX

I am a public school educator of 8 years. I am also a product of a private Christian school from Texas. I went to private school K-12. While the environment was a positive, encouraging place, especially for my faith, I was desperately underserved academically. I also know that back in 2012, the school cost around \$12,000/year, above the current stated average of private schools and most likely more because of inflation. With the current set up of the bill, the economically disadvantaged children intended to reach would not be able to pay for the rest of the tuition, not to mention uniforms, club fees, transportation. This bill is set to fail. It will only end up serving as a coupon for the wealthy. Not all private schools are equal either. They are broken and biased with minimal resources to help kids with special needs and academic needs. While public schools have been taking teachers on emergency certifications or probationary contracts, they are supporting those teachers to get them the necessary training for their positions. Private schools don't have to require certified teachers and even if they are, many teachers are required to teach outside of their certification because of a lack of resources lessening the quality of education. Please do not pass this bill and instead pour this money back into the public schools to make them better. We want to help our kids who don't get to choose where they go to school because they can't afford these private schools bills beyond said voucher.

Shannon Moreno

Self, Church Children's Ministry Director

Pflugerville, TX

Hello, I am writing in strong opposition to HB 3 that would utilize tax dollars for private school education. This bill proposes an egregious misuse of tax dollars that will benefit those who already have school choice options and lower the quality of education to children of those who do not have such a choice. I have worked with children in many different capacities over the years, from providing individualized therapy to working on DFPS cases to my current role overseeing the children's ministry of a church. Private schools are wonderful options to those who can afford it, but they are not the answer to the masses. We do not need tax dollars going toward private education to provide a coupon to families who either can afford the tuition or who just narrowly cannot and instead homeschool or select a charter school that better aligns with the family's educational goals. This bill will make little to no impact to families who already have the resources available to have a choice. It will, however, cause great harm in sucking dollars out of public schools for families who do not have choices and for whom this bill will do nothing to make private education more attainable. For families where the parent(s) do not have transportation available to take the child to a school where transportation is not available, or who live in one of the many counties in Texas that doesn't have a single private school, or who's children require special education services that private schools do not need to provide, or who's children do not yet speak English well enough to benefit from a private school education, this bill does nothing but lower the quality of education at the public schools their child(ren) will attend. In addition, while it is commonly thought that a private education is superior to a public education, private schools are not monitored nearly as closely and may have grave shortcomings not uncovered by purely academic outcomes alone. How would an average private school manage children who come from homes with food insecurity? What's the protocol in place when a child reports sexual abuse in the home? How would a private school manage a child in the foster care system who repeatedly smears their feces in the school restroom due to untreated trauma from extreme abuse and neglect? They wouldn't. They would kick the children to the curb and they'd land at the public school that can no longer provide previously available services due to tax dollars going to private schools. Let's call this bill what it is: a coupon for the upper-middle class to siphon money from public schools into the hands of wealthy owners of private institutions. This will lead to more educational inequality, which down the road will lead to higher delinquency, teen pregnancies, drug use, and many other negative social outcomes. If you want what is truly the best for Texas, do not pass this bill. Thank you.

Rebecca Moore

Self

Cypress, TX

Help education!

Alicia Markum

Self

Round Rock, TX

I currently serve as the Vice-President of the Round Rock ISD Board of Trustees, but I am writing to you today as the parent of two students who receive special education services. I oppose HB 3. At a time when public school districts across the entire state are running deficit budgets because state funding has not kept pace with inflation, it is irresponsible to pour 7 billion dollars into private institutions rather than the public schools that serve 5.5 million Texas children. The state has a responsibility to provide a free, quality education to all students and to transparency with tax payer dollars. Private schools are not subject to the same accountability measures or financial transparency as public schools nor are they required to accept all students, provide transportation, or provide free and reduced lunch. The last three exceptions mentioned exclude the very populations you claim to target in HB 3. In regard to students who receive special education services, most private schools are not equipped to support students who need services. The very few private schools with a more resource-rich environment than public schools depend on a family's private insurance to provide a therapist and 1:1 support. Public schools offer these services for free and with appropriate funding could offer more people resources on campus to provide support and intervention. After listening to 13 hours of discussion and testimony today, it is apparent to me that proponents of HB 3 are struggling the most to defend this bill. The data on cost and student outcomes simply doesn't support it as an effective use of tax dollars to provide students with more opportunity. I ask you to please vote no to HB 3.

Gwyneth Hutton
Self
Dripping Spgs, TX

I support fully funding and supporting our public schools. No school vouchers!!

Cathy Ash
Self
Georgetown, TX

Please enable parents make the best choice for their own child. The number of hours they spend at school will definitely shape their world view. Let us choose what they will taught everyday. Truth matters now, for the next generation and action for eternity. Thank you for your consideration.

Bergan Casey
Self
Austin, TX

This is the wrong use of education savings accounts. They're called 529 and other accounts for college (or private high school) established by parents. They don't siphon tax dollars away from public schools like HB3 does. Bad bill..

Robert Stabe
Self
KATY, TX

I am opposed to passage of HB 3. First, I believe it violates our state constitution regarding state support of religious schools. I do not want my tax dollars going to support private schools. In spite of anything that Gov Abbott says, if passed, it will take money away from our public schools. How can you approve providing \$10,000 per student for private schools but only provide \$6,000 something for each public school. Every article I have read regarding private school vouchers in other states show that they do not work and become a financial drain on the state's budget.

Curtis Wiseman
self
Fort Worth, TX

DO NOT put forth or approve any method of implementing "school choice" or "school vouchers" or any other euphemism for funding private schools. Parents HAVE choice now. Any one can send their kid to private school if they so choose.

What we need instead is INCREASED funding for PUBLIC SCHOOLS, period! Anything else only weakens the level of education in Texas. I want to live in a state with a citizenry that knows how to think, read, do math, etc. The best way for that to happen is to educate ALL students well. That means we need to support PUBLIC education, not subsidize private schools.

Steven Brown
Self
Austin, TX

I have been a special education teacher in Texas since 1991. There is so much we can do to lift up our next generation and our most vulnerable. Vouchers, which have proven ineffective at fixing the system's ills, have proven ineffective elsewhere. Please vote no.

Mike Carroll
Self
Graham, TX

I am absolutely against HB3 or any other bill that allows public money to go to private schools that do not have to follow EVERY SINGLE REQUIREMENT that public schools do. I keep hearing about competition but a competition is only fair if both sides play by the same rules. Texas public school funding has not changed in six years yet inflation has. Also the concept of a student being worth north of \$10K if they go to a private school but only \$6,300 if they are a public school student is a slap in the face. The Governor has spent the last four years crapping on public education and visiting nothing but private schools and it should be a slap in the face to every public school educator and friend of public schools in the state. Parents already have a choice where their child can be educated so the concept of "parental choice" is laughable. A parent can send their child to their public school that they are zoned for because of where they live, they can home school their child, or they can pay to send their child to a private school. Certain exceptions will allow the child to go to a school that they are not zoned for. Under no circumstances should by tax dollars go to a private school that doesn't have any of the same requirements as a public school. This is like me saying "There is a public golf course in my town but it doesn't meet my needs so I need more of my tax dollars than what I paid in to go to my country club membership."

I can count on one hand the number of Democrats that I have voted for in my lifetime so do not think that is why I am against this bill. All I hear from the Republicans in Austin is that property tax is theft and government is too big and bloated. BUT these same Republicans are in favor of taking my tax dollars and creating a new government entitlement to give it to people who for the most part do not need it. In my opinion the supporters of this bill have been either bullied by the Governor or bought and paid for by the billionaires pushing this or both.

Amanda Luddy
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing against HB 3. Private schools do not have accountability standards and do not admit all who apply therefore public tax dollars should not be spent on this tuition. The tax dollars should go to the underfunded public school systems and these teachers should get raises. It's embarrassing how little these professionals (many who hold a Master's degree) get paid. There is bipartisan opposition against this bill and the majority of Texans don't agree with it.

Emerald Amen
My family!
Buda, TX

I am a Texas Naive and I have 4 school aged children. I do not support nor do we want Vouchers! We even had one of our daughters attend private school for 5 years and we still do not support vouchers! Texas spoke when we voted, please listen to US! We do not want politicians using children's future to fill up their pockets while Texas children suffer!

Stephen Hodges
Self
Cypress, TX

I do not support this bill in any form. The state of Texas has a surplus of funds that is being withheld from public schools that desperately need it. People are free to choose private schools but the public tax dollars should NOT be funding ANY private schools. The bill as written will divert tax dollars to people who can already afford private schools. It does nothing to help struggling school districts or the children from low-income households. It just further undermines public education in favor of wealthy Texans. This is not good for Texas or for Texans!

Mary Hanks
self
LA PORTE, TX

Having attended Catholic schools for twelve years and then working in public schools for twenty-five, I can attest to the undeniable difference when comparing the two. My parents worked hard to provide their five children with twelve years of Catholic education. They worked hard because it was important to them. They were also required to volunteer their services on a weekly basis. They did this all the while paying their taxes to public education. School education is a choice just as college and higher education is a choice. When the choice to attend is made, the responsibility for payment falls on the one receiving service. When you take money from public education you are taking money from those in need to give to the rich. You have already recaptured money that wasn't yours to take. This has crippled many districts within the state. You have withheld funding in order to sell your voucher scheme all the while requiring more and more from your districts. Your plan has been precise and very unfair. The very people you claim to serve are the ones you harm. Inner city kids will not be attending your elite private schools because they will not be able to afford them. All you are doing is giving a \$10,000 discount to the wealthy, like yourselves who already send their kids. You pile more and more responsibilities on educators all while denying them financial assistance. The STARR test does nothing more than line the pockets of companies producing the test and its study materials. I doubt anyone in the state capitol could pass this test. And yet, private schools or home schools are not held to the same standards as your public schools. We have seen this voucher system fail in other states and yet you are willing to risk the only education most children in this state will receive. I hope you wake up and realize that public education needs the money it is due to thrive and leave the wealthy to pay their own way.

Lisa Mason
Self
Mckinney, TX

Want to see price reduction

Carlos Castano, Mr.
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and do NOT support school vouchers!

Julie Dye
Self
Georgetown, TX

I send my daughter to private school. But I don't want to do that to take money away from public schools. I am against HB 3.

Caden Teliha
Self
San Antonio, TX

I disagree with the HB 3 and the establishment of an education savings account program.

Carrie Schaff, Dr
Self
Houston, TX

Rep Buckley seems to be unaware of the long history of advocacy to get IDEA passed. I would strongly recommend that those who support this bill do some work and then reframe the thought that a single parent on their own would be able to advocate for the same level of services for their child. This bill would take any supports away from families who desperately need these services no matter what their socioeconomic status.

Hannah Battaglia
Self - Tax Preparer
Buda, TX

I absolutely oppose school vouchers.

Lori Truitt
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am a local attorney, and I in no way support this Bill. This would be disastrous for our public school system and our families, particularly our rural families. Please reject this greedy and ill-conceived measure. Please take note of what has happened in other states who passed similar measures. It will not be any more successful here. I do not support this bill.

Sarah Guyote
Self - Homeschooling educator
Hurst, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Constitution

Janet Counts, Teacher- Retired
Self
Glenn Heights, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Andrea Nesbit
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I speak for myself, my husband and my 2 elementary aged children that we strongly oppose HB 3. This bill will NOT benefit our communities, our children or our public schools and teachers. It is obvious that the governor and proponents of school vouchers are gaslighting Texans and we don't want it! We have amazing teachers and wonderful school staff members, we have lovely and diverse classrooms where children of all backgrounds thrive. We could be doing better by supporting our public schools and teachers! That is where we want the money to go to. Fund our schools. Give our teachers raises. Support ALL Texan children who attend public schools. Parents already have a choice to send their child to private school. That's great if it works for them, but that should be kept separate from Texas Public Schools.

Moving forward with this bill would be purposefully and willingly lowering education in our state for the majority of our children. It will remove wonderful educators from our schools. Our children will suffer the consequences of your actions. Our communities by and large are against this. Put this issue to a public vote and let the people tell you what they really think.

Tiffany Fenton
Self
Buda, TX

My name is Tiffany Fenton and I am a STEM teacher in Hays CISD. I am extremely concerned about any version of a voucher program, and I am asking you to oppose HB3 or any other voucher legislation. Teachers and other employees are in desperate need of improved compensation, and low salaries are contributing to the shortage of qualified, certified teachers, Available funding should be directed into the classroom.

Kristin Wright
Self / Teacher Librarian
Nacogdoches, TX

As a teacher, a parent, and a taxpayer, I am vehemently opposed to any school voucher scheme. I do not want my tax dollars being used as welfare for the wealthy, as that is who will benefit most from vouchers. If you're truly worried about the quality of education poor and middle class children are receiving in Texas, then properly fund our public schools, recruit and retain quality teachers by compensating them well, and reduce the ridiculous amount of testing that steals WEEKS of instructional time every year.

Jessica Briggeman
Self
FT WORTH, TX

Please do not pass this! Unless you are prepared to provide public school students with \$10,000 each, why should you only be giving it to kids to go to private schools? It doesn't make sense! Please do not abandon the majority of kids in our state!

Andrea Vega

Self

Austin, TX

As a parent with a student in public school receiving services for special education and another student receiving accommodations under 504, the voucher program would significantly hurt my children's education. I am a product of private and public school and have considered private school for my children. Unfortunately, there are no oversight of these schools or transparency of their services for my children. The public school has their meetings public, their meeting are recorded for posterity, etc. but the private school claimed they would not accept my child because of their disability and could not allow me to even observe a class. I am a former educator, I have a master's in special education and as a parent it concerns me when a school or any school has no transparency of how they accept student candidates or a board to determine what will be taught for that grade level. Because I attended private school I have had a look from the inside and there are positives but there are negatives. I watched students who didn't sing the national anthem loud enough get their hands swatted by a ruler, I saw students placed in corners for days on end because of typical class room disturbances. I spent my days in anxiety due to being out of line. I'm afraid that this type of teaching will become the norm as there is no oversight of requirements especially as the federal department of education has been dismantled. I highly doubt Texas will oversee the civil rights of children. Until parents have full transparency and oversight over what is taught in private schools, I will be against private school vouchers. As a parent I want a system where I have some governance over what a private school teaches. This bill does not provide me the ability to sue a private school for not accepting my child due to their disability, lack of privacy, or inability to provide services for my children. As a former educator, this bill doesn't require private schools provide FAPE as legislated by the Supreme Court. I am a moderate when I vote in Texas and always have been. However, education is important to me and my family. I will reconsider my voting in the future for all positions. Thank you.

Ronica Hutson

Myself

Flower Mound, TX

A little personal story, take from it what you will. I started a very small (less than \$500) Roth IRA a year ago tomorrow to help with my retirement funds post divorce. I've watched it climb fairly steady the last year. Not huge, but still rising. As of right now, all the gains I made are GONE, and I am even lower than what I put in. I'd love to add money to it right now to take advantage of the low market, but my regular bills are rising fast and thanks to the Texas governor and his billionaire friends, there's still no guarantee I'll get a "raise" next year. I quote it because my "raise" can't keep up with inflation. If we don't get a "raise" next year, I'll probably be bringing home less than I do now, just like I'm bringing home \$100 less a month this year than I did last thanks to rising insurance cost. And hear me say I do NOT fault our district—they are doing literally everything they can. It's the fault of the politicians (both state and federal) lining their own pockets and looking out for themselves and their friends instead of the constituents. Anger doesn't start to describe what I'm feeling right now...

JANIS REINKEN, MS.

SELF/ATTORNEY

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3/SB2. In past Sessions, a large Fiscal Note would kill a Bill. This one ought to sink HB3/SB2. The March 11, 2025 House FN shows (\$1,010,815,140) for this biennium, at <https://www.legis.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/fiscalnotes/pdf/HB00003I.pdf#navpanes=0> “Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB3, As Introduced: a negative impact of (\$1,010,815,140) through the biennium ending August 31, 2027.” The five-year All Funds Impact would be “2030 GR Cost, (\$4,896,756,092): Probable Savings from Foundation School Fund, \$805,532,528; Additional State FTE’s, 46.0...” The introduced versions of the General Appropriations Bills include \$1.0 billion in funding for an ESA program contingent upon enacting legislation.... “TEA assumes that the number of students who would be leaving public schools or home schooling to enroll in private school to participate in the ESA program would be limited by the capacity within private schools. The agency ... analysis assumes 24,500 students would leave public schools for private schools in fiscal year 2027, increasing to 98,000 in fiscal year 2030, and that 10,500 home school students would enroll in private school in fiscal year 2027, increasing to 42,000 by fiscal year 2030...” “Local Government Impact: This analysis assumes LEAS [Local Education Agencies] may experience a decrease in FSP [Foundation School Program] funding as a result of the bill....

I agree with the statement by Senator Robert Nichols on SB 2: Wed., Feb. 5, 2025 SENATE JOURNAL pp. 195 – 198.

<https://journals.senate.texas.gov/sjml/89r/pdf/89RSJ02-05-F.PDF#page=7> Please consider this quote: “For the past decade, I have seen various versions of a proposal to use state tax dollars for private schooling. There have been different names with different components, but ultimately, they each had one common element – public dollars for private education. While the latest proposal for Education Savings Accounts has made an effort to be more inclusive, referring to it as ‘universal’ and making it applicable to a larger group financially, it falls short of that goal and is still taxpayer funds for private education. This bill creates the illusion of choice but does nothing to guarantee that a parent's choice for their child will be fulfilled. It offers a chance, not a choice.

Ultimately, the true decision-maker in this system is not the parent, but the private school. If your child has discipline issues or needs accommodations for a learning disability, the school will have the choice to remove them. If you can't afford to transport your child to school, you don't have the choice to send them to private school. If the tuition is more than \$10,000, parents would have to come up with the remaining balance.... Over 62% of children currently in public schools come from socioeconomically disadvantaged families and many live paycheck to paycheck. They don't have an extra \$9,000 in their household budget. That's not really a choice.” Vote NO!

Akiva Diamond, Dr.

Self, oncologist

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

I have 6 boys - 5 are diagnosed with ADHD, and several with dyslexia and dysgraphia. We have significant costs associated with making sure they are able to learn within a regular classroom. I moved to Houston to work as an oncologist from Cleveland Ohio. Cleveland had educational choice vouchers enacted a few years before we left. I had no appreciated the significance of the extra services my children received due to the benefits of this vouchers.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Christine Fondren, Mrs

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I homeschool and I am grateful for the financial opportunity. The program by HB3 (there is also an SB2) would give \$2,000 for homeschool families who apply and meet criteria. However the biggest problem with these bills is that the way they're written, it leaves the door open for future auditing and oversight of homeschoolers, which most homeschoolers want to avoid at all costs. Please vote against this.

Deborah Reveles

Self/retired

Frisco, TX

Do not use public school funds to finance private education. Vote against HB 3.

Debbie Van Aken

All Students

Pearland, TX

I strongly oppose voucher programs because they divert much-needed funds away from our already underfunded public schools. Public schools serve all students, yet they are expected to do more with less while private and charter schools operate with fewer accountability measures.

Meanwhile, Texas spends millions on Pearson standardized testing that isn't even academically appropriate for all learners. A one-size-fits-all approach does not work for students, yet we continue to waste taxpayer dollars on flawed assessments instead of investing in meaningful educational resources.

Our main concerns should be:

- ? Meeting the needs of all students through equitable resources and support.
- ? Appropriate funding to ensure schools have what they need to help students succeed.
- ? Raising teacher pay to attract and retain quality educators.
- ? Improving teacher retirement benefits so educators can retire with dignity after dedicating their lives to our children.

Raise Your Hand Texas states it best: "When funded properly, our public schools exceed expectations!" Texas students thrive when we invest in our public education system, ensuring they are prepared for post-secondary success. Instead of funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions that are not held to the same standards, we should focus on strengthening our public schools for all students.

#FundPublicSchools #NoVouchers #StrongPublicSchools #PayTeachersMore #SupportOurEducators

jacqueline vaughan, Dr

Self

Bedford, TX

"Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a Texan, whose entire family has been a part of private and public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and the future of our once great state

Stephanie Heimbuch

Self

Ovilla, TX

As a tax payer and 30 year resident of Texas, I am vehemently against HB3 and the use of public funds to pay for private school education of any sort. This will directly affect funding for public education in Texas as it has in most of the other states that have ESAs or vouchers. Public Education in Texas is 44th in the nation for funding and grossly underpaid teachers. Without additional funding for Special Education and Teacher pay, specifically through the increase in the basic allotment, then Texas will continue to become one of the worst funded public education entities in the United States.

This bill talks about how students with Special needs will be first in line. However there are only about 70 private schools in the state that will take students with medium to major special needs. Therefore this funding is not for those students. In addition, there is nothing in this bill to be a stop on these funds being used at private schools that promote religious beliefs. How does the state plan to ensure our public tax dollars are not going to terrorist groups hidden under the guise of "religion"? Which brings up the point that yet another agency will need to be created to have governmental oversight on these funds. Another agency means more tax dollars spent on giving people money to take their children away from public education instead of funding public education and making changes to laws such as Chapter 37. More funding to public education means better teacher pay and more return of our best educators that have left to go work for more money doing something outside of education. More funding to public education means smaller staff to student ratios, much like those in private schools, and in turn the ability to close gaps in student learning. More public education funding means more paraprofessionals to be able to support our students with special needs in classroom settings that will continue to increase their success rate instead of hinder it.

There is so much government oversight in public education right now that it takes so much of a districts time to complete all the compliance reports that are expected in so many areas. Special Education, Career and Technology Education, Gifted and Talented, CCMR, Bilingual Education, just to name a few all have compliance reports that must be submitted multiple times per year which takes extreme amount of hours to complete. Don't want so many people at the administration level? Who's going to submit all the reports you require? Teachers? In addition to the 8 hours per day they spend either teaching and planning? In addition to grading and parent conferences? In addition to the extra time spent tutoring and attempting to close gaps in their overcrowded classrooms?

I vehemently disagree with HB3 and propose you work to make public education better for ALL students in Texas, not just the few that can afford the private school costs that will most certainly inflate if this bill passes.

Robin Sedlacek

Self

Allen, TX

Make public schools great again. Fund them appropriately. Do not give into special interest.

Kristy Lines

self -- parent of student and attorney

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3, which creates additional funding problems for our public schools. Although vouchers will not cover alternatives to public schools entirely and such alternatives are not available in all areas, those who do leave the public system will take this subsidized tax money with them-- at the further expense of our drastically underfunded public schools. These other schools are not required to accept any particular student, are not required to accommodate special needs, and there is no provision for transportation. All of these factors make "school choice" a misleading term. This bill would only help those who already have means, leaving behind others in a system that will be further diminished.

Grace Holland

Self

Austin, TX

Tax payer money should not be going to private schools with no accountability. Why not invest properly in our public schools and make the great? Rural communities don't have access to private schools. In fact, even with this bill, private schools will still not be accessible for most families. This is incredible irresponsible! Please do not do this!

Dayna England

Self

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you

Jeannie Small

Self

Spicewood, TX

You can write this: I oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background.

Meredith Wooderson

Self, former Texas public school teacher

Austin, TX

Please, do not take more money away from our public schools. We moved home to Texas from out of state so our children could have a better education. In the last 9 years, we have watched public school funding become less and less reliable. After 10 years as a public educator myself, I could no longer handle the workload on such meager pay- my classroom teacher job became more challenging every year without the support of behavior specialists and enough special education teachers to support our student population. I spent so much money from my paycheck to buy supplies and support my students. I fear that many of our best educators have been and will continue leaving the field after lawmakers further restrict the funding our schools need. It is shameful that the GOP continues to push PUBLIC TAX DOLLARS for private schools. This should be unlawful. Please do not allow this voucher program to pass. FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS. FUND OUR FUTURE.

Sarah Reyes

Self- future teacher

Red Oak, TX

Vouchers have been proven to not work. Most of Texas is against it. States with the voucher system have proven it doesn't work. And while I'm commenting, the US department of Education doesn't need to be dismantled

Makala Pollard

Self

Fort Worth, TX

No to vouchers

Martina Meritz
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please properly fund public education for our children. Public education has been essential for my children and my children have thrived despite constant obstacles and need for resources and money that should be given and allocated to our public schools. Those that choose private schools should continue to choose private schools, but not at the deficit of our public schools.

Tom Kennedy
Self teacher/coach
Cypress, TX

I am opposed to any voucher or ESA program for private, chart, or homeschooling - particularly without testing oversight that public schools are forced to use!

End the voucher push and fully fund public schools!

Katrina Morris
Self, attorney
Austin, TX

I am against HB3. I support fully and appropriately funding public schools in Texas as required by the Texas Constitution. Vouchers are absolute nonsense that will maybe help a handful of kids while definitely harming ALL the rest. We're trying to have a society here, and this bill does nothing to help that.

Rebecca Marrara
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please vote no on HB3 and fund our public schools.

Lindsey Lopez
Self -public Education - School Counselor
San Antonio, TX

As a 17-year veteran public school educator, I have seen the positive impact that public schools have on the lives of our students, and the positive impacts of public schools in their communities. Neighborhood schools are essential because they are open to everyone regardless of socio-economic status, disability, or familial support system. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. This program will siphon off funds from already underfunded schools Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas.

Mary White, Mrs
Self
Bellville, TX
No vouchers

Susan Young
Self - Teacher/Librarian
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3. It will result in a taxpayer subsidy mainly to people who already have their kids in private schools. 150 counties in Texas have no alternative options to public schools. Those counties will get less funding under the voucher system. Charter and public schools don't have to follow the same regulations and standards that public schools do: accommodating students with special needs, evaluations via standardized testing, state mandated security upgrades to campuses etc. and some of our taxpayer dollars will go to third party middlemen like ClassWallet. States that have adopted wide use of vouchers have seen students educational outcomes worsen. Texas cannot afford to make this big mistake.

Jessica Reinartz
Self
The Colony, TX

I am writing to you as a concerned constituent to urgently request that you go on public record today opposing the school voucher bill currently under committee review.

School vouchers threaten to divert essential funding away from our public schools, undermining the quality of education available to the majority of Texas students. As someone who deeply values public education and its role in strengthening our communities, I believe this bill would be detrimental to students, educators, and families across our state.

Your voice matters, especially in standing up for the integrity of our public education system. Please ensure your opposition is entered into the public record and encourage others to do the same. The more voices speaking up from across Texas, the stronger the message will be.

Thank you for your service and for representing the best interests of our community.

Clover Yordanova
Self
Austin, TX

Texas has got to be one of the best states for public school, why throw it all away for a bill that only 100,000 students can use. Please don't make Texas an embarrassment

Amanda Jasso
Self
Elgin, TX

I am writing against HB 3, which leaves our children in public schools with even less resources than they currently have. I agree that parents should have choices for their children and their schooling, but this bill doesn't necessarily support that bc the private school makes the ultimate decision about who they accept, including who they decide is a "cultural fit." Our public schools need fixing, not more disinvestment. As Texans, we need to care about ALL of our children, not just children with parents that have means. Please take lessons learned from other states that have tried to implement something similar.
Thank you for your consideration.

Victoria Johnson

Self

Burleson, TX

I am a product of our public school system, as well as a public university in Texas. I have two young children attending the same public school district I grew up in. We have one small private school in our community that only goes through 5th grade. Even if this school was a possibility for my talented and gifted daughter, it would not be possible for my 2nd grade son to attend with his specified education plan established in conjunction with his teacher, principal and psychologist. The class sizes are at capacity and while our family may have the funding to attend this school, we would much rather continuing saving for college, technical and or job training to make them contributing citizens as adults. Our school district is efficient and effective with its resources, enable students to have many options within the district with schools of choice. Students from elementary through high school can have focus, and find what drives them. My kids are challenged in healthy and supportive environment, I'm so grateful for the wonderful teachers and staff who pour into our children. I can only imagine what our district could accomplish with more funding dedicated to them vs. less. We are setting students up for careers in fields that can grow, excel and pay well. We don't need arbitrary testing to determine what these kids have learned or what they'll be, when you invest in our kids you invest in our economic and community growth. I advise you all to reconsider the notion of investing in a select few students and invest in the system that educates over 90% of our kids. When we educate, we open opportunities for us all to do well.

Ruth Pierce

Self/Small Business Owner/Parent of Young Adult with Disabilities

Cypress, TX

Vouchers will do nothing more than subsidize wealthy families who can already afford private schools. Private school tuition is at minimum \$25,000. If you give a voucher to a wealthy family, you just gave them a \$10,000 discount and they will have no problem paying the extra \$15,000. Providing vouchers to low income families to give them the choice to go to a better school is meaningless because they cannot afford the remaining \$15,000 plus to cover the rest of the tuition. Schools for special needs children are even more expensive, some costing upwards of \$40,000 a year. In addition, many schools for special needs children are very restrictive, only accepting those with sufficient speech skills, or high enough IQ, or no behavior problems, or fully toilet trained, etc. They will only accept the "disabled children" who meet their specific criteria for "disabled" at their school. Families of special needs children have so many other costs that they many of them struggle financially. The co-pays and co-insurance that they have to pay for all of the therapies and other medical needs for their children can be financially devastating. They don't have the money to pay for the difference in tuition between what the voucher would cover and the full tuition. We need to have schools that will accept all children with disabilities and that are required to provide a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. Those are our public schools. We need to invest the money that is proposed for vouchers into making our public schools better, all of them, so that all children, regardless of their family income and regardless of their ability or disability, receive a quality education in Texas. Vouchers will not do that. We need to support our teachers and give them the pay that they deserve. We need to support all of our school districts, throughout the state, so that they can all serve their students equally. The voucher bill will only make our current education system worse. For the sake of all Texas students, both able and disabled, please vote against this voucher bill and put those funds into our public education system.

Brooklyn Wolfe

Self

Cypress, TX

I'm a 10 grade student in a public high school, and I oppose HB 3.

My public school offers opportunities that allow me to pursue my dreams, take classes through the local community college, participate in extra curriculum activities that aren't offered at my nearby private schools, and be surrounded by people of varying backgrounds and beliefs. It is important to learn from those different than others, to celebrate those differences, and learn to mutually respect those differences. No one has bothered to ask the students of public schools why we CHOOSE public schools. Does our opinion not matter? We choose these schools to explore multiple opportunities, freedom of expression in our clothing and religious choices, and the extra curriculums offered.

What we don't choose is to have schools that are too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter due to budget cuts because of the lack of funding.

What we don't choose is a lack of teachers because they aren't paid fairly.

What we don't choose is multiple days of pointless testing that doesn't tell you anything about me, my grades, or my intelligence.

What we don't choose is to be ignored.

If you really want to know what it's like in a public school, come talk to us. I promise we will tell you, but don't make that choice for us.

Say no to HB 3.

Mikki Bevers

Self- teacher

Shallowater, TX

I am a Texas teacher, and HB3 will be detrimental to our already underfunded public schools! So many children rely on public schools to not only receive an education but also a warm meal. Public schools are what give all children a chance for a quality education that work hard to leave no child behind. These vouchers have already proven to not benefit anyone in other states that have passed them. Please vote no to HB3!

Summer Fritsche

Self

Houston, TX

I have homeschooled, done public school, and now do a private / homeschool hybrid. I oppose this bill. It steals funds from public schools, creating an even larger disparity in education, and allows more government overreach into homeschool and private education. Texans love our freedom, and this is the best state for parents to truly have a right to choose. Do not bribe us to allow more government into private education. If we wanted government standards, we'd be public schooling.

Ayala Tarshish

Self

Houston, TX

This bill is so important, being in a position of having to fund our children's education takes a toll on our school community, as we are committed to providing our children with strong academics in a healthy, nurturing and value driven environment. It is time!

Annaliese Mitchell

Self

Mckinney, TX

Vote No on HB 3. This harms teachers, this harms K-12 students. Private schools will just raise tuition. The kids of our state deserve more funding. Not rich kids who already go to public schools.

Cathy Boucher

Self

Cypress, TX

As a former educator in Cy Fair ISD, I'm appalled at the lack of reasonable funding for public education while pushing the idea of vouchers. I am strongly against school vouchers and hope our state representatives go back to funding public education to the level it should be for in our great state.

Jennifer Timmermans

self

Austin, TX

I understand this bill is being introduced as a law to expand school choice options for parents. Aiming "to provide families with the flexibility to direct their child's education by allocating state funds toward private schools, homeschooling or other educational services." It sounds like it might be wonderful, but if this bill takes funding away from public schools, you are hurting the families that cannot afford to make choices to attend schools other than public schools. Public schools should not have any funding taken away. They need those funds. We need more funding for public schools. Funding should be available to help aide teachers & students. Create smaller classes sizes; stop having 20+ students in a class. Have teacher aides floating between classes...I wish the people coming up with the bills have experience being in a classroom...someone with teaching experience in lower economic schools so you would understand what is truly needed. We should support our public schools. Not everyone really has a "choice" of which school they would like. Teachers need better salaries and support. Start by strengthening the public schools we do have! Stop shutting down public schools. Sigh

Mark Charlesworth

Self

Briarclif, TX

You can write this: I oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background.

Kasey Tam

Self

Amarillo, TX

As a resident in the Texas panhandle, we have many rural friends instrumental to our community/economy that will suffer greatly from the voucher program. I'm shocked that Texas politicians are continuing this voucher campaign regardless of constituent opposition. When Texans feel the pain this program will cause their community, the non-voting residents typically step up next election cycle. Praying our government listens to its constituent opposition on this bill.

Erin Brown

Self

Lakeway, TX

I greatly oppose "school choice" and believe we should fully fund public schools. Thank you.

Camille Adkisson

Self teacher

Pearland, TX

Say no to vouchers!! Texas public schools need to be fully funded.

Patricia Garris

Self

Spring, TX

I strongly oppose vouchers for public education for these reasons: 1) It is state welfare for the rich, 2) those who choose to home school should bear the cost of that decision, as the rich, for their private school decisions 3) it takes money away from public schools which are the backbone of creativity and entrepreneurship that drives the economy and the reputation of Texas excellence, 4) schools can decide who they will and won't accept, which is in direct violation of the use of public funds, 5) it discriminates against poor families, especially in rural Texas because of the boom threshold, 6) a family making over \$150,000 should not be subsidized when the median income is less than \$80K, 7) with a private school we would be paying for religious training which should not be paid for by the state. School choice is about families making the choice, not the government, with their money, not the public's. With money being taken away from public schools, our taxes would have to be raised to make up for that shortfall, that's double taxation and illegal. Lastly, rural areas will suffer tremendously under this bill leaving their schools even more financially challenged and leaving even more Texans unprepared for a fast-paced, changing job market and society. This bill should not be passed and would serve to undermine the commitment to equal education for all Texans and create double taxation of Texans to support the rich. School choice should be about families not the government. With the current budget surplus our schools need to see increased funding, especially since there has been no change in funding since 2019. We must invest in all Texas children not provide welfare for the rich.

Lisa Day

Seld

Austin, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Kristin Williamson

Self/controller

Briarcliff, TX

You can write this: I oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background.

Raymond Breeden, Mr.

self

Cypress, TX

This bill will underfund our Texas Public Education System and destroy TRS for the retired teachers. Please vote no on this bill. This will not improve the academic struggles of students in Texas. The money would better be spent on School Districts training teachers so they will be better equipped to educate the diverse student populations in our public schools. Also, money could be spent to pay educators better to attract more qualified individuals to the profession and those to stay in the profession to be paid better. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration on this bill. It will have a profound effect on the future of Texas for better or worse depending on your vote now.

Logan Hatla

Self- Teacher and parent

Haslet, TX

Texas should ensure the constitutional obligations to public education are fully met and funded before implementing an ESA/voucher program (Texas Constitution, Article 7).

Removes \$1 billion from the state's budget that could otherwise fund Texas public schools.

Creates a new budgetary commitment in the state that will increase. SB 2 is projected to reach \$4.6 billion in four years.

ESAs allow tax dollars to be spent without transparency or accountability. Private schools/students choosing vouchers should be subject to the same financial and academic accountability.

Comptroller has the sole ability to select five organizations to run the program, opening the door to political favoritism, lack of transparency, and a structure that benefits vendors and their pocketbooks rather than students

Skylar Sims

Self

The Colony, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Sherry Wolf

Self

Gainesville, TX

I oppose the funding of a voucher system. Parents already have school choice. This bill will not help the poor, but only pad the pockets of the rich and those looking to make millions by opening private schools. This bill will devastate our rural counties as well. Private schools don't offer free transportation or after school care that many low income families won't be able to afford. Private schools aren't held to the same standards or under the same governing standards as public schools. I am disappointed with the parks and recreation program offered by my community. Does that mean I am entitled to taxpayer money to buy a country club membership? Sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? It's just as ridiculous as spending millions of dollars to fund the private education of a few. I respectfully ask you to consider what is best for the majority of Texans, not a few. Oppose HB 3.

Marcia Wutke

self, teacher

Leander, TX

It is important to unite our citizens as these political times have caused much distress. Dividing our citizens into smaller and smaller unrelated groups causes even more disturbances in our ability to get along.

Crystal Contreras

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3 by Representative Buckley, which threatens to undermine the quality of education in Texas. This bill does not address the real challenges facing our public schools—instead, it imposes unnecessary restrictions and diverts attention from the pressing needs of students and educators.

Texas schools are already grappling with underfunding, teacher shortages, and increasing student needs. Instead of supporting our teachers and ensuring that every child receives a high-quality education, HB 3 seeks to centralize control and limit local decision-making, which is crucial for addressing the diverse needs of our communities.

Furthermore, this bill places undue burdens on educators and school leaders, making it harder for them to focus on what truly matters: student success. At a time when we should be prioritizing increased funding, better teacher pay, and evidence-based solutions, HB 3 moves us in the wrong direction.

I urge lawmakers to reject HB 3 and instead invest in policies that strengthen our public schools, respect the expertise of educators, and prioritize the needs of Texas students over political agendas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ashley Kephart

Self

Austin, TX

I do not support the voucher program. Please do not pass this. Please direct the funding to public schools.

Alicia Johnson

FWISD

Arlington, TX

Against this bill!!!!!! Do not approve!!!! It's against public education and that's fair and free education for all kids!!

Ryan Wolfe

Self

Cypress, TX

I oppose HB 3.

This bill is fiscally irresponsible and in no way helps ALL Texas families despite that being the major selling point. It, theoretically, helps less than 2%. 2%. How does that come close to equaling all? The Governor has vilified public schools, but has made zero effort to improve public schools. This bill will have more negative effects on kids across the state than it will improve the education of the 2%. Let's improve education for the 5.5 million kids in public schools. As a parent, I already have school choice as do the "hundreds" of parents that Abbott has created photo ops with at private schools across the state. How do you explain their lack of choice? They clearly had a choice to send their kids to private school. It's their responsibility to pay for it, not the state's, not tax payers. They made the choice. Choice already exists. HB 3 does not increase choice, it only increases the government overreach into private schools. We, as Texas parents, oppose HB 3.

Lisa Leon, Dr.
self
San Antonio, TX

I disagree with our Texas Governor pushing agendas from top donors rather than an agenda for ALL Texas students. Public schools offer excellent programs such as band, orchestra, ROTC, FHA, sports, dance, IT, automechanics, Allied Health. These are available to ALL students, not just the privileged. Public school teacher are highly trained and qualified according to Texas education code to which exemptions for these qualifications are given private and open enrollment campuses. Private schools can exclude students from enrollment so to say this is for Texas is a lie. This is for business, it's about dollars, and donors. This will destroy the heart of our Texas communities, our Public schools. I get calls from private schools and parents, they are not equipped to provide an appropriate education to students who may have learning needs such as dyslexia or behavioral needs such as autism. This is an unfair and discriminatory bill. This will harm our communities and families of your constituents. Billi9ns will be spent to manage, businessmen will profit, and children will suffer. Please vote no.

Laura Luchsinger
Self
Spicewood, TX
I oppose HB3

“I oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background.”

Mike Hopper
self Athletic Trainer
Garland, TX

Please separate public school and private school funding (aka vouchers). They should not be tied together. Public schools need better funding mechanisms from the state government, but it should not be tied to the proposed vouchers program. If the vouchers program is so desperately needed and wanted by its proponents, it should stand on its own as separate legislation.

Tony Amendola
Self
Sanger, TX
No vouchers!

Tabitha Castillo
Self
Midland, TX

I am against HB 3. School funding is already in jeopardy and hurting public education. This will only make matters worse.

Megan Gaskins
Self, teacher
Conroe, TX

No to Education Savings account programs in Texas! Public tax dollars needs to stay in public schools only.

Jennifer Morrison

self

Carrollton, TX

This bill needs to not get out of committee. It will hurt so many special needs children like our daughter who was failed by the private school she attended from pre-school through mid fourth grade. At that time she was reading on a pre 1st grade level and her math school were 1st grade level at best. Today, after 2 years in public school she has greatly benefitted from the specific support provided to her by the Lewisville ISD. Her read and math are almost on level - that is 4 plus years of reading and math learning accomplished in 2 years.

Please, do not pass this bill out of committee and DO NOT PASS HB3 at all.

Sally Amendola

Self

Sanger, TX

Disallow vouchers

Atilano Sanchez, CPO ret.

self

Kemah, TX

Public school vouchers as set up in various other states such as Oklahoma, Arkansas to name a few have only benefitted those families who already were able to afford to send their children to private schools, in other words, public funds have are being used to subsidize the well off who don't need the help. What kind of safeguards, policies, programs will be put in place to ensure accountability of funds, transparency of pay to contracted personnel, accountability of personnel and leadership, testing transparency and accountability of students, equal access by all, certification of teachers and school personnel, etc, etc, etc.....If public funds are being used, the same standards of transparency, accountability and certifications as well as accessibility by all students and citizens should be upheld and maintained.

Riana Salinas

Self

San Antonio, TX

As a product of the public school system, in a low socioeconomic area of San Antonio, I can proudly say that PUBLIC education is the way to go. I ranked 3rd in my class, participated in sports, FFA, and National Honor Society.

I had peers attend private and charter schools— they received the same opportunities as I did. The difference, my family didn't have to go into debt for my education/I received my experience for free.

Now, as an adult, and educator, and mother of a special needs child... hands-down, Public is the best in job security, growth, and services for my child.

I have seen, first hand, private schools kick out special needs children (for behavior, speech, or developmental concerns)...

because they CAN. These children end up back in the public school system— and the services are by far unparalleled. My son has made so much progress (academically, physically, emotionally, and developmentally)— I am thrilled.

I know our public school system needs improvement, but like anything that needs improvement.... It must be invested in!

Don't take away from the public schools. Put back into those schools and teachers!

Rigo Garza

Macedonian Christian Academy

Weslaco, TX

School choice

Brooke Scarlett
Shallowater ISD
Shallowater, TX
Say no to HB3

Matthew Aulsbrook
Self
Colleyville, TX
I am opposed to HB3

PADMAJA ENJETI
Self
Plano, TX

Don't defund our kids. I support public education and public school

Vanessa Gonzalez
Self
Austin, TX

I am against school vouchers. Vote no to school vouchers.

Anna Wydeven
self, public educator
Austin, TX

This bill will destroy public education. I oppose everything about a voucher system. Public education is a right, and Texas should use 100% of its tax dollars collected for education on public ed. Layoffs are currently happening without this cut to our funding. School choice already exists. The public does not support giving tax dollars back to the wealthy and the public wants our tax dollars invested in public schools and educators. We need substantial help-not in skill, but in resources. Do not let this bill pass. We do not want to fund privatized schooling.

Joshua Martinez
Self
Pflugerville, TX

This bill is the deciding factor for my family to have any kind of upward mobility. Public school is not an option for us and we sacrifice a lot to give our children a decent education while also paying taxes for a failing public school system. No sane person can look at the results of the public school system anything but total and embarrassing failure. We spend the most per student and get the least results compared to any other peer country on the planet. It's time to give us the choice we deserve and to stop protecting those who have exploited and failed our children.

Kevin Posival
Self / public school teacher
Temple, TX

School vouchers are it the answer to the state's education problems. You're allowing the rich to jump ship and the rest of our kids to drown, knowingly and willingly. If private schools are better, hold them to the same standards and let the public see which education path best serves the kids. Right now private schools have zero accountability and push kids into the world with the same limitations as public schools. The only difference is that the kids that come out of private schools rely on the means and abilities of their parents, not the private educations they received. Stop amputating and tossing the students of this state! Stop telling public schools what they should be doing better, but listen to them tell you what they need!

Julie Turner
Self-Parent of 2 in Coppell ISD
Coppell, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 3. As a parent with 2 elementary school children in Coppell ISD I want my tax dollars to be used towards funding public schools, not vouchers or ESA programs.

Vouchers will divert taxpayer dollars from public schools, forcing them to cut critical programs and personnel. This will in turn harm the State's ability to abide by the constitution requirement of providing free public education.

Governor Abbott's pursuit to privatize Education doesn't align with the constituents he was elected to represent. Have you read his Facebook page comment section? It is clear, Texans do not want vouchers. This is reflected across public school, private school and homeschool families. I am asking for you to truly listen to us and vote against vouchers and ESAs.

At the very least, any voucher allocation should not exceed the basic allotment per student funding. Also, any school receiving vouchers should be held to the same testing and safety standard that public schools are held to.

We need an increase to the basic allotment per student and also to abide by the constitution allowing free public education both in Texas and the United States.

Please stand with us as you vote this week and represent the future that allows for the most growth and opportunity for ALL earners across the state.

Kia Biller
Self
Austin, TX

I am a public school graduate and parent of current public school student. I DO NOT support HB3 and ask you all to Vote NO. We should be supporting public education as required in the Texas Constitution by providing adequate funding for the best teachers and resources and facilities for our students. My property tax should support the schools in my school district and not be funneled elsewhere.

Madelyn Vieth
Self
Valley View, TX

This bill will have damaging impacts for public school education across the board, most acutely in rural counties with limited schooling options and funds. This will negatively impact our Texas students, and our teachers, while only helping a statistically minute number of students. It is impractical and harmful, with nearly nonexistent benefits for the few. This is not a partisan issue, this is a community issue that will impact us ALL. Vote NO to establishing an education savings account program (aka vouchers).

Roopa Nalam, Dr.
Self
Houston, TX

I am a resident of Harris County. I have no children. I pay my high property taxes knowing those funds go to my community - public works, public education, efforts to assist the underserved. What I cannot abide by is having my tax dollars shunted to private institutions that aren't required to service disabled children. How is this a fair or equitable use of my tax dollars? How is this not just a wealth transfer from me to other wealthy Houstonians? Honestly, how is this even legal? Defunding public education who actually have to meet standards is horrifying, and this legislation is trash.

Susan Lorimer

Self

Plano, TX

As a mom and a Christian, I beg you, please do not waste Public Education funding to support private school kids! Studies have shown that in other states with similar voucher programs that the vast majority of the funding goes to subsidize private school tuition for kids that were already in private schools before the legislation took effect. How is that a good use of taxpayer resources? Texas is falling behind in education results. To continue to attract businesses to our state, we need a well educated workforce. Please fund our public schools!!! Vouchers are just taxing the poor and middle class to give to the rich

Sol Garcia

Self

Mission, TX

I am strongly against this bill! HB 3 weakens Texas schools by prioritizing taxpayer-funded privatization over real investment in public education. Our public schools deserve the investment this bill would give to private schools. This bill would only hurt our children.

Carrie Davis

Self structural engineer

Austin, TX

Vote no for vouchers. I do not agree with reallocating public school fund to support private tuition when public schools are already underfunded in our state, which has the eighth largest economy in the world but ranks 46th out of 50 in school funding.

Patricia Cummings

Self

Lorena, TX

I am against this bill. We do not want to expand the government.

Chasity Larios

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is a disgrace to all public school families. It takes tax dollars from school teachers, nurses and middle class families, then gives it to private school families who are often wealthier and already paying for private school. This was never brought to a vote and I know for a fact that people on the republican and democrat side of political parties are against this bill. We will all fight to remove Abbott from office at all costs as well as any politician who voted for this bill if it gets approved.

Stacy Wilson

self - stay at home mom & forced homeschooler

Allen, TX

I'm the mom of 3 kids, 2 who do great in the Public School system & 1 who we were forced to homeschool after 5+ years of battling the admins in the ISD to get appropriate instruction for our disabled child. Our ISD loves to brag about how wonderful it is, but they violate Federal Laws by treating many SpEd parents as if they are not the experts in their child & they don't need to have the data to collaborate with the ARD committee. They just want us to sign off on their plan. For 5 years, our daughter was not learning to read. We begged every year for direct/explicit phonics instruction, as all the research says that is best practice for struggling readers, and they gaslit, lied and refused. They thought she couldn't learn how to read. She could not read the word "bath" - a K level word - at the end of 4th grade. Because our ISD uses only Balanced Literacy, they assumed our child couldn't learn to read. After trialing a phonics program at home after school and finally seeing enormous progress, we withdrew our child from the rich ISD to homeschool. After just a couple of months with the right type of instruction for her, she is finally reading. I still have a kid in that school. Nothing has changed. They don't ask what we did. They don't care. Not all kids can learn in public school. Especially for disabled kids, public school wastes so much time: time from their day to go to medical therapies, time in school waiting on data collection and negotiating IEPs, time for evaluations. Outside of that system, these kids thrive. It's not a binary choice between public school & accredited private schools. Education outside the public ed system doesn't have to look like public school. University model microschoools allow students to get tutoring, interventions, and therapies on homeschool days. Homeschool is the ultimate IEP and work can be completed in 3 hours or less. We can mix and match different methods to see what works best for our child. We recently hired a math tutor to help better intervene there. We've seen impressive results after just one month. Her progress has been exponentially better in the 18 months we've been homeschooling than it ever was in the 5 years in public school with an IEP. All kids should have this opportunity. The public schools cannot serve our kids. We aren't getting the value for our tax dollars. We're "graduating" functionally illiterate kids who then go on to welfare for the rest of their lives. 95-97% of kids CAN learn how to read if they are taught a certain way. Public schools aren't teaching that way. HB3 is an excellent bill that will allow Special Needs kids to get what they need. 500% of FPL isn't rich when you have a kid with a medical disability. Those kids cost 10X as much to raise. They have big bills. Everything is more expensive. I would like to see that cap lifted and some additional funds allocated to homeschooling disabled kids. That's where they are served best when the public schools leaves them behind.

Adam Wisner

Self

Roanoke, TX

Dear House Committee Members - I am a parent of a First Grade student in NW ISD. I want to register my firm opposition to HB 3, for the following reasons:

School vouchers pose a serious threat to the quality and stability of public education in Northwest ISD (NISD), a fast-growing district in Texas known for its strong schools and community investment. While proponents claim vouchers increase school choice, they ultimately divert critical funding from public schools, exacerbate inequities, and provide little accountability for taxpayer dollars.

First, vouchers siphon money away from NISD, which already faces budgetary constraints due to rapid enrollment growth and inadequate state funding. Texas schools are primarily funded through local property taxes and state allocations, and when students use vouchers to attend private schools, those funds follow them, leaving fewer resources for remaining public school students. NISD, like many suburban districts, relies on stable funding to maintain small class sizes, hire experienced teachers, and invest in advanced academic programs. A reduction in funding forces cuts to essential services, extracurricular programs, and classroom resources, ultimately diminishing the quality of education for all.

Second, vouchers disproportionately benefit wealthier families while doing little to expand real educational opportunities for low-income students. The cost of private school tuition often exceeds the value of a voucher, meaning only those who can afford to cover the remaining tuition, fees, and transportation costs truly benefit. Meanwhile, public schools, which are required to serve all students—including those with disabilities, English language learners, and students requiring specialized support—are left with fewer resources to meet these needs. This deepens disparities rather than closing them.

Additionally, private schools receiving voucher funds lack the same level of oversight as public schools. They are not held to the same academic standards, teacher certification requirements, or non-discrimination policies. This means taxpayer money can go toward schools that do not provide a quality education, adhere to state curriculum standards, or accommodate students with special needs. In contrast, NISD is accountable to the community, ensuring high academic standards and responsible use of funds.

Finally, vouchers threaten the unity and sense of community that public schools foster. NISD schools serve as a central hub for families, offering extracurricular activities, athletics, and community events that strengthen social ties. Diverting public funds to private institutions undermines this shared investment in public education.

Rather than promoting school vouchers, Texas should focus on adequately funding public education to ensure that districts like NISD can continue to provide high-quality learning opportunities for all students.

Thank you for your time and representation.

Adam Wisner

Gayle Browning

Self, retired

Austin, TX

I oppose school vouchers. My daughters went to public schools and both received degrees, summa cum laude from public universities. My oldest daughter is now teaching middle school English and ESL in AISD. She chose to be a teacher instead of a doctor or lawyer because students need smart teachers. My other daughter works at the Bullock State History Museum because she wanted to put her Art History degree to good use.

Please put our billions of surplus dollars into public education and not to pay off private donors. Thanks.

John Drogin

Self / Small business owner

AUSTIN, TX

Please vote to empower parents with school choice. Do it for the children! Vote YES on HB 3. Thanks!!!

Elizabeth Henslee
Self- Veterinarian
CEDAR PARK, TX

I am against HB3 for these reasons:

1. The bill is funding MORE per student to attend private, than it is for public (\$10,000/student for private, \$6500/student for public)
2. Proponents claim that this bill is to help students in failing public schools. Failing public schools are usually in low income areas. Children in low income areas are much less likely to go to private school even with the voucher for these reasons:
 - The average cost of private school is over \$20,000 per year. Even with the \$10,000 voucher, low income families likely can't afford it. I don't consider myself low income, but I know our family can't afford a private school bill of 10-15K per year per child!
 - Private school does not offer free bus service or after school care. Low income families typically have two working parents, and it would likely to be impossible for most of them to pick them up in the afternoon.
3. You still need to test into private school, whereas public school is available for everyone.
4. There is already school choice in the form of Charter schools, which are free to those who get in via the lottery.
5. This bill will take children away from public schools, which will lead to even less funding of public schools. This as many public schools all over the state are in danger of getting shut down and teachers are losing their jobs. In my district 200 teachers are being let go and several elementary schools may be closing.
6. Public schools have not had an increase in funds since 2019, and the increase from \$6000 to \$6500 per student does not even keep up with inflation.
7. Community is important., and neighborhood schools foster community. In private schools children are from all over which makes it harder to foster that community.
8. FINALLY why are we giving public tax payer money to private, for profit companies? Why don't we invest that money into the schools that need it so we can actually help those low income students thrive? LISD is cutting 200 jobs and schools are in danger of closing, yet our representatives are wanting to give over 4 billion to private schools by 2030.

Heather Reck, Ms
Self - Project Manager
Fort Worth, TX

Voucher programs to better serve well financed private schools? For their acres of well watered campuses, field trips to DC by airplane, and security staffed entrances? Funding for extreme radical religious based programming that demonizes differences? Schools that 'select' what kids they will or will not educate? Schools with zero public accountability? I cannot understand the motivations to subsidize wealthy families already enrolled in private schools? What is the problem the state elected officials think they are 'solving' through a voucher or saving plan. This is ridiculous that I have to fight to fund and beg the state to release the money I paid already for my sons public education. Furious!

stacey Lawson
self
Austin, TX

School vouchers are an absolute disgrace. I will not support any of you moving forward if you vote in favor of vouchers. I have TWO kids in this school district.

Marta Rozanich
Self
Ft worth, TX

We do not need or want coupons for the wealthy. Most families can not afford private schools, even if you gave them \$10k towards tuitions. Nor do rural communities have access to private schools. This will decimate our public schools. Please fix our current system, do not dismantle it.

Jennifer Goetz

AISD parent

Austin, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and support Texas public schools. This bill threatens to weaken our education system, harm students, and divert taxpayer dollars away from the schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children.

Public schools educate over 90% of Texas students, yet HB 3 redirects funding to private institutions with little to no accountability. Schools already struggling with teacher shortages, aging facilities, and increasing student needs will be forced to cut programs, increase class sizes, and limit services as state funds are funneled elsewhere.

Unlike public schools, private schools receiving taxpayer funds are not required to:

? Serve all students, including those with disabilities

? Follow state curriculum standards

? Provide transparent student performance data

? Maintain the same financial oversight as public schools

If taxpayer dollars are being spent, the public should know how that money is used. HB 3 lacks the oversight and transparency Texans expect in public education funding.

While HB 3 is promoted as a "school choice," the reality is that it benefits only a tiny, privileged group of families. Vouchers do not fully cover tuition, leaving working-class and rural families unable to afford private school options. Instead, they are left with underfunded public schools that have even fewer resources due to this bill.

Public schools are the backbone of Texas communities—they provide opportunity, stability, and economic growth. When schools suffer, property values decline, businesses struggle, and workforce development weakens. HB 3 doesn't just hurt students—it hurts entire communities.

Texans have repeatedly opposed voucher schemes, understanding that public money should be invested in public schools that serve all students. HB 3 is simply another attempt to undermine public education under the guise of "choice." The real choice is to continue investing in a strong, accountable, and equitable public school system—or dismantle it.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 3 and protect Texas public schools. The future of our students, teachers, and communities depends on it.

Shannon Washburn, Dr.

self, veterinarian and professor

College Station, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed school voucher programs in Texas. As a concerned constituent, I believe that such programs would negatively impact the public education system and fail to provide the equity and quality our students deserve. School vouchers divert public funding from already underfunded public schools, further exacerbating the challenges faced by teachers, students, and families. Public schools are the cornerstone of our education system, and they serve the majority of Texas children, regardless of their socioeconomic background or zip code. Instead of funneling money into private institutions, we should focus on strengthening and investing in public education, ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, has access to high-quality learning opportunities.

Moreover, school vouchers often lack the necessary accountability measures, leaving taxpayers vulnerable to funding programs with questionable standards. I believe that public funds should be used to support public institutions that serve the diverse needs of all students.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of supporting school vouchers and to prioritize policies that benefit all Texas students by investing in and improving our public schools. Please stand with me in opposing this misguided proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Shannon Washburn, DVM, PhD

Nettie Phares

Self

Flatonia, TX

Seriously? You want more stupid people who refuse to go to a proper education and instead get brainwashed with raw milk, no vaccines, and radical cultist?

That's all this sounds like to me.

You wonder why people are getting the measles in mass in our state, it's because of crap like this. I refuse to give my money to people who can't even educate themselves enough to keep their children safe from nearly eradicated diseases while stripping money away from the rest of us. Both these bills look like cheap attempts to hide your true intentions.

Don't think we don't know who you are or what you're doing.

Tomas Rodriguez

Self

Austin, TX

HB 3 . I oppose this bill because it will not be sufficient for schools to cover cost for security officers, needed Counslors , special education teachers and operating cost . Inflation has affected educational institutions. This bill will further limit cause schools to provide services the legislature has required.

James Bolton

Self

Arlington, TX

This is by far the most ridiculous bill that has been written regarding education in texas, which is already bordering on abysmal, that I have ever heard of.

You would have people who can already afford to send their kids to private school get discounts for doing so at the expense of already underfunded public schools.

This is quite literally robbing the poor to feed the rich and is a gross miscarriage of justice and disgusting misappropriation of funding.

Ann Glenn

self/retired from working for the State of Texas

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose vouchers. Taxpayer dollars should not be spent on private enterprise that has not oversight or accountability. It would undercut our public schools and school teacher pensions.

Danelle Schwertner

Self - business owner/School board member - Miles ISD

Miles, TX

Chairman Buckley and committee members, I am a proud school board member of Miles ISD and a business owner in the state of Texas. I, along with millions of your constituents in the state of Texas, have wholeheartedly and repeatedly rejected the idea of "education savings accounts," or vouchers. In the past weeks, several legislators have been soundly rejected at their town halls by normal citizens on both sides of the aisle telling you that we do NOT want this. We want you to listen to us. When did Texas become a state that allows vendor bills to pass? Why are you letting donors line your pockets to pass bills that are not for the common good of Texans? Do what is right. Remove this bill from consideration. It isn't conservative, and it isn't right for Texans.

Logan Ellis

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose ESAs and support public money being used for public education.

Barbara Hines

Self, retired

Terlingua, TX

JUST SAY NO! Vouchers take money away from public schools and will especially hurt rural areas and schools like Terlingua CISD. There are NO private schools for the children of Terlingua. The only other option is home schooling, which is not really an option, because most parents in this area have to work multiple jobs just so survive.

Texas education is already rated as one of the worst systems in the country. Spend the money it will take for this voucher program on public schools. Improve Texas public schools if you want to continue to see growth in our state.

JUST SAY NO TO VOUCHERS!

Andrew HInde

self

Cedar Park, TX

I adamantly OPPOSE school vouchers! I pay my property tax dollars to go to PUBLIC schools for PUBLIC school facilities and PUBLIC school teachers. Texas has a constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public schools, and this cannot be rewritten by a house bill, if you want to do this AMEND THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION! Vouchers will hurt my neighborhood public schools and by extension, the community I live in. Texas representatives work for the PEOPLE who elected them, not for billionaires pushing a social agenda, show some courage and stand up for regular TEXANs and say NO to school vouchers.

Bonnie Arango

Self

Oak Point, TX

I do not believe the voucher system is the best way to serve Texas students. The money used on vouchers and to maintain the voucher system would be better utilized by schools directly to help fund not only teachers but also towards cafeteria workers, counselors, and special education initiatives. We need to fund all areas of Texas schools, not just larger areas with private schools. Please do not allow the voucher program to be established in Texas.

Andria Castillo

Self

Austin, TX

Thank you for taking the time to read this today. I urge the committee to support our public schools and the dedicated teachers who serve our children.

As a substitute teacher at my children's elementary school, I see firsthand one of the biggest challenges our schools face: the inability to hire enough teachers. This issue is largely due to low pay and increasing demands placed on educators. Our teachers deserve better. They should be fairly compensated, have smaller class sizes, and receive the necessary resources to prepare students for the future.

Years of underinvestment in public education are having a negative impact. Like many families, I do not have the means to send my children to private school—nor do I want to. I want my tax dollars to be invested in strengthening our public schools.

I encourage you to spend a day substituting at a local public school to see firsthand the incredible work our teachers do despite limited support from the state. The future workforce of Texas depends on the success of our public schools. Without proper investment, we risk an increasing reliance on social welfare programs because we failed to equip today's students with the education they need to succeed.

I urge you to take action and prioritize our public schools—they are the foundation of our state's future.

Shira Goldberg

self, educator

Austin, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB 3. In my 15 years of experience as a public educator serving 40 campuses I have witnessed the deep inequities across Austin ISD. The resources across the city of Austin are unevenly distributed and the public school system suffers, meaning that the students then suffer. Introducing vouchers will definitively take resources away from public schools that are badly needed. Introducing a voucher system in this city will ensure that the families with the funds to send their children to private school will gain even more money, and the poorest and most disadvantaged families in our city will suffer the most. Our public schools are sure to end up educating the poorest children in our city and the children with disabilities. There are many, many instances of private schools not admitting or ejecting students with disabilities because they do not have the staff or training to educate those students. Do not take more money from our public school system that badly needs your support. Public education is the foundation of our democracy and should be a top priority in this state. Thank you.

Dulce Segura

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

No to vouchers!

JP Fugler

Lindale ISD

Mineola, TX

As a 14-year educator in Texas, I would like to formally advise against passage of HB 3. While the aim of the legislation claims to offer education choices to Texas residents, it is steeped with inequity. First, a simple comparison between the amount of money awarded through ESAs versus per-student funding in public schools proves this. Somehow, there is a significant discrepancy between the two, favoring ESAs for private schools as opposed to funding students in public schools. The only choice happening here is a choice to underfund public schools.

The second equity issue is that advocates of ESAs claims that they should be able to use their taxpayer money as they wish.

However, Texans without school-age children will continue to have their taxpayer money used for public school funding (and to offset the cost for ESAs). The argument that ESAs are fair taxation are false, as evidenced by these facts.

Instead of defunding public schools, legislators should support them by increasing per-student funding. Instead of holding school funding hostage to pass legislation in the name of "choice," legislators should recognize how unpopular this legislation is and act on behalf of the people of Texas, not the special interests of a few. These are conservative and democratic principles. Please consider removing support for this legislation on those grounds.

Tom Sagona

Self - retired

Austin, TX

- School vouchers should only go to students who attend the lowest rated schools
 - School vouchers should be awarded on a sliding scale based on parental income. Only the poorest families should get the full subsidy.
 - Setting the bar for aid at 400% of federal poverty level is way too high. Texas denied expanding life-saving medical care to those making from 100 to 138% of FPL, yet is willing to grant aid to families making 400%, when these people already have school coverage.

Who in house has received donations from Tim Dunn, Farris Wilkes, or any Christian nationalist group?

Tracey Ritchie
Self, COO
San Antonio, TX

I am requesting and urging the Texas representatives to vote NO on HB 3. Our children deserve fully funded education. Our state is ranked so low in our education efforts and this further impact our system, especially in rural areas. I have two children in the public school system and I want the state to commit to their and other kids futures. Not to provide additional benefits for wealthy Texans who can already afford to send their children to private school. Please vote no!

Elaine Fannin
Retired- self
Denton, TX

I am against ESA's also known as vouchers. The \$1 billion allocated for ESA's should be given to improve Public School Education. Just think what could be done! The ESA allotment will help very few kids. Funding for public schools will help ALL kids. The Senate passed the bill now it's up to The House to determine how much will go to ESA's. The majority should go to Public School Education. The majority of Texans are against ESA's. The passing of this bill with little funding for public schools will destroy public schools. Please vote with and for what the public wants!!

Ruth Jungman, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vote NO to vouchers. Support education for all by supporting public schools AND PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Suzanne Backus
self / Project Manager in IT
Austin, TX

School choice is already an option in Texas - there are private, charter and public schools from which families in larger cities can choose.
Data has shown that most voucher funds go to students already enrolled in private schools, often those from wealthier families who do not need tuition assistance.
In rural Texas, there are no private school options so this bill offers absolutely no benefit.
Simply put, passing HB 3 will strip much needed funding from our public schools, students and communities. The data simply does not support the narrative we've been fed. School voucher measures have failed repeatedly in Texas; this is still not an option that your Constituents support.
We do not support the passing HB3 - vote no.

As an alternative, why not hold the funds donated by Republican (Betsy DeVos) and billionaire donors (Jeff Yass) as Grants or Scholarships eligible only for new, low-income private school applicants using the income eligibility guidelines established to determine free or reduced lunch in Texas? Abbott can appease the deep pockets behind this initiative, only low income families, not currently enrolled, receive assistance with private school tuition, and the estimated surplus of \$24 billion can be allocated to our struggling public schools. Seems like a win-win!

Amanda Craig, Mrs.
Self
Richmond, TX

Please vote for school choice.

Martha Griffin

self

Austin, TX

Who is this really benefitting? This will defund public schools. The estimate that this will defund Austin ISD is \$30 million. At the same time, you want to provide school property tax "relief." Where is the money coming from to improve public schools? It is every Texan's right to a free public education (Article 7 Texas State Constitution.) What you are wanting to fund is not public education. Our school districts oppose this bill. What do you tell constituents who work in those districts and the families who won't have a private school opportunity or won't be accepted into a private school? What are you saying to them about their right to a free, public education? What do you say to the workers in districts who won't have jobs? I am a retired educator, with my most recent work being in Bastrop ISD as the coordinator for K-12 science. I have first hand knowledge of the kind of money it takes to run a quality science program for every student in a school district, and the resources that are needed for students who are English learners or have disabilities. New teachers (and there are many with teacher turnover) require a tremendous amount of support and that costs money. Please fund public schools instead of private schools.

Rachel Evans, Ms.

Self, attorney

Austin, TX

As a parent of two children in Texas public schools, and as an attendee of Texas public schools myself, I am asking that you do not pass HB3. Texas lawmakers' first priority should be to adequately fund Texas public schools so that every Texas child receives a quality education. Our public schools desperately need more funding; the basic allotment needs to be increased by thousands of dollars a child in order catch up with the AVERAGE funding supplied by other states. If Texas has \$1 billion to allot to children's education, it should be allotted to our under-funded public schools, not private schools.

Andrea Beerwinkle, Dr.

self

Magnolia, TX

As a teacher, teacher-educator, parent, and voting Texan, I ask that lawmakers vote NO on HB 3. I want my public schools fully funded. Education savings accounts will only hurt our students and our schools.

Ezzard Castillo

Self

Floresville, TX

I respectfully request that the Texas House provide parents the right to choose the educational option best suited for their children. One system is leaving many children inadequately prepared. The test scores do not lie. Providing multiple avenues for parents to choose is the only way to narrow the gap. Empower parents to hold educational systems accountable. For the good of all Texas children please pass HB3

Mollie McKee Burnside

Self

North Zulch, TX

I am throughly against the establishment of a school savings account program. The voucher program will do nothing aside provide money or a possible fiscal discount to persona's already able to afford private school. Those that can't afford private schools already are not going to be assisted much with the amount a voucher would provide. This programming in the education system will further divide us socioeconomically.. all the while posing as a possibility for "anyone" to attend private school.. when effect this isn't true. Additionally, we already pay taxes for public school. Why should should the general public pay money for entry to a privatized establishment that may not even reflect any values of mine.

Kelsey Abele, Dr.

Self, Professor

Amarillo, TX

This is a shameless attempt to gut public education. If we want to support students, we must also support the teachers they rely on, and this bill serves to undermine teachers. Texas already has some of the most under-supported educational systems, this will further disrupt K-12 education and encourage capable, smart, and trained teachers to flee the state. To do this disservice to our educators is appalling work.

June Blackburn, Ms

“Overcomers of Cedar Hill”

Cedar Hill, TX

I support this bill and our group is requesting you submit to the bill as our Representative for School Choice in Texas! Thank you, June Blackburn

Jacob Girlinghouse

Self

McKinney, TX

Please vote no on HB3. Taking the already limited funding from our public schools will be harmful to all communities across Texas, especially the underserved communities. As the father of an elementary school student and a board member of the school's PTO, I know how much public school teachers already stretch themselves to make ends meet. If you're interested in school safety, the effective cut in funding from this bill will have a detrimental effect on student support, which will impact the mental health of our children. This environment lends itself to disaster, as we've seen in Uvalde and elsewhere. This bill is bad for teachers, students, and communities. Again, as a lifelong Texan, as a father, I implore you to vote no.

Norma Zamarripa, Mrs

Self

San Antonio, TX

No woke ideology in schools - end it now

Mary Theriot

Self/retired

Blanco, TX

Please vote no. As the grandmother of a special needs child, I beg you to support fully funded public schools for Texas and say NO to vouchers.

Paul Yamarick

self

Moulton, TX

Add foster children to the initial qualifications for applicants.
Escalate (or descalate) \$ allocation based on applicant waiting list.

Colleen Garland

Self - outdoor learning specialist

Austin, TX

Educational Savings Accounts do not account for all the needs of every student. Like students with special needs, or transportation barriers. Taxpayer dollars should only go to programs that help ALL Texan students. Support our public schools and help all students. Vouchers hurt students and leave Texans behind.

Bridgette Goldstein
People of Rural Texas
Mineral Wells, TX

Please vote NO on this bill as it will destroy rural communities. I live in Mineral Wells Texas (Palo Pinto County) and the public schools are the hub of our community. These savings accounts will take much needed funds out of already struggling schools and put them into private charter schools. These schools have a blank check to choose which students they will take and which ones they will not. This will leave special education students out in the cold. Lack of physical access is also a problem as there will be few schools and far between and they will not be required to provide transportation, putting undue stress on parents and families. Please vote NO on this bills. SAVE RURAL TEXAS Thank you for your time and attention.

Sonya Barbola, N/a
Self- teacher and mother
San Antonio, TX

NO VOUCHERS and NO ESAs. As a public school teacher and mother of children in public school, I am angry that more people weren't paying attention last summer before the November elections. I am angry that teachers are villainized by our own representatives and governor. FULLY FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION FIRST. Smaller class sizes and higher pay should be priorities though allotment. Dorazio's constituents need to pay more attention to how he votes. Thank you James Talarico for being the voice of public school teachers! People will see how local and state elections have consequences.

Feyi Obamehinti, Dr.
Self/ Education Management
Keller, TX

I would like to express my support for HB 3. Having worked with disadvantaged communities for most of my career in education, empowering and equipping parents with better options for their children paves the way for quality education for all students. It has always been a concern, that students that live in zip codes with failing schools do not have much option and access to quality education. When I ran for SBOE District 11 in 2018, providing parents with school choice was one of my priorities. Happy to see this getting close to a reality for Texas parents and students. An establishment of an education savings account in Texas is great not just our students but for our Texas economy. Thank you.

Gay Lynn Auld, Retired teacher
Texas Retired Teachers
Round Rock, TX

Vouchers are an unethical way to send middle and upper class students to elite schools. Texas citizens pride ourselves on paying our own way with our taxes, not getting soaked by people who can afford tuition but don't want to pay for it themselves. Greed on the backs of the majority of Texas students. Christians cannot possibly justify vouchers because Christ told us to care for the poor.

Allison Walker - Alred
Self
San Angelo, TX

Absolutely not. Our schools need to be properly funded. Vouchers will gut our district. Do better.

Teresa Whistler, Ms.

self

Austin, TX

I am a retired public educator who is very much against HB 3. We already have school choice. A parent can send their child to any school that they wish. If a parent wishes to send their child to a private school, then they need to pay for it. Public dollars are for public schools.

Private schools do not have to take the same tests as public schools and they also don't play by the same rules. Public schools take all children and private schools don't. So, don't give away our public money to private schools.

The ultimate goal of this bill is to close down public schools. I am against this bill.

Julie Paxton

Self, Customer Success Manager

Frisco, TX

I am absolutely against this bill. Although I attended private school, I would never expect nor want tax payer dollars to go to private schools. Please do not let this bill pass. Texas lags behind other states in education rankings because it does not invest in public education. I am outraged that Texas considers moving money away from public schools. Renowned districts are proactively closing schools because of this bill. It's absurd. Stop telling yourselves lies. The data isn't there, look at Indiana as an example. In neighboring Illinois, performance is better.

Meredith Gryseels

Self

Belton, TX

We do NOT want vouchers. The desire to do this and not properly fund public schools is sickening

Rita Hollaway

Self retired professor

Plano, TX

The savings account will not provide enough money to allow families to enroll in private schools. Also the schools will not admit all students.

Susanne Lankford, Mrs.

Self - public school substitute teacher

Dallas, TX

I oppose HB3 and any bill that using public funds to subsidize private school

Mayra Suarez
Self/Insurance Specialist
McKinney, TX

I urge you to vote NO on HB 3 and stand in support of our public schools, which are the backbone of our communities. This proposed legislation would divert essential resources away from public schools, potentially harming the education of millions of Texas students.

Diverting Resources: Vouchers may seem like a quick fix for some, but they take much-needed funding from public schools that already operate with tight budgets. When money is shifted away from these schools, it means fewer resources for students, less access to support services, and less ability for teachers to meet the diverse needs of their classrooms. The result is a weakened public education system that struggles to provide equal opportunities to every student.

Threatening Public Schools: Public schools in Texas are already facing significant financial challenges, especially those that serve low-income communities. These schools are the foundation of our education system, offering critical support for students who may not have access to the same resources outside of school. Vouchers only exacerbate these challenges by taking funding away from schools that are already underfunded. If HB 3 passes, we risk the survival of public schools and the future of our children.

Public education is the most equitable system we have to ensure every child, regardless of their background, has access to quality education. If we continue to divert funds to private institutions, we will further entrench inequality and leave behind the students who need our help the most.

Please vote NO on HB 3 to protect public education, keep our schools strong, and ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mayra Suarez

Kirsten Brueggerhoff
Self - Bookkeeper
Goliad, TX

It is my understanding that the funds for school vouchers would be paid for by off-setting funds intended and already budgeted for public schools.

This is a form of "legalized segregation". You have to understand that poor people or under-served communities, which are people of color, cannot afford nor do they have the means to send their children to a private school. You say that they have a choice, but it's not really true or well thought out. If you deeply understood the realities of these families and their limitations, you would understand that it's not really a choice for them. They don't have the means (financially) to pay the rest of the money for a private school (after voucher is applied) - nor do they have the means to just pick up their home and move to a better location - for better schools. We are a rural community and these options are very limited. It is imperative that funds are not blocked or taken from the public school system. It is imperative that people of less means do not have to struggle even harder by having their child crammed into a crowded classroom with fewer teachers - which is what would happen if funds are taken away from the public school system. Why not invest in the public school system to help our youth achieve goals that they might not believe they are capable of achieving? Why not invest in counselors and excellent teachers and smaller classes to elevate these young people to the same level of education, as is promised by a private school. Shame on you for even considering taking funds away from our critically needed budget (which is already under-funded) and is imperative for most communities today. It is not ok to take from our public school systems to provide for the private school systems. I happen to observe that the home-school / private school sectors in our area are majority white children. This is why I am resolved that diverting (PUBLIC) funds from public schools to private schools is indeed a form of "legalized segregation" . Thank you for hearing me.

Tom Shallue

Self

Austin, TX

Tax payer money should not be used for private education. Our public schools are already underfunded.

Jacqueline Cooper

Self/attorney

Dallas, TX

I oppose vouchers in this form. It will further devastate Texas public schools which are already among the most underfunded in the country. It will put taxpayer dollars into the hands of many who can already afford private school. It blurs the separation of powers and is unconstitutional. It is theft and corruption and will hurt Texas school children and families. Instead of shifting taxpayer dollars away from public schools, use those funds to invest and improve them.

Alison Morrow

Self (homeschool parent, homeschool coach, homeschool tutor)

The Woodlands, TX

As a homeschool parent and advocate, I oppose HB3. Homeschoolers do not need or want government funds - many of us homeschool specifically to get the government out of our children's education. Welfare programs like these become hotbeds of fraud and waste and lead to tighter restrictions on homeschoolers - the exact opposite of the "freedom to choose" that these bills claim to support. There is no choice if every form of education is restricted and regulated by the government. My family moved to Texas ten years ago to escape government overreach in our children's education, and I am outraged to see Governor Abbott and so many supposed conservatives aligning themselves with the same WEF-backed, socialist programs that we moved to avoid. Public education is a wreck, but HB3 will not solve that problem, and will instead entrap all Texas children in government regulated options that strip parents of the ability to educate their child how they see fit.

Gone are the days that big government can hide behind rhetoric and slogans - the internet makes it easy for average citizens to see the web of payoffs, donations, quid pro quo agreements, and influences that lead to these kinds of legislative messes. We know this has nothing to do with making education better and everything to do with lining very specific pockets at the expense of Texas children. We will not forget who voted to take away our true educational freedom.

Babak Dahaghi

Self

San Benito, TX

If public funding is provided to private schools or institutions then they must provide the same services and access to all children. This bill would not obligate private schools to accept or offer services to children with special needs or disability such as special education.

It's wrong to allow private schools to take public funds but not provide these services. It excludes those most in need.

Ronda Pohner, Ms.

TSTA, Texas AFT, Self

Humble, TX

As a long time teacher, I do not appreciate Gov Abbott constantly pushing his voucher scheme that will harm public education. Parents who can already afford private school DO NOT need welfare. I have always taught in Title 1 schools and the lack of funding weighs on my bank account to provide what the schools cannot. My salary has been frozen for the third year in a row due to the state appointed undereducated uncertified superintendent that Abbott appointed for my school district, which is the protege to Project 2025. This abuse needs to STOP. Stop taking from the poor and giving to the rich. Your job is to represent the people, not Abbott's desire to appease only the rich and his MAGA regime. We are talking REAL children who will suffer and REAL teachers who will lose their retirement that they paid into their entire career.

Please vote NO on School Vouchers! The rich already have the means to take care of themselves. It is time to stand up to the BULLIES and those who only represent their self interest groups.

John p brown, professor emeritus

self

austin, TX

i am completely opposed to school vouchers, as long as education funding in general is so inadequate at all levels on a nationally comparative basis. This continues to be very damaging to the future of all Texans, though this Bills sponsors and the Governor ignore this .Additionally, the funding of special education is especially dire, and one would have expected the incumbent governor of all people to understand this. One can be very sure he and his conspirators against equality for all children, did not rise to high office by pulling on their own bootstraps alone vote NO on school vouchers

Suzanne McElhaney

Self/ Finance Manager

Melissa, TX

Do not pass this bill! No one except the wealthy and Abbott's wife want this. We as a state will vote you ALL OUT if you pass this socialist redistribution of wealth to the rich!

Mildred Rosenberg

NCJW and Congregation Agudas Achim

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill because it provides funding to a minority of families at the expense of those who cannot afford or do not have the opportunity to have their children in private schools. Public schools are already severely underfunded, and any additional K-12 education funds should go to public schools. Private schools are comparatively unregulated and are not subject to the same testing and standards required of public schools. Neighborhood public schools accept all students, but private schools can deny admission or educational services to any student, including students with disabilities, among others. Use of tax dollars should come with standards and not allow cherry picking of the easiest students to teach. Doing so would leave only the most challenging students in public schools, at a reduction of funding for the public schools (as the daily census would fall if students moved into private schools).

Troy Moore

Self Retired

Hereford, TX

Strongly opposed to the Voucher system ! First, a bill of this magnitude should be presented to us, the taxpayers in the form of a referendum. Second, States that have implemented this system have not succeeded in educating the elite few, but have damaged the already struggling public schools where most of our future citizens are being educated. I absolutely believe that parents should have a choice in choosing how their children are educated, even in private schools. That said, it should not be at the taxpayers expense.

For the sake of brevity I will just state that if our legislative body feels compelled to be complicit in this fraud on the taxpayers and kowtow to the powers that be—SHAME ON THEM.

As an addendum, if you as a legislator feel the need to remove a billion dollars from the public school system, then at least have the common sense to put it toward vocational education which will be for the benefit of all rather than that of the elite few. Sincerely, Troy Don Moore

Jorge Solis

Brownsville ISD

Brownsville, TX

Pass the bill.

Valerie Lesly

Self

Dallas, TX

This is unacceptable to essentially defund public education. Please do not to this to Texas and our children.

Nancy Whitaker, Ms

Self

Katy, TX

As a retired Texas teacher, I understand the importance of public education in our state. Utilizing a voucher system in Texas will deplete services that are currently being successful in preparing students to be productive citizens, particularly with career studies such as cosmetology, auto mechanics, plumbing, carpentry, etc. Private schools also don't have state oversight of their programs or academic progress of students. How will the state measure student success/achievement of the voucher program? Students with special needs are often excluded from programs using vouchers. Money previously allocated for public education will be decline, and lets be honest, Texas now is the bottom 10 of states in per pupil expenditure. The solution is not to weaken public education by reallocating funds, but to strengthen them so that all populations can benefit not just those who can afford alternative private institutions.

Hayley Andringa

Self/Registered Dietitian

Austin, TX

I am the proud parent of two Texas public school students. I believe that public funds should stay in public schools. Establishing a voucher system for private education will directly impact the quality of education received in public schools. Private institutions are not held to the same standards as public schools and are not required to meet the needs of all students. Rural school districts without access to private schools are particularly vulnerable if this bill passes. It is shameful that Texas lawmakers who vote yes on this bill are ok with spending more money per private school student than per public school student. This is discriminatory and will only serve to decrease the overall quality of education in this state. We already have an embarrassingly low national ranking and this will only get worse if this bill is passed. Please fully fund public schools and leave our taxpayer money where it benefits ALL Texas students.

Helen Edwards

Self

Austin, TX

Fully fund public schools FIRST.

Crystal Saunders

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to the Voucher system. Put more miney into our public schools and our teachers

Donna Lambeth

self

Rockwall, TX

Hello. I am against this questionable savings account program. The Texas legislature and the governor have been starving our public schools of money for many years. Instead of making up for the shortfalls they have caused, this proposed bill will make more shortfalls. I have been in education for 25 years. During that time, I have watched public education be pushed to the back over and over again. This latest effort is the most egregious of all. It virtually guarantees the destruction of the public school system. It might take a few years but it will destroy everything we have built. Texas Republicans claim they are pro-life, pro-family, and, worst of all pro-Christianity. They are none of these. They are pro-make money for themselves and their donors. This is a terrible bill, and it will prove to be terrible for the state of Texas.

DIANA SERRANO

SELF - COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPECIALIST, MOTHER OF CHILD WITH DISABILITIES

El Paso, TX

HB3's focus on school choice and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) will divert funds from public schools, potentially leading to reduced resources and quality. The bill includes provisions that will eliminate funding for Gifted & Talented (G/T) programs, which are essential for supporting high-achieving students. The bill's emphasis on school choice and ESAs will exacerbate existing inequalities, leaving disadvantaged students and underfunded schools further behind. This bill will lessen the resources available for special education programs. Special education programs will receive less attention and funding, leading to disparities in the quality of education for students with disabilities. This bill will not adequately address the specific needs of special education programs, which could result in insufficient support for students with disabilities like my 14 year old son who is on the spectrum and has ADHD and currently receiving special education services. I want to ensure special education programs receive adequate funding and support to meet the needs of students with disabilities and HB3 does NOT do this. I want children like my son to be protected.

TERRY MILLER RALEY

TERRY RALEY

Dallas, TX

NO SCHOOL VOUCHERS. They will benefit the wealthy and ruin schools in rural areas.

Carrilaine Schneckner

Self retired

Richardson, TX

Voucher system will destroy public education and irreparably harm Texas' children.

Stacey Enzor, Mrs.

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school vouchers in the state of Texas. Vouchers divert crucial public funds away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas children, to subsidize private and charter schools that are not held to the same accountability standards.

Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education, support, and opportunities to students of all backgrounds. Instead of funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions, we should invest in strengthening our public school system by increasing teacher pay, improving resources, and ensuring every child has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting any voucher proposals and focusing on policies that uplift public education for all.

Thank you for your dedication to the future of Texas students.

Judy Wall

Individual

Hereford, TX

I am against school vouchers.

Jan Rudnicki
Self
San Marcos, TX

?

?I am opposed to HB 3 and all other bills that funnel public education dollars to private schools.

Ironically, I am a product of private education - kindergarten through high school. I also started my career teaching for seven years in a private school in Pennsylvania. When my husband finished his PhD, we moved to San Marcos, Texas and have stayed here for 40 years!

One of the very first things we did was enroll our 5 year old son in the local public school. We also joined a local church, and for the next fifteen years I donated most my time and energy volunteering in those two institutions. Once my children were in secondary school, I enrolled at the University of Texas and received a masters degree in Library Science. In that capacity, I continued my teaching career, in a local public school.

Private school was my beginning, but public education has been my passion! Since I've seen both institution from the inside - as a child and as an adult - I have experiences that inform my opinions. Like any institution, there are pluses and minuses. In private school, I lived in a homogeneous world of like-values and culture, but internally there was plenty of neglect, incompetency and abuse. In public schools most of those negative issues were external: poverty, mental health, and physical disabilities. But we felt supported by our community, and knew we were doing our part for our town.

At one point, when my son was diagnosed with dyslexia, I inquired about sending him to a smaller, private school. The principal of that school, whom I'd taught with, said she didn't recommend it, because they weren't equipped to handle learning disabilities. Fortunately, San Marcos was developing a wonderful dyslexia intervention program. And with the proper help, my son graduated in the top ten-percent of his class. Every child deserves, and I pray they receive that type of support!!!

Texas public education is still chronically underfunded, and education savings accounts threaten to reduce public school funding further. I worry that, as more capable kids are siphoned off into private schools, public school teachers will be left to support an even greater number of challenges than I had to deal with. Private schools that accept vouchers should be required to also accept students with special needs and provide the same level of support required of public schools.

Furthermore, any voucher legislation under consideration should hold private schools that accept vouchers to the same standards of accountability and transparency as public schools. Private schools should be required to report and make publicly available their students' achievement, with the same testing requirements as for public schools.

How can we know whether voucher investments are worthwhile if private schools don't have to follow the same financial and academic reporting requirements as public schools?

Elaine Hooper
Self
Dallas, TX

Stop vouchers

Johnnie Sue Bucek
self/Registered Nurse
Arlington, TX

Dear Public Education Committee Members,

As a retired school nurse with the Arlington ISD for 40 years and being a member of a family of public educators since the 1930s, I am aware of the advantages of public education. Vouchers will strip the schools of much needed funds to function properly. It is the State's responsibility to educate ALL children. If parents want private education for their children, they can pay for it. I do not want my taxpayer dollars going to private or parochial schools. Tax dollars should NOT be used to give preference to a family's religion, race, or social standing. By underwriting private schools, the state is promoting more class distinctions. Education is best with Diversity. Equity and Inclusion.

Katherine Langford

self, retired teacher

Hurst, TX

I oppose the use of education savings accounts, a euphemism for school vouchers. First of all, it is antithetical to Article 7 of the Texas State Constitution which states that the state has responsibility to "provide suitable provision for PUBLIC schools" (adequate funding). It also states that no state money can be used to support any sectarian or religious based school. Second, Voters who can hold their locally elected school board members accountable have no say in how schools use voucher money. Also, rural school districts will suffer a loss in funding for their local public schools in areas where there are no adequate private schools. There are many more reasons that vouchers are a bad idea for Texas, too many to list here. Lastly, I want to remind you that Texas has the 8th largest economy in the WORLD, but ranks in the bottom quartile for education funding. This is an embarrassment and vouchers will not solve the problem. Please vote AGAINST HB 3. Thank you

Beverly La Rock

Self

Galveston, TX

I am asking you to vote NO on House Bill 3. There are too many children with disabilities and too many rural districts that have very few or no private school options. There are many fees associated with a private school which most low income and many middle c

Jean Lockett

Self

Weatherford, TX

Vouchers will take money away from Public Schools. Our public schools are already under funded and under staffed. Texas education deserves better. Bit no on HB3

Jack Evins

self; retired

Galveston, TX

HB 3 appears to enable further redirection of state funds away from public schools. I oppose this and similar efforts.

Emily Hermans

self, parent, educator

Austin, TX

I am writing to share my strong opposition to allowing taxpayer funds to go towards private school vouchers in Texas. This is robbing our public schools of desperately needed funds and putting them in the pockets of parents who can already afford to send their children to private schools. This can not happen, and I implore the committee to look at the devastating long-term impacts that such a plan would have on Texas's financial future. We need to more fully invest in our public schools, not siphon funds away from them.

Sean Price

Self

Austin, TX

I am a 10th-grade English teacher at Pflugerville High School in the Pflugerville Independent School District. I'm writing this testimony to oppose House Bill 3 and any other voucher measure before this year's Texas Legislature.

I teach at a Title I school that needs all the resources it can get. Texas public schools, where the vast majority of students will continue to be educated, are already underfunded. Texas school districts have not received an increase to the per-student Basic Allotment since 2019. With a \$20 billion surplus and \$23 billion balance in the Rainy Day Fund, as forecast by the state comptroller, the Legislature has no excuse not to increase funding for public schools. Public tax dollars belong in public schools, not diverted to private business interests.

I'm also very concerned that the current voucher bills will undermine the Teacher Retirement System (TRS). TRS is a pension plan, so it requires more teachers paying in than receiving benefits. Texas' population growth and other factors have made that no problem. But the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) found that vouchers will drain at least 1% of students from Texas' public schools. That means there will be a corresponding decline in teachers. Pretty soon, TRS will not see the teacher growth needed to remain financially sound and could go belly-up. At the very least, teachers will have to raise their contributions. Gov. Abbott and the head of TRS have denied this. But they have not refuted the LBB analysis.

Vouchers are touted as providing families a choice. This is a cynical contradiction of reality. Vouchers take away the choices families can make in education because they undermine public schools. Essentially, they divert resources and students to private schools, where families are at the mercy of unaccountable school officials for decisions on both tuition and curriculum. Vouchers are particularly destructive to rural areas, where public schools are the beating heart of the community. Undermining rural schools would be catastrophic for communities that already struggle to provide jobs and health care.

I urge the committee to vote against - and work hard to prevent the passage of - any voucher measure before the Texas Legislature.

Brenda Hodges

Texas teachers

Iowa Park, TX

I oppose HB2 and HB3 and ESA's! Please vote NO to these bills

Valeece Davis, Dr.

Self and Clinical Assistant Professor of Education

Conroe, TX

The truth of the matter is that all students deserve a quality education. With that said, I, a tax payer and mother of two children in public schools, do not believe it is equitable to use public funding for parents who choose other means to educate their children. Parents have a choice. To me, ESA accounts that allocate money for private institutions is simply wrong. Public schools are already underfunded, and teachers in public schools work extremely hard. Unfortunately, this is a program that favors the wealthy over the backs of hardworking, middle class and low-income families. Pay public teachers more and provide more resources to public schools. Private schools don't need this, and the main people concerned about school choice are the wealthy. Parents have options to homeschool their children, speak to principals, and vote for school board members to make change. Throwing money into the private sector will hurt most children in Texas, and favor the wealthy.

Sherry Carver

Tax payers

Wolfe City, TX

Our children in Wolfe City do not have access to a private school. I don't want my tax dollars being diverted from public to private schools. Public schools have already been gutted too much.

Toni Rocheleau
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school vouchers in the state of Texas. Vouchers divert crucial public funds away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas children, to subsidize private and charter schools that are not held to the same accountability standards.

Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education, support, and opportunities to students of all backgrounds. Instead of funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions, we should invest in strengthening our public school system by increasing teacher pay, improving resources, and ensuring every child has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting any voucher proposals and focusing on policies that uplift public education for all.

Thank you for your dedication to the future of Texas students.

William Bryan
Self
Austin, TX

NO VOUCHERS. Vote for Public Education.

Amanda Ellis
Self
Midland, TX

I am opposed to this bill for several reasons. Why do republicans want to create a new expensive program that requires more bureaucracy? This program makes no sense to me. I am a mother of 3 daughters educated in the public school system and a former teacher.

Adele Nelson, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

Dear representatives, I write to state my strong opposition to vouchers. Both of my children (11 & 8) are in public school & are receiving exceptional services from professional, credentialed & dedicated teachers & administrators. Let me share that my son has special needs & had a very challenging return to school after the pandemic. We looked at private schools & were told by a responsible principal at a private school oriented toward inclusion that they were not equipped to support him. We instead transferred him to a better resourced & better led public elementary school with robust existing special education programs. He has thrived & is now in Gifted & Talented. A well-funded & professionally-led public school has been a literal lifesaver for our son & my family. My husband & I will be forever in the debt of these public educators & administrators. There are of course cases where a given child's needs can be better served in a private school setting, but the scale & structure of the voucher program this bill proposes without a guarantee that children will receive services & not be kicked out will result in harm to special needs children & their families. Furthermore, without a cap on family income to qualify, this bill will undermine the funding of public education in the very near term - endangering the services my son receives in public school. Finally let me add, I attended an elite private college prep school in north Texas & it academically prepared me for college, but with huge deficits in understanding society as a whole. The school also had minimal supports for learning differences, let alone neurodiversity and other special needs. Public education deserves more not less resources from our state! Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely, Adele Nelson

Sylvia Campbell

self

The Woodlands, TX

To the Public Education Committee,

I would urge you to ensure that this bill, which establishes an educational savings account program, also addresses the needs of our Texas public schools. Specifically:

- Increase the basic allotment to help cover the cost of inflation since 2019.
- Increase the mandated allotments for Early Education, Teacher Incentive, and Compensating Education.
- Ensure that private schools meet the same requirements as public schools for school safety, appropriate curriculum materials, providing services to ALL students including special needs students, and hiring certified teachers.
- Require private schools to meet the same requirements as public schools for annual testing of students and for reporting student achievement data.
- Ensure that funds go to the students with the greatest need.
- Manage the program so that the cost does not become unaffordable in future years.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sylvia Campbell

Brittany Tones

Self

Cypress, TX

I am firmly against HB3 (and also SB2). My husband, a police officer, and myself, a specialist at a chemical company, are both middle class hard working citizens who had the privilege to live in a neighborhood where we send our children to public school. We firmly oppose the use of a tax credit to benefit families that are choosing to send their children to private school at the detriment of funding public education. For years now, the state has held our tax payer money (the revenue that we as citizens generate for the state) hostage and have severely underfunded our schools until the ESAs are passed. The target of helping 100,000 children get these tax credits while 5.5 million of our children in public school remain at schools that are underfunded and not keeping up with inflation is wrong. In other states, statistics prove that wealthier families that were already sending their children to private school are the ones who benefit. We remain at the bottom of states for funding per child, at the bottom of states for test scores, and at the bottom of states for teacher support. The state has a surplus of funding that must be funneled back to making public education the state's priority. School choice already exists for families that choose to send their children to private school. If our public education system was properly funded, our schools and children would be more successful and fewer families may even choose to send their children to private school of the public schools in their vicinity had the funds that need to facilitate success. Our teachers also deserve better treatment. Short staffing and low salaries are also hurting them which in turn hurts our children. I am asking you to listen to your constituents- hard working parents who want the best for the children's future. In a fully funded public education system like we ourselves went to and it made us successful. Please support our children, who deserve to have a funded transportation system, supported teachers, and enough funding to succeed. School choice already exists without ESAs as a tax credit to a select amount of families. We are concerned that the middle and lower classes will be impacted the most by diverting these funds, and especially rural families who don't have the choice of private school. Please fund our schools! If our representatives feel strongly about pushing these through, please at least let us parents whose children stand to lose the lost vote on this in a public forum. Our children deserve the best education they can get for a public education system that is for all, not just a select few.

Leah Raley

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is an embarrassment to Texas. No vouchers!!!

David Todd Harmon, Dr.

Self

Abilene, TX

A review of the evidence of the impact of vouchers and school choice is clear. It has hurt public schools and student outcomes in virtually every locale in which it has been instated. Why would we bring this failed idea to Texas?

Trecia Sterling

Self, Parent is 4 children

Houston, TX

I absolutely do NOT support school vouchers as proposed. It takes valuable money out of our public schools and will thus have a profound negative impact on all Texas children. Please at least consider raising the amount given for ALL Texas students to the exact same amount, instead of giving more to those wishing to go to private schools. Private school students should not receive more for leaving public schools. It is imperative to the students sitting on Texas public schools that you ensure their schools do not lose money due to your voucher plans. The schools are already operating on such low budgets — any cuts will negatively impact them. Please prioritize ALL students and not just a certain population. The future of Texas is dependent on you making the right decisions. Listen to the people of Texas and do away with the school voucher idea. Pour money into our schools, into the TEACHERS, and see what happens! I trust you will make the right choice for Texas students and vote NO on school vouchers.

Rebe Long

Self

Dallas, TX

alismithx 9h

From Create Mode >

Alright. Well in light of that, I'd like my public record comment to be.

- 1) Requirements on voucher receiving private schools to have these same types of standards and services as public schools to be able to actually enable new students to attend
- 2) Public school teacher salary raises
- 3) Basic allotment increase of \$1000 at minimum, ideally more than voucher amount. Or creative funding measures that will immediately get money into classrooms equivalent to this amount.

Toshia Lee

Self

Desoto, TX

No

Bridget Peterson

Self

Leander, TX

Texas Representatives:

Your continued failure to elevate Texas public schools for the roughly 6M students so you can create “choice” for an additional 100K is astounding, disgraceful, and demonstrates your lack of care for your constituents and the future of our state. Surely you are well aware that a vote “for” a poorly worded ballot measure does not equate to support for using public funds for private education nor does not equate to a desire to further erode our public school system.

You repeatedly and continually fail to demonstrate how you plan to ADEQUATELY support and fund public schools (nothing presented so far is anywhere close in today’s inflationary environment) for the millions of parents who want to CHOOSE a STRONG PUBLIC school for their students and who are adamantly opposed to public funds paying for the private tuition of others. The Governor’s “Facts” on social media are anything but and the entire Texas Republican Party has had 10(!!!) years to move Texas up the education ranks. Yet, this body haven’t because it has been too occupied keeping women from having a CHOICE about their own bodies and holding education funds hostage until this voucher system is passed. Apparently Texas Republicans only support choice when it’s convenient for their own agenda. This is beyond not just my comprehension but most within my circle.

You sorely underestimate the power and will of all the “momma bears” in Texas fighting to ensure a bright future for their cubs and the countless dedicated educators and public support staff who show up for our kids everyday despite mounting pressures and shrinking resources by our state. We are not going away. And if you fail to support our kids, we will not forget and we will be ready to bring into office individuals who will.

Texas education needs your attention, but this is not the way. Vote No for HB3. Address the numerous issues with STAAR. Properly raise the basic allotment budget (more than \$220) so that school districts can actually raise teacher salaries for all (not just a select few) and provide services that can support the majority of Texas students. Parents absolutely should have a choice, and many already do. Your job is to make Texas public schools strong. Do your job. Make Texas public schools better for all, but most importantly my two boys.

Eric Higginbotham
Self, public school educator
Little Elm, TX

As both a public school educator and a parent, I am deeply concerned about the continued underfunding of Texas public schools and the push for school vouchers. I urge you to prioritize fully funding our public schools at an inflation-adjusted level equivalent to 2019 funding and ensuring inflation-adjusted pay raises for educators. Texas students deserve a high-quality education, and public dollars should be invested in strengthening our public schools—not diverting funds to private institutions with little to no accountability.

The Texas Constitution makes it clear that the legislature has a duty to support and maintain a strong system of public education. Article 7, Section 1 states:

“It shall be the duty of the Legislature of this State, to make suitable provisions for the support and maintenance of a system of Public Free Schools.”

This is a constitutional responsibility, not a suggestion. However, since 2019, inflation has significantly increased the cost of running schools, while state funding has failed to keep pace. School districts are struggling to retain quality teachers, provide essential resources, and maintain safe, modern facilities. Without proper funding, class sizes grow, support services shrink, and students—especially those in rural and economically disadvantaged communities—suffer the consequences. Restoring funding to at least pre-pandemic levels, adjusted for inflation, is the bare minimum Texas must do to fulfill this obligation.

Additionally, teachers and school staff have faced rising costs of living while salaries have stagnated. If Texas wants to attract and retain talented educators, it must provide pay raises that keep up with inflation. Our teachers shape the future of Texas, and they deserve fair compensation for their dedication and expertise.

School vouchers would only worsen these challenges by siphoning taxpayer dollars away from public schools and directing them to private institutions that are not held to the same standards. Texas cannot afford to weaken its public education system by funding private schools that are not required to serve all students, follow state curriculum standards, or ensure financial transparency.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting school vouchers and committing to fully funding our public schools. You have the power—and the constitutional duty—to ensure that Texas students receive the education they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and to seeing real action to support Texas public schools.

Kathryn douglas
Self
MANVEL, TX

We are proud to support public schools this year. I grew up in an area with horrible public schools and HAD to go private thank goodness my parents could pay. We have chosen to join our neighborhood community together at the public school. It is thriving! We are excited. We are so excited to have our son ride the bus with his neighbors. Support that. Private schools can fund raise and are wonderful that they exist, however public schools have so many opportunities. We do not support the funds for private.

Lindsay Hinde

Self

Coppell, TX

Vote NO on the voucher!

When private schools drastically increases tuition in the mid-1990s, families fled Dallas to raise their kids in public schools in the suburbs. Public schools that provided better education than the private schools that didn't require teachers to be certified, extracurriculars and special needs. Our generation wants to provide the same exceptional education for our children. Vouchers can save families money, but the private schools can increase their tuition again, so that middle class families still can't afford to go to selective schools that don't have qualified teachers and the programs children need.

Put funding back into the public schools so that all children can have an equal chance of having a good education.

Lizzeth Saldana

Self

San Antonio, TX

Public Comment on HB 3 – March 11, 2025 (Public Education Committee)

I respectfully submit this comment in strong opposition to HB 3, relating to the establishment of an education savings account (ESA) program in Texas.

As a resident of San Antonio and a parent in North East ISD (NEISD), I am deeply concerned that ESA programs divert critical public funds away from the very schools that serve all students, regardless of ability, background, or income. Private schools are not required to accept students with disabilities, provide individualized education plans (IEPs), or offer the same federally protected services our children rely on to learn and thrive.

ESA programs like the one proposed in HB 3 create an inequitable system where public dollars subsidize private education with no real accountability, while underfunded public schools are left struggling to meet the needs of the vast majority of Texas students. This is particularly damaging in rural areas and communities already facing teacher shortages, outdated facilities, and insufficient resources.

Our focus should be on strengthening the public education system that serves over 5 million Texas children by increasing school funding, supporting teachers, and ensuring schools can provide essential services to students with disabilities, English learners, and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

On behalf of my family, my community, and the students of NEISD, I urge you to oppose HB 3 and protect Texas public schools from the harmful impact of vouchers.

Thank you for your time and service.

Lizzeth Saldana

San Antonio, TX – North East ISD

Gina Kirkwood

Self

Austin, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gina Kirkwood, I am a community member in Austin ISD in Austin and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical educational programs that serve our students.

The data from public school state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend—our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

For example:

- **Special Education:** The state allotment for special education in 2023-24 was \$31.5 million, but actual expenditures reached \$53.5 million, leaving a \$22 million shortfall. This gap is projected to be \$20.3 million in 2024-25. Without adequate funding, students with disabilities may not receive the legally mandated services they need to thrive.
- **Safety & Security:** In 2023-24, the state provided only \$0.9 million, but the actual cost was \$8.9 million, creating an \$8 million deficit. For 2024-25, the gap is projected to grow to \$10 million, putting school safety measures at risk.
- **Transportation:** The 2023-24 state allocation was \$1.5 million, while the cost of maintaining transportation services was \$10.4 million, leading to an \$8.9 million shortfall. In 2024-25, the gap is expected to be \$8.3 million, making it difficult to ensure students have reliable and safe transportation to and from school.
- **Pre-Kindergarten:** This critical early childhood education program faced a \$3.7 million funding gap in 2023-24, with an estimated \$3.2 million shortfall in 2024-25. Underfunding pre-K limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities that set children up for future success.

Our educators and administrators are doing their best with limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with the actual costs of running these programs. This includes:

1. Increasing the Basic Allotment at a minimum of \$1000
2. Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.
3. Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.
4. Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.
5. Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation

Public education is the biggest thing we do to impact tomorrow.

Alyssa Jacobs

Self

Austin, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee, My name is Alyssa Jacobs, I am a speech pathologist and community member in Austin ISD in Austin and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical educational programs that serve our students. The data from public school state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend—our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

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- **Special Education:** The state allotment for special education in 2023-24 was \$31.5 million, but actual expenditures reached \$53.5 million, leaving a \$22 million shortfall. This gap is projected to be \$20.3 million in 2024-25. Without adequate funding, students with disabilities may not receive the legally mandated services they need to thrive. My job is critical and the number of students requiring special education to access general education is increasing!
- **Safety & Security:** In 2023-24, the state provided only \$0.9 million, but the actual cost was \$8.9 million, creating an \$8 million deficit. For 2024-25, the gap is projected to grow to \$10 million, putting school safety measures at risk.
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Christina Cortopassi

Self - Nurse

Lewisville, TX

This bill does not need to pass in its current form or any form. Public money belongs in public education. The House and Senate members considering passing any kind of voucher system while continuing to ignore the crisis that they have created in public schools with a lack of funding should be ashamed of themselves. This is only going to further decrease the ability of our public schools to educate our children. It is a way to divert funds under the guise of “parental choice” but frankly that is laughable given the restrictions this state puts on our abilities to obtain healthcare for both our children and ourselves if we don’t happen to be rich, white, wealthy and male. Rural districts will be decimated by this program, and you all know that. I have had children in Lewisville ISD for 20 years and I have never seen the kind of chaos happening around school closures and budgeting. There is absolutely nothing beneficial about this bill for the average Texas family and I implore you to vote no.

Jennifer Beavers

Self

Flower mound, TX

I recently read an article on WFAA.com highlighting the ten North Texas schools with the lowest MMR vaccination rates—all of which fall below 60%, far below the CDC's recommended 95% for incoming kindergartners. Alarming, all ten of these schools are private and/or religiously affiliated institutions. Looking at the top 20 schools with the lowest vaccination rates, several more accredited private schools in our community also appear. And yesterday, the pastor of Mercy Culture Preparatory School uploaded a video bragging about his religious private school has the lowest MMR vaccination rates in the state. Given this data, can you explain why you support transferring \$1 billion in public funds to private and religious schools that pose a direct public health risk to our community? Do you intend to allocate additional public funds to cover the costs associated with increased measles outbreaks?

Given the long incubation period and high contagion rate of measles, do you plan to amend the state's attendance policies? Will schools with low vaccination rates be required to pay higher taxes or fees to offset the community costs associated with disease outbreaks?

This issue is deeply concerning to my family, my church, and my community. I urge you to address these risks before further public funding is directed toward institutions that are not meeting basic public health standards.

Monica Tietje

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Government for the people, in this case the education for all of the people .

This bill may give some people a chance to supplement the cost of a private education if the private facility is available and accepts them, and if they can provide their own transportation.

This small chance for some would be at the cost of all of the taxpayers and at the cost of the public school system meant to serve the entire public.

Absolutely unacceptable!

Monica Tietje

Caitlin Dodd, Dr.

self

Grapevine, TX

I oppose HB3. I am a proud graduate of a Texas public education and believe that Texas public schools should be fully funded and that public money should stay in the public.

Dana Weed

Self

Austin, TX

Must vote NO on voucher scam

Austin Howe

Self

Lantana, TX

I am a physician in the DFW area with two elementary age children attending school in Denton ISD (Kindergarten and 2nd grade). I would like to voice my opposition to school voucher bill. I do not want my tax dollars going to support private schools. Our public schools are underfunded as it is and I believe basic allotment needs to be increased by \$1340 per student to keep up with inflation. Before becoming a physician, I was a public high school teacher in Louisiana. I know first hand what underfunded, poorly supported public schools are like. One of the reasons my family chose to relocate to Texas after I completed my medical training was for the high quality public schools. I know that the proposed legislation to establish a voucher system will weaken our public schools and the quality of the education my children, and all other Texas public school students receive. Passing HB 3 will result in a Texas that is undereducated. Passing this bill means my family is planning to leave the state to live somewhere where our teachers and students are supported. This isn't about partisanship, or living in a red or blue state. I have no problem with parents choosing to send their children to private schools, but taxes are to pay for things that are for the common good—roads, schools, parks, security. Please keep our tax dollars in our public schools. Support our teachers. Support our children. They are the future of Texas. Let's not ruin it before they have a chance.

Cristian Banu

Self - ramp agent

Cedar Creek, TX

I'm a Texan and I support empowering parents with ESAs. Hold the public indoctrination centers accountable and let parents decide what's best for their children.

Alanna Hill

Self - Project Manager

Rowlett, TX

I strongly oppose the establishment of the Education Savings Account (ESA) in HB 3. While the bill is framed as a way to increase school choice, it risks undermining our public education system, which is the foundation of equal opportunity for all students.

Redirecting funding from public schools to private institutions, especially ones that may not adhere to the same standards or provide equal access for all students, threatens to deepen educational inequality. Public schools must remain a priority, ensuring that every student, regardless of background, receives a quality education. The ESA program, by diverting funds to private schools, could exacerbate disparities and harm students who rely on public education for the support they need.

Additionally, the bill does not ensure that religious teachings will not become part of the curriculum in private schools receiving ESA funds. Public education must remain secular to ensure that all students, regardless of faith, have access to an education free from religious influence. We must protect the separation of church and state in our schools.

Instead of redirecting public funds to private schools, we should focus on improving public education—ensuring our schools are well-funded, accessible, and inclusive for all students. I urge lawmakers to reconsider this bill and invest in a stronger, more equitable public education system for every child in Texas.

Dayle Aldrich

self

Georgetown, TX

We adamantly OPPOSE Vouchers!

- Our Public Schools have been neglected for 5 years - DO NOT send Public dollars to Private Schools.

-State government has a constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public schools. Let's start doing that ! 5.5 million children are depending on it !

Darlene Cox
Self
Danbury, TX

No public dollars for private schools. Invest in our local schools. They are the center of our rural communities and we don't want to risk any additional loss in funding.

Kristen Bowdre
self
Austin, TX

I OPPOSE the establishment of an education savings account program.

Wendy McRoberts
Self
Danby, TX

Public dollars belong in Public schools. The 5% off the top of VERY VOUCHER ACCOUNT is just a windfall to wealthy donors setting up this system. Y'all have tried 3 sessions now to pass this. If TEXANS wanted it, it would have passed in one of the many special sessions y'all called JUST to keep trying to shove vouchers through with an unwilling electorate.

Jennifer Rodriguez
Self
Pflugerville, TX

I strongly oppose this measure. Taking tax payer money to pay for private education is unconscionable. You will deplete funding for public school and create a huge disparity it the education most children get versus the select few who receive vouchers.

Melissa Lane
Self - retired
Georgetown, TX

Public educational for all is a backbone of American society. Educating our youth to be life long learners sets them up to be responsible members of a community. Setting aside education funding for a select minority of students does damage to the whole. Private school vouchers DO NOT address the needs of all students. Students with hearing loss, vision problems, ADHD, and other physical and psychological learning challenges are not aided in this voucher process. In addition, in small rural communities, the public school is often a major unifying force in town life. Friday night football, school plays and concerts, pep rallies brings together a community. We need to strengthen public schools. Please vote no to private school vouchers and invest those budget dollars in public schools.

Elizabeth Harper
Austin ISD
Austin, TX

Do not further cut our Texas Public Schools to pay for vouchers. Release funding from the rainy day fund and avoid expanding vouchers. All students in public school deserve an excellent experience and the voucher program for schools is further strangling our public schools.

Janet Perrin, Ms
Self
Houston, TX

No vouchers. Keep public dollars in public schools

Cheryl Russell
Self
McKinney, TX

School vouchers will only create more segregated schools and a school system rife with disparities that most detrimentally impact vulnerable students. Stop catering our education system towards the most wealthy and upwardly mobile. Fund all public schools well in order to provide great programs for all students. Vouchers will have the opposite impact. Say no to vouchers!

Tom Sourbeer
Courageous Conversations
Georgetown, TX

Come on. You can't possibly be considering passing a bill that will be a knife in the heart of Public Education in our beloved Texas whilst giving a giant windfall to private schools. Support the Public Schools!

Rebecca Carvalho
Taxpayers
Boerne, TX

The proposed "voucher" program is one rooted in financial greed for the private school that stand to benefit and the TX governor Mr. Abbott. Texas residents presently have freedom to choose public or private school for their children. The wealthy are able to afford these private schools yet less fortunate can't. The voucher program is giving wealthy individuals a discount on their school tuition. The private school is then benefiting from receiving TX taxpayers money. The private schools only accept who they want (certain GPA, no special needs). They are private so can turn away whom ever they choose. This is outrageous and should be illegal. Public schools in Texas have already not been provided enough tax dollars to function appropriately and be successful. With this program they will receive even less which will run them into the ground. Then what? Only the residents that can afford private schools get a better education? Let's be honest these "vouchers" are not going to last forever. We see right through the Governor's scheme. He has benefited from donations from the private schools in the past. This is fact. So, with private schools getting taxpayers money and benefiting from this they can return the favor to the Governor come reelection. This program will unbalance the system that is already broken due to not being properly funded, teachers not getting paid appropriately and TEA placing extreme demands on teachers. If a TX resident wants to pay the money to place their children in a private school do it. You have the choice now but don't use our tax dollars for private entities.

Peggy Kennedy
Self retired educator
Georgetown, TX

Vouchers will kill Texas public schools, especially in rural areas. If we don't serve ALL students, we will pay the price in increase crime rates, mental health issues, unemployment, and the cost of more prisons. I have seen all of this in my career working with underserved TX students, K-12, junior college, and the TX prison system.

Andrew Ryder
self, teacher
Fort Worth, TX

Along with my wife, I disagree with the student voucher plan. We are both educators and teach at TCU. Our son is a kindergartner in the public school system at Westcliff. We feel that public education is an important public good that we all benefit from. We feel the vouchers will harm underprivileged students and families, including those with disabilities, and reduce the resources available to them. This will harm society as a whole. We also feel it would be bad for those who work in education, including teachers and staff.

Lindsay Govindarajan
Cypress Fairbanks ISD
Houston, TX

No vouchers! Our public schools and all the children attending them will suffer.

Susan Brennan

self - planner

Austin, TX

I am opposed to the proposal to use public school funds to subsidize private school tuition. The voucher program will serve to further gut public education in Texas. Emphasis should be placed on reforming public school education instead.

Diane Harris

Self

Dallas, TX

VOTE NO ON HB3

Mike Duffy

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD

Cypress, TX

No vouchers. Focus on public school system.

Christine McElroy

Self

Woodway, TX

NO to this. Signed, public school kids and parents

Tia Sheldon

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I work in accounts payable for a local school district and have seen how much costs for electricity, water and gas have increased over the past 4 years. Shipping costs have quadrupled, sometimes exceeding costs of goods. Please raise the basic allotment to help offset the cost of inflation. It's ridiculous that the state has a huge surplus and you only want to increase the allotment \$200 per student. Please support the 5 million plus students across our state that will still be in public schools. Raise the basic allotment to \$7500 per student, based on enrollment, not attendance. We have to provide resources and staff for ALL students whether they have perfect attendance or not. I am a conservative vote, but I do not support vouchers for private schools. I would support an individuals right to take the tax dollars they pay to a school district and use them for the school of their choice. For me personally, that would mean that \$3600 each year, not \$10000. Conservatives are supposed to be about common sense. I don't see the common sense in this current legislation.

Sarah Eskew

Self

Roanoke, TX

Please stop attacking our children and teachers. Stop holding OUR tax dollars hostage and fully fund our public schools.

Nancy Braunig, Mrs

Self - Retired teacher

New Braunfels, TX

I am against public school vouchers for many reasons. I do not think private schools want to be held to the standards that public schools must be. This bill would mostly help people whose children are already in private schools.

Pamela Culpepper

Self

Cypress, TX

No vouchers

Carrie Harper

Self / NYDB

Austin, TX

You have withheld funding from public schools and tried to break them in order to prove that they are broken. But they are not. You won't beat teachers and smart kids. But you can greatly damage the future of this state with this asinine bill that funds the wealthy off the backs of the non-wealthy. What's your answer going to be when the envy of America (Texas public school sports, fine arts, robotics teams, and more) go away? What will you say when we have a woefully inept working class because you stripped trade programs? What will your answer be when you have even more poverty and homelessness in your state? You're just celebrating your own pocket lining and ignoring everything else? Including children? Well paint your future bleak then. And don't ever EVER claim pro life.

Kelly Wussow, Teacher at a private school

Citizen

Houston, TX

I am a private school teacher and am 100% against the voucher program. We have the responsibility to prepare all kids for their futures - an educated society benefits us all. It is irresponsible to keep funds intended for public schools for the voucher program and to fund public/private schools with different amounts and not hold both to the same standards for attendance, testing, standards, and teacher certification. Please vote no!

Ellen Brady

Self

Dallas, TX

I am a Dallas resident, and my neighborhood schools are Dallas Independent School District. Although retired now, my previous employment took me into public schools in Texas, many of them poor-performing and in low SES neighborhoods. My concern with vouchers is the effect it will have on students in public schools who are already struggling. There are many options in DISD for students who have parent advocates to move their students through the processes for applications to magnet schools, but many students have parents (or only one, or another family member in custody) who do not have the resources to advocate for them. Many family members are struggling with the basics of food and shelter. If we take funding from the public schools, these students will have even less support. Please do not allow our students with the greatest needs to suffer by putting school vouchers in place in Texas. Let's put that energy and funding towards improving our current public school systems.

Leanne Burrough

Self

San Marcos, TX

No one wants this. Please vote no!!

Donna Nelson
self -parent and educator
Kaufman, TX

My name is Donna Nelson and I'm a constituent in Rep. Bell's district living in zip code 75142.

I'm calling to express my strong opposition to HB3 and ask you to vote against it.

Public funds should stay in our public schools, not be sent unaccountable private schools. Do not sell out our kids for billionaire donors — Texas families are watching, and so are your own children and grandchildren.

I implore you to vote NO on school vouchers and stand for strong public schools, not corporate interests. Thank you for your time.

Patricia Jakobi, MS
Self
Galveston, TX

As a person who has been a teacher in a rural high school, I am super concerned about the potential of HB 3 to lead to the closure of high schools in rural Texas. The high school is the major anchor for small towns that have already lost so many of their past industries and businesses. No more rallies, no more Friday night lights.

Jill Hill
Communities United for Public Education, and self
Coppell, TX

I want to make it clear that Texans do not want ESAs! Even in these divisive political times, this is an issue that both sides of the fence agree on. ESAs will not accomplish the touted goals. Significant barriers to choice will still exist for the very students the ESAs are said to help - low income and special needs. For many low SES and/or rural families, transportation will be an insurmountable barrier. In many rural districts, the nearest private school is too far away to make school choice feasible. Many low SES families, regardless of location, need their children to be able to walk to the neighborhood public school or take the bus to ensure they can consistently attend. The transportation provision in this bill will not solve the problem. Public transportation is not an accessible or safe option for many children. Private ride services would cost upwards of \$3,000-5,000 per year if they are even an available option. Even families in higher income brackets will have difficulty benefitting from ESAs. I live in Coppell, and the ten closest reputable private schools average \$27,000 per year. It's hard to imagine ESAs becoming anything more than a coupon for families who can already afford this choice.

Kids with special needs will also not be properly served. Even with the potential for special needs students to get a larger dollar amount, there will still be a lack of options and thus no true choice. Many private schools will not accept kids with special needs or learning differences, nor do they employ the necessary specialists to serve their needs. In the rare instance that a private school exists specifically serving kids with special needs, they are often upwards of \$40,000 per year in the DFW area.

Additionally, ESAs will increase educational inconsistency. The requirement that private schools administer a nationally norm-referenced exam is not adequate to ensure that our kids are gaining the necessary knowledge and skills. Norm-referenced exams only compare the cohort of test-takers to each other - so if all of them are lagging in a certain skill, no red flags are raised. With different schools administering different tests, there will be no way to ensure that all Texas students are receiving adequate instruction. Criterion-referenced exams, like what is required in public school, compare against an expected benchmark to identify students who need extra support.

The end result is that all Texas students will suffer. Students who have no feasible choice but public school will be educated by a system further strapped for resources - Governor Abbott admitted that ESAs would take money from public schools. The Texas education system is educating the next generation of our workforce and state leaders. If we want to see Texas continue to thrive economically, we MUST invest in fully funding public education now.

Please listen to the voices of those most impacted by this decision and hear us when we say vouchers are not good for Texas.

Ranjan Misra
PISD - PTA (Lifetime Member)
Dallas, TX

- 1) Recipients of School vouchers will receive \$10,000 per school year. Every voucher will reduce public school funding by \$6,800. So where does the other \$3,200 come from?
- 2) \$10,000 impacts the cost of education for 1 child in a family. \$6,800 impacts shared costs for multiple students. Where is the cost benefit analysis that any business would perform to determine the best ROI of our tax dollars?
- 3) What is the income distribution of families of students that attend Private schools, compared to that of families with children attending Public schools? If so, which income group benefits the most from School vouchers?
- 4) What are the results of the independent analysis of School Voucher programs for other states with similar demographics as Texas?
- 5) How do rural areas get impacted where they don't have access to Private schools like in the major metropolitan areas, and the families cannot afford to home school their children and still generate income to support their families?
- 6) Texas has one of the best Public Schools systems. Why wouldn't we invest more in it to make it more robust, instead of taking money away from it?

We all pay our fair share of taxes for public education, not to have it handed out to families who make a choice not to use public education? What is next State Universities?

Thank you for diligently considering our questions and voting on a bill based on what is right for the majority of Texans, vs. what partisan politics is driving. History has a way of repeating itself, so let us look at the other states that tried a similar approach. The public data is out there

Susan Wright
Self - homeschool co-op coordinator
San Antonio, TX

We want to keep our freedom to be able to educate our children in our beliefs to become responsible educated citizens. We do not want government interference. We do not want to answer to someone else's beliefs and ideas period.

James Mitchell
Self - Retired Military (27 years).
Round Rock, TX

How many more times do the good people of Texas have to tell the Abbott administration that we are NOT interested in, nor do we support, HB#, this voucher SCAM? How many times does this bill have to die before we move on to the things that matter to most Texans? Everything about this SCAM is reprehensible.

We will keep fighting this!

I am ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED TO HB3!

Mark Lindenfeld
Self
Fort Worth, TX

While I am not opposed to some public money going to private schools, the amount should be the direct cost savings that the public school would save by not having the student and in no case more than the state allotment. We do want to educate all children and many parents in private/church school are not rich, but they should not receive more than their marginal saving as the state provides the service already. Additionally, they should be required to meet all state testing and admission standards and be under the same denial and removal requirements as public schools. Can for profit private schools educate better under similar constraints? If they are allowed to reject SPED with services or behavior problem children, this bill will only serve to transition money away from public schools leaving all the hard to teach students in the public schools. Please modify the bill to a much lower more fair amount and make more fair requirements or do not pass this bill.

Joyce McQueen
Self, Retired Educator
Austin, TX

As a former educator for 34 years, I know that Texas public schools need more funding and general public support, not less. Texas is ranked close to the bottom of the 50 states when it comes to funding our teacher salaries and our schools. Our high school graduation rates are some of the lowest in our country. We will get what we pay for when it comes to outcomes for our students. Please do your job and protect our children and my grandchildren!

Maureen Saval, Ms
self
Leander, TX

School vouchers are nothing but taxpayer-funded scams, cannibalizing our public education system for the benefit of for-profit and religious private schools. They will line the pockets of private, predominantly religious schools. Studies have shown that 95% of voucher programs support religious institutions. It's a blatant robbery of public funds for private gain. Public school districts facing this threat are already on life support, especially in small towns and rural communities where public schools are often underfunded to begin with. That is why even in conservative areas, Republicans are opposed to a statewide voucher program. Private schools are allowed to cherry-pick which students to accept and which to reject. That means school vouchers help facilitate a two-tiered education system where private schools cater to the chosen privileged few. Meanwhile, public schools are left to educate everyone else with even fewer resources than before. Despite claims that vouchers give parents choices, in Illinois schools participating in voucher programs during the 2022-23 school year, not one Black student received a voucher at more than half of the schools. Latinos had only a slightly better record, with no voucher recipients at about a third of the schools. Instead of diverting funds away from public schools, states must focus on strengthening our public education system with more funding not less. We must invest in improvements, infrastructure, and our dedicated educators, not give away tax dollars to for-profit private schools. And that is exactly what Illinois did, They ended their voucher program and put that money back into public schools where it belongs. With Republicans in Texas voting against vouchers and Illinois ending its program, it's time to strike against school vouchers nationwide.

The future of our nation depends on the quality of the education we provide to all of our students. Support public schools and VOTE NO on the school voucher scam!!!

Jennifer Yarrow, PA-C
Self and the citizens of Texas, Physician Assistant
San Antonio, TX

My children have attended both public and charter schools. Although both systems have flaws, I am not in support for the education savings accounts. The families at the charter schools self select by income and parent involvement. Subsequently, the public schools suffer. Schools are part of a community and need the support of involved parents and additional funding. Legislators and wealthy families seem to forget that if we eviscerate public schools and do not provide good public education to ALL people in Texas we are going to have a dumbed down workforce. Public sector jobs such as administrative, nursing, food service, small business, city services will all suffer if there is not a solid public education foundation in the state. I have lived in other states with GOOD public education systems. The every day interactions at the doctor's office, dry cleaner, and restaurant are handled with much more professionalism, competency and efficiency due to the literacy and math skills acquired in a solid secondary education. Do you want your nurse or mechanic to be handling your body or car with a solid grasp of biology and physics? I do.

Adam Aaron
Self special Ed teacher
Katy, TX

This bill is so wrong. When did public become private? Rural schools and most Texas children will be negatively impacted by this bill. Do the right thing for all Texas children, especially those who are the most vulnerable among us. You know what's right, you know the definition of public and private that should be all you need

Megan Smith

Self

Temple, TX

This voucher program is only going to hurt Texas families. Even with the voucher, most middle class families can't afford the remaining cost of tuition. These private schools can refuse to enroll students with special needs. Our public schools are a basic human right and this is a travesty. Texas has always had school choice, it is not the tax payers' responsibility to pay for someone else's private school. If parents want their children to attend a private school, they can pay those tuition costs themselves. Do better.

Amber Epps

Self teacher at FBISD

Sugar Land, TX

As a public school elementary teacher, I urge you to vote against public school vouchers because I believe using public dollars for private education is not fair to the children and parents of Texas. With private school vouchers, there is little oversight of how the public funds are spent which is not a responsible use of tax-payer dollars.

Emily Hardeman

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to the passage of school vouchers for a myriad of reasons. They do not benefit the majority of students in our state, and especially for students with the greatest needs. By diverting taxpayer funds from public schools to private institutions, vouchers exacerbate existing inequities, weaken accountability, and fail to provide real choices for most families.

Defunding Public Schools – Public schools serve the vast majority of Texas students, including those with disabilities, English language learners, and students from low-income families. Voucher programs drain essential funding from these schools, forcing them to operate with fewer resources, larger class sizes, and reduced support services.

Lack of Accountability – Unlike public schools, private schools that accept vouchers are not held to the same academic and financial transparency standards. They are not required to follow state curriculum guidelines, administer standardized tests, or report student outcomes, leaving parents without reliable data to evaluate school performance.

Discrimination and Limited Access – Private schools can reject students based on academic performance, disability status, or behavioral history. This means students with the greatest educational challenges—such as those with dyslexia or ADHD—may find themselves without a viable option. Voucher programs do not guarantee students equal access to a quality education.

False Promise of Choice – While proponents argue that vouchers increase school choice, in reality, they benefit wealthier families who can afford to pay the difference between the voucher amount and private school tuition. Low-income and rural families often have no access to quality private schools, making vouchers an empty promise for many Texans. Texas should invest in strengthening public education, ensuring that every child has access to well-funded, high-quality schools with the support they need to succeed. School vouchers harm students by taking away critical resources, reducing oversight, and widening educational disparities. Public funds should remain in public schools, where they can benefit all students—not just a select few.

Amber Epps

Teacher at FBISD

Sugar Land, TX

As a public school elementary teacher, I urge you to vote against public school vouchers because I believe using public dollars for private education is not fair to the children and parents of Texas. With private school vouchers, there is little oversight of how the public funds are spent which is not a responsible use of tax-payer dollars.

Amy Greenspan

self; attorney

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because it provides funding to a minority of families at the expense of those who cannot afford or do not have the opportunity to have their children in private schools. Public schools are already severely underfunded, and any additional K-12 education funds should go to public schools. Private schools are comparatively unregulated and are not subject to the same testing and standards required of public schools. Neighborhood public schools accept all students, but private schools can deny admission or educational services to any student, including students with disabilities, among others. Use of tax dollars should come with standards and not allow cherry picking of the easiest students to teach. Doing so would leave only the most challenging students in public schools, at a reduction of funding for the public schools (as the daily census would fall if students moved into private schools).

Mandy Riley

self

Cypress, TX

It is important that all kids in Texas receive a quality education. Investment in public education is beneficial in the long-term for Texas. The school voucher program takes money away from public education. Vouchers do not reduce public education costs; instead vouchers will force tax payers, like myself, to fund two educational systems -- the state voucher system which will benefit private schools and my local ISD. Additionally, I don't think it's appropriate for me, the tax payer, to fund an educational system that is not transparent to the state like our ISDs are. By breaking up the delivery of education in this way, we risk a poorly educated populace which can undermine Texas' ability to continue to be an economic powerhouse in the both the US and on the global stage. We need more investment in STEM education, and I feel that vouchers will not allow for our ISDs to to expend/create opportunities to ready Texas kids for the future.

Katie Lamin

self

Austin, TX

Please vote AGAINST this Voucher Scam. It represents a fight between a bi-partisan, pro-public education coalition vs. billionaire mega-donors who control Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick. We love our kids, believe in public school teachers, support our neighborhood schools and want them FULLY FUNDED. Texans are not interested in vouchers. To be sure, our local schools face many challenges, not the least of which is the deliberate underfunding of the Basic Allotment since 2019. Our local schools want to provide a stellar education to ALL students, and with full funding, they can do just that. You can say that the Voucher Scam would not defund our neighborhood schools, but frankly, we do not believe you. My own Eanes school district stands to lose over \$3M if this voucher bill passes.

Most importantly, no credible research shows that vouchers improve academic performance; according to a report by the Center for American Progress (independent, non-partisan policy institute), the use of school vouchers is equivalent to missing out on more than one-third of a year of classroom learning.

As a certified and licensed Speech-Language Pathologist, I believe every child deserves the chance at a solid, free and public education. With the proposal of these vouchers, too many of our children will miss out - especially because 6 out of 10 public school students are economically disadvantaged.

Vote NO on HB3- Stand up to billionaires who want to control how our government works and control our way of life. Vote NO to stand up for ALL students all across Texas.

Thank you.

Adam Aaron

Self Special Education Teacher

Katy, TX

Public funds for private enterprise is morally bankrupt. Taking from the public to give to the rich is essentially giving them a brand new Mercedes for each child in high school. Texas needs all of its citizens to have an education not just the top two percent. Do what's right stand up for the 98% against the 2%

Jan Forney, Ms

Families

Houston, TX

The Truth is that Charter Schools
WILL cost Texas & Texans both
short-term and long-term.

Shorter term charter schools represent a whole PARALLEL school system - essentially DOUBKING all the basic costs of having any school

Charter schools have been shown to be on average NO better than underfunded public schools, even by some who originally ADVOCATED for them.

And charter schools CHERRY PICK from our kids. They do NOT provide for ALL children to grow and learn or to become a strong part of our state's economy or of a good future for Texas

It's also sickening & wrong that the money for charter vouchers mostly goes to wealthier Texans who already are choosing to send their children to charter schools. It's NOT your job to subsidize their individual costs

It IS your job to provide funds to all public school districts, along with TEA lesson plans, to support public school districts & teachers working to provide for ALL our students. The Texas Lege has not been a strong partner in this, their most basic obligation

Please refocus your efforts on the greater good of Texas and its future

By supporting of high quality public education FOR ALL. Dont hijack funding for separate charter system for some kids, some families, weakening the state

We mustn't pay the price.

Thank you. Your vote is important

Families are waiting to see who they can trust ????

Marlena Hall

Self/ Banke Teller

Arlington, TX

I do not want public money to be given to private schools. The state of Texas should focus on raising public school teacher pay so that we have a strong middle class that can continue to compete in the future.

I want my taxes to go towards giving teachers a better chance at teaching our kids and not line the pockets of people who don't need my tax money to fund their private schools.

Diana Muniz

TSTA

Mountain City, TX

Vouchers tend to benefit families who are already in a position to choose private schools, often those with higher incomes or more educational resources. Families in low-income communities may struggle to afford the "extra costs" of private school tuition, even with a voucher, as these schools often charge more than the value of the voucher itself. This can further entrench educational inequality.

Private schools that accept vouchers are generally not held to the same standards as public schools, particularly in terms of curriculum, teacher qualifications, and student outcomes. This can result in a lack of accountability and transparency, making it harder to ensure that all students are receiving a high-quality education.

Vouchers could weaken the public education system, which serves the majority of students, including those with disabilities, English language learners, and students from low-income backgrounds. By encouraging the privatization of education, vouchers could erode the commitment to public schooling and reduce the investment in improving public schools for everyone.

Meaghan Danielson

Self

Austin, TX

I am against this bill. It will take money away from public schools which are the backbone of our society's educational system. We don't need to be investing less in our children, we need to be investing more.

John Pabst

self

Round Rock, TX

"[Mexico] has failed to establish any public system of education, although possessed of almost boundless resources, (the public domain,) and although it is an axiom in political science, that unless a people are educated and enlightened, it is idle to expect the continuance of civil liberty, or the capacity for self government."

- Texas Declaration of Independence

As explicitly mentioned in the Texas Declaration of Independence, public education is a primary responsibility and function of good government, because commercial markets do not accommodate universal access with acceptable quality. Our Governor and his moneyed cronies obviously do not believe in this central tenet of our Republic. I ask -- no, I implore -- our Representatives and Senators to block these efforts to disparage, dilute, and dismantle public education in Texas. Teaching everyone's children is a sacred duty of all citizens, one that can never be fulfilled by out-sourcing to greedy and discriminating economic interests.

Tracie Henry

Myself and family

Dripping Spgs, TX

NO to school vouchers

Kristopher E Halverson

Self

McAllen, TX

Bad idea. Bad. Bad Texans. Rich religious fanatics want me to fund their indoctrination Camps for Kids? Bad idea. I will fund schools for All Kids. All.

Ana Luisa Salas-Porras

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose Educational Savings Accounts in all forms. I am against using my tax dollars to fund private schools or home schooling without accountability. The Legislature needs to FULLY fund our public schools as mandated by the Texas Constitution. School vouchers will only further defund public education. Stand with Public Education & VOTE NO on HB 3 and all other voucher bills.

Suzy Alcantar

Self

San Angelo, TX

Leave our Public schools alone!!!!

Jessica Arn
Self
Pflugerville, TX

This does not benefit children or families equally, the program cannot be granted to all who apply first of all and TX has large rural populations that don't even have options outside public near them and do not have infrastructure to support at home learning either. The bill does nothing to address the application process and I've looked at pricing around me and the allotment proposed even IF I got approved would not cover the tuition fully IF the school even accepted my child and then there are transportation expenses and anything outside tuition on top of that. Better solution is better funding and accountability at our public schools.

Sheila Schatzke, Dr.
Self/Educator
friendswood, TX

Opposition to HB3: ESAs Undermine Texas Public Schools

I urge you to oppose HB3, which diverts public funds to private schools through Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). This bill weakens our public education system, lacks accountability, and benefits the privileged few while failing to serve all Texas students.

HB3 Violates the Texas Constitution

Under Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution, the state must provide a free and efficient public education to all students. HB3 contradicts this duty by redirecting taxpayer money to private schools that are not required to follow Texas Education Agency (TEA) standards. Public education is a right, not a privilege. If public schools are struggling, it is the Legislature's responsibility to fix them—not abandon them.

Public Schools Are Not Failing—The State is Failing Them

If the claim is that public schools are failing, then the real issue is a failure of leadership. The Legislature controls school funding, policies, and accountability measures. If schools are underperforming, it is because the state has not provided them with the resources they need. Instead of sending public money to unregulated private institutions, the Legislature should fully fund public education, recruit more teachers, and reduce class sizes.

As a Public School Employee, I See Success Every Day

My district does an exceptional job educating students while adhering to TEA's high standards. Public schools are transparent, accountable, and dedicated to student success. The real issue is that they are being asked to do more with less. Instead of investing in an unproven private school system, we should strengthen the schools that serve 5.4 million Texas students.

HB3 Wastes Taxpayer Dollars and Lacks Oversight

Private schools receiving ESA funds are not required to meet TEA standards. Similar programs in other states have resulted in millions lost to fraud and misuse. Texas cannot afford to fund a system without oversight.

HB3 Benefits the Privileged, Not Those in Need

ESAs primarily benefit families who can already afford private school tuition. The amount provided is not enough to make private education accessible to low-income students. Additionally, private schools can exclude students with disabilities, English language learners, and those with behavioral challenges. Public funds should serve all Texans, not just a privileged few.

Conclusion

The Texas Constitution guarantees a free public education, and it is your duty to uphold that promise. Public schools are not failing—they are being failed by inadequate state support. If the Legislature wants better schools, it must invest in them, not dismantle them.

I urge you to reject HB3 and commit to strengthening public education for all Texans.

Andrea Renfrow

Self

Kingwood, TX

I am a conservative classical homeschool teacher and am opposed to HB3. I don't believe it represents the desires or needs of Texas constituents, especially conservative republicans like myself who prefer less government involvement in the private sector and choose for tax dollars to be spent in a fiscally conservative and more responsible way. Texas has been the freest place to homeschool in the world and despite the assurances of many representatives, I don't believe this bill protects that freedom. Instead it sets a groundwork for the government to be involved in the private sector. The private sector should always remain private and a free market. Government subsidies always cause inflation and that inflation will affect everyone, not just those who opt to take funds. You can't legislate your way out of basic economic principles that have been proven elsewhere over and over again. Praying over all of you this week as you make hard decisions and that you remember as civil servants who you serve.

Claire Jackson, Ms

Self

Georgetown, TX

I am against school vouchers. Not only do we have a constitutional mandate to keep church and state separate, but going down the voucher rabbit hole will bankrupt our public school system in Texas. We are already not sufficiently supporting our public schools now, but spending taxpayer money on private schools will take more money away from our public schools. You only have to look at the other states who have pursued this option to see that vouchers are not a viable alternative for education in Texas. Vouchers do not help the poor, the disabled, or the marginalized children in our state. Only the wealthy who already have their children in private schools will benefit. If our state government can refuse federal funds for medicaid enhancement because of future costs, it would seem to me that this voucher action would fall into the same category of future runaway costs to the citizens of our state. And more importantly, separation of church and state is a First Amendment right in our US Constitution.

Alice Dorsey

self

Pearland, TX

Save Texas public schools by rejecting so called "school choice" Texas taxpayers dollars should never go to pay for private schools!

Trudy Richards

self / Akins ECHS PTSA

Manchaca, TX

As a parent of two public school graduates and one current public school student, as well as a former public school teacher, I am writing to strongly oppose any legislation that would implement a school voucher system in Texas. Vouchers divert critical taxpayer dollars away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students, and instead subsidize private institutions that lack transparency, accountability, and equitable access.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, and instead of weakening them with voucher programs, we should be investing in teacher pay, classroom resources, and special education services by drastically increasing the Basic Allotment and funding public schools based on enrollment rather than attendance. Our public tax dollars should remain in public schools, benefiting all students, not just a select few.

Please prioritize strengthening public education rather than undermining it with costly and ineffective voucher schemes. I urge you to reject any HB 3 and any other voucher proposals and instead focus on fully funding our public schools to ensure every child in Texas has access to a quality education.

Mitzi Jones
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Offering vouchers to those that want to send their kid/s school out of tax dollars is the best way to defund public education the GOP has found. These schools have no oversight nor are required to have an open acceptance policy.. they are able to discriminate at their leisure and they do. This will create a public school system that is unsustainable due to outgoing funds to private schools & that will not be what the majority of Texans want including me! The Governor & his buddies care not for the majority rule.. only appealing big donors so they'll keep donating. A less educated population will follow. Do not vote for this Jim Crow program or any voucher system.

Kanice Spears
Self
Pflugerville, TX

I am opposed to HB3! Please support public schools and say no to private school vouchers.

Danielle Camden, Parent
Parent
Austin, TX

Not good for majority of students

Denise Coffman, Mrs
Self
Keller, TX

I am a product of the public school system as are my children and grandchildren. I want to go on record that I do not support HB3. Parents already have a choice of how they want to educate their children. Vouchers are not the answer. Please consider not voting for HB3. Again I want to go on record that I do not want HB 3 to pass
Thank you for your time. Please think back to the educators who taught you. Without them most of us would not be where we are today today.

Michelle Reinhardt
self
Austin, TX

As a lifelong Texan, public school graduate, University of Texas alum, and mother of two public school graduates, public education is the foundation of a stronger Texas both economically and socially. Please vote no on this bill that transfers billions of public tax dollars to private institutions and robs our public schools of the per student allotment of \$1500 that is required.

Katherine Enyart
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Please do not divert funds away from our public schools.

Monica Soukup
Self retired and part-time online college instructor
Austin, TX

Please do not support this bill. This bill will be detrimental to Texas public schools and students who attend public schools. I want my tax dollars to go to funding public schools which serve the majority of students. Taking money away from public schools will create a hardship on public schools to meet the needs of students.

Gregory Thomas

N/A

Terrell Hills, TX

I oppose education saving accounts and support public money being used for public education.

Aimee Smith

Self and others

Austin, TX

Why would special funding go to private school students and not all students? Are poor people less entitled to be supported by our tax dollars than the rich? That is elitism and unethical. All school systems should benefit from our tax dollars. I am not paying into a system that only cares about rich people.

Allison Worley

Self, literary manager, mom

Austin, TX

Vote no on HB 3! I want public education fully funded for my children and all children that attend public schools. This public education is crucial for the children of Texas. Please vote no! Thank you for your time.

Pamela Hanna

Self

Lubbock, TX

Please do not pass this bill if it places any restrictions on homeschool families. Part of the reason our family chose homeschool was because of the freedom it allows us in choosing our curriculum and deciding what is best for our child at any given time. It also allows us to travel with my husband for his job so our family can stay together, rather than be separated.

Homeschooling also allows us the opportunity to ensure our child masters each concept that is taught, rather than rushing her through something she might not understand at the time in the name of completing a timeline. Removing that opportunity for our family to choose will rob our daughter of much-needed instruction and mastery of the skills she actually needs to know and retain in order to be a productive, informed adult. Public schools currently teach students methods on how to pass standardized tests with little effort made to ensure that the students retain the information that they should be learning in the first place. No amount of money can make up for the loss of parents' freedom to choose what is best for their children and families. Please do not pass this bill!

Sarah Lenius
Self
Winnsboro, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB3, which proposes the implementation of school vouchers in Texas. While the intent of providing families with more educational choices is commendable, the voucher system outlined in HB3 poses significant risks to public education, undermines the foundational principles of our education system, and fails to address the needs of the majority of Texas students. Below, I outline the key reasons why HB3 is detrimental to Texas students, families, and communities.

1. ****Diverts Critical Funding from Public Schools****

Public schools in Texas are already underfunded, with many districts struggling to provide adequate resources, retain qualified teachers, and maintain infrastructure. HB3 would divert taxpayer dollars away from public schools to private institutions through vouchers. This would further strain public school budgets, disproportionately affecting rural and low-income districts that rely heavily on state funding. Public schools serve all students, and they cannot afford to lose critical resources to a voucher system that benefits only a select few.

2. ****Lacks Accountability and Transparency****

Public schools are held to high standards of accountability, including state-mandated testing, financial transparency, and adherence to curriculum standards. Private schools, however, are not subject to the same level of oversight. HB3 would allow taxpayer dollars to flow to private institutions with little to no accountability for how those funds are used or whether students are receiving a quality education. This lack of transparency undermines the public's trust in the education system and risks funding schools that may fail to meet basic educational standards.

3. ****Widens Gaps in Educational Access****

School vouchers often benefit families who can already afford private school tuition or transportation costs. Many families, particularly those in rural areas, may not have access to private schools or the means to cover additional expenses not covered by vouchers. This creates a system where only certain students can access the benefits of vouchers, leaving behind those who need the most support. Public schools, which serve as the backbone of our communities, would be further marginalized, widening the gap between those with resources and those without.

4. ****Undermines Local Control****

Texas has a long history of valuing local control in education. School vouchers, however, shift decision-making power away from local communities and toward private entities. This undermines the ability of school boards, parents, and educators to make decisions that best serve their students. Public schools are accountable to the communities they serve, while private schools are not. HB3 would erode this local control and prioritize the interests of private institutions over the needs of Texas communities.

5. ****Fails to Address Root Causes of Educational Challenges****

The voucher system proposed in HB3

Martha Boethel

Self / retired

Austin, TX

As a lifelong Texan who worked for most of my professional career to support quality public education, I urge members of this committee to oppose HB3 and any other legislation that seeks to install any form of voucher program in Texas. The push for what's falsely labeled as "school choice" in Texas is not, and never has been, about the quality of education for our children. Rather, it's all about politics.

For 20 years our legislators have repeatedly rejected vouchers, despite an influx of outside funding and despite Gov. Greg Abbott's costly special sessions. Why? Because by any measure other than politics, they've proven to be a bad idea. Voucher programs have shredded state budgets elsewhere, e.g., Arizona's \$1.4 billion budget shortfall (Talia Richman, Dallas Morning News, 1/25/25). Public schools, the lifeblood of most small rural communities, already struggle financially; despite rampant inflation and a budget surplus, Texas has not increased the basic public school allotment since 2019 (Chris Tomlinson, Houston Chronicle, 12/17/24). Research shows that "expanded voucher programs and charter schools... harm traditional public school financing" (David S. Knight & David DeMatthews, National Education Policy Center, 11/21/24). The real financial benefits go not to families but to companies that equate schooling with profit. With the implementation of vouchers, "the private school market floods with new pop-up providers," who are not held accountable — financially, academically, or enrollment-wise — as public schools are (Joshua Cowan, Brookings Institute, 8/15/23). Moreover, as part of the big "money grab," many private schools are raising their tuition rates "to take advantage of the new funding" (Alec MacGillis, ProPublica, 1/13/25).

Most significantly, vouchers do NOT improve student achievement — despite the fact that private schools often attempt to boost performance statistics by rejecting or dismissing students whose achievement lags. As the Brookings report concludes, "The last decade of achievement studies have shown negative voucher impacts." Moreover, "the larger the program, the worse the results tend to be."

After the recent elections, and thanks to the support of "billionaires from in and out of Texas," Gov. Abbott has claimed a renewed voter mandate (Jaden Edison, Texas Tribune, 1/23/25). The problem is that, as multiple polls indicate, the defeat of rural legislators who consistently voted against vouchers was a classic bait-and-switch. What motivated voters wasn't concern about vouchers but rather about the economy and immigration. "Only 2 percent of registered Republican voters listed vouchers as a key issue that affected their support of House candidates in the GOP primary" (Edison, Texas Tribune).

What should our legislature do to strengthen education in our state? Live up to its own mandate for fully funding public schools. Any less swaps our children's future for political gain.

Jennifer Petre

Self

Dallas, TX

I do NOT support this bill.

ANNA OKIVAS

Self

El Paso, TX

Hi, I am a teacher and feel that this bill will only hurt our students! Students who need our assistance and have special needs and disabilities! Please do not forget about them they deserve a voice also!

Meggan Fletcher

Self/sahm

Mansfield, TX

I cannot express how much I oppose this bill. It will lead to the complete destruction of our public school system!

Elizabeth Figueroa, Teacher

AFT

Corpus Christi, TX

School vouchers will hurt public schools and teachers. Our schools already don't have enough funding to operate normally. Teachers are spending their own money to make up for supplies needed.

Ronda Dexter

Self

Schertz, TX

I oppose this or any bill that would use public funds for private education. It will not help the majority of Texan families as many counties do not even have private or charter options available to them. It is fiscally irresponsible and not in line with the republican platform. You, Mr. Abbott, have purposely broken public education, by lack of funding, relying on an unreliable and horribly flawed test, and being swayed by an out of state donors "campaign" funds. This is simply a subsidy for wealthy families who are already paying for privatized schooling.

We already have School Choice! We don't want your subsidies or over site!

Fund public education!

Jolynda McGrath

Self

Montgomery, TX

There was almost 12hrs of testimony AGAINST HB3! Almost every Facebook post regarding vouchers wether posted by individual Reps and Senators or the Governor has pages upon pages of Texans speaking OUT and telling you Texans DONT want vOUCHers yet you guys keep pushing on because that's what your DONORS want. What you forget is most of your donors are out of state and cannot vote in Texas elections. There are far more actual voters that WILL remember this betrayal and vote you out! Public dollars need to remain in public schools with accountability!

Jennifer Pearce

Self

Dallas, TX

This bill is a disaster for Texas students and an obvious way to move resources from lower and middle income to high income Texans. Education is a matter of national security, we should be ensuring that a strong public education is available to all students.

Andrew Jordan

self

Austin, TX

Texans have repeatedly made it clear that WE DO NOT WANT THIS BILL. In turn, the Texas GOP has made it clear that they no longer represent their constituents. Instead, the GOP chooses to act as the personal servants to special interest groups, lobbyists, and whoever else lines their pockets. I am a life long conservative, a veteran, and small business owner, but I will no longer reward the GOP for abandoning the core pillars of the movement and replacing them with culture-war nonsense, straw-man excuses, hypocrisy, and a general lack of respect for the constitution or the people for whom they represent. HB3 is the final nail in a coffin that should have been buried years ago. I look forward to directing my vote, time, and money towards your termination as a super-majority.

Julie Collins

Self/retired public school teacher

Amarillo, TX

Vouchers would be a gross misuse of public school funds. The governor is holding millions of dollars to try and get his way. Use these funds to improve public schools, do away with testing and pay teachers what they deserve.

Dwain Knight
Self / Educator
Henderson, TX
No to vouchers!

Suann Claunch
Self Grandmother Retired public educator hub 3
Fort Worth, TX

Please don't shortchange students with this bill that will never provide a quality public education for most families - public education is a right; vouchers only support a minority of students and will never provide a level playing field.

Christina Cortez, Ms
Self teacher
Pasadena, TX

Voucher bill will defund resources public school need. As a public school teacher I see every year the increase in student with special needs that public schools provide. I see a decrease in average students ability because most go to charter schools. I have drawn the conclusion that most nonpublic education organizations do not provide the critical services our students need. Please do not pass this bill.

dawn carroll, ms
Killeen ISD
Killeen, TX

Public schools deserve better! Teachers and students work hard and we deserve funding and support! You need to go to public schools and see how our lack of funding has killed school having more restrictions with less support! Vouchers are ridiculous and this craziness has to stop! Next election will be the end of this craziness... i promise

Shawna Johnson
Self, Mother/ Full-Time Marketer
Dallas, TX

I greatly oppose HB3!! Vote No!

Natalie Tolentino
Self
Wylie, TX

School vouchers in Texas undermine public education by shifting focus away from strengthening schools that serve all students. A strong public school system is essential for providing equal opportunities, fostering community growth, and ensuring every child receives a quality education, regardless of their background. The voucher system is providing chance not choice. Private schools can still deny children based on whatever their qualifications are, as evidenced with the example of xemina yesterday. Testimony after testimony proved this is NOT what people want. Private schools have no regulations other than "good faith promises". As stated (in general) by representative Bernal, legislation is not a series of promises - that's not how legislation works. To demand regulations and rules from public schools and allow complete and utter free will to private schools makes absolutely no sense. Fully fund the system you were elected to represent and fight for ...as explicitly stated in the Constitution.

emmet campos
Self
Driftwood, TX

I support public schools and oppose HB3. No vouchers in schools, please fund public schools and raise teachers wages! Support the teaching of all histories and all literatures!

Elsbeth Allen Glaubitz

Self

Dallas, TX

I am against HB 3 by Buckley. All our children deserve access to quality education and public education is one of the greatest advancements in American society. Private schools do not deserve public funds, and private schools do not provide quality education for all students. Students with disabilities will be harmed and low income students who have no control of their families finances will be harmed. The vouchers steal public funds to support private institutions and this is wrong. Do not harm our society now and in the future by making education only accessible to elite families. Shame on anyone who supports this clear theft of funds!

William Harris, Dr.

self

Houston, TX

Unless this bill forbids those making more than \$150,000 per year from the vouchers, it is a give away for the rich. It should also limit the amount a private school can charge for tuition to the value of the voucher.

Lloyd Pinkerton

Voting resident

Godley, TX

No vouchers or ESAs. Properly fund public schools. Vouchers will be the obamacare of education.

Erica Flynn

Self

Hurst, TX

I am against this Bill, because vouchers are not equitable in the amount funded, there is not adequate accountability for those funds, or availability for the truly needy students to use them. This will ultimately subsidize the wealthy who can afford to make up the difference in their private tuition. It will negatively affect the majority of students who go to public schools and it will be cost prohibitive in a very short amount of time. Vouchers have not been fiscally successful in any state that has implemented and the data shows what will happen. We need to look at other states and not do the exact same thing.

Mandy Twomey

Self, public high school band director and flag sponsor

El Paso, TX

Please step into the public schools and see what it is like. Please speak to your public school teachers. It is ignorant to think that you can pass laws over matters with which you have antiquated thoughts about. Walk our path before you decide how to pave it.

Naomi Bonney

Self

Fate, TX

Texas already has school choice. Texas's public funds do not need to be spent on private/homeschools as parents who choose to educate their children in private/homeschools already have e the all the funds they need to educate their children. The public funds need to stay and go to public schools and charter schools for needed teachers, facilities and other supplies. We also need to stop State Mandated testing and return all that money to the districts and charters for curriculum and teacher salaries.

Christina Putnam
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

No Vouchers!!! We might as well have Elon Musk running Texas. Denying the Texas Constitutional provision of public education for all by privatizing services is shortchanging taxpayers and Texas children. Abbott and his cronies must be invested in educational online programs for these schools. No!!!

Johanna Patricio Bueno, Ms.
Self
Denton, TX

I am against the HB3. This bill will harm public education.

Maile Quindara
Self
Lewisville, TX

To Mr Chairman and the Education House Committee:

Thank you for your 100% attendance and attention to this hearing.

I am a proud product of Texas public schools with a Masters in Eaelly Childhood Educacion from the University of North Texas (originally North Texas State Teachers College). I am currently a proud Lewisville ISD classroom teacher, 7 years in a Title 1 school and now 10 years as an English teacher in a Spanish Immersion Program. This program is designed for native English students the opportunity to become bilingual and bi-literate. 23 out of my 39 first graders are not zoned for this elementary school. 9 of those are out-of-district transfer students, some choosing to drive 40 minutes past multiple ISDs and alternative options to attend my school. Students are learning to speak the language of their grandparents and can finally communicate with them more fully. Due to lack of funding, my resources have been cut and I cannot receive the appropriate books based on the Science of Teaching Reading (which I learned in the state mandated Texas Reading Academy.) My own income and retirement is at risk with the start of a new Texas school funding system, and I already have to work a 2nd job to supplement the rising cost of living in the DFW area.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Lewisville Independent School District for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2022 for the 24th time. And yet, we must close 5 elementary campuses. Public schools are the heartbeat of communities; we are a gathering place and a safe haven. Texas Friday night lights represents more than football: the musicians, the drumline, the cheerleaders, the drill team dancers, and all their parents coming together to support their team.

I am writing in opposition to HB3 and its loose statutes for ESAs. I am for an increase the basic allotment, to supplement - not supplant - state funding with local or federal dollars; and to update the school finance system to include enrollment-based funding; adjustments for inflation, student education, teacher compensation, and other costs outside of district control; consideration of regional cost differences; and accurate funding weights.

If school vouchers are inevitable, please write in an income cap, so that tax payers are not supporting wealthy families in HB3. Please use public funds to fully fund public schools.

Thank you for your attention and time.
Ms. Quindara

Tiffany Shaw
Self/Public School Educator
Garrison, TX

This bill is a slap in the face to EVERY public school educator who depend on YOU! You are in control of providing the needs of our students and our schools, as well as we, Texas public school educators, being able to survive financially. Educators have THE most important job, as I'm sure you have heard millions of times. You need to understand, though, that those of us that are still here supporting our students are here for because it is our passion! We are not just "teachers of education" anymore! Texas public school teachers parent, nurse, counsel, love, teach education, as well as how to be a good human. Our school children in public education NEED us! And you, you are taking away from what my school will be able to do to provide for us. I teach in a very small district, with low socioeconomic students, but it is my home. I love my school, my community, my students. I am requesting that if you want to contribute more, give it to the public schools you are invested in! Give the teachers that chose to be in Texas and educate ALL students a raise so that they can survive and maintain a household without stressing each month on how they will make it to the next pay check. If there is all this extra money laying around, give us the same benefits that state employees receive, because let's face it, we are state employees. We have always felt like our hands are tied because we have no way to advocate for ourselves, but you have opened the flood gates. We will not stop! All parents have a choice! And let me just say that students I have received in the past from private schools were not able to keep up with what we were doing in the public school classroom. We are already "behind" in Texas as compared to others places. I do not have enough room in this comment to begin talking about that though, but I will say stop making a test with a 40% passing rate and make something that is on level for these poor students. And, by the way, would ALL students at ALL schools in Texas be required to take this test that are funded by many businessmen who have a hand in politics? Back to the bill, most students in my school and schools alike would not be able to afford these private schools even with your little voucher. You need to rethink this! We, Republicans, are dissatisfied and disgusted and disappointed in you. Do better! You are taking away from OUR, YOUR kids. You are supposed to be an advocate for us, but instead you are hurting us financially, physically and mentally. There are SO many other things in education that would benefit from financial help rather than taking away from it. I love my job and my students. I am where the Lord wants me to be. You are making this very difficult for us all, though. It's very hard to find a teacher these days to fill any position. What are you going to do when we all say, enough?

Jennifer Powers, Educator
Self
Mansfield, TX

Before considering vouchers, let's first properly fund public schools. Vouchers do not serve all students—only those who likely can already afford a different school. Providing public funds to private entities is not a good steward of the public good. Giving public money to schools who do not have the same requirements and accountability measures is in no way acceptable. School vouchers are nothing more than a bonus for wealthier families. Properly funding public schools helps the entire state. Seeing our elected officials push for something very little of the state supports is disheartening.

Laura Stewart
Teachers
Houston, TX

I am a Texas public school teacher in Houston. I have taught for 38 years. I am opposed to vouchers for these reasons: It will harm rural schools most of all by taking funds away. Many rural districts do not have the option if choosing private schools because they are not available. It will also hurt suburban and city schools. There has not been an increase in the allotment per student since 2019. We have experienced a pandemic and inflation since then and are expected to keep up with those costs. The governor also demanded each campus have a police officer but did not provide funds for this.

Lastly, I thought republicans fundamentally did not believe in the redistribution of funds. Isn't that what vouchers are? Doesn't that go against Republicans basic philosophy?

Pamela Wells

Self

Cypress, TX

As a taxpayer, a retired public school educator, and a grandparent of a child in public schools, I send these comments against HB 3. There is no question that vouchers will reduce available funding for public schools which are the bedrock of our Texas economy. As a taxpayer I can say that vouchers are in no way conservative fiscal policy. They are welfare for the wealthy with little accountability. If you look at our neighboring state of Arizona it's clear that vouchers could cost far more than has been projected and could bankrupt our state. Please continue to fulfill your Constitutional responsibility to provide for our public schools. Thank you.

Barbara Hargrove

Self

Temple, TX

Stop throwing educators and public schools under the bus. You had TEA do what you wanted- made us teach to the horrible test and now you want to condemn public schools and give our funding to the rich! We have always had a choice- nothing new so don't try and make it sound so great. Make the private schools be accountable and take any that come to their door. You are an example of a leader who has been "BOUGHT ". Guess you look at your wallet instead of Texas and its schools. STOP the voucher drama and tell the billionaire to go buy someone else. SAVE our schools and reward our kids and teachers. This is my 50+ year in education and I am soooo upset that you are trying to demolish our schools because of the money you have been bought with. I am ashamed of you and your crooked governor, Lt governor and the other "bought" representatives. SAVE our public schools and get rid of vouchers. NO to vouchers!

Laura Grosskreutz

self

Haslet, TX

Public Education should be a constitutional right that cannot be changed by power hungry politicians like Greg Abbott! This is NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF TEXAS STUDENTS AND CITIZENS. It only benefits the wealthy. The majority of Texans will VOTE ANY REPRESENTATIVE OUT OF OFFICE FOR SUPPORTING VOUCHERS!

Melissa Dowdy

Self

Austin, TX

This bill absolutely should not pass, nor should *any* private school voucher program or "educational savings" program. This is a misuse of tax-payer money that should go to fund our public schools. Passage of this bill takes away money from the public schools, who are already severely under-funded due to the state not supporting them! All our children deserve a free and appropriate education, not a subsidy for the wealthy to get a reduced price for schools to which they're already sending their children. Taking money away from the public schools to fund this initiative means programs get cut and education suffers. It does not improve access to private schools to poor families, as they still can't afford the difference in subsidy. This will negatively affect my son's career as a high school teacher, and it'll ultimately trickle down to negatively affect my pension through TRS as a retired educator of 29 years. This is a reverse-Robin Hood plan that is a nothing more than a money grab for the wealthy, at the expense of the majority of public school children and teachers across the state. Not to mention that families in rural districts across the state have no access to private schools and so will be required to attend a failing public school system, only failing because you've refused to fund it appropriately! We rank 43rd of 50 states in per student funding. How embarrassing! Get your priorities straight and represent the majority of Texas families who want excellence from their fully-funded public schools--not these voucher scams!!

Rose Davis
Self
Bridgeport, TX

Say no to HB3. Private schools are not required to provide special education to students. Private schools can turn away any student for any reason. We do not need to provide private schools with public funding.

More than half the counties in Texas do not even have a private school option. This is literally taking money from the public and giving it to the rich.

Why are we letting donors outside the state of Texas decide how we run our education.

Clinton Gill, Mr.
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am writing to ask committee members to vote NO on HB3. The private schools that would benefit from this voucher scam would not have to follow the same rules as public schools, would not have to accept the same students as public schools and wouldn't have to provide the same services as public schools. This bill is nothing more than a handout to the rich. As a former public school teacher, I encourage all of you to go and substitute in a public school for a week rather than going to take a picture. Talk to the teachers and see what they have to put up with. What you will find is that teachers are cussed out on a regular basis, assaulted on a regular basis, have to clear their rooms on a regular basis because of wild student behavior, and much more. If Texas public schools are "failing" as you like to say, there is no one to blame but yourself because you have been in charge of the Texas government for at least the last decade. The rich billionaires from west Texas and out of state are pushing this agenda and you know it. Stop being afraid of the Governor and his rich friends and start representing YOUR CONSTITUENTS like you were elected to do.

Janet Tollette, Retired 5th grade math teacher - FRIENDSWOOD ISD
Self
Friendswood, TX

Do NOT vote for HB3. School vouchers is a terrible idea. I had a private school student join my inclusion classroom in May from some international charter school in Pearlsnd. This sweet, hardworking student didn't have the majority of the skills my low students had. Private schools do not hold their teachers to the high level of accountability that public schools do and parents don't realize this. This bill is a disservice to children.

Victor M. Renteria, Mr.
Self, Secondary - Level Math Teacher
El Paso, TX

I would want my Texas state Senators & Representative to vigorously oppose School Vouchers on favor of Public Education funding for all AND a "noticeable" pay increase for ALL TEACHERS !! The voucher measure, I believe, will re - introduce a "separate, but equal" mentality, funding, AND disparity for minorities AND handicapped/Special Ed. "Parental Control" of school curriculae
AND School Boards will only perpetuate favoritism, bias, AND limiting free/critical thinking in classrooms.

Ashlee Gonzales
Self
Corinth, TX

I do not support HB 3. Do not pass HB 3.

Morgan Agnew

self

Austin, TX

I understand having financial aid available to kids to get into private school if that is their dream, just like for college. But the rich people who can afford private school shouldn't get a discount. Instead, that money should go towards improving the public school system so that ALL KIDS can receive a quality education. The majority of parents can't afford even discounted private school and most of those schools don't offer comprehensive support for kids who have learning disabilities. How is taking only high test scorers with no special needs who can provide their own transportation (which usually equates to being middle or upper class) going to shrink the gap between the highest and lowest achieving students? Thank you for your time.

Chris Overton Overton

HEBISD

Grand Prairie, TX

If you feel this will help the education of children in TX, then ALL students should be funded equally. Give every child in the state a \$10,000 ESA. They can take it wherever they want: public, private or home. Aren't you willing to invest in ALL children?

Sandy Bryant

Public Educator and Counselor

San Saba, TX

Help teachers make public education what it's intended to be!

Pam Paser

Homeowner

Plano, TX

I am against this bill. By passing this bill Texas is establishing a class system using Texas tax dollars. School funds should be used for the purpose of helping public schools. Shame on those who came up with this bill. I am sure those who did were entitled self serving individuals

Heather Does-Krell

Myself

Denton, TX

I do not support defunding our public education system to benefit a small group of wealthy people to subsidize their children's private education. This bill is bad for Texans and it's bad for our future plain and simple. Let's get wealthy, out of state donors out of our political system and do what's best for our own citizens.

Michelle Williams

Self

Dallas, TX

Good morning, my name is Michelle Williams and I would like to express my strong opposition to this school voucher scam. I understand and respect anyone's support for school choice, and I share your concerns about the state of our public education system. I think it's important to clarify that being against vouchers isn't the same as being against school choice. Texas families already have various options for education, including public, charter, and private schools, as well as homeschooling. The voucher program doesn't actually expand choices for disadvantaged students; it takes needed public funds to private institutions, which often serve wealthier families.

Our public schools haven't seen a funding increase in over six years, and vouchers would further drain resources, worsening conditions for the students who rely on public education the most. I agree that the system is far from perfect, and there's a lot of room for improvement, especially in how we support teachers and allocate resources. But I believe that dismantling public education through vouchers will only widen the gap between the haves and the have-nots, giving wealthy families more benefits (and more tax breaks) while leaving our most vulnerable students with fewer opportunities.

As your constituents, we ask that you honor the will of the majority of Texans who elected you. Most of us are against this measure, and we urge you to vote accordingly.

Emma Shobe

Self, QC Analyst

Justin, TX

I do not support this bill. Public money should be invested in public schools so that education can be improved for all students and not just the ones with access to and the ability to go to private schools. This bill stands to benefit the wealthy and line the pockets of the executives at these private schools and will only hurt the majority of students in Texas. If you all insist on going forward with this, include in the bill requirements to accept all students without the ability to expel them due to test scores or behavior and hold them to the same accountability standards as public schools so the public can see how these schools truly compare to public schools academically. Make it an apples to apples comparison and not apples to oranges. Force them to accept all students and serve them appropriately based on their disabilities, language acquisition needs, etc so they are comparable to our public schools and can be held to the same standards. I do not believe this will improve education for all students in our state and does a huge disservice to our populations with higher educational needs or to the populations of students without access to an accredited private schools. Do better for Texas and our students.

Steven Gallington, Mr

Fort Bend AFT - SPED Teacher Elementary

Missouri City, TX

I am against this voucher scheme. Four reasons to vote no on HB 3: 1) On average, 75% of ESA funds go to wealthy families with students already in private schools. 2) The remaining 25% of the funds go to substandard pop-up private schools and students' academic success plummets at these 'schools'. 3) Voucher schemes like this one have been failures everywhere they have been widely implemented. 4) Where vouchers are, taxes increase. 62% of Republicans in Texas oppose HB 3 for fear of property tax increases and lack of private schools in rural Texas.

Voucher schemes like this one have failed to pass in Texas since the first attempt in 1957. Why? Texans (your constituents) don't want it. Follow the Texas constitution, listen to the people, and reject HB 3.

Thank you.

Lindsey Williams
Self
Austin, TX
No school vouchers

Rachael Lawson
Self
Austin, TX

All Texas children deserve the best education available. Even with vouchers many of them cannot afford private schools. Private schools are not held to the same accountability as public schools. Say no to school vouchers.

Emma Cowan, Student
UT AUSTIN
San antonion, TX
Slay

Chioke Coreathers, Mr.
Sheldon ISD - Teacher
Galena Park, TX

I SAY NO TO THE SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN.

Karl Lewis
Self - retired
Irving, TX

Vote NO on school vouchers! It is not “parental choice,” it’s reverse Robin Hood (robbing public schools to pay for the rich). Abbott’s insistence on this bill belies his questionable ties to private schools.

Em Pruitt
Myself
Lewisville, TX

This bill is ridiculous. How can you call it “school choice” when the following circumstances are at play:

A family lives in a rural area. The closest private school is an hour and a half away. How is this school choice for this family? They won’t want to drive that far!

- families who live in extreme poverty can’t even afford to buy a car to drive them to a private school. They rely on the school bus to get their children to their neighborhood public school. How is this school choice for this family?

- a family (like my SIL) has 6 school age children. Even with vouchers there no one in the world they can afford a private school and they love their sweet neighborhood schools who bus their children to school and so t ask for extra expenses for field trips, uniforms, sports. Etc. How is this school Choice for them? She has NO choice but to send her kids to their public achool And you want to take money away from their sweet school.

-a child (like my own) who has dyslexia, dysgraphia, hearing loss and a cognitive math processing disorder, as well as being GT. He is best supported in his public school. And you want to tell me that this bill isn’t going to affect funding, etc? Give me a break.

-I have so many other examples. I’m a pediatric speech therapist and the kids I serve will be underserved because of this bill.

Does anyone care about these kids? About their families? Their schools? Their future?

-this bill os going to turn this state blue which is my fear. Because republicans like me will NO LONGER vote for the people who supported this awful bill

Ashli Milyo
Self
Hickory Creek, TX

I do not support HB 3.

Viola Guerra, Ms.
Self/ 5th Grade Teacher
Alvin, TX

Please support Public Education and say NO to vouchers!

Ricky Riddle
TRA
Fort Worth, TX

I am against any voucher scheme! Fund public schools now and give teachers a raise now! My taxpayer money is not to be used to give to the rich!!!! Pero

Rebecca Ginsburg
Self
Houston, TX

Vouchers not only pull money away from our underfunded (by the the state) public schools, but in states where they have implemented vouchers, the cost of private schools have increased. Further, private schools are not accountable to the state. I am fully against this bill. If you want vouchers, bring them to the voters and put them on the ballot instead of hiding behind your big donors.

Jaquita Madding
HartmanPTA- Teacher Appreciation Chairman
Wylie, TX

I say no to vouchers! I speak for my children, their friends, their classmates and our teachers!!

Earnol Brewster
Self
Marshall, TX

Please vote no on vouchers.

Kathleen timmins, citizen voter
People who know the truth of what you're doing
Dallas, TX

NO to VOUCHERS. YES TO PAYING TEACHERS THE PROFESSIONAL SALARIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHOULD GET AT THE VERY LEAST WHAT YOU WERE WILLING TO STEAL TO PAY FOR A VOUCHER.

Kirsten Ward

self/retired public school teacher

Fort Worth, TX

Public education is necessary for a truly free country to work efficiently. Teaching students how to think for themselves as well as produce new and better products for the future, is in the best interest of EVERYONE. When students only repeat what others have told them and do not think for themselves it is a black day indeed. The simple fact that as a High school teacher you are required (based on my recent job) to be a mentor, parent, coach, therapist, etc to each and every student in your public school cannot be monetized. When parents have given up on their children, we, the teachers, are still there to help the kiddos pick themselves up and continue on. HB 3 allots \$10,000 for private schools, but only \$6,500 to public schools.....that alone is discriminatory. In Brown vs Board of Education the Supreme court ruled that separate is inherently unequal. The difference in funding is blatantly unequal. Fixing the school system in Texas is of utmost importance for the future of the state and the country. Taking even more money away from struggling public schools will not make them better. All students are required to attend school in Texas. When the students are not allowed admittance to private schools, they end up in the public schools. These students usually require more services, supports and personnel to help them. Fewer funds mean fewer resources. Paying for remediation and incarceration of adults who were failed by the system is much more expensive than paying for good quality public schools.

Defund the required STAAR testing for students in public schools would help get rid of the text book monopoly on the districts. As a chemistry teacher my district did not even provide me with enough funds to pay for required lab experiments but they purchased text books that were not fully functioning because they were considered "HQIM" (High quality instructional materials) by the state funded review committees (I sat on one of these committees and our task was to determine whether each of the TEKS "could be taught by the teacher and could be learned by the student." The quality of the lesson was not something we were to look at. This does not make the text book "High Quality). Private schools are not required to adhere to the TEKS. With so much information readily available teachers should be showing students how to learn and how to think. Public school teachers, especially those in tested subjects, do not teach ANYTHING that is not on the test. This is called being "aligned to the curriculum." In reality they are just "teaching to the test," because bonuses and their evaluations require good test scores. None of these pressures are on the private schools unless you are talking about advanced academics and AP courses. Most of our public school students will not be going to the top tier schools or completing AP courses.

Please reconsider how changes are affecting our students. HB 3 is NOT the answer to Texas's failing schools.

Jessica Kelly

Self/homemaker

Orange, TX

School choice has always existed. Parent are free to send their child to a private school of they desire. This bill does not address the private school that has selective enrollment and will deny a child admission. Fund public schools properly. It is unconstitutional to use public tax money for private education.

Joni Gigliotti, Mrs

Self retired public school

Plano, TX

I strongly oppose the establishment of an education savings account. All you are doing is giving the people who already send their children to public school money to pay for it when they already have enough money to send their children to private school. You are putting money that could be used to strengthen public education in the hands of people who don't need it. You could do so much with the money to make public schools in Texas the best. So do not pass this bill. Pass one to give money to public school programs to help the less fortunate. I am a retired Texas public school teacher and you should be doing all you can to support public schools.

La Shanda Linley

Self/ education

Houston, TX

No,

Elizabeth Dennison

self

Katy, TX

I oppose the idea of an education savings account system in Texas. I do not believe that public funds should be used for private education. An ESA system in Texas would do more harm than good. It would weaken public schools, disproportionately benefit wealthier families, lack accountability, open the door to vendor exploitation of public funds, and fail to improve educational outcomes. Rather than diverting funds away from public education, Texas should focus on adequately funding and improving its public school system to benefit all students, not just a select few.

ESAs Divert Funding from Public Schools

Texas ranks among the lowest in the nation in per-student spending, leaving many schools underfunded and understaffed. When students leave public schools for private institutions, the funding allocated to them follows, leading to budget shortfalls that force public schools to cut programs, increase class sizes, and reduce resources.

ESAs Primarily Benefit Wealthier Families

While marketed as a way to expand educational opportunities, ESAs are more likely to benefit wealthier families than low-income students. Private school tuition often exceeds the amount an ESA would provide, meaning that only families with additional resources could afford to use them effectively. Meanwhile, lower-income students, who rely most on public education, would be left in schools with diminished funding and fewer opportunities.

Lack of Accountability and Oversight

Unlike public schools, private schools and homeschooling programs that receive ESA funds are not held to the same academic or financial standards. Public schools are subject to state-mandated testing, teacher certification requirements, and financial audits, ensuring that taxpayer money is spent effectively. ESAs, however, open the door to potential fraud, misuse of funds, and lower-quality education. Also, comparing the outcomes of public and private schools to each other when they are not held to the same academic standards is comparing apples to oranges. It is not a valid comparison when they are not held to the same standards and mandates.

No Requirement for Special Education Services

Public schools are legally required to provide services for students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Private schools, however, are not held to the same standard. With an ESA system, families of special needs students may unknowingly forfeit their rights to specialized services when they leave the public school system, leading to inadequate support for their children's educational needs.

Rural Communities Would Suffer the Most

In rural Texas, where private school options are scarce or nonexistent, ESAs would do little to expand school choice. Instead, they would simply drain funds from local public schools, which often serve as the backbone of rural communities. Without viable private school alternatives, rural students would be left with fewer resources and worsening e

Jose Carlos de la Puente

self / College Professor

Austin, TX

Many public-school districts in Texas are operating with large budget deficits because Gov. Abbott and the Legislature haven't increased their basic per-student funding allotment since 2019. And these public schools will continue to educate the vast majority of Texas students. Public tax dollars belong in public schools and should not be diverted to private schools and their upper-income students.

Wealthy families are major beneficiaries of similar universal voucher schemes that already have been enacted in other states, including Arizona, while many low-income parents, even with vouchers, can't afford to send their children to private schools.

And, as reported last week by the San Antonio Express-News, critics also warn that many special education students would get left in public schools that already are severely underfunded and understaffed. Vouchers that would be offered to special education students wouldn't come close to covering the high tuition charged by the few private schools that accept students with special needs.

Vote against vouchers!

Lyndal Chaffin
Former school board member
Farmers Branch, TX

1. Public schools are the lifeblood of neighborhoods and rural communities.
2. Vouchers will irreparably harm our public schools and especially those in rural Texas.
3. I IMPLORE all Texas legislators to reject the on-state and out of state mega-donors.
4. Mega-donor opportunists and dominionists eagerly await the outcome.
5. This is a battle against the "Trojan Horse" (vouchers) that is part of the plan to eliminate and destroy public education.
6. This is a battle against the decades long effort to destroy public schools as evidenced by the lack of funding and continued unfunded or under-funded mandates.
7. This is an effort to further divide our communities.
8. To suggest that a family should get over \$10,000 per child when public schools on get only ~\$6,100 based on attendance is HYPOCRITICAL.
9. Parents don't choose schools; schools choose students.
10. Vouchers are the biggest hoax in the history of Texas politics.

PLEASE - REPUBLICAN LEGISLATORS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT, NOT WHAT IS POLITICALLY EXPEDIENT!

Cindy Fleharty
Self
Leander, TX

No to vouchers!!!

Jeremy Newman, VP of Policy, Texas Home School Coalition
Texas Home School Coalition
Crowley, TX

Texas is home to between 500,000-650,000 homeschool families. Many of them survive on a single income so that they can provide the form of education they believe is best for their child. Homeschooling has been exploding in growth for several years, but growth is by far the fastest in minority communities who cite the condition of their public schools and their experience with racism in the public schools as the most common reason that they chose to homeschool. Another skyrocketing segment of the homeschool community is families with special needs children. These are families who are dedicated to doing what they believe is best for their children and desperate for options, but under our current system, many of them cannot access the form of education they know their child needs. HB 3 would help to give them that access. Under HB 3, low-income and special-needs families could use ESA funds to help cover the cost of home education and certain specialized programs that their child may need, such as tutoring, special needs therapy, or dual credit. This would be a game changer for those families. Not all homeschool families would want to participate, a right that HB 3 is careful to protect. But 71% of homeschool families in Texas support ESA programs because they know that increasing parental choice is good for children and good for families. We would urge the committee and all of its members to support and pass HB 3 and we thank Chairman Buckley for his leadership on this bill!

Clydene Pittman
Myself Homeschool teacher
Canadian, TX

I am not for requirements being put on an education savings plan or being funded by tax payer dollars.

Brittney Knight, Mrs
Self - therapist
San Antonio, TX

I support public education as it is more equitable for all Texans. Low income students who need a safety net will lose that if funding for public education is cut and the quality of public education suffers. Also, it is more beneficial when education is seen as benefiting the greater good, not a business model.

Julie Dishman

Self, contract specialist

Jersey Village, TX

I am opposed to the creation of an education savings account program using taxpayer dollars. Public funds belong in public schools. Please do not pass HB3.

Charlotte Dorsey, Ms.

Self -Retired educator, counselor

Dallas, TX

Our children deserve to have well funded public schools. This voucher scam will further reduce funds available for our most vulnerable students and their schools. I do not want my taxes used to give money to families for private schools...nor do my friends and family who send their children to private schools need those dollars. Too many teachers are leaving the field because they are already overworked and tired of using their own funds to try to serve their students well....Texas public school children deserve better.....

mark stevens

Self/retired

San Antonio, TX

This will have a detrimental effect on public education. Use these funds to improve public schools infrastructure and teachers salaries.

Bitia Gilliam

Self

San Antonio, TX

I do not agree with using public money for private interest profits. I do not agree with public money used for religious education. Stop sabotaging public education. Quality public education for ALL!!

Trina Barnette

Paraprofessional at a rural public school

Hico, TX

I am AGAINST any kind of vouchers for the state of Texas. The governor is delusional if he honestly believes that the majority of Texans want this nonsense. Vouchers will hurt our public schools and will only make the governor and his friends to line their pockets. Our educators work so hard from the cafeteria workers, bus drivers, paraprofessionals and teachers ALL deserve a raise and our public schools serve so many rural students that a voucher would never help. Please vote NO to any vouchers for Texas.

Rebecca Hankins

AAUP AFT

Bryan, TX

No to Abbot's voucher scam.

Tish Langland

Wylie ISD Council of PTA's

Sachse, TX

Please keep school funding in Public Schools. No to School Vouchers. Our kids now and in the generations to come will be the face of our state and great nation. By limiting these funds you are doing them a disservice. They deserve better.

Diana Bistran
Hartman Elementary PTA
Wylie, TX

I say no to Vouchers! I speak for my children in public school, their friends, and all our teachers

Pamela Hughes
Self, Candidate for Richardson ISD School Board, Communications Director in the UMC
Richardson, TX

I strongly oppose the use of taxpayer dollars for private school vouchers in Texas, as proposed in HB3. Public funds should be dedicated to public schools, which serve 5.5 million Texas students, not diverted to subsidize private education with no public accountability.

We have seen the consequences of voucher programs in other states like Arizona—blown budgets, no meaningful improvements in public education, and a system that primarily benefits wealthy families who could already afford private school tuition. There is no reason to believe Texas would be any different.

In February, I spoke with multiple legislative offices that represent me and Richardson ISD, and not one could explain how a voucher program would improve public education. Instead of fixing gaps in funding and services—especially in special education—the Legislature continues to underfund our public schools, criticize them for struggling under financial constraints, and then push for privatization as a supposed solution.

But this is not a solution. Texas' Constitution makes clear that the Legislature is responsible for an efficient system of public education. If there are shortcomings, it is on you, our elected officials, to ensure our schools have the resources needed to meet the standards you set. That means fully funding our schools and ensuring special education services are properly supported—not shifting responsibility to private school headmasters who have no obligation to serve all students.

Public education is the foundation of our communities, workforce, and economy. Please do the job we elected you to do—fund our schools and strengthen the only system that exists to serve all Texas children.

Kelle Spinn
Self - Retired Educator
Round Rock, TX

People who are set to make money through private schools are in favor of this bill. Those who care about what is best for the children of Texas, including parents and educators, are against it. Please vote no to HB3. Support us, and we will support you!

Jan Payne, Retired School Librarian/Tech Specialist
Self
Wolfforth, TX

I oppose this bill for a variety of reasons: separation of church entities and state, taking monies which public schools are in dire need of, the debasing of public educators, and putting the needs of disabled children in jeopardy. Private schools will not be held to the same criteria as public ones while public schools serve all children. "School choice" is a sham because parents already have choices! We sent one of our four children to a private school for some time, but we would never have expected tax dollars to pay for that decision!

Tiffany Anderson Ahmad
Self
WYLIE, TX

Keep public dollars in public schools. The solution to the problems in public schools is NOT to ignore them and give parents the "option" to send their children to school with unqualified teachers, biased curriculum and NO plan for special needs children.

Patricia Landers
Retired Teachers of Texas
La Marque, TX

Public schools are the lifeblood of Texas. Vouchers will harm our schools, our teachers, retired teachers and our children.

Harley Pier

Self/Former Teacher, Financial Advisor

Saginaw, TX

School Vouchers are a terrible Idea and the Majority of Texans agree. Please stop pushing the narrative that they do agree. None of polling shows this. All this will do is hurt public education and make us even worse compared to the rest of the nation. Instead of trying to take money away. How about you increase funding, take away standardize testing and put your time and energy to fixing the real problems.

Emily Strain

Self/interior designer

Dallas, TX

Increase teacher funding, providing raises

Megan Fuentes

Self

Richardson, TX

I do not want my taxes going to private schools. I support fully funding our public schools! No vouchers

Kelli Moulton

Self

Corsicana, TX

Oppose- no public funds should be used for private educational vouchers, or an ESA program . Let's first fully fund our constitutionally guaranteed public education system before we commit tax dollars to private entities. Choice already exists in Texas, let's look at the best of our current systems.

Daniela Reyes

Self

Levelland, TX

I'm asking you to reach out again for public comment because tomorrow the committee is hearing HB3 in regards to their ESA's; this is what I sent

As a public education advocate, teacher, and parent, I strongly oppose House Bill 3 and its push for an education savings account (ESA) program. This bill threatens to divert essential public funds from our schools, funneling taxpayer dollars into private and unregulated educational institutions. Instead of strengthening public education, HB 3 undermines its foundation by prioritizing a program that benefits a select few while leaving the majority of students behind.

From a public education perspective, the establishment of an ESA program weakens the financial stability of our schools. Public schools rely on consistent funding to maintain quality instruction, support services, and extracurricular programs. By redirecting state education dollars to private and homeschooling options without accountability, HB 3 erodes the resources available to students in public classrooms, especially those in rural and underfunded districts.

As a teacher, I see how policies like this directly harm students. When funding is siphoned away through ESAs, schools face larger class sizes, fewer support staff, and cuts to essential programs. This ultimately hurts the students who need the most support—those with disabilities, English language learners, and children from low-income families. Teachers are already struggling with inadequate resources, and HB 3 would make providing a high-quality education to every child harder.

As a parent, I want my child—and all children—to have access to a well-funded, strong public education system. ESAs prioritize individual choice at the expense of the greater good, leaving public schools to suffer while taxpayer money supports unregulated private institutions with no guarantee of quality or equity. Public education should be a public good, not a system weakened by policies that divert funding without oversight or accountability.

For the sake of our students, teachers, and public education system, I urge lawmakers to oppose House Bill 3 and reject the establishment of an education savings account program. Instead, we must invest in strengthening public schools and ensuring that every child—regardless of background or zip code—has access to a quality education.

LANET GRAY GREENHAW, Former Richardson ISD Board of Trustees member

Self

Richardson, TX

VOTE NO on SB3 for vouchers and ESA's! The Texas Legislature must fully fund Tx public education and raise the Basic Allotment and teacher salaries before considering dollars for private education. There is no way that a private school student is worth \$10,000 and a public school student is worth only \$6,160. That's wrong!

Lisa McMillian

AFT

Dallas, TX

Keep PUBLIC TAX DOLLARS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL ONLY??. My child went to private school and I had to work two jobs to do it. Therefore, I feel like if anyone wants their child to have private school needs to PAY for it on their DIME as I did?????????. Keep my TAX DOLLARS going to PUBLIC EDUCATION??????????

Adam Meester
Self
San Antonio, TX

Dear Members of the Texas Legislature,
My name is Adam Meester, and I am a Special Education teacher with 11 years of experience teaching in Texas. I am expressing my strong opposition to HB 3 and the proposed school voucher program. This program will not serve all students equally and risks creating a form of segregation that will disproportionately harm students requiring special education services. One of the most glaring concerns is that Texas law does not hold private and charter schools accountable for following the same Special Education standards as public schools. As someone who has taught in charter schools, I have witnessed firsthand the inadequate support these institutions provide for Special Education students. Over time, I have seen how these environments slowly dismantle special education practices and create segregated campuses, marginalizing students who require specialized support. Special Education is not just a professional passion of mine—it is deeply personal. I am a person with dyslexia. When I was a child, my parents considered enrolling me in a private Christian school, but when they toured the campus, they quickly realized that the school's special education program was grossly inadequate and lacked the necessary resources. Without the fantastic public school teachers who supported me throughout my K-12 journey, I would not have learned to read and write. These teachers, who undoubtedly faced numerous challenges within the public school system, showed up daily and gave their all to ensure that students like me had the chance to succeed. HB 3 threatens to divert much-needed funds away from public schools to private institutions not equipped to serve the diverse needs of Texas students. Voucher programs like this will only widen the gap between those who can afford quality education and those who cannot, creating an unequal system where students with special needs are left behind. I urge you to vote no on HB 3. Protect our public schools, our students, and the future of equitable Education in Texas. Sincerely,
Adam Meester Special Education Teacher

Holly Rohring
Self
Fort Worth, TX

VOTE NO- Texans do not want this voucher scam passed!

Antonio Mancilla, Mr.
Self
Palestine, TX

Vote No on HB3. My taxes support public schools. We will remember how you voted!

Richard Meisel
Self
Lufkin, TX

As a 20 year plus veteran educator in my community I have seen first hand what our public school are capable of even though the state continues to ask us to do more with less. The voucher scam being pawned off as school choice is nothing more the man another money grab for those already in power. It will only benefit those who are already a part of that system or who have the means to afford a private school choice in the first place. Every state that has tried to implement this system has seen their public school system suffer, and good educators leave the profession. Town halls all across Republican districts are being called off because those constituents are letting their voices be heard and the politicians in those districts do not want to hear it! Why does our state continue to belittle and gut a profession that is so desperately needed! HB 3 and its counter part SB 2 are like trying to put a bandaid on a damn that's breaking. Do better! Be better for the future of our state, our children, and ultimately our country!!!

Aracelly Quintero

Self

Cypress, TX

Our public servants should represent the will of their constituents and the broader public. FUND public schools and NO to school choice

Karin Porter

Self

Carrollton, TX

I personally have attended public schools in Texas and worked in public schools as a teacher and Digital Learning Specialist for over 31 years. I retired and went to work for a Christian private PK - 12th grade school organization. I also sent both of my children to public schools and they are very successful adults. I have been pro public schools my entire life. I felt it was a calling to work and serve our children. And, I'm still that way at heart. It was a tough decision to go to work for a private school. They are great and I love that we can embed our faith throughout the curriculum. I am against HB 3. If our schools were provided the money they need to meet the needs of our bilingual, special ed and regular ed students I might consider. The \$6000 vs \$10000 amount per student isn't even equal to why would you give more money per student to a private school. And why are non-educators who make tons of money so adamant on support and paying politicians to pass this bill. The school funding has been held hostage for way too long because the community speaks out against vouchers. And sad thing is if this happens I believe the public school budget will continue to be way too low. Teachers deserve better! Communities deserve to not have to close their schools. It's astonishing how many public schools are closing in North Texas. Please, do not pass this bill. Then, put your time and effort into funding public education. Look for ways to give the abilities to discipline students. How our students AND many parents are treating educators are the problem. Give them the financial resources to handle behavior issues as well as the increased number of students on the spectrum. Addressing bullying would be another benefit. Once you take care of these things then look for ways to adequately fund vouchers without taking away from public schools. And set boundaries those that are rich do not get the money. I'm all for some families giving opportunities to choose to send their children to a school of faith and they can't afford it. But not just Willy nilly. This support for private school needs to be for those who need the support. Thank you for listening. Please do the right thing. Vouchers are not going to fix our public schools and make them better.

Erica Oadrta

Self

Willow Park, TX

HB3 in Texas is just another attempt to divert public funds away from our already underfunded public schools and into private institutions through a voucher system. This is a direct attack on public education, which serves the vast majority of Texas students, especially those in rural and low-income communities.

Vouchers do not guarantee better education—they just shift taxpayer dollars to private schools that are not held to the same standards of accountability and transparency. Instead of supporting all students, HB3 would prioritize a select few while leaving many behind.

Texas needs real solutions—fully funding public education, paying teachers what they deserve, and ensuring every student has access to quality resources. We should be investing in our schools, not defunding them.

Let's stand up for public education. Say NO to HB3!

Arlene Jacob

Self

San Antonio, TX

This is a horrible idea. Taking funds from public schools to create a voucher program for families who want to send their kids to a private school is not where Texans want their tax dollars going. How can public taxes go to fund private schools? Is that constitutional and legal? You need to make the right choice and do right by the Texans who voted you into office.

Cynthia Edwards

Self

Houston, TX

I'm am not in favor of school vouchers

Hannah Hill

Self

Nocona, TX

I have been an elementary teacher for 20 years. Please please consider the negative impact of this bill on small, rural districts. We need funds in our schools. Not money going to private schools who can refuse admission to anyone. Can you not see the gross negligence towards our students with special needs? Please do not do this.

lisa toomey

Self

Canyon Lake, TX

No vouchers! Yes to public education, growth for all students!! We need an educated, critical thinking generation, not haves and have nots!!

Deborah Watson

Self (retired teacher)

Aransas Pass, TX

This legislation is a coupon for the wealthy, who can already afford private school. It is wildly unpopular, and Gov. Abbott has only gotten this far in his battle to pass it because of bully tactics. Texans don't want this. A vote to pass it is a vote against your constituents, and goes against the mandate to provide a quality, free education in the Texas constitution. We, the voters, will not forget who chose to ignore our wishes. Billionaires do not get to dictate public policy!

Stuart Shulman

Self - Educator

Little Elm, TX

I don't think that there is much else that needs to be said that hasn't already been said in terms of the overwhelming and passionate display of opposition from citizens from every part, party, ideology, and walk of life. It is clear that the actual citizens of this great state are against this. The educators are against this. The schools are against this. Parents are against this. It seems that the only constituency that is for this is the donor class, out of state actors, oil billionaires, and corporations with interest in privatizing schools. Please hear the peoples voices. Please reconsider this. Please look at the evidence and data from other states that have tried the same thing and what it has done. Please consider reinvesting and tripling down on our many phenomenal public schools and institutions. If we truly want Texas to be the Lone Star State and one that is the belle of the ball, then we need to fully fund the best way to do that, which is our public schools. No subsidies for the wealthy. Fully fund public schools. Fill the gap between un and underfunded mandates. If you choose to pivot away from this voucher passthrough subsidy and invest in public schools and ALL of our students, Texas will soon have the most unstoppable workforce in the history of our state, and the nation. Thank you.

Mark Holmes, Mr.

Self - Tax Director

Dallas, TX

Vouchers are bad policy. Legislators can and should look to other states like Arizona and Florida to see the negative effects of vouchers on students, public schools, and state budgets. Public dollars should stay in public education, but any voucher passed by Texas legislators needs oversight, clear guidelines, accountability, and transparency. School vouchers are taxpayer-funded subsidies given to private schools and vendors without transparency and accountability for results. They often go by various names, including vouchers, education savings accounts (ESAs), tax credit scholarships, and virtual or special education grants, to name a few. Regardless of what you call them, school vouchers and ESAs siphon public dollars away from public schools without the accountability and transparency required of traditional public schools.

Linda Moore

Self

Sanger, TX

I'm totally against a voucher system in Texas. Public funds should not be used to fund private schools. I also believe in separation of church and state. There are no accountability requirements for the private schools. Fully fund your public schools and give teachers a big pay raise so we aren't at the bottom of school funding.

Lisa Barton

Self public school teacher

The Colony, TX

Vouchers are wrong for Texas. Parents already have school choice. It is awful that you would give more financial assistance to private schools than public schools. Private schools already don't have to take state mandated tests, and discipline problems are eliminated by expulsion. Some students will end up back in public schools anyway. Class sizes are already borderline too high, when students are sent back to public school, they will be out of control. Holding school funding hostage until vouchers pass is doing nothing but harm to the thousands of public school students and teachers that rely on that funding. Our governor does not have an education background, therefore he should not be pushing so hard for them to pass. He should interview teachers, parents, and administrators to get a real view of the effects of school vouchers. It seems he just wants to jump on the bandwagon. Vouchers are definitely going to destroy the education system in Texas. I think more research into the negative effects of vouchers needs to be done. Although I no longer have children in the education system, my husband and I chose to send our daughter to private school through grade 8. It was my choice to do that, and with that choice, came extra responsibilities, including working a part time job after my teaching job to afford tuition (without tuition assistance). This option is open to everyone. Please vote down the voucher system in Texas. Regular people, like me, will thank you for it.

Lindsay Attkisson

Self- school psychologist

Dallas, TX

As a public school mom and employee, I'd like to see our legislators increase the basic allotment provided to schools to fully fund public schools. I am against voucher schemes as they take money from public schools and public funds should be used to pay for public services. As a school psychologist working in public schools in Texas, I see the damage done when our students aren't fully supported. Special education students will suffer if vouchers are passed.

Ashley Hermann

Self

Anna, TX

I am against HB 3.

While I applaud the idea of prioritizing children that receive special education services and also low income students, the fact that families making well over six figures can STILL participate in the program is unsettling to me. Can there not be a family income cap? Why do families making 300k have the potential to possibly get a voucher?

I also have serious questions about how the vouchers will be evenly spread across the state. Or will we see concentrated numbers of vouchers in certain areas. I'd also like to know who or what is making the decisions about who gets picked. I understand there are prioritizations, but are we just picking names from a hat?

What happens to the voucher money if the student decides to leave chosen private school or is kicked out and returns to public school. Will the money be taken back from the private school?

Lastly, I listening to the hearing for 11 hours yesterday, I heard parent choice a lot. But it really did feel like school choice, because ultimately the private schools get to decide if you can enroll. I don't think most private schools have a nefarious agenda, but ultimately they ones who say accepted or denied. Not the parents.

I would encourage the committee to have an actual meeting with public educators from across the state to really get ideas about what we can do to better our public school system.

Karla Pardo, Constituent

Self - Parent

Coppell, TX

I wish the same level of energy by the governor and other supporters of these types of bills was used to protect my kids from gun violence. Tax money to help the common good. Vote no on this and any other bill that try to defund public schools.

Patricia Powell

Private citizen

The Colony, TX

Please do not pass HB3. Gov Abbott has already held public school funding hostage and has not allowed the schools to be funded adequately. This bill only helps the wealthy. It does not help SPED students, students in rural communities, low income. Once again all Gov Abbott is worried about is helping his wealth donors. Please stop this nonsense that most Texans do not want.
Thank you

Cynthia Strode

Self

Fate, TX

I am firmly against school vouchers. Public education needs to be fully funded to properly educate children in Texas.

Kate Edwards

Self, Consultant, Mother

San Antonio, TX

I oppose any use of taxpayer dollars to fund students attending private schools. Whether these are called Education Savings Accounts, "school choice," or parent empowerment, I urge you to oppose any legislation using PUBLIC dollars for PRIVATE schools. I firmly believe in parent choice, but this legislation is not CHOICE; it is a CHANCE. You are creating a lottery system for these vouchers, and at the end of the day, it is up to the schools to accept these students; it has nothing to do with parent choice. Parents can choose a private school, but private schools do not have to choose them. Vouchers are taxpayer-funded programs benefiting a small group of children. Public schools are required to accept all students. Public schools require annual assessments aligned to state curriculum to track student progress. Public schools report openly and are accountable for the use of taxpayer funds. Public schools have openly elected school boards. Public schools are held accountable for student performance. Public schools comply with federal protections for students with disabilities. Public schools accept all students. Private schools adhere to none of the above. These bills set the amount of taxpayer money that could go to a private school at \$10,000. However, the current Basic Allotment is only \$6,160, and even the 2/21/25 HB 2 proposed increase to \$6,380 is a massive inequity for Texas public schools. Considering inflation, increasing the basic allotment by \$220 is laughable. As a registered Republican, fiscal conservative, and a believer in the value of public schools, these bills are not fair to the children and parents of Texas, has little oversight of how the public funds are spent, creates Constitutional questions about separation of church and state, hurts public schools, leads to class segregation, and is not fiscally conservative. Please instead support an increase of the per-student Basic Allotment for school funding by an additional \$1,340 to adjust for the impact of inflationary costs to our schools since 2019. The Basic Allotment for schools has not changed since 2019, but prices for everything have skyrocketed, causing cuts to my school's budget, which have resulted in bigger class sizes, a decrease of talented staff, and no salary increase this past year for our teachers. We are feeling it in a big way. Our budget situation is depressing, and we are faced with having to cut \$5 million from our already-shrinking budget for the next school year. As a mother of three public school students, I CHOOSE to send my children to our public schools; they are extraordinary. However, our schools will no longer remain extraordinary if our state continues to engage in complete inaction for public school funding. The Texas Constitution outlines your responsibility to "establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools." Please choose to fund public schools first before anything else.

Sharron Rogers

TPPF/self

Taylor Lake Village, TX

I became a single mom and was determined to defy the odds. I made sacrifices - sold homes and business and moved back to Texas so my son, Blake could be surrounded by family, community, tradition and love that supports the values I believe in. I never intended to live in the home I bought through Blake's school years but circumstances prevented us from moving. The public schools in our area had declined. I opted for private school so I could stay near my grandparents while they were still living. The position I accepted allowed me to be an active, present participant in Blake's life, but it was a financial sacrifice. I took on many consulting opportunities, sometimes working 3 jobs to pay tuition. But he attended the best school for him. After my grandparents passed away we moved to be in a better neighborhood, with great public schools. A few years after we moved Blake asked if he could go to public school to be with his friends - fellow boy scouts, teammates and neighbors. Through much consulting and prayer, we transitioned him into public schools. The choices I made for Blake were the right choices and they were my right to make. Fortunately, I was able to support these choices financially regardless of my current zip code. I know that burning desire that families have, that we all have - to provide what's best or something better for our kids. EVERY PARENT deserves that right!

Linda Zeccola

self; nurse

Austin, TX

Please support public education. My parents went to public school and so did I, and my children and grandchildren. I am certain I got a better education than some of my neighbors who attended private school. I worry about the voucher system taking away money from public education. We need to fully support public schools for now and the future.

Miranda Bauer
Self- Librarian
Joshua, TX

I am against HB3 for many reasons but mainly because it exacerbates inequality and harms the public education system that the majority of Texas students rely on. It takes money away from our underfunded schools at gives it to people who do not need it.

Shannon Reynolds
Self/retired School Counselor
Willow Park, TX

Please vote no to Vouchers.
The current bill is not going to help improve education in Texas. The voters of Texas DO NOT support this. If so many leaders believe Texans do support vouchers, why not put it to a vote and let the voters in Texas vote?!

Kim Broom
Aransas County Democrats
Rockport, TX

The establishment of our public school system is one of the greatest achievements in American policy. I have witnessed this personally. Although I am a descendant of multigenerational Texans, I was raised abroad in multiple third world countries. I have seen the impact of nonexistent or underfunded public school programs in countries from the safety of my privileged private education. America is the envy of the world for their commitment to primary education for ALL children. Establishing an education savings account program will stress an already underfunded public system. It will hurt rural kids the most who have little access to private schools or quality home schooling opportunities. Urban children will also see their public schools system degraded. I can only recognize positive outcome for a small privileged few who mostly already attend private schools. I am also concerned about individuals and companies that will emerge to game the system and cheat the government. Who will oversee this predictable event? I advocate for saying no to HB 3 and yes to keeping a strong public school system for our children and continue to be the envy of the world.

Karen Adams, Ms
Self
Georgetown, TX

I adamantly oppose school vouchers. Keep supporting our public schools.

Susan Nichols
Self
Leander, TX

If we have enough money to give a billion to Charter Schools why not give it our public schools?
Also, are Charter schools going to provide ALL the services that Public Schools do.
All the programs that aid our children to develop even if they learning difficulties?
Athletes that contribute to Complete Development?

Sarah Connelly
Self
Palo Pinto, TX

I believe HB 3 will be detrimental to public schools. It will take funds away from public schools that are already hurting. I think if HB 3 is passed it will lead to the demise of the public school system as we know it.

Shalini Toopran

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Stop it with the private school vouchers and divert the funds to public schools! Those who can afford private schools do not need vouchers. As a resident, I want our tax paying dollars to go to our public schools. TX schools are already suffering from funding and lacking infrastructure. Listen to your constituents and do the right thing

Michele Kadera

self

McKinney, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school vouchers in the state of Texas. Vouchers divert crucial public funds away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas children, to subsidize private and charter schools that are not held to the same accountability standards.

Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education, support, and opportunities to students of all backgrounds. Instead of funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions, we should invest in strengthening our public school system by increasing teacher pay, improving resources, and ensuring every child has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting any voucher proposals and focusing on policies that uplift public education for all.

Thank you for your dedication to the future of Texas students.

Rhonda Thompson

Self

Dallas, TX

School vouchers are not in the best interest of Texas students and families and undermines our public education network, which serves as bedrock for Texas. Resources should be used to support public school system and not undermine it. Do not vote in favor of school vouchers.

Nicole Boehm

Self

Austin, TX

Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) may sound like a way to expand educational opportunities, but in reality, they threaten to weaken Texas' public education system and leave most students worse off.

Diverting Critical Public School Funding

Public schools are already underfunded, struggling to provide essential resources to the millions of students who rely on them. Taking taxpayer dollars and funneling them into private accounts—often used for private school tuition—means even fewer resources for the schools that serve entire communities. We can't afford to chip away at public education when so many students are already being shortchanged.

A System That Benefits the Few, Not the Many

Let's be real: ESAs overwhelmingly benefit wealthier families who can afford to supplement the funds, while lower-income families are left with little to no real options. Instead of increasing opportunity, ESAs widen the divide, creating an "education for the few" model rather than strengthening schools for everyone.

No Standards, No Accountability

Unlike public schools, private institutions and education service providers receiving ESA funds aren't held to the same accountability standards. That means taxpayer dollars could go to schools that lack proper oversight, fail to meet educational benchmarks, or even discriminate in admissions. Public funds should come with public accountability.

Texas Deserves Better – Fully Fund Our Schools

Public education exists to serve every child, no matter their background, income, or zip code. Instead of undermining it with ESAs, we should be focused on ensuring that every public school is fully funded, well-equipped, and supported.

I urge you to oppose this bill and instead increase the base allotment by a minimum of \$4,000 per student—bringing Texas' education funding in line with the top 25 states in the country. Anything less is failing our kids and shortchanging the future of Texas.

This is a moment to do what's right. Let's put our money where it matters—investing in public schools, not draining them.

Nancy Martin, Dr.

Self/Retired

Dripping Springs, TX

I urge you to vote NO on HB 3. Public schools should be well-funded and well supported. This bill harms our already underfunded schools. This bill needs to be booted out the door.

Monica Sullivan

Self, baker and parent

Leander, TX

Not only is there a lack of evidence supporting the efficacy of ESAs, but there is ample evidence that these accounts are fiscally irresponsible often resulting in state-funded programs that balloon over the intended budget and are rampant with fraud and misuse. In fact, all seven states that have established universal school vouchers in some form have seen their budgets increase five to tenfold their intended amount. Florida, who has enjoyed a healthy budget surplus, is projected to be operating with a budget deficiency by FY 26-27 according to Florida Tax Watch, and in Arizona a 2018 study found it was 75% more costly to educate a student in the voucher program than their public school counterparts. Also notable, after adjusting for inflation, six out of seven of these states reduced or froze their public school funding and the portion of the state economy invested in public schools decreased in all seven states - a major concern when 90% of the student body still attend public school in most of these states.

What does that sound like to an average tax payer like myself? It sounds like state governments are using tax money to supplement more affluent families' education at the expense of the larger, less advantaged and more vulnerable population that public school is best suited to help. My concerns are not just for the negative impacts on Texas students either; public schools support economic ecosystems across our rural and suburban districts that are vital to the health of many Texas municipalities and our public school campuses are the watering holes of our next-generation leaders and entrepreneurs.

Educating the entire population has enormous benefits that have been documented in numerous studies including family stability, more productive citizens, less crime and less reliance on welfare programs resulting in less money spent by state governments and lower burdens on tax payers. Spending billions on vouchers that will, in reality, only help a small portion of the student population while not properly funding public school will result in a weaker and more dangerous society that costs tax payers more money.

When considering HB3, I urge you to remember the duties you hold as a legislature, not to your governor or to the radical whims of a few billionaires, but to your constituents. Remember your responsibilities to legislate in a manner that promotes good health, liberty and economical growth for the state over the next 40 years, not just political points in the ever-changing tides of the next 4 years, and your legacy will endure for it. I pray you understand the importance of keeping public dollars in public schools; if you must consider some form of 'school choice', ensure these schools receiving public dollars are held to the same standards of transparency and reporting that public schools are held to and charter schools should be held to. Thank you for your consideration.

Melissa Selden

self/teacher

Austin, TX

Hello,

As a public school teacher, I find great value in public education. I chose to go into this profession because I believe we should have an educated population and I wanted to be a part of a dynamic system where I work with the public. I believe people are stronger and able to take care of themselves better if they are educated. I also believe everyone deserves a free education provided by the government. It is a human right, in my opinion. Taking money away from public education to give to people for private education undermines this premise. There is nothing wrong with people wanting to use private schools for their children, but because there is no way to make it equitable for all Texas children, it should not be funded in any way with public funds. Not all areas of Texas have access to a variety of private schools. The amount of money being proposed would not be enough to pay fully for private school, which means families who can't afford it, even with the education savings account, will still not be able to attend private schools. Also, private schools are not held to the same accountabilities as public schools, so there is not a way to check on standards. Private schools do not have to provide for students' special needs, so families with children who have special needs will not be able to benefit. Public schools have a number of specially trained teachers who can meet the needs of all students and personalize instruction. Lastly, private schools are allowed to decline enrollment or ask a student to leave the student body. Public education, however, is for everyone. No one is left out or asked to leave. Taking money from public education to give to private schools that are not equitable and not prepared to meet everyone's needs is unfair to public school children because the money will be taken from their districts. Districts are already suffering because of unfunded mandates from the Texas Legislature. We should be proud of our Texas schools and teachers and doing everything we can to promote their success. The rest of the country watches us and sees the disrespect you promote towards your public schools and teachers. We want to be a model for the country, not a joke. Thank you.

Ash Malina

Self

Austin, TX

- (1) Fund our schools properly
- (2) Increase the basic allotment
- (3) Change funding to enrollment not attendance
- (4) All tax payer funding should meet the same requirements regardless of the institution —Special Education provisions included
- (5) Eliminate the STAAR test.
No vouchers!

Kasey Frye

Self

Buda, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. The creation of a school voucher system will have incredibly damaging and long lasting effects on education in Texas. This bill will also disproportionately harm lower income children by stripping school funding away from public schools. All children in Texas deserve to have access to great, equal public school education and HB 3 is not how we achieve that.

Naomi Dalach, Mrs

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I am writing to let you know that both me and my husband strongly oppose school vouchers or any type of school savings account. It is your job to provide a good equal education to all the students in Texas and not take away from our public school system which needs your help. If a parent chooses private education then it is their choice to pay for it. We don't even slot each student in public school \$10,000 but want to give that to people who aren't held accountable as to the same rules our teachers have to abide by. The private schools can pick and choose students they want and don't have to provide services to all children's needs. So they can pick the cream of the crop regardless of needs. The wealthy families will be the ones benefiting from a bill they chose to take on when they chose private schools. They are the ones trying to force this down our throats. The majority of Texans don't want this. It's only governor abbott and his rich campaign supporters trying to dictate what they want. Why didn't they out it in the ballot at a regular election and hear what the people want? They know it would fail ! It failed through how many sessions last year that Abbott campaigned only for people that would back his wants to place them in office before he pushed for another vote. We live in a democracy not a dictatorship where he gets what he wants before the people's wants. I will do my hardest to not support or vote for anyone who forces this bill on us. I feel I have a say on my tax dollars and want them to go to our public school system not some rich private enterprise. Fix the system you have let deteriorate and needs funding not opening up a can of worms for more fraudulent use if our money then the children in the whole state I Texas will be neglected. Give the money to all if our public schools equally. Please do not vote for this bill or create a bill so it can be put up for a vote of all people not just a few who dint seem to care about everyone just a few

Sara Kinser

Self

Belton, TX

Who is Jeff Yass and why did a man from Pennsylvania donate nearly 12 million dollars to a Texas election? This bill is dirty dirty dirty and more people our great state are coming to understand Greg Abbott's scheme to get it to pass by primarying and replacing all GOP reps that would vote no to it. School choice robs from already underfunded public schools to give wealthy families a \$10,000 per year coupon to attend private schools.

Do you know how many private schools are in my county and they are already basically full? 800 spots in a country with nearly 400,000 people. This helps no one except the 800 kids already attending private schools, whose parents can already afford it. No thanks. Public education is a constitutional right. No to "school choice"

Carolyn Grimes, Ms

Self, retired

Vernon, TX

As a product of Texas public schools, I am appalled by the suggestion that school vouchers are even being considered. Public schools already struggle with poorly paid teachers and very limited budgets. To give public funding for public schools to those who choose to send children to private schools is unthinkable. NO SCHOOL VOUCHERS!

Maria Hernandez

VELA

Austin, TX

School vouchers threaten students with disabilities by removing protections, limiting access, and increasing costs for families.

Loss of Federal Protections

Public schools follow the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), ensuring services like IEPs and therapies. Private schools accepting vouchers are not bound by IDEA, meaning students can lose critical supports. For example, a child with autism receiving behavioral therapy in public school may not get any services at a private school. Parents also lose advocacy tools like ARD meetings and legal recourse if schools refuse accommodations.

Limited Accessibility

Private schools are not required to accept or support students with disabilities. A school can deny a child with a wheelchair if it lacks accessibility or dismiss a student with dyslexia needing specialized reading programs. This could leave thousands of students without a school placement.

Higher Costs

Vouchers rarely cover full tuition, leaving families to pay the difference. Public schools provide therapy, assistive technology, and behavioral support at no cost. A family relying on occupational therapy could pay thousands of dollars privately.

More Segregation

Public schools promote inclusion, but private schools may not. A student with Down syndrome learning alongside peers in public school may be placed in a separate setting or denied admission in private school, increasing segregation.

Extra Burden on Parents

Navigating special education is already complex. A parent familiar with ARD meetings and due process in public school must learn a new system with fewer protections. This is overwhelming, especially for working parents.

Unequal Access

Low-income families, English learners, and rural residents face barriers using vouchers. Many private schools lack bilingual staff, making it hard for non-English-speaking parents to advocate. Families in rural areas may have no private schools nearby, making vouchers useless.

Instead of funding private schools that can exclude students, we must invest in public education to ensure every child gets the support they deserve.

David Cook
Self
Wichita Falls, TX

Dear Members of the Texas Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) for the 2025 legislative session. While I understand the intent to improve public safety, HB 3 introduces excessive mandates that pose significant risks to our schools, communities, and individual freedoms.

HB 3 imposes unfunded security mandates on public schools, forcing districts to divert crucial resources away from educational programs, teacher salaries, and student support services. This financial strain hinders schools' ability to prioritize positive learning environments, creating spaces that resemble fortresses rather than welcoming places for education.

Additionally, HB 3's expanded surveillance policies and reporting requirements risk compromising student privacy and autonomy. These measures foster fear and suspicion, potentially isolating marginalized students rather than supporting them.

The bill also undermines local control by imposing one-size-fits-all security measures that fail to consider the unique needs of Texas' diverse communities. Local leaders, educators, and parents are best positioned to make decisions about school safety that align with their district's priorities.

Instead of restrictive mandates, I urge you to invest in proven strategies like mental health services, counseling programs, and educator training. These evidence-based solutions promote safer and more supportive learning environments without the unintended harm HB 3 may cause.

I strongly encourage you to oppose Texas HB 3 and focus on approaches that prioritize the well-being and educational success of Texas students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Cook
4313 Sutton Circle
Wichita Falls, TX 76309
940-447-4652

Kendra Sullivan
Self - Speech therapist in schools
Houston, TX

I work for a charter school. I do not agree with the voucher program. We should not be abandoning children in need of a robust and full public education program.

Loree Foreman, Ms
Self/Retired Texas Public School Teacher
Cedar Park, TX

I do not support HB3. Please do not vote for it.

Christine Burch
Self - Retired Teacher
Cedar Park, TX

program does not create real choice for families. There are certainly many issues with our public education system that prevent it from effectively serving students, but funneling money out of this system and into private institutions through vouchers is not the solution to our problems. A strong public education system is integral to our democracy, and vouchers undermine public education. Additionally, these programs as implemented in other states lack proper accountability, exacerbate inequality, engage in exclusionary practices, fragment communities, exacerbate segregation, and decrease academic achievement. Instead of diverting funds to private institutions, perhaps you should focus on strengthening our public schools to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality education. This issue matters to me and I vote. Thank you.”

Tracey Hamilton, Mrs
Self. Homemaker
Waco, TX

I am strongly opposed to the establishment of these “savings accounts” (vouchers) our Public schools have been underfunded for years now... to further erode resources in order to support a benefit that would largely exclude the most needy children is unacceptable... as I'm sure you are aware it is highly unlikely that the full amount of tuition for private schools will be covered... nor would uniforms, books, transportation, extra fees,etc. In truth the poorest children would be excluded... the state has a constitutional duty to fully and properly fund our public schools and using public funds for private schools is also unconstitutional... other states have tried this with disastrous results (Arizona for example:total cost \$800 million and counting) Any funds that are provided must be used to full fund only public education.

Hope Turner
self - design system program manager
Austin, TX

I do not support school vouchers. We should reserve tax money to fund public schools where ALL students are able to attend. This bill hurts rural areas where there is limited or no access to private schools. We are already behind other states in quality of education. If we approve this school voucher system, it will be an expensive failure.

Several U.S. states have implemented school voucher programs that encountered significant challenges and criticisms:

****Arizona**:** The state's universal voucher program led to a \$1.4 billion budget shortfall, diverting funds from essential infrastructure projects. [?cite?turn0news8?](#) Additionally, there have been instances of fraud; for example, two individuals were indicted for allegedly claiming vouchers for non-existent children, amounting to over \$110,000.

****Louisiana**:** The voucher program faced accountability issues. In 2012, the state superintendent approved private schools for vouchers without established criteria, leading to situations where schools lacked adequate facilities for the number of students approved. An audit revealed that one such school had overcharged the state by \$395,000.

****Florida**:** The Florida Opportunity Scholarship Program was declared unconstitutional in 2006 due to concerns about state funds being used for religious schools, violating the state's constitutional requirement for a uniform public education system.

****Indiana**:** Studies on the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program have shown mixed results. Some short-term studies indicated little to no improvement in student performance, and in certain cases, students experienced declines in achievement after transferring to private schools through the voucher system.

These examples highlight the complexities and potential pitfalls of implementing school voucher programs, including financial mismanagement, lack of accountability, legal challenges, and questionable educational outcomes.

Please do not let children suffer by implementing this voucher system. Thank you.

Tiffany Driver
SELF - EDUCATOR
Willis, TX

We do not want this. I literally cannot think of a single person/family (from either party) who agrees that this will benefit the average Texans.

Caroline Mithoff
Self
Austin, TX

The voucher bill is a scam designed by Abbott and his cronies to devastate public education in Texas. Public schools, unlike private schools, have to be accountable to the people they serve and cannot discriminate. We need to be building these schools up and paying teachers a living wage. Vouchers takes money from public schools and teachers and gives it as a discount to wealthy families who choose to send their kids to private schools. They made the choice to pay for school. Let them. It's time to fund public schools. This is part of your job as state representatives. Do it.

Dennis Kemp
Self-retired teacher-Army veteran
Lago Vista, TX

My wife and I who had careers in public education (for me it was after my service in the US Army) and we are staunchly against this bill and the ESA (AKA vouchers, no matter how you try to give it a new title to fool folks). It is absolutely untrue that vouchers will not have a negative impact on public schools or public school funding in Texas. That is what folks who don't understand how public schools are funded and staffed might believe, but those of us in education know better. If parents are given tax dollars intended to provide FAPE (free and public education) to use instead to send their kids to private schools then that means fewer butts in chairs in public schools. Public schools are funded based on attendance (butts in chairs). This means less money and fewer students. This also means that you need fewer public school teachers because you don't have enough kids to keep all of the teachers in your school (y'all try to say ESAs won't impact teacher retention and teachers won't be fired/RIFd/laid off whatever term you want to use). This then means that districts will be forced to combine students from several schools into one to fill the building to attempt to save money. That means that school buildings will have to shutter (imagine the millions of dollars wasted as a result!). Anyone close to the schools also knows that private schools pay their teachers even LESS than the paltry pay public school teachers get (thank you Texas legislators for continually finding ways to screw public school teachers and keep teachers among the lowest paid, most overworked career choices people with DEGREES can make) and they DO NOT have to accept students who have any sort of special needs. This THEN means that a good majority of students left in public schools will be those with behavior issues and special education needs that the private schools will refuse to provide and students they will refuse to accept. Wow. Then what have you single-handedly done to public schools? What teachers will want to stay in public education then? Private schools also hire mostly non-certified educators from sub-par prep programs and they are NOT held accountable in any way for the progress/learning of their students as they are not required to abide by ESSA, etc. Rather than pad the pockets of those constituents who contribute to your campaigns, think of ALL of the students and teachers in Texas you were ELECTED to represent. Please do not further strangle public school funding and add more to the stress of the dedicated public school teachers who are already treated poorly by our Texas legislators. Give teachers BIG raises (after all, they spend more time with kids than their own parents do). While you're at it, remove the age restrictions on teachers for retirement purposes. If you want to put teachers out of jobs, then at least allow those who meet Rule of 80 (TRS and ERS) to retire with 100% of the pay they have EARNED and eliminate the tiering system you put in place.

Njoki Kuria
Self
Grapevine, TX

School vouchers are a scam. They will defund public schools while giving vouchers to wealthy families who can already afford to pay the additional costs to send their children to Private school - (Private schools charge more for tuition than the vouchers will be worth, and low income families would not be able to meet the balance, in addition to raising extra funds required for activity fees, uniforms, etc.). Vouchers will divert resources from schools where they are needed. Every child in Texas deserves a quality education that is freely accessible and available without discrimination or selection. Private schools are able to give need-based scholarships to students who want to apply, and can choose to do so. Texas tax payer dollars should be funding strong public schools to educate ALL children without discrimination

Kimberly Harrell
Cypress Fairbanks ISD
Cypress, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school vouchers in the state of Texas. Vouchers divert crucial public funds away from our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas children, to subsidize private and charter schools that are not held to the same accountability standards.

Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education, support, and opportunities to students of all backgrounds. Instead of funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions, we should invest in strengthening our public school system by increasing teacher pay, improving resources, and ensuring every child has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting any voucher proposals and focusing on policies that uplift public education for all.

Thank you for your dedication to the future of Texas students.

Chris Hunter
Self software developer
Austin, TX

This bill is clearly a give away of money to private schools and religious schools at the expense of public schools and their pupils. It's irresponsible and an offense to all Texans.

Trudy Baade
Self
Coppell, TX

Dear House Committee for Public Education. "TEXANS DO NOT WANT VOUCHERS. AT THE VERY LEAST, ANY VOUCHER ALLOCATION SHOULD NOT EXCEED THE BASIC ALLOTMENT PER STUDENT FUNDING, AND ANY SCHOOL RECEIVING STATE FUNDS SHOULD HAVE TO MEET THE SAME TESTING AND SAFETY STANDARDS. DIVERTING FUNDS WILL HURT PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND WILL NOT GIVE CHOICE TO FAMILIES WHO CANNOT ALREADY AFFORD PRIVATE SCHOOLS. IN OUR AREA, TUITION TO REPUTABLE PRIVATE SCHOOLS IS ALMOST TRIPLE THE COST OF THE VOUCHER, AND EVEN IF THAT WAS COVERED, TRANSPORTATION WOULD BE A BARRIER FOR DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES TO USE AN ESA. ANY SCHOOL RECEIVING PUBLIC MONEY SHOULD HAVE TO MEET THE SAME REQUIREMENTS WHICH CURRENTLY INCLUDE STAAR TESTING, FINANCIAL REPORTING, SAFETY & SECURITY MANDATES, PRE-K REQUIREMENTS AND A-F RATING SYSTEMS OR ITS ALTERNATIVE. . OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS SERVE ALL STUDENTS, INCLUDING THE MOST VULNERABLE, AND DIVERTING FUNDS INTO PRIVATE SCHOOLS PUTS THOSE STUDENTS AT RISK. AT THE VERY LEAST, ANY SERVICE ASSESSMENTS DONE BY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHOULD BE PAID FOR BY THE STATE.

PLEASE CONSIDER A LARGER (MUCH LARGER THAN \$200/PP) INCREASE TO THE BASIC ALLOTMENT FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!!!!!!!!!!!

Mary Hornby
Self, Research Assistant
Caldwell, TX

Vouchers are just a coupon for rich kids who are already in private schools, most of which are religion-based and also have tax breaks because of the religious association. Most normal Texans still would not be able to afford private school with no buses (parents have to have normal business hour jobs to be able to drop kids off at school!) and no support for things like required uniforms. Physically disabled children and children with learning disabilities will be left to the public schools with zero extra resources. I live in a rural county (Milam) & the only private school that serves PreK-8, is over 30 miles away. Very few parents I know have the luxury of such a long commute each day, on top if their work commute. It would have been impossible for me to work full time & enroll my children without the school providing busing. The 1 billion dollars the state is basically giving away to the rich, can be better spent on TX public schools. Do not pass Abbott's bill !

Vandi Alba
Self, retired Autism Consultant and Educator
Garland, TX

School Vouchers, education savings accounts, etc. will discriminate against those needing public education the MOST...the poor, minorities, and those needing special education. The rich can afford private schools, so let them access them. Keep public education funded to be sure ALL children in our state get access to a fair and equitable education. Equal education for ALL is a must for a free society to allow all students access to same future opportunities. Do not let the Texas Billionaires and Abbott reward their friends by allowing these unfair practices!

Steve Reynolds
Self
Frost, TX

I disagree with this bill for many reasons. Private schools and teach and do whatever they want without oversight. TEA has become the Enforcement Agency rather than a help to public schools. Abbott's buddy from Pennsylvania will get the contracts to distribute the slush fund and then Abbott will get kickbacks. Sounds like the Biden Democrats rather than Texas Republicans. I've been a Republican all of my life but quit voting republican the last 3 elections because of Abbott and Danny Goeb the Lt. Gov. They are corrupt and are only for their affluent backers.

Penny McAuley
Self
Garrison, TX

I have made my opinion known from the beginning. I am very much opposed to HB 3. I fear this will be the downfall of our public schools. Also, the private schools do not offer the services of a public school. Most importantly, the \$10,000 will not help a low income family if the tuition is \$25,000 a year. Most private schools in Houston are much higher than \$10,000. Also, so many parts of our state do not even have private schools.

Ellen Raff
Stults Rd. PTA
Dallas, TX

ESAs/Vouchers are not the will of the majority of Texans. We love our public school districts and support our teachers who educate themselves for careers educating Texans. Public schools traditionally offer modern best-practice methods and excellent resources. Also public schools foster community in our cities and states. Texas is not like other states. So much of Texas is rural and those areas rely on public schools. Diverting funds from public schools results in LESS choice for Texans, not more.

Dorliss Kourey

Self

Cedar Hill, TX

This bill will kill public education, and I realize that is the intent. Republicans and democrats are united against this bill. Public money should only be used for public education! We should not be funding billionaires who want to take control of Texas Education. If this passes midterms will show how unhappy the voters of Texas are. We have a duty to the children of Texas to do what's right for them and this bill IS NOT it.

Shannon DeFord

Self

Amarillo, TX

As a 33 year veteran public school teacher, I see the value in public education. Diverting public funds to offset the cost of private school tuition for families with zero accountability or expectations of the school is wrong. Keep 100% of public money with public education.

Susan Noack

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Christian Linville, Ms.

Klein ISD

Tomball, TX

School vouchers will be detrimental to both teachers and public school students. As a fifth grade teacher, I see firsthand how underfunded we are and how overworked. The state has put regulations on accountability in all public school, which require tedious, testing, and constant rushing to push all the information in. Private schools do not have to live up to the standards and do not have the same accountability. Public school students deserve the same education as private school students and the same accountability should be had by private schools. As a public school teacher, I employ you not to dismantle this system. We are already being withheld the funds that we need for the students to have their supplies and everything else they need. Thank you.

Shawn Boyd

Self-Tax payer and Business Agent

Oak Point, TX

I graduated from a small East Texas school, Como-Pickton. I see the comments of the conservative teachers and administrators their on social media daily, worried that vouchers will take education money from the kids they teach and from programs they are doing a great jobs with. If they see it and they are conservative, why can't you as legislators see it? Just because the governor decides something is needed, it doesn't usurp what the citizens say. As a taxpayer, I am opposed to this plan. Money doesn't grow on trees and as Texas grows in people, we need a strong school system. If people can afford to send their kids to private school, fine. That's the way it's always been. The majority can't and they need public schools that function like Como-Pickton. Why the change right now? What is the driver for this change? I don't see it. I live in Denton County now. Why we would hurt what makes Texas special, our public schools, is a mystery to me. Please don't do this, you are in control.

Britania O'Brien

Self

Austin, TX

I am staunchly against school waivers in Texas. It will only cause harm to the children in our state.

Lydia Klespis, Mrs.

self/retired public school educator

Huntsville, TX

I am writing to voice my concern about passing a bill that would implement school vouchers in the state of Texas. As a retired educator, I firmly believe in holding all stakeholders accountable for the education of our youth. Accountability lies with schools, teachers, administrators, parents and the community at large including the state. The success or failure lies firmly with all. HB 3 would not hold private schools, receiving public school funds through vouchers, the same accountability standards. The state has implemented strict curriculum standards, extremely high stakes assessments, and complex teacher evaluation measures for public schools. These extreme measures are why our public schools are deemed unsuccessful. Will private schools receiving these funds be held to the same measures? I fail to see how giving funds to schools without any of these standards will improve education in Texas. I believe that public schools could serve our youth better and that change is definitely necessary, but passing school choice vouchers is not the solution in my opinion. Change for the better will only happen when we have accountability for ALL measured by the same standards. We only need to look at other states who have passed such a bill, such as Arizona, South Carolina, and Arkansas, to see that the desired outcome has not happened. Please consider all angles of this issue before passing HB 3.

David Patterson

self

Buda, TX

As a taxpayer, I want state revenue to go to public schools, not private schools. Please represent the majority of your constituents, not the minority. Thank you.

Cecelia Alongi Alongi

Self

Houston, TX

I am opposed to this bill. These schools are not held to the same standards as public schools leading to waste and lack of transparency

Tyler Spirlock

Self - parent

Granbury, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. I implore you to oppose HB3 with your vote.

Jessica Ferguson

Self

Thorndale, TX

It's a sad day to think that our elected officials who are here to look out for the greater good while being good stewards and serve as fiduciaries of PUBLIC funds, which is pivotal in the education of everyone, would think that it's acceptable to transfer public funds to private entities. My tax dollars, specifically the portion going to education should only be going to fund public school. School choice already exists in the form of homeschooling, private schools, charter schools, online school, and publicly funded schools. Those who choose education outside of public understand that it is their duty to pay taxes to fund public education even if they make a choice to send their children elsewhere. The foundation of education for literally everyone hangs in the balance of this decision and I pray that our legislators make the correct decision to vote against this bill. Protecting public education means protecting everyone's futures. Properly fund public education from teachers and administrators pay to programs, to money per student so that our public education system can have a fighting chance at being successful. High expectations with low funding is contradictory. Give us a chance.

Irma Guadarrama, Dr.

Self

Kyle, TX

I oppose HB 3 because instead of improving education it aims to further reduce public education thus neglecting students' needs. The bill does nothing but divide our communities and erode our institutions of education. Texas needs a strong, adequately funded public education if our youth are to participate in a better future for generations to come. This Bill proposes to eliminate opportunities for all our students. This is not who we are as Texans.

Alana Peddy

Self Retired Kindergarten Teacher 35 years

Mauriceville, TX

Please Vote NO to Vouchers!

Elizabeth Bomba

Self

Austin, TX

As the mother of four public education students, I would like to register my opposition to HB 3. There are many reasons that I oppose the bill, but I will keep it simple and state that the Texas Legislature has not and will not commit to fully supporting and fully funding public education (both traditional public schools and charter schools) and it should not be trusted to create a third system of education.

Vouchers for private schools undermine and erode the principle of accountability in education. Instead of creating a private system of education that further divides us, you and we should focus on strengthening our public schools to ensure ALL children, regardless of their circumstances, disabilities, or ability to pay, have access to a high quality education.

Mike Jones

Self

Chico, TX

Strongly oppose any Bill that will use Public Funds to establish ESA/Vouchers for private and home schools. Providing a Public Education is the only requirement in the Texas Constitution. Let's increase the Basic Allotment to \$10,000 and see what our public school districts can accomplish.

Sarah Box

Self

Whitewright, TX

The voters do NOT want vouchers. You know it is wrong. Do not use public money for private schools.

Jeff Solmundson

self

Austin, TX

To those in favor of HB 3, here's an angle on the ESA's that doesn't get nearly enough of your focus: Texan households with no children in K-12 schools.

We pay the same property taxes that HHs with school-age children do but will have none of the say over how OUR tax dollars are spent.

It is inherently unfair for any carve outs to benefit one group of tax-paying Texans at the exclusion of all others.

If you really are a proponent of choice for how parents spend their tax dollars, I have a whole host of choices I'd like to make in how mine are spent!

The Houston Chronicle pegged the number of HHs without children of public-school age at approximately 70% of all Texas households. We have a voice, and we vote, too.

Shelli LeBlanc, Mrs.

Self

The Woodlands, TX

Vote No to school vouchers.

Giving tax payer money to private organizations and then have 0 accountability for the funds is paramount to robbing tax payers. Public schools have mandates by the state and federal government and if you are going to give money then hold them to the same standards as public education.

The state government and TEA are the ones responsible for our education system. If we are failing, which as a 32 year- retired public school principal I believe is a lie, the blame is with the appropriate support and funding from our state government.

Please fund public schools properly - end the funding formulary that is based off attendance. Everyone should be held accountable for the same standards and by the same rules.

Thank You,

Shelli LeBlanc

Public school parent

32 year public school educator - retired

Jerry Richardson

Self 34 year Sped Teacher

Waxahachie, TX

We are Texas! Not any other state. We pride ourselves in being the best. 34 years in Public schools as a general ed Science Teacher, former Coach, Assistant Principal and a Special Needs teacher. We're already underfunded and our governor wants to turn his back, not fix the problem but instead "fund" private schools? Leaving the poor students and students with disabilities behind? Private and Charter do not even have to have certified teachers. Why did I go into debt attending a state University for a low income job when I could have just went to one of the other. I have 5 certifications and I am shocked that our education system could be fixed rather than throwing money at a cheap alternative. Private is THAT... Private, to pick and choose. Public is the option and the governor's job to make it great!...NOT give up on it for a political run. Don't be a Perry. NO! TO VOUCHERS!!! SAVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!

Mario Orozco, Mr.

Gpisd

Grand Prairie, TX

Please listen to your constituents.

James Rice

Self

Perrin, TX

No Vouchers! If it comes to a vote, my expectation is that you will vote against vouchers. Seize this opportunity to fund schools. They have not been fully funded in my lifetime. Our public schools are a success story ask the doctors, lawyers, engineers and others they have produced.

Heather Chapman

Self

Buda, TX

Public education must be supported in its entirety as set forth in the state constitution!

Debbie Lewis, Career Educator

Self/Educator

Argyle, TX

I implore you to vote AGAINST vouchers! How about putting all that money into public schools to lead and model for the rest of the nation what can be done if public schools are properly funded!? Public education is the fundamental right for ALL. Vouchers are only help for the few that can afford to pay the difference between the voucher and what private schools charge. It's a scam to make the rich richer and poor without! Taking money from public schools will harm those students that are left because they can't pay, don't have transportation, and/or are not accepted at private schools making the divide much larger!! DO THE RIGHT THING for ALL Texas families!! Put the money towards public education not private school vouchers!

David Troiano

Self-retired

Highland Village, TX

I believe that the public education savings account program(vouchers) is a terrible use of funds. These funds (estimated at 1 billion dollars) will end up going to schools which are unaccountable for the quality of education that they provide and the services that they provide to students, especially those with special needs, if they accept that type of student at all. We have been underfunding public education for years and that needs to be addressed as well. So, if we have a \$1 Billion to spend let's funnel it back into our public schools which provide services to all students and are accountable for the quality of the education that they provide.

Sylvester Gallardo, Mr

Teacher's

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers r your choice, not the people's choice. This was decided in the last legislative session. Yet, ur vindictive actions against those legislators do not change what the outcome was. Your solution is to put yes people in their place to get what YOU want passed, not the PEOPLE! Stop pandering to the lobbyists and start listening to the people! Education Funding needs to increase without any attachment to vouchers.

Jacquelyn Flynt, Ms

Self

Arlington, TX

I am deeply concerned about the implementation of vouchers in the State. No matter how I look at it, the practical outcome will be the defunding of public schools in Texas. I received an excellent education while attending public schools in Texas. I started off in private school, but after a disastrous year in 5th grade at what had previously been an excellent private school (we did maybe 3 math worksheets the whole year) I was behind going into 6th grade. My parents made the decision to pull both my sister and I from private school and placed us in public school. I went from the lowest performing math class in the 6th grade to completing AP Calculus by my senior year of high school. Public school got me on track. I graduated as Salutatorian in high school and the top 10 in college. I graduated law school with honors and a full ride scholarship. Public schools are not bad schools. They expose us to a wide array of different socioeconomic status, racial and religious differences and provide excellent education for ALL children with excellent support through IEPs for those who need them and performance and curriculum standards that are statewide. Private and charter schools do not have to educate ALL kids. They don't have to meet performance standards that public schools do and they are not free to ALL students. Removing funding from public schools to fund vouchers will leave children behind. It will also provide a false promise when vouchers only cover a portion of the costs of the non-public school. Public schools will lose valuable resources that help us all become active educated members of society and will further hurt children with special needs by leaving them behind in underfunded schools. SCOTUS has clearly stated that children in this country have a right to a free public education. When my parents elected to send me to private school they paid for it out of pocket in total. When we went to public school they paid their school property taxes that they had always been paying anyway even though we did not attend public school. Additionally, defunding public schools will lead to further teacher shortages. Teachers are not blue collar workers. They are white collar, highly educated individuals with special skills in helping students learn. There are teachers to meet the needs of ALL children in our public schools. They should be respected for their hard work and dedication not just for educating children, but also for playing a vital role in shaping minds with knowledge and preparing all of us for making a difference in our society as a whole. We should not be making their jobs harder with lack of funding, nor their lives harder for lack of compensation. Vouchers may help a few kids, but it will definitely help people who already have plenty more than it will help those who do not. And those kids left behind in defunded schools will suffer as will their communities. Say NO to vouchers and respect public schools and teachers.

Lilia Saldana

Self

Lubbock, TX

Against vouchers! Vouchers will hurt students and teachers alike. Vote No!

Cristen Wiggins, SE Teacher

Self

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

Our public schools need funding. The governor, in the state of the state address, said that funding has consistently increased for our students. That's a lie that has put my district, NISD, and other districts in great debt. We need to do more for our students and vouchers are not the way!

Matthew Hessing

Self - Project Manager

Highland Village, TX

The school voucher initiative is not helping public schools. Our public education which is a core to the community and what makes Texas a great place is in jeopardy due to underfunding. The voucher program will further undermine the duties of educators across the state and force them to operate in even worse scenarios than we have now. Please do not vote in favor of the bill

Judith Wyble
Self retired educator
Spring, TX

Gregg Abbott and you are bought and paid for by Jeff Yass. We all know it! YOU don't want to help ALL kids, just those who you can help line your pockets!! HB 3 is a disaster!! We WILL vote you both OUT!! No to vouchers!!!

Jennifer Barling
Self
Mansfield, TX

This bill will not serve all students of Texas fairly, so it should not pass.

Chantell Edmond
Self
Friendswood, TX

I am a public school educator who has devoted 28 years to serving the children of Texas. I am asking that HB 3 does not pass but instead fully fund our public schools so teachers like myself do not have to continue to make up the difference to provide the best possible education for Texas students.

Terri Pease
Self
San Antonio, TX

As a public school parent, I strongly OPPOSE this bill. I could regurgitate the dozens of reasons why this is a bad bill (fiscally unconservative, steals resources from underfunded public schools, serves the rich, etc.), but my major concern is that it is being forced on Texans by Gov Abbott's egregious abuse of power. If this was an issue that was supported by the citizens of Texas, Governor Abbott wouldn't have to lie, manipulate, and threaten to get it passed.

PLEASE stand up for ALL Texans and oppose this bill. My children attend public schools in San Antonio and they are not being indoctrinated or exposed to "woke" ideology. They are loved, supported, and being prepared for their futures DESPITE the legislature's inability to fund their schools appropriately.

Listen to your constituents. Have courage to do the right thing. Millions of Texas children are depending on you to fight for them and not cower to the bully in the Governor's mansion.

Alexis Gross, Mrs.
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly opposed this bill, and any other bill that takes public money for use in private and home schools. I oppose vouchers and demand that you fully fund public schools today.

Cheryl Sterling
Teachershb 3
Missouri City, TX

I'm concerned about Education's system in Texas. Let's make the best decision for our kids
No Vouchers

Jackie Freeman, Mrs
Self retired teacher
Universal Cty, TX

ESAs is a cover for the true identity ...it's a voucher. Mandated items but not funded have strangled public schools, not to mention funding for public schools has been slashed multiple times, teacher salaries ignored and held hostage, the list goes on... fully fund public schools... it is your constitutional duty to fund public schools NOT religious based schools and others. I strongly oppose HB3 because it steals money from public schools placing even more financial stress on an already struggling district! My district is closing a school, and some schools in my district are already lacking an art teacher because the "criteria" changed within the district because of the lack of funding... other positions are on the "chopping block" because of lack of funding...equality across the district is lacking because funding from Austin has been lacking. Remember your constitutional duty to your constituents is to fully fund public education. Vote NO to vouchers...

Judy Durland
Self
Troup, TX

Do not fund private school vouchers.

Liz Mangelsdorf
Richardson ISD
Dallas, TX

Vehemently against this Bill. Keep Texas money for Texas Public Education. Un light is today's new information about Dept of Education cuts, it is even more important to turn this Bill down, our children's Education is in serious jeopardy!!

Lenette Kelly
Self - retired educator
Bowie, TX

I oppose the establishment of ESAs for several reasons:

1. ESAs have little benefit for rural Texans who don't have access to private schools.
2. ESAs divert tax payer funds to private schools that do not have to meet the same educational outcomes that public schools do.
3. ESAs have been ineffective in improving educational outcomes in states where they have been implemented.

Please consider adding the 1 billion dollars that is earmarked for ESAs to the allotment for public schools. Public money belongs in public schools.

Kristi Kincaid
self
Houston, TX

I am opposed to vouchers. They ultimately ens of being coupons for the wealthy for children who are already in private school. They will take much needed funds away from our already struggling public school system. They give public funds to private entities with no public accountability.
Vote no on vouchers.

Carol Cozino
Self
Boyd, TX

I adamantly OPPOSE the dismantling of public education! Public dollars should only go to PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!! This will be remembered at election time! Represent the PEOPLE not only the ones buying you off! Texas government is a disgrace! Nothing democratic about it.

Meagan Sackenheim

Self-nurse

Lubbock, TX

Using public funds for private education should not be allowed. It isn't really choice. Private schools can deny anyone that they want so the reality is, the kids who might benefit from smaller class sizes etc. are still the ones that will be turned away. Vouchers only benefit certain individuals and the rich. Public funds should be used to improve our current public schools!!

Julie Cramer

Self

Mansfield, TX

I do not want school vouchers!!! I want our public dollars to fund education for all children!

Suzanne Powers

Self, public school teacher

Houston, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3 and the proposed Education Savings Account (ESA) program. This bill threatens to undermine Texas' public education system by diverting critical funds away from our already underfunded schools. Instead of supporting privatization schemes that primarily benefit wealthier families, the Texas Legislature should focus on strengthening public schools for all students.

Public Schools Need More Funding, Not Less

Texas ranks near the bottom nationally in per-student funding. Many of our public schools lack essential resources, struggle with teacher shortages, and face deteriorating infrastructure. HB 3 would siphon taxpayer dollars from these schools, worsening existing inequities. The Texas Constitution mandates "an efficient system of public free schools," and ESAs violate this principle by redirecting funds to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

Lack of Accountability and Oversight

Unlike public schools, private schools and education vendors accepting ESA funds would not be required to follow state curriculum standards, administer standardized tests, or employ certified teachers. Other states have seen widespread fraud and misuse of ESA funds. In Arizona, parents used ESA money for personal expenses like luxury items and non-educational services. Texas cannot afford to waste taxpayer dollars on an unregulated program with little oversight.

ESAs Worsen Educational Inequities

Supporters claim ESAs expand school choice, but in reality, they primarily benefit wealthier families while leaving lower-income and rural students behind. Private school tuition often exceeds ESA amounts, pricing out many families. Additionally, private schools are not required to serve all students—they can deny admission based on academic ability, disabilities, or disciplinary history. Public schools serve all children, and they should receive the funding needed to do so effectively.

No Evidence of Improved Student Outcomes

Research shows that similar voucher programs in Indiana, Louisiana, and Ohio have led to declining student performance, especially in math and reading. Texas should not experiment with a system that has repeatedly failed elsewhere. If the goal is to improve education, policymakers should invest in teacher pay, smaller class sizes, early childhood education, and school infrastructure—proven strategies that benefit all students.

Protect Texas Public Schools—Oppose HB 3

Rather than weakening public education, Texas lawmakers should fully fund our schools and support policies that benefit all children. Public dollars should remain in public schools, where they can do the most good. I urge you to vote NO on HB 3 and stand with Texas students, teachers, and families.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Powers

Spowers820@yahoo.com

Pam Andrews
High School Counselor
San Marcos, TX

I do not agree with school of choice or school vouchers whatever you want to call it. I would like to know what will happen if a student chooses to attend a private school and the funds are taken away from the public school and then things don't work at the private school. I also want to know why private schools that will be receiving money from public school funds are not required to the same testing guidelines for state tests—EOC/STAAR. I have been reading on the bill and see different breakdowns of who will qualify but do not understand. Why can't the qualifications be put in bullet points and easily understood. What is 500% and 200% below poverty mean and is an income of 156,000 really considered needy. I have been an educator for 36 years and I never made close to 156,000. Who qualifies for this 10,000-11,500.00 money? It seems like anyone qualifies. I don't want to pay for a wealthy family to send their kid to private school or home school their kids. I am okay if people don't want to send their children to public school but I want them to pay for it. Public schools were created to give all students an education. If you don't like public schools then make changes to public schools. I don't want to here how wealthy families pay school taxes and then pay for private school tuition. I pay school taxes and don't have children. You pay your part because it is the way the system is designed. Lastly I get annoyed with using it as a way to help the needy and disabled. Families in need often times are getting by with feeding their families and getting them to the bus to make it to school. They don't have additional money to make the difference up in what the state is not giving them to pay the private school tuition. They don't have a way to get their children to the private school. In regards to the student's with disabilities often times private schools do not have the resources to support student's either disabilities. I think many of you in the public office have not fully done your research to understand our public schools. It makes me very sad.

Monica Dickson, Ms.
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers do nothing but segregate the haves and have nots. These vouchers only help the people who can afford to take their children to private schools. These vouchers only help families who are already paying for private schools. These vouchers only hurt Texas public schools because there is less money in the pot to fund public schools. Texas public schools are already bleeding dry with no funds causing major negative impacts to our youngest Texans in school from Prek to 12th grade. Property taxes will have to go up to support local Public schools and families are already hurting economically. These vouchers will put a strain on the majority of Texan families who don't want to go to private schools. Plus there is a program in place already to pay for students who want to go to another school. There is no need for these vouchers. Vote no to vouchers! Government work for the people not for the small minority of billionaires.

Joseph Mire
Self Self Employed
San Antonio, TX

Defeat HB 3!!

Providing school vouchers to offset costs for private schools at the expense of public school programs is a fraud and theft perpetrated against the tax paying majority in Texas. It is designed to benefit the wealthy class minority at the educational expense of the majority, and sets up a has vs has not societal model, and threatens the future stability of this state. Funding for this measure has resulted in the unlawful withholding of budget increases to schools while school taxes have still increased and been collected. Consider the majority of you representatives that went to public schools - do you truthfully think as products of public institutions yourselves, that in today's school environment you would have prospered in the same way as you have? With the teacher student ratios already too high, and fewer vastly underpaid teachers entering the public school system, do you honestly think you would have had the same chances for yourselves then? Passing this bill equates to your ensuring today's students will not. Defeat this bill so you can look yourselves honorably in the mirror!!

Chana Temple
self
San Marcos, TX

As a middle income taxpayer, my demographic is who will most likely be affected by this legislation. My neighbor recently shared that based on the proposal, his wealthy daughter and her husband will most likely get to expect a voucher/ stipend to help pay for their child's \$30,000 private school tuition. I like my neighbor and his daughter and grandchildren very much but we both agree that is a ludicrous concept. If I am going to be required to pay for my rich neighbor's rich children to go to private school I will start to make plans to relocate from the state I have called home for 40years.

abby brody
Self
GEORGETOWN, TX

State government has a constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public schools. Let's start doing that ! 5.5 million Texas children are depending on it !

Samuel Mendell, Mr
Self
Smithville, TX

HB3 Testimony Template – Herb Krasner

In your statements today and previously, you have consistently pushed the possible positive effects of this universal ESA program – without a single mention of the downsides.

Experiences in the other states has shown that Universal ESA voucher programs fail to achieve improving educational outcomes for students. In fact, research shows vouchers have substantial negative effects on academic achievement: For example: Studies in Louisiana, Indiana, and Ohio found that students who attended private schools using vouchers performed worse than similar peers in public schools. These negative effects persisted over years, meaning they were not a temporary result of students' transition to a new school.

Studies of voucher programs in Washington, D.C., and Alabama found no significant improvement in student test scores. Vouchers fail to deliver even on non-academic measures. Parents do not report greater satisfaction with schools, nor a greater sense of safety, with the use of vouchers.

Indiana's program has been described as the poster child for the segregating effects of vouchers

Claims that vouchers improve academic performance are simply false

Furthermore, vouchers harm under-resourced rural public schools and their communities, with no benefit to those rural students who cannot find any private schools.

Voucher programs drain millions of dollars from public sources but are subject to virtually no public accountability—a fraction of the requirements imposed on public schools. Unregulated, unaccountable voucher programs are a waste of taxpayer dollars.

It has also been shown in the other states that:

Vouchers are more expensive than public schooling

Vouchers shift education expenses to the parents

Vouchers subsidize private education for students who would not otherwise have attended a public school

Voucher programs do not change the fixed costs in public schools

Vouchers cost taxpayers money to subsidize private education – often for the more wealthy

Vouchers create new subpar education vendors to suck up the increased demand for profit sake

Question:

What makes you think that none of that will happen here in Texas starting next year???

Amanda Clayre Turner
self- PE Teacher, elementary
Plano, TX

I would like to ask the legislature to say no to the education savings account program. I am in a district that is currently closing schools and I know our district is not alone. We need to do everything we can to continue to adequately fund our schools now and into the future. Texas children deserve equal access to a free and public education and this bill will undermine that. I work daily with kids who would not be accepted or have access to private schools and they rely on public education to give them equal footing and a fair shot in this world. The education savings account program would ultimately create a school system in Texas that is segregated by class. We need public schools. Public school teachers work hard with loving dedication to serve all kids that come to them in the way that benefits each and every student. I do not know anyone personally that endorses this bill. Across the divisive political spectrum I have seen friends and neighbors, fellow Texans, align on this very issue. The majority of Texans do NOT want this bill to pass. It's time our legislators listen to us!

Danielle Johnson
Self, elementary school counselor
Eules, TX

The so-called "facts" Governor Abbott is sharing about these vouchers are nothing but lies. Private schools and public schools cannot be compared to one another. It's apples to oranges. Public schools must admit any student living in their zone. We have students with a range of issues, from severe disabilities to severe behavior issues to refugee children who are illiterate even in their own languages, and we are expected to work miracles with them with very few resources. The basic theme in public education these days is "do more with less". Private schools would never admit or keep these students, nor would they offer services to assist these children. In fact, my school provides services to nearby private school students because their schools don't offer those services. So, not only are we providing services to public school students, we are using our limited resources to serve private school students as well.

The majority of families in Texas do not even have a private school near them. As for the vouchers themselves, they will not cover the cost of most private schools in Texas. It is gaslighting to tell families they will be able to send their children to private schools, knowing good and well they will have to come up with much of the cost out of pocket to cover the full tuition. Of course, this will just give extra money to the wealthy who can afford to send their students to the schools.

Personally, I have nothing against private schools. However, if private schools are going to receive public funds, they should be held to the exact standards as public schools. This includes accepting all students and providing needed services to all students. It also includes following the same attendance and testing requirements.

Abbott and his buddies should read the room, the majority of Texans are against vouchers! Stop holding public education, funds hostage! Release that money and invest in our public schools! If our public schools are failing, it is because that is exactly what Abbott and his buddies want. Our children should not be used as pawns and political games. Say no to vouchers!

Lana Sell
Self
Fairview, TX

I oppose the voucher bill

Ida Miller

self

San Marcos, TX

I am an adult who was publicly educated in Texas schools. My children attended public, charter and a private school, for which I paid tuition. I pay taxes. I want my taxes to go to public or charter schools. If Texas children attend private schools, this should come from scholarships or from the savings afforded non-profits through their tax exempt status--invest back into the children. Education savings accounts will hurt Texas urban and rural public schools by:

forcing rural communities to pay into a system they likely cannot access,

failing to protect the rights of special education students, and

leaving middle- and lower-class families with hefty bills for tuition gaps and expenses not covered by a voucher.

Our public schools deserve full funding and fair competition. Should taxpayer dollars pay for private education, then ensure full transparency and accountability for taxpayers and acceptance of all students.

Melinda Tilton, Ms

Self

Plano, TX

I strongly object to this bill. This is a terrible proposal which will weaken Texas education. The establishment of a savings account program will weaken our public schools for no compelling reason. We pay very high property taxes in part to fund our excellent public education system, one of the best in the country. The voucher system does no good to the majority of the population, most of whom rely on public schools to educate their children. The majority of the school age population would see no benefit from the voucher system. This legislation, if passed, would decrease the amount of money spent on each student by roughly \$10,000 per student, per year. Texas, with a public education record which is the envy of most states, must not reduce benefits for public schools students. The proposed legislation is an effort to funnel tax dollars to faith based private schools. The majority of families who elect to send children to private schools are in higher income brackets and don't need financial assistance. The families who rely on public schools frequently have no other options, either because of financial constraints or because there is no private school close enough to attend. Establishing this voucher system does not provide enough income to afford private school, and does not provide the options necessary for those communities who don't have private schools nearby. Do not dedicate our public funds to subsidize private education. It is wrong and the majority of your voters don't support this.

Jeri Matthys

self retired

Lexington, TX

Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks are not elected officials and should not be governing Texas. Their plan is to make Texas a theocracy. Members of the Texas House should be allowed to vote their conscience on vouchers. Vouchers will decimate rural school districts. I can't finance repaving my driveway with government money. Why should wealthy parents get a subsidy from the government to send their kids to a private school. How will the comptroller's office keep tabs on all this money? I worry about accountability and transparency. Look at Arizona's massive failure with this program.

Shouldn't we be spending money on fixing our foster care system, our horrible healthcare system, bringing down our Maternal Mortality rates, our skyrocketing sepsis rates caused by the abortion ban? I am against vouchers in any form, there is already plenty of school choice in Texas. Let's give all the money we can to our public schools, the lifeblood of our rural communities. Pass this, and watch as your rural base votes you out.

Beverley Humphreys

Self - retired public school employee

Temple, TX

HB3

Texas public schools should be fully funded. I do not want my taxes funding private schools.

Joseph Fulco, Mr.

Self

Shavano Park, TX

HB 3 - As a former educator in the public schools I feel that vouchers are only good for "failing" schools. Schools who have positive score and attendance records in public schools should be left alone. Please consider this when deciding whether you agree with them or not.

Karen Sager, Ms.

Self, retired

Somerville, TX

School vouchers are a direct transfer of funds from public to private schools, and thus from the poor to the rich. School choice is a red herring, as most poorer people could not afford a private school, or have the necessary transportation, not to mention all the additional incidental expenses. Vouchers ensure that public school students, especially the disadvantaged or disabled receive a substandard education while subsidizing the schools that won't take them. **NO TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS.**

Lindsey Boyd

self/ substitute teacher Plano ISD

Plano, TX

As a public school educator and parent of four children who attend public school, I ask that our tax paid money does NOT go to fund school vouchers. Please stop calling it "a parents' right to choose for their child's education." Using tax money to offer vouchers does not provide an equitable choice for ALL students in Texas. It only furthers the gap between the wealthy and those who do not have the finances to pay for a private education. Instead, we should be funding MORE into the public education of Texas. Teachers should be paid more, administrators should be paid more, more teachers need to be hired to decrease class size, more support staff needs to be hired to provide additional support for teachers and students, and the list goes on. If we take away money from the public sector to give to the private, we are only hurting our schools, students, and staff, and we will fall further behind. I don't understand why the amount given for a private school voucher is \$10,000 and the amount given for a public school student is only \$6,000. Why are the amounts at least not equal? Even if I used the voucher to send my children to a private school, it would still not be enough of a financial discount to make it affordable for my family to attend a private school. Therefore, my children will lose valuable funding for their public school education. There are so many needs for our public schools, and the money to provide for those needs is ready and waiting to be used. Please, I urge you, to put that money to good use for our students and teachers and give them the financial assistance they deserve. Do not give it to those students and families who already have the financial resources that set them apart and give them a leg up over the rest of the students in Texas. Vouchers is not how I want my tax dollars to be spent, and I will not be voting for representatives at the local, state, or federal level who support private school vouchers.

Nicole Carignan

Self

Dallas, TX

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Nicole Carignan, and I am a Senior VP in Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence and an active member of my community. I write to you to express my strong opposition to HB 3 and to urge you to reject this harmful legislation.

The introduction of school vouchers will only serve to destabilize the already fragile public school finance system in Texas. Our public schools are already underfunded, and taking taxpayer dollars away from the public system through vouchers will further exacerbate these financial disparities. Every dollar diverted to private institutions is one less dollar available to our students, teachers, and schools.

Unlike public schools, which are subject to rigorous oversight, accountability, and transparency requirements, private schools that accept voucher funds are not held to the same standards. There is no guarantee that these institutions will provide a high-quality education, and taxpayers have no means of ensuring that their hard-earned money is being spent effectively. If we are going to spend public funds, those funds should go toward systems that are accountable to the public, not unregulated private institutions.

Vouchers disproportionately disadvantage rural and marginalized students. Many cities do not have private schools as an option. Additionally, marginalized students, including low-income students and students with special needs, are less likely to have access to private schools that can meet their unique needs. As a successful neurodivergent adult, I support 504, IEPs, and public education because this provides the support needed for ALL children. Vouchers will further entrench inequality and widen the gap in educational opportunities for those who need it most. Not only are private institutions required to provide support needed to all children, they are also not required to accept all children.

Vouchers impose a dangerous form of religious favoritism in our education system. By allowing taxpayer money to fund private schools with religious affiliations, we risk violating the principle of separation between church and state that is fundamental to our democracy. As a faith member myself, I believe that we should be providing for all children through taxes for public education regardless of their background, abilities, and/or religious beliefs.

Through my vote, support and advocacy, I believe we have a duty to ensure that every student, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality public education. I believe that public schools should remain the cornerstone of our educational system, and I urge you to stand with our students, teachers, and communities by rejecting HB 3.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Carignan

Dallas, TX 75248

Denbigh Shelton

self

Austin, TX

My seven year old son and ten year old daughter attend public school. Public education is for everyone and the more we can invest in our public schools and support our teachers the better quality education for ALL Texas children. Diverting public dollars to private schools takes away from public school funding and funnels tax payer money into schools that don't serve ALL Texas children. That's just not right and not what tax money should be spent on. The purpose of paying taxes is to share the financial burden of resources that are available to everyone. I don't want my hard-earned taxes to go toward services that are not available to my family. Please don't take resources away from our public schools! If there are public schools that are not meeting quality standards or meeting the needs of families then let's use the money to invest in those schools and make them better.

Paula Pebsworth, Dr.

self

San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers because they divert critical public funds away from public schools, undermining the quality of education for the majority of students. Public education is a cornerstone of our democracy, meant to provide equal opportunities for all children, regardless of income or background. Voucher programs weaken this system by funneling taxpayer dollars into private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards.

Public schools must follow strict regulations, including standardized testing, special education services, and non-discrimination policies. In contrast, private schools that accept vouchers often lack oversight, transparency, and accountability, making it difficult for taxpayers to track how public money is spent. Many private institutions also have the ability to reject students based on disability status, religion, academic performance, or other factors, meaning public funds could support schools that do not serve all children fairly.

Voucher programs disproportionately benefit wealthier families while failing to serve low-income students as promised. The amount of financial aid provided by vouchers rarely covers the full cost of private school tuition, leaving lower-income families unable to afford the remaining expenses, such as transportation and fees. Meanwhile, public schools—which serve the majority of students—lose funding, leading to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and cuts to essential programs.

Additionally, school vouchers do not guarantee improved educational outcomes. Studies from states with voucher programs have shown that students who transfer to private schools using vouchers often experience declines in math and reading scores, with little to no long-term academic benefits. Rather than strengthening education, these programs weaken the overall system by prioritizing privatization over proven investments in public schools, such as teacher salaries, school infrastructure, and student support services.

Rural communities are especially harmed by voucher programs, as they often lack private school options. While urban areas may have more choices, vouchers do nothing for students in rural districts where public schools are the only realistic option. Instead of improving education for all students, vouchers drain funds from the very schools that rural families rely on.

Public dollars should support public schools, which are required to educate every child. Instead of diverting funds to private institutions with little oversight, we should invest in public education reforms that benefit all students, such as increased funding for teachers, mental health services, and updated learning materials.

For these reasons, I urge policymakers to reject school voucher programs and instead prioritize funding and support for public education, ensuring every child has access to a high-quality school, regardless of their ZIP code or financial status.

Janine Stephens

Self

San Antonio, TX

. This diverts funds from essential educational programs, Disproportionate

April Bergerson

Self

Wolfforth, TX

Vote NO on HB3. School vouchers are a bad thing for all Texas students.

Briana Frazier

Self

Frisco, TX

My twins are currently in the 5th grade at Little Elm ISD, a public school. As a working class family, we do not have the funds to send our kids to private school. Vouchers will not make private school accessible to our family because they won't cover the full cost, so we will still be forced to attend public school, only now, our school won't have the necessary funding to adequately educate our kids. School vouchers are just a way to subsidize the cost of private school for the wealthy at the expense of the working class. It's a thinly veiled attempt to line the pockets of those who can already afford to pay for top notch education. The majority of Texas families won't benefit from this system. We are tired of Republicans working against the majority of Texans. We see through Abbott's actions and will ensure that the GOP ceases to exist in Texas if you strip our children of their right to an education. As a former educator myself, I'm acutely aware of the difficulties public schools face daily already. Teachers will leave the field if you do this. We are already at the bottom of the list of quality education systems, so don't make it worse.

Martha Garber

Self

Coppell, TX

ESA and vouchers are not beneficial to Texas school children. These programs will only diminished public schools and result in poorer outcomes for Texas kids. We need programs that will put money directly into public schools and not divert public funds to support private initiatives. Please vote NO on educational savings accounts, and vouchers.

Eric Trigo

Self

Edinburg, TX

Please save our public schools and fund them appropriately! No to vouchers that only discriminate!

John Rische

Self. Retired

Lubbock, TX

Please do nothing to adversely affect the current teacher's retirement benefits.

Stacie Martinez

Self

Watauga, TX

I homeschool my kids. My in-laws fought for homeschooling rights in the 80's. I oppose any "school choice" bill. Parents in Texas already have "school choice". They can send their kids to public or private school or they can homeschool. Throwing more taxpayer money at a made up "emergency" won't fix the government's apparent inability to educate the kids already under their charge. Public funds should not go to private education. If more parents who could do so used the private school/homeschool choice, public schools wouldn't be so overrun and the kids would get a better education, if not the perfect one for them. Nothing is perfect. Life isn't fair and never has been. The government's job isn't to make life fair. A lot of education is up to the student to do, and that starts with parents exhibiting a love of educating themselves. Government involvement cannot solve most problems, as it has demonstrated, in most cases, thus far.

Jessica Marquez

Self/teacher

Kyle, TX

I oppose this voucher bill. Vouchers will hurt our public schools tremendously. We cannot allow our school funds to be cut even more. We are already underfunded. This bill will not improve our education, it will not give students or parents choice. Vouchers will destroy public education! Our children deserve a right to a free public education that is inclusive and equitable. Privatizing education is not the answer.

Vera Colodney, Ms

Self

Plano, TX

I am adamantly against the establishment of an education savings programs. Our public schools need and deserve this funding instead.

Jodey Christen

Self/homemaker

Carthage, TX

As a homeschool parent I am 100% opposed to school choice! My decision to homeschool came with the knowledge that it would be my responsibility to fund this choice. I do not want my daughter in public school only to be taught materials to pass a standardized test. Children are more than test scores! As a 8th grader she is taking 2 science classes, 3 grammar classes, a foreign language class, America history and an advanced math class. She gets one on one attention & is getting a better education than her peers. Parents who homeschool or send their children to private schools have always done so knowing they would pay out of pocket for it. Public money should not be used for private or homeschool education. If I didn't want my child to use a local public swimming pool I wouldn't expect the government to give me money to build one in my backyard!! Use PUBLIC money to improve the PUBLIC schools, which is what it is intended for.

Rebecca White

Self/Teacher

Rhome, TX

I am opposed to this bill. I believe it will harm public education. Public money should be given to public schools. Private schools do not follow the same regulations that public schools follow. We already have school choice, this is NOT a school choice bill. Every teacher that I've spoken to is adamantly opposed to vouchers.

Robin Shults

Self

Murphy, TX

Parents already have a choice in how to educate their children. My tax dollars should not be used to fund school vouchers. Charter schools exist to make their owners money and religious schools do not provide the level of STEM education that is needed to make America competitive. Fund public school. Retain teachers by increasing salaries. The people at the top of the education system are over paid. If you need to make cuts, cap superintendent salaries and end huge payouts when those people are fired. Reports from other states show it is the rural districts that are punish with vouches. There simply are no private schools for those students. There are church schools- it's called Sunday School and it does not need my tax dollars. Studies do not show that vouchers allow lower or even middle income students to attend private schools. Yearly tuition at Hockaday, a top private school in Dallas, is around \$30,000 per year. If the state of Texas gifts me \$10,000 I still will not be able to send even one of my daughters there. This doesn't include uniforms and others required items. Vouchers are tax payer funded scholarships for the rich. No vouchers! Increase funding for public schools. Public school children are our future.

Linda Atkins, Ms

Self

Temple, TX

School Choice - I believe parents should have a say in what they learn and where their children should go. They have a right to have their values taught to their children.

Donna Beto

Self-retired teacher (Life Member of TSTA)

Bryan, TX

I am a retired public school teacher with 36 years teaching experience. I oppose the small increase in the basic per-student allotment of \$220; that is not enough. The increase per student needs to be, at least, \$1,000 to even keep up with cost of living increases. Also, I urge you to vote "NO" to school vouchers, which would funnel tax-payer funds from public schools to private schools. Tax money does not subsidize private schools; Parents who choose to send their children to private schools pay the tuition.

HB 2-Increase the basic allotment to \$1000 per student; NOT \$220. Listen to the teachers.

HB 3- Vote "NO" to school vouchers. Listen to the majority of your constituents.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Beto

Allison Smith

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am all for school choice. But we already have that. The red tape and difficulty this will cause is not the answer to make a change in providing funding

William Logan Burton

Self and RFISD

ROCKPORT, TX

Please support HB 2 to increase funding for public education. It is nowhere close to what it needs to be but at least it appears to be a start in the right direction. As you know, the BA has remained at the exact same amount of \$6160 since 2019. The proposed BA increase from \$6160 to \$6380 represents a 3.6% increase since 2019. During this same period of time, inflation has averaged 3.6% per year, for an accumulative amount of 23.4%. Over the past 5 years, Texas legislators have pushed more unfunded mandates onto public schools while also raising performance expectations. This demonstrates that Texas legislators actually expect school districts to provide more services, produce better results and yet, do it all with less resources. Its amazing to me that the leaders of our state have not yet addressed this huge public school funding crisis and that it never seems to be anywhere near the priority list. Here are some things that should be considered: Increasing basic allotment sufficiently so that schools can compensate teachers competitively with other professions and help attract more talent; considerations for increased insurance expenses along the Gulf Coast (ie, windstorm), complete restructuring of the finance system including recapture (ie, Robinhood), and Texas needs to stop taking school tax dollars away from tax payers where it is used to fill the state's general fund coffers. School tax dollars should be used on schools.

Sherry Boyd

Self

Spearman, TX

I live in a small rural community and am a retired, but part-time teacher. Districts like mine are already struggling to meet the needs of our students, paying our teachers and paying the bills. Our Texas constitution only addresses providing a public school system. The people of Texas are screaming NO VOUCHERS. We need to fully fund public education not private schools who hand pucks their students while public education takes them all. Texas should not subsidize the wealthy's choice of using private schools or homeschooling. Pay teachers an appropriate salary, we do have degrees and don't take from money that is needed for public education and give it to the richer group who can already afford that choice.

Patricia Jang

Self

Austin, TX

I am a parent of 2 AISD public school students and I adamantly oppose HB3. My tax dollars should not be used to subsidize wealthy families, who make up the vast majority of those that can afford private school. My tax dollars should be spent for the PUBLIC education. Texas already underfunds the public schools. It is appalling that Texas wants to spend money on a select, rich few than to help fund public education for the many deserving Texans.

Leah Davies, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

This bill would gut public education, and that is both unacceptable and shortsighted. School choice already exists in Texas, and as a voter and former public school teacher and student, I strongly object to the lack of standards that private schools are held to. I have loved ones with disabilities and the option that private schools have to refuse to accept students like my loved ones is immoral. Public schools must continue to be supported by Texas lawmakers if we want to continue to grow a prepared workforce. Even with the vouchers, many families are not able to afford private schools.

Sarah Swantner

self- mom and community volunteer

austin, TX

I oppose school vouchers in Texas argue because they divert public funds from already under-resourced public schools, potentially weakening the public education system. Vouchers may not truly expand educational opportunities for low-income families and might exacerbate inequities, and that private schools accepting voucher students may lack adequate accountability and transparency. Additionally, I have concerns about potential constitutional issues, like the separation of church and state, if vouchers support religious private schools.

Lauren Nevils

teacher

Dalhart, TX

As a public school teacher, taking money out of our funds to give to private school, will restrict our ability to reach our students that we currently serve. Taking money from us does not make sense. Also, private schools who do end up taking the money will have to follow the state's regulations and then what is the point of a private school? People send their children to private schools to keep the state out of their business. We already have parent choice. Don't take it from a system that is required to do more with minimum funding as it is.

Kellie Lewis

self

Austin, TX

- No to vouchers or ESA's
- Raise basic allotment to include inflation
- And change the funding from attendance to enrollment

Katy Schreur

myself - Austin ISD mom of 3

Austin, TX

Thank you for your work representing the people of Texas. Please consider the children you represent in this state when deciding how to fund education. As a mother of three I am deeply concerned about this issue.

Vouchers are detrimental to education, a public good. The legislation being considered will not give parents school choice, it will give private schools money that is allocated for public schools. These private schools have no government oversight and can choose who they allow in. Public schools serve every single kid, no matter what.

Please vote NO to vouchers and instead fully fund public schools by raising the basic allotment!

Hugh Robinson

Self - Retired (with 2 children in public school and 1 in private school)

Houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Hugh Robinson, I am a parent in Spring Branch ISD in Houston and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to reject the education savings account program. I have 2 children in public school and 1 in private school, so I see both sides of the education system - public and private.

The education savings account program will, I believe, hurt our state instead of helping it. Funding private education via vouchers doesn't have proper accountability so that we are spending public funds on institutions that do not have the correct oversight to ensure that those dollars are well spent.

Further, studies in multiple states have shown that "vouchers" do not consistently result in improved academic outcomes for low income students.

I fear that passing this measure will hurt our public schools, and that is why I am against it, even though I stand to gain financially as a parent who has a child in private school.

Corey Seifert

Self

Austin, TX

Vouchers will only further increase the deficit being created by state leadership through the unfair recapture program. Enrollment will decrease, causing the ratio to tip even further so that we are sending near a BILLION dollars to sit in coffers and not even be used for education. It's corrupt and you should all be ashamed. Our kids cannot receive a quality public education because you are willfully making it impossible for public schools to function with such reduced budgets. If you're going to give vouchers, then get rid of recapture or at least bring the criteria for calculating it into modern times. We moved to Texas for better public education opportunities and we will not be able to stay with how state government is trying to bury it.

Nathan Franklin

self

Austin, TX

HB2 and HB3 are bad for Texans because they divert public funds away from already underfunded public schools and funnel taxpayer money into private school vouchers, which lack accountability and do not serve all students equally. Instead of investing in teacher pay, classroom resources, and student programs, these bills prioritize privatization, ultimately weakening the quality of education for the majority of Texas children.

Nicholas Joseph
self, Engineer
Austin, TX

I'm writing to OPPOSE HB 3. Public money should not be given to private institutions, particularly when they are not held accountable to the same standards and test as public schools. If private schools take public money, its only fair they should have the same standardized test requirements and be subject to the same state grading system. Also, they must take all students, regardless of disability. If private schools are not required to do that, but take public money, then this bill creates a grossly unfair entitlement program that will benefit the rich and elite above the middle class. Please vote against. Thank you.

Sean Johnston, Mrs.
Retired educator
Sabinal, TX

Fully fund public schools and quit the voucher idea. You are wasting time and money with private school vouchers.

Linda Vineyard, Mrs
Texas Retired Teachers
Ennis, TX

The Texas Republican party is officially signing its departure. Texas voters will remember who is supporting vouchers thereby Democrats will be taking their places at the next election. Republican party, it was good while it lasted. Goodbye.

Victoria Beard, Ms
Self
Houston, TX

I am a public school teacher in Houston. If this bill is passed, public school will collapse & children with special needs whether physical or mental will NOT be served. And the middle class will not be able to pay for private school. I implore you to vote against this bill to save public school in Texas.

Alexis Atwood
Self public school teacher
Happy, TX

Based on the number of commentaries given yesterday and last night regarding the opposition to this bill, I cannot believe that you still think that the majority of Texans are for it. The only people who are for it are you, your billionaire donors, and those who seek to benefit financially, a.k.a. those who already have kids in private schools, who are basically getting welfare for the rich. This is not good for Texas public schools!

Angela Beasley
self
Austin, TX

The proposed school voucher bill in Texas would divert public funds away from already underfunded public schools, weakening the education system that serves the vast majority of students. Vouchers primarily benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition, while rural and lower-income communities are left with fewer resources and fewer quality options. Instead of funding private institutions with taxpayer money, Texas should invest in strengthening public schools for all children.

Paul Bloss, Taxpayer

Fellow taxpayer

Coppell, TX

I can't believe Texas is moving forward with a bill that will establish a billion dollar plus tax dollar expenditure every year to fund private schools. We haven't raised the amount each district gets per student in six years so the rate per student should increase by almost 1500 just to keep up with inflation. I can't believe we even contemplate this new entitlement for private schools when we don't take care

Of the public schools first. Also this bill doesn't take into account the potential shortfalls it will create when our Public school teachers might consider moving to these new schools creating pension shortfall in the teacher retirement plan that will be tied directly to this bill and then we will have to make up the shortfall in the retirement plan that this bill will be responsible for.

Also the Governor tells us this will have no impact on High School football in Texas because you aren't cutting funding for schools athletic dept, but you are creating

New schools that can siphon off players and hurt our local High Schools.

Also you are creating new schools that don't have to have the same testing that we measure all of our public schools by, this is bluntly unfair, if the test are good for public schools than the same test need to apply for each private school.

Who will be monitoring the financial solvency of the schools you are funding because I have to tell you this amount of Money will only increase the chance of fraud if not monitored by the state which means further growth of state government.

The thought that our tax money will go to Private schools is so counter to the conservative approach of limited government and limited state funding. I can't believe after the years hearing from the State GOP how the democrats spend money then the GOP makes the the biggest state entitlement

Program ever has made it easy to consider voting for the other party in Texas.

Sarah Alexander

Self, on behalf of my minor child

San Angelo, TX

Please do not let this pass. Vote no. No one wants it on either side. Taking funding fr out rural schools, so that rich kids in big cities can go to private schools is an awful idea. As a kid, I was poor and abused. I was smart, but had no parents, little supervision, and no one that believed in me. The folks that I lived with abused me in terrible ways. I was doomed to be another generation of poor white trash living in a run down trailer... until two rural public school teachers believed in me. These wonderful women told me I could do more, be more, so I went to college. I now hold a master's degree and ended cycles of domestic violence for my child and future generations of my Texan family. I'd have nothing without rural schools. Please don't do this. Another example: JD Vance was a poor kid too and look where he is now, the vice president. Don't take this money and reallocate it to kids who have all the opportunities in the world. They don't need it. Imagine if this bill keeps the future VP or even a rural mom like myself from breaking generational cycles and becoming something better and more productive for society. Give these kids a chance. Don't take money from them, vote no for vouchers.

Jennifer Sweet

Self - teacher

DENISON, TX

I am against any vouchers or ESAs in Texas. My tax dollars should go to support Texas Public schools. Public schools will lose money under the HB3 plan. If the governor is so confident that Texans want vouchers, we should be given the opportunity to vote on it. The Texas constitution states that the State of Texas will fund a free Public education.

Cody Bryant
Self
Double Oak, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 (HB 3), a piece of legislation that proposes the establishment of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program aimed at subsidizing private school tuition and homeschooling expenses. While the intention of providing educational choice is commendable, the structure of this bill deeply concerns me for several critical reasons.

First, HB 3 disproportionately benefits affluent families who can already afford private school tuition. The proposed allotment per child, while seemingly generous, does not cover the full cost of most private school tuitions. As a result, the program is likely to serve as a subsidy for wealthier families rather than a genuine option for low-income families seeking quality education for their children.

Second, the funding provided through ESAs under HB 3 is not equitable when compared to what public schools receive per pupil. Public schools are already struggling to meet the needs of their students due to underfunding. Redirecting essential resources from public education to fund private school vouchers will only exacerbate the challenges faced by public schools, particularly those in underserved and rural areas.

Third, private schools are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. They are not required to adhere to state curriculum guidelines, standardized testing, or reporting on student performance. This lack of accountability raises serious concerns about the quality of education being funded by taxpayer dollars.

Fourth, the impact on rural schools and low-income families cannot be overstated. Many rural areas do not have private school options, rendering the ESA program irrelevant to these communities. Meanwhile, diverting funding away from public schools serving low-income families will only deepen educational inequities and reduce opportunities for those who need them most.

Finally, HB 3 undermines public education as a public good. Public schools are foundational to a fair and democratic society, serving all children regardless of background, ability, or income. Diverting taxpayer dollars to private institutions threatens the sustainability of public education and prioritizes privatization over community investment.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the implications of HB 3 and advocate for policies that truly serve all Texas students equitably. Public education should be strengthened, not undermined, and our focus should remain on ensuring that every child, regardless of their family's economic status or geographic location, has access to high-quality education.

Natalia Egan
Self Tutor
Houston, TX

I was a special education teacher for 20 years. I'm not anymore because I was driven out of my profession by bad policies and this will be the worst of them all. The admitted purpose of this bill is to defund public education. Please be serious. This is not best for students and especially special education students. Please do not sacrifice these children for the ability to privatize yet another system that should be paid for by our tax dollars. We need more money in schools and not less. We need to respect teaching as a profession and remember there is no state assisted child care or health care or assistance in helping with your child except public education. It's not the Bain's-Aid we have been trying to make it but it is an important part of our society. An educated society is a healthier one, but the billionaires running Texas politics want more money for themselves. Please be serious.

Regan Heydari
Self
Plano, TX

I am strongly against any type of voucher program for schools. Please do not vote for this bill. I have a young year old daughter and I don't want her participating in anything like this.

Karen Bodden

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts in Texas.

Nancy Bircher

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

This is to protest the passage of the school vouchers bill. While I have no problem with private schools, I do not believe tax payer dollars should fund them (via tax payer dollars being used to fund student tuition). The teaching of religious classes at private schools is one of the main attractions for some parents to send their children to private schools. That is fine, and that's where those classes should stay in private schools & not at the expense of public schools. Public schools deserve to have all of the funding possible to keep them up to (or even raise them) quality standards for ALL students of families with ANY income level. If a child comes from a poor family, it is not that child's fault. They should get a high quality public education just the same as a child from a high income family. School vouchers will NOT provide a low income family enough money to be able to afford the tuition of private schools, so school vouchers will only help those of higher income who can probably afford the private school tuition already, anyway. Richer people do not need subsidies for their children's education. Put that money into public schools & increase the quality of education for ALL students in families

lies. not just the ones from high income families. Religion should be taught in churches & homes, not schools. Quit trying to cram it down children's throats. I am a Christian. It is MY job to teach my children religion & our church's job ... not the school system. Keep public tax money in public schools!! Tell the West Texas billionaire pastors who have Abbott & the Republicans in the Texas legislature to keep their religious beliefs in their churches and their church SUNDAY SCHOOLS, and leave the public school system alone! Keep public tax dollars in public schools!

Brandon Creecy

Self - Teacher

Bedford, TX

I do not support HB3 and voucher programs in general. HB3 does not require adequate accountability, transparency, and does not offer protections for students receiving special education services which means private schools can deny services to those who probably need it most.

Dustin Paschal

Self (Attorney)

Frisco, TX

Public education is the great equalizer for our society and our community. For those that may not have the resources or the connections or the familial history and background, public education ensures that every Texas child gets a free education to prepare that child for his or her future. I am the product of Texas public schools. Neither of my parents attended a four-year college. My father was a firefighter and my mother was an office administrator. At my public school in Garland ISD, I not only received a quality education, but I also received opportunities and experiences that gave me the foundation for college and later, law school. In fact, my senior year of high school was far harder than my freshman year of college. Our Texas kids deserve this same experience and this same opportunity.

It's not just that they deserve it - our state constitution mandates it. Our kiddos deserve better than receiving public schools that are starved of resources and left to die on the vine in the name of serving the few. Vouchers will not make our public schools better and they will not make a generation of children better. I implore you to spend our tax dollars on our public schools. Vouchers are not for Texas and you should vote against any bill that includes them.

Dana Rowe
Rowe and Rowe
Midlothian, TX

Strongly oppose! We expect our representatives to represent constituents and not a governor who has tried 5 times and has failed.
Defend public education !

Bo Baggs, Mr
N/A
Port Arthur, TX

As a parent of 2 school age children, I am adamantly opposed to HB 3. If there were truth-in-advertising for naming bills in the Texas Legislature, that bill would be titled the "Robbery From Public Schools Program". To be clear I am totally opposed to my tax dollars being given to unaccountable PRIVATE schools. Speaking of accountability, I, my wife (a teacher) and her colleagues in Lakeview Elementary and the Bob Hope Schools (High and Middle) will watch the vote closely and hold any of our representatives accountable for their vote on this bill. Choose FOR your constituents. Choose wisely.

Melanie Moore Vann
Self- independent insurance agent
Pflugerville, TX

Vouchers are another nail in the coffin for Texas Public Education. Abbott has systematically attacked our schools, teachers, and students by defunding public education while simultaneously working to undermine the quality of public education through STAAR assessments that are at best extremely flawed measures of student achievement. Public education is the foundation of democracy. Our political leaders must protect public education and vote against Abbott's continued efforts to enrich himself and his cronies at the expense of the people of this state.

Rita Berry, Mrs.
Self/ Retired
Austin, TX

I do not support the HB 3 bill.
We need more support for public education.

Leah Hall
Self/my child, Rodan and Fields Consulstant
Austin, TX

My child is a 7th grader at Kealing Middle School and I have a 5th grader at Highland Park Elementary (both AISD schools). Both my children's education have been dramatically impacted by financial struggles of the school district. The lack of spending on teachers and the school building up keep/repairs often leaves their classrooms without a teacher/with a substitute, no heat/cooling in Texas dangerous temperatures, and lack of necessary materials for students/teachers needed for learning which is inconsistent to other schools who have access to better resources/funding. My student has even asked to transfer to another school district so he can have a math teacher who doesn't leave for a better paying position. My husband and I contribute a significant amount of property tax each year and no longer appreciate being asked to pay additional costs to the school district who already receives billions. I support any opportunity for the funds we have already paid to be used to better the school environment for our students today.

Adam Parker

Self

McAllen, TX

****Public Comment on HB 3 and Charter School Expansion:****

House Bill 3 (HB 3) includes provisions that could expand charter schools in Texas, and while school choice is an important value, the expansion of charter schools raises significant concerns about the diversion of public funds away from traditional public schools. Charter schools are often touted as a solution to educational inequities, but in reality, they exacerbate funding challenges for public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students.

Public schools are funded primarily through taxpayer dollars, and every dollar diverted to charter schools reduces the resources available for traditional public schools. This creates a system where public schools, which are required to serve all students—including those with special needs, English language learners, and students from low-income families—are left with fewer resources to meet these obligations. Charter schools, on the other hand, are not held to the same standards and often have the ability to selectively enroll students, leaving public schools to shoulder the burden of educating the most vulnerable populations.

Taxpayer dollars should not be used to subsidize charter schools, which operate with less oversight and accountability than public schools. If parents choose to send their children to charter schools, the financial responsibility should fall on those families, not on the broader taxpayer base. Public funds should be reserved for public schools, which are the cornerstone of our communities and the only institutions legally obligated to serve every child.

Expanding charter schools under HB 3 risks further destabilizing an already underfunded public education system. Instead of diverting resources to charter schools, we should focus on fully funding our public schools, ensuring they have the resources needed to provide a high-quality education for all students. Charter schools may have a role to play, but they should not be funded at the expense of public schools and the millions of students who rely on them.

In conclusion, HB 3 should not include provisions that expand charter schools or divert public funds away from traditional public schools. Taxpayer dollars must be prioritized for public education, and charter schools should be supported by private funding if parents choose that option. Let's invest in the schools that serve everyone, not just a select few.

Teal Perez

Self

Frisco, TX

This is terrible and I do not wish for this bill to pass. It is not what is best for Texas Public schools or Texas children. Leave public funds public.

Charlotte Haney

Houston Independent School District

Houston, TX

I cannot believe that in a state that historically has been driven by fiscal prudence that we would do something so fiscally irresponsible. Other states that have done this have seen voucher money go mostly to family's that already have their children in private schools. Many of our rural counties do not even have private schools in which to use these vouchers. For residents in these counties, the majority of these vouchers will be used in on-line schools which are demonstrably inferior to in person schools. In a world which will be transformed in the new few years by AGI, we cannot afford to under educate our young people. Texas is conservative because fiscally conservative values have led Texas to be an economic leader in the world but our underinvestment in education threatens to jeopardize this success. This voucher scheme is a boondoggle that could cripple our long term success.

Sharon Meggers

Self

Plano, TX

I taught private school first.

It wasn't easy. They didn't have a curriculum & said to write my own. That says it all.

When I started teaching

public school it paid \$1,000.00 above the poverty line for a first year teacher.

The administration, staff & teachers were incredibly helpful. It was a successful career that lasted 31+ years.

After retirement I continued as a substitute teacher.

The district expected 100% from every student. Every program from Gifted to SpEd to ESL was designed to benefit student learning. Public schools are incredible and need to be fully funded. These dedicated teachers should have a salary that allows them to live & retire comfortably.

We follow the state curriculum whether parents like it or not.

It's required.

We barely have enough time to teach the curriculum, much less add our opinion.

We are professionally tested by the state.

We teach all children. We are well trained by in-service.

Public schools deserve to be treated with respect.

I oppose vouchers as a result of my personal teaching experience.

TRS Retiree

Erin McCracken

Self

Austin, TX

Thank you for taking the time to receive my testimony regarding HB 3. I wish to voice my opposition to the Texas education savings account program. I understand HB 3 aims to give Texas parents more choice in their children's education. However, I believe there is nuance involving the realities of perceived choice that is important to acknowledge. I spent many years as a mentor in public schools in Austin. I mentored a child whose father was incarcerated. She happened to live close enough to her middle school that she was able to walk to and from school. This was fortunate for her because her mother was not always able to give her a ride to school. The middle school this child attended had high teacher turnover, low testing scores, and lacked a well-funded Parent-Teacher Association. It's the kind of school we think of when we think of an underfunded, underperforming public school. It's the kind of school where a parent might want a different choice for their child. What I learned about reality is that my mentee's mother would not have been able to exercise another choice for her daughter and it's not because she loves her daughter less than other parents or because she doesn't want what's best for her daughter. It's because she is doing the best that she can with what she has. And her daughter deserves to have a quality public education option. I realized that, at the end of the day, there are always going to be parents who must—for a variety of reasons—depend on the neighborhood public school for their child's education. A savings account for my mentee's family would not have changed her situation, it would not have offered them a realistic choice or educational freedom. My mentee's mom did not have the tools to navigate a private school application process. Likely, my mentee would not have had the grades to gain acceptance into a private school. Even if accepted, \$10,000 would not cover the entirety of the private school's tuition and her mom would be unable to cover the remainder of the cost. Unless the private school was within walking distance from where my mentee lived, my mentee would have had to rely on public transportation to get to and from school. There are thousands of school children in very similar circumstances as my mentee. What about Texas school children who do not even live in proximity to a private school? Perhaps they are in a rural county where a private school does not exist. It is for so many varied and complex reasons that HB3 IS going to leave hundreds of thousands of Texas school children out. For me, offering Texas families a "choice" is not going far enough to ensure ALL Texas school children receive the quality education that they deserve. For me, honoring Texas families means investing in Texas public schools so that regardless of where you live and of your circumstances, you can rely on your neighborhood public school to retain high quality teachers who have what they need. Please vote no on HB3. Thank you.

Ashley Gilbreath

Self teacher

Mineola, TX

NO to school vouchers. No to HB 3.

Jennifer Clifton
Self, Lawyer
DALLAS, TX

Parents do not want vouchers. We want fully funded public education that welcomes all kids including disabled children and those with special needs.

Victoria Dukes
Self
Houston, TX

Though I do support increasing funding for teachers, I do NOT support House Bill 3 in its vile attempt to privatize education. House Bill 3 is a disgrace to public school systems.

Chloe Mills
Self, nonprofit operations manager
Round Rock, TX

Please vote NO on ESA's for Texas and instead support public schools. As a child of a teacher and former school employee myself, I know that public school teachers make miracles out of bread crumbs. It is amazing to me that I can send my children to school everyday knowing that there are teachers and staff who genuinely love and care for them. Public education is a gift--let's give teachers and students the support they need! People will still be free to choose private, charter, or homeschool but public funding should go to public schools.

Stacy Hock
self
Austin, TX

I strongly support this great bill! Thank you for finally bringing universal ESAs to Texas!

Katherine Howard
Self - Registered Nurse
Houston, TX

Vote NO on HB 3. The state of Texas will fail the next generation - our future - by taking away funding for public schools and funneling it into vouchers that only a select few will benefit from. The children who will bear the brunt of this bill are who we are relying on to be our future nurses, doctors and other healthcare professionals in this state. As a nurse myself who is currently in graduate school to obtain my doctorate of nursing practice, I know that more than ever, this state is in need of well-educated individuals from ALL walks of life and areas of Texas to enter the healthcare workforce. The ability to succeed in any professional healthcare program, undergraduate or not, begins with a solid educational foundation - at our public schools. I do not want to hear anyone who voted for this bill ever complain about a healthcare worker shortage in the future when we see the effects of this disastrous proposition years down the road. I encourage you to think critically and with humility about the essential role that public schools play in the stability of our society and vote NO on HB 3.

April Eschberger, School Administrator

Self- public education

Rockdale, TX

School vouchers should not be approved until all stakes are held equal. When private schools, charters, and homeschools all have to meet the same standards it may be considered. Private schools do not have to offer special education services which is becoming very costly. Now that dyslexia devices have changed to be identified and served by special education look at the increase in the special education numbers. More kids qualify for dyslexia, more services, more personnel needed but unfunded with additional monies. Only public school are forced to take STAAR and be rated. How about all students regardless of school or homeschool take the test, get rated, and be held accountable for HB1416 hours. How about if the legislature do something about the "homeschool" students. Parents get mad at schools and withdraw their student to homeschool but never do one course or assignment. Then a year later come back to public school because they get tired of their child doing nothing. And guess who has to remediate the student who missed all of the school year or semester- the public school they reenroll. How about some accountability to all education services? How about these parents who are doing a disservice to their children. Public school has a lot more mandates they are forced to pay for with that money. Just think of the unfunded security measures public schools must pay for. Why do private school not have to meet these mandates? Their students are just as important, have equal risk of security, and no money from legislature to pay for these things, yet do not have to do them. Before allowing money to be used any place, start comparing apples to apples. Make things equal and more importantly equitable first!!

Gwendolyn Overturf

self

Gause, TX

THIS IS ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS. Texas is rural. Many kids think they want to go to a private school. Those private school kids come from families with money. Even if a rural kid uses public funds to go to a private school, the family of the kid cannot keep up with keeping up with the Jones'. The funds are not there (in the home). Even if the rural kid goes there, they will not be seen the same as the well to do kids. What will it do to the child's mental health? I have two of the smartest kids in this great state. They ALWAYS get top scores on state tests. I put my info in the submission, so you can look it up. We will not be using funds to send them somewhere with affluence. We will continue to send our boys to school in podunk small schools in Milam County (Gause and Milano). Underserved, and overworked, but the administrators, teachers, ancillary staff love, and honestly, care for my boys. My boys will get their scholarships the same way people have ALWAYS in this great state. By excelling. This ridiculous idea of giving state funds to allow kids to go to a different school than where they are from is wrong. If the parents have enough money to put them in a private school, that's fine. If a kid is in an area and they do not want to go to a school they are assigned to, they can apply as a transfer to another district. The district can approve or deny them based on their academic performance, and if they act up in school. I say leave it as it is.

Leslie McGuinness-Monclova

Self - former Texas K-12 teacher who couldn't pay her property taxes

Austin, TX

I am against school vouchers.

The most important thing the schoolchildren of Texas need right now is an increase of at least \$1200 per year for the standard allotment.

I proudly taught elementary school in Austin ISD for 15 years and had to leave the profession because my salary could not keep up with the cost of living in Austin - most significantly, rising property taxes. 50% of my AISD school taxes leave our district for the state surplus, teachers are leaving because they need better paying jobs, and children pay the price.

Increase the standard allotment and make Texas public schools whole.

John Reed
self
EL PASO, TX

I am about as Republican as you can get, and even I know (after 32 years as a teacher) vouchers are a poor idea. Here is what the voucher lovers do not understand/purposely ignore. 1. Private schools pick and choose kids. If a student does not make the grade and/or misbehave, they are kicked out at any time. Where do they go? The public schools have to take every student regardless. The senate has already admitted that that there is no guarantee they have to take kids with special needs. How are you going to account for the differences? You say competition (how with an uneven playing field)? 2. You claim public schools will still be robust. When they lose money, what do you expect them to cut (art, music, etc.)? It amazes me that this is ignored as many districts are suffering due to no increase in money (only 200 more per student? seriously???) have you seen the amount of districts in financial strain and cutting programs and staff? 3. Can you cite a study that says private schools are dramatically better as you claim? 4. How are you going to prove that private schools are accountable or is that not a priority? 5. Wasn't the point to charter schools competition? It is already here! If you and the governor actually want to fix schools, how about talking to people on the front lines and not people who have no clue as to what goes on. What do voucher lovers have against public schools???

Or is this just to help rich kids? John Reed El Paso

<Texastwostep.pdf>

Susan Anderson, Dr.
Justice Network of Tarrant County
Benbrook, TX

My name is Sue Anderson. I am a resident of Benbrook, TX, a teacher educator, and the parent of two public school graduates. I also chair the Public Education Team of the Justice Network of Tarrant County.

Texans take pride in their public schools, which educate 90% of our students. Yet districts across the state, including mine, face severe budget shortfalls, leading to teacher layoffs and school closures. Many districts have already cut as much as they can. Vouchers (or Education Savings Accounts) will only make this worse. In Fort Worth alone, vouchers could drain nearly \$30 million dollars, forcing the district to lay off teachers, increasing class sizes, and harming student learning. Evidence from other states shows that vouchers often lead to worse academic outcomes.

I am a believer in school choice within the public school system. My own children benefitted from these options when they attended Fort Worth ISD schools. However, school choice should not come at the expense of public education. Instead of diverting taxpayer dollars to private schools, Texas should strengthen the public schools that serve all students.

Unlike public schools, private schools receiving voucher funds are not required to accept all students, follow state curriculum standards, hire certified teachers, or comply with special education laws. For example, as a single mom, I once applied to a private school for my child with a disability, but she was denied admission. Even if accepted, a voucher wouldn't have covered tuition, which I could not afford without significant financial aid.

Rural and lower-income communities are hit hardest by vouchers, as they often lack private school options and if they do, private schools usually do not provide transportation. Public schools are the backbone of these communities, and diverting funds weakens local economies.

Vouchers primarily benefit wealthier families, as private school tuition far exceeds voucher amounts. In many cases, vouchers simply subsidize students already in private schools—at taxpayer expense.

The Texas Constitution guarantees a free and efficient public education system and prohibits taxpayer money from funding religious instruction. Diverting public resources to private institutions undermines these principles. I urge you to vote NO on HB 3.

Alexis Hall

self

Plano, TX

I am a certified special education teacher in an elementary school in Allen ISD. I write to you to express my strong opposition to HB 3 and to urge you to reject this harmful legislation.

As a special education teacher, I work with students with learning differences, speech impairment, autism, emotional challenges, and other health impairments. While always challenging, I enjoy my work. However, it is my belief that HB 3 will serve to further weaken an already financially strapped school district. We will underserve those most vulnerable and academically challenged students.

I am held accountable to my students and their parents through the development of fully customized lesson and behavior plans (if appropriate). Through collaboration with the parents, specialists, and co-workers, we work to bring the best outcome for the students under our guidance.

I have not seen anything in HB 3 that requires the same level of standard that we expect of our public schools. For example, private school teachers are not required to be certified. Private schools can pick and choose those students they wish to admit. Private schools have no required curriculum or testing standards. Why are we proposing to give public dollars to private institutions and require no accountability? Something is fundamentally wrong with this plan.

I urge you to stand with our students, teachers, and communities by rejecting HB 3.

Rebeka Villarreal

self

Austin, TX

I am writing to you as a concerned constituent but also as a former school social worker who has seen firsthand the profound impact that public education has on children, families, and communities. I urge you to NOT support school vouchers, a policy that threatens the very foundation of our public education system.

As a parent, I wanted nothing more than to see my child thrive in a safe, nurturing environment where she is valued and supported. After attending a private school from kindergarten through fifth grade, my daughter transitioned to public school, and it was a transformative experience. She graduated from that public school system, and the opportunities she had there played a crucial role in shaping her into the successful, compassionate young adult she is today and I want the same for all Texas children. The exposure to diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences at my daughter's school was instrumental in her success, both as a learner and as a community member. Public schools offer more than just academics—they create environments where children from all walks of life come together, learn from each other, and grow into well-rounded individuals.

As a social worker, I've witnessed the immense needs of students who rely on our public schools not just for education, but for their basic needs—emotional, social, and psychological. These schools are often the only place where children receive consistent meals, counseling, and a safe, supportive environment. The holistic care provided to vulnerable students cannot be easily replicated in a private school setting that may lack the resources, diversity, and commitment to equity that our public schools offer.

School vouchers are not the solution. They take away from the already underfunded public schools, diverting critical resources to private institutions that don't have the same obligations to serve all students, especially those with disabilities, English learners, or students from low-income backgrounds. Public schools have an accountability to every child. They must provide services for all students, regardless of background, while private schools often have the freedom to pick and choose who they admit, leaving behind those most in need of support.

We must prioritize the health and well-being of our public schools and ensure they remain strong and accessible for every child. School vouchers will only deepen the disparities in our education system, creating a divide between those who can afford to supplement their education with private institutions and those who cannot.

I implore you to stand with families and reject school vouchers. We need to invest in our public schools, not dismantle them. Every child deserves a high-quality education, and that starts with a strong, fully funded, equitable public school system.

Thank you for your consideration and for standing up for the future of our children.

Stephanie O'Dell, Mrs

Self

Mckinney, TX

Private schools do not accept students with special needs. Keep public funds in Public schools.

Wenona Lewis

Self

Tomball, TX

Public money should not be allocated for private schools use. Your argument doesn't hold water. You can't say that you are "leveling" the field with "school choice" because private schools do not have to follow the same standards as public schools. If you want to "level" the field, require private schools to adopt the same state curriculum, publish their financial budgets, accept any student, and participate in the mandatory state assessment. Also- make sure that they must follow all of the unfunded mandates that are currently in place for public schools. In addition, make sure that the funding is only available if they meet the required attendance standards and the scores of the state assessments will determine whether they get their money the following year.

Make sure that all of the requirements that are placed on the public ISDs become applicable since the taxpayer is now paying the tuition.

Therese Progar

self

Richardson, TX

Sir, of the the bills that are being considered, I think your is the better. However, I do not support using my tax dollars for private schools. If we spent enough money, wisely on our public schools we could have a model Public Education System in the state of Texas. The money is there. The will is lacking. States that prioritize public education, have high performing schools, and a well educated populace. They set the bar high for teachers, pay them well, and value their service. They recognize the difficulties that may interfere with student performance and teacher success, as in overcrowded classrooms and challenging household situations, and special needs.

I truly wish every representative would spend one day in a public school classroom, just one full day, to see the challenges facing teachers, challenges that could be mediated just by reducing the student/teacher ratio. There are so many needs, and so little real dedication on the part of lawmakers to meet them. I think the solutions that are proposed lack any real experience of the problems.

I have worked in a state that was rife with private schools. Mississippi. The result is a very undereducated population with resulting economic, social, health and quality of life challenges. A state as rich as Texas should be proud of its public schools system, and the result should be one that is an example to the rest of the country. Giving public funds for private education is an admittance that the will to have exemplary public schools does not exist.

Cody Knott
Self
Eastland, TX

Members of the Committee,

As a proud Texas public educator, I would like to ask you to reconsider this bill on ESA. For far too long, our public education system has failed its students, parents, and teachers. Before we begin to change and give away money for school choice, we need to ensure that the public schools are given the funding they truly need. It is crucial that we address the underlying issues within our public education system before considering additional funding for alternatives.

Look across the state at the mass layoffs, the teacher shortages, and the growing deficits that are plaguing our districts. Teachers are working harder than ever, but they cannot do it without the necessary resources and proper funding. Our students deserve better than overcrowded classrooms, outdated materials, and understaffed schools. The current state of affairs is unacceptable, and change must come.

One of the most immediate steps we can take is to adjust the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding. The current adjustment of \$300 per student is insufficient to address the real needs of our students and schools. I urge you to increase the ADA to \$10,000 per student. This adjustment would help provide the necessary support for public schools to thrive and better serve the students who rely on them every day.

Furthermore, if you are going to offer \$10,000 per student for school choice, then this should be applied across the board, for all students, regardless of whether they attend a public or private school. Every student in Texas deserves equal access to the resources and opportunities that will ensure their academic success. We cannot afford to leave any student behind.

The future of Texas' education system lies in the hands of our lawmakers. It's time we make the right decisions to support our public schools, the heart of our communities. I ask you to prioritize the funding that will provide equitable opportunities for all students, not just a select few.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Cody Knott
Eastland, TX

Kristin Barrow
Self
Smithville, TX

I am against HB3 because it would continue to limit resources to public schools including rural schools like Smithville ISD. It would also leave our kids with disabilities & behavioral challenges because private schools don't have to admit kids with those needs. It's inefficient & ineffective to direct our tax dollars to fund schools that have less oversight & those who can exclude unwanted students from enrollment. I want my tax dollars to fund public schools so they have the resources needed to properly help ALL kids. Additionally, teachers & staff should be provided additional money towards their salaries. Texas ranks very low in teacher pay in the country. My husband, a teacher, is now paid less in TX than he was in NC. The cost of living is so much higher here which makes it challenging to afford being here. In closing, our tax dollars should be spent in a way that helps that greatest number of students, not the fewest. THAT is the most efficient use of our tax dollars.

Lindsey Hall, Dr
self/retired
Plano, TX

I find the bill lacking in giving parents school choice. Most of Texas does not have access to private schools so there will be no choice for the majority of the state. For those areas with private schools, the choice is still lacking. Private schools are not required to have certified teachers, provide transportation, accept students with learning differences, disabilities, etc. Most parents are unaware of these differences and again this bill does not address these disparities or ensuring parents are aware of them. As written, this bill will in the main subsidize parents who have children in private school and not improve the quality of education as the bill proposes for the citizens of Texas. As money is a finite resource, spending money on private schools will weaken public schools as their state mandated requirements - accept all students, provide special education, provide transportation, etc will come under increasing pressure as money for these services will become more scarce than it already is. The increase in the student allocation amount is inadequate to meet current needs and as money is moved to private schools, I cannot see funding ever being allocated to meet public school needs.

In conclusion, HB3 as written fails to meet its stated objectives and should be voted down in its current form.

Carol Ahlgren, Ms
Self, Retired
ROUND ROCK, TX

DO NOT pass the private school voucher House bill, which will benefit high income families. the legislature MUST greatly increase the allocations for our public schools, which provide for the needs of all students, regardless of income or ethnicity.

Sara Reeves
Self
Round Rock, TX

HB 3 Defunds Public Education

Thank you for serving on the House Public Education Committee. I trust that you sit on this committee because you understand the value of public education for all Texans.

I am against HB 3 and encourage the committee members to vote against this bill. As written, this bill defunds public education at the expense of lower income families – transferring public funds into private hands to the benefit of wealthy families.

The Governor says he wants to give families the choice. But he's not really giving them a fair choice. The state of Texas woefully underfunds public schools. When one of the two choices is lavished with funds from wealthy families while the other of the two choices is starved by the state legislature, it is not a fair choice. And even with vouchers, it will not be a choice for families with low income. The vouchers will not cover the full and true cost of a private education, and families with low income will stay in public schools that are even more substantially underfunded than they are now. My own school district in Round Rock could lose up to \$20 million a year to this voucher program, much of it subsidizing wealthy families who have the luxury of ignoring the plight of public education and who already send their children to private schools.

We don't want to choose private schools. We want to choose high-quality education and equal opportunities. Before considering a voucher program, first give families a real choice. A choice to choose a high-quality public education by fully investing in our public schools.

Thank you,
Sara Reeves
78681

James Bourque
Self - Attorney and Teacher
Cedar Park, TX

I oppose Gov. Abbott's Segregation Bill. In 1957, Texas Conservative's created School Vouchers to give parents the privilege of segregating from racially integrated schools. The Bill failed due to Progressive Democrats, but Conservatism has never stop trying. Today, HB 3 gives parents the privilege of segregating from culturally integrated public schools that teach Tolerance and DEI. Conservatism opposes DEI because they oppose equity and want meritocracy, exclusion, not inclusion, segregation, not diversification. An objective study of United States history would reveal Conservatism in general, social conservatism particularly and religious conservatism specifically have opposed and been wrong on every major social issue of equality since slavery. I ask members to see this error of the past reflected in Abbott's leadership in the present and oppose the idea you have the right to segregate in the name of freedom. This is not who you are, and I ask you to affirmatively make this clear, once and for all, to Gov. Abbott before it is too late. Thank you

Stacy Parker, Mrs
Self Mental Health Therapist
Post, TX

No to the public funding if private school education! Parents already have a choice of their children's education. But public funds should remain and solely go to public schools

Olivia Derr
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote no on HB 3 as it does not align with Texan values or fulfill any need we have in the state. Texans across the sate have consistently signaled that they do not want vouchers by voting NO since 1995. The Voucher Scam will blow up the budget-ballooning up to \$6B by 2030, according to the LBB. FULL FUNDING FOR TX PUBLIC SCHOOLS is what is needed. Please increase the basic allotment by \$1350 and Vote NO on the Voucher Scam.

As the parent of a special needs student who graduated from high school in 2021, I know first hand how public schools provide services that private schools do not deliver. My child needed the help of aids, learning specialists, behavioral support staff, occupational and speech therapists. We were fortunate enough to live in a well-funded public school district where parent fundraising made up for the gaps in service due to low state contributions. But now those contributions are even lower and if HB 3 is passed, our public schools will be even further degraded where children like mine won't have any chance at getting the support they need for future success.

We do not need to supplement the payments to private schools that will only benefit the wealthy families who already send their children to these schools. The majority of Texans need access to great public schools where we are giving all kids a chance to learn, grow and ultimately contribute back to our great society here in Texas. Please don't harm these Texans to help the few that are already set up for their preferred learning environment.

Rachel Moede
Self
Austin, TX

I am a public school teacher and understand what the Republicans in the State legislature are trying to do to public education. The plan is no secret and all Republicans who vote for this Bill will have to answer for it when hundreds of thousands of students and their families suffer because of this bill. We won't forget.

Michael Casavant
Self, Product Manager
Plano, TX

As a veteran who swore an oath to serve all Americans, I understand the fundamental importance of public institutions that provide opportunity for everyone. Just as I served without regard to background or wealth, our public schools must do the same. This bill, establishing an education savings account program, fundamentally violates that principle.

It's not about 'school choice'; it's about schools choosing which students they want to serve. This legislation creates a two-tiered system:

- For the wealthy: It offers a taxpayer-funded discount on private school tuition, a benefit they hardly need.
- For the vast majority of Texans, especially those in rural areas: It offers nothing. In counties where private schools are nonexistent, this bill simply diverts vital public school funding, further disadvantaging students who already lack resources.

This program isn't about expanding opportunity; it's about exacerbating existing inequities. Private schools often lack the same accountability and transparency as public schools. They can cherry-pick students, exclude those with disabilities, and operate without the same rigorous standards. This undermines the very purpose of public education: to provide a quality education for every child.

Let's be clear: this is not 'school reform,' it's 'welfare for the wealthy.' It takes from the struggling public system and gives to those who already have more.

Instead of subsidizing private schools that serve a select few, we must invest in our public schools, the cornerstone of our democracy. We must:

- Ensure equitable funding that keeps pace with inflation and the rising cost of living.
- Provide resources to support all students, regardless of their background or zip code.
- Strengthen accountability and transparency in public education.

If your oath to serve the people of Texas means anything, reject this divisive and harmful bill. Prioritize the education of all our children, not just a privileged few.

Brian Bloss

Self, public school teacher

Grapevine, TX

To the honorable members of the Public Education Committee,

My name is Brian Bloss, and I am a public school teacher and a conservative opposed to HB3. Before explaining my opposition, I want to thank the committee for splitting HB3 from HB2. However, I urge you to consider: How does HB3 improve our current situation?

Instead of allocating \$1 billion for a new entitlement program, which will grow exponentially, HB3 undermines the ability of public schools to function, particularly in the face of an ongoing teacher shortage. I teach for Northwest ISD in Education Region 11, where 60% of districts are already in deficit. Estimates suggest my district could lose over \$12 million in funding next biennium, leading to up to 206 staff positions being cut. Already, we're cutting 106 staff and raising secondary student-to-teacher ratios from 167:1 to 180:1. I currently teach 203 students, and this trend will only lead to fewer opportunities for meaningful relationships between students and teachers. I ask, how does HB3 make things better for students?

Moreover, the head of TRS has warned that even a 1% reduction in staff contributing to TRS could lead to insolvency. Governor Abbott has claimed HB3 won't affect TRS, but with fewer students in public schools, why would schools retain staff? How does this encourage new teachers when they face the risk of a compromised pension system? It doesn't, as HB3 doesn't require schools accepting ESAs to contribute to TRS.

Public schools also serve as a key factor for economic development and help maintain property values, which many teachers and Texans rely on for retirement. We're already seeing major districts closing schools due to budget deficits caused by Governor Abbott's decision to tie ESAs with public education funding last session. How does siphoning funds from public schools address the loss of this economic engine?

As a lifelong conservative, I must express concern that this bill creates a new entitlement without accountability. Governor Abbott has claimed this bill is vital to protect children from radical indoctrination like Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Yet, HB3 lacks any measures to shield students from such influence, and many elite private schools embrace DEI, as a core value in their selection of staff and what is taught. If protecting children from DEI is so vital, how can we support funding for private schools with DEI as a core value if we fear it as indoctrination? Furthermore, HB3 imposes STAAR testing on homeschool families, who already practice school choice. If this is about freedom, why impose new mandates on families who've chosen independence? Ultimately, the only beneficiaries of HB3 appear to be private companies administering the funds, which will receive 8% of the money allotted to the program annually for administration. This bill will lead to larger class sizes, fewer teachers, and declining property values, all in service of Governor Abbott's vanity project.

ann price

self/retired teacher

olney, TX

Please vote NO!! Public schools in Texas are already underfunded without vouchers. Good private schools don't cost \$10,000.

Amy Somers

self

plano, TX

Vouchers are going to take money away from public schools. Private schools likely won't take the vouchers because that means that they will have to take STAAR testing since they will receive money from the state. so then people won't get to use the vouchers. also, vouchers are going to be a tax break for the rich. Texas already has school choice. No VOUCHERS

Margaret Karnowski
Richardson ISD
DALLAS, TX

I am a school counselor who frequently enrolls students who have left private school or been kicked out of private school due to behavior or nonpayment. These students are seldom better prepared than the students who have attended public schools their entire lives. Giving state dollars to schools that have no accountability whatsoever is a slap in the face to all tax payers. Public schools have standardized testing every year and have to accept every student who comes through our door. We have state requirements for class size, graduation credits, attendance, and curriculum. Education savings accounts would take money from them and give it to private schools that can have frequent school closures, no education or certification requirements for their teachers, and no curriculum standards. It is an unethical use of our tax dollars.

Shannon Fallis
Self
Amarillo, TX

We are in favor of vouchers and home school!

Adrianna Holland
Self/homeschool
Kemp, TX

“Hello, my name is Adrianna Holland. I am writing today regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of “parental empowerment.” I would like to ask my representative to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing “school choice” legislation like HB 3. Thank you!

Eric Betts
self
Austin, TX

This plan is doomed to be a miserable failure that will devastate countless Texas communities and cause preventable, malicious harm everywhere else, and I suspect that deep down you know this but have agreed to go along with it because you're more accountable to a handful of our country's sadly bountiful supply of fanatical billionaires than you are to the public welfare.

Tanya Lovenberg
homeschool teacher
Nacogdoches, TX

Any step of the government to "help" when the help was not requested, is not "help", it is a back door to control. As a homeschooling mother who graduated from and raised my two oldest children in public (government) school, I have first hand knowledge that how I now homeschool my youngest is how God intended we educate our children. The system is corrupt, the schools are over run with people wanting to exploit our children in one form or another. We the people, we the PARENTS, say no to HB 3! We homeschool because we don't want or need your assistance in raising and educating the next generation of leaders, thank you.

Lynda Buckley
Self
Dallas, TX

Do not force school vouchers on Texas. We want our public schools funded properly. You are not doing what the majority of Texans want, only a few billionaires in west Texas. It is very transparent that this has been bought and paid for. I ask you and all the House reps, do your children go to public school? I would bet they Do Not. Let real Texans vote on vouchers. That is only right.

Rachael Barton
Self, pharmacist
Arlington, TX

I oppose this bill and any form of it. When the Covid 19 mandates were passed, citizens were opposing as they knew their freedoms were about to be ripped away from them under the guise of "protecting our health". One by one, every state in the entire United States of America put the same mandates in place regardless of what their citizens wanted. The same is happening with "school choice" and "education reform" bills. Parents, teachers, school administrators, and many others are jumping up and down begging our legislators to not pass this bill, yet one by one, I see states enacting the same legislation. Listen to your citizens. Stop lying to the public that this bill is supported when it is crystal clear that HB 3 is opposed by a large majority. Stop lining your pockets at the expense of our freedom. We see through it. We see the donations. We see the control you want. We see our rights once again being ripped away as our wishes fall on your deaf ears. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Shannon Varner
self
Richardson, TX

I am writing regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to make it known that I along with a large constituency of homeschoolers oppose "school choice" legislation like HB 3. Thank you.

Elizabeth Seballes
Self
Mesquite, TX

As a homeschooling parent I stand with my fellow homeschoolers by voicing that I am against HB 3. We enjoy the freedom we currently have and want to keep it that way. We in no way, shape, or form want the government dictating what we teach our children. Many of us have found that our children excel in an environment not under pressure and based on their interests.

Heather Morse
self; unemployed
Houston, TX

I am a mom to two kids enrolled in public school, and a former public school teacher. The school that I taught at closed down last year as part of our district's efforts to close a \$35M budget deficit as a direct result of this legislature's failure to adequately fund public education. The data from states who have previously passed vouchers is clear: vouchers disproportionately go to families already paying for private school and serve as nothing more than a coupon, state budgets balloon a direct result of vouchers, and educational outcomes statewide are either unaffected or decrease--never do they improve. Public school is MY choice. I didn't settle for it because we couldn't afford private, I chose it because it is the best for my family. And yes, not all families have the same choices or opportunities which is exactly why public education exists, and we cannot continue to be a great option without adequate funding. Additionally, the very system that is used to grade us, is broken, misleading and based on a single test taken on a single day that no private schools are required to take. At the very least, have the decency to level the playing field rather than holding public schools to an exceptionally rigorous standard in which the goal post keeps moving, while private schools get to choose which accountability standards they adhere to, and all the while legislators denigrate public schools for being 'underperforming.' As if closing the school I worked at weren't enough, vouchers stand to bankrupt TRS so even the retirement I've paid a decade into is now in jeopardy as well. The lack of suitable public education was one of the driving forces behind Texas declaring its independence from Mexico because we have always known public education to be vitally important. I taught this information to my 4th graders, and am looking forward to the day one of them becomes a legislator who will stand by their duty to their constituents to properly fund public education for the good of our entire state. Public dollars belong in public schools. The people know this, and if you were to put vouchers on a general ballot, that would be clear. Your unwillingness to let all voters (not just Republican primary voters) vote on this shows that you know this as well. Passing a voucher scam will defund public schools, balloon our state budget, grow government, and make a quality education a privilege rather than a right, dooming the future of this state's economy.

Patricia Bradley
Self-Retired.
Houston, TX

School Vouchers will take needed money from Public Education Budgets and hurt the children in Texas. School Vouchers will devastate rural schools and schools in small towns. All public schools will be negatively impacted. The future of this country will be negatively impacted by uneducated and undereducated citizens. The school vouchers will not give all children equal opportunity to receive a great education. The school vouchers will only benefit parents that already have a child(s) in private schools. It is a welfare check for the wealthy. I pray you will vote to oppose HB 3 and save Public Education for children who will be left behind because of School Vouchers. Thank you.

Joshua Gillispie
Victory Baptist Academy
Weatherford, TX

I want to first take the time and thank the legislator for taking so much time in consideration of the education of the youth of our state. I am writing in support of HB3. The separatist came to Plymouth in 1620 to seek a land where they could educate their children in accordance to their Christian beliefs. The first education law passed in America was the Massachusetts Act of 1642, the law expressed that parents are responsible to teach their children three things: 1. the laws of the land 2. literary values 3. spiritual knowledge. A founding principle of our nation is that the education of our youth is the responsibility of parents. The government has increasingly taken away the role of parents of providing education for their children and has become the only avenue many have to train their children. The problem with this is that government education has failed many students. Consider the US Government's own report about the status of government run schools, "If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war." (A Nation at Risk, 1983) Additionally the government educational system has adopted the religion of secular humanism. In 2025, the state of Texas has before them the ability to pass legislation that will finally give parents the ability to educate their children the way that is best for their children. These parents have paid sales tax, federal taxes, and property tax for the purpose of "education" but have seen little in the way of return on investment. It is time to place the education of students back into the hands of the parents. The legislator of Texas has no choice but to end the war on children, and allow parents the means and ability to do what is best for their student and their family. The House must pass HB3.

Lindsay Rankin
Self, stay at home mom/homeschool mom
San Antonio, TX

As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment. Please vote no on this bill.

Jennifer StrawnWhite
Self
Keller, TX

I am commenting regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a Texas homeschool parent for the past 17 years, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to ask this committee to please join a LARGE constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3. Thank you!

Claudia Ibarra

Self / Homeschool Mom of 3

Wichita Falls, TX

As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." California offered "government money" to charter school but little by little they started asking parents to submit a sample of school work, to meet with a "teacher" once a month even though we were homeschooling and finally they wanted to incorporate their school curriculum in our homes! And they would only allow secular curriculum! So, we decided to move to Texas in the hopes of being free and now we are faced with this so called "parents empowering bill."

Tara Aycock

Self RN

Longview, TX

Hello, my name is Tara. I am writing regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to ask Representative _____ to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3. Thank you!

Roshawna Robinson

Self / Driver for Blood Bank

Bryan, TX

My name is Roshawna Robinson. I am communicating in regard to the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschooling parent, who withdrew my child from public school due to the failed system for special education students, I see how absolutely imperative it is that parents are free from government strings and regulations in private education. The government managed educational systems do not work. All of my children have thrived in our homeschool. I am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." We already have school choice! It is a true choice that was made without government interference. I would like to ask Representative Michael T McCaul to PLEASE oppose "school choice" legislation like HB 3. We are Republicans, it's time that Republicans in our state start thinking like Republicans again and protect our freedoms! Thank you.

Kieran Sartor

Self

Weatherford, TX

I am writing regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to ask, please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3. Thank you!

Lavina Bull

Self

Houston, TX

I am extremely opposed to JHR140 voucher progr4am. Please do not pass this bill. Vote NO!

Martha Rhoades, Mrs.

Self, Retired

Huntsville, TX

As a former Homeschooling parent, I valued freedom from government regulation and oversight in private education and I'm against the expansion of such regulation and oversight in the name of "parental empowerment". I am a School Choice supporter, but not at the expense of Homeschools.

Gayla Beimer
self
San Angelo, TX

As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of “parental empowerment.” I would like to ask you to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing “school choice” legislation like HB 3. Thank you!”

Savannah Marquez
Self
ROUND ROCK, TX

As much as I would love to be there to voice my concerns in person, I am teaching students in a public school today — fulfilling the mission of providing every child, no matter their background or abilities, with access to quality education. I am writing to express my strong opposition to H.B. No. 3, which seeks to establish an Education Savings Account (ESA) program in Texas.

Texas already offers school choice through public charter schools, magnet programs, and inter-district transfer options. Public schools are the only schools required to accept ALL students, regardless of disabilities, behavior, or socioeconomic status. They provide comprehensive services including special education, bilingual education, free and reduced-price meals, transportation, mental health support, and extracurricular activities — services that private and home-school programs are not mandated to offer. Public schools must also adhere to academic accountability standards, safety protocols, and transparency measures that ensure every student receives a fair and equitable education.

Public schools in Texas rely heavily on state and local funding, with a substantial portion coming from property taxes. According to the Texas Education Agency, 56% of public school funding comes from local property taxes, disproportionately affecting districts in lower-income areas. Schools in these communities already struggle with limited resources due to lower property tax revenues. Redirecting state funds to private and home-schooling options through ESAs will further drain critical resources from these already underfunded schools. As a result, public schools will face increased financial strain, larger class sizes, fewer academic and extracurricular programs, and diminished support services for students who need them most.

The ESA program will not provide equal opportunities for all students. Lower-income families will struggle to afford remaining tuition costs when private schools inevitably raise rates in response to state funding. A report by the National Bureau of Economic Research shows that voucher programs in other states have led to significant tuition increases, making private education even more inaccessible to low-income families. Private schools are not required to provide transportation or special education services, excluding families who cannot cover these additional expenses.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities. Diverting funds to selective private institutions will only widen educational inequities and harm students who depend on a well-funded public education system. I urge the House Committee to oppose H.B. No. 3 and advocate for policies that strengthen public education rather than undermine it.

Jonathan Porter, Chaplain
Self
Garland, TX

The passage of this bill will allow government intrusion into private homeschooling families lives. It is NOT something that the Texas homeschooling families want, or need. If we wanted (or needed) the government's help to teach our children, then we would have them enrolled in public school. If Texas has enough money to fund this bill, then the funds could be better used elsewhere - like actually paying all Texas Department of Correctional Justice employees that have not been paid overtime since last year. Better yet, if the state wants to keep the funds within the realm of education, then make the funds available for all students (including private schools and homeschools) to allow ALL youth to be able to getting a vocational-technical certification and/or an associate's degree from ANY school within the state. This bill needs to either 1) be allowed to die in committee, or 2) voted down by the general House. Stop trying to backdoor intrusion into private lives. Instead, make better use of the funds elsewhere and kill this bill.

Tracy Wolfe

Self, public school parent

Cypress, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3.

The Texas Constitution Article VII guarantees that "ALL Texas children have access to a QUALITY PUBLIC education. The state legislature is responsible for establishing and maintaining the system." Republicans have had control of the TX legislature for over 30 years. Ask yourselves why the system is "failing." TX is in the bottom 10 states for public school funding. Over 5.5 million kids enrolled in public schools that don't have enough money. Look up cause and effect. Not enough money =not enough resources/time to do the job properly. Conservatives are supposed to be Constitution advocates with a goal of smaller government. This bill increases government overreach especially in the private sectors of education. It is not fiscally responsible with an est negative impact of over \$1B by Aug 31, 2027 per SB2. 158 out of the 254 Texas counties don't have a private school option, so how does this help them? This is estimated to "help" 2% of students; how does the equate to ALL TX families as is constantly being advertised? Yes, ISDs can limit transfers based on space and resource availability due to gross under funding. If funds increased, they could accept more transfer students. Private schools don't actually have to accept anyone as is their right. They do not have to and most don't accept students with IEPs, 504s, physical disabilities, or anyone else they deem unacceptable for any reason. Vouchers will not change private school admission processes. Public schools do not discriminate on gender, parentage, language spoken, race, religion, diagnoses, etc for admission purposes. Magnet and charter schools also have an admission process that limit the number of students admitted based on capacity and teacher availability. They; however, aren't being vilified by our government. Do what's right and listen to the people. Peruse Mr Abbotts FB pages for more information and comments by the people. A "win" on a republican primary ballot, where only 12.6% of registered voters actually voted does not equal a win. If you are so confident that this is what all of TX wants, put it to a public vote for ALL of TX; what are you so afraid of?

Melissa Scott

Self- home educator

Georgetown, TX

As a conservative Republican, I oppose HB3 and the establishment of an ESA/voucher program. This initiative is not fiscally conservative. Private education should be funded with private money and government should not endorse not interfere with the operations of the private education sector, including homeschools. If you look at other states such as Arizona, Indiana, and Florida, spending on voucher programs increases annually. Public schools in those states are suffering. We have an obligation to fund our public schools and that has not been happening in a responsible manner. The 5.5 million public school children in Texas deserve support and funding. This voucher program will only benefit a limited number of students, yet will cost billions to taxpayers and will leave our public schools even more under-funded. I implore you to vote for our Texas children and vote AGAINST HB3.

Rachel Harrelson

Self, homeschool parent

Burleson, TX

Please listen to the homeschool parents and the public school teachers who are saying this isn't the way to improve education in Texas. We already have school choice and we appreciate it. This is only going to pull money from public schools who are already struggling. It will also increase stress on homeschooling parents and students. We do not want this. No one seems to be listening to us. This only benefits the wealthy. If you really want to improve education in Texas let's talk about removing the standardized tests and let's diversify the way we teach in the classroom. It's been proven effective. That's why there is such a growing homeschool movement right now. Don't let the voices of a few wealthy donors drown out the voices of many concerned parents and teachers who love Texas.

Kayla Bingham

Self: homeschool parent

Allen, TX

Government funded Education Savings Accounts, vouchers, and other taxpayer funded mechanisms for private schooling or homeschooling are not "free market" educational options. If the state is funding and overseeing all the education - public, private, and home — it's a monopoly. The republicans who voted for the proposition saying they wanted choice and for "funding to follow the student" did not know these would be the bills to be written. This bill helps no one with their property tax burden, it helps almost no student without government strings, and it doesn't address actual issues in our government educational system. If parents have opted out (as we have) and chosen to reject government mandated education, we are paying property taxes for a service we've decided isn't beneficial. We've exercised a choice. If we were to take advantage of this program, we're still not getting to use our own dollars in a way we choose. The government gets to have a say. That's socialist, not conservative. That's nanny state government, not limited. "Just don't participate." I don't participate in welfare but I pay for it. I don't participate in Medicaid but I pay for it. I don't participate in public education but I pay for it. There's so many unnecessary programs already that I don't participate in yet I have to pay for: I want to keep my own money to exercise the choice I already have. This is a government program that will only expand and lead to more and more erosion of liberty. The fact that you are all so blinded by money, power, and political allegiance is disheartening and makes me ashamed to be a Texas Republican.

Kelsey Allen-Gassen

Katie, Fulcher, dyslexia, ADHD, learning disability, literacy coalition

Fulshear, TX

"Please close the \$1.7 billion annual special education spending gap, adopt a better method of distributing special education funds to schools, and end the disability penalty that causes schools to lose half of their Basic Allotment general education funds for most students served by special education. In my district, insufficient special education funds cause denied or delayed evaluations, an adequate staffing, lack of effective dyslexia intervention and students being dismissed from dyslexia intervention before they are reading at grade level because of the lack of funding.

Natalie Betts

Self, AVP Sustainability

Austin, TX

I am a public school parent and strongly oppose HB3. Our public schools need more funding and support, our state does not need to divert funding to private schools where there is less accountability and less accessibility. In many communities, public schools are the only option. Texas needs to be considering ways to invest more in our public school system, our greatest economic asset. I am deeply worried about the future of my child's school if HB3 passes--we have seen how this system fails public schools and its teachers and students in other states. I am asking all members to oppose this measure.

Jarrell Patton
self
College Station, TX

I am here today to ask that you consider what 73% of Texas parents want: school choice. As a parent with children with unique learning and education needs, it is well within my right to choose where that education comes from. I want to make a few points that will help you come to a vote that will allow parents the right to decide where their children will get the best education that the parent deems best.

Carol Alvarado D-Houston stated in an article from the Texas Tribune dated February 5, 2025. "This program, the \$10,000, is all from state money," "That's the big problem that many of us have with this. You are giving more per pupil to the voucher program as opposed to what the state — if you dwindle it down — to what the state is solely responsible" for. Let us be clear on a few points: Mrs. Alvarado uses the term state money so that those who do not know state money are taxpayers' money confiscated under the guise of law to fund anything in the state. She then leaves out the federal government funds schools as well, and according to the nation's report card on education, TX expends \$11,049 per pupil.

Also, Superintendent Carrabine from Bryan, College Station area said, "If they want vouchers to pass, ask that they level the playing field and make sure that they fund public schools, as well as the voucher initiative,"

For clarity -----

College Station Superintendent Salary as of October 2023 - \$280,320

Bryan Superintendent Salary as of October 2023 -\$257,482

CSISD Teacher pay - base \$51,750 / 30 years \$67,500

Brya ISD is comparable

I want to counter the Superintendent with headlines and articles that explain why parents want a choice.

- Daily Caller- Not A Single Student Is Proficient In Reading Or Math At 55 Chicago Schools: REPORT, February 14, 2023
- New York Post- New Jersey ends basic reading and writing skills test requirement for teachers, January 6, 2025,
- The American Mind, A publication of the Claremont Institution- The Great Dumbing Down of American Education, January 16, 2025

I am not here to maline teachers; I know a few teachers who want to help children learn in the best way possible. However, as with most things, it is best to audit what requires more funding, teachers, or administration. The money is not in the teaching but in the bureaucracy. For instance, College Station ISD put a few bond initiatives on the ballot during the last cycle. One was to build a new 53-million-dollar football stadium, which my tax dollars would go to. There were some for computers and student-related items. If teaching is imperative, why fund a football stadium that does not teach the basics of reading, writing, or arithmetic? If the superintendents are worried about funding for the school, why not use the Blue Bonnet curriculum for K-5th grade and receive 60 dollars per student? The state Board of Education approves this curriculum.

CLEVELAND DEAR

Select...

Austin, TX

The diversion of public funds to support private religious organizations undermines the integrity of our secular education system. Voucher programs have primarily benefited affluent families, exacerbating inequality and draining resources from underfunded public schools that serve the majority of our children. We must prioritize equitable funding for public education to ensure all students, regardless of background, receive a high-quality education that prepares them for success. Funneling taxpayer dollars to religious institutions is a violation of the separation of church and state and a disservice to our diverse communities. I urge you to reject measures that defund public schools and instead champion policies that strengthen our shared commitment to accessible, inclusive education for all.

Susan Mouser, Retired teacher

Retired teacher

Abilene, TX

It is your Constitutional responsibility to fund public schools!

Katherine Dombrowski

Self / Engineer

Austin, TX

Vote no to the voucher system. Public taxpayer money should not be diverted to private educational enterprises, especially ones that will not be accountable in the way our public schools are accountable. Vouchers will undermine our public school system by drawing away the funds that go with the student; yet those public schools will be required to accept those same students if and when they decide to return to the public school system.

Parents already have school choice - many districts allow in-district and cross district transfers. Parents also have the choice to enroll in private school - but it should not be at taxpayer expense, especially when those private schools can be selective about who they admit and those same private schools do not have to provide special needs students with their full educational rights.

A great state and a great nation is built upon strong public education. Vouchers will undermine our Texas economy and our Texas communities.

Amy VonFeldt

Self

Kountze, TX

Please vote NO to HB3. A solution to the degrading public school system need not involve homeschools or private schools. A simple solution is to open each public school district allowing kids can move freely among them and let the competitive market work. The increased expense, in this case, would only apply to transportation costs. Homeschool and private schools in Texas didn't need taxpayer funds to establish themselves and we don't need it to continue. I've been homeschooling now for 13 years without government financial aid while paying for our local schools with my tax dollars. Listen to your voting base. Doesn't it sound silly to take our money and then give it back to us and tell us how we must spend it? There is a simpler and more fiscally responsible solution to this than what this bill is proposing.

Phyllis Hays

Self

LUMBERTON, TX

I vote NO to SB 3!

I do not believe for one second that state funds will go to private and homeschools without strings attached. The state has already "broken" the public school system. Why would we want to give the state our private schools and homeschools to break also.

I am a public school teacher. I see and feel the weight of state mandates on public schools and teachers. The state needs to let teachers be the professionals that they are and let them teach. Stop mandating us to a breaking point and then point fingers when we can no longer stand up to the unrelenting, impossible workload.

Pay teachers a professional's wage and stop allowing people who aren't even in the classroom, make decisions for them. Let teachers have a voice!

If you follow the money, you will find the motivating factor behind the push for vouchers. Please investigate who will be getting the kickbacks and do what's best for public schools!

Greg Abbott's posts on social media about vouchers and school choice is an embarrassment to our state. Texans already have school choice. They can choose. Leave it alone and stop sitting on billions of taxpayer dollars that should have already gone to public schools. My district is underfunded and in a deficit at the hand of our governor. Punishing students, teachers, and districts across the entire state is a true disgrace.

Do what's right and listen to Texans. It is the responsibility of our leaders in government to listen to the people. Anything less is a vote out of office.

Fully and properly fund public schools! Support ALL teachers and stop promising TIA incentives that will only be available to a select few. Just pay teachers what they deserve!

For the life of me, I cannot understand why all of this isn't common sense to people who hold such high offices and who make such massive decisions for so many people. Open your ears and listen to the people of Texas!

HB 3 is a NO for me, and guess what?

I'm a republican.

Thomas Burchsted

Self

Round Rock, TX

If you have a moment to leave a public comment for HB 3 babe. You can use this script.

I am reaching out to ask that you vote NO on HB3, the ESA/ School Voucher bill. As a parent and concerned Texan, I want my state to invest more in our public schools and into our Texas communities that rely heavily on the health of their local public schools.

HB3 will take tax dollars away from our public schools which will ultimately harm all Texans and especially hard hit will be our rural communities, less affluent communities and students with physical or learning disabilities, like my son, who relies on his public school's Special Education services and IEP to access a quality education, which all of our children are required by law to receive. The bill claims to give priority to children with disabilities and low income students; however it fails to address the lack of private and charter schools that can accommodate children with disabilities and it makes no requirements for private schools to follow federal and state laws ensuring students with disabilities receive proper evaluations and learning accommodations. The lack of private school options in rural and less affluent communities and the absence of school busing to these schools puts them out of reach for many communities.

ESA/ School Vouchers mostly benefit the wealthier families that already enroll their children in private schools. Families making up to \$156,000 are given priority but the bill does not put in place an income cap so very wealthy families making over \$156,000 per year can use our tax dollars to pay for their private school educations which is not right. As a result, school vouchers increase property taxes which most Texans are opposed to.

As a Texas parent, I am asking that you vote NO to HB3 and any School voucher bill.

Thank you for your time,

Thomas Burchsted

Sarah Gray

Self

Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to the establishment of a voucher program, because that's what this is. Call it what you want, education savings account, whatever, but it's vouchers. A statewide voucher program will ruin our state budget, it would steal money from taxpayers to give to the rich, and it would decimate our public schools. The origins of vouchers date back to segregation, and it's clear the people who are supporting vouchers want segregation again — whether that be by race, income, ability, location, etc. How shameful. Let us say NO to vouchers and instead, invest and transform our public schools into the best they can be. A place where every child is accepted and where public school workers are treated with dignity.

Erin Tague

Self; Army Veteran, MBA, PMP, Homeschool Parent, Former Private School Parent

El Paso, TX

Greetings Chairman and members of The Committee,

I am writing to oppose HB3. While the idea of being in a position financially to afford private school is appealing, the idea of that financial assistance coming from the government is repulsive.

I oppose this bill as a matter of principle. This bill is presented as a conservative solution to a number of issues that exist in the public school system. However, this is not a conservative bill, and it does not solve any of the existing public school issues.

Let's take a look at the following principles, and ask if this bill aligns with them:

LIMITED GOVERNMENT

This bill grants new authority to the comptroller to provide funding for approved education-related expenses. It grants new authority to the comptroller to establish a process for the preapproval of education service providers and vendors of educational products for participation in the program. It creates a new program with a \$1 billion cost. It creates a new layer of bureaucracy with "certified educational assistance organizations" through which parents must apply to the program. Therefore, this bill

EXPANDS government and INCREASES spending.

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY, RESPONSIBILITY, & AUTONOMY

This bill fundamentally changes the structure of Private and Home organizations and educators who participate in the program. Those who don't participate in the program and assume personal responsibility for their choices will be affected by those who do participate in the program. If a private school participates in the program, the entire school is now subject to scrutiny by the state.

Students at that school who aren't enrolled in the program will be required to conform to the school's standards, which have conformed to the program standards. "Empowerment" is merely another term for "Welfare," and I think James Madison said it best, "Charity is no part of the legislative duty of government." This bill results in LESS INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY,

RESPONSIBILITY, AND AUTONOMY.

FREE ENTERPRISE

Texas implemented "free market" policies by allowing students to transfer to other districts. That should have solved the problem of "there is no competition for public schools." Why is that not the case? The definition of free market is, "an economic system in which prices are based on competition among private businesses and are not controlled or regulated by a government." Injecting government funding & regulations into the education economy through subsidies is CONTRARY to the conservative principles of FREE MARKET ENTERPRISE.

TIMELESS TRUTHS

The goal of education is not to pass a test, but to instill a love of learning at an individual level and develop knowledge, skills, and abilities. A child's education is not the responsibility of the government – it is the responsibility of the parent(s). We are not denying opportunity. We are rejecting legal plunder and redistribution of wealth. WE DON'T WANT HANDOUTS, WE WANT HANDS OFF.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bryan Armes

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am a Texan, and I strongly urge you to oppose any efforts to divert public funds to private school voucher programs. Our neighborhood public schools are the backbone of our communities, and they need to be fully and adequately funded to ensure every child receives a quality education.

Chelsea Blue

Self

Bastrop, TX

Please hear the voices of freedom loving Texans! Texas is known nationally as "The Land of the Free" for homeschoolers. The numbers of homeschool families in Texas has skyrocketed, especially in recent years. This means we represent a very large, and growing, percentage of your constituents. We homeschool families do not want to trade our freedom for a check! Currently homeschoolers boast a significantly higher than average academic success rate due to the flexibility and parental autonomy that allows us to tailor our children's education to meet their individual and ever-changing needs. If we were required to conform to the mass-education system, the adaptations leading to our tremendous success would be impossible. We see colleges rapidly developing homeschool recruitment departments due to the well above average graduation and career placement rates of homeschool students. HB 3 seems to be a well-intentioned bill promoting school choice. The enormous oversight, however, is that in Texas homeschools are classified as private schools. As a result, homeschools would unintentionally be included in legislative restrictions and bureaucratic hoops, and it would open the door to the destruction of homeschool freedom in Texas. This is something even my private and public school friends do not want to see. Texas parents of all academic backgrounds and structures want to see parental rights and freedoms protected. They understand that homeschool freedom in Texas is an unspoken means of holding the education system as a whole accountable and leads to better education outcomes all around. No amount of subsidy would be worth the sacrifice of our children's futures. Our children are far too important! Please do not be hasty and push this sub-par bill through. It simply is not fit for passage.

I ASK YOU SINCERELY, PLEASE HELP KEEP TEXAS A SAFE HAVEN FOR PARENTS' RIGHTS AND HOMESCHOOL FREEDOM! VOTE NO ON HB 3!

Christen Shiman
Self - SAHM
Grandview, TX

I'm concerned about the lack of a spending cap in HB3 and the lack of a fiscal note to date with the possibility of not seeing one before the hearing.

Sec. 29.3521 describes this program as having no spending limit. With limitless money coming from the General Fund and creating another NEW fund and bureaucracy, I fear for the future state of our General Fund and the quick use of the Surplus.

HB3 is NOT fiscally conservative. In fact, due to its limiting of our current freedoms, it's far from conservative in general.

On that note, I would like to share my strong opposition to required testing for private schools and homeschools and use of public monies to fund private choices.

In regard to the often cited Prop 11, this question was much too vague. Once legislation is put behind the idea of "school choice", people are no longer supportive. First, in regard to "Texas parents and guardians should have the right to select schools, whether public or private, for their children" we already have the choice to select private school.

Public school, however, is a different story and the Prop wording was misleading, giving the idea parents' would be able to choose a specific public school. Why is there not a bill to open up district transfers across the state with the ACTUAL funding following the student? I understand district transfers are currently possible but it's discretionary and comes with potential fees. There must be a way to make district transfers easier and more appealing to both the family and the school. THIS is where the choice is lacking and where true competition can occur.

Which brings me to my second point in regard to "and the funding should follow the student". This is not occurring in SB2/HB3. A whole new fund is being created, it's not the money already set aside for education. I understand the opposition to using the Education Fund in previous bills, but I don't believe Texans realized they would now be paying twice for K-12 education. The Prop gave no indication that ADDITIONAL monies would be used to fund this new program and bureaucracy.

Finally, government oversight is an encroachment upon freedom. To be fiscally responsible, oversight is necessary when public funds are used but government oversight does not belong in private entities (private and home school.) Because these two things cannot coexist, ESAs and vouchers will never be an acceptable conservative solution. In addition, spending public funds in the private sector is grossly inappropriate.

I understand many of my comments were appealing to a conservative stance, but also recognize Democrats are not in favor of this bill. These school choice bills have done a job nearly thought impossible: uniting Republicans and Democrats. These bills are unpopular ACROSS the board (political party, income level, job, current school status, etc.), despite what our Governor would like us to believe.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to your votes AGAINST HB3.

Anna Fuentes
AFT
El Paso, TX

Please vote against school vouchers. They would be detrimental to our schools and our children. Private school vouchers would take needed funds from our public schools. Private schools do not provide for special needs students. Private schools already provide scholarships for students who cannot afford them. We do not need to give money back to the people who can afford to send their children to private schools. Please help our children and do the right thing!

Carol Villarreal
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am against HB3 because this would be detrimental to public education. My district is projected to lose \$41 million in funding if this is passed. This would mean jobs and positions would be cut. With federal funds being projected to be cut this would make it even harder to provide the services to all our students.

I also believe that parents already have choices in where their child can go to school, but the tax payers should not have to pay for that choice.

Will the private schools accept all students or will they get to choose who is accepted based on if they can provide the services the student will require? I believe that if the school gets to choose who is accepted then it is not truly parent choice but it is actually school choice. Also, will the public school get some extra funding for the special education students that they will be required to provide services for even though the student is not enrolled in the school? The public school could be required to provide services to students that are not enrolled in the school due to federal IDEA laws so it would only be fair if they received some extra funding for those services.

Jonathan Thompson
Self
Cypress, TX

No to any voucher or education saving account bill that would allow families making over \$160k/year to use tax payer money to supplement their choice to go to private school. As we've seen in other states, these saving accounts wind up being tax breaks to wealthy families who could go to quality public schools, but want to send their kids to private schools. Limit the bill to low income and families with special needs. There needs to be accountability and standards for schools that chose to take public funds as well.

Rosemary Hans
Self
Belton, TX

I'm a public school teacher and I am asking on behalf of other public school teachers do not pass the voucher. We struggle as it is with the little we have and we're expected to work miracles with students who come to us with emotional damage or low income. We use money from our own pockets to pick up what the district can't provide. I love my job and I love my kids. I've been doing this for 19 years now and I don't regret it. Please just support public school

Wilmalene Proffitt
Texas public schools
Goldthwaite, TX

I do not want to support education account program.

Chris Bright
Self
Richmond, TX

Please say no to ESAs. As a public educator I strongly oppose the voucher scam program. When speaking with people from other states, I've not once spoken with anyone that said their states voucher system was successful. People already have a choice of where to send their children to school. Private institutions will likely raise tuition costs. This getting old and tiresome. But the rich will get richer and the poor will stay poor. The states budget won't balance and everyone will wish it never happened. As an educator I will gladly forfeit any state mandated teacher raises so this atrocious bill doesn't pass

Carol Reed

Self/retired teacher

Cedar Park, TX

I, like so many other Texans, am totally against vouchers. I am for properly funding our public schools with money WHICH IS THERE to help the children of Texas—all of them, which is what public schools serve, not just a privileged few—to get a quality education that meets their needs. I have been a teacher since 1992 in public schools. I know how very hard I and my fellow teachers work, and I know how ridiculously low our salaries are compared to the business world. I know what incredible demands are placed on us. We deserve funding to support the programs our kids deserve, our districts deserve funding to support us. Vouchers are a scam being pushed upon us and I am standing up to call all of you who supposedly represent Texans to listen to those of us in education who know what we're talking about.

Kristin Keith

Self

San Antonio, TX

As a public school educator, I am massively opposed to this bill. This bill will defund an already massively underfunded public education system. The claims that it is to help those who are unable to access school choice is a lie. It is also not truly meant to help those in poverty. \$160,000 annual income for a family of 4 is not poverty, in fact it is 50% above the poverty level. During the hearing private schools were praised for the things they are able to do, well, why don't you actually fund public education so we can do the same. In y own district I have direct knowledge of a student who does not attend private school while their siblings do. Why? Because they need inclusion services, some for direct behavior related diagnosis. The fact of the matter is this legislature is failing its state constitutional duty in funding public education. Instead of working to do that and improve schools that already serve 5.5 million students in the state, you are choosing to find a way to do what billionaires want. Each year our campus is losing allocations due to lack of funding. Each year my class sizes get bigger. Each year I am asked to do more with less. Each year I wonder, how much longer can I mentally and emotionally afford to do this, not to mention financially. Do better. Serve the students of this state fully, the way they deserve to be served. Just like Cinna was betting on Katniss, I'm still betting on you to do the right thing for the children of this state.

Sheryl Hutchens

Self

Houston, TX

I am opposed.

Kimberly Curda

Self

Richmond, TX

Vouchers are not conservative. They will wreck our budget. They will wreck our public schools. Homeschoolers don't want them either. The majority of Texans agree, say no to vouchers.

Layne Acker

self

Austin, TX

I DO NOT support vouchers/education savings account programs. Taxpayer money should and must be put into public schools, modernizing old buildings and increasing teacher salaries. For so many years, Texas has refused to adequately fund public schools. Education savings accounts will do nothing to help the state of education in this state. Giving taxpayer money to private for-profit charter schools who have no accountability is an egregious misuse of state funds. Fund our existing public schools properly!

Rachel Paddie
self retired teacher
Center, TX

I am absolutely against vouchers. Fund public education for all students.

Dvonne Ray
Self/public school teacher
Waxahachie, TX

There are SO many things wrong with public school funding and by allowing tax dollars to be shifted to private institutions, the state is showing that public schools continue to be at the bottom of their list of priorities. Teachers are asked DAILY to do less with more, and now we are going to take even MORE resources away??? And when the public schools don't meet the needs of their students, guess who gets to catch them up and try to get them back on track when they come back??? Yup.... Public schools..... and when private schools don't offer SPED testing for their students guess who is required to spend the time/money to do it??? PUBLIC SCHOOLS. We are left to clean up everyone else's messes with minimal funds.

Suzanne Fulghum, Teachet
Self / High school teacher
Conroe, TX

I am a high school special education teacher and whole heartedly believe this bill will not benefit any of my students, but it will decrease the money already allotted for them. The students I serve are mainstreamed into level science classes and my fellow special education teachers provide accomodations to make the curriculum accessible to them. Because the legislature has not even provided an increase to keep pace with inflation, my coworkers and I are often split between two classes per period to help the students receiving special education services. Just this practice has severely limited the amount of help the students receive and has significantly decreased the amount of science concepts and TEKS that are mastered. In addition, a majority of my students do not have access to transportation to a private school, there are no private schools in the area that my special education students would receive accommodations, and their families do not have the funds to send them to a private school. Please do not support this, or any bill, that will decrease the funding to students and special education students of our state.

Susan Conn
Self
Bronson, TX

There is already school choice in Texas. Taxpayers should not be footing the bill for private school vouchers. Invest that money in rural, low income schools instead.

Kim Mathews
Self
Wharton, TX

I am against HB 3. No vouchers. I am for raises for Teachers and strengthening Public Schools.

Deborah Hernandez
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Even though I am a diehard republican I am against the voucher. It's welfare no matter how hard you try to push it. I worked 2 jobs for my son to go to private school. That's what needs to be done.

Linda Russell

Self- Special Education Teacher (21yrs)

Cypress, TX

I oppose HB 3 and School vouchers!

Lauren Caplen, Teacher

Self...teacher

Cypress, TX

No vouchers

Sormeh Cole

Self - Public School Educator

San Antonio, TX

As an educator in public schools for the last 18 years, the child of two public schools educators who dedicated their lives to students for 27 and 33 years, and as a parent to two elementary age children, I adamantly oppose this scam of a bill. This will only benefit those who can already afford private school and will negatively affect most other students. The state has accused public schools of failing but in reality, the state has set up public schools to fail by refusing to fund schools properly. The state has failed student and educators year after year. Abbott continues to behave like a mobster and a crook by holding public funds hostage until he gets what he (and all those who are lining his pockets) want. We are near the bottom of all states when it comes to funding public schools and it has been proven that states that invest in public education and value teachers are the highest scoring states. States that have put this voucher scam into place (and that's what it is, regardless of what you call it) have not seen growth in their students and continue to fail educating all students. Public schools were put into place to ensure that ALL students are educated and that is not the case with private schools. The fact that the state is so blatantly giving private school students so much more money per student shows that they only care about those who are wealthy enough to afford private schools. If those private are being offered \$10,000 per student, then so should public schools. All those supporting this bill are in the pockets of those paying them and not their constituents. It's shameful. This will negatively affect all of us who have been putting money into TRS. If those that support this bill actually believe that the majority of the people in the state want this then it should be put up for a vote by the people in the state.

Colleen Allan

Self

Magnolia, TX

I do not support HB3. I believe this bill will only help those who already have children in private schools. I also believe this will weaken public schools who are not receiving the same amount of funding per student. If the majority of Texas voters oppose this bill, what could possibly be the reason for passing it?

Sean Reno, Mr

TEPSA

Selma, TX

Our public schools need to be fully funded, and this voucher scam is negatively impacting that process.

Why not put the voucher system to a vote? Because you'll find that most people who have voted for you conservatively do not support this bill, nor do they support the voucher system.

I understand that many of the conservative campaigns were funded to change this, but you have to listen to the voice of your state and understand that the majority do not support this voucher system that will put money in the pockets of those already attending private school. This is a scam and it negatively impacts our educational system. Fund our system and see the impact that it makes.

Mary Darelus

Self - retired

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose vouchers for the following reasons:

- 1) I do not want my tax dollars paying for private school tuition.
- 2) As proposed, vouchers will go to people already attending private school and should go to students who really need funds to change schools.
- 3) FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS FIRST! The 5 million plus students in public schools need to be considered first.
- 4) The cost is outrageous for the number of people being served. The \$5 billion it will cost could help ensure I have water and power to live out my days without worrying I will suffocate.

TO GOV. ABBOTT - as a lifelong conservative Republican I am exceedingly disappointed that you have allowed millions of dollars to blind you as to what Texans really want. I thought you were a man of character, but it seems you have been corrupted by money...such a shame.

I urge the committee to vote against HB 3, to get busy and fund public schools, to support the millions of children in our schools. Thank you.

Weldon Thomas

self - retired

Cooper, TX

I am opposed to this bill. I do not favor supporting private schools with money that could be used for public education. I am a retired public school teacher/administrator.

Janice Wright

Soli Deo Gloria School

Spring, TX

I direct a homeschool coop, which may benefit from this bill, yet we are supposed to this bill, specifically for homeschoolers. I do not oppose assisting parents in sending kids to private school, but homeschoolers are happy with no govt interference. We want to be free. It's not worth \$2k to give any of our rights to government. Please do not include homeschooling in this bill and it will get more support.

Abigail Kehr

Self. Former teacher. IATSE 51 stagehand

Houston, TX

Public schools shouldn't be robbed of funding to support private education. Other states that have had similar ESA programs have not reaped the touted benefits. Instead of funneling money out of public schools, please adequately fund and invest in them. It is unacceptable to just hand over public dollars to private institutions that are not held up to the same standards as public schools. Further, unless these monies would be limited to use at non religious institutions, this move becomes state funded religion, flying in the face of the separation of church and state.

As a parent of a toddler, I'm scared of what will be left of our schools when it's time for her to start her education.

Underfunding and undercutting public schools will cost the future.

Raymond Fernandez

Houston

Houston, TX

I am against this bill as it will damage public education which is essential and a basic human right. If you vote in favor of this, I can guarantee that you will not get my vote. Additionally, I will make sure that your name and vote gets out so that you become very famous for your disservice.

Stephani Bercu

Self

Leander, TX

I am writing to express my strong feelings in opposition of HB3. Our public schools are struggling, and instead of investing into them you are wanting to provide funding for families to offset the cost of private schools. Our allotments have not changed in over 6 years, our basic allotment is less than the amount you wish to offset private schools. Our public schools have to jump through hoops and prove their value to receive their allotment. They are forced to teach students with funds that are based on attendance not enrollment. How can they prepare to teach to a full campus if they are penalized anytime a child is sick? There are no guide rails or checks and balances to ensure private schools are worthy of these allotments. I am urging you to STOP HB3. Public dollars should not go to Private schools. Public dollars should go to public schools based on enrollment; should be sufficient to cover the cost of any Government mandates, and should be sufficient for our public schools to pay our staff a living wage that represents the amount of education they have which makes them an expert in the field.

Rebecca Teng, Dr.

Self, physician

Austin, TX

I am a native Texan, physician, and parent who had the privilege of going through the Texas public school system in Plano, TX. My mother and brother were both public school teachers, and my son is a first-grader in one of the Austin public schools. Public schools allow opportunity and education for all students and is an investment in our future. Please do not decrease funding for them!

Casey Uphhes

Self

Dallas, TX

Keep Texas money for Texas children in public education. No vouchers, they are not the answer and Texans don't want them! We need more \$ per student allotment. Support our kids, not east coast special interest groups.

Kimberly Caldwell

Self/Paraprofessional-Teacher

Texas City, TX

I have been working in my school district for six years, and I see how detrimental our public schools are needed. In my community, I see how these vouchers would impair our youth from attending schools. Being a single parent and a teacher, I notice that in my community there would be a lot of students not participating in these private schools; especially if their parents have to pay out of pocket additionally from the school taxes that are required. A lot of our lower income households would not be able to afford to send their children to a private school even though they are being assisted with the \$10-13,000 voucher. It is unconstitutional, and immoral.

Marisa Hayes

Self- accountant

North Richland Hills, TX

I am opposed to this bill that will cripple public education in the state of Texas. So many businesses are moving to Texas from out of state - it's not just because of the friendly business climate. It is because our children receive an above standard quality education in the public school system. Please do not vote for this bill so that we and our children can continue to raise our families in this great state.

Amy Penny

Self educator

Midlothian, TX

I am in opposition to HB 3. I no longer have school aged children however I firmly believe in fully funding public education as a tenant of our State Constitution Article 7. I do not agree with my tax payer dollars being spent on private education that is not held to the same standards as public education in regards to state testing requirements, and state mandates.. It is not fair nor right for private schools accepting vouchers to have little to no accountability and transparency as public ISD's and Charter schools are required to have and be held responsible to tax payers. I am also greatly opposed to funding private schools who are not required to accept all students and are able to discriminate against students who receive special education services. I am asking that HB 3 not be passed.

Susan Attel

Self, Family nurse practitioner

Dallas, TX

Against HB3, keep Texas money for Texas public education, not for east coast special interest groups. Fully fund public schools.

Sandra Ayala

Self

Harlingen, TX

The voucher plan is basically subsidizing private school educations for the wealthy who would send their children to private schools anyway because they can afford to. Taking away money for our public schools is bad for our communities. It will result in less quality programs for our students, higher teacher to student ratios, etc. Also, with less people paying into TRS, this will make the teachers retirement fund vulnerable.

Erika Musick Griffin

Self - Public School Special Educator

Spicewood, TX

The proposals included in HB3 are driven by power hungry and money driven individuals with no true care for the public school children or their educators in the State of Texas. Fully fund public schools FIRST, and if any money is to go to private schools, hold them accountable for the same measures we hold public schools too. It is also important to realize that TIA is just a smoke and mirrors scheme to make it seem like the state is paying teachers, when it is actually so challenging to receive that it isn't effective. Additionally, recognize that all staff in public education are underpaid, not just teachers, and provide across the board raises to include paraprofessionals, support staff, professional (non-administrative) staff, custodians, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers, bus drivers, and all those who serve our students.

Debra Garcia, Ms.

Self

Houston, TX

Please vote no to vouchers. It WILL take money away from public school funding! Thank you for your help in this matter.

Ann Sinclair
Self, retired
Cypress, TX

I am absolutely appalled by this bill. Designed to help the rich, and cut funds to state schools. How could that ever be a good thing. Money offered doesn't cover tuition costs, so poor families can't use it. My grandchildren went through the public schools in Spring Branch, Houston. Excellent education. Their parents could have afforded private schools but they knew the state schools were excellent. There are also huge negative financial implications for the state. Look at the other states that have done this. Please vote against vouchers, or ESAs.

Rosetta Phillips
Self as a Texas Teacher
San Antonio, TX

I do not support this voucher bill. As a teacher in a high title 1 campus, I feel the stress of being underfunded as a public school. The Texas Government has withheld funding for 2 years from our public education system all because they are trying to set aside money for private institutions. I believe public tax dollars should not be spent on private institutions that are for profit. Public dollars should go to public institutions. Private dollars can fund private schools as it's always been for a reason. Another great issue with this is that the voucher bill would give private schools money with no stipulations while public schools have to go through strict calculations and qualifications for the same fund. It is wrong to have two different and unjust systems to be able to fully fund a school. It's a backwards system that benefits the private sector schools who will be getting double funded. Through taxpayer dollars and through private funding. Another issue many Texans have with this bill is the inequity in enrollment qualifications between the public and private schools. A public school welcomes and serves any and every child who comes through our front doors and we provide transportation when needed. Private schools get to hand pick and reject students by their own admission standards. They are highly selective and will not provide transportation for students in need. They will also base their choices on families who can afford to pay for expensive meals and uniforms in addition to the rest of tuition. They will not accept students from families who will struggle to afford the rest of the tuition and fees these private schools require a family to meet. I urge the Texas Legislature to consider how unjust this voucher plan will prove to be. The greatest benefactors of this plan are middle to upper class families who already have and already pay for children in a private school system. If you are adamant about passing vouchers for private education, make it fair for all children to access just as it is for public school.

Suzanne Thiem, Dr.
HFT
Houston, TX

Vouchers have been voted on multiple times. Texas residents have already spoken. We do not want vouchers. There are multiple studies proving that vouchers do not improve educational outcomes. The only reason Governor Abbott is continuing to hammer this one issue can only be to appease donors since it is certainly not in the interests of constituents that have already expressed their wishes.

Lou Rintala
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am a teacher at an urban district in San Antonio. I have seen the need for more funding to be able to serve our children better. Many of our inner city students have severe academic, emotional, economic, and behavioral needs that require immediate attention that can only be addressed with proper school funding. The use of vouchers only benefits a small amount of students in our state, but leaves out the majority of our children, especially in rural or inner city areas. I beg you to reconsider your position about school vouchers and support instead funding to better serve our students in public schools.

JayDe Fulker, Mr.

No

Lantana, TX

Dear Representative Buckley,

As a parent, I want the best education possible for my child and for all Texas students. That's why I strongly support full funding for HB3 to ensure school safety and quality education. However, I am deeply concerned about any efforts to divert public funds to private school vouchers.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities. Every child deserves access to a well-funded, safe, and high-quality education—not just those who can afford private tuition or meet selective admission criteria. Vouchers take critical funding away from public schools, leaving fewer resources for students and teachers who need them most.

Instead of funding private schools that lack accountability and transparency, I urge you to prioritize investments in public education, including better teacher pay, classroom resources, and student support services. Our tax dollars should strengthen the schools that serve the majority of Texas children, not undermine them.

Please stand with Texas parents and students by opposing vouchers and protecting public education funding. Our children's future depends on it.

Robert Mathews

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

This is a complete scam with no redeeming qualities. Similar scams have been pushed through in other states and they have ALL done more harm than good, not just to the school and education, but to the students and families that are lower income. Many students in my school district rely on the public education system for food, healthcare, and programs that can help them get out of abject poverty that has plagued their family. This bill will immediately take \$3 million out of my school district's annual operating budget, which will cut teacher jobs, cut programs, and cut the benefits to our children. Governor Abbott and his Billionaire friends will be the only ones benefiting from this scam, and it is a scam in every sense of the word. It will not protect students who are not food secure, don't have stable housing, have a learning disability, happen to be a religion that is different from the school, and it certainly doesn't give them access to a quality education. The overwhelming majority of vouchers are going to families whose children are already in private schools, and the rest of the vouchers will likely send kids to lower performing private schools, which will put them even further behind. Please, for the sake of our students, say no to the school voucher scam known as HB3.

Xenia Zuniga

Self/ Teacher

Houston, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House Committee,

I strongly oppose HB3 as it diverts crucial public education funds while failing to adequately support traditional public schools. Public schools serve the vast majority of Texas students and should be prioritized when allocating state resources. By increasing charter school/ Private school funding without requiring them to meet the same accountability and transparency standards as public schools, this bill threatens the long-term success of our public education system.

Additionally, while incentives for extended instructional time may seem beneficial, they should not come at the cost of sustainable and equitable funding for all schools. I urge you to oppose HB3 and instead focus on strengthening our public education system by ensuring all students receive the funding and resources they deserve regardless of where they live.

Sincerely,

Xenia Zunig

Houston, 77095

Claudia Sylvester, Dr.

Self and Educator

Houston, TX

Gregg Abbott voucher is a failing bust for poor and middle class parents.

Amy Brown, Mrs

Self

Houston, TX

I don't believe that your choice to go to private education should be rewarded. You choose it most likely because you can afford it at some level currently. You choose it to keep a certain social status and or religious voice. Again the key word is choice. I am a public school educator and have been for 34 years. I have seen many changes in education over these years. This is one of the dumbest I have encountered. Especially if the equity in dollar amounts are not there. Whatever you think a private school parent should get to send to private school to educate their child so should every public school child's school get to educate that child. Fair is fair. Criteria for educating the children should be same as well as my tax dollars are also being used

Kelsey Plichta

Self

Plano, TX

ESA is not the answer to help with what many are saying are "failing schools." I work in a Plano ISD as a speech Language Pathologist. I see where the need is. I see what our schools are doing right. I keep hearing that this will give parents the choice that they need. Yes, there are some private schools that are for children with disabilities. Most of these schools are for students who have dyslexia and not intellectual disabilities. They also do not accept children with behaviors or those who are on the Autism Spectrum. Yes, there are some, but buy and large that is not the case. If we could invest more into special education departments in schools and provide paraprofessionals a living wage I think that we will see public education and those receiving SPED services thrive. Plano ISD is currently operating a huge SPED deficit. Yes, I know you have plans to fix that in other bills, but it will not fix or cover all of this defecit. Parents do have a choice on where to send their kids. Private schools do have scholarships. I know plenty of parents who work at private schools so their children can attend that school. That is their choice. ESAs have not been shown to work in other states unless you twist the data like many on this committee are doing. Do not pass HB3 to the floor. It will be a disaster for our state and our smallest learners.

LaPria Cashaw, Ms.

self

Houston, TX

I do not support the school voucher bill. It will take funds away from public schools. I do not support using my tax money for a select group of individuals to attend private school.

Julie Dowdy

Self/public school teacher

Idalou, TX

I am completely opposed to HB 3. As a public school teacher in a rural school that is underfunded, I believe the state should adequately fund public schools rather than give money to private schools. This is being improperly labeled as a bill on "school choice" but we already have school choice in Texas. This bill will hurt public education & I do not believe the majority of Texans support this bill.

Thalia Escobedo

SELF

McAllen, TX

I cannot believe we have to keep calling our representatives out like children. The majority of Texans fully support our public education system. We love our schools, staff and especially our teachers. You have been attacking our public education for decades and I have had enough. My children deserve the best education, and the best education is PUBLIC SCHOOLS! You withhold funds year after year and you treat our teachers less than what they deserve. It is time to vote AGAINST the school voucher scams. I WILL NOT SEE MY CHILDREN'S FUTURE COLLAPSE BECAUSE YOU ARE TOO COWARDLY TO STAND UP!

Jennifer Burcham

Self

Canton, TX

The voucher bill will hurt Texas public school children. My parents were both public school educators & I attended public schools as well as my 3 grown sons.

Public money does not belong in private schools. Also the Teacher Retirement System will become insolvent in 10.8 years if the governor gets his way with the expanded program.

So my Dad who worked his entire life for the good of public school children won't get his retirement because the Governor is so selfish & short sighted???

Eileen Mervish, Mrs.

Self, public school educator

San Antonio, TX

As a Texas public educator of nearly 2 decades, and the parent of two children with disabilities who attend Texas public schools, I vehemently oppose HB three. This bill will divert funds from our already underfunded Texas Public schools. In my district alone if one percent of our students were to leave for a private school under this bill, we would lose \$10 million. Decibel impact my personal children, who, as you have heard through numerous accounts in testimony, would not be accepted at a private school as well as the over 100,000 students in the school district where I teach.

Instead of creating a third system to fund which the state cannot possibly maintain, I implore you to fully fund our public schools, To fully fund our special education programs and programs for emergent bilingual students. There is a direct correlation in academic achievement and per pupil spending, and the state has not provided an increase in the basic allotment for Texas students since 2019 despite inflation. The impact on rural districts will be devastating. These families often do not have private school options within 100 miles of their homes, but will be impacted by the cut and funding that their already small schools will receive.

I urge the members of this committee to kill this bill in committee and not let it reach the house floor. Do what's right for Texas kids, Texas teachers and vote no on house bill three.

Craig Campbell

Retired self

Austin, TX

If 62% of public school students are low income, then the state money should go there. This voucher program is to support an aristocracy. America was created to get away from aristocracies, we should not recreate such a society.

Meredith Butterfield, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

Please say no to vouchers. Evidence from other states has shown it will destroy public schools in the state. We need the funding in our public schools. Also, eliminate recapture.

Craig Campbell

Retired self

Austin, TX

This will negatively impact retirees and TRS. The Actuarial Impact statements have not been accurate and complete. The one done on SB 2 was a sham.

Damarys Rodriguez, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

Members of the Texas House Committee,

As a concerned parent of a child in an Austin public elementary school, I strongly oppose school vouchers and education savings accounts (ESAs). Instead, I urge you to strengthen our public education system by increasing the basic allotment to account for inflation and shifting funding from attendance-based to enrollment-based models.

Vouchers and ESAs divert public funds to private institutions, harming rural schools, low-income families, and children with special needs. They lack accountability and transparency, and rural communities would bear the financial burden without benefiting.

Public dollars should remain in public schools, which serve 90% of Texas children. Diverting these funds weakens our public education system and jeopardizes the future of millions of students.

The basic allotment has remained stagnant at \$6,160 per student since 2019, while inflation has risen by over 14%. Texas ranks 46th in per-student funding, falling \$4,400 below the national average. An increase is necessary to restore purchasing power and ensure districts can address local needs.

The current attendance-based funding model penalizes schools for absences beyond their control. Shifting to an enrollment-based model would provide more predictable and equitable funding, ensuring all enrolled students receive necessary resources.

Investing in public education is an investment in Texas' future. Vouchers and ESAs threaten to dismantle our public school system. Instead, I urge you to:

1. Reject vouchers and ESAs.
2. Raise the basic allotment with an inflation adjustment.
3. Transition from attendance-based to enrollment-based funding.

These changes will strengthen our public schools and build a brighter future for all Texans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Damarys Rodriguez

Concerned Parent

Julia Goewey Ruiz

Self

Austin, TX

I do NOT support education savings accounts that divert public funds to private schools. This will erode our constitutionally mandated public education system in Texas. Support our Texas children, NOT the billionaires funding this request.

Colin Roth
Self
Plano, TX

I am vocalizing my strong opposition to this bill.

Jenna Napier

self (office manager), husband (middle school orchestra director) twin 4 year olds (almost public school kindergartners who need fully funded educations)
Denton, TX

Please oppose HB 3 for the sake of my family and community. Public school funding is not just about what we personally use. It's about investing in a well-educated society and strong economy. Living in a state without fully funded, quality public education will make your world a mess, too, both socially and economically. This program would remove essential funding from public schools and lead to cuts in teacher jobs and payment, fine arts programs, essential services such as counselors, nurses, psychologists, and bankrupt the Teacher Retirement System. My husband is a middle school orchestra director in Denton ISD. He used to have an assistant director. His school has already cut some teacher positions and dropped some elective choices that students used to have for budget reasons. He no longer has an assistant director and runs a program of several hundred 5th-8th graders by himself. If the money follows kids out the door, fine arts programs like orchestra will suffer more, and my husband's job and retirement will be in danger. Excellent teachers such as himself will begin to migrate to other states. This isn't even to mention the broader and more devastating issue that students themselves will suffer the loss of these programs and services. Charter and private schools do not frequently have any, or great orchestra programs for kids to get the opportunity to participate in, much less for free like they do in public schools.

Texans see right through Abbot's attempt to paint this as a partisan issue. It's not. It's deeply unpopular among Republicans and Democrats alike. Texans will have your back if you oppose this. We will continue to mobilize and vote you out if you don't, in favor of someone who wants to represent us and our best interests as Texans.

Texans have always had school choice. This is not providing additional choice; it is providing a coupon for those who are already affording private schools, and putting more money into the hands of Governor Abbot's wealthy donors who stand to profit from private and charter school systems. Governor Abbot must divest himself of these large donations and return them in order to prove he has no conflict of interest here. Do not sell out our children to corporate interests.

Julie Moore
Voter
Burleson, TX

I oppose HB 3

Misti Neese
Self/Program Management Leader
Austin, TX

I oppose education savings accounts. Invest in our public schools rather than try to tear them apart.

Jim Flores
Self Finance
Arlington, TX

Vote NO to vouchers.

Aubrey Floyd
Self/Educator
Dallas, TX

As a constituent, educator, and mom, I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the school voucher bill, HB3, and ask all to vote against it. My local district Richardson ISD stands to lose as much as \$15,200,371, which would be a devastating loss for our community. Public funds should stay in our public schools, not be divvied up to unaccountable private schools. Instead I urge our Representatives to fully fund our public schools.

Kristin Hildebrand
Self
Trophy Club, TX

I am asking that the basic allotment for public school students be raised to \$10,000 per student. If we are going to give \$10,000 per student to privateschools, then public school student deserve the same amount. You are sending the message that over 5 million Texas school children are worth less than their private school counterparts. Raise the basic allotment to \$10,000 for public school students!

Megan Little
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts in Texas

Nisma Jetha
Self
Rosenberg, TX

I oppose HB 3 as a mom in Texas. Attending private school does not guarantee better education and academic achievement. In fact, it increases discrimination among children and adults. There will be no guarantee of transparency and accountability of private schools. I am strongly against HB3

John-Paul Harris
Self
Burkburnett, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Christy Walters
NISD
Fort Worth, TX

ESAs allow tax dollars to be spent without transparency or accountability. Private schools/students choosing vouchers should be subject to the same financial and academic accountability.

Removes \$1 billion from the state's budget that could otherwise fund Texas public schools.

Tarma Grady
Self
Austin, TX

Our public schools desperately need proper funding. I am strictly opposed to providing more public dollars to private schools than our public schools. We were drawn to TX because of many things but strong education was one of them. I no longer believe TX has strong public education. Please support our public schools!

Ashley Perraud

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers / savings accounts. They are welfare for the wealthy and will only further the decline of our public schools due to the states continually not funding public education appropriately since 2019.

- Districts are operating in the red and being forced to close schools and hire uncertified teachers.
- Rural schools get left behind

Karen Reyes

School counselors

Pflugerville, TX

This is giving \$ for rich- our society will be negatively influenced! Vouchers = sabotaging public schools. AGAIN! Please vote NO for vouchers

Elizabeth Morris

Self

Hutto, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. We need to strengthen our public school system which gives access to education for EVERYONE. I do not want my money going to fund this. I would instead like it to be put back into our PUBLIC schools to strengthen them.

Sara Erikson

Northwest ISD/Teacher

Roanoke, TX

Please listen to the voices and pleas of the vast majority of Texas - increase the basic allotment per student to reflect the enormous rate of inflation. Strong public schools with properly funded programs and fairly paid teachers are good for ALL Texans. Public tax dollars should never be used for private citizens' choice to send their children to private school. If you insist on holding our public school funding hostage, at the very least increase the basic allotment per student. Parents, teachers, and KIDS deserve so much better than our elected officials are giving.

Gabriela Torre II

Self

Austin, TX

I am against HB 3 as I feel very strongly that vouchers are not helping the average Texan. This voucher will only put a huge strain on the public education system. I am against the bill and strongly urge you not to support it.

Nicole Young

Self/instructional coach

Haslet, TX

I would like to see the basic allotment increased to at least \$7,500 to match inflation. More would be even better to help serve and fund public education. This would allow increased staffing for districts, pay raises to help our staff have a livable wage. Since 2019, inflation has risen 23% but basic allotment has not increased. The \$220 proposed is a 3.5% increase but is not enough. I am asking for an adjustment to the basic allotment to \$7,500 to match inflation with consideration to continue adjustments moving forward to in increase as inflation increases.

Gary Helmick

Self - maintenance

Haslet, TX

Increase the basic allotment! My kids deserve the same increase that you want to give for vouchers!

Dolores Kmiecik Graham

Self

College Station, TX

I am a Texan and support Education Savings Accts and empowering PARENTS to do what is best for our children. In the 1950s, my parents paid high taxes to send other children to public school, while paying tuition at a Catholic school for me/my brothers. My Mom literally washed dishes in the school cafeteria to pay the tuition. We never had money for a vacation. Instead, that money went to our tuition. My parents sacrificed greatly to afford this for us. Public schools are failing our children. Parents are in the best position to decide what is best for their child. Why are our children reading below grade level? Why can't they do math? My own children went to a Catholic school where parents waited in line, camping out overnight to enroll their child. Average standardized test scores at their school were in the HIGH 80th percentile!! Let that sink in. Why is it that national stats show that Catholic schools educate a child for 1/3 of the cost of the child to attend a public school with far better results? I have met parents whose children are bullied unmercifully in public schools and the teacher/principal/counselor does nothing. I have family members that gave up teaching in public schools, totally left the profession, because they got tired of being pushed around by students and going home with bruises. All public schools are not bad, but some are. Parents need to be given an option to move their child to an environment where they are not bullied, where they can flourish. My own nephew attended a public school and was hit by another student, who had a reputation for bullying his classmates. The SCHOOL DID NOTHING to the bully. This bullying went on and on. My brother called the school about the incident but the school did nothing. My nephew had no other options. A few years later, my brother / nephew were subpoenaed to testify against the bully in court and describe the incident where my nephew was hurt. The bully had continued to hurt students and finally hurt a student very badly. The parents were sued. Years later, my brother learned that the bully, now an adult, had been killed in a fight. I am sick and tired of the teachers' unions and bureaucrats fighting ESAs when they have no interest in our students and their getting the best education possible. ESAs would put the bad public schools on notice to get their act together. Or just go out of business which would be a blessing for the students. Also, parents deciding to enroll their children in non-public schools would get the benefit of their tax dollars for their children. I HAVE TO ASK YOU LEGISLATORS WHERE DO YOUR CHILDREN GO TO SCHOOL? If not a public school, why not? I would be very interested in seeing this stat. Also, I want to suggest that if a student is not reading, writing, doing math at grade level, they must attend mandatory summer school. I sincerely hope your legislators will do the right thing for children and support ESAs.

Michael Swanson

Self

San Antonio, TX

It is an ABSOLUTE disgrace on what is attempting to be done with HB 3. This so called "savings account" is effectively thievery of the highest order, taking money from where it's needed most, and giving yet another financial break to families who can already afford to send their children to private schools. And in the wake of what this bill does will leave behind a public education system holding on for dear life. Teachers are the backbone of our young society and it's vital that public school teachers especially have the funding available to help students learn and prepare to take on the world ahead of them. I urge every member of the legislature to REJECT this bill.

Silvia Revello

Self

Roanoke, TX

Please increase allotment for our PUBLIC SCHOOLS according to inflation to \$7,500. The just over 6k isn't enough and it's causing terrible stress on our communities, our district has to max out ratios and our kids are suffering. Programs are being affected and we're EXHAUSTED of paying so much taxes for you to withhold them. Nobody wants vouchers we want the basic allotment to match current cost of living!!!! ENOUGH!!!! We are exhausted of begging to be taken out of the LAST of your priorities. DONT MESS WITH TEXAS CHILDREN

Nic Loyd

Self

Haslet, TX

Please fund schools to keep up with rising costs!

Stacey Faulkner

Self

Rockwall, TX

I am writing to voice my opposition to this bill. The overwhelming majority of Texans want fully funded public schools, not welfare for the wealthy.

Mary James

Self

Wylie, TX

I urge all of our legislators to vote no for house bill to and House Bill 3 regarding the state of education in texas. We are for public education and the appropriate funding of the schools that we have currently in existence. Appropriate funding will impact the quality and the longevity of the Texas Education system. Giving our money to private institutions when our money is being collected for a public Institution is unconstitutional in the state of Texas. The Texas Constitution states that a public education will be fully funded. As a special education teacher for 14 years in the state of texas, I can actually tell you that the quality of Education available for our special needs population does not exist outside of the public education system. Private institutions, even given the opportunity to have additional funds provided to go towards about your system, will still not have the quality of the staff, the training needed to evaluate and assist, and will not provide the services needed for the special population. I urge each of you to vote no on House Bill 2 and 3 and to support public education, properly funding it as our State Constitution states must be done. Many of our more rural areas in the state do not have systems available for private school or Charter schools. It is imperative to continue to fund the public education that will serve all students and meet the needs of all students in the state of texas. It has been said in a study in the state of Indiana that when vouchers were passed, private schools became less accepting of voucher money. They do not want to be held accountable in any way to the voucher system and the rules that will govern it, so they are going to not accept students who are paying by voucher. In indiana, a number of private institutions opened to accept voucher funds, and they were a scam. They did not provide a quality education of any kind for the students and we're only in existence in order to take the state's money and run. I would be very concerned given that voucher systems have failed and have shown to bankrupt the state of all of its educational funds within a number of years, including their retirement systems. My money went into my retirement system and I do expect the state to fully contribute to my retirement and not to drain those funds for all of our Educators and future educators. Please vote no to House Bill 2 and House Bill 3.

Kasie Castleberry

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Increase student allotment to \$7500 and say NO to school vouchers

Suzanne Richmond

Self

Bedford, TX

Please vote no for HB3.

Andrew Mysyk

Citizen of United States, tax payer in Travis County

Austin, TX

Increase funding of the public schools by 1500 per student. As a mother and tax payer and registered voter and citizen, I do not support voucher program, please redirect funds to public schools.

Deidra Robertson
Self
Buchanan Dam, TX

As a retired public educator and Republican, I oppose HB3. This bill is not a fix for public schools. It is an abandonment. As many, many people have already said, we HAVE school choice! People move to areas for their schools, parents can transfer children across district lines, they can apply for charter schools and private schools and can choose to homeschool. The pitiful \$220 you are "giving" public schools does not make up for a hostage takeover deficit left when schools were left without increases the last 5 years. Our small district sends around \$5 million back to the state for recapture each year. We can clearly see that Robin Hood program didn't work and this is just another Robin Hood in reverse.

This is a slap in the face to the taxpayers, teachers, students and administrators of Texas! The fact that you have used other states data is shameful. Texas is a whole other state of mind! We are - or used to be -Trailblazers! The people you need to be listening to and meeting with is real boots on the ground seasoned teachers. You shouldn't be creating or passing bills about education without input from people who deal with problems day to day. The problems school today are because of policy and mandates from this very House. Public School Teachers spend way too much time documenting and preparing for a test that has been a failure since day one. Teacher pay now and most likely in the future is merit based and teachers must stay in a district for 3 years before they see a dime of increase! How would YOU like to have your livelihood based on a 3rd graders performance? We are not comparing apples to apples here. Private schools will not take the same test as public school students. Private schools can choose the test they want their students to take. If you take money from the public pool and send it to a private entity and testing is paid for public schooling from that same pool, then those students should be required to take the same test!

I would bet that most house members were public school students. They are here today because of a teacher. Teaching is the only profession that touches all other professions. You are requiring core classes to have certified teachers for public education but don't care whether private school teachers are certified? None of this makes sense! I would hope you decide to do what is right for the majority of Texans. It isnt just Democrats who are against it. I know many Republicans who do not want it. I know many private schools who don't want it and I know lots of homeschool parents who are afraid of regulation if they take money from the state. This is NOT a win-win situation for the children of this state. I hope you choose to do what is right and not sell us out to the highest bidder. Thank you.

Barbara Sliva
Self- Retired CPA
Bay City, TX

No public funds (taxes) should be given to private schools. This will only weaken our public school system and is anti Texan. It is creating a huge opportunity for fraud with the creation of private administration. TEA is already administering funding and a new bureaucracy is unnecessary- what will this cost. This bill goes against Texas values. Vote NO!

Phyllis Whitehead
Self/teacher
Dallas, TX

We do not want vouchers nor school choice. Fund our schools. We do not want teacher incentive allotment. Give us a significant pay raise.

If our tax dollars go to private schools then they must also meet the same federal and state mandates as public schools. Such as the following but not limited to:

1. State mandated TEKS and state mandated curriculum.
2. Private schools must give the STAAR assessments, End of Course Assessments, benchmarks, ...
3. Teachers in private schools must meet the same educational requirements, trainings (including the Reading Academy), and be certified through the State of Texas.
3. Each private school must have the same demographic numbers and public schools in their region. For example, If they have the enrollment as 3A public schools in their region, they must enroll the same percentage of special education students (including intellectually challenged and behaviorally challenged), 504, Dyslexic, Deaf, Blind, Dyslexic, ...
4. They must participate in the state school ranking system with the same actions depending on their scores that are based on state assessment scores.
5. They must abide by the same UIL rules and guidelines for academic and sports.

Phelecia Leitch

Self - Homeowner / Parent / Community Member

Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to ask that the allotment for students in public school be raised to \$7500 per student. Our schools are suffering due to rising inflation and not enough funding. When our schools suffer and quality education declines, our housing values decline. Ultimately though, our children are suffering, our teachers are having to spend more out of their own pocket to support their classrooms and this isn't right or fair. When our state has a surplus of funding, the schools should not suffer. It is not right that funding was approved to be sent to schools, yet Gov. Abbot won't release the funding unless vouchers are approved. This is WRONG, WRONG, WRONG. I will no longer support a governor who punishes schools and children for his own political ideas. Please vote to support our student and schools and increase the funding allotment to \$7500.

Amy Church

Parent of NISD student

Fort Worth, TX

Please increase the Basic Allotment to \$7500. The current amount of \$6160 was set in 2019. Since then, inflation has increased 23%. House Bill 2 (HB2) is currently proposing a \$220 increase...a 3.5% increase in the same time frame of a 23% inflation increase.

Just like our households, NISD costs for bus fuel, insurance, program materials, and anything else needed for day-to-day operations have increased.

This lack of increase in the Basic Allotment is THE main reason for us increasing class sizes and reducing teaching positions. It's also THE main reason ISDs across the State are struggling financially.

If this proposed \$220 increase doesn't change, NISD might be able to do a 1% salary increase for ALL workers ONCE during the next biennium. Again, inflation is up 23%, but we can only give a 1% raise over the next two years.

I don't understand why our State leaders hate our teachers and students so much. If anything, they need to abide by the TX Constitution and fund public schools properly.

Our students and teachers deserve better than what our State Leaders propose.

Heather Hamilton

Self

Anna, TX

Our family is opposed to this bill.

Christy Norman

self

Austin, TX

I want fully funded public education. I want more investment in our public schools, not diversions from them.

Lindsay Ruiz
Myself, engineer
Houston, TX

My name is Lindsay Ruiz and I am a community member in Spring Branch ISD in Houston and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical educational programs that serve our students.

The data from SBISD's state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend—our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

For example:

Special Education: The state allotment for special education in 2023-24 was \$31.5 million, but actual expenditures reached \$53.5 million, leaving a \$22 million shortfall. This gap is projected to be \$20.3 million in 2024-25. Without adequate funding, students with disabilities may not receive the legally mandated services they need to thrive.

- **Safety & Security:** In 2023-24, the state provided only \$0.9 million, but the actual cost was \$8.9 million, creating an \$8 million deficit. For 2024-25, the gap is projected to grow to \$10 million, putting school safety measures at risk.

- **Transportation:** The 2023-24 state allocation was \$1.5 million, while the cost of maintaining transportation services was \$10.4 million, leading to an \$8.9 million shortfall. In 2024-25, the gap is expected to be \$8.3 million, making it difficult to ensure students have reliable and safe transportation to and from school.

- **Pre-Kindergarten:** This critical early childhood education program faced a \$3.7 million funding gap in 2023-24, with an estimated \$3.2 million shortfall in 2024-25. Underfunding pre-K limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities that set children up for future success.

Our educators and administrators are doing their best with limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with the actual costs of running these programs. This includes:

1. Increasing the Basic Allotment at a minimum of \$500
2. Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.
3. Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.
4. Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.
5. Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation for academic success.

I urge you to prioritize our students by closing these funding gaps. Texas schools cannot afford to keep operating with such large deficits, and our children deserve better. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elizabeth McQuiddy
self, Melissa ISD teacher
Melissa, TX

I care deeply for the people in my community and in my state, and therefore, I strongly oppose HB 3, the school voucher scam.

Here are just some of the reasons I oppose HB 3, the private school voucher program:

1. Texas already has school choice for families beyond traditional public schools- public charters, public magnets, homeschool, online academies, and private schools.
Some public school districts are also open enrollment districts that accept applications to attend regardless of home address.
2. Parents can apply to send their child to a different public school/district if their home campus is underperforming per the Public Education Grant (PEG) program.
3. This bill essentially gives a \$10k tuition discount to families who can already afford to pay private school tuition without a discount. This bill would provide “welfare for the wealthy” as TX Rep. James Talarico puts it.
4. The Senate and House have set aside \$1 billion in their budgets over the next 2 years, but the fiscal note from the Legislative Budget Board indicates the voucher program will cost \$4 billion PER YEAR by 2030. That is an unsustainable, fiscally irresponsible program.
5. Vouchers don’t give parents school choice. Vouchers shuffle tax dollars to unaccountable private schools. Those private schools are allowed to discriminate against our children especially those with IEPs and 504s.
6. The Texas House is proposing a \$200 increase in the basic allotment, yet those members know at least 1,000 raw dollars (not accounting for inflation) is needed due to the expiration of some federal funds. Vouchers from HB 3 don’t address this need equitably.
7. What long-term data has the committee evaluated from other states to determine the success or effectiveness of school voucher programs? States like Oklahoma, Illinois, and Iowa provide sufficient data to prove voucher programs fail. Why would Texas consciously go against data and research to pass HB 3 unless it was to intentionally defund public schools and force public schools to fail?
8. Most importantly, I love my community and my state. Every aspect of our community benefits from a APPROPRIATELY funded public education system. I support school choice where parents can find the best fit for their child. Fortunately that choice already exists without HB 3.

Chelsie Wilson
Self
Spring, TX

Do not pull funds from public education. Do not defund our public education system in anyway. In fact it needs more funds. Please confirm you recorded this. Thank you.

Sara Stevenson

Self

Austin, TX

Public Testimony for HB 3

In looking over House Bill 2, I appreciate that it prioritizes lower income students more than does SB3, but as a former educator who never made more than \$55,000 a year with twenty-five years of experience and a Masters Degree, I have a problem with “low-income” being defined as 500% of the national poverty rate. This means families of four making up to \$161,000 per year are eligible for a government handout.

No longer are the ESAs solely for the families who can’t afford private school tuition or those with disabilities; now a family of four, making as much as \$161,000 a year qualifies.

I’m thankful that portions of the bill look out for Special Ed students, but I find it ironic that the public schools have to do all the evaluations and come up with an instructional plan, and not the private schools the voucher child will be attending with the accompanying funds. Will the state reimburse the public school Special Ed. teachers making these evaluations for private school voucher recipients?

I also noted pages and pages spelling out the process for the comptroller and the vendors to organize the application process and disbursement of the vouchers in order to prevent fraud and abuse and to make sure the schools receiving vouchers are legitimate. Still, it seems strange to me that the Texas GOP, known for its calls for small government, is advocating a whole new bureaucracy, which costs money, to track and run this new branch of our education system.

In previous bills, the student had to be enrolled in a failing public school before receiving a voucher. Now children already enrolled in private schools are eligible. Promoters argue this is only fair because private school families pay thousands each year in property taxes to schools their children don’t attend. Well, if they deserve a taxpayer refund, what about all the Texas property taxpayers, including seniors, who have NO children currently attending Texas schools?

No, because contributing to public education is a common good; an educated citizenry benefits all Texans and the Texas economy.

Christine Yates
self/public school parent
Conroe, TX

Texas families are not looking to make things more difficult for ourselves. We see through this "savings account" as another way into the voucher scam you all are forcing onto us. Stop taking our money!

We want improvements in public education, as is our constitutional right.

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 7. EDUCATION

THE PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS

Sec. 1. SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM OF PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS. A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.

(Feb. 15, 1876.)

Sec. 2. PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND. All funds, lands and other property heretofore set apart and appropriated for the support of public schools; all the alternate sections of land reserved by the State out of grants heretofore made or that may hereafter be made to railroads or other corporations of any nature whatsoever; one half of the public domain of the State; and all sums of money that may come to the State from the sale of any portion of the same, shall constitute a permanent school fund.

(Feb. 15, 1876. Amended Nov. 8, 2011)

Sandy Graham
Self
AUSTIN, TX

Oppose private school vouchers and education savings account program.

Kendal Simpson
Self
Lucas, TX

This bill is insulting to public education. Improve the basic allotment increase. \$220/student still leaves Texas lagging approximately \$4,000 behind the national average. That means programs that have been cut stay cut, exemptions for large class sizes will continue to be the rule rather than the exception, and I will have to keep fielding requests to fund aspects of my children's education out of my own pocket. SPED is woefully underfunded. Security that is now required by law continues to be an unfunded mandate. And you are directing financial resources that could address all of this to a \$5 billion ESA agenda that the majority of Texans do not support as it is proposed because it no universal subsidy is fiscally conservative, your ESA legislation included. Fund public schools first.

Paul Thrower
Texas homeschoolers
Keller, TX

I'm opposed to any bill that seeks to infringe on parents right to educate their children. We have homeschooled our kids for over 18 years in a college style setting at the cost of our finances and health. The sacrifice my wife makes is incredible. To hear of any bill that seeks to make more restrictive rules on homeschooling reeks of political bias and discrimination. Please vote no to such a waste of money and instead come up with plans on how to CUT the HUGE amount of taxes we pay for public education that our family does not derive any benefits from. And by the way, our coop homeschool group serves over 200 families and classes fill up in less than an hour each semester. 30 billion by 2030! To build new infrastructure likely and not improve public education one iota. Vote NO.

K J
Speech and Debate
Plano, TX

interesting

Patti Clifford
Self
Austin, TX

Please do NOT vote for school vouchers. I do not want my taxes to support private schools. Taxes should be used for public schools who need the \$\$\$!

Lauren Penn
Self
Denton, TX

Vouchers will negatively impact Texas students in the public schools. Schools are still not fully funded. Taxpayer money should not fund private, for profit schools that are not held to the same standards as public schools.

debby oatman
self - swim teacher, parent, grandparent, ex-public school kindergarten teacher
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because it provides funding to a minority of families at the expense of those who cannot afford or do not have the opportunity to have their children in private schools. Public schools are already severely underfunded, and any additional K-12 education funds should go to public schools. Private schools are comparatively unregulated and are not subject to the same testing and standards required of public schools. Neighborhood public schools accept all students, but private schools can deny admission or educational services to any student, including students with disabilities, among others. Use of tax dollars should come with standards and not allow cherry picking of the easiest students to teach. Doing so would leave only the most challenging students in public schools, at a reduction of funding for the public schools (as the daily census would fall if students moved into private schools).

Linda Antinone
Self
Fort Worth, TX

As a retired public school teacher for 34 years, I urge you to fund our public schools and increase teacher pay. We must have a well educated workforce and that is only achieved through strong public schools. Other states have tried vouchers and it has not worked well - check Arizona and Ohio. Costs have skyrocketed for the state budgets. Another point is if you want to provide parents choice, the amount parents vs receive should not be more than the allotment that public schools receive. Those private or home schools should also face the same accountability as public schools do. If not, how do we know that students are achieving their basic skills.

I urge you to do what you know is right for our children and for Texas.

Kelea Youngblood

self - employed as the Chief Marketing Officer at the Austin Board of Realtors

Austin, TX

I oppose Texas voucher bills, as they take vital resources away from public schools. Instead, we should increase the basic allotment for public schools and fund them based on student enrollment, not attendance. Funding should follow the students, ensuring schools have the stability and resources needed to educate every child, regardless of attendance challenges. Let's invest in public education, not undermine it with vouchers.

Derick Deleo

Self

Van Alstyne, TX

Our state is already at an abysmal level of education compared to other states. Teachers are leaving the state, classrooms are overcrowded and under funded. And now Republicans want to take more funding away from public education to give a break to people who can already afford to pay for private education. **YOU SHOULD ALL BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES.** But I know you aren't because you're all just greedy, uncaring, power-hungry cretons.

Suzanne Robinson

Self

Georgetown, TX

Vouchers plans do nothing to improve the quality of education in Texas. Texas Public schools are consistently under funded, burdened with unfunded mandates, and over burdened with regulations that do nothing to improve education. **ALL** students in TX deserve quality education so instead of giving less than 2% a voucher, make real systemic change and fully fund our public schools.

Harold Maldonado

Retired Educator, grandparent

San Antonio, TX

Vote no. This item takes money and support from public schools and is a giveaway to the wealthy.

Andrew Keith

Self, teacher

Roanoke, TX

I'll keep this simple. Please increase the basic allotment to \$7,500 for public education. We have not received an increase in 5 years, yet inflation is up to 20%. See what we can do with \$7,500, compared to the \$10,000 the voucher students will receive.

Pradeep Adapa

Self

Roanoke, TX

Would like the basic allotment for a kid in the public school to be increased to \$1340 instead of \$220 in the HB 2 bill. Due to inflation, the increase of \$220 is not enough.

Ronald Mendoza

Self

Haslet, TX

You need to find public education properly. In the face of a 23% inflation rate since the last time the basic allotment was adjusted to think that a \$220 increase will be a just adjustment is ridiculous! The basic allotment should be raised to \$7500 per student to truly be able to keep up with the rate of inflation. Do what is right!

Karen Weir
self, management
Austin, TX

Please let's put this money into public education instead. Vouchers are not the answer.

Kate Hale
Self secretary
Haslet, TX

Instead of dismantling our public education system, you have a duty to strengthen it so that all students have an opportunity to thrive in school. If you intend to subsidize private schools at \$10,000 you have obligation to provide that same level of funding to the public schools who will not discriminate against any child as private institutions may choose to do. Please set aside politics and instead vote for our every child, not the entitled few.

Amelia Carlson
Self
Lucas, TX

Education is the great equalizer in a country where the gap is continuing to grow. School choice widens the gap and takes away vital funding to public schools who need it most. Let's come together and boost the funding for public schools to give all students and teachers everything they need to succeed. Education is our future. Let's not ruin it. Vote no on HB 3

Dana Kincaid
Self
San Antonio, TX

HB 2 is a windfall for charter schools and further erodes our critical need for better public education in Texas. This appears on the surface to Support public schools but It will allow charter schools a double dip in funding. Support your public schools, it is what Texans want!

Katie Smith
Public school
Justin, TX

Keep funding our public school!

Suzanne Bazarian
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts in Texas.

Jennifer Crane
Self
FORT WORTH, TX

We the basic allotment to increase to \$7500! Inflation has hit everyone including districts but only raising it by \$220 isn't going to help anyone. The funding is there and people need it! Let the funds go back to public education! That is what it was intended for when it was collected. If I didn't pay my mortgage and spent it on a luxury item instead I would lose my house. The house aka our public schools are getting lost to those that already have the house the and luxuries. It's not fair! Once public education is not supported then just wait and see it will cost children's lives. We will see a decrease in our economy because more and more will not graduate and go on to be successful adults. The state will not be able to withstand it and go into more debt. It will ruin Texas!

Rosa Perez
Self
Converse, TX

This bill will hurt too many children. Vouchers are a scam.

Debbie Cervantes
Self
Houston, TX

Our Texas Constitution Article VII requires the legislation to provide free and efficient education for all. This has been done through our public school system. The efficiency has been managed by TEA. The rigorous testing for student accountability has most recently been STAAR. The accountability for teachers has been T-Tess and the new reward system the TIA. Schools are held accountable with the Public School Rating System or Report Card A-F. This is responsible and efficient management of Texas tax dollars allotted for education. With recent and coming inflation as well as with increases in autism, 594, IEP, and other equal access to education referendums the demand on the education system and schools is higher than ever. Stakeholders in colleges and the workforce have received investments in early college, technical and career schools, and advanced placement classes. The Texas public education system is a network and life cycle that is held together with state funding, local taxes, and federal monies. With any of those sources falling short, the budget deficits, school closures, and loss of instructors disrupt the network. If the state opens this door to fund privatized education and limit the state's ability to fund the well established and well run FREE (guaranteed in the Texas Constitution) and efficient guarantee of education in Texas. Texas cannot cover the full expense of private education, nor should it be required. Texas cannot threaten or abuse an efficient network of thousands of teachers and millions of students to prioritize 6% of Texas students in private education and their unaccountable, uncertified teachers, unrated schools, untested students. Education savings account programs are not providing free and efficient education - they are subsidizing expensive private education.

Catherine Rowan
Self
Luling, TX

Please vote no for this bill. This is a de facto tax kickback for the wealthiest in the state (who are already sending their kids to private schools!) and will not truly mean school choice for the masses. Why should constituents in counties or schools districts without private schools be in favor of this? There's nothing fair about school choice. Vote no.

Jenna Scott
SBISD
Houston, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts in Texas.

Regina Pires
Self
Cypress, TX

We. Do. Not. Want. Vouchers. Fully fund our public schools using public tax dollars. No welfare for the wealthy.

Mike Scully
Self software
Round Rock, TX

As a conservative who left a blue state full of Rino republicans for the free state of Texas, I do not want to see our educational freedoms and independence taken away. Creating another welfare program is not fiscally conservative. Bribing people is not ok. This voucher approach is not sound or free. This will undermine public, private and homeschool education.

Do not sell out our education system for a failed pipe dream or shell game.

This will ruin education and part of what makes Texas great which is the lack of liberal influence. A single payer system will end up corrupt.

As a Republican I will campaign, vote and donate against anyone who supports this garbage. Please do not fall for the scam.

ChooseEducationIndependence.com

Elaine Foster
self - retired
Georgetown, TX

73% of Texas public school districts are underfunded & 17% are severely underfunded. HB3 further reduces funding for public schools and it uses public taxpayer dollars to fund private school tuition. HB3 has little oversight of how the public funds are spent, creates questions regarding separation of church and state, hurts public schools and leads to class segregation. Local schools in Georgetown ISD, my local school district, stand to lose more than 5 million dollars under this voucher bill which would be a devastating loss for our community.

Public funds should stay in our public schools, not be divvied up to unaccountable private schools. I strongly oppose this voucher bill and, as a constituent, I am asking you to vote against it.

Kristina Wang
Self
Austin, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and support Texas public schools. This bill diverts taxpayer dollars from public schools, which educate over 90% of Texas students, to private institutions with little accountability. Schools already facing teacher shortages and rising student needs will be forced to cut programs, increase class sizes, and limit services.

Private schools receiving taxpayer funds are not required to serve all students, follow state curriculum standards, provide performance data, or maintain financial oversight. If public money is being spent, there should be transparency in how it is used. HB 3 lacks that accountability.

While promoted as a "school choice," HB 3 benefits only a small group of families. Vouchers do not fully cover tuition, leaving many working-class and rural families unable to access private schools. Meanwhile, public schools serving most students will be left with fewer resources.

Strong public schools create strong communities. When schools suffer, property values decline, businesses struggle, and workforce development weakens. Texans have consistently rejected voucher schemes, recognizing that public funds should support schools that serve all students. HB 3 threatens that foundation.

I appreciate your time and consideration in protecting Texas public education.

Kelli Galyean
Public school children of Texas
Carrollton, TX

The basic allotment increase is not a number that can be taken seriously if one considers inflation and the amount of money Governor Abbott is planning to steal from public school children in order to fund his voucher scam. This is an abomination and should not even be up for discussion.

Sara Suman

Self, stay at home mom

Leander, TX

I am sitting in my living room, angry and heartbroken, after learning that our outstanding middle school principal is being laid off due to necessary budget cuts. She is a leader deeply respected and loved by our community, parents, and staff. The atmosphere at this school is something truly special, and much of that is owed to her dedication and leadership.

This is happening before HB3 has even passed. I am terrified to see how much more our public schools, our students, and our children will suffer at the hands of a government that seems to prioritize the wealthy over everyday Texans. SB3 is not a bill for the poor, and claiming otherwise is a blatant lie.

I live in a suburb of Austin and qualify as middle class. If I wanted to move my children to a private school today, I would have to drive 25+ minutes each way, and even with vouchers, I would still need to pay over \$30,000 out of pocket for three children. This "coupon" is completely useless to families like mine—we still can't afford private school. Meanwhile, those who can already afford private education will benefit the most.

What about the parents working 50+ hours a week just to make ends meet? The families who rely on public school buses for transportation? The parents in rural Texas with no access to private schools? These are the people who will be left behind. But the wealthy? They will benefit. They will take from the poor, from the middle class, and from Texas public schools and they will benefit. SB3 is a bill for the rich, and no amount of spin can change that reality.

As a state, we should be reinvesting in public schools, not stripping them of critical funding. I want to take a moment to express my deep gratitude for the incredible public schools my children have attended in Leander ISD over the past 10+ years. Public schools have supported and encouraged our children in ways we could not have done alone. They have challenged them academically, nurtured their talents and interests, and instilled in them a strong desire to pursue higher education and become a contributing member of society.

Our teachers, administrators, instructional assistants, coaches, and even custodians have gone above and beyond, dedicating countless hours beyond their contracts to support our kids. They have made a profound difference in their lives—and in mine. Now, watching one of these remarkable educators be let go due to lack of funding is completely devastating. And I worry this is only the beginning.

The everyday Texan is being punished by the choices Texas lawmakers are making regarding public education. This has to stop.

Vote NO on HB3.

Ashley Brewster

Self

Friendswood, TX

I am the mother of a kindergarten child in a public school. I strongly oppose the HB3 bill. I believe public funds should stay in public schools. This bill is only helpful for such a tiny portion of our population (the wealthy). The majority of Texas families will not benefit from this.

Josie Geck

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts in Texas.

Emily Holt
Self, Small Business Owner
Justin, TX

*** This note is in regards to HB 2, which is not able to be selected on the website for comments.

Dear Members of the Texas House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed increase to the Basic Allotment for public schools in House Bill 2. As a stakeholder in the Northwest Independent School District (NISD), I urge you to increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500 per student. The current Basic Allotment of \$6,160 was established in 2019. In the years since, inflation has increased by 23%, yet HB2 proposes only a \$220 increase—a mere 3.5% adjustment. This significant discrepancy is creating substantial challenges for our district and students.

This inadequate funding has real consequences:

- NISD is being forced to increase class sizes
- Teaching positions are being reduced and specials teachers and GT specialists are having to cover multiple campuses.
- The district may only be able to offer a 1% salary increase for all staff over the next two years, despite the substantial rise in cost of living
- Day-to-day operational costs have escalated for everything from bus fuel to insurance to classroom materials

The Texas Constitution establishes the state's responsibility to adequately fund public education. The current proposed increase falls far short of meeting this obligation. Our educators and students deserve better than what is currently being proposed. When we underfund public education, we undermine the future of our state. I believe strongly that investing in our students now will yield benefits for all Texans in the years to come.

Please consider amending HB2 to increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500 per student to help our district address inflation and provide the resources necessary for quality education.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.
Emily Holt

Allison Wong
Self
Spring, TX

OPPOSE HB 3

Megan Culpepper
Cypress Fairbanks ISD
Houston, TX

No ESAs! No Vouchers! This is a scam to help the wealthy people pay their private school tuition, if it wasn't then there would be an income cap on who could apply for these ESAs but there's not. Fund public schools and stop catering to your billionaire donors, we all know who is really behind this voucher scheme. It hasn't worked in any other state and it won't work here. If public education isn't working then fix it! What you're proposing with this bill is not only stupid it's criminal. Do the right thing for the millions of Texas children in public schools and all the adults they employ!

Sancia Matthyssen

None

Georgetown, TX

Every child is entitled to a free and proper education.why would a country take this away? Why would the federal govt walk away from this responsibility to build a smarter, stronger future. Having an educated country enables us to compete. If parents have to pay for education, perhaps more mothers will choose to stay home and homeschool. Oh, but maybe that's the plan, keep women out of the workplace, out of sync, disconnected....this is not freedom, it's just the opposite. I see. Parents need to save for healthcare, disease, elder care and retirement- not school.

Chelsea Mongole

Self

Katy, TX

I am very against this. It will bankrupt public schools.

Alan Beck

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please support public schools by increasing basic allotment to \$7500 per student. Public schools are under funded. Short changing public schools is not why I voted for my fellow Republicans into office. We need to properly fund public schools. Funding private educations without having any meaningful academic measures in place to evaluate the success of state funded private schools is irresponsible.

Chelsea Abbott

NWISD

Roanoke, TX

Increase NWISD budget

Amy Gatlin

Self

Allen, TX

No to vouchers. Every state that has tried vouchers has data to show it harms public schools and costs much more than expected. Fully fund public schools. Increase the basic allotment by the rate of inflation. Fund the mandates. Give our teachers a COLA raise. Reimburse special ed at actual costs not a reduced rate. Schools are vital employers. They drive businesses to our state. They impact property values. Invest in our state by fully funding public schools. We could easily have the best schools in the nation if you vote for public schools and against vouchers.

Katherine Garrison

Self-teacher

El Paso, TX

I am a public high school and community college teacher in El Paso. This year has been stressful, budgets are tight. Neighboring districts are taking out loans, laying off staff, and closing schools. Purchase approvals are taking longer than ever. The adequacy of materials varies highly by school and inequity constantly rears its ugly head.

Meanwhile, charter schools are booming. They come into developing neighborhoods, building quickly with seemingly less red tape, and drain enrollment from public schools. It is my understanding that in Texas, charter schools get higher funding per student.

I have worked at a charter school. I spent 4 years working in horrible conditions at Harmony Public Schools. I watched time and time again as inexperienced, unqualified, uncertified individuals got promoted to jobs they couldn't do well. I watched hardworking teachers pick up their slack while the deans drove home in their Mercedes. This is what we want more of?

To add insult to injury, this Bill wants to further rob public schools while benefiting private interests. Inequity will only grow from here.

I am asking you to vote "No" on this bill as an educator, a mother, and a Texan. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Jennie Lovejoy

Self

Roanoke, TX

How is this good for kids????

April Brinkmeyer

Self

Jarrell, TX

As home schooling is not an option for me, and there is no private school near me that costs \$10000 per year, **THIS SCHEME PROVIDES ME ZERO ADDITIONAL CHOICE FOR MY TWO DAUGHTERS.** We will stay in public school because that is what is available and affordable to us. I would appreciate it if you would listen to your constituents **WHO HAVE CLEARLY SAID REPEATEDLY** that they do not want school vouchers.

Stop withholding money from our public schools. Fully fund them. Pay our teachers. **STOP DISMANTLING** my children's future over political theater and power grabs.

This push is disgusting. Let's be clear, what I've seen the last few years and how it's impacted my kids education has turned me into an activist. And I will spend every free dollar I have making sure those of you ignoring us have competition and risk losing your seats.

Do the right thing. Fund public schools with the surplus we're running and abandon the unwanted voucher scheme.

Page Hanna

Self, School Counselor

Fort Worth, TX

Please increase the basic allotment to \$7500 per student and please do not approve a school voucher/ESA program where students attending private schools receive more funding per student than our public education students. They deserve to receive the same amount of funding per student.

Tracie Henderson, Mrs

Self

Friendswood, TX

Please do not pass this bill and take money away from public education. I already spend so much money on my classroom and students. These kids deserve more and not less. These vouchers only help the elite.

Wendy Valdes

Self/teacher

El Paso, TX

My 12 year old son Brandon is a student in a public school. He has Treacher-Collins Syndrome and has bilateral conductive hearing loss. Due to his condition, Brandon qualifies to be in special education and has an IEP. My son has received services from his public school since he was a few months old. The school district he is a part of would have the Auditory Impairment (AI) teacher visit us at home. She worked with Brandon and helped him with listening and speaking skills among other things. This AI teacher continues to work with my son, and will track his progress until he graduates from high school. Thanks to her, the speech therapists, special education teachers, teachers, and paraprofessionals, my child is thriving and loves school. He is on grade level and wants to be a cardiologist. None of this would have been possible without the support and services provided by his public school. A private school would never come close to providing my son with the services that have helped him succeed academically and emotionally. School vouchers will devastate already underfunded public schools, and will prevent children like Brandon from receiving the services and support they need. Please do not abandon children in special education. They matter and their education matters.

Valerie Martin

Self, house cleaner

Abilene, TX

I do not want my tax dollars going towards private schools. I believe the public school system will suffer greatly. Please vote no!!

Vanessa Andrews

Self

Bryan, TX

I am writing to implore you to increase the basic allotment to at least \$7500 per student. Our public schools shouldn't be forgotten during the misguided push for school vouchers. I want my tax dollars to support the public schools that my kids attend.

Heath Nall

Self

Canyon, TX

Please fully fund our public schools. The truth is that school funds have been frozen for the last 6 years. Our school districts are struggling. Please vote "No" to vouchers.

Joanna Runkles

Texas Public School Students and Educators

Levelland, TX

As a supporter of Texas public schools, I want to thank my Representative Ken King and the representative from my hometown where I received an excellent public school education, Representative Lambert, for continually supporting Texas Public Schools.

Schools across our state are struggling with rising costs and funding challenges that are directly impacting our students.

Investing in our schools is about investing in the economic success of the state and creating a stronger workforce and more prosperous future. It is not about using public funds for private schools.

I urge you to stand against ESAs and instead to prioritize an increase to the Basic Allotment, which raises teacher pay, decreases recapture, and allows school districts to direct funding according to their communities' needs. Please consider the inflation rate since the last increase in 2019. It would take more than \$1,000 per student to fund our schools equivalently. I ask that you recommend an increase that would significantly close that gap.

Texas students deserve strong, well-funded public schools. Thank you for your time and commitment to this important bill.

Michael Davis, Rev.

self (healthcare chaplain, spiritual care consultant, blogger)

Wylie, TX

I strongly oppose the HB 3 (and 2) bills. They are a two-pronged effort to ostensibly improve Texas education by creating a voucher program under the pretense of choice (HB 3) while also giving the illusion of supporting the public education system by adding a pittance of per-student funding increase (HB 2).

The proposal of vouchers is fundamentally against what the Founders of America believed in: a wall of separation between Church and State. Why? Nationally, religious schools claim the bulk of the voucher funds (between 82 and 98% - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2024/06/03/tax-dollars-religious-schools/>). It's curious that Republicans claim to want "American" values, the values the Founders intended, while happily gifting religious schools with taxpayer-funded vouchers. The downstream effects are that vouchers leech funds from already underfunded public schools and their employees. Even Buckley's HB 2 only provides a pittance of a public school funding increase.

Bleeding money away from public education is a thinly veiled attempt to move toward the radical dream of the Project 2025 playbook, a move toward a fundamentalist theocracy little better than those supported by radical Islamists. It is also a violation of the Founders' intentions by the Republicans, the ones who endlessly remind us of their wish to return to the vision of America's Founders. That is malarkey. They are breaching the very wall of separation that the Founders intended when the Revolutionary war began.

Julie deGraffenried

self, college professor

Chilton, TX

I write urging you to oppose any bill, including HB 3, that creates a school voucher (or "savings account") program aimed at diverting taxpayer, public funds away from public schools and toward funding private schools. I am married to a retired public school teacher, my children attend private school, and we are precisely the type of family who will be eligible for a voucher, yet I say this clearly: we do not want them or need them! We have never asked for them, and the enthusiasm with which Texas leadership calls for them makes me question whether those leaders listen to constituents or private donors. The arguments against school vouchers are logical & numerous. 1) Private school is a private family choice and should have no interference from the state. Vouchers will blur this line. Public funds should fund public schools. 2) Private schools are not regulated by the state. Public money should be go where it cannot be regulated. 3) There is no evidence from other states that have similar programs that they work. In fact, there is overwhelming data that vouchers are costly and do not benefit intended populations. 4) Instead of investing in private schools, why not fully fund our existing public schools? The Legislature has steadily decreased funding for our schools, and teachers' salaries are among the worst in the nation while their health care costs have skyrocketed. Until you have fully funded public schools, it makes no sense to propose funding other schools. 5) School choice is a myth. Private schools are under no obligation to admit children with vouchers. 6) Although the Governor argues otherwise (without evidence), a voucher system will hurt Texas high school football. If your goal is to lure sports academies to Texas, then know it will be at the cost of a long-standing community tradition of Friday night football. Do you want to be the legislators who kill high school football in Texas? 7) Many private schools are connected to churches or congregations. Public monies going to churches blurs the separation of church and state in dangerous ways and will open the state of Texas to costly legal challenges. Further, one presumes that private schools associated with any religion could be funded by tax dollars. How might your voters feel about Wiccan schools opening? Or Islamist schools? Or schools that openly espouse atheism? 8) Funding private schools is undemocratic. There is something beautiful about our community schools, with locally elected school boards and funded (increasingly because you all keep decreasing state funding) by local property taxes. School districts help us practice democracy and are the most obvious, tangible way most people can see their taxes at work.

Please resist the urge to play politics with our tax money and with our children's right to a quality, free education. Please, do the right thing and invest in our public schools and leave private schools to find their own funding. Thank you.

Chelsea Best

Self

College Station, TX

Strong public schools benefit the entire community by preparing an educated workforce and promoting economic growth. When vouchers drain resources, public education weakens, leading to declining student outcomes and fewer opportunities for future generations. Instead of investing in unregulated private education, policymakers should focus on strengthening public schools to ensure all students receive a high-quality education.

RG Clark
STRATFORD PTSA
HOUSTON, TX

I do not support this bill and will not support, promote, or vote for any legislature member who votes for this bill.

Amir Hirani
Self
Sugar Land, TX

stop the voucher scam; keep public school funding

Claudia Trachier
Self
GARLAND, TX

School vouchers rob public schools and benefit only the wealthy who don't need tax dollars to educate their children. They are also detrimental to special needs children and kids with behavioral issues. Starving public schools of much needed and available funding and holding teachers hostage by refusing to pay public school teachers a living wage for political points and control is unconscionable. Rural communities are already struggling to keep schools open and functioning. Fund public schools. Keep church separate from state. Religious instruction does not belong in public schools. This plan will save nothing and will in fact cost taxpayers more for less benefits to our children. Abbott's billionaire backers want vouchers and no one else. PS. Saying football is more important than education is not the reassurance he thinks it is. Insanity!

Kate Helms
Self - Engineer
Round Rock, TX

I don't want school vouchers because research in other states who've already adopted the vouchers shows it only helps the rich folks who already have their kids in private schools. The average Texan isn't going to magically put their kid in private schools because of vouchers. It just takes that money away from public schools that really need that money more. This bill will also disproportionately hit rural communities.

Erica Tinnin
Self
San Angelo, TX

In absolutely no way does this bill stand to help anyone but the wealthy.

Lisa Koenig, Teacher
Self teacher
Gause, TX

Please do not do this to our children and families. This doesn't benefit public schools, you know better. We are living paycheck to paycheck. It seems like an honest education isn't your main objective. Quit feeding the machine and do what's right for the children, you don't like progress then you pick something like this house bill, do not vote for this, teachers are not with you.

Terry Irwin
Nurse Practitioner - self
Austin, TX

I am adamantly against HB 3. Texas should invest more in public education. Teachers are having enough of a hard time as it is. HB 3 will only make it more difficult for the struggling public school districts of Texas. HB 3 would be a disaster for Texas students. The public does not want this voucher program. Invest in Texas, not privatization of education.

Joshua Morris
Self
League City, TX

Vote against this bill.

Marla Morris
Self
League City, TX

Vote against. This is a terrible thing for our public schools.

Shemica Allen
N/A
Rosharon, TX

Reject HB 3. It pays more per student to a private school than it does to a public school. The private schools are not required to accept you nor to provide any special education.

Jeffrey Traylor
Citizens
Bartonville, TX

We do not support school vouchers. It is a poor process for improving education. The status quo is not sustainable but this option only benefits the wealthy as poor families do not have the flexibility due to transportation or extended time/cost.

Find a better alternative before you drop a bomb on public education.

Kate Edelman
Self teacher
West Columbia, TX

I do not want this bill to pass. Why are school who are not held to the same standards as public schools (no STAAR, not the same rating system, teachers do not have to have the same qualifications) getting more money per child than public schools? No education savings program!

Meagan Dowty, Mrs
Self
San Angelo, TX

This bill will raise property taxes, raise the student to teacher ratio, and take funds away from already underfunded public schools. We do not need to give wealthy families a break. If you want to make private schools easier to access, then force them to put a cap on tuitions - don't hurt the average Texan.

Samantha Miller Hemm

Self, Teacher

Spicewood, TX

My name is Samantha Miller Hemm, and have been a public school teacher in Texas for 11 years. I am writing today to urge you to vote against House Bill 3 because it would divert public tax dollars away from public schools, hurting the vast majority of Texas students.

Public education is the backbone of our state. It serves every child, no matter where they live or what their circumstances are. Vouchers do not create more opportunities for most families—they create funding gaps in the schools that educate the majority of Texas students. In rural areas, where private schools are scarce, vouchers provide little to no benefit while public schools remain underfunded.

House Bill 3 takes taxpayer dollars meant for public education and sends them to private schools that are not required to accept all students, follow the same accountability measures, or provide the same level of services—especially for students with disabilities or special needs. Public funds should support public schools, which serve every student, in every community.

If we want to strengthen education in Texas, we must focus on what will keep teachers in the classroom and improve student outcomes:

- Competitive teacher pay to help retain experienced educators and recruit new talent.
- Funding for classroom resources so that teachers do not have to spend their own money on basic supplies.
- Support for rural and small-town schools, which serve as the heart of many Texas communities.

I respectfully ask you to oppose House Bill 3 and instead focus on legislation that strengthens Texas public schools. Supporting teachers, funding classrooms, and ensuring every student has access to a high-quality education should be the priority.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lauren Brown

Self

San Angelo, TX

Put this to a popular vote of the citizens of Texas since it is a public matter. This is a violation of our rights. Pockets are being lined with dirty money in exchange for votes. It's a disservice to our public education system, its students and all of its employees. This will cripple our public education system and leave many students behind. Many rural communities do not have access to private a school nor do the working parents have the ability, financially or physically, to homeschool their children. Many children will be left behind without a choice. The propaganda that has pushed this bill has been lying to the citizens, as well as the Set members who've already voted. This will line the pocket of investors of private schools. Look at the stats on the level of education and issues on hand from the states who have already passed this bill previously. Now, look back at the data from private jails and who financially benefited from that bill in the past. We must learn from our history. We must not repeat the same mistakes as before. We owe it to our children who are our future leaders, the educators who mold and protect our children, as well as the hundreds of thousands of Texas citizens who are crying out to put a stop to this bill! We will remember who traded in our public education system for their own personal gain come the next time we vote. Let your strong citizens of Texas have a say in such a major matter! That is how you give each family a CHOICE!

Edgar Jacome

Self

McKinney, TX

It's irresponsible to divert funds from public schools. Those willing and able to fund their children's private education should not have access to tax dollars every hard working, less fortunate, citizen contributes to. This only further divides and alienates our children, when we should be promoting and building upon the social welfare of our public education system. I urge our house representatives to oppose this bill, and support our hard working public school system. If choice is a concern, consider open enrollment plans as many school districts are offering today.

Tomeka Brown, General education teacher

Self

San Antonio, TX

I VOTE NO TO THIS BILL

Shannon Hix

Self

McKinney, TX

Public dollars belong in public schools. Texas taxpayers should not be forced to fund private and unaccountable education programs while our neighborhood schools continue to suffer. I urge you to stand with our students, teachers, and communities-vote NO on HB3 and say NO to vouchers.

Pat McCorquodale

Self, retired teacher

Mason, TX

This bill will seriously undermine public education, particularly in rural areas.

Deborah Harhai, Ms

Retired Teacher

San Antonio, TX

Please vote against this bill.

Oscar King

Self/Teacher

El Paso, TX

HB3 will devastate Texas public schools. It diverts crucial funds to private schools via vouchers, leaving already underfunded public schools to crumble. This isn't "choice," it's a calculated attack on our kids' education, especially in rural areas and for students with disabilities. It creates a two-tiered system, favoring the privileged. As a teacher, I see the harm this will cause. We must protect public education for all Texas children.

Merissa Hurt

Self

San Angelo, TX

As a child of a teacher and the problems they face today, the lack of pay just screams no one cares about our educational system.

Carrie Stovall
Self- Healthcare
Carrollton, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. As an alumni of the Texas public school system who went on to attend a state university in Texas, I am opposed to HB 3. As a wife of an alumni of the Texas public school system who now teaches school in the Texas public school system, I am opposed to HB 3. As a parent of an elementary school student who attends a Texas public school, I oppose HB 3. I would like to request before this bill is voted on to have members participate in this exercise:

1. Raise your hand if you attended public schools in Texas?
2. Raise your hand if you attended private schools in Texas?
3. Raise your hand if your children attended public schools in Texas?
4. Raise your hand if your children attended private schools in Texas?
5. Raise your hand if you have a current child in a private school?
6. Raise your hand if you have a current child in a Texas public school?

To any of the people that raised their hands around public school- Are you okay with the fact that your education or your child's education is worth less than someone that attends private school?

Public School education is the foundation of our country and our investment in our children and our future. The state of Texas has been withholding funding for our public school systems since 2019 that has been available and not providing this to our children and our students.

Why? I would like an answer from the leaders of our state as to why public education has not been provided additional funding for the last 5 years. My child deserves to have this answer from the leaders of this state. If HB 3 passes the answer is clear- public school students are not a priority for the current leaders of Texas.

I am opposed to HB 3. I do support taking this to the residents of Texas to vote on this bill if necessary.

Sue Tabor, Ms
TRTA retired teacher
Wichita Falls, TX 76308-4438, TX

I am a retired teacher with 43 years doing what I loved. Enlightening young children's minds.

My mother was a teacher for 32 years.

I have FOUR NEPHEWS that are basketball coaches in The Public School System.

Ty~Head basketball coach in Krum.

Zac~ Head girl's basketball coach at Reagan High in San Antonio!

Quinten ~ girl's basketball coach in Argyle.

Preston~Graduate assistant coach at North Texas State!

Please vote against The VOUCHERS!!!

TEXAS DOES NOT WANT THIS!!!

Victoria Farrell
self
Round Rock, TX

It has been repeatedly shown that school vouchers will take money away from public schools. I, and many other Texans, oppose the bill to fund private school education at the expense of public school children. I urge you to listen to the voters and vote against this bill. Thank you for your time.

Jody Gibson

Self - Marketing Communications Consultant

The Hills, TX

As a former employee of the supposedly "bipartisan" Texas Public Policy Foundation, I found myself, an Independent, working for a clearly far-right-leaning organization funded by Big Oil like the Strake family of Houston, and founded on the rip-off of "school choice" by Dr. Jim Leininger, who would like to cherry-pick results from years of scholarships provided to some children over the years. But what of our public schools? TPPF and those like Leininger would prefer to leave them to wither from a lack of funds siphoned off in the form of vouchers to private schools. The fact is, there is school choice right now -- there are charter schools, magnet schools and parochial schools. The supposed lie about all of the poor children school choice would help is just that -- a lie. If a school has too many applicants, THEN who does the choosing? And what about our students with 504s? My son was a victim of a school choosing -- not to admit him because he was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes and therefore an "insurance liability." Make no mistake -- children with any physical ailment, including food allergies, will be denied admittance to private schools, as will children with learning disabilities like autism or dyslexia or behavior issues. And the poor children who score poorly on tests will also be left at public school, only to further this Christian Nationalist dream of the haves and have nots being even further separated, starting with kindergarten. One in 5 Texan school children will never have the option of going anywhere other than their rural school, so any House member from a rural Texas area who votes for this should be ousted. And we all know Gov. Abbott has spent at least \$6 million to try to vote out these rural Republicans who are voting how their constituents want them to vote. School choice has not passed in over 20 years and for good reason -- TEXAS DOES NOT NEED SCHOOL CHOICE. It will only weaken the public school system and therefore eventually the labor pool. Colleges are public and private and the private ones cost more; this is not any different and therefore does not need to change. VOTE NO on this garbage bill of "school's choice."

Emily Lyle

Self teacher

Weatherford, TX

Please vote no to this bill. ESAs will be detrimental to our public schools and to the teacher retirement system. ESAs are not conservative or a financially responsible use of tax payer money. Any institution that takes tax payer money should be held to the same requirements and transparency as public schools.

Greg Sells

self-federal employee

Austin, TX

I am writing against HB 3 because it would divert needed funds from the public schools that the majority of Texans attend. Most school districts are being forced to cut their budgets because of the lack of state funding. Private schools don't provide the range of services public schools offer for special needs children, and many private schools are religiously affiliated, meaning they may be free to discriminate against certain children. Especially in rural areas, public schools are the center of their communities with their athletic and cultural activities. Most rural areas lack private schools.

Jill Simpson

Self

Fort Worth, TX

No to vouchers. They are a coupon for the rich. No other state has had success with them and it's just a scam for the rich. We have school choice now as you can choose where your child goes to school. We don't have to pay for rich kids to attend a church school. Put the money in public schools the way it is supposed to be

Marcelo Garcia

Self

El Paso, TX

This voucher program aims to undercut our already undervalued public schools. You want to keep uneducated, easy to control citizens. Without a quality, non-profit, secular education. You want to drive children to be homeschooled by religious zealots or to an expensive private school.

Allison Sozansky

Self - 28 year veteran teacher

Round Rock, TX

Texans have school choice. What we don't have is a legislature that has upheld our TX constitution and funded public ed. Every member of the legislature understands that public ed has been defunded since 2019. Do your duty for the children of Texas, instead of the bidding of Wilks and Dunn.

Kyle James

Self

Midland, TX

This is an unwanted bill that will not fix the education problem in Texas. How many thousands of dollars were spent senator/rep Crocket's education ? Money and school choice is not the issue. Unless you pay the teachers more and start teaching instead trying to pass a state mandated test. I graduated from high school in 1979 and I have more general knowledge than young people with a Dr degree.

Revamp the school board system that will allow people of the community to get involved and quit paying administrative personnel higher salaries than teachers.

Amanda Desch

Myself

San Angelo, TX

School voucher programs are often marketed as a way to provide parents with "choice" in education, but in reality, they are a scam designed to divert public funds into private hands while dismantling the public school system. These programs are not about helping students—they are about privatizing education for profit, weakening public schools, and abandoning the principle that every child deserves access to a quality education, regardless of their background or zip code.

Tarma Grady

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose using public funds for private education. This essentially only provides a rebate to those already able to send their children to private school. Lower income families or those in rural communities do not have the means or opportunity to choose private school. I do not believe my taxes should be a rebate to the wealthy. The average family could not afford the thousands of dollars out of pocket that is still required or in some cases provide transportation. Please reconsider keeping public funds public to enable a quality education for all.

Cynthia Torres, Superintendent

La Feria ISD

La Feria, TX

As the Superintendent of La Feria Independent School District, I strongly oppose HB 3 due to its lack of accountability and transparency in how taxpayer dollars would be used. Texas public schools must meet rigorous academic, financial, and operational accountability standards, ensuring that funds are spent effectively and that students are receiving a high-quality education. HB 3 circumvents these safeguards by funneling taxpayer dollars to private institutions that are not subject to the same level of oversight.

Public schools are required to administer standardized assessments, report student achievement data, comply with state curriculum requirements, and undergo financial audits. Private schools and other ESA-approved entities, however, are not held to these same standards. Without proper accountability, taxpayer dollars could be spent on low-quality or unregulated educational services that do not guarantee student success.

Moreover, HB 3 creates the potential for misuse and fraud. Other states with ESA-style programs have encountered cases where funds were used for personal expenses, unapproved services, and even fraudulent vendors due to weak oversight. Texas should not risk taxpayer dollars on a system that lacks financial controls and academic accountability.

If the goal is to improve education for Texas students, we must ensure that all schools receiving public funds meet the same high standards. Instead of diverting resources to an unregulated system, Texas should be investing in public schools that serve all children and are held accountable for student success.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3 and instead support policies that strengthen public education with transparency, accountability, and student outcomes in mind. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Misty Babb

Self

Pflugerville, TX

HB3 should not be allowed to pass for simple fact that the majority does not want it. This is just one reason and a good one. Plus we are overlooking the very simple fact that private schools means that their money comes from private funding. Not from government funding. What is so difficult for this to understand? The government should not be paying money into private businesses. Lastly, majority of the private schools seem to be of the Christian persuasion. Correct me if I am wrong (which I am not), but I don't think every child in Texas is Christian or should be forced into a school that doesn't align with their faith.

Pamela Meyer, Capt

Self

Aransas Pass, TX

Do not support vouchers.

Our Schools here in aransas county and all the surrounding counties ... the entire state need more money to raise highly educated students to carry us into a brighter enlightened future.

We need these highly educated students to create our future scientists , lawyers, doctors , designers , educators , parents... are entire future depends on these students .

Increase public school funding

Kevin Okerstrom

Self

San Angelo, TX

Funding private schools with public tax dollars is just dirty. Vouchers looks to drive daggers in public education. Look ground! Look at all the lawsuits against the states that have adopted similar systems.

Eduardo Brito

Self

Houston, TX

I am not for the Voucher program. I do not Trust Greg Abbott to effectively stand for Education in Texas. Education has been steadily defunded over the years in Texas (Rice University Kinder Institute for Urban Research 2024 73% of Texas School are under funded). Mostly at the hands of Abbott Texas Lottery which is supposed to support education is in shambles because of corruption. "This is probably the greatest fraud ever perpetrated on the State of Texas by any group," Senator Paul Bettencourt said at the hearing. (Quoted in NY Times article 3/7) As a resident of Houston our school district is being systematically destroyed by Abbott's Appointee at TEA Mike Morath and his cronies Mike Miles and appointed board. Miles has already failed in Denver and Dallas. Last election Miles forced a failed HISD Bond initiative that was voted against by the people because of the lack of trust. Then we have our President steadily dismantling the department of education. Texas is even trying to destroy 504 Civil Rights protections with Texas Vs. Becerra. Point blank tax dollars should not go to private schools. They're not even going to our public schools. Even if I were for the program the majority of current elected officials are not capable of effectively providing proper educational support for our children because they undermine it at every turn. The proof is in every action that has been taken against children over the past years. If you are really for the children and for education you will not allow the voucher program to pass and task our government officials to come back with something better. Those of you in an elected position that have children should be appalled at the state of education in our state and country overall. Passing this voucher bill will only prove you are not for children and are incapable of protecting children and providing for the needs of children. Even in regards to reproductive rights it doesn't matter if abortion is illegal you're gonna destroy children's futures one way or another because as it stands children are being attacked at every turn. DO BETTER. Stop this and DO BETTER.

Michaelyn Riley

Self

Austin, TX

As a public school teacher for over 12 years and parent of 2 children attending public schools, I am staunchly opposed to HB3. I urge lawmakers to consider the impact it will have on public education and children of low SES and their families, as well as those who receive Special Education services. School voucher programs disproportionately benefit the most advantaged students, who are overwhelmingly white and wealthy. There is no evidence that vouchers improve student success, but they do lead to discrimination since schools can decide who to provide services to and often choose not to do so to the most needy students. Please do not divert funds from our already struggling and needy public schools for the purpose of giving wealthy families a cut on their private school tuition. Thank you .

Robin Hartmann

Self

Dallas, TX

AGAINST HB 3 by Buckley

Rogers Hartmann, Ms.

Self

Dallas, TX

Absolutely against the voucher system. It's theft.

Brian Fernandes

self, Software Engineer

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose vouchers or similar mechanisms that divert public education funds to private for-profit companies. A strong public education system levels the playing field between people of different socio-economic backgrounds and is the foundation of a healthy democracy.

Beki Halpin
self
Pflugerville, TX

We should not be using public money to support private schools. These unregulated schools will suck desperately needed funding away from public schools. Louisiana tried vouchers and the majority of the schools that accepted vouchers did worse not better than public schools. Special education students will not be able to pay for the expensive private schools that can serve them and will, for the most part, be pushed onto public schools, which will be overburdened with the vast proportion of special education students. Rural districts will lose sufficient funding to keep their public schools open. Sports and extracurricular activities will be starved at public schools. Vouchers distribute more financial support for private school students than public schools will get per student and this is unfair. Public education has made our country strong and its destruction will be ours as well.

Caroline Payne
Self, Registered Nurse
New Braunfels, TX

Keep our public school fully funded. Vouchers are a scam and will pull precious dollars from our local schools.

Bryan Hallmark, Dr
Self
Sealy, TX

I believe HB3 as written will become unaffordable as it balloons to \$4billion + in a few years. Creating more government isn't the Texas way. You all are obsessed with vouchers and I can't change that. Why in the world would you not just let a person take what they pay in M&O taxes and use that for private school or home school. It doesn't create more government, doesn't hurt public schools, and it is affordable. Some times you guys make me feel like I'm the smartest guy on the planet.

Dayna Oneal
Music therapy/self
Georgetown, TX

Please do not put forth this bill. Please ensure equal access for all through fully funded public schools.

Alana Greenwood
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Available funds should go to the public schools to build the best educational system for all Texas students. The vouchers only open up fractions and opportunity for corruption.

Jeff Johannigman
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3 because it unfairly benefits wealthy families to the detriment of the rest.

Karen Horgan
Self/retired
Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to register my opposition to HB3 and any voucher or ESA bills I urge you not to support any voucher or ESA School Choice Bills, as these do not align with the priorities of Texas voters or your Constitutional duty. Please vote NO on HB3 and vote YES to full fund public schools.

I am a mom to two public school teachers. I know first-hand how much vouchers will negatively impact public education. Instead of vouchers/ESAs, please focus on measures that will improve Texas public schools, for example:

- Raising the basic allotment by much more than the \$220 in HB2 which would help to raise teacher salaries and provide more resources for students. Fully funding our schools will make them more successful.
- Supporting teachers by raising their salaries and providing better health care options.
- There are 5.5 million public school students in Texas. In fact, Texas ranks 2nd nationally in public school student enrollment. 150 Texas counties do not even have a private school. How will vouchers improve their schools? Bottom line - Public dollars should stay with public schools, which educate the vast majority of Texas students.
- Supporting a strong public school system statewide will produce an educated population will improve the quality of living for all Texans by decreasing crime rates, providing more jobs, better health outcomes, etc.

We have seen the harmful consequences of voucher programs in other states, and Texas should not follow the same path. Voucher systems have drained public school funding without improving student outcomes. Research from these states has shown that vouchers do not lead to higher academic achievement but instead weaken the public school system as a whole. Let's learn from others' mistakes.

As elected officials, it is your Constitutional duty to ensure the success of our public education system. This is one the main responsibility of our state legislature and we need immediate action to make improvements. The majority of Texans from either party do not support vouchers. Listen to your constituents!

Vote NO on any voucher or ESA bill. Vote YES to fully fund our public schools.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.
Karen Horgan

Stacy Kimpel, Dr.
Self
Conroe, TX

I do not support school vouchers. This does not serve our public schools, teachers, or kids.

Janie Brittain

Self / Texans for Homeschool Freedom

Garland, TX

I would like to go on record as strongly opposing House Bill 3 (HB3). I believe in educational freedom and choice for Texas, but this bill moves us in the opposite direction. Any education freedom bill must protect the inalienable right and responsibility of parents to educate their children. This bill does not do that. HB3 expands government control into private and home schools. HB3 creates a new government regulatory bureaucracy and a "brand new economy" (as Jared Patterson admitted in a Facebook post), made up of public private partnerships using taxpayer dollars. PPPs are exceedingly dangerous because they combine the benefits of privacy and profit of a private entity with the government's power to tax and regulate under force of law. Vendors and others are jumping at the chance to make money in this new economy, regardless of the consequences to our freedoms, and to our children's education.

The proponents of HB3 (and SB2) are disingenuous when they say that the purpose of these bills is to allow children to escape failing public schools. These bills only apply to a tiny percentage of public school students in Texas. Around 98% of students will remain in public schools. The proposed legislation in HB1, HB2, and HB4 will do nothing to fix the root of the problems in public schools, so where is the concern for the 98% of children who will remain?

Proponents of HB3 are also disingenuous (lying) when they say that nothing will change for anyone who chooses not to accept the education subsidies. Basic economics says that an infusion of a large amount of money (subsidies) into a market will cause costs to go up for everyone. Our taxpayer dollars will produce winners and losers in Patterson's new economy.

Finally, control of the education of all children worldwide is a goal of the United Nations. Its United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) supports so-called "school choice" legislation because it furthers its goal of worldwide control of education. HB1, HB2, HB3, and HB4 work together to accommodate and further this goal.

The solution to our failing public schools is to return to what we know worked in the past: a classical liberal education model.

Nothing being proposed by the 89th Legislature is moving us in this direction. In the last decade or more, our legislature and TEA bureaucracy, under the leadership of Governor Abbott, has forced policies on public schools that have led to their near destruction and the failure of children to be able to read and write at a basic level. Why would anyone trust these same people to insert themselves into private and home schools?

Please VOTE NO on HB3 (and SB2, and HB1, HB2, and HB4). HB3 expands government control over our children. It will ultimately destroy educational freedom in Texas.

For Liberty,

Janie Brittain

Precinct Chair #1737 Dallas County

Linda Jackson

Personal

League City, TX

I am AGAINST HB 3.1

Aminda Pereira

Self

San Antonio, TX

I don't want funds to be pulled from my local schools to support. My tax dollars shouldn't be siphoned away from my community. Vouchers leech away resources and lead to a decline in the quality of education of public schools. My taxes shouldn't be supporting a private school. The fact that there is lack of regulation and the potential for discrimination makes it clear to me that voucher programs lead to more harm than good.

Claudia Cortez
Self/ Engineering Educator
Brownsville, TX

Dear Public Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3, which proposes the establishment of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program. As a dedicated educator with 15 years of experience, currently teaching Career and Technical Education (CTE) Engineering at Porter Early College High School in the Brownsville Independent School District, I am deeply concerned about the potential consequences this bill would have on public education in Texas.

Public education is the backbone of our society, ensuring that all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, receive a quality education. HB 3, under the guise of offering school choice, would divert much-needed public funds away from our already underfunded public schools, further exacerbating educational inequities. While proponents of the ESA program argue that it empowers parents, the reality is that these programs overwhelmingly benefit families who already have the financial means to afford private education, leaving behind students in lower-income and rural communities who rely on public schools.

As an educator deeply involved in STEM initiatives, including my work with NASA HUNCH, Limitless Space Institute, and the Texas Space Grant Consortium, I have seen firsthand how investment in public education fosters innovation and creates pathways for students to enter high-demand STEM fields. The funding that would be siphoned away by HB 3 could instead be used to support CTE programs, STEM initiatives, and teacher development, directly benefiting students who may not otherwise have access to such opportunities.

Furthermore, public schools are held to rigorous academic and accountability standards, ensuring that all students receive a well-rounded education. Private institutions benefiting from ESA funds would not be subject to the same level of oversight, creating a system in which taxpayer dollars are used with little transparency or accountability. This lack of regulation risks diluting the quality of education provided to students while weakening the public education system as a whole.

Texas must prioritize strengthening public education rather than creating policies that undermine it. Instead of allocating funds to private and unregulated institutions, we should focus on increasing teacher pay, reducing classroom sizes, expanding CTE programs, and investing in advanced academic opportunities for all students. These are the initiatives that will truly improve educational outcomes and prepare our students for the workforce of the future.

For the sake of our students, our educators, and the future of public education in Texas, I urge you to oppose HB 3. Let us work together to strengthen the public education system that serves all Texas children, rather than diverting resources to private interests. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and share my experiences as an educator who has dedicated my career to student success.

Thank you for your time

Cynthia Clegg
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3 and education vouchers. This will harm our public schools.

Stephanie Lerner
myself, counselor
Elgin, TX

I am against the school voucher program (education savings acct). As a long-time public educator, I can promise you that ESA it is harmful to students and to the basic tenets of public education THAT OUR COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED UPON. Thank you.

Rebecca Berry, Mr
self
Stephenville, TX

In whatever way you all attempt to deprive Texas children an education, it is an assault against democracy and every oath you swore to assume office. Remember that.

Ron Fannin
Self
Denton, TX

I am concerned about HB3 for several reasons. First I think it very important that all Texas children receive the finest education possible. HB3 is in direct opposition to this. Taking money from public education for “education savings accounts” will disadvantage the vast skoriyyof Texas lids.

My second ferry is the eventual economic effect HB3 will have on the state’s economy. Even Elon Musk will be reluctant to operate his companies on a state whose population is poorly educated. This outcome is likely if HB3 is enacted.

Amy Shelburne
Self Teachers
Amarillo, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 and school vouchers and ask my rep to vote no.

Kimberlee McLeod
Self
Burnet, TX

Please do not pass House Bill 3. Please do not give tax payers money to private entities who are not accountable to tax payers. Please do not extend government reach into private schools and homeschooling. Please do not toy with the public school budgets and the future of public education unless you’re going to fully fund education. The future of Texas depends on the efficacy of its public school system. We have school choice. This bill and any other voucher bill is taking money away from public schools that desperately need it.

Fully fund education. Pay teachers as professionals. Make sure each child has a meal. Make sure supplies and technology are up to date. This is how you can help schools and students and parents.

Kate Skiff
Parent
Austin, TX

Vouchers do not benefit the majority of students in Texas.

Catherine Ullman
Self and my grandchildren
Round Rock, TX

Strongly oppose school voucher program. This money should be directed towards improving our public education system not funding private education.

Margaret Meyer
self
Grapevine, TX

This bill is bad for Texas for many reason. First, it's contrary to Article 7, section 1 of the Texas constitution. It hurts our rural neighbors whose children often don't have any private school options. The lack of accountability of these publicly funded private schools encourages corruption. Public schools accept all children, including those with special needs, but these private schools can choose their students. Not fair and no good for Texas. Please do the right thing for Texans and vote no.

Cynthia Wesson

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

Please do NOT pass HB 3. It will destroy Texas Public Schools. This will happen first in Rural Communities then it will leach into all Communities.

This is wrong for all Texans! Please stop the nonsense.

Ronni Hardin

Self-teacher

Frisco, TX

Texas House Bill 3 proposes sweeping changes to the state's education system, including a drastic overhaul of school funding and curriculum that threatens to undermine public education. We oppose this bill because it would divert critical resources away from public schools and funnel them into unaccountable private institutions, further exacerbating inequality in education. By prioritizing a voucher system over adequate funding for schools in underserved areas, it jeopardizes the quality of education for the most vulnerable students. Additionally, the bill's restrictions on teaching critical issues such as race and history would stifle academic freedom, limit students' ability to engage with real-world issues, and deny them the opportunity to learn in an inclusive and diverse environment. Rather than focusing on divisive policies, we should be investing in strengthening and supporting our public education system to ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed.

Kathryn Kee, Former public school Asst Supt, Dir, leader, teacher

Self

Shady Shores,, TX

Please research the damage done and lessons learned from Arizona. Remember public schools and an equal, fair and free education is the bedrock of democracy.

Matt Eiben

My family

Taylor, TX

We already have school choice in Texas. This bill does nothing to further education. As a parent, we already have the choice to send our kids to public schools, private schools or homeschool. ESAs are not it. ESAs are merely a socialistic program of "spreading wealth" around. Instead, make meaningful property tax reform. Give exemptions to those that CHOOSE to educate their children outside of public schools (or simply do not have children enrolled in public school). We don't need to beg the government for our money back in the form of ESAs. ESAs have strings attached. My family and I are against ESAs and HB3 should not be passed.

Anne Mann

Self - parent, marketing, consultant, Texan

Dallas, TX

Please vote NO on public school vouchers. They dilute essential support for public schools, whose funding is guaranteed by the Texas Constitution that you swore an oath to support and defend. There are more than 5,000,000 children in public schools. At most, vouchers will only benefit about 10% of the Texas school children. We all know that "parent choice" is a false flag to hide the real agenda of privatization and support of private religious schools. The concern about uncertified teachers in public schools is magnified in home schooling. The past practice of underfunding (no increase since 2019) is consistent with handicapping public schools. The proposed increased support of \$210 per student is insulting, insignificant and insufficient. That is clearly inadequate when the proposed diversion to private schools is \$10,000 per student.

Thank you for taking the steps necessary to effect the improved education for the State's public school children that you claim, esp. when the federal government threatens to withdraw its support. Your vote will be observed closely.

Lynette Williams

Self

Richardson, TX

No vouchers - public school money already illegally kept from public schools, held hostage for a voucher program not voted on by constituents, public money should be for public schools only, separation of church and state, need accountability which private schools don't have, public schools teach the vast majority of Texas children and they are being denied that because of the money for schools being kept from them unconstitutionally

No vouchers, no vouchers, no vouchers

Legislation should be taking better care of public schools not trying to divert money due them

Anita Thompson, Ms.

Self

Houston, TX

This bill should NEVER become law in the Great State of Texas for many reasons, not the least of which is that it is a con to make poor and middle class school children cede their God-given right to public education to fund the education of the children of oligarchs and Texans who mistakenly believe that the public should pay for religious schools and education.

Donna Brasher, Dr.

Self- Director of Educator Certification

Lubbock, TX

It is time for the state of Texas to show America how important teachers are to this nation. In a majority of other countries, teachers are revered. Colleges are created specifically for teachers. In these countries teachers are among the highest paid careers all because they understand education is crucial to success. It is good that in America education is free to all, but that seems to have led to an era of disrespect. What is free is often taken advantage of and that is where we are. Truly money doesn't solve everything, but it does demonstrate respect for the position. Low pay and poor working conditions do not demonstrate that Texas has any respect for those to work daily with those who will become our future. I work at Texas Tech University and while I cannot speak directly for the university, I know I share the same thoughts as those in educator preparation in the college. We are concerned about enrollment and what is happening in our public school. Dedicated students are dropping out daily because they can get better paying jobs with much less stress. Passing this bill is a step in the right direction. Giving students who are in teacher preparation stipends during their teaching residency will help to offset some of the stress of working will also student teaching full time. It would be great to take this one step further and offer those in teacher preparation free tuition or even reduced rate tuition. This is a crisis and we must take steps to fully address the issues, not just bandaid them.

Amy March

Self

San Angelo, TX

Thank you so much for considering education savings accounts. We are a homeschool family with 3 children. I'm not trying to "drain public schools." I just want to be able to use my taxes for my kids' education like everyone else gets to do. I spend less than \$1000 a YEAR on supplies and still have to budget carefully to make sure we have that, while also paying \$6000 in property taxes for other peoples' kids to go to school. I keep hearing how this bill is unfair. Please, then, explain to me how this current system is fair to families like mine?

Rebecca McDonald, Dr

Self

San Angelo, TX

Strongly oppose the voucher program. Public here are in dire need of ADDITIONAL funding, not siphoning off what little they have to private schools. Invest in our children please!!

Teresa Newberry

Self

Forney, TX

As a retired teacher 30+years in the classroom) I am so frustrated with our state's lack of support for public schools. Rather than blame teachers for Texas's rank at 41/50 in education please quit underfunding them. This bill will harm all public schools/students but especially those districts and families most vulnerable. Please vote NO!

Lindsey Autry

Self

Austin, TX

These school vouchers will destroy the public school systems in Texas. Please do not allow this to go through.

Susan M Meyer

Ncjl

Austin, TX

I am against vouchers! Please list all private schools that cost under \$10,000. How many openings do they have?

What are their requirements?

How many are not affiliated with a church?

Your constituents do not want this? Why not use this money to make public schools the best instead of 42nd?

Why not put this effort into improving transportation across Texas- high speed trains, lower property taxes, a better grid and things your constituents actually want?

Stephanie Baird

Self

MANVEL, TX

I am opposed to HB3. I believe the future of our children is in fully funded public schools and teachers paid what they are owed. We disrespect both by tearing down public schools instead of fixing the problems. School vouchers are a scam and a cop-out for a lazy, morally bankrupt system. You all have given up, but we have not. Our children deserve better than this, as do our educators. I know exactly the kind of education a funded public school can give, I had a wonderfully well- rounded education, mostly, here in Texas. I still remember my teachers' names all these years later. I implore you to not vote for this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Donna Kearley

Self

Lewisville, TX

I oppose HB 3 as it takes money away from public schools. We already have school choice as parents can choose to send their children to public, private, and charter schools or homeschool. Public funds should go to public schools. If I choose to send my child to private schools I don't want to be forced to use a vendor chosen by the state.

Elizabeth Hernandez

Self

San Angelo, TX

We need to save our public schools! Not everyone can afford to send their kids to a private school!!

Alison Takata
Self. Psychotherapist
Austin, TX

Dear Esteemed Representatives, I humbly urge you to vote against HB 3. As the parent of 2 public school students I know that our Texas schools are good but they could be even better with proper funding. This HB 3 bill takes precious money away from public schools and does not prioritize public school students where most Texas children are educated. Please do not support this bill. It will hurt Texas children and families. Thank you!

Matthew Winsor-Johns
Self
Plano, TX

I am deeply disappointed by the passage of the Texas voucher HB3 bill, which undermines the integrity of our public education system. This bill prioritizes private interests over the well-being of our students, teachers, and communities. Instead of investing in the resources and support our public schools desperately need, it diverts critical funding to unaccountable private institutions. This move exacerbates inequality by leaving our most vulnerable students behind and erodes the foundation of a strong, equitable education for all. I stand firmly against this bill and urge lawmakers to reconsider the long-term harm it will cause to the future of Texas' education system.

Texas must prioritize the future of our students by investing in our public schools, not catering to the interests of wealthy billionaires. Our schools are the backbone of our communities, and they deserve far more than the underfunding they've suffered for far too long. Every student, regardless of their background or zip code, deserves access to a high-quality education, and that starts with adequate funding. We need resources for better facilities, more teachers, and support staff, as well as programs that help every student thrive. It's time for Texas to show up for our kids — not the wealthy few — and ensure that our public schools are equipped to provide the education every student deserves. Our students are worth the investment, and it's time for the state to stand up for them.

Chelsea Cook
Saisd
San Angelo, TX

Texas has unanimously voted no!!!! Read the comments on the governors post! We do not want this!!!!!!!!!!!! The people say NO!

Larry Westbrook, Mr.
Allflex/Programmer
McKinney, TX

Vote NO to vouchers in Texas! We need to protect and fortify our public schools.

Zara Westbrook, Mrs.
Self/retired Texas teacher
McKinney, TX

Vote NO to vouchers in Texas! We need to save and revamp our public schools.

Patrick Fries
Self, UX Researcher
Georgetown, TX

Providing taxpayer money to non-public schools is not only a waste of our tax dollars but it is immoral. We trust you, our elected representatives to work in best interests of your constituents, whether they voted for you or not. It's clear that HB3 will not benefit the taxpayers of Texas. It is an enormous waste of OUR tax money and a breach of the basic trust between constituent and representative. Our public school districts, like mine in Leander ISD, are full of hard-working, committed professionals doing their best with resource shortages already. It would benefit my community and our beautiful state if the money allotted to pay for HB3 were instead invested into our local public school districts throughout the state. After all, we, as Texans, already have access to school choice through dozens (or more) of charter school systems and private schools. HB3 is unnecessary, wasteful, and an immoral injection of government where government is not needed or wanted by the citizens.

Melba Vasquez
N/A
Austin, TX

The voucher bill will be harmful to public school education. Please defeat it!

Susan Martin
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose HB 3, a radical shift in public funds, severely harming Texas students, especially Cy-Fair ISD. A cornerstone of excellence, Cy-Fair ISD faces dismantling, jeopardizing student opportunities. HB 3 diverts funds, creating a critical deficit. Cy-Fair ISD, reliant on state funding, faces devastating cuts. Recent funding issues have already led to transportation and staffing reductions. Further cuts threaten increased class sizes, limited student attention, elimination of vital extracurriculars, and dismantling of specialized programs (gifted, special education, career prep). The bill lacks accountability, raising concerns about taxpayer fund stewardship. Cy-Fair ISD, known already for great financial management, deserves strong support. Parents deserve transparency. HB 3 disproportionately impacts vulnerable students (special needs, economically disadvantaged), curtailing essential services and widening achievement gaps. It fosters segregation, creating a two-tiered system where affluent families access unregulated alternatives, while others are relegated to underfunded schools and face stricter regulation. Our current system already provides choices, this bill removes public funding guarantees. HB 3 weakens public school infrastructure, undermining community cohesion. Cy-Fair ISD, a community hub, provides jobs, training, and business partnerships. Our district helps kids through career readiness. This bill creates divisions in our community and threatens the ability of our district and all districts across Texas to serve our communities. I urge the legislature to reject HB 3, prioritizing public school support for all Texas students.

Sarah Meinzer, Ms
Self
Midland, TX

Vouchers will be the ruin of rural schools. The voucher scam is another example of the wealthy buying politicians. Tax payers should not be paying for the private educations of the wealthy.

Travis Horne, Mr.
self
Austin, TX

I am a public school teacher who has seen funds move away from public education for over my 15 years in the classroom. ESAs will do the same- pulling funding that should be dedicated to public schools would be spent on coupons for rich families sending kids to private schools, further defunding schools. Perhaps just fund public schools for Texans, a constitutional requirement that Texas has failed for many years.

Cynthia Almaguer

Self

Sealy, TX

I do not approve this bill. I do not want my tax dollars going to private schools who do not have to let the same standards as public. Fix public schools!!! We already have school choice. Rural area schools will suffer the most with this nonsense. The schools are already understaffed and the teachers are under paid. Think of the kids and our future, not your pockets and the already rich. A \$10k voucher will not help the poor who still won't be able to afford the private school tuition. Listen to the people, we don't want it. Support the public education that accepts all kids regardless of their needs. They don't have the luxury of denying a student like private. Do what is right for all kids!

Dori Reuscher

Self

Wylie, TX

Establishing an education voucher program in Texas is a disastrous idea. It drains vital funds from public schools that serve all students, especially those in disadvantaged communities. Vouchers only benefit wealthier families who can already access better education, while leaving public schools struggling to survive. Private schools lack accountability and can discriminate based on disability or religion, deepening inequality. This proposal undermines our public education system and the future of our children. We must invest in public schools, not dismantle them!

Laura Bussell, Dr

Self, teacher

Frisco, TX

Please do not pass the vouchers. Defunding our public schools is not the answer!! We need to put MORE money into our public schools. Not less!!

Christian Meyers, Mrs

My family!

San Angelo Tx, TX

WE DO NOT WANT THIS!

Audrey Colwell

Self

Mckinney, TX

Texas residents do not want vouchers, we want fully funded public education.

John Cobarruvias

Self

Houston, TX

I am opposed to this bill. If this bill is to become law there needs to be a cap on the amount an individual can receive from the State, limited to the amount the parents pay in school taxes. If they pay \$1000 in taxes then that is all they should receive in a voucher.

Milana Noueilaty

Self

Austin, TX

Texan parents have made it very clear, we do not want HB 3. We want more funding for public schools. Fully fund them and see just how good they can be. Stop putting big \$ before the kids.

Scott Davis

Myself, a teacher & coach

Millsap, TX

HB 3 is a Trojan Horse that grows government, increases spending and sees private schools & home school groups come under government control. This isn't about educational freedom and choice as the bill gives the choice of schools to opt in and accept funds. Choice is a mere illusion and freedoms are restricted under this bill. This is not a good path to take towards fixing the damage that has been done to public ed. Instead efforts should be taken to audit the TEA, sever ties with Commit and other data collection groups, return to the basics of education. Remove technology from the classroom, eliminate testing contracts and repeal the STAAR.

Leigh Ann Parker

San Angelo ISD

San Angelo, TX

This bill is not what our state and schools need! Not every town has a private school and not everyone can afford private schools or even want to attend them. Stop trying to force us and just teach our children! Sad we are lowest country in education!!

Taylor Hurst

Self

Wylie, TX

VOTE NO

Dana Baker

Self

Wimberley, TX

Say NO to vouchers!!

Shirley Izbrand, Mrs.

Self

San Antonio, TX

HB2 Support our public schools! Support accountability. Support our communities. Support fairness. Support all kids of all abilities equally! No taxpayer money for private schools.

Tiffany Chan

Self

Houston, TX

Texans vehemently oppose the school voucher program. We already have school choice. The voucher program will provide welfare to the wealthy and degrade our public school system. If our public schools are floundering it is because Abbott has not increased funds per student despite soaring inflation & Texas sitting on a surplus of funds. Public money belongs in public schools. Do the right thing for ALL your constituents & vote NO for school vouchers.

Lisa Anderson

Self

Buda, TX

I oppose this bill and school vouchers.

Karen Laine
self, retired
Georgetown, TX

PLEASE VOTE NO on this bill. I have paid property taxes for decades, understanding that my dollars go to support the PUBLIC school system. Though I don't have children of my own, I've been happy to do this to ensure quality education for future generations of children. I do NOT believe my taxpayer dollars should be used to support private education. That is a parent's choice, but not a right that the public should pay for, especially at the expense of our public education system. We don't ask the government to give us public funds to improve other aspects of our private life - why should parents expect us to pay for their choice? That is akin to asking the transportation dept to give me a subsidy so I can buy a Cadillac instead of a Ford, because I choose to drive a higher quality car that has a more comfortable ride! If funds are allocated to support private education, then I strongly feel those of us that do not even have children should be provided a rebate on our PUBLIC SCHOOL tax obligation. Thank you.

Laura Cohen
Self
Dallas, TX

Tax payer money should support public schools.
If you go to private school, you pay for it.
Fund, and invest in public schools.

Sarah Zeller
Self- homemaker
Pearland, TX

Texasans do not want vouchers. As a parent and tax payer, I want my taxes to go to my local public schools. Strong public schools make our communities better. Parents already have the choice to send their kids to private school or to homeschool them. My 5th grader has attended private school (because we *chose* to send him there), and was homeschooled by me during the pandemic. He is currently thriving in our local public school. I never once thought that the government should subsidize those *choices* we made as parents. Most of those social media posts the governor has been making are misleading or in some cases, outright demonstrable lies. Enough already. We don't want vouchers. We want fully funded public schools. Listen to your constituents.

Tomas Ochoa, Mr
self
harker heights, TX

I opposed HB3

Dara Nathan
Self - speech pathologist
Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Christie Lambert

Self

Denton, TX

I am vehemently opposed to SB3. Public tax dollars should never go to private schools. I have been a registered Republican my entire life. Several years ago I started voting against Republicans in my state of Texas because of what Republicans have done to education in Texas. We must first vote against SB3. Alongside of that, we must increase the spending allotment per student AND raise teacher pay AND reduce healthcare costs for teachers. We have had a budget surplus in Texas for years now at the same time our elected officials have been robbing our education system, our children, and our future. I hope you understand that Texans are overwhelmingly opposed to vouchers and are paying attention to how you are crippling our public education.

Delores Thompson

Self

Amarillo, TX

I feel that our tax dollars should support public education not private schools. Parents indeed have options and if they desire private schools, they should not use public money.

Brenda Thompson

self - bakery owner and social media manager

Sugar Land, TX

As a lifelong Texan, I am writing to express my opposition to HB3 (RE: proposed school voucher program). As a product of Texas public schools and parent to children who attended Texas public schools K-12 in the Houston area, I believe that we need to invest in our public schools rather than allocate funds towards families who either already attend private schools or homeschool or simply won't have a realistic option to attend a private school as is the case for many rural students. I have been a longtime volunteer in the public schools and know that they need all the funds they can use -- not taken away. Parents already have a choice so this bill does not change that. Please listen to your constituents who are OPPOSED to HB3 and vote no. Thank you!

Margaret Quinn

Self

College Station, TX

As a former educator and parent of a public school student, I can say with full confidence that this bill will only hurt our students and schools by taking critical funding away from already underfunded schools. Parents have always had a choice for sending their kids to schools with magnet schools, private schools, charter schools, and homeschooling. Taking public funding away from public schools and sending to private schools is not the answer to the problem you propose this bill to correct. To not hold private schools to the same standards of curriculum and educator certification and propose sending unequal funding doesn't make logical sense. This bill is not about one political party over another. This bill is about a redistribution of wealth that will disproportionately benefit the wealthy who can already afford to send their children to private schools. This is welfare for rich people who do not need it. The public overwhelmingly voted against this agenda the first time it came around, and we see through the farce of it now. We will not forget. HB3 will not help the people you claim it is most for. There are better ways to help students most in need of better educational opportunities. Properly funding our schools, all special programs, and educator salaries to recruit and retain high quality teachers is the first step. Sending public dollars to private schools who are not held to the same standards is not the common sense solution.

Harmoni Pliego

Self

Sachse, TX

As a homeschool mom, I support school choice vouchers. I struggle to cover the costs of our books and classes, while paying thousands of tax dollars that go to schools. I realize I have chosen to do that because I want a hand-crafted education for my kids, but if there was a way to utilize my tax dollars towards this, it would be incredibly helpful. I have friends in AZ who use their state's voucher system and have wondered if it would be more cost effective for our family to move to AZ. Also, I believe 2 of my 4 children would have completely slid through the cracks in a public school setting or have been forced to be on medication for ADHD in order for them to focus in a classroom setting. I am so thankful I can give them individualized attention by homeschooling them and school choice vouchers would only enhance the educational opportunities I would be able to provide for them. Thank you for your consideration.

Robbye Schroeder Kirkpatrick

Self

Austin, TX

I am a former public school teacher and a mother of 4 students with special needs. Please pass this bill!

Amanda West

self

Cedar Park, TX

Why would I want my tax dollars paying for rich kids to go to private schools and further damaging the public education system I need for my children and the success of my family? The rich can pay for their own special schools but keep my money in my schools for my kids. These people will be in control when I'm old and I need them to be capable and educated. We need the money we already pay that's being held hostage AND we don't need anything else to take away from investment in our children. Keep vouchers out of Texas.

Judith Bortnem, Mrs.

Self

Lantana, TX

I, my school, teacher, friends, my school, counselor, friends, and my friends that are in administrative duties at public school are totally against the voucher program. What's use the money to improve our public school education in a way that supports our students and teachers. If people want to send their children to private school, great, I just don't believe and neither do my friend that helping them pay for it when they are already able is fair and equitable!

Sydney Miller

Self Tax Consultant

Houston, TX

I'd like to express my concern over the House Bill 2 and House Bill 3 presenting school voucher program. Please strongly consider not passing these bills. This will harm the public school system and will create fly by night for-profit private schools. Low income families do not have the means to be able to take their children to private schools across town. There are already long waitlists for private schools without the school choice option.

Komal Parekh

Mom

Round Rock, TX

I do not support voucher bill

Diane Heller, Mrs.

Self

Victoria, TX

Please vote against this HB 3. As a former public school educator and a former private school student, the funds allocated to this voucher program should be allocated to the public schools!! Please vote AGAINST HB3!!

Kathryn Ivie

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you!

Lauren Gutterman, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

I am a parent of two students in the Austin Independent School District. I am urging you, in the strongest possible terms, to vote NO on House Bill 3. This proposed legislation would decimate the budgets of our public schools in Texas. It would unjustly use tax-payer funds, intended for public schools, to subsidize private education for the wealthy. I do not want my tax money being used to fund private schools that can pick and choose which students they want to educate, and discriminate against students based on race, gender, sexuality, religion, ability or other characteristics. We have seen in other states with school voucher programs, like Arizona, how this bill would lead to a massive shortfall in our public education budget. Furthermore, we also know that private schools will simply raise their tuition if this bill becomes law. Our public funds must support public schools, not for-profit schools that can discriminate against students and that do not have to meet state educational standards. For the sake of Texas's children today and in the future, please vote NO.

Joan Freeman

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee. From a concerned Texas mom.

Bridget Leabo
Klein ISD
Spring, TX

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3 and any efforts to implement a school voucher program in Texas. Vouchers divert critical public funds away from our already underfunded public schools, weakening the education system that serves the vast majority of Texas students. Instead of increasing educational opportunities, vouchers primarily benefit private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards, do not guarantee student protections, and often exclude students with disabilities or special needs. Public tax dollars should be invested in strengthening our public schools—ensuring smaller class sizes, higher teacher salaries, and better resources for all students—rather than subsidizing private institutions with little oversight. Please prioritize the future of Texas children by rejecting HB 3 and keeping public funds in public schools.

Russell Seal
Self
La Coste, TX

Please vote against vouchers or education savings account for students my own personal experience is I went to Catholic School in the first and second grade it was not able to read at that point my parents pull me out and enrolled me in public school and I had to take a summer school program to start to catch up and address my dyslexic problem it was not recognized at all at Catholic school the only thing I had to show for that was sore knuckles from the nuns coming up from behind me and terrorizing us. Public schools not only caught me up in Reading they help me discover that I was very talented in math and sciences and I was able to go up to the University of Houston to pharmacy school and spent on almost 40-year career as a pharmacist in San Antonio working on the south and Southwest side of San Antonio are public schools are accountable for students with special needs private schools from my experience are not taking care of and not accountable for students with special needs such as myself they just want to take the money do the job and not be responsible for the outcomes this is very serious thing please please vote against it.

Victoria Morris, PhD
Self - Professor
Galveston, TX

As a product of school choice myself, I do not support this endeavor. I gained access to better education through school choice, which also allowed my parents control over more elements of my education. However, this process hurt my community, fellow students, and my personal faith. My success came at the cost of lower funding and failing education standards of my community. The money that could have been invested in all was reserved for the few. As an adult, the religious aspect of my schooling means even less. While my parents attempted to instill Christian values, I could see the hypocrisy of these actions. The actions related to school choice are directly related to why I no longer attend any form of Christian church. Keeping me away from my peers and inside a Christian-only bubble directly harmed my faith in God. Please do not allow this bill to pass and continue failing education and failing Christianity.

Shannon Villegas
Self
Josephine, TX

HB 3 will harm private schooling by subjecting it to curriculum and testing standards decided by the same government entities now in charge of our failing public schools. There is no provision in the bill to protect the integrity and rights of parents who opt out of public schooling.

Marion Buscemi
myself
AUSTIN, TX

Public education is the bedrock of our community and all of society. It should be protected and encouraged at all costs.

Victor Wargo
self, Teacher
Hale Center, TX

As a Teacher, I oppose this bill due to the lack of reasonability of "school choice". Providing coupons for private schools is absurd given the fact that Texas does not have such schools for each student in the state to attend. That is the basis of school choice. Withholding funds from Public Schools to fund such an absurd idea is not a "Common Sense" approach; it is egregious and arrogant. Common sense would be that if Private Schools were in every town, but we do not have that luxury. As Texans, we must work with what we have and as Texans, we do a great job with it.

State Government has been going on and on regarding this issue for a while now and it's about time to put HB 3 to rest. Look at Michigan, they hate vouchers and Illinois ended their voucher system due to it wreaking havoc on their state. Who is selling who here? Someone is being sold and turning a blind eye to data. A simple Google search will tell you all you need to know regarding School voucher systems.

Thank you for your time.

Isabel Garza
Self
Ft Worth, TX

Please don't establish the education savings account program. Private schools charge tuition-unregulated-to the families whose children they choose to accept and enroll in their programs. It is a personal choice that families have to make and there is no guarantee the private school will accept the children applying. Taxpayers should not be forced to support private education that is selective and not benefitting all our Texas children. Public education is already under funded, and cannot afford another loss. In addition, property taxes are already expensive and difficult for us to pay-especially as a retired Texan. We can't afford for the taxes to increase to supplement the loss in funds for our public schools. Not to mention the uncertainty of the solvency of the social security program that I rely on.

Alexander Papavasiliou

Self

Austin, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mariah Dedrick

Self; Manager Information Services

Plano, TX

I oppose HB3. Taxpayer funding should be used to support public school programs and strengthen education for all Texans. Allowing taxpayer dollars to be used for private schools is despicable. Private schools can refuse to serve any child. That's why public schools should receive more support, not less. All great countries have an education system that supports everyone, not the few. Please don't do this to our kids.

Maricela Chibli, Mrs.

Self

Colleyville, TX

Don't hurt public education with this voucher bill! This will only help the rich!!
NO VOUCHERS!!!

Patricia Goode

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

Again I voice my opposition to transferring taxpayer funds to private schools. Follow the Texas State Constitution, Article 7 to fully fund public schools and NOT divert public monies to religious entities, including schools. Vouchers are NOT wanted by a majority of Texans, and you know it. Otherwise, the Legislature and the Governor would allow Texans to vote on it. Do the right thing for the common good of all Texans and all Texas children.

Drew Gassaway

self - software engineer

Round Rock, TX

I strongly OPPOSE HB3. As a parent with school-aged children I believe this bill will provide a negative outcome for my family and my community. I believe that any school receiving public money must be publically accountable. I do NOT support redirecting public money to private institutions, and starving public schools of funding they need to educate children. This is a high priority issue for me and I will be paying close attention to it and how members choose to vote on it. Please oppose and reject this bill.

Thank you,

Drew Gassaway

Melissa Bunzendahl

Self

Mckinney, TX

This bill is HARMING the people of Texas. The PEOPLE do not want this! Please vote to HELP the people of this state.

Mordecai Langer

Self

Dallas, TX

Please approve as this will help us getting our kids that are education that fits our beliefs and religion

Natalie Lange

Self - business owner

Brenham, TX

I am adamantly opposed to HB 3 and any bill that supports vouchers, ESAs, or anything else you call them. They are NOT conservative! This massive new entitlement creates more government and bureaucracy with little oversight. It's taxation without representation. Fund public schools according to your constitutional duty!

Pete Mitchell

Parent

Plano, TX

Please give the people freedom of choice! You take our money and then force us to go to the schools you want us to go to? NO! Either give us our money back and let us decide (best option), or pass this and let us decide.

Ana Macías
Literacy council
El paso, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

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3. ****Tie Funding to**

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I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Amanda Cordero

Self

Leander, TX

No

Susan Markus

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3. We need strong public schools for all Texas children. Vouchers will reduce funding for public schools and weaken our children's education. No no no!

Erin Bingham

Self.

Spring, TX

Stop forcing vouchers to appease your donors. This is the most fiscally irresponsible bill so the fact that it's being presented as the Conservative Priority is a joke.

Joyce Camhi

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Brian Trittin

Self

Round Rock, TX

Vote NO please. This is not what public dollars should support. This does not represent the people's will.

Amy Turner

Self, AISD School Counselor for 17 years

Austin, TX

I would like funds to go directly to improving schools for those who cannot use vouchers to go to private schools (\$10,000 doesn't go far when you are on welfare). As a Master's degreed professional with years of experience of the on the ground work in our public schools, we desperately need this money to go to our schools that serve all students. A typical income level of let's say a Westlake family that wants to send their child to a private school does not need \$10,000 to go to let's say St.Andrews. But a lower income or middle class income family in South Austin, who wants to send their kid to private school, let's say St.Andrews as well, \$10,000 is not enough for that family to be able to afford to go to St. Andrew's. Hence, that family is going to have to send their child to public school anyways. If the state funding is not being fed into that public school then the child will not be getting even close to of an equitable education as the upper class family who sent their kid to St. Andrews. Our public schools in Texas are already so underfunded and staff are so under paid (i.e. Master degreed educators can't afford to live in the city they work in) that we need the state money to go to public schools.

Gabriela Torre II

Self

Austin, TX

I'm strongly opposing this and recommend it does not pass.

Chloe LaPorte

Self

Austin, TX

No to public vouchers. We need to direct public funds to public schools so they can improve, increase teacher pay, and invest in mental health support for students. No vouchers.

Stephanie Noboa

Self

AUSTIN, TX

Against Vouchers!

Kati Moody

Self

Levelland, TX

This bill would have a nominal benefit for families who already have the power to choose the best education for their child while simultaneously having disastrous results for rural students who depend on funding for public education. Any representative who supports this bill has been tragically misled.

Mark Mosty, Mr

Self

Kerrville, TX

I am writing to state my opposition to the creation of Education Savings Accounts. The small town I live in (Kerrville) is largely centered on its public school system which currently has a deficit operating budget due to the Governor's actions. The president of our local school board recently commented that if the legislature would even the field (I.e. give each public school student \$10k like private school students you would not have much opposition to the ESA scheme. Or only give them 6k like you do our regular kids. This plan is unfair to our kids and I urge you to vote to kill this bill.

Daniel Mireles

self

Georgetown, TX

I am not in support of HB 3. The voucher program decimates public schools and creates a terrible divide within communities.

Ann Potts

self

Keller, TX

The bill's financial analysis shows that most families that use the proposed vouchers will end up going to individuals already enrolled in private school. There are too many ways for private schools to prevent the vulnerable populations that the voucher is intended for to actually make use of the funds. The costs over the voucher amount, the transportation required, and the ability for private schools to deny entry for any reason will all result in vouchers going mostly to the families who are already capable of sending their students to private schools. No public money should be spent in private schools unless those schools meet ALL requirements of public schools including accepting all types of students including those with special needs, ESL, and more. Any school receiving voucher money needs to be required to follow the exact same testing requirements and teacher certification requirements that are required for public schools. If these requirements cannot be met, public money should never go to the institution.

Johnna Edone
self
The Woodlands, TX

All four of my children attended private school, and I am against this voucher program. It is too costly and not the best solution. It is going to grow government and have more government control over private and home school education. We could save billions if we deported the illegals and did not have to foot the bill for their education. The cost to educate people who broke the law and entered here illegally is draining our system. Why not eliminate property taxes and let people use the savings how they best see fit? This voucher bill will end up costing more, as does every government program, and our property taxes will be raised to burden the costs. This is not a conservative bill, and it is not as popular as you think. I am very conservative and against this bill.

Jennifer Stephens
Self
Sachse, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Rebecca Udman
Self
Richardson, TX

I strongly support this bill

Dini Druk
self - educator & parent
Richardson, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Maureen Sharp
Self, caregiver for dementia patient
Sanger, TX

Please listen to the Texas people and adequately fund our public schools! Vote school vouchers DOWN! It's giving welfare to the rich by stealing from the poor.

Kathryn Rodriguez, Mrs.
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am against this legislation. Our schools are already underfunded and this bill would take money from public schools. Also, it is not the responsibility of the state to help send children to religious-based schools, which this will do. The voucher program is unpopular with the public! Don't funnel money away from our public schools!

Robert Udman
Self
Richardson, TX

Strongly in favor of and supporting this bill

Kim Teutsch
Self
Hempstead, TX

We have homeschooled in Texas for the last 9 years and we oppose this bill. Keep homeschooling a complete free choice in Texas by not establishing ESA programs of any kind.

Monty Main
self
Lindale, TX

I am firmly against HB 3. As a parent of a child that receives federal services this bill allows for my child to be excluded from utilizing the ESA voucher since a private school can refuse her admission. At this point it's not a choice for nether my child or myself as a parent it places the choice solely in the hands of the private school. IF choice was the goal this bill is the exact opposite. I vote in every election and I will actively campaign and vote against both Senator Hughes and Representative Hefner if they continue to support this unjust legislation.

Ashley Falkenburg

Self

Leander, TX

I urge you to vote NO on this. The voucher program will hurt all Texans and I want my tax dollars to stay with PUBLIC schools. We already have school choice and the voucher system is just helping the wealthy. We NEED to do everything we can to invest in public education. My son has special needs and has benefited greatly from his 504 and IEP plan. He has made so much progress and I desperately want to see better funding for our schools to help kids like my son and so many others. Please I urge you to vote no on this.

Sincerely,

Ashley Falkenburg

Migday Flores, Mrs

Self

San antonio, TX

Please vote no for this bill.

Yosef Cohen

Self

Houston, TX

Support this!!

Elizabeth Bray

Self - homeschool mom and insurance agent

Livingston, TX

I am against this bill. This bill will cost public schools important resources and will help very few families, namely families in larger cities with more options. Rural families will still have limited options due to distance to facilities other than the local public school. This is not the solution to the problem.

Heidi Wicker

None

Highland Village, TX

The voucher scam is not wanted by Texas citizens. Fund the schools and then we can discuss public welfare for private schools. You are not helping public schools at all and this is clearly not a popular choice, at all. Texas seems determined to become one of the worst states for education. It should not be a race to the bottom. Fund the schools!

Ashley Hamel

self, non-profit

Houston, TX

Vouchers defund public schools, harm student learning, and discriminate against vulnerable kids. Please vote no to the voucher program, and continue to support public schools.

Brooke Jones

self - Representing my children, my kids' school, their teachers, my school district, my community, Texans
Leander, TX

Texas does not need HB3. Texas needs our legislature to commit to its children, families, and communities, to invest in public school education at the level Texans deserve and demand! We have the largest public school system in the country, yet we are in the bottom third in spending. Our state has one of the largest economies in the World, yet we can't find a way to build an exemplary public school system? We should be focusing on making Texas education the leader in academic performance. The research shows that strong public schools lead to strong communities. Strong communities across Texas, leads to a stronger state. Instead, you're opting to defund our public school system and give taxpayer funds to wealthy families that are already sending their kids to private schools. If the goal of this bill is genuinely to impact the educational options for economically disadvantaged families, then put a maximum household income limit in place to ensure these funds will support those who need the extra support. There is no reason taxpayer funds should be accessible to families who can afford to pay for and are already sending their children to private school. School choice already exists in Texas, but every family must weigh which option works best for them. In a state where we have many challenges, especially facing the education and well-being of our children, this feels like a misuse of funds. These funds could be used to better support our foster care system, improve child healthcare throughout our state, ensure the safety of our children in schools, improve the communities surrounding our schools, yet we're discussing a tax-break for rich families.

Ish Kundawala

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill as a Texas educator with a background in special education and in the arts. This will be disastrous for my students who need IEPs and whose supports are being defunded. We need more money for public education- not less. Private schools are not subject to the same standards and cannot always accommodate students with disabilities. This is illegal and also immoral.

Jennifer Donato

Pleasanton ISD

Poteet, TX

Economically disadvantaged student facts should be included.

Kelly Elliott

Self

Wimberley, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Renee McKinney
Self, Business Owner
Conroe, TX

My family & I (4 voters in this house) oppose House Bill 3.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them to succeed. This isn't going to come from subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusionary private schools that pick & choose who will enroll using our tax dollars.

As a concerned Texas, I ask you to vote down HB 3, which diverts tax dollars from public schools. Public dollars should stay in public schools. Period.

Elizabeth Moran, Mrs.
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please vote NO to vouchers. This will not benefit the poor students nor students in rural areas. The funds should be used on funding the public schools and teacher pay. The teacher retirees are also concerned that this HB3 will affect their retirement funds. Vote NO!

Eddie Booth
Self
Canton, TX

Dear Honorable Committee members:

Please listen to The Public taxpayer. We have not voted for our tax dollars to fund private enterprise schools, which in large measure are not monitored at all. The majority of Texans do not want vouchers for private schools. Even your tricky wording surveys, calling it school choice, or education savings account program, does not change a pig to a lamb. When the public knows you are talking about vouchers, the majority is adamantly against it.

And passing out \$10,000 plus per student, when public school gets less than 2/3 of that??? Why would you not support public schools at the same level? That lack of Public School support makes little sense, unless you really are trying to destroy the Public School system, as some Democrats claim. Please rethink this bill. We don't want vouchers. We did not vote for vouchers. We love our local Public School Districts. We have a say on decisions there through our elected school boards.

Additionally, we do not want you to monkey with our teacher retirement system. It appears that you could destroy that system as well, by opting teacher's payments out. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. (Especially to please your investment firm donors). Just stop it!

NO ON VOUCHERS! NO ON MEDDLING WITH THE TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM!

Kristen Whisenant
Self/family
Dallas, TX

I do not support HB3 and I know it will ONLY hurt home, private, and public school systems.

Melissa Aufieri

Self

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you

Brenda Bernet, President
Clara Love Elementary PTA
Justin, TX

Please oppose the governor's plan to create a second system of education funding for private school tuition. This system is not a good use of taxpayer funds. Vouchers come with no taxpayer accountability to ensure private schools are providing the free and appropriate education Texas must provide to all children.

I am a taxpayer, home owner, active voter and very involved PTA president at a Title I school in Northwest ISD. We have a great schools in Northwest ISD, and I want it to stay that way.

But the state's actions with vouchers and withholding funds are a gut-punch to our schools. Our kids deserve better.

We have more than 8 million school-age children in Texas. Our state constitution promises a free and appropriate education to all children. We must prioritize a quality education all children, starting with public schools.

A \$10,000 voucher is not enough to pay tuition at most private schools. The idea that private and home school kids are worth \$10,000, and public school kids are worth \$6,100 is unacceptable.

Texas kids deserve better. Our state needs to prioritize an education system where all means all. Texas likes to do things big and be the best, except when it comes to education.

Let's fix that!

Public schools must accept all children regardless of how they show up. Private schools can turn away kids and do not have to provide all the services of public schools.

Those services are necessary to provide a free and appropriate education to all kids. We need services for kids with learning disabilities and other impairments that make it harder for them to learn. Schools need to provide language services to kids whose parents do not speak English at home. It's best for kids to have a trained, certified teacher in the classroom. Our schools do seem safer with a dedicated security officer. Kids benefit and learn best when they are fed, and having breakfast and lunch at school helps make sure this happens. Then there's all-day pre-kindergarten and a massive testing and accountability system.

If these standards are necessary for public schools but not for private or home schools, we need to re-evaluate all the burdens placed on public schools.

I expect our state leaders to prioritize fully funding public education first. Our public schools need an increase in the basic allotment to match inflation and to compensate for all the extra requirements the state has put in place.

Texas kids are precious, and every single one needs you to fight for their right to a free and appropriate public education. A free and exceptional public education would be even better.

Asher Hecht, Rabbi
Chabad RGV
Mcallen, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to

Kimberly Trent

Self

Plano, TX

I beg of you not to do this. This will destroy our public school system. My late husband was a public school teacher for 26 years and a staunch Republican. He heard of this bill prior to his death, but said the Twxas congress was too smart to actually pass it. Please prove him right.

Destiny Varghese

Self

Murphy, TX

I am strongly AGAINST a voucher program. The voucher program will not help more families afford private school. It's a handout for the wealthy families who can already afford private school. It takes funding away from public schools and the large majority of Texas students when we need more funding. \$10,000 is more per child than we invest in public schools. It's one of the most irresponsible proposals ever introduced. Please listen to the overwhelming majority of Texas families and do not pass this bill.

Amanda McBrayer

Myself/Homeschool Family of 8 years

Cypress, TX

Good Morning. I hope today is not a day of harshness but rather kindness, peacefulness, and understanding. As a fellow Republican I can appreciate what the governor is trying to achieve. I believe we as citizens should have our say where our tax dollars are spent and into what education our children receive. However, I think this bill will come with strings that will grow over time and the law will be manipulated into what the government thinks is best for our children and no longer what we the parents decide is best for them. The government will slowly use our tax dollars to fit their narrative and as citizens of the state of Texas our voice no longer be heard, because government will destroy what entitlement we have over our children's education. I would prefer the tax dollars for the school system to be reduced. I know as a fellow public school teacher that doesn't help all schools because of the needs of Title one schools. I wish that we had the option of donating our own funds to these organizations without obligation. Again, I ask you to reevaluate what is the long term goal of this law for the state of Texas. If you truly ask the right questions, I think you'll see that this will not be a friendly law in our state's future. I would love for my grandchildren to not be put in the same curriculum as the rest of the state because that is what has happened over time to this law; changes to reduce our ability to choose. Thank you.

Kris Quick

Self

Austin, TX

As a mother of 2 children in public school and a former teacher in a public school: I support our PUBLIC SCHOOLS being fully funded. I oppose HB3. Vote NO to the education savings account program. Save and fully fund our public schools!

Judith De La Farza

Self

Fulshear, TX

I am a Texan parent and educator who opposes HB 3 and any private school vouchers. Our students and teachers deserve fully public funded schools. Tax payer money should be used to fund public schools and should not be given to private schools without any accountability.

Frieda Chapman

Self

Wharton, TX

I am asking you to please FULLY fund public schools. Vouchers may work for some , but as a rural resident, we would not have been able to afford to drive our 4 kids back and forth to a private school out of town, let alone make up the difference that vouchers don't cover. And the nightmare of letting them participate in their extracurricular sports/activities would have be next to impossible going to a school so far away. Also, as a retired teacher, we need those specialists to help our struggling students, such as my precious grandson who has recently been diagnosed with dyslexia. Regular classroom teachers are not trained for that, nor do they have the time with a classroom full of students. These positions will most likely be cut. Private schools can refuse to help these students. I know a family who had 3 children in private school with severe vision issues, and the private school refused to spend money on accommodations for them. The parents had no choice but to pull them out and put them in public school. And guess what? They got the help they needed! This will not happen in private school. Vouchers will most likely be used by a minority of people, but don't the majority of our kids matter? Please use good sense. Please fully fund public schools.

Chaim Lazaroff

Self / Rabbi

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Thank you for support,

Rabbi Chaim Lazaroff

Jodi Cook

Self

Venus, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Genie Middleton

Self

Houston, TX

Vouchers are not what the people of Texas want. If you believe it to be so, put it to a vote. Public money should not be used for private school.

Amanda McKnight

Self / Teacher

Flower Mound, TX

As a career educator, the 2018 Region XI Teacher of the Year, a proud product of Texas public schools, and a parent of two public school teens, I adamantly oppose the use of taxpayer money to fund vouchers or ESAs. A significant raise to the basic allotment would impact more students across our great state, while ESAs will only benefit a select few. Additionally, I believe that vouchers will further segregate our schools, most importantly when it comes to general education students and special education students. Vouchers are a step backward, not forward.

I invite any representatives into my classroom on any day. If you could see the magic that happens in the public school classroom each day, I think you would see the value in public ed. Currently, teachers are being asked to do so much more with so much less, and it's taking some of that magic out while simultaneously hurting those who sacrifice so much for the future of Texas—the educators.

Please fully fund public education. Please support ALL Texas families.

And- if we do end up passing this legislation, make a level playing field. If it's required of a public school, require it of the private school receiving funds as well.

Thank you for making decisions for ALL Texans, not a select few.

Amanda Dunn, Dr.

Self

Magnolia, TX

Whether you support public schools, private schools, or homeschooling, the root of the issue is fiscal responsibility. We have always had school choice, and that should continue. However, the money allotted for education in Texas should support a free and public education available to ALL students. The states that have implemented similar programs have not been able to fund school choice AND other necessary programs. The lack of feasibility has been overshadowed by Governor Abbott's pressure to pass legislation that aligns with his personal agenda. All we ask as constituents is for our elected representatives to consider logic and feasibility over the governor's agenda.

Nancy Glass

Self

Austin, TX

This scheme would drain resources from classrooms, push communities to raise property taxes, and send public money to unaccountable private schools. This is not supported by the majority of your constituents. It would not be good for the students, teachers, parents, and retirees. Public school is for EVERYONE and the voucher program is NOT. Do not let the voucher program pass PLEASE. Do what is best for the State of Texas. Thank you

Stefani Kopenc

Self/freelance writer

N Richland Hills, TX

I'm writing as a Texas taxpayer, proud Texas public school graduate and parent of students educated in Texas' public schools. The Texas Constitution mandates the state educate its students via public schools. HB3 will take money from public schools and give it to the wealthy. Texas ranks near the bottom in per-student education spending. If history repeats itself, the cost will only grow. We have limited tax dollars.

Our teachers deserve a pay raise, our school funding doesn't need to be held hostage and vouchers will benefit only a small fraction of the students you are responsible for educating.

I'm urging you to Please Vote NO on HB3.

Jessica Espiritu
self - CF Manager
Richardson, TX

This is a terrible plan for Texans. It takes money away from all students and gives it to a select few. Even with the lottery for people that make less than your definition of "poverty", families still won't be able to afford it and that money won't go back into the student population. FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

Kathryn Ochs
Self
Allen, TX

I strongly oppose Texas HB3.

Chloe Bird
Self
Dallas, TX

As someone who went to public school my entire life, I support funding for public schools and believe it's wholly important. Everyone should have an equal chance at a good education and by putting this house bill forward, which will eradicate many schools and teachers, a dangerous gap in education will form. Kids deserve and need a good education and their background should not matter in that.

Bethany Castro
Self, nonprofit director
Victoria, TX

As a former public school teacher and public school parent, I will answer "yes" when asked if our public schools can do better. However, Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and taking money away from public education in Texas is not the answer. Please, for the sake of our kids and communities vote NO on HB3 and spend your time crafting a thoughtful, well-rounded plan on how to better public education for ALL Texans.

Lacee Osteen
Self
Houston, TX

I support/promote the school voucher program.

Kim Hardin, Dr.
Self, University Professor
Abilene, TX

A free and appropriate education is a foundational American right. In order to do this well, Texas public schools MUST be appropriately funded.

Joseph Matjjs, Mr.
Self
Brenham, TX

I'm urging all Legislators to vote no on HB 3. Taxpayers should not be paying for private school education.

Erin Oganessian

Self

Frisco, TX

As a resident of Frisco and a mom of two children who will attend public schools here, I strongly oppose HB3. While the intention behind school vouchers is to provide families with more educational choices, this bill ultimately undermines the public education system. There is overwhelming evidence showing voucher programs strip funds away from public schools, lack fiscal and academic accountability, and are used primarily by families with children already enrolled in private school.

These private schools are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. This lack of oversight can lead to inconsistent educational quality and reduced transparency. Public funds should be invested in strengthening our public schools, ensuring that every child has access to high-quality education, well-trained teachers, and necessary resources.

Amy Vidal

Self

Leander, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers. This will be undermine public schools which are already SEVERELY underfunded. This program would only allow wealthy families to save money on schools they are already paying for. Please do not approve of these vouchers

Robyn Howard

Self

Waco, TX

Please don't defund our public schools! This voucher scam only benefits those who can already afford private schools. I would rather my property tax dollars fully fund our public schools!

Jeff Irvin, Superintenden

Self

Quinlan, TX

I am opposed to HB3. No vouchers please!

Megan Creydt

self, executive producer

Austin, TX

I am dismayed to see this effort to gut our already underfunded public schools. We're in the bottom 10 of states in public education funding -- do we really want to race to the bottom, at the detriment of our children and of the future of the state? The most patriotic decision here is to invest MORE in public schools for the future of Texas and the country as a whole.

Jessica Kowis

Myself

Conroe, TX

My name is Jessica Kowis and I live in Conroe. I am one of your concerns constituents and an active voter, asking you to stand up for public education in Texas and vote against Senate Bill 2.

I am included in the majority of Texans who do not support a voucher system and am alarmed at the proposed funding for education. This imbalance between public and private funding will further the gap of opportunity for marginalized students in our state and strip away accountability.

We need a well educated workforce in our great state and that begins by investing in our local communities and neighborhood schools. I am asking you to step up for our future and a fully funded public education system and vote against any voucher measures.

Thank you for your time and I will be watching how you vote on this critical issue.

Kind regards,

Jessica Kowis

Emily Payne

Self/Educator

Belton, TX

As a Texas voter and resident, I am against education savings accounts. Aside from ESAs using public funds for private education, the lack of accountability, and private schools' ability to accept or reject students, ESAs will decrease public school funding and lead to even more financial difficulties in ISDs. For every student that is able to use an ESA, money is removed from a public school budget. Money used to fund ESAs is money that could and should be used to fund public education. Currently, many school districts are operating at deficit budgets. In my district, we are having to cut positions including librarians, teachers, and RNs. We are increasing class sizes, cutting career and technology programs, and shrinking administrative and professional learning budgets. We are having to outsource our custodial positions, putting some who have worked decades with the district in unknown futures. I work with teachers who already live paycheck to paycheck, split rent with roommates, and still must work second and third jobs. The future uncertainty, underfunding, lack of job security, and overall lack of appreciation, recognition, and pride in public schools is pushing quality educators into other careers. Students need qualified teachers and school personnel who are invested and come back year after year. Just this year, my school has lost four teachers since the year began, forcing us to consolidate classes or leave classes with long term substitutes. ESAs are one more layer in a system that already seems to be undermining public education when it could be choosing to build it up. Public education will serve almost all of the children of Texas. It could be the best in the nation.

Christopher Kirby

Self- Choir Director/Teacher

Lubbock, TX

Article 7 of the Texas State Constitution states that "it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools".

If our government officials believe that the system of public education is failing, it is their job to fix it, not subsidize private education as a solution. All public funds designated for education should legally only be allowed for public use, not private.

Public educators are required to have certifications and degrees, while private institutions do not have the same expectations. Using public funds through a voucher system to support these less-regulated institutions undermines the expectations of the public in supporting quality education. Private schools also do not have infrastructure to support special populations of students, so parents of students with special needs will be entirely unable to use the school vouchers in the same way as other parents, making the proposed system entirely unfair and biased.

Jacque Fowler
self, retired teacher
Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Juanita Allen
Self
Houston, TX

I am a homeschooling mother of three and I strongly oppose this bill. In fact, I have yet to meet a homeschooler who is not in opposition. Please represent the people of your state well.

Abbie Strunc, Ph.D., Dr.
Self- teacher educator and professor
Montgomery, TX

Personally and professionally, I am opposed to House Bill 3. The proposed educational savings account creates a system of welfare for the wealthy, who already have the means to send their students to the school of their choice. It is unconstitutional to use public, taxpayer funds to send students to faith-based private schools, and violates the Equal Protection clause of the 14th Amendment. Additionally, this proposed structure creates inequitable funding for public schools, removing public funds for public schools and diverts those funds to private entities. Further, there are no options for those Texans who live in rural parts of the state, East Texas, West Texas, Southwest Texas, parts of south Texas, and the panhandle. Limited or no access to other school options renders the point of this bill moot. Legislation of this cost without equal accessibility for all students is yet another violation of the 14th Amendment. HB 3 does not make sense for Texans. A third significant problem with HB 3 is the different accountability systems, or lack of for private schools. Public schools are subject to the state-mandated accountability system. Yet this bill would provide public money to private schools without the same accountability ratings. The impetus for “school choice” is the false narrative of failing public schools, but it’s fine to send millions of public money to private schools without requiring the same accountability structure? Any “research” or credit claiming regarding the efficacy of private schools over public would be fatally flawed and not trustworthy, reliable, or valid.

Another problem with the proposed voucher system is that students with disabilities are not guaranteed admission to private schools, nor are the private schools required to provide services to students with disabilities as they are guaranteed to receive from the local public school. IDEA legislation, first passed in Congress in 1972, assured students with disabilities will be provided services and resources in public schools. Whereas private schools are not held to the same standard or requirements and are unlikely to offer those services for students with disabilities. Public, tax payer funds should not be used to supplement private entities. Public schools are the center of community. They represent the cornerstone of a democracy and the realization of the American dream. As publicly funded, government entities, public schools are required to accept all students, provide a safe and healthy learning environment, and operate with a level of transparency and equity that is not required of private schools. It is not conservative or patriotic to distribute millions and millions of publicly funded, tax payer dollars to private entities. Particularly with many Texans without access to “school choice.” Public funds do not belong with private entities. For these reasons, I do not support HB 3, in any capacity, and I strongly urge Texas House representatives to vote AGAINST it.

Stacy Schochler, Mrs

Myself

Katy, TX

We already have school choice. And this bill only gives money to 100k students out of how many millions of kids in Texas? This is absurd. It also takes away freedom from homeschooling parents. I am a homeschooling parent and I oppose this bill.

Daniel and brocha leah Altman

Starr Family Jewish Day school

San Antonio, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them

Elizabeth Johnson

self

Round Rock, TX

I am a Texan grandparent who opposes HB 3 and any type of private school vouchers. Our kids and teachers deserve high quality, fully public-funded schools. Taxpayer money should support public schools. Taxpayer money should not support religious schools or curricula.

Kylin Lee, Dr.

self, licensed psychologist, mother of two school aged children

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers and ESAs. Please fund our public schools appropriately with the money THAT YOU CURRENTLY HAVE.

ERICA Robinson

self

Lubbock, TX

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN, VOTE NO TO HB 3!

Ke'Ana Beadley, Dr.

Self- non profit administrator

Grand Prairie, TX

As a both a product of and a parent of student in Texas public schools I want to say we already have choice when it comes to our kids education. What we rely on our representatives to do is to ensure the value of these schools through adequate funding. The proposal would deeply decrease the already challenged efficacy of our school districts and teachers. Providing less money per student to attend public education while giving funds to private schools that even with the voucher help most families could not afford anyway. The focus of public education should remain on the majority not the few and it is quite evident that the majority of families do not want vouchers.

Judy Ludwig, Ms.

self; retired

Bryan, TX

I appreciate that the Committee on Public Education Hearing regarding HB3 was made available to interested individuals to watch. And that interested individuals could submit comments.

I oppose HB3. Public schools have for too many years been underfunded. I appreciate the comments from the representative from the San Antonio district (I apologize that I did not catch his name). I agree that this issue has been “politicized”. In the last election my district has lost two experienced House Representatives who chose not to run for reelection. I do not know their reasons for not seeking another term, but both, who are Republicans, opposed the private school voucher program. Why would a Representative want to run for reelection if the State’s top elected officials vowed to do all in their power to have that representative defeated in the election? What a loss of the experience and values of those Representatives.

I appreciate Mr. Hinojosa’s comments regarding his grandchildren’s experiences (chaos in that school) in public schools. I appreciate that he and the children’s parents want the best for them and had the resources to find alternate schooling for them. What of that public school that the non-disruptive students transfer from to other schooling options and that original school’s children are “given up on”? Many other committee members brought up other concerns that students not able to go to a private school are “disadvantaged” compared to those in a public school.

I am further concerned how the funding for this program would be sustainable for the future when perhaps the excess state funds are no longer available.

Again, I oppose HB3

Thank you for your attention to my thoughts.

Paula Krog

Self retired teacher/coach

Georgetown, TX

As a retired teacher/coach in Texas, I am against school vouchers. Nothing about this bill convinces me that this will be a good thing for Texas. The bill WILL NOT help underprivileged students! It will only give more \$\$ to wealthy family’s who don’t need the vouchers. Also, until all private schools who would receive state funds are held to the same standards as public schools, this is a bad bill. It will only weaken our public schools. Private schools should be required to give state mandated tests and provide all services to students that public schools are required to provide (SpEd, 504, etc). PLEASE do not approve this bill AND PLEASE provide the funding our public schools need. Every district in Central Texas and all across Texas are having to make deep budget cuts because the legislature has not given the funds to the school districts that are necessary to make our public schools great!
Vote NO to HB3!

Kelsey Schuenemann

Self - school psychologist

Victoria, TX

Please let us vote. This is an absolutely horrendous idea. No vouchers. Public money to fund public schools so we can actually educate these young scholars to become acceptable members of society. FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Lori Hargrove
self - teacher
Waxahachie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Debbie Smith
Self
Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
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Thank you!

Judy Jensen, Ms
Self/graphic designer
Austin, TX

Texas' future is only as bright as the education Texas children receive—and every child deserves a quality education. Rural and urban, wealthy and poor, housed and unhoused. As a taxpayer, I strongly prefer to support every kid facing any number of challenges. Good strong public schools can aid these children and help them not only with learning, but food, housing, etc in a way that private schools will not. Bluntly, the rich will always take care of their own and they don't require additional assistance from taxpayers. If there is funding for education, please invest it in the Texas public school system. These students are Texas' next generation of skilled workers. Do what you can to ensure they have the very best foundation so that Texas will have the very best workforce. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Enan Francis, Rabbi
Torah day School of Houston Texas
Houston, TX

This is about protecting our children, preserving American values, and ensuring that education remains a foundation for success—not division.

Right now, classrooms are being used to push political narratives that distort history, undermine merit, and sow division among students. SB3 stops this by keeping schools accountable, ensuring curriculum transparency, and banning ideological indoctrination. Parents deserve the right to know what their children are being taught and to have a say in their education.

Casey Jones
Educator
Slaton, TX

I know that I am not as educated on this as I should be since I am an educator myself and have been for 23 years now, but I do have multiple concerns. If we give vouchers for kids to attend private schools, how are they accountable like public schools are? If public money is going to go towards students attending a private school they should be held accountable. Does this apply to families who want to home-school? If so what do the funds go towards and how can you guarantee that those funds will be spent on education instead of other things? Also to go along with that, as educators be it at a private or public school, we are required to have a college degree and a teacher certification. Are parents who home-school going to be required to have a college degree as well as a certification? My last and most troubling concern is about how is this going to affect the TRS retirement system. For those of you who are sitting in that room today make a whole lot more than educators do and have an awesome retirement system. Teachers are highly underpaid, to begin with, which means our retirement will definitely not going to be as high as it should be. How is this going to affect the TRS retirement system? If it affects the amount I get in retirement who is going to be responsible that I can retire without having to hold two or more jobs just to make ends meet? Are you going to fund my retirement? Are you going to take care of me and my family? I highly doubt you will so why don't you 100% be positive that it will not affect us instead of just estimating what or how it will affect us.

Yosef Marrus
Starr Family Jewish Day School
Boerne, TX

HBS - Please, please pass this legislation! As a father of 6 Texans who all went to private Jewish day school, due to religious reasons, and as an administrator of a private jewish school for the last 28 years, we have so many families that cant afford to give their children the type of education they need and deserve. The families of our school all pay taxes and are also religious in nature and need to have their children in a Jewish/religious environment. This legislation would make a world of a difference. Thank you

Dara Chambers

self

Austin, TX

As a Texas taxpayer, I already pay high property taxes to fund public schools, yet our schools remain underfunded. Now, school vouchers threaten to take even more money away, further harming the system my family and so many others rely on. My children depend on special education services in public school—services that are already stretched thin due to budget constraints. If vouchers divert funding to private schools that are not required to provide these services, what happens to the students left behind?

Public schools must serve all children, including those with special needs, yet vouchers would drain resources while private schools pick and choose their students. They are not held to the same accountability standards, nor are they required to accommodate every child. Meanwhile, public schools would be forced to cut programs, increase class sizes, and struggle even more to provide quality special education services.

Instead of sending taxpayer money to private institutions that are not accessible to everyone, Texas should fully fund its public schools, pay teachers what they deserve, and ensure that every child—regardless of ability or background—has access to a quality education. Vouchers are not about choice; they are about dismantling the public education system at the expense of families like mine.

Additionally, vouchers primarily benefit families who can already afford private school tuition, as the voucher amount is rarely enough to cover full tuition, making private school inaccessible for lower-income families. In rural areas, where private schools are scarce or nonexistent, vouchers offer no real choice at all—just less funding for the local public school, which may be the only viable option for families. Instead of investing in a system that helps only a few, Texas should commit to strengthening public schools for all.

Jodi Young

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

Parents currently have a choice in school options. HB 3 doesn't establish choice, it subsidizes their choice. I do not support taxpayer dollars to fund private school and/or home schooling. The downstream effects have a negative impact on our current public education system and inherently will create a financial and class segregation. Your bill benefits those already in private school and not the majority of children in Texas.

Vicki Grabin Evans

Self as a Retired Educator

Richmond, TX

As a retired educator, I believe this bill is not in the best interest of public schools, private schools and homeschoolers. It believe it will eventually cost the taxpayers more money than our current situation. Many parents of private schools receive scholarships to cover tuition. Homeschoolers also don't need the states help to do a good job homeschooling. Please vote against this bill.

Stephen Chvatal, Retired

Residence

Tomball, TX

SB2 and HB3 will enable the parents to be in charge of their children not administrators.

Angela Clawson

Self

Plainview, TX

I believe this bill to allow charter and private school funding over regular public education is a horrible mistake. Teachers are already beaten down. Why would you want to make it worse? No one wants to teach anymore! Lack of public school funds only hurts rural communities. Why don't these organizations abide by the standards public schools must. Yet they get more funding, pay teachers less, and no STAAR testing! You are only hurting the majority of Texas children and teachers who love what they do. Please do not pass this bill. Get rid of testing that costs millions of dollars! Spend it on the majority of children! The majority of tax payers cannot afford private school or even have a choice of a charter or private school.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

beverly deutsch

self

austin, TX

I vote NO. I also wanted to add: THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 7. EDUCATION

Sec. 1. SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM OF PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS. A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.

(Feb. 15, 1876.)

Kelley McGee, Mrs.

Self

Denton, TX

Educational savings accounts are NOT what Texans want for our students. I am an active voter and I do not support this bill for setting up education savings accounts. There has ALWAYS been choice. As a child, my mother chose for me to attend homeschool and private school. I later attended public schools and became an educator. My mom had a choice 30 years ago; just as I have a choice to send my kids to public schools now. I have served Texas students for 15 years. It has been very disappointing to see students caught in the crosshairs of refusing to raise the basic allotment. Raising the basic allotment will give all teachers raises, fund mandates like school security, prek, transportation and special education. This is our legislatures time to stand up for our students and fund public education. Texas public schools need a \$1,400 increase in the basic allotment. This is key in ensuring we have support for state priorities and supporting all students. Do not pass or establish education saving accounts. There is no benefit to a majority of the 5.5 million students in the state. Our state constitution states we provide a free public education to ALL Texas students. It is your responsibility to fund public education. We do not need to privatize our children's learning for corporate advancement. It is very disappointing that this is even being considered after seeing how poorly it is going in other states. The other states are failing their children. Our children should come first. Do not pass HB3 to establish education savings accounts. Find our public schools!

Christina Misite

Self

San Antonio, TX

I oppose the establishment of an education savings account/school vouchers. This harms funding for public schools.

Melissa Neal

Self

Leander, TX

I am urging you to vote NO on SB2 School Vouchers. I believe that siphoning funds from public schools, where the majority of students are educated, to private schools, that are not regulated nor mandated to provide the services to ALL students, is unconscionable. I also believe that not providing the taxpayers the opportunity to vote on this issue is inexcusable.

Our public schools have been underfunded since 2019. They have been steadfastly educating our students — regardless of culture, religious affiliation, gender, and more — while being undermined by our state government that refuses to prioritize those same students.

It is abundantly clear that SB2 is not in the best interest of students nor the State of Texas as a whole.

Leander ISD, where my child is a student, recently informed the district residents that they are making difficult choices due to the upcoming financial crisis.

The State Legislature left \$4.5 billion that was appropriated for public education unused last session. That had an impact.

Leander ISD is discontinuing its IB Programme, making staffing cuts, cutting other programs for our most vulnerable students, all while trying to maintain excellence in education. My child has an IEP and these cuts directly impact the quality of services that she needs to be successful in the classroom.

Again, I urge you to stand with our students, our public schools, and parents to ensure that the State of Texas remains a place where ALL students can receive a quality education. Please vote NO on SB2 School Vouchers.

Sincerely,
Melissa Neal

Kathryn Staph

Self/Teacher

Conroe, TX

I am a mother, homeowner, teacher. After 25 years in the private sector I chose to fulfill my lifelong dream of being a teacher. I have 10 years working with passion to advocate and push for our students growth and success as they take the next stage in life after high school. I have for 10 years watched this administration degrade and dismiss the voices of the teachers. This is the hardest job I have ever had, and something many of you will never acknowledge. I am making the same as a 10 year veteran teacher as I was making 20 years ago in the private sector. I should have enough desks in a classroom for the students, but I don't, I should have supplies for students not purchased by me, but I don't, I should have incentives provided for the students that I don't pay for, but I don't. You have failed time and again to provide adequately for the public education system, put unrelenting stresses on school systems and then complain when your goals are not achieved(although that was the plan, right).as a tax payer I oppose any voucher plan that uses my tax money for anything but public education.

Do you want to fix public education? Here are some suggestions 1. Ban all cell phones at all times(it has done more damage to these kids both in the ability to retain information, stamina, and the behavior issues that have become common place.2. Talk to teachers, stop changing curriculum for the sake of spending money. 3 Get rid of STAAR as it is a bloated ridiculous test that we spend a fortune only to have to undue what was taught in junior and seniors to prepare them for college. 4. Get rid of the credit recovery system, it has too many of our kids, they don't have to do the work and can go online a complete in two weeks(without learning anything) what we spend all semester doing. What type of message does that send?It's a waste of taxpayer money for students to be taught in a classroom and then repeat in an online program that they cheat their way through that we pay for! Also stop lying to your constituents, half the states do not have a voucher program equal to what you are trying to pass, 10 do and they all say the same thing at the end of the day, the money is going to people who already made the choice to send their children to private school. It is a scam to give more back to wealthy and hurt the public education system that you are supposed to be advocating for, that you are supposed to be fighting for. Do your job!

Andrea Sanchez

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I am against the voucher program as it will take money away from our children and ruin the future of Texas. Can y'all please stop destroying our state?

Cheryl Hassell

self, retired teacher

Keller, TX

NO VOUCHERS: As a former teacher, having taught in public, private, and charter schools, I have seen the strengths and weaknesses of each. As a taxpayer, I don't want my taxes going to private schools and do not want to increase taxes to pay for current private school kids to go to their schools at all, or for home school parents to get tax money. If you want to make a curriculum available to homeschoolers free of charge (using my taxes), then ok, but no, do not create a welfare program in the guise of helping parents homeschool. As a US and Texas citizen, I want our leaders to respect the separation of church and state, and to make any agency receiving my taxes to be accountable to that and all laws, including Ferpa, IDEA, and civil rights.

ESAs: If you want to allow parents to establish accounts specifically for education, ok, but they can do that now, without any added fees or government intervention. Why involve government in the money management of a household - not at all conservative. If you want to use my taxes for any of this? Hell, no. We do not use taxes to fund a 401K or a 529, so why would anyone advocate using taxes for personal savings for families? You can advocate for savings. You can offer a delayed or tax-free deposit to an account as those two examples do. But you have ZERO real reasons to use tax dollars for ANY of that.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Our schools, which are under gop control and have been for decades (so fix them instead of complaining about them), deserve to have the issues uncovered and addressed, for the students and for the teachers. The environment has changed, priorities of families and attitudes have shifted dramatically, as have the profiles of students. If you want to talk about that, having seen all three, I would be happy to. But don't use the need for reform, which is needed in pretty much every organization over time, to drain our schools and add more pressure to them. Don't use my taxes to create more bureaucracy. Do not use my taxes to fund schools that are not available to every student.

No. Just no.

Bruce Smith, III

self Education

Wortham, TX

I strongly oppose HB3, just like the overwhelming majority of Texas voters. ESAs should not be prioritized with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1,000 to make a meaningful difference for the more than five million students in Texas.

Your vote on this will not be forgotten. Will you stand with the majority of your constituents and reject this bill, or will you follow the billionaire-driven agenda? Will your legacy reflect service to children, teachers, communities, and taxpayers, or will you be remembered as one who was "bought"?

Now is the time to stand for the people you represent. Will you show the courage to push back against this unjust initiative, or will you allow fear to dictate your service? These words may be direct, but they echo the voices and concerns of your voters—your people.

VOTE NO on any ESA or voucher bill! Our children, teachers, and communities deserve leaders with integrity who will fight for ALL students. Your decision on this bill will be remembered at the next election.

Stephanie Vidikan

Self

Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Virginia Jackson

self/business owner

Dallas, TX

The government must fund all public schools and not divert funds to private institutions. If public schools are not up to par, it does not make sense to abandon them and pull funding away to alternatives... public schools will only get worse. Rather, it is the government's job to prioritize helping public schools be well-funded, well-run and successful in educating our children, no matter their economic class or where they live. This bill does just the opposite - PLEASE VOTE NO!!!

Michelle Smith

self Higher Ed

Wortham, TX

I strongly oppose HB3, just like the overwhelming majority of Texas voters. ESAs should not be prioritized with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1,000 to make a meaningful difference for the more than five million students in Texas.

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Lynea Sander

Self - homeschool mother

Tomball, TX

I am a 2nd generation Texas homeschooler and I oppose this bill. Government money for homeschoolers is a slippery slope to government control of homeschooling - all of us, not just those who participate in the ESA. My family has been in Texas since 1846 and the vast majority of us have remained here due to our relatively conservative values and love of freedom. Homeschooling in Texas is currently remarkably free from any government intrusion or surveillance and it needs to stay that way. Additionally, this is NOT a conservative bill in any form or fashion and Republicans who claim to be in favor of limited government should NOT be voting to increase the size of the government. I know many, if not all, of you have received a large response from the homeschool communities in your districts. Please listen to your constituents and vote accordingly.

Allison Craig
Public Educator
Lewisville, TX

Please vote No for vouchers. As a voting Republican, I do not see this bill as fair and equal. Public school children don't receive \$10000 per student. Public schools have way more mandates and rules than private sector schools. This bill only serves very few students, not the majority. Don't cripple our public education system.

I am a public educator. My child is a public education student. She has had the most amazing teachers and school experiences. She is at the top of her class at a competitive North Texas public high school. I know she will be able to do amazing things due to her incredible teachers.

Vote No for vouchers!!

Rita Ramseur
Self
Georgetown, TX

Please do not vote for this bill. Public schools are the best place for education of all children to learn. These classrooms are controlled and overseen by state officials so quality can be assured. Private schools should not receive state funds no matter what terms are used to make it sound okay, ESA or vouchers or gifts. Please keep state money in the public schools and make the best choices for public education you can. Make public education the best you can with oversight and funding.

Mary Neal
Self; retired.
Spicewood, TX

I am vehemently opposed to the school voucher initiative. This initiative will not help those who need it the most, and will further tap into an already underfunded public school system!!

Holly Moore, Dr.
Self
Spring, TX

As an educator with three degrees in education, a public education background, experience in P-12 and higher education, and most importantly the mother of two children currently in public schools, I beg this committee to reconsider education savings accounts. As a former special education teacher and mother to a twice exceptional child, I cannot fathom how a state could allow public funds to be used towards education in the private sector that does not offer the bare minimum in protections to our most vulnerable and high need students. Furthermore, if there is a sincere belief that private schools offer a better education, particularly due to smaller class sizes and a lack of state testing, then why not consider offering public schools those same options? How are we creating an equitable policy if we know the majority of counties do not have private schools? I sincerely hope those on the committee will listen to the cries of public school families, staff, and administrators who overwhelmingly reject this plan to divert public funds away from public schools.

With thanks and hope,
Dr. Holly Tetreault Moore

Elizabeth Jackson
Self
Lubbock, TX

Texans have always had school choice. We don't want govt control of our homeschool or private school. We would rather you stop taking our money than "save" it for us. Stop funding TEA and STAAR. Abolish TEA. Control of local schools needs to be local only. Deport illegals and class size will resolve to normal levels again. Citizens only. Local control only.

Micaela Serven

Self

Cypress, TX

I was homeschooled here in Texas and am now homeschooling my own children. I'm opposed to bill SB-3; while the money is quite an incentive, especially for those children who could greatly benefit from it, it comes attached to strings that goes against the freedom we currently enjoy as homeschoolers.

Victoria Lara

Self / Account Manager

Kyle, TX

Families already have a choice for their children's education. Having sent my daughter to a public charter school for 3 years and moving her to traditional public school this year I am fully aware of choice. She has flourished at her new school both academically and socially. The overall environment and opportunities she is being given at her traditional public school is far beyond what she had available at the charter. I can only imagine a private school being similar in nature to the charter in that there is more autonomy to structure schooling as they decide. We need a well rounded, educated society for our future. Taking funds from one to give to another is not how we get there.

Chris Chambers, Mr

Self

Tyler, TX

Vote NO! We need good public schools for 99 percent. And the rich don't need addition money to pay for their children.

Becky Sternberg, Mrs

Self

Dallas, TX

Please pass this bill

Jennifer Hinds

Self

Abilene, TX

HB 3 and the school voucher program creates an inequitable environment for the millions of students in Texas. Public schools educate students from all backgrounds, ethnicities, developmental backgrounds, and many students with a wide array of special needs. Tax dollars should not be used in the name of choice; school choice already exists.

Many school districts have adopted deficit budgets; not because we are overspending or poor managers of funds, but because of a broken public education funding system.

Public schools have not received a funding increase since 2019. Our current basic allotment per pupil is \$6,160.00. (61% of the proposed voucher amount per student). Through unfunded mandates from state and federal governments, inflation, and even a pandemic, public schools have continued to educate the students in our communities while receiving no help to do so.

The time is now for our Government officials to make this right for the millions of students, no matter their background, who deserve better. For our Teachers who deserve better. For the Future of Texas.

The Texas Constitution Article 7:

A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of PUBLIC FREE schools.

Kelly Buchanan

Self

DENISON, TX

Vouchers for "school choice" is a bad plan that will negatively affect all Texans. This plan has been shot down numerous times by lawmakers because of the harm it will cause their constituents. Greg Abbott is trying to force this down our throats so that he can destabilize Texas schools at the behest of rich donors. He threatened lawmakers who didn't vote for this last time to fund their opponents in their next election. His actions are antithetical to the spirit of democracy.

The voucher program is essentially a hand out to rich families who already have children in private schools. I don't want my tax dollars being spent on a hand out to the wealthy. Parents have complete school choice currently. They just need to pay for their choices. Republicans hate welfare until it comes to the rich.

It should be obvious that a well educated population is one of the best ways we can improve society. Texas children deserve to be educated and have all the opportunities and experiences a good education brings. Data shows that education is one of the most significant factors in whether people vote republican, so maybe undermining public education is really a way to create more republican voters.

Judith Bortnem, Mrs

Self

Lantana, TX

I am absolutely against funding, private schools. If people want to send their children to private schools, fine. But they should not be rewarded by any extra monies. I think we would do well by providing more money and support to public schools. That will benefit the majority of students and teachers. Rich students will still be going to private school, only now we will be helping to pay for it and that is simply wrong. I have many teacher, friends, school, counselor friends, and friends who are administrators in public schools. Not one of them think that school vouchers is a good idea. They are 100% opposed to it.

Kathryn Patterson

Self

Dallas, TX

I am strongly against HB 3. Texas needs to fund its public schools so every child in Texas has the opportunity to receive a high quality education. HB 3 siphons much needed money away from public education. Thank you for your consideration of my view.

Veronica Viner

Myself

San Antonio, TX

I do not agree with the school voucher program. I do not want my tax money going to pay for private schools. All the children in the state need to have access to great education. This voucher program has not proven successful in other states.

Monika Bustamante

Self/Marketing

AUSTIN, TX

"School choice" is not supported by data and isn't supported by Texans! We've told you five times before--we want you to FIX recapture, pay teachers appropriately, improve funding for schools and especially SPED, and FORGET ABOUT VOUCHERS, aka "school choice."

Matthew Alan Taylor

Self

Granbury, TX

This is a program that only helps a select few of the whole. It's a tax break for the rich. I will not stand for the education of my children to be diminished cause the rich want to hord more money. Do not put the wants of a few over the needs of the many

Janani Chandrasekaran

Self

Leander, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Susan Rushing

self

Nacogdoches, TX

Please vote no on HB3—the rural areas of Texas need to keep well-funded public schools!

Jacque Morris

TRA

Dallas, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Mike Armand

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

I want you to adequately fund public schools and not use it tax monetary to subsidize the private school tuition of people who can already afford it. Private schools can select their students and expell students while public schools serve all.

Cathy Wilson

Public

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

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- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
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Thank you!

Lisa Marchese

AISD

Austin, TX

Public funds should be used to fund public schools, NOT private schools. Vouchers are a subsidy for wealthy families who already attend private school. THATS it. Texas has 5.5 million public school students, and that money should be used to fully fund THEIR schools. This is non partisan, the majority of small, Republican leaning rural communities don't have a private school option. They need their public schools fully funded!

Shelley Barker

Self

Buda, TX

Please don't pass this bill.

Jeff Catlin

self

Arlington, TX

NO to the Governor's voucher scam! Welfare for the rich and for wealth transfer from tax payers and public schools to private schools and the wealthy

Andrew Hung

self / Applications Engineer

Houston, TX

Stop trying to defund public education. Diverting funding into vouchers is simply a clandestine way of funneling money from have-nots to the haves.

Lawrence Atkinson
Self - Education Professional
Leander, TX

As a 15-year veteran teacher, now working with districts across Texas, and a parent of two children in Leander ISD, I strongly oppose HB3. This bill does not address the real issues in public education—funding shortages, overcrowded classrooms, and teacher retention. Instead, it prioritizes private school stipends, benefiting wealthy families while draining resources from public schools.

Voucher programs in other states have overwhelmingly served higher-income families rather than low-income students. In Florida, 44% of new voucher recipients came from households earning over \$120,000 annually, while only 30% were from families making under \$55,000. Arizona saw over half of its voucher funds go to students from the wealthiest ZIP codes, many of whom had never attended public schools. Texas is poised to repeat these inequities, using taxpayer dollars to subsidize private education for those who can already afford it.

Public opinion is clear—Texans oppose these policies. A recent poll found that 65% of voters reject private school vouchers, and 82% agree they do not provide true "school choice" since private schools control admissions. Additionally, 85% of Texans recognize that proposed voucher amounts would not cover private school tuition, leaving middle- and lower-income families without real access.

Meanwhile, our public schools continue to struggle under inadequate funding. Instead of diverting funds to unaccountable private institutions, we must invest in higher teacher salaries, mental health resources, and classroom improvements that benefit all students.

HB3 is not about choice—it's about shifting public dollars into private hands at the expense of Texas children. I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and commit to real solutions that strengthen our public schools, ensuring every child has access to a high-quality education, regardless of income or ZIP code.

Lisa Moreno
Self
New braunfels, TX

Our children should not have to suffer without the plans set in place for their education. Not all students learn the same and removing IEP will have a major impact on all students, parents and teachers.

Davina Levin
Starr
San Antonio, TX

Please pass this bill!

Madison Coffelt
constituent
Spicewood, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. My tax dollars should not fund private schools.

Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda?

Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"?

Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will ALL remember how you vote on this bill.

Stefanie Auter
Self
Plano, TX

To call this an education savings account program is a misnomer. This is a reallocation of public funds to private citizens. We have school choice; parents are able to choose whether to send their children to public school, private school, homeschool, or charter. Using taxpayer funds to pay for certain children to go to private school is unconscionable. All polling shows that taxpayers do not want this; the only people who do want this have ties to private and charter schools and personally benefit from the defunding of public schools.

Amanda Cortez
Self
Kyle, TX
Opposed

Jenny McGuire, mrs
self
Georgetown, TX

I want my representative to vote NO on House Bill 3. I don't believe our public school system should subsidize private school education. That would just be giving more money to the rich who can already afford private schools for their kids. Public school teachers are already paid less and have fewer resources to work with. Don't take more away from them. Our kids that go to public schools will be the ones to suffer while the rich get their children's private education subsidized. Vote NO!

Rebekah Turner
Self, homeschooling mom
Cypress, TX

I am a homeschooler of four children, and I oppose this bill.

Joan Hicks
Self
Argyle, TX

I am Against HB 3! I am Against school vouchers and I want Public Schools FULLY FUNDED! Stop withholding money from Public School Districts and holding Public School Districts hostage until you get your school voucher agenda passed! FUND Our Public Schools! You have the money. Just do it!

Melissa Armstrong
Self - school counselor
LUBBOCK, TX

As a public school counselor, my job is to advocate for ALL children. I believe that there has always been school choice - parents have been able to choose whether to send their scholar to public school, private school, or choose the homeschool option. Every child is entitled to a Free and Appropriate Public Education. Funding private school with taxpayer dollars will reduce the increase in the amount allocated per public student. This will in turn affect the "Appropriate" part of FAPE. Does appropriate simply equal adequate or even less than?

It is misleading to parents to infer that with this money that their child would be able to attend private school. Private schools have always been considered to be "elite," and will continue to maintain that status by raising their tuition rates to keep out the "undesirables." In addition, there are no testing standards or teacher certification requirements for accountability purposes.

If the public education system collapses, will we then simply have hundreds of thousands of children who are unable to read, write, or do basic math? Please vote NO to HB3.

Sincerely,

Melissa Armstrong
School Counselor

Laura Michaelides
Self
Houston, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. Public school funds should remain in the public schools. This is at its root an unfair idea: and it's telling that the amount of money suggested is not enough to send a child to private schools for a year- so this bill helps only the top tier of earners in this state. We do not need to fund private school for this sector.

Our public schools need more funding, for smaller class sizes, better teachers, and social workers to deal with the all of the problems so many children face.

Do the fair thing- axe this bill. Thank you.

Julie Richard
PTA, self, Texas children and communities
Richardson, TX

No to vouchers and esa. Fully fund public schools!

Stephanie Martin

Self/ Teacher

Waller, TX

I am writing urging you to strongly oppose the education savings account program.

Allowing funds to go to religious schools through school choice programs violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and undermines the separation of church and state. It also weakens public education by diverting resources away from schools that serve all students, deepening inequality in the system.

Religious schools receiving public funds also lack accountability as they are not required to follow standardized curricula, testing, or teacher certification requirements, leading to inconsistent educational quality.

Public funds should be used to strengthen public schools, not to subsidize private religious institutions that are unregulated, exclusive, and in conflict with constitutional principles.

Please take any action to ensure this injustice does not take place.

Thank you

Tina Kotrla

Self/professor

Houston, TX

Public schools and all students need the money that's going into the voucher system. Our public schools are in dire need of financial assistance. This is the future of our country we are talking about. Please vote against the voucher system and provide public schools with the financial assistance they so badly need.

Jessica Taylor

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I OPPOSE this bill. We need to invest MORE in public schools, not privatize the future of Texas. Strongly oppose this bill!

Rose Rapp

Self retired

Driftwood, TX

I am strongly against school vouchers

Melissa Elliott

self

Leander, TX

Please vote NO on HB3. As a mother and parent to a child in Leander ISD, I am appalled by the direction our representatives are headed. The state should be funding our public education system and not crippling it. This school voucher idea is not new and is being used in other states - and it's not going well. We should be focusing on funding out public education systems and supporting our students, teachers, and staff. My school district is having to drop educational programs (like IB) and lay off teachers already. Passing school vouchers will only make these problems worse. If you care at all about Texans or about our children, please vote no to this bill. Ask our governor to release the funding that was already allotted for public schools and increase the allotment per student during this legislative session. (Note, I am not a 'paid actor'. I am a registered voter in Williamson County who is fighting for my child's future).

Casey Holley
Self- state employee
Houston, TX

I oppose the establishment of an education savings account program proposed by HB 3 on the basis that a quality education should not be met with a financial barrier. A large majority of our students will be left behind educationally due to the discrepancy of funds provided to teachers' classrooms that are part of this program and those who are not. This bill would have us forget about educating children with special needs and those who parents don't have cash lined pockets. It's wrong.

Leah Smith
Self
Austin, TX

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Joshua Euton
self and Financial Analyst
San Antonio, TX

Please do NOT pass HB 3 because it will hurt my 3 kids that attend public schools, and have special education services provided in school. If HB3 passes, schools will lose funding and one of the first budget items school districts cut is special education funding. I do not have the money to hire a tutor to teach my dyslexic 4th grader how to read and write correctly!

Tonya Dunn

Self-retired 33 year Texas Public School Educato

Lubbock, TX

I support public education. Public education is provided free of charge to all students regardless of any barriers students may have. Our public education system is not elitist, nor should it be. Our public schools can provide the education all Texas students need and deserve if public education were to be fully funded instead of money being set aside to create a caste system in Texas. To know that an out-of-state megadonor is behind this push shows that no Texas students are not at the center of this, but money, as well as political gerrymandering, are behind this.

Texas Public schools and Texas Public educators can and will get the job done. Please vote against establishing an education savings account program. Please create a bill that fully funds Texas Public schools.

Stacey Mcgee

Self

Allen, TX

This bill is not needed as parents already have school choice in Texas. This bill is redundant. Why is Texas willing to fund Christian-based private schools over its public school system? An educated society is meaningful and benefits everyone. Texas should fill fund public schools and not send tax payer money to religious schools.

Cheryl Doblado

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

April Hilland

My granddaughter and myself

Leander, TX

I am against the establishment of private school vouchers. I am the mother of two grown children. One of them needed to attend private school and the other we kept in public school. At no time did we expect to receive government subsidies in the form of school vouchers for our daughter who was attending a private school. I feel that it would be stealing from the public school system.

Private school vouchers will only make it easier for the wealthy to pay the tuition, a bonus check, if you will. If parents wish to put their children into a private school, that is their choice to pay the extra money in order to attain that level of education. Public schools will suffer if the private school vouchers are implemented. This disparity in funding will result in a greater gap of income inequality and opportunity for our children.

I now have a granddaughter in public school, and I am very concerned about her education, especially if vouchers have passed and more money isn't allocated for public school students.

As a registered voter, and someone with skin in the game, I implore you to allocate more money per student to the public school systems vs implementing the private school voucher program. It gives an unfair advantage to the wealthy and short changes, our children in public schools.

Thank you for listening.... And I hope you really are listening and doing the best for ALL children in the state of Texas.

Sincerely,

April Hilland

Joshua Mings, MR
Wise County Homeschool families
Decatur, TX

What freedoms does this bill provide that we do not already have? Your answer will reveal that it is not this bill that is needed but reform or removal of other burdens on taxpayers and citizens. As a homeschool father of 5, I ask you sincerely not to support this school choice bill. Please put the effort into eliminating property tax and overhauling the bureaucracy that has added cost to education agencies.

I implore you to consider what this bill will do. You know this is going to create more bureaucracy. How could it not? You know this is going to increase the regulatory power of the comptroller. How could it not? You know this is going to infiltrate the homeschool community, setting a precedent for approved expenses. How could it not? You know it increases government involvement in education. Again, how could it not?

The issue is, and started with, the perception that students can't switch to a different public school. In Texas, students can go to a different public school, even out of their district. Other school options? Any public school family who decides to leave public school is able to choose the public or private school they want or homeschool. Is it a hard decision? Does it mean sacrifice? It is and does, regardless of income. We all agree that public schools need to be fixed, so let's start there.

Ultimately, Texans already have choices. We already have a choice about how we educate our children and where we educate them.

'School choice' may be on the GOP platform, but SB2/HB3 is not what we in Wise County want.

I would like nothing more than to see the House vote against this bill. Vote against it and deliver bills that protect homeschool families from bills like this. Modifying the bill is caving to interests outside this county, this state, this country, and steals any amount of education freedom we have. So I ask again, what freedom would this bill provide that we don't already have?

Please represent us and vote against this bill that corrupts the values of the freedoms we hold dear.

Sincerely and with much respect,
Josh Mings and family

Janet Brown
Self
Belton, TX

For School Choice through education savings account program - 100%. Thank you for bringing this to Texas families!

Barbara Hamby
Citizen
San Antonio, TX

I am a product of private schools, from first grade to senior in high school. My children went to public schools. I wholly oppose MY TAX DOLLARS going to vouchers for private schools. It's flat out wrong and un American. Please vote NO on vouchers!

Amy Butler
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I don't want vouchers. I want you to fully fund public schools and keep public funds for public schools only.

Susan Necessary

Self

Tyler, TX

I am vehemently opposed to this bill. As a Catholic, the wife of a former Catholic school teacher and mother of two Catholic school graduates, I very firmly oppose the use of taxpayer funds for private schools. Our money should go to support and strengthen public schools and to provide raises for public school teachers. Public schools are the backbone of Texas. Private schools are a choice. Let the parents making that choice support those schools. Private schools are not required to educate every child; they can, and do, pick and choose. Public schools are for EVERY child. That's where taxpayer money should go. NO PUBLIC NONEY FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS!

Tracy Figlan

self

Leander, TX

I am against the school voucher bill HB3. As a property owner who pays taxes and who has no children, I want my taxes to go back into the public ISD. I attended public schools from K-12th, had a great experience. Communities need to be supported. Communities include residents of all walks of life: socioeconomic status, religion, color. I'm listening to the live hearing and I've got to say, the representatives who are for this bill are unable to answer questions that are asked. They answer with a general reply or unable to answer. They clearly aren't familiar with the bill they are supporting. Those who want to send their children to private schools, they can take out a loan from a bank. Thank you.

Jordan Rasco, Mrs.

Self/ Teacher

Wolfforth, TX

I strongly disagree with this bill's approach to school funding and teacher compensation. It does not adequately address the root causes of educational inequality and may disproportionately impact underfunded districts, particularly rural communities. Additionally, it fails to consider the unique needs of students requiring special services, potentially widening the gap in support for these vulnerable groups.

Joanne Gougler

self

College Station, TX

I am opposed to the establishment of education savings account UNLESS Texas voters are allowed to vote for this program. If voters approve educational savings accounts, then the legislature can work to enact this program. If voters do not approve establishing educational savings accounts, then the Governor and legislature should not force it through. My research into many "school choice" programs in states like Indiana, Arizona and Florida shows that the majority of "voucher" recipients already had their children in private education; this demonstrates that the supposed purposed of "school choice" to aid lower income families by allowing their children to attend private schools is a falsehood. Private schools in states with "voucher" programs have consistently demonstrated that they do not increase access for lower income students nor increase enrollment space to accommodate larger numbers of students. These are facts you can check if you are willing to do the research. As a public school teacher for 28 years, I have experienced first hand the devastating effects of our current state government's poor school funding. Bills are passed requiring districts to enact programs (HB 4545 for example) without any funding to make these programs impactful or viable. There is been no increase in the per student allotment in many years, yet the cost of everything needed for the most basic educational programs have sky-rocketed. SHAME ON THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE FOR ALLOWING THIS TO HAPPEN WHEN WE HAVE A BUDGET SURPLUS! And now the Governor and legislature want to take even more funding away from Texas public schools? ?Schools that are not required to hire certified teachers, schools that have no accountability via mandated testing, schools that don't have to accept Special Education students, minority students, or students from different backgrounds? If my tax dollars are going to be given to private schools, then any school that accepts this money should be required to follow the EXACT same standards that every public school in Texas follows. Without these constraints, there is NO ACCOUNTABILITY as to how my tax dollars are spent. SHAMEFUL! I would love to visit with the Governor or any state legislator who is truly interested in hearing from someone who has first hand, real world experiences in Texas Public Schools.

Thank You!

Bobbie Rogina
Retired
Woodville, TX

I strongly oppose allowing people to pull funding from the public school system to use for private schools. This will severely hurt our society as a whole as public schools are the only line of defense that our society has to reach and help children who might otherwise remain uneducated, starving and uncivilized. There will be no where for the civilized to hide if the masses become uneducated and are not taught how to conform to civil behaviors at least enough to remain in school. Many parents will take vouchers to send their unruly children to private schools only for the child to be expelled from the private system and returned to the public schools without any funding to support them. Do not pass this sinful bill. We must be willing to help the least able have a chance to break the cycle of poverty.

Julie Cantu
Self
Buda, TX

I am against HB 3 and school choice. You know as well as I do that it will not benefit anyone other than those who are already wealthy enough to afford private school. Please stop using your power to help the rich, and for once do the moral thing and take care of our children of all social and economic status!

vanessapalafox76@gmail.com Palafox
Houston
Houston, TX

Please count me in I have my youngest daughter shes still in school thank you

Sonia Spindola
Self - Parent
Pearland, TX

TEXAS PARENTS DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL. Stop destroying opportunities for low-income children in this state. Do better.

Pat Mayo
Mothers for Democracy
Plano, TX

If you really think that Texans support this bill, put it on the ballot and let us tell you directly how we feel about it. To refuse to put it on the ballot says that you don't care what we think, you only care about your rich buddies. If you say, that's not true, then at least have a salary cap, where no one making over that amount can get any school vouchers because they don't need it. Say, \$200,000. And, anyone currently enrolled in private schools are not eligible as they can already afford private schools. If you refuse any of this, then you are making it very clear that you don't care about anyone but your rich friends.

William Eason
Self
Dallas, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Sarah Bramhall
self
Round Rock, TX

As a former public school teacher and a parent to a kindergarten student at Deep Wood Elementary in Round Rock ISD, I am vehemently against this bill, which would siphon dollars from public education to private institutions with no transparency or accountability. Public education is critical to the prosperity of our state - padding the pockets of private schools, which are inherently not accessible to those who this bill SUPPOSEDLY benefits AKA children who cannot afford to attend, does nothing to create a brighter future for our children. Public schools must be appropriately resourced to provide excellent education to ALL if our state is to flourish.

Private and charter schools are not required to provide disability services to students, so students who must attend public schools in order to receive services would also be deliberately under-resourced if this bill passes.

There is a limited budget for this bill, so only SOME students will receive resources. What happens to the remainder, who are "left" in public schools?

We are already having problems losing bright teachers (myself included) to more rewarding careers... by reducing funding for public education, we risk encouraging more and more of this brain drain.

Please vote AGAINST HB3 and give the children of Texas a fighting chance.

Cayla Meyers
Self
Angleton, TX

Vote no. Keep funding public schools and teachers. I send my children to a private school by choice. I do not want the government controlling their school like the currently do with public schools.

Rachel Horwood
Future generations of Texans
Pflugerville, TX

Teachers in this state are expected to make data informed educational decisions, where is the data that supports that educational outcomes will be enhanced by the use of vouchers in this state? If you as a representative are truly representing your constituents and voting in the best interest of your communities you will vote NO to this bill. Take a look at Governor Abbott's Facebook page if you want to see what a bipartisan majority of Texans think of the idea of school vouchers in Texas.

Kayla Grantham
Self/ payroll specialist
Abilene, TX

Vote no!

Kristin Shelton, Mrs.
Self
Austin, TX

Vote No on HB3. As a public school teacher with 33 years experience, I know what public schools offer. The Texas Education Code requires us to educate all Texan children. Public schools are set up to do that. Taking students and money from public schools will not have the affect the proponents want it to have. Public schools should be fully funded before considering subsidizing private schools.

Patricia Woody
self - CPA
Mansfield, TX

We need to fund PUBLIC schools where the great majority of children attend and what we pay our tax dollars for. We do not want to subsidize private school.

Crystal Brown, Ms.
Self
Lubbock, TX

I'm against this! Pay teachers in public schools a fair wage.

Heather Johnson
Self/teacher
Austin, TX

Public tax dollars should only go to public schools. Period. I don't even understand why y'all are debating this. No public tax dollars should go to private schools. No public tax dollars should go to schools with religious backgrounds. Islam, Christianity, Scientology. I don't care. No public money should be spent on schools that are not public schools.

Only public schools should receive public tax dollars.

Ryan Mott
self
Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you!

Rachel Watkins
Self
Austin, TX

Please put this money towards public education! The more educated we are as a society the better off we all are! Public education is important. Also calling this school choice is blatantly misleading. Private schools are not required to admit everyone that chooses to apply, there is no real choice in that!

Cooper Mason

Self

Kyle, TX

Don't mess with public education!! NO to vouchers!

Kathy Armstrnh

Myself

Plano, TX

My family is against vouchers as most of Texas is. Give our schools the money they need and stop lying about how vouchers will help families get a better education. This will only help the rich who already have enough money to pay for their private school. I'm tired of begging for our teachers to get a raise and for our schools to be funded especially when we have the money to fund them. Listen to what the people of Texas want instead of this unpopular bill.

Gilbert Garza, Mr.

Self, grandchildren and students in our rural community

Lyford, TX

This legislation is nothing more than a ploy to reward Jeffrey Yass and your other billionaire cronies /buddies who are seeking to destabilize public education in Texas in order to line their pockets. Buckley, Greg Abbott and the rest of them are vesting in the privatization of public schools! This bill takes from vulnerable students across Texas. Texas parents already have a choice!

Instead of being the primary champions for public schools, you are intent on crippling them!

Jeffrey Yass, Wilkes and Dunn have no business being involved in the future of public in Texas!

Vouchers are nothing more than welfare handouts for the wealthy!

Private schools do not have the resources to adequately meet the needs of students with special needs! In fact, the bill, if passed, still places the assessment, identification and diagnosis the responsibility of public schools! Your constant barrage of posts are evidence of your desperation in cramming this legislation down the throats of your constituents!

As a conservative I am appalled at how low the values of our Republican Party have fallen! This bill takes from our children, our communities and our educators! A disgrace!!

Greg Abbot himself acknowledged this would result in defunding public schools! Stop!! Do the right thing!

Defeat passage of this legislation! The future of students across the Texas are at stake!

Susan Smyth-Edstrom

Self

Trophy Club, TX

I am opposed to vouchers and want you to vote no. There is overwhelming input across social media, input from public school districts, teachers and parents for you to know this is not an option that helps support public schools and the majority of voters are OPPOSED. My hard-earned tax dollars should not go to this SCAM of a scheme by our Governor to fund private schools.

Vouchers have FAILED in multiple states and in AZ is bankrupting schools. The Republic controlled legislature has failed public schools for years by never addressing Robin Hood, recapture and funding our students appropriately. You have NO ONE to blame but yourselves, and this is not the fix. It will only make it worse. And you must ask yourself if a billionaire in OK has paid our governor so much for vouchers to pass - how can it be a good thing. VOTE NO. For kids. For schools. For us.

VOTE NO

John Lane, Mr.

Self

Houston, TX

Keep public funds in public schools! Vouchers will only increase costs for private school students. Keep public funds in the public schools. Vote no!

Lori Gutierrez

Self

Spring, TX

I do not support HB3 or SB13. I support Texas public education. I also entrust trained, certified, and educated librarians to curate their collections for their school libraries, not community members without the proper education or knowledge of the students they would be serving.

Martin Barlett

self/retired

Austin, TX

I am against HB 3 as I feel it creates inequity between vouched and public schools and will lead to the further deterioration of Texas's education system

Mark Johnson

self

Austin, TX

School vouchers are a way to funnel our taxpayer money into unaccountable schools that don't have the same requirements to serve all Texans. They are ways to funnel our taxpayer money to private businesses running schools that don't have to provide the same level of teaching expertise, same level of services for children who need them and localities that aren't lucrative enough for them.

Joseph Fox

Self

Lubbock, TX

I don't believe it is right to utilize public tax dollars for private schools. Public schools are already struggling with funding and this additional 1 billion should be used to bolster public schools, not funnel money to already profitable private schools that often have religious connections. Please be fiscally responsible and do not waste our budget surplus on lining the pockets of private businesses.

Carla Shields

Private individual

McKinney, TX

We moved to Texas for the strength of its school. My husband is a public school teacher and has been for 26 years, 25 of those years in Texas. It pains me to see the way his profession has been disrespected and under funded. If you continue to hold funds back from our public schools, you are hurting way more kids than you're helping. Listen to the people of the state. We don't want vouchers. We want more support in our public schools. We want to keep great teachers in the profession to protect the future by educating our children. Please don't bow to the few wealthy donors who are trying to influence how our state is managed and strengthened. Stand up for kids. Stand up for Texas!

Susie Bailey
Self-retired
Ben Wheeler, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

jason graves
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Hello, I am against this house bill. I don't think it will help any children. It will only benefit parents that are already in private schools by reducing the amount they pay. That will also lead to higher private schools and tuition expenses with the influx of public funding into the private schools.

Please choose to expand access to public schools and public charter schools by employing open enrollment across all public schools. Stop the standardized testing and use those funds to reduce class ratios. Studies show standardized testing does not lead to better education.

Jolene Slama-Saenz

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jolene Slama-Saenz

Jose Orta

none

Taylor, TX

I oppose education vouchers in Texas. The legislature should fully fund PUBLIC Education - that means funding the local school districts that are the heart and soul of communities throughout the State. Only 96 counties out of 256 have private schools - that means 154 have NO private schools to send children. Vouchers do not work in rural areas...do not defund our public schools.

Olivia Wildman

self

Austin, TX

This bill is an outright danger and could lead to the further destruction of our public school system. Vouchers do nothing but incentivize for-profit private schools, which the majority of poor, rural, and working class Texans could not afford, even with the vouchers. Taking away more and more of their public funding will continue to drain the public school system, and overburden boards and teachers even more so with shoestring budgets for all of the children who cannot afford private school. All children have a right to a proper education, as well as the socialization public schools offer them, meeting many students outside of their narrow view of the world. Even though I do not have children, I would much rather my tax dollars go to fixing and funding the infrastructure of our public school system than it be funneled off to a private institution who has no oversight on what it is teaching children. Public funds should stay in public works, and private schools can and do discriminate against potential students based on disability, religion, or identity—while still taking taxpayer money. Disabled students would suffer the most under this, as they lose their protections under the state and federal governments by attending a public school. On top of that, rural families would feel the brunt of this, as private schools can be few and far between, and they would be paying for vouchers they would have no meaningful access to. Texas schools are already underfunded. Instead of defunding them further, lawmakers should fully fund our public schools. Texans oppose vouchers. We must demand that lawmakers reject any plan that takes money away from public schools.

Yolanda Cadriel

Self, Ed. Diagnostician

Brownsville, TX

Vote No to establishing an education savings account program.

Vote no for any type of school voucher program.

Patrick Jones

Self

Austin, TX

I am not interested in supporting school vouchers. Please fully fund and fix Texas public education.

Danelle Cass

We Won't Comply

Conroe, TX

QUIT diminishing public schools and stealing from them to fund your good ol boys kids private school education.

Jessica Diric, Mrs.

Self, Principal of The Starr Family Jewish Day School

San Antonio, TX

As an 24 year veteran certified educator and principal (TEA Number 1137248), I am IN FAVOR of the establishment of school choice when pertaining to an TX education savings account program. My children have gone to both private and public school. I have also taught in both the public and private sectors. From my professional point of view, giving parents the opportunity to use State money to make decisions on where they send their children to school is important, and it gives them the ability to choose options that may not have been readily available. While I do understand that it impacts the finances of public schools, I feel that money to provide opportunity for not just "good" education in other settings, but "excellent" education, while allowing for the opportunity for a broad choice of options, including religious education. I support the HB3, and support important ties to the bill, such as teacher accountability, school accreditation, and some form of testing accountability. I thank you for your time, and effort to implement new ideas and bills such as HB3 for Texas government education spending that positively impact the youth, and our future educators, doctors, and business leaders of this State, and our beautiful country.

Abigail Coates

Self

Conroe, TX

Fund public schools. We just need more teachers per students. More paras.

Amy Johnson

Self

Spring, TX

I homeschool and am opposed to this bill

Rachel Mally

Self - parent

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

JEFFERSON ADAMS, Rev.

Self

AUSTIN, TX

Vote No to HB3.

It's a corporate handout to big business which also directly causes harm to children & communities across the state. It's especially harmful towards children on impoverished households or those in small, rural communities. Millions of people across the state already recognise this for what it is, despite the lies promoted by Gov. Abbot & others.

Dorothy Rhoads

Self - Retired Teacher & Librarian

Dallas, TX

No to House Bill 3. No to school vouchers. No to public money without accountability!

Texas public schools are available and accountable to all Texans by law.

This is NOT currently and WILL NOT be true of private schools under this measure.

Currently Texans have the right to transparency and accountability for their tax money and parents have the right to make an education choice for their child.

This will NOT be true under this bill because private schools have the choice to choose students while the Texas taxpayers will lose transparency and accountability for tax funds.

It is troubling that the accountability that the state feels necessary for local public ISDs is not needed for private schools that would receive taxpayer funds!

For one instance, consider that public school staff are mandatory reporters to CPS. This is not true of private schools. You only need to read the news to know that historically and currently churches (Catholic and other denominations) and private entities have a history of not exposing and reporting impropriety and/or abuse, often passing along the offender to other churches/schools. Many of those abuses are not discovered at all or years later after many lives destroyed in the process.

How will we even know the extent of this and other results of this bill without accountability?

LaRonda Davis

Self

Selma, TX

I am 100% opposed to HB 3 as this takes my tax dollars away from public education. I DO NOT support this push to send tax payers dollars to pay for private school. Those who can afford private school for their children should pay for it. Those who cannot afford it need, you need to budget accordingly and set aside money to meet the expenses and not expect other families to fund their choice of a private school education for their children. My children went to public school, applied themselves and worked hard to graduate at the top of their class, attending public school took nothing away from them nor did it place unwarranted obstacles in their way. Private school is available for those who can afford it.

Jane Bost, Dr.

Self

Round Rock, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

Dear Education committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jane Bost, Ph.D.

Jay Gersten

Self

Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities. Parents are the best suited to decide what education their child/children should receive. When public schools fail to deliver on not just educational opportunities and rigor, but on cultural education and diverge from the morals, standards, and philosophy the parents wish to impart on their children, parents should be enabled to place their children into a school that better aligns with their vision for their children.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

The idea that this bill is only for the rich and the wealthy kids is laughable. The rich and wealthy already can afford to put their kids in schools that align with their values. It is time all parents are given that ability and level the educational opportunity playing field.

Krista Wilkerson, Mrs

Self

Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payers funds shouldn't go to private schools without accountability.

Vicki McMahan

My own children, students, and myself

Corinth, TX

It's deeply concerning that instead of investing in public schools, which serve the vast majority of students, lawmakers are opting to take funding away from these schools to support private schools through vouchers. This approach not only undermines the quality of education for students in public schools, but it also exacerbates inequalities in our education system. Private schools are not required to meet the same standards as public schools, which means that many of them may not provide the same level of oversight, accountability, or educational support that public schools do. This leaves vulnerable students without the resources they need to succeed.

Redirecting taxpayer money into private school vouchers instead of strengthening public schools will widen the achievement gap and diminish the quality of education for those who need it the most. Public schools are tasked with educating all students, including those with disabilities, English language learners, and students from low-income backgrounds—students who may not have access to the same resources or opportunities as those in private schools. With the money being taken away from public schools, these students will bear the brunt of these decisions, further increasing the disparities in education.

What's more, this shift to private school funding doesn't address the root causes of the challenges facing public schools. Rather than providing more funding to teachers, smaller class sizes, or better facilities, it redirects resources away from the public education system altogether. If we truly want to improve education for all children, we should be investing more into public schools—by increasing teacher pay, providing better classroom materials, offering support for students' mental health and well-being, and reducing the emphasis on standardized testing. Public schools should be the foundation of our education system, not the private sector that benefits the few at the expense of the many.

Redirecting funds from public schools to private school vouchers is not a solution to the issues our education system faces. It's a diversion of resources that hurts public schools and the students who rely on them. We must ensure that funding is used to strengthen public schools, ensuring all students—regardless of their background—have access to a quality education.

Lori Broughton
Self, Farmer, Rancher
Temple, TX

All my life I have heard some form of the phrase: “We need a well educated population to sustain and grow our country.” Vouchers do not achieve these goals. What does reach these goals is a robust, well financed public school system where all are educated to their fullest potential. This means meeting the learning needs of our children. The proposed voucher scheme creates a two tiered society where the people with the financial means receive the education the parents want while leaving all others without money to receive a lower quality education.

Priscilla Eureste
Self
Tomball, TX

I homeschool and am opposed to this bill.

Andrew Stalick
self
Austin, TX

Strong shared public schools are essential for a healthy, civically engaged population.
Vote against vouchers.

Ashley Garcia
Self
Dickinson, TX

As a public educator I strongly urge you to vote NO on any bill that contains a voucher, including HB3! Texas educators oppose vouchers and know this is not what’s best for public education in Texas!

Carisa Munoz
self
Austin, TX

School vouchers are bad for Texas because they divert critical funding from public schools, undermining the education system that serves the majority of students. Texas already struggles with underfunded schools, large class sizes, and teacher shortages, and vouchers would exacerbate these problems by redirecting taxpayer money to private institutions that lack accountability and transparency. Unlike public schools, private schools can selectively admit students, often excluding those with disabilities, behavioral challenges, or lower academic performance. This creates an uneven playing field, further marginalizing vulnerable students. Additionally, rural communities—where public schools are the only option—would suffer the most, as fewer resources would be available to maintain quality education. Vouchers primarily benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition, while lower-income families receive little real assistance. Instead of vouchers, Texas should invest in strengthening its public schools to ensure equitable education for all students.

Patricia Adams
Self teacher engineer mom
austin, TX

Do not kill public education. Separate religion and state as per our Constitution. No vouchers it's a subsidy only the affluent can use and education is not a for-profit venture no should it be fun by overpaid well connected wonks. Policy such as this are destroying Americas future and science and technology.

Wendy Salome

Self

Austin, TX

I am deeply opposed to creating Education Savings Accounts for Texas students. ESA's drain funding from our (SEVERELY UNDERFUNDED) public schools. There is no accountability attached to the. ESAs will not improve student outcomes. ESA's increase taxpayer costs, which are already very high and already being mis-appropriated. Using ESAs allows discrimination. Most importantly, ESAs will decimate our rural Texas public school systems. VOTE NO ON THIS BILL.

Giovanna Couey

self, Marketing Director

San Antonio, TX

Though this bill is proposed as school choice, this is a terrible bill - allowing families to use public funds for private school tuition and other educational expenses will set the state of Texas back. As a taxpayer, I strongly oppose this bill, and know that if it passes, the future of education in the state of Texas will suffer. Our schoolchildren will get dumber, the money will go from funding public schools to funding charter schools, and the state has a 30% closure rate of charter schools, with 1:4 charter schools FAILING within the first five years. This bill fails both public school children, and charter school children. If parents want to send their children to private school, they should be allowed to do so, but not at the expense of others children in the public school system. Please, please, please vote NO on this bill. It would be a travesty if this were to pass in Texas, and would set Texas back further than they already are. If you needed additional data points, over 26% of the charter schools that close do so due to FRAUD and improper spending of funds.

Erin Hamilton

Self

Manor, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Stacey Miller

Self

georgetown, TX

My public and frankly exorbitant property taxes are to be used to fully fund public schools for the good of all texas children not just the privileged few

I want my public and quite exorbitant property tax dollars to go to fully

I want my public tax dollars to go to fully fund

public schools not to go to the selected view that are admitted to private schools. Parents already have a choice. This bill provides basically a discount for school for kids that are already in private schools and to their wealthy parents. Please vote against vouchers.

Bri Rodriguez

Self

Austin, TX

This will gut our public schools. Leave our kids alone. Just remove state testing that will save millions and give it to the schools!

Diane Skeel

self

Austin, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I moved to Texas 43 years ago, married a native Texan, and our son attended public schools, which served him well. We need good public education, and vouchers will destroy that. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.”

Jennifer Gajeske

Self

Brenham, TX

I am against HB 3. Vote no - HB 3

Claire Edmondson

Self

Houston, TX

Please vote no on BH 3. Our children’s future is at stake. Public education is to level the playing field for all. Please do that for our state and our children.

Shelby Castillo

Self/homeschooler

Houston, TX

I homeschool and I oppose this bill.

Mary Lopez

Self Self proprietor

San antonio, TX

We have too many kids to privatize all with vouchers and still end up having to pay out of pocket more to compensate the difference owed to the school every year for each student on top of all the extra school expenses we already have to pay into. We all know this will get siphoned off into a general fund for greedy politicians' hands. No thank you

Robert Williams

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Keep government overreach out of private and homeschooled children’s education.

Shelley Anne Smith

Self/Dallas taxpayer/technology manager

Dallas, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I implore each of you to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and and the future of education.

Dorothy Shelley

Retired teacher

Austin, TX

I am a retired Special Education teacher, who taught students with learning disabilities, in the public schools, for 25 years. I am concerned about the affect the vouchers will have on the special education students who want to attend a private school. The private schools do not have to offer services listed on a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) nor honor the minutes allotted to each service. Whereas a public school is legally bound to not only provide the services but also the time allotted for each service. Public schools educate all students. Private schools can pick and choose which students they allow to attend their schools. Private school vouchers often fund poor-quality schools with no accountability or oversight making it easier for these private schools to hire teachers that don't have the proper credentials or any credentials at all. Private school vouchers don't have to provide accountability to taxpayers. Most programs don't measure success, student achievement, or use standardized testing to see if students are meeting the minimum education standards. Private school vouchers do not provide students with the same rights and protections they would have access to in public schools such as IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), Title VI, Title IX, and the Every Student Succeeds Act. Students who attend private schools are also stripped of their First Amendments, due process, and other statutory rights guaranteed them in public schools. Last but not least, the money being taken away from public schools will have a profound affect on their extra curricular activities such as band and sports. The real possibility of public schools losing funding will result in the loss of these activities. These are two areas that my special education students were able to excel in.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration. I urge you to vote no on this voucher proposal.

D. Christene Wood

Self. Attorney

Humble, TX

The Texas Constitution states public funds will not be transferred to private entities. Robbing tax dollars to go to vouchers is a blatant affront to the principles upon which Texas claims to believe. Vouchers are a scam in the making to keep middle and poor children at a disadvantage as well as to funnel money to Abbott's pals. Texans do not want to fund segregation 2025. Do not take us backward and hurt children who have the same right to quality education as those born with silver spoons.

Marianne Arnold

self

KURTEN, TX

Our taxes should pay for public schools. Vouchers, no matter what you call them, use our taxes to subsidize private schools for the children of wealthy people. They take away resources that the 5.5 million students in public schools need. More than half the counties in Texas do not have private schools. Vouchers disadvantage rural areas that do not have access to private schools. By taking away public school resources, vouchers shift more of the burden for school funding to property taxes.

Adohree Teague

Self

Frisco, TX

Vouchers will siphon funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Jessica Engh

Self

Magnolia, TX

As a parent and teacher I am vehemently against school vouchers.

Susan Kelly
Self; Retired journalist
Austin, TX

I am writing to OPPOSE creating an education savings account program. School vouchers, which are funded by taxpayer dollars, will take money away from public schools that already serve the majority of students. We are diverting funds from the majority of students to a small number of wealthy students who go to private school. Our public schools are already running at budget deficits because of a bill two years ago that mandated certain safety provisions that were not paid for by the legislature. House Bill 3 will further hamstring our public schools, our teachers and staff and cause districts to make cuts to educational programs and curriculum that benefit Texas children. Please vote NO on House Bill 3. Thank you.

Marlo Montemayor
Self
Elgin, TX

Privatizing public funds to channel them back to private schools will not only harm schools but also small communities who count on these schools to provide nutrition, jobs, and social interaction. Most of Tx is represented by a population who have no private schools to choose from and are already severely underfunded. These are the people who voted for you. You need to represent their best interests, and not those of who can already afford available options for their kids.

Joelle Zavzavadjian
Self
ARGYLE, TX

I am against HB 3, against vouchers, and I want our public schools fully funded.

Abby Pollard
self, program manager
AUSTIN, TX

I am a concerned voter and I ask to you prioritize fully funding public schools and oppose HB3, SB2, and any other voucher/ESA bill. Public tax dollars should stay in public schools.

Elizabeth Silva
Self
Houston, TX

As a concerned parent of two elementary school children in HISD, I'm deeply troubled by the implications of House Bill 3 and the push for school vouchers, especially in light of the TEA takeover. While proponents claim vouchers expand school choice, the reality is far less equitable. For families like mine, who can't afford private school tuition even with a voucher, this policy feels like a step toward further weakening our public schools.

Vouchers often fail to cover the full cost of private school tuition, leaving families to pay the difference — a financial burden many simply can't manage. Meanwhile, public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students, risk losing vital funding as resources are redirected to private institutions. In HISD, where the TEA takeover has already created chaos and instability, the last thing our children need is for their schools to be further starved of support.

My family depends on our local public school — not just for academics, but for community, extracurricular activities, and essential services. Vouchers threaten to undermine that by diverting funds away from the very institutions that educate the most vulnerable children, including those with special needs, English language learners, and students from low-income families.

If lawmakers truly want to improve education in Texas, they should focus on strengthening our public schools — not siphoning resources away from them. Our kids deserve stable, well-funded schools where they can thrive, and House Bill 3 puts that at risk. As a parent, I'm standing with other families to say: Texas children deserve better.

Emily Morehead, LPC-S

Self

McKinney, TX

I am a parent of a student in McKinney ISD. We are already experiencing tremendous cuts, and the voucher would eviscerate public education. On Friday, parents of McKinney ISD received notification of the following:

- Reductions at Central Office and Other Non-Campus Positions—MISD reduced 40 central office and other non-campus positions. The responsibilities and duties of the roles that were not refilled were distributed among existing staff.
- Reduction in Athletic Coaches and Fine Arts Assistants
- Gifted and Talented Reorganization- McKinney ISD is redesigning the GT program due to cutws.
- Campus Instructional Coaches- McKinney ISD will reduce by over half the number of instructional coaches supporting campus teachers.
- Elementary Intervention Specialists- McKinney ISD intervention specialists will be eliminated as part of instructional support restructuring.
- Clerical Support- McKinney ISD will reduce clerical support at central office and campuses. As a parent- I believe that The clerical support roles keep the campus safe and full coverage is necessary for security
- Summer School Offerings- McKinney ISD has eliminated elementary and secondary summer school. We will continue to offer federally mandated opportunities for our students.
- Special Education- Adjustments will be made
- Library Aides- McKinney ISD will eliminate library aides.
- PE Aides- reorganize the allocation
- Clinic Assistants- McKinney ISD will utilize floater nurses to assist in the clinic.
- Secondary Class Ratios- McKinney ISD has redesigned the campus master
- Bilingual Staff Ratios- All staffing allocations are based off of program enrollment by campus and student/staff ratio.
- Impact Counselors- McKinney ISD will reduce impact counselors by two staff members.
- Professional Travel- For 2025-2026, McKinney ISD will suspend all overnight travel.

ESA's will only further the deficit that schools are facing. Until we can support public education fully, we can't delegate tax dollars elsewhere.

Please support public schools with NO vote.

Marilyn Barlett, Mrs.

Self Retired Texas Teacher

Austin, TX

I would like to oppose house bill 3 as it is written. I feel that it should also have an attendance requirement just like the public schools. I do not want money taken away from the public schools to fund the private schools.

Denise McLemore

Self

Austin, TX

I OPPOSE this bill!

Diana Richards

Self

Sherman, TX

As a Hard R, rural, parent of school-aged children, I am Opposed to HB3. I am not a Democrat. I am not paid by anyone to testify today. I am NOT a fan of the Teachers Union, but conservative parents like me have been accused by our own party of these things. NOW - As a native Houstonian, who graduated from public schools, I know that the education system fell apart after the inclusion of Common Core (and subsequent renaming of Common Core to keep it in the TEKS). Go back to the basics in our public schools. Parents & Grandparents have brought solutions to TXLege for at least the last 6 years (prior to CV19), and we have been ignored. It's time to do the hard work of fixing the major issues in the TX public school system to provide a healthy, safe, and educationally excellent learning environment for ALL Texas students. Neither the State government nor Federal government should be in the business of picking winners and losers. Get to the ROOT of the issue in our schools. No more bandaids!

Carron Perry
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I do not support transferring monies from public schools for vouchers to private or religious schools.

Krystie Griffin
Self
Leander, TX

Please do NOT vote for vouchers. The only people who will benefit are those who are already in private schools. Our special education students will not benefit, our lower socioeconomic families will not benefit. Instead, pour that money into our public schools!

Jessica Lamberg
Self
Round Rock, TX

Vote NO on HB3 - fund and support our public schools in Texas.

Elizabeth Freeman
Self
Pflugerville, TX

Fund public schools. Texans DO NOT want the vouchers for public schools. Give teachers raises and fund their classrooms.

Mari Verastegui
Self/child
Kyle, TX

I am opposed to the voucher program for the state of Texas. My child is a public school attendee and the current resources are already stretched thin. Please do not vote to take away more funding from the public school system. Thank you for considering the feelings of your constituents.

Marla Bays Bays
Grandparents for Public Schools
Cedar Park, TX

Vouchers will only benefit the wealthy. They will not help public schools. Do the right thing and fully fund our public schools for the sake of ALL Texas children. Vote on HB3

Christopher Brower, Dr
Self
Argyle, TX

I am against HB3 and I am for fully funding our public schools!

Amanda Gonzales, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

Public schools and public school teachers need more funding and higher salaries! Vouchers for private schools only benefit a selected amount of students.

Angela Gaither
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose education savings account programs and urge Reps to vote no on HB3

Stacy Norwood
Self
Allen, TX

I don't want my tax dollars going to a school voucher system. Fund public schools! I have 2 kids in public schools and I want them to have a great educational experience.

Chris Womack
Self, writer
Austin, TX

Honored members of the committee,
I am the father of two Texas schoolchildren, and the son of a former Texas teacher and guidance counselor. So I am very well aware of the past and present condition of schools here in Texas.

Please know that I am deeply opposed to HB 3, the voucher scheme. Mostly I object to using public funds to subsidize, wealthier families, sending their children to private schools, when that money should support our starved Texas public schools.

Rural communities are well aware that public schools are struggling for lack of funding, and that private options are rarely available— and when they are, they don't provide transportation, eating facilities, special education, or even teachers comparable to those at public schools.

As a result, community across Texas have again and again rejected similar voucher schemes. That rejection, spans, partisans of every stripe.

Instead, I urge you to raise the per-student funding to a level above \$1300 in order to make up for the shortfall, our schools have suffered as a result of the Texas legislature's neglect since 2019.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you do the right thing.

Chris Womack

Bonnie Koliba
Self
Royse City, TX

Public money for private school is a hard no, fully fund public education and stop with the voucher ESA nonsense.

Patricia Lewis
Self
Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose providing vouchers for private schools. I strongly oppose this despite having sent my son to private school and having struggled at times to pay for it. We need great public schools and to be great, they need to be prioritized and well funded. We need our citizens to be well educated to be productive and successful. I strongly oppose sending my tax dollars to religious schools or schools that can discriminate against students. Please reject school vouchers.

Laurie Bizzell, Dr.
Self/Clinical Psychologist
San Antonio, TX

I do not support the voucher program and the way it will dismantle public schools and our entire education system.

Erin O'Bryant
self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to the establishment of an education savings account program to benefit private schools, or school vouchers.

Maria Meza, Dr.
Self
San Antonio, TX

An education savings program is detrimental to education. It is a terrible idea and I see no benefit to students. My daughter attends private school but it is our choice and we can afford it. I would never take funds from public schools because they serve ALL students regardless of background, income, or ability. Public schools are truly the equalizer for our society and give an equal opportunity at a better future. The \$10,000 voucher you are proposing will not cover the cost of tuition at most private schools. Also, what accountability will there be for private schools or parents who take the voucher funds and "home school" their children? I vehemently oppose HB3 by Buckley establishment of an education savings account program and so do countless parents I know whose children attend public and our own daughter's private school. The data and evidence from other states implementing vouchers have not shown a positive impact on increased student achievement and the only goal has been to privatize education. Please do not pass HB 3 by Buckley. Keep tax payer dollars in public schools.

Joe B Ferguson
Retired Teacher/Coach
Lubbock, TX

I am against conservative and I usually vote conservative but I totally disagree with my representative. I am against HB 3. State money should be used to fund public schools. When did Texas republican representatives become so anti public education?

Angelica Holt
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this.

Erin Cloke

Self-psychiatric nurse practitioner

Austin, TX

Dear Education committee I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services. I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Erin Cloke APRN-BC

Cathy Bradley, Ms.

Self -retired

Dallas, TX

I am strongly against vouchers and urge you to protect and promote fully funded, high quality, public education. This bill is a scam and a misuse of public funds. Public education built this nation and this state. Do not destroy it.

Adrienne Gandhi

Retail worker/ self

Round Rock, TX

House Bill 3 (HB 3) threatens to divert critical public school funding to private school vouchers, weakening resources for students, and destabilizing the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) by reducing the number of active educators paying into it. Public schools serve all children, and shifting taxpayer dollars to unregulated private institutions undermines their ability to provide quality education. Lawmakers must vote NO on HB 3 to protect public schools, educators, and retirees instead of gambling with Texas' education system

Yessica Rodocker

Everman ISD

Fort Worth, TX

This is not going to help the greater majority of Texas and it will not only make funding schools harder. But it will take away from the students that want to learn and better themselves. We need to find ways to help public schools not take away from them!

Jeff Huerta

Representing my daughter's who can't fight this fight

San Antonio, TX

I am against this voucher scam. Constituents have already shot this down, but Abbott and his investment buddies don't care. This GOP leadership DOES NOT WANT TO DO THE WORK TO HELP PUBLIC EDUCATION. THE GOP LEADERSHIP ONLY SEE MONEY AND OPPORTUNITY TO USE OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS MONEY GRAB OPPORTUNITY. WE THE PEOPLE SEE THROUGH YOUR SLIGHT OF HAND MOVES. KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION. WE SEE THIS VOUCHER PROGRAM AS A DIRECT PHYSICAL THREAT.

Victoria Laurie

Self

Plano, TX

Totally against school vouchers. We need to put more money into public schools. The lessons of Arizona (costing the state too much money and only benefiting the wealthy) is a cautionary tale to be heeded. What percentage of Texans would this even benefit ? How many people in rural areas could participate?

Lynn Baber

Self

Weatherford, TX

Options to escape poor public schools would be wonderful. However, funding two tracks because you accept one underperforming one is poor stewardship. Pass legislation to improve public schools. There's plenty of money to teach the basics. A Legislature that can't manage one bureaucracy well DOES NOT need to add another. If education were a road, this bill creates and funds a detour instead of fixing the existing road, while increasing spending to fix potholes and washouts again, and again.

Steven Deline

self

Austin, TX

This bill would be detrimental to Texan children & should not be passed.

Allowing for an option for parents to provide an adequate education for their children is a noble cause. Assisting children who are being bullied by allowing them to change schools is good. Supporting good homeschooling, microschoooling, & disability focused schools is a good idea. The problem is this bill wont do any of that, in fact it will hinder efforts to support children facing difficulties in their education.

As-Is this bill will not support children facing bullying as it has no teeth to require schools to accept these children when facing a crisis situation. The same can be said towards children with disabilities. The bill also has no capability of ensuring that children with disabilities will receive an adequate education as it does not place standards on private schools. There is a well-documented history of abuse towards disabled individuals in private school settings which this bill will be incentivizing allowing more of with the lack of state oversight.

This bill will not help homeschooling or microschoooling options as there is little evidence that parents who choose this option will apply for this. Due to a lack of standards for these options the children could lose out on foundational educational information necessary for them to thrive in the current work environment. One of the most important educational devices to best allow for children to learn is experiential learning in a social setting. Without standards like allowing for these children to be given this type of learning opportunities they will receive a substandard education making them unprepared for the workforce. There are parents in Texas who give exceptional homeschooling for their children as well as microschoools that give exceptional education for neurodivergent children & they should be supported. I do not believe this bill is going to have a positive effect for those parents.

This bill is going to take available funds away from potential public school allotments when Texas is ranked 40th in the nation in K-12 education. Teachers are migrating away from either Texas or the profession due to how funding is being allotted. Over 60% of Texas educators have stated they are considering doing so. Focusing on private schools, when the budget is teetering on causing an educational collapse in Texas is a dereliction of duty.

Lastly, the argument in favor of this bill is that it will help parents with allowing more choice for their children. The only thing this bill will do is increase private school tuition. Private schools are for profit institutions. Milton Friedman would argue this bill is nothing more than a subsidy for private schools & will incentivize private schools to increase tuition as if demand allows parents to already pay the amount they are, why would that differ based on a voucher. Parents not selected for the lottery will face a \$10,000 increase in costs.

Please vote no.

David Flores, Mr

Self -

Austin, TX

This is theft of public services by the State of Texas to continuously deprive public schools of the necessary funding per pupil, only to turnaround and give this to wealthy families who already have the means to pay tuition to private schools. I am the product of Lubbock High School, which is a public magnet school and is recognized as a blue ribbon school for the curriculum and staff. My classmates have gone on to become doctors, winemakers, professors, and all other various occupations. There is no way this would've been possible at a private school. In addition, the funding for teachers and schools per pupil has not changed since 2019, even as the cost of nearly everything has gone up. Texas has some of the lowest paid public school teachers and it's gotten so bad the state has had to resort to removing certification requirements for teachers just to have enough to run classes. Thirdly, private schools currently operate with very little to no oversight with respect to curriculum, state tests, and teacher requirements that there is no way shape or form the State can determine if these schools are being properly run. This is a giant loophole created by the legislature in order to give private schools a leg up. Fourth, the other states that have implemented such a terrible public policy have found this it has failed. Arizona has enacted this policy and it blew a massive hole in their budget with cost overruns of \$267 million! As a state with roughly 6 million school age children, and growing!, this very clearly puts Texas on the same path to fiscal insolvency. The State is already pulling back on infrastructure projects from TXDOT due to cost overruns and higher input costs, and soon the legislature will have to decide whether to repair roads or continue funding this handout to rich families. To conclude, this wealthy family handout will be a costly expense that will force the state to pull back on future services down the road, and does little to enhance student performance (since you have no way of evaluating), and will only serve to further weaken public schools of which the future leaders of this state have attended for decades with great success.

Whitney Digges

Self

Plano, TX

Please vote no on HB 3. Public dollars belong in public education. Please listen to your constituents and do your job. The people overwhelmingly reject vouchers. Fund our public schools!

Cindy McNeil

Self

San Antonio, TX

NO

Teri Botour

Self - Retired teacher

San Marcos, TX

I am a retired teacher with 40 years experience, and I am so dismayed with Greg Abbott's pursuit of vouchers to do away with public schools by not funding them properly, skewing the scores to make them look bad and withholding teachers pay raises until he got his way. The problem with the vouchers is only helps people that already have money who can afford to send their kids to private schools. The chance left behind in public schools, and those that have to go with poorly run charter and private schools will greatly be affected negatively when it comes to a proper education. Private charter and Christian schools do not have to follow guidelines public schools do. The teachers aren't certified, the turnover is significant in the kids are not getting a proper education. This is already going on so I can only assume it will get worse if vouchers pass today. I'm not sure his reasoning behind doing this, but I can assume it's driven by money not by his love of children. I also worry about community that is centered around a public school system, which gives children a sense of belonging when they grow up. This world is so self-centered with devices and all kinds of distractions, a public schools whole communities together. Please see any in your hearts to let the voucher system go and continue what we are doing because it works. It's President Trump dismantle that department of education, Greg Abbott will not fund public schools properly, which will affect special needs children, 504 children plus all the other kids who need affair in public education. And you and I both know the oversight on this money is very important and I honestly cannot see it working in the taxpayer's favor. Please say no to vouchers!

Teri Votour

Katharine Cline

self

Austin, TX

Hello, I am Katie Cline, a resident of Northwest Austin. I live next door to two public schools and they are vital to our community. I oppose this bill because I believe that it will be damaging to our public schools and our students with special needs. Our schools are already facing funding challenges, and this will only make that worse, especially in smaller communities. Strong public education is essential to continue developing our citizens and the Texas economy.

Amisha Mehta

Self

Buda, TX

I do not support this bill. It will take money away from the public schools who are already working with very little. There is no accountability for private schools, why should they receive tax payer money when they only serve themselves and not the public.
Vote NO

Jill Montgomery

Self

Stephenville, TX

Committee Members; These comments address the proposal to offer a voucher program rather than fund public schools. I oppose this approach and urge you to vote to keep public education a priority and to provide adequate funding to ensure the availability of quality education for our children. If you believe educating American children is expensive, please don't try keeping them ignorant. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sarah Jackson

Self

Temple, TX

Due to safety concerns of my five year old who is having to deal with death threats, chairs being thrown, and staff who refuse to provide my child a safe education. I just took him out of public school to homeschool him. I contacted police, administrators and all the processes available to me to help advocate to get my child a safe learning experience and all of those failed. I agree to the bill. As well as advocating currently to get more bills passed in Texas to fix the public school system so I can send him into public schools. However, there are a lot of issues with the Grievance process set up and districts trying to cover up incidents to keep their reputation. The school is collecting money off of each student that attends school and I feel if they can't provide my child a safe place to learn, as well as providing an education because with all the disruptions in class he obviously is not learning. I need to homeschool him. So, if a safe place can't be provided and an education can't be provided to the point I need to provide it, why would I not get paid to provide it?

menachem blecher

Chabad of The Woodlands

Spring, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Pamela Eason

Self

Kemp, TX

Hi - I am writing to express my concerns for HB 3. As a parent, in Texas, I already have the right to choose my child's education. I believe this bill in it's title is misleading parents in that it leads one to think we don't have "freedom to choose our child's school" We have homeschool, private schools, charter schools, and public schools to choose from. This bill follows a map from the UN Agenda and I'm disappointed in my leadership in Texas how they are trying to trick so many people.

carol torrance

self

austin, TX

HB3? Not just no, but HELL NO!! Tax dollars making their way to private schools do not help all Texas students and their families. These schools are not fully accountable scholastically or financially nor are they open to all students via lottery-type systems or zoning. A public school 9th grader could easily figure out who will benefit from these voucher schemes, and it's not them. Instead, fully fund public schools, the great engine of opportunity for ALL Texans and Americans. Thank you.

Dina Eagle

Self/SAHM

Houston, TX

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CHARLENE PEREZ

Self/Retired

HOUSTON, TX

Vote NO on school vouchers. Vouchers destroy public schools by diverting fund to wealthy private schools. Vouchers serve as discount coupons for the wealthy since private school tuition starts at \$15,000 a year and goes up as the schools get more elite. Most working families cannot afford to pay the balance due; therefore, these vouchers serve the wealthy. Also, private schools are not held accountable to providing services for special need students. Private Schools pick the best students from the wealthiest families, leaving working class families out.

Bret Fulkerson

Self

Austin, TX

Let me be clear—I'm furious about this school voucher program. Families in rural areas don't get real choices from this. It's a sham. Our public schools are the heart of our communities, and they're already struggling. Taking money away from them to fund private schools that most of us can't even access? That's not just wrong—it's an insult.

I've seen what these voucher programs do in other states. They're a disaster. No accountability, more inequality, and they leave kids behind. They divide our communities, and they don't even deliver better results. Instead of tearing down public education, why don't you focus on fixing it? Every child deserves a good education, and public schools are the only way to make that happen for everyone. This issue matters to me, and I vote. Don't forget that.

Kimberly Kiernan

Self

Rockwall, TX

I am a parent and native Texan that believes our schools should be fully funded and that public money should be used for public education. Tax payer money should never be used for private education—especially without oversight. Our kids deserve better. Texas ranks in the bottom half of the nation for education. Let’s fund it instead. Encourage amazing public schools and services. Improve testing. With our surplus and backing by our leaders, Texas should be in the top ten. Not the bottom 25.

Esther Horowitz

Self

Lewisville, TX

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Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it’s time for Texas to join them.

Sarah Rucker

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and do not support school vouchers.

Chaya Kolodny

Self

Houston, TX

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John Roff

Self - Engineer

Houston, TX

I firmly believe that this bill is bad for Texas and more importantly bad for my family. My wife and I recently moved to Houston from Midland, and we selected our house based on the highly regarded public school district. Taking funding from public schools takes resources from my family and others like us. This increases costs and decreases accountability for private institutions educating our state’s children. What are the testing and reporting standards? Will home school weirdos become more common? Will the abuse, silence, and negligence of SBC be perpetrated on more children? This is bad for education and bad politics since so many Texans oppose this bill. Tim Dunn’s money won’t protect your seat when people start realizing their children are being hurt

SHMUEL KARP

self

Houston, TX

I am writing in strong support of Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) by Representative Brad Buckley. This bill is a crucial step toward expanding educational opportunities for Texas families by creating an Education Savings Account (ESA) program. HB 3 recognizes that every child has unique learning needs and that parents, not the government, are best positioned to make decisions about their children's education.

For many religious families, particularly within the Jewish community, education is not just about academics but also about values, traditions, and faith. Jewish families have a long history of prioritizing education, often seeking schools that align with their religious beliefs and cultural heritage. Unfortunately, the financial burden of private or religious schooling can be overwhelming, forcing many families to choose between their faith and access to a quality education. HB 3 helps address this challenge by allowing parents to use ESA funds toward tuition at religious schools, ensuring that children can receive an education that nurtures both their intellect and their spiritual identity.

The Torah teaches us that educating our children is one of the greatest responsibilities we have. Proverbs 22:6 states, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old, he will not depart from it." HB 3 honors this principle by providing families with the freedom to choose schools that reinforce the moral and ethical values they hold dear. In a state that respects religious liberty, it is essential that parents are not financially penalized for wanting an education that aligns with their faith.

Furthermore, school choice is a matter of fairness. Families who pay taxes to support public education should have the ability to direct those funds toward the educational environment that best serves their children. HB 3 ensures that low-income and middle-class families have the same opportunities as wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition. By passing this bill, Texas will be taking a bold step in empowering parents, fostering educational excellence, and upholding the religious freedoms that our nation was founded upon.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Texas Legislature to support and pass HB 3. This bill is a vital investment in the future of Texas children, allowing them to learn, grow, and thrive in an environment that reflects their family's values. Thank you for considering this comment, and I appreciate your dedication to the well-being of Texas families.

Monica Ramirez

Family

Allen, TX

As a mom of 4 children 2 currently in Tx public schools I oppose HB 3 & SB 2

Candy Noble hope you vote NO to HB 3 & SB 2

Jessica Gomez

Self

Buda, TX

I do not support of giving public funding to private schools.

laurie bennett

Self -teacher

El Paso, TX

Homeschoolers do not want this bill! This is taking away the freedom we have of homeschooling and knowing what is best for our children.

Shaina Marasow

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them

Glyness Poblete

Self

SACHSE, TX

I am against the voucher program. I reside in a district with no charter schools and we continue to have high performing PUBLIC schools that provide access to those in the area who need it. All without vouchers. Public schools can and do thrive when given proper funding and attention. The needed findig ng and attention have shifted to the private sector leaving our public schools in need. Keep our tax dollars in the hands of the people who truly need it, not line the pockets of private investors/ institutions

Yosef Meyer, Mr.

Agudat Israel of America

Houston, TX

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Kelsey Dieterle

Self

Dallas, TX

I disagree with taking funding away from children and public schools in Texas.

Nechama Marsow

Self

Houston, TX

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Larysa Mysyk

Mother of 3 kids

Austin, TX

Private schools funding will destroy home values, public education system, and will prohibit mothers to have any career due to scheduling. Vote no for voucher programs! Fully fund public schools!! Create programs for knowledge progression, focus on stem, these are jobs that are desperately needed to fill here is US, so we do not need to buy talent from other countries! Fund gifted programs! Fund and develop students in science education! Focus on the job market! Public schools focus on teaching religion not skills that are needed to survive in this world, stop setting up US citizens for lower level of education!

Levi Teldon
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.*

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*Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Aquiel Warner
self
Pflugerville, TX

Dear members of the committee: My name is Aquiel Warner, and I am proof of what funding our public schools can achieve. I attended a public elementary, middle, and high school in the Austin area, and now I have the honor and privilege to be the first member of my extended family to attend medical school, here in Austin, so that I can become a primary care physician and pursue my passion for rural healthcare. The annual cost of my local, private catholic schools is \$8,000-11,875, affordable compared to most private schools, but even at \$8000, the ESA does not cover the cost of transportation and potentially lost wages parents must take on to get their children to a local private school. ESA's won't help students who need help the most to leave failing schools, it'll only help families who already have the means, or close to the means to afford a private education. Meanwhile, programs like orchestra and robotics that first fostered my creativity and curiosity, and public school teachers like Mr. Rivers, who was the first teacher ever to make me feel and believe that I was intelligent, will begin to disappear from our public schools as their funding is chipped away by these ESA's. We can say ESA's won't touch school funding, but part of public school funding is dependent on school attendance, so fewer students means less money for the school, and less money recaptured from wealthier districts to go to helping schools that serve some of our neediest students, including rural schools. For students with disabilities, private schools are not required by law to provide accommodations, so these parents will have no legal recourse when a private school decides to end and declines to provide further support for a student. If you want students in need to succeed like myself, ESA's are not the answer. The answer includes funding more programs in our public schools to address achievement gaps, committing more resources to support students with disabilities, offering more programs to reward teachers who pursue additional degrees and certifications to become better at teaching, and paying our teachers better, so that they stay and inspire students like me to keep pushing to achieve our dreams.

ELIMELECH LITVINTCHOUK
Self
HOUSTON, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

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Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Uma Batna
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly believe Public school funding should be used for public schools only in Texas

William Lane

Self - Student

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

I respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because as a student of a public high school in Texas, numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force. HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents, including my own, already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents. Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools. I support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

William "Arch" Lane

Carol Wetterauer

self retired RN

katy, TX

My name is Carol Wetterauer

Katy, Texas 77450

I oppose the passage of HB 3.

12 years ago my kids chose to buy a home in Katy ISD because of quality schools. They chose despite having to pay extra in property taxes, for the sake of providing an excellent education for their now 6 kids.

5 years ago my husband and I also moved to Katy ISD to be close to our grandkids. We were ok paying extra in property taxes because again, those taxes meant wonderful schools for our kids.

Today, I'm angry. The promotion of vouchers by our Texas legislators will lead to even higher taxes, decreased home value, and we will no longer have quality education for our kids.

I know this because the money for vouchers won't come from Texas' \$23 billion surplus, but from money already allotted to our public schools. Because 73% of Texas schools are already underfunded it won't take long to see negative results. These would be school buildings in disrepair, fewer buses for the kids, fewer teachers due to low wages leading to crowded classrooms. These things are already happening in parts of rural Texas, and in voucher states such as Indiana, Florida, and Arizona.

Kenneth Heydrick, Dr.

Self - retired educator; 37 years

Austin, TX

I Oppose HB3 on Savings Accounts – Harmful to Public Education

Vouchers by any name take public funds and use them for private schools. I view vouchers as a scam with names such as education savings accounts, tax credit scholarships, or school choice programs.

Our Texas public schools are already underfunded, and our teachers are seeing the harmful affects of subpar funding. The Texas accountability program, called STAAR, will not be required of these voucher schools. In an age of rigorous standards, we need consistent and uniform accountability to demonstrate progress to parents and our communities. Lastly, voucher schools offer limited services to students and limited enrollment practices.

Texas already offers charter schools, which are a subset of public schools. Accountability and transparency of these charter operators are sometimes called into question.

Please remember that Article 7 of the Texas Constitution makes it clear that Texas taxpayers are only responsible for free PUBLIC schools.

Research shows that voucher programs often fail to serve students from disadvantaged or marginalized backgrounds. Vouchers are risky for rural schools and for students with special needs.

Please OPPOSE HB3 that calls for school savings accounts. Texas has REJECTED vouchers for decades. If parents want to send their children to private schools, then those parents should set up their own saving accounts, instead of using Texas PUBLIC school funds as their own school slush fund. Texans deserve strong and well-funded PUBLIC schools.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Texas PUBLIC schools.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Heydrick, EdD

Austin - 512-297-4030 – kheydrick@att.net

Kathryn Poth

Self

Austin, TX

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am asking that you vote against this bill and any other bill that leads to destroying our public schools. My tax money is to go to all the children. We used to have great schools systems in this state until the governor and legislature began cutting funding for public schools. I completely disagree with these new proposals for private school funding. As a Lifelong Texan, Voter and Tax Payer, I hope that you

will stand up and do what is right for the children of public schools, oppose HB3

Sincerely,

Kathryn Poth

Kyle Dunn, Mr.

Self

Magnolia, TX

Any attempt to improve the safety of schools is a hollow gesture without addressing the root cause, the funding of schools. Class sizes will continue to grow and lead to more issues with closing of schools, cutting of positions, and deterring would-be educators from coming into the profession. Properly funded schools is a right given by law, school choice is exactly that...a choice, not something that should take away from what our citizens deserve. School choice would fail miserably in a public vote and has in many states, cowards pass legislation that they think is best for the few. The supposed underperforming of public schools was an intentional plan by continuing to underfund them. Stand up for ALL kids and hard working teachers by giving them a fighting chance. Fund public schools by closing the inflation gap with basic allotment increase of \$1400 per student and increase incentives based on long-term success basis, not 1 years STAAR.

Dinah Miller

Self

Dallas, TX

Texas taxpayers are not responsible for private school tuition according to Texas Constitution Article 7. You swore an oath to God to uphold our constitution. Vouchers are about greed and segregation. Vouchers are immoral and unethical. Jeff Yass profiting off our tax dollars is scandalous. Vote against voucher scams.

Karenie Lee

Self

Spring, TX

We are a homeschool family and we greatly oppose this bill!

Areli Juarez

Self

Pearland, TX

I do not support this bill. As it is our public school systems are suffering from lack of funding and not having enough teachers. Allocating the money elsewhere would only benefit the private schools and divide funding. It will not benefit our children's education. We need to increase funding to our public schools and focus on making public education better instead of abandoning public education.

Shlomo Braun, Rabbi

Chabad of Lubbock

Lubbock, TX

Please support the HB3 and the education savings program.

As a Rabbi for the Jewish community, I can testify first hand how critical it is to allow all citizens to choose their school that will allow with the teachings of their faith and tradition.

Thank you for your support!

Mary Bouldin
Self, Attorney
Shallowater, TX

As a product of public education and a parent of 2 children attending public school, I absolutely do NOT support this bill. Private schools were created to be funded and run by private citizens/entities. The goal was, and still is, to be different from public school. They are not subject to State regulations or testing, and therefore have no place receiving State funding. As far as arguing for school choice, there is already school choice. Anyone can choose to send their child to public or private school. How that is funded, is no business of the State. Private schools have the option to offer scholarships to students who cannot afford to attend. Whether or not they choose to do so, is up to them. If the argument is that private schools offer "better" education or more opportunities, then I think that a closer look needs to be taken at the funding of public education. If there is such a disparity, why is that? If vouchers are the way to go, then let's give every child a \$10,000 voucher to be used at their school of choice-public or private. That would allow true choice, correct? The fact that our elected officials have voiced their support for this bill, loud and proud, is a huge disappointment and honestly, a disgrace. I implore you to be better, to do better. For your constituents, but even more importantly, for the children.

Zachary Shanklin
Self
Cleburne, TX

It should be put into the record that the overwhelming majority of private schools do not admit children with Special Needs. Perhaps before voting on this, there should be bills introduced that either force these entities to create those functions (if they are now going to be seeing tax payer funds) or publicly admit we are forgetting these kids in this process.

Elisha Fishman
Self
Houston, TX

Every child in Texas deserves the education that's best for them and who better to decide than their parents. Property tax paying families should benefit from education dollars helping their own children as well.

Ryan Hernandez
Self
Houston, TX

As a mom of a special education student I morally cannot accept vouchers for my homeschool/private school child. My Christian up bringing taught me to give to those in need. If you have enough money to send your child to private school you have no business taking away from those who cannot afford to. Furthermore, rural areas are already desperately under funded and lacking the key resources to provide for their students. Schools in rural areas are the backbone of their communities and face the biggest threat of closures. Do not allow this bill to continue.

Gary West, Dr.
Self/a public school district
Selma, TX

Clearly, a reduction in funds for public schools means doing what we already do with fewer dollars. Instead of making the system financially leaner, the discussion should be about what can be done to improve the already existing system. Increases in pay, state insurance, etc. will help, for sure. So would exempting public schools means teachers from paying district property taxes. However, the removal of funds for vouchers and the like on an already strained system could break public education, and would certainly make it even more difficult to give a free and equitable education to our students. Do the right thing, vote no for vouchers.

Zach Freeman
self, father of 3
Grapevine, TX

As a taxpayer and a parent of children in the Texas public school system I am against the voucher scam. Creating a new government entity that will siphon billions of taxpayer dollars into private schools is not the way to address concerns with public education, especially since our public schools have gone underfunded for years.

Lezlea Ross
Self not employed
Bryan, TX

As a voter and resident of Texas with grandchildren attending public school in Brazos County, Cameron County, and in Harris County I do not support an Education Savings Account Program, School Voucher Program nor the de-funding of Public Education in Texas. Funding public schools is very important in the counties where my grandchildren attend school and in the rural areas of TX. Texas should be putting more funding into our public school systems. Isn't that what TX Lottery proceeds are supposed to be helping to fund? Please consider what's best for ALL the children of Texas. The establishment of an education savings account Program in Texas is not in the best interest of the children of Texans.

Steven Powell
self, physician
Austin, TX

This is an unconscionable power and money grab by private schools and their rich patrons, to gobble up as much public funding as they can, and without any oversight or accountability. Please stand strong against this BS

Rebecca Stephens
Self
Austin, TX

I do not support this bill. This bill does provide equal education opportunities for Texas students!

James Tyson Carthel

Self

Plainview, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

As an award-winning educator with years of classroom experience, I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed School Voucher Bills currently under consideration. These bills represent a fundamental misdiagnosis of the challenges facing Texas education and would divert crucial resources away from the public education system that serves the vast majority of Texas children.

The Real Crisis in Texas Education

The narrative that public schools are failing Texas students is fundamentally flawed. Rather, it is our policy priorities that are failing our public schools. The evidence is clear:

Teacher Compensation Crisis: Texas educators are drastically underpaid compared to professionals with similar education and qualifications. This creates a self-perpetuating cycle where experienced educators leave the profession while potential excellent teachers choose other career paths.

Resource Allocation Issues: Too often, educational funding is diverted away from classroom instruction and teacher compensation. We must examine whether funds are supporting quality teaching or are disproportionately allocated to administrative positions and extracurricular programs.

Certified vs. Uncertified Instruction: The current system increasingly relies on uncertified or inadequately prepared teachers to fill vacancies, particularly in critical subject areas. This undermines educational quality and student outcomes.

Why Vouchers Are Not the Solution

Diverting public education funds to private institutions through voucher programs will:

Further deplete already strained public school budgets

Benefit primarily those families already privileged enough to supplement vouchers with additional resources

Lack accountability measures that ensure all Texas children receive quality education

Abandon our collective responsibility to maintain excellent public education for all

A Better Path Forward

Instead of undermining public education through vouchers, I urge the Texas Legislature to:

Substantially increase teacher compensation to competitive professional levels

Implement accountability measures that ensure educational funds reach classrooms and quality instruction

Strengthen certification requirements and provide meaningful professional development

Address inequities in school funding formulas that disadvantage schools serving our most vulnerable students

The responsibility for any shortcomings in Texas public education lies not with dedicated teachers or the institution of public education itself, but with policies that have systematically undervalued and underfunded this essential public good. The Texas Education Agency and state government must fulfill their constitutional obligation to provide adequate support for public education rather than abandon it through privatization schemes.

Our children deserve better than vouchers. They deserve a fully funded, professionally staffed, equitable public education system.

Robert Winegar, Dr
Self retired radiologist
Temple, TX

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Lori Heilig
Self, Mom
Flower Mound, TX

Taking money from public school will harm special education programs. Private schools are not required to accept special needs students or respect laws protecting their right to a fair education. My autistic child is doing great in his Pre-K program.

Kay Shepard, Dr.
Self
Lubbock, TX

Parents currently have school choice. If they choose homeschooling or private school, they should have to use their own funds. If homeschooling and private schools take state money, I am assuming they would also be required to teach specific curriculum and administer specific state tests as public school? This is why many parents homeschool or choose private school, so that they do not have to take STAAR tests. Public school teachers and students who attend public school deserve the very best education just as anyone else and should be given adequate funds to meet student needs and give them the best education.

Judith (Judy) Richardson

Leap of Joy

Austin, TX

16 years ago, I started Leap of Joy to give kids in poverty an opportunity they wouldn't have otherwise. We have survived every storm along the way but deprivation has had a profound effect. That is why a voucher system can only do more harm to the families who are struggling to send their children to public school. And yet, they attend Title 1 schools with few amenities and yet it is where the children get their exercise on the playground since their apartment complexes rarely have recreational facilities. Some may argue, but these are poor people. What is their value to us? Why are we paying for them? I would say because their families are the support system of our community cleaning the hotel rooms. Doing the laundry. Preparing the food. Cutting the grass. Taking care of your children and trimming your trees and all th myriad other things they do. Now, poor people are being squeezed even further as all of the working class families. As it is, the schools can barely maintain their circumstances. Teachers many times pay out of their own pockets for supplies. It's not at your own pocketbook you have to look but into your heart to do what's right. If you consider it, what are the benefits of a voucher program? Short of giving a nice gift to upper class and rich families so their kids can go to the best schools, everyone else is left behind. What's the result of that? Uneducated populous sit around, drink beer and play video games. Will they do the work that brown and black people do? Or will brown and black get the proper education that gives them an opportunity to succeed beyond football and basketball. Like it or not, this is not your grandfather's Texas and you can't deport anyone because you don't like their looks. Texas is the most marvelous mix of ethnicities of every stripe from El Paso to Houston, San Antonio or Dallas. We must come together beyond our own selfish needs and if, you truly call yourself a Christian practice the teachings of Jesus or call yourself something else. We all need to be reminded what Jesus actually said. Treat others as you wish to be treated. Love one another as I have loved you. Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and God what is Gods. Honor the separation. Please say no to the vouchers. The public school system may not be perfect, but it is available to all. Many places in Texas are remote. This would be difficult for them. This is the moment to decide what's at stake for the future and the consequences of your actions. Please do the right thing. Thank you

Laura Cortines

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Do not take money from the public schools. Most American civilians can not afford to put their children in private schools. Our public schools are where our tax dollars should be going. Not a expensive private school that teaches their religion.

Courtney Gray

Self

Whitehouse, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Lauren Blondeau

self

Leander, TX

Vote NO on HB 3. Don't take away money from our public schools!

Natasha Bryant

Self

Leander, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Cyndi Norris, Mrs.

self

Canyon, TX

I am writing in regards to HB3. I believe that all Texas students deserve strong, well-funded public schools. I'm asking that you ensure all schools that receive state funding are held to the same transparency requirements, accountability standards, and enrollment practices as public schools.

Breanne Hause, Mrs.

self/homeschool parent and teacher

Houston, TX

I have homeschooled my children for 12 years, now, and I oppose this bill.

Sherri Smetana

Self

Austin, TX

Stop the voucher program!!!!

This is not school choice-it's an annihilation of public school and no choice except for the wealthy! Look at the states that have done this and failed! Texas is known for its wonderful public schools-please don't let us fail!

Fund our public schools!

David Kinnison

Self

Lubbock, TX

In a way this is subsidizing private schools and should not happen. The rich trying to find a new way to keep more of their money. I went to a private school that my parents paid for because it was a privilege to go to that type of school. Again, my parents paid for it and I also offered it to my son but he was happy in public school. This seems to be a way to pour money into private schools and not use it for our public school systems that could really benefit from that money going to them. I don't like to see my tax dollars going to this type of funding.

Sally Lehr
Self
Houston, TX

This bill will decimate public schools. Stop it.

Lesdy Canales
Self
Round rock, TX

I am writing to you today as a concerned Texan. Please vote no to school vouchers that would divert tax payer money to private and wealthy schools. As this would prove detrimental to those students and teachers that already don't have enough funds to operate at a higher level. I want all children in Texas to be successful as these children will be our future workforce.

Sarah Stayer, Dr.
Self- physician
Austin, TX

To the Honorable Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

I am a born-and-raised Texan, who attended public K-12. I have two kiddos in public school right now. Both of our children have a 504 disability and have been well supported in Texas public schools.

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding House Bill 3, which proposes the implementation of a school voucher program in Texas. While the intention behind this bill may be to provide more educational options for families, the evidence from other states suggests that such programs often have detrimental effects on public education and the students they aim to serve. In states like Arizona, Ohio, and Louisiana, voucher programs have led to significant budget shortfalls, academic declines, and unequal access to quality education. For instance, Arizona's universal voucher program has resulted in a \$1.4 billion budget deficit, impacting other critical public projects. In Ohio and Louisiana, students using vouchers have shown significant academic losses compared to their peers in public schools.

In Texas, the proposed voucher program poses several specific challenges:

1. Financial Impact on Public Schools: Vouchers would divert essential funds from public schools, exacerbating existing budget deficits and potentially leading to school closures and reduced educational programs. Texas already ranks low in per-pupil spending, and further reductions would worsen this situation.
2. Lack of Accountability: Unlike public schools, private schools receiving vouchers are not required to adhere to the same accountability standards, such as the STAAR test, which could lead to uneven educational outcomes.
3. Selective Admissions: Private schools can choose which students to accept, potentially excluding those with disabilities or lower academic performance, which contradicts the goal of providing equal opportunities.
4. Inequitable Access: Many areas in Texas lack private school options, making vouchers impractical for families in those regions.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to reconsider the implementation of HB 3 and instead focus on strengthening and adequately funding our public education system. This would ensure that all Texas students have access to quality education, regardless of their background, disability or location.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Stayer

miriam cotlar
self, accountant
houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Ken Fisher

Self, Software Quality Assurance

Austin, TX

I am adamantly against a school voucher program wherein public funds are directed towards private education. Public schools are worth every dollar of an investment for a consistent and expected level of performance and proficiency for every student and member of our society. Increasing public school funding is the answer to better education, not moving those funds to private schools.

Yitzchok Kolodny

self, CPA

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Suzanne Barnett

Self

Goliad, TX

I don't support vouchers. I vote republican.

Gold Iwe

Self and college graduate

Sugar Land, TX

Its immoral, wrong, and damn right evil.

Natalie Kretsch, Dr.

self

Austin, TX

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sara Janes

Self, lawyer

Austin, TX

I support public education and oppose the diversion of any funds.

Marissa Finkelman

self - teacher

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Paige Giordano

Self

Kyle, TX

As a Texas voter and resident, the voucher program is a horrible idea. Public schools should be funded more to improve them, this voucher system will take away funds from an already underfunded (NECESSARY) education system. I was brought up in the public schools in Texas. I truly believe that the "no child left behind" by George bush is what made schools so bad, why so many people want to go to private. I am also aware that if the voucher system goes through, each voucher is \$10,000, while the schools typically get only \$8,000 per child. The math is not equal here, and it leads to assumptions that the government is purposefully trying to defund public schools, and in-term plunge the literacy rates in our state. Please put the money you would plan to give to voucher students back to the schools, pay teachers more, and allow teachers to hold kids back when they don't meet the requirements for each grade.

Ashley Goldman

Self

Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Ashley Goldman and I am a resident in 78731 zip code. I am asking my representative to vote NO on HB3. I want a fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy. Thank you.

Barbara Shadden

Barbara Shadden

Stephenville, TX

I am a retired public school teacher. I currently work for a private school to supplement my income. I am a parent of a child who could have benefitted from a private school education, but it was not within my budget. I pay property tax to my local public school district of a little over \$3700 per year. I vote every election. I've taken the time to understand HB 3. My observation is that the allotment that could be provided to parents for private school from taxpayer dollars is not sufficient to cover private school tuition. It would not have allowed me to send my child to private school. The remainder of private school tuition beyond what the HB 3 provides was not within a public school teacher's budget. When I look around the private school where I currently work, those families fall into 2 categories: They can easily afford it, or They make financial sacrifices to afford it. While both those groups would love to have Texas taxpayers cover some of their child's tuition, they are not dependent on public assistance to do so. Many families who would love to have their child in private school cannot cover the remainder of the tuition.

I believe HB 3 benefits the wealthier families of Texas and does not benefit lower income families. Those families will still have their children in public school. Please consider who you are trying to serve. The upper income families are already doing very well. They are not in need of state assistance. Please vote NO on HB 3.

Thomas Cruciani

Myself

Dallas, TX

HB3 will be detrimental for our Public school and the student

s attending them. It encourages practices that should have long stayed in the past but economically encouraging forms of school segregation.

A lot more is asked of public school teachers than of private school ones and yet the funding of public schools is going to be taken, long term, from the kids that need it most and with less supervision for what is being taught. HB3 is not in the best interest of Texans.

Viki Lacy

Myself- retired grandmother of 4

San Angelo, TX

Please do not pass this voucher proposal, which will only result in taking public monies and putting them in the pockets of the wealthy. Please fund and protect our VITAL public education system.

Melanie Atkinson

Self

Arlington, TX

Please say no to vouchers. Public education was my ticket out of poverty. Now I've given my life in public education in service of students looking to pursue their version of the American dream. Education is the great equalizer. Public education is the only place where every student has the chance to learn, earn a diploma, and better themselves towards a future for them and their family. Vouchers will endanger that. Please no vouchers! If you really believe vouchers are worth it, put it in the ballot and let the people decide.

Charlotte Gilman

self

Austin, TX

Dear Education Committee Members,

It behooves me as a property-tax payer, a retired teacher, a volunteer in public schools, and a citizen of this state of Texas interested in the important matter of the education of our precious children to share with you my opinion related SB3 as it relates to the critical matter of the financial support for our public school system, which serves 90% of our K-12 school children.

First of all, I believe our public money should go to supporting public schools not to those who have the means to send their children to private schools or people seeking to capitalize on income from private education.

It's bad enough that this richest state in the country is at the bottom among states in our funding of public education. Considering a proposal for vouchers, which would mean siphoning huge sums of tax dollars from public school funding, is unconscionable. Public schools are underfunded by billions of dollars each year. Funding has not been increased as costs have. An extremely high percentage (73%) of all Texas school districts are currently underfunded, and for 17% underfunding is extreme. Additionally, what sense does it make financially to fund two educational bureaucracies? Certainly, increasing funding for public schools and their teachers is where the emphasis should be.

My research convinces me that the voucher system proposed in SB3, and actually any voucher or education savings account program that might be proposed, would work to destroy/hurt our public school system in Texas as it has in a variety of ways where it has been adopted.

My daughter went to Bastrop public schools not only because that was what was available to us and what we could afford at that time but also because we believed in public schools. The "voucher" wouldn't have helped. She got a sound educational foundation and went on to study at Northwestern and Columbia Law School and now teaches at UT Law school.

Surely, the idea of equal opportunity for all is a basic American principle held by us all and giving more to those who already have more doesn't meet that ideal. A recent survey (A to Z research) of 1,275 likely midterm voters in Texas) found majorities, being concerned about effect on local public schools and property taxes, oppose private school vouchers even under euphemistic labels.

In Texas, we have fought against and defeated proposals to install programs such as HB3 in years past because our legislators have had the wisdom to believe in the concept and ideal of a public school system. I hope that will be the case again this time!

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Dear Education Committee Members,

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Ashley Carthel

Plainview ISD

Plainview, TX

Big fat no! You vote for vouchers you are telling teachers they are worthless and useless. So glad I went into debt getting my degree for rich people to continue filling their pockets while my children may or may not get fed because of the lack of payment I get. Crazy how YOU yourselves didn't get the positions you are in without an educator.... And now you are treating us like crap on the bottom of your shoe. Shame on you.

Saadyah Averick

Self

Dallas, TX

I fully support this bill and want it passed to support my special needs son and other children to achieve a fulfilled and enriched educational experience in the great state of Texas.

Taylor Carriker-Cavin

Self, Teacher

Austin, TX

I'm a teacher in Austin ISD. I'm also a military brat who graduated from an underfunded Killeen ISD school. Additionally, I've seen firsthand how charter schools operate—I worked for one for seven years.

They are businesses. Decisions are based on profit, not on what's best for children. Private schools will not be different.

They will take public money without the accountability that comes with serving all students.

HB3 claims that 80% of vouchers will be prioritized for low-income and special education students—

You're familiar with the Child Find obligation.

Private schools are not required to conduct evaluations or provide the same level of special education services. Instead, it is the local public school district that must step in and conduct ongoing evaluations and provide services.

I hear that private schools have students with special education needs— however in just the past school year, I have been on two ARD committees for students who weren't enrolled at my school.

Their parents had chosen to homeschool or send them to private school, yet it was still my public school's funds that paid for the legal responsibility to conduct their full special education evaluations, and host committee meetings to decide appropriate service timelines.

The public school is paying the salary of the evaluator, the special education teacher, the grade level teacher on the committee, and any associated service providers like SLPs, OTs, PTs.

There is no parent contract that is going to make a private school provide services when they utilize the LEA to legally provide!

And if a private school decides it cannot accommodate a child with disabilities?

They will simply deny admission.

Where does that leave our schools in 5 years, 10 years? Gen ed students have gone to private schools, and our schools are segregated by ability.

So, if HB3 is truly about supporting special education students, why are we diverting money away from the schools legally required to serve them? The Chronic Underfunding of our schools is causing the problems hb3 proposes to pay private schools to solve. What could 7 billion dollars do to create the environment parents are seeking in a private school?

This bill doesn't provide choice or competition— it allows taxpayer dollars to flow into private institutions with no legal responsibility to our most vulnerable populations. By the way, competition does not improve anything. Research shows that collaboration is what drives innovation, competition does not.

HB3 isn't about helping students or giving families "choice."

It's about segregation and moving public money into private hands while public schools are left with fewer resources and more responsibilities.

I urge you to stand with Texas educators and reject this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Lauren Piroso
Leander ISD
Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.5 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lauren Piroso

Allison Hartman
Self
Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Allison Hartman and I am a constituent in zip code 78735. I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 3. I am asking my Representative and this Committee to vote no and to instead fully fund public education. We already have meaningful school choice in Texas - what we need are resources so that our public schools can deliver the education that each child in Texas deserves, and that which has already been mandated, with accountability and due process ensuring that delivery. We do not need resources for privatized schools to thrive with no or little accountability to the public. I don't believe proponents of this bill can point to any examples of similar laws in other states achieving any of the objectives that are the supposed motivation for this bill. To the contrary, voucher systems like this are a failed experiment, and if this bill moves forward, this will predictably harm more families than it helps. Thank you.

Laura Hoelewyn
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

I am against the school voucher program. Tax payer dollars should not be going to private schools and public schools should not be given less than private schools per student. Public tax dollars for public school students only!

Jhalima Ibrahim
Self
Houston, TX

Please reconsider this bill. It hurts public schools and the education of economically disadvantaged students. Please do not pass this bill.

Instead, allocate more money to fund our schools, to increase teacher accountability.

Tricia Gronnevik
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Victoria Rodriguez

Self

San Antonio, TX

I do not agree with my tax dollars being used to fund expensive private schools. I think this will encourage private schools to raise their prices in order to gouge money from tax paying dollars. I think we should use these funds to improve the lives of children where they are at currently.

Tobi Cornell

Self

Murphy, TX

Please do NOT approve vouchers for the state of TX. Doing so will make public education suffer. We need to increase funding to our public schools, increase teacher pay, and focus on the vast majority of students in TX who cannot afford to go to private schools. Vouchers of \$10k for each student will not help that family pay for 4+ years of private school, as this would not cover tuition, and private schools will begin raising prices which will make them even more unaffordable. What the state of TX needs to do is prioritize public education and make sure that every student, regardless of finances or background, can get the best education possible in our public school system. Please say NO to vouchers!

Clara Reyes, house wife

self

Muleshoe, TX

I was a teacher last year, I am at home with my new baby right now. I vote no for vouchers! Teachers need a raise! I doubt I will return to teaching. It is not a well paying job and insurance is extremely expensive. If you want teachers back in the classroom, give more money to districts to pay teachers. Private schools do not need the money, rich people do not a coupon (taxpayer money) to take their kids to school

Julia Wynn

Self

Austin, TX

As a Travis County property taxpayer of over 30 years, I respectfully ask that my dollars continue to go to public schools. I am opposed to the private school vouchers that will take my money away from the public schools that I have supported for many years. My own child, now 19 years old benefited from public schools and now is a successful college student. The programs in elementary, middle and high school benefited our family and I enjoyed working for public schools for 9 years as a positive contribution to our community. Please do not take money from our public schools. Austin ISD would have to pay a huge chunk that they desperately need, not to mention how the rural school districts would suffer. These communities need their public schools. People that opt for private schools should pay for that. We people that benefit from public schools, need this money for higher education should that be what is right for our child or children. Stealing from public schools to help people send a child to private schools should not be an option, should they feel such a need. There are other ways. Also, special education in public schools will suffer tremendously should this bill be passed. Many people rely heavily on this. I am a huge supporter of The ROSEDALE School & the AISD school for the deaf. Please don't take from our community schools. It is cruel and heartless.

David Duffy

Self

Dallas, TX

Private schools are private and no tax dollars should be spent on private schools. Public schools are public and free due to public taxes. Please do not use vouchers!!!!

Tammy Loran

Self

Cisco, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Daniel Gross

Self

Houston, TX

Please support this bill to allow me to choose how to best educate my children

Jennifer Hanner

Self-teacher

Abilene, TX

I am opposed to tax dollar funding being used to fund private school vouchers. This will be extremely damaging to the majority of the students who will be in public education. Private schools only accept students that they choose, and public school funding should be increased and not decreased. Myself and every single teacher I know are opposed. Politicians should listen to the majority of their constituents who are opposed rather than the billionaires pushing for this tax break for the wealthy who already have their kids in private schools.

Jillian Stanley

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I strongly disagree with HB3. I have a kindergartner and a soon to be kindergartener attending public school in Waxahachie ISD. Please do not give more money to those seeking private school education. This will not be real "choice". It is not a fair "choice" when the private schools have the power. Private schools can deny admission to any child for any reason they want. Private schools do not have to provide transportation or special education services. The majority of counties in Texas do not even have a private school option! Texas families need more money for their already struggling public schools, not a voucher that will cover a small portion to attend a school they don't even have access to, or could not afford even with a voucher. The vouchers will not completely cover the cost for private school attendance, so all it will do is give a discount to already wealthy families. HB3 will bankrupt our public schools. I am fine with private schools, and I know they are a great option for some families (close family and friends of mine) that have the financial means to attend them, but public dollars are for public schools. You will be using the tax dollars of my hardworking family and neighbors to fund benefits for the already wealthy. Our community has multiple FREE public charter school options should they choose to attend one of those. Things look good on paper, but reality is rarely the same. I'm sure you know how the same data can be used for either side of an argument. It just depends which pieces one chooses to share. Please vote in favor of our public schools. No matter how much voucher money you try to provide, public schools will still serve a majority of Texas students. Please vote accordingly. Thank you.

Chris Hinkelman, Administrative Assistant

Magnolia ISD

Magnolia, TX

Support Public Ed all the way with funding. We have a great public ed system that our forefathers set up and it works as long as it is funded properly. Just because other states have vouchers doesn't mean Texas needs to. Since when has Texas done something because another state is doing it? We haven't. That's why so many people are moving to Texas because we don't operate like everyone else does. Please don't support this Bill regarding ESA/vouchers because Governor Abbott wants you too. Vote against it because that is what your constituents want. That is who you answer to. Abbott is only wanting this because of who is pressuring him to do it, his out of state donors. You as our representatives need to do what the people in your area/districts voted you in to do. Be our voice. Everyone is commenting loud and clear not to pass ESA/vouchers. Please listen. Do Not Vote for ESA/Vouchers.

Nancy Lacoste

self

Austin, TX

As a concerned parent of school-aged children in Texas, I strongly oppose HB3 and its voucher provisions. This bill would fundamentally undermine our public education system while failing to deliver on its promises.

Public schools are the cornerstone of our communities and provide education to ALL Texas children, regardless of background, ability, or circumstance. By diverting taxpayer funds to private institutions, HB3 would strip essential resources from already underfunded public schools that serve over 5 million Texas students. The projected fiscal impact of this voucher program would create an unsustainable financial burden on our public education system for years to come.

Private schools receiving these vouchers would remain largely unaccountable to taxpayers. Unlike public schools, they aren't required to meet the same standards for academic achievement, teacher certification, or special education services. They can reject students based on disabilities, religion, academic performance, discipline history, or sexual orientation. This creates a troubling two-tiered system using public funds.

For rural communities, vouchers offer empty promises. Many areas have no private schools within reasonable distance, meaning rural families would subsidize private education for urban and suburban families while receiving no benefit themselves.

The proposed voucher amounts would cover only a fraction of private school tuition, making this program primarily beneficial to wealthier families who can afford to supplement the voucher. Meanwhile, families like mine would see our neighborhood schools lose funding, resulting in larger class sizes, fewer resources, and reduced educational opportunities.

States with similar programs have shown disappointing results. Please look at the data. They've experienced declining test scores, reduced educational quality, and increasing inequality. In some cases, fly-by-night private schools have emerged solely to collect voucher money without delivering quality education.

Rather than diverting funds away from public education, Texas should focus on fully funding our public schools so they can provide excellent education to every child. We should invest in smaller class sizes, competitive teacher salaries, modern facilities, and expanded educational programs.

I urge you to reject HB3 and instead support genuine educational improvement that benefits all Texas children. Our tax dollars should strengthen public schools that serve everyone, not subsidize private education for a few.

This isn't about school choice – it's about ensuring every Texas child has access to quality education. HB3 moves us in the wrong direction and will harm the vast majority of Texas students, including my own children. Please vote NO on HB3.

Blake Spencer
CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Conroe, TX

Protect Public Schools! DO NOT USE PUBLIC FUNDS TO SUBSIDIZE PRIVATE SCHOOLS! OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT JUST PASSED A 2 BILLION BOND AND NOW YOU WANT TO FUND PRIVATE SCHOOLS WHO AREN'T REQUIRED TO Participate in standardized testing. This is WRONG!!!!

Johanna Chen
self
Cedar Park, TX

My name is Johanna Chen and I am a parent and educator writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3 and any voucher legislation that diverts public taxpayer money toward private schooling. Vouchers have been tried before in other states and have been proven ineffective. Above all, public funds should be used to support all of Texas's kids, not provide welfare for the wealthy.

Ann Smith
Self - attorney
Mansfield, TX

I am wholeheartedly AGAINST this proposal. I don't care whether you call it an ESA or a voucher or a hot air balloon -- by any name it will decimate public education. Please vote against it -- Texas education is falling behind faster and faster, and this will only hurt us.

Matt Cruz
Self
Spring, TX

Doesnt represent teachers, Public education, or the lower class. Stop using kids as political pawns

Suzanne Payne
Public Schools
Lubbock, TX

School vouchers will hurt our lowest socio economic students the most. As a public school teacher of over 30 years, I have only taught in title 1 schools as I felt that was my calling. First of all, this bill will not be accessible to all students, although it may sound like it. Realistically, many students from lower income families have parents who work atypical hours. They would not have transportation to access a private school setting. Secondly, I feel if those funds were put back into our public schools, we could make them rival any private school in the state! If I should choose to hire a security team to protect my house, those funds should come out of my pocket. I would not expect those funds to be taken from our local police department to pay for that service. Tax payer money is to fund PUBLIC schools. Parents choosing a private education should be expected to fund that on their own. Interestingly, I have a friend who recently moved over to teaching in a private high school from public high school, and she was shocked to see that student who had spent time public school had far better reading skills than those who had attended private schools since kindergarten. I am in no way a proponent of the current STAAR test, but having accountability in public schools ensures that students have the skills needed to advance. If you have not spent time in a title 1 school, you can't imagine the deficits that are overcome to get students on grade level. But it takes a village! We have to give all public tax payer monies to public education. Lastly, I have seen many young teachers, great teachers, leaving the profession due to poor pay. Teaching is hard work and "heart" work. Those students are our children for 10 months out of the year. We know their favorite teams, their interests. We laugh with them, cry with them. And it rips our hearts out when we have to call CPS because of abuse. I've bought school supplies so every student has what they need. I've fixed a little girl's hair every morning when her mom didn't/couldn't take the time to do it. I've taken clothes home to wash when they were filthy. I've given coats to students without one. Teachers give their hearts and souls. Taking money away will hurt the ability to keep people in education. It's already hard enough to find educators. Please do not touch taxpayer money designated for public education. Thank you.

Christina Edwards

self

Austin, TX

As a tax paying citizen and constituent of Texas, I am opposed to HB3. I do not want school vouchers or school choice when the funding and our tax dollars should be going towards public schools as the priority. HB3 is not equitable and will benefit those who can already afford and already go to private schools. Keep tax dollars public.

Crystal Alarcon, Dr.

self

Muleshoe, TX

I vote no to Vouchers/school choice! Yes to teacher pay raise! We live in a small town, we do not have private schools closer than 150 miles. Does not pertain to all Texans. Only a few hundred students want a coupon to pay for their private school. Schools are very safe now with millions spent already. We are a blue ribbon school. Not all Texas want ESAs. This bill is not for every TEXANS

Kerry Ringgold, Mrs.

Joshua Christian Academy

Joshua, TX

The introduction of a school choice bill in Texas will foster healthy competition between public and private schools, ultimately improving the quality of education in both sectors. Parents should have the fundamental right to choose the best educational path for their children without being forced to financially support a public school system they do not utilize. School choice empowers families, encourages innovation, and ensures that every child has access to the education that best fits their needs.

Joni Freeman-Trudo

Self-Physician Assistant

San Antonio, TX

I am writing in reference to HB 3 and the fact that I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL. I do not support the distribution of public funds to people for a private school education because the people who are attending private school can already afford private school. I am the parent of two children, one of which has a learning disability that requires special education interventions, and taking the funding away from public schools who can provide these services is detrimental to children, and it's detrimental to the teachers who the government says they support but their actions don't say that. This bill does anything but support students and families and teachers...it takes, it does not give. And furthermore calling this school choice is BS. This is not school choice because even if a child wants to attend private school that private school does not have to accept them. Also, that private school does not have to be held to any kind of standards educationally, health related such as vaccine requirements, etc. It doesn't even have to have teachers who are actually qualified to do the damn jobs. There's a reason Texas lags so low at the bottom behind every other state in education because the policies instituted by this government and this governor are not sound practices. If people want to go to private school, they can choose to go to private school and pay for it, but not with public funds. Public funds stay in the public sector. Please release them. Do not do this to the children of Texas and the teachers of Texas. This will be detrimental. It will fail this state in every way, and if you vote to push this through you should be voted out of office. Losing these funds in the public education sector will cause loss of fine arts, loss of athletics, and UIL programs which are meant to improve and prepare students to lead productive successful lives. It will harm teachers who will then lose their jobs, possibly their retirement because there won't be enough money to pay them. The public does not support this bill and it should die.

KATHY ALLEN

Self

BURLESON, TX

Dear Members of the Texas Legislature, thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts concerning the use of tax dollars to create vouchers to help students pay for religious or private schools. I am against the use of my tax dollars for vouchers. I am against giving tax dollars to religious and private schools that have zero accountability to the state for receiving voucher funds. How can the state provide tax dollars to religious and private institutions and give them the freedom to do what they want with the funds without the same accountabilities and unfunded mandates that are placed on public schools? I am against the bureaucracy that would need to be created to distribute voucher funds to religious and private institutions. How many millions would it take to distribute the funds? A decision of this magnitude should not be made by a legislative body, instead, it should be placed on a ballot for taxpayers to decide how their tax dollars should be spent. Please listen to your constituents and give us a voice in this critical issue.

Ellen Winstead, Ms

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

John Gordon and Ellen Winstead

Elizabeth Sepper

self

Austin, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB3. The massive diversion of funding to private schools will make the rich richer and impoverish schools all over the state. Studies have shown that states enacting such give aways to private schools lose money. Fewer children are educated for far more money. Educational outcomes do not improve. Kids already attending private schools receive subsidies and then the schools raise tuition. No one wins. It is fiscally irresponsible for the state and its legislature to throw our state budget surplus to billionaire funders seeking to enrich themselves through private schooling. And it's immoral to steal from our children and deprive them of an educational system that can work for all Texans.

Megan Rieck

Self

Spring, TX

Public funds should be used equitably to lift up our existing education system. We can improve lives by supporting teachers properly with pay increases and affordable healthcare. Students need support across multiple levels - security, materials, nutrition, recreation, and most importantly equal access to a rigorous and adaptable education. Private schools are a choice and a privilege that can stay in the private sector. Public schools deserve the full attention and financial support of the state. Keep public funds out of private schools.

Kendall Harrison

Self

Buffalo Gap, TX

I am writing on behalf of myself, fellow public school educators, parents, and concerned Texas citizens. As a mother, a public school history teacher, a taxpayer, a voter, and a deeply invested community member, I urge you to oppose HB2&3 and any other school voucher programs that threaten the future of public education in Texas.

Governor Abbott and the Senate have presented a misleading narrative regarding public school funding, but my administration and local school board can tell you a much different story—one that reflects the real struggles our schools face. HB2&3 would be detrimental to Texas public schools, redirecting taxpayer dollars away from public education to fund private institutions with little to no accountability.

Where is the oversight for private schools receiving these funds? What standardized assessments will their students take to ensure academic progress? How does this bill address concerns about the separation of church and state when public dollars are funneled into private religious schools? These are fundamental questions that remain unanswered.

The truth is, this bill does not serve the majority of Texas children. It primarily benefits families already attending private schools, while public school students—especially those in rural and lower-income communities—will continue to suffer from underfunding. There is no significant evidence that vouchers will lead to a large-scale shift of public school students into private schools. Instead, HB2&3 will divert crucial funds from the public education system, leaving teachers, students, and schools with fewer resources and greater challenges.

Public education is the backbone of our state, and it is our duty to protect and strengthen it, not weaken it with ineffective and inequitable policies. I urge you to vote against HB2&3 and any voucher program that prioritizes politics over the well-being of Texas children. Instead, let's focus on fully funding and improving our public schools, ensuring every child receives the quality education they deserve.

Thank you for your time and dedication to serving the people of Texas. I hope you will stand with educators, parents, and students by opposing HB2&3.

Sincerely,

Kendall Harrison

Abilene, TX

Clelia Pena

self

Richardson, TX

I oppose HB3 because I want fully funded public education. I am a teacher at a title 1 school and I see first hand the needs of our most vulnerable students in public school. We already are short on funds, schools are closing and programs are being cut. Please consider that in order for all students to have a better education, public schools need to be better funded. Thanks.

Wendy McCurley, Mrs

Self - Accounting

Austin, TX

I am a constituent from Austin, TX and am against vouchers and for fully funded, high quality, public education. These vouchers are essentially just 'coupons' for the people that already send their kids to private school. Also, many rural areas of our state don't even have private schools to send their children to. Already, 50% of the American population reads under a 6th grade level. Our tax dollars are much better spent to provide public education for all children in our state. Tax dollars should not be used for any private institution. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Burgess, NONEOFTHESE

self - operations manager

Galveston, TX

I am a product of a Texas public school district. I am a success in my life because of the people, chances, programs, and opportunities attending public school afforded me. I grew up with a penchant for giving back to my community and carried that with me even when I moved away from my hometown school district. Now, I see my friends' children and kids I've known since they were born go through public school and benefit from programs and after-school curriculum that alleviates their parents' financial strain, that helps them learn and become better humans. The fact is that my hometown district growing up and my district now, which I contribute to as a tax payer and community member, these districts do not have readily available private schools who would accept any and all students applying to them. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy. This educational savings account is nothing more than a billionaire-funded primary that unseated hardworking and clear-eyed Republicans out of their own seats in districts where they stood up to the vouchers bill attempt in the 2023 legislative session. Resoundingly, Republicans and Democrats across the state of Texas have warned and provided real data of how much public schools stand to lose just so a small percentage of Texas families can have a little boost to paying for their own school choice. We have school choice, the program doesn't need to steal from underfunded public schools to serve who it's going to serve. Don't use public school students, teachers, staff, and their families as political pawns for our state's governor's out of touch directive. He is only listening to the wealthy few, not the many who will be hurt and suffer from defunding public schools in Texas more than they already are. I want this legislature to join work efforts and fully fund public schools, take care of our public servants in school districts, and pass legislation that makes it easier to live a self-determined life on their own terms.

Julie Licata

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 because it diverts critical public funds away from Texas public schools and funnels them into unregulated private institutions. This bill threatens the quality and accessibility of public education, particularly in rural communities that rely on public schools.

Texas is already facing a teacher shortage crisis, and underfunding public schools will only make it worse. Teachers are leaving the profession due to low pay and lack of support, and instead of addressing this, HB3 worsens the situation by draining resources from schools that need them most.

Public education is also a key driver of Texas' economy. Major employers choose where to invest based on the availability of a well-educated workforce. Without strong public schools, Texas risks losing out on business investments and high-paying jobs. 77% of Texas voters support increased funding for public schools, and up to 94% favor investments in teacher salaries, tutoring, and mental health services. Lawmakers should listen to their constituents and prioritize funding for public education.

I urge you to reject HB3 and instead invest in strengthening public schools, supporting teachers, and ensuring Texas remains a competitive, thriving economy for future generations.

Douglas Mcmichael

Self

Austin, TX

This is a taxpayer subsidy for private schools; the majority of the benefit will accrue to people already sending their kids to private schools, i.e. do not need the money—certainly not at the expense of the public school system.

David Sanchez

Self

Buda, TX

I vehemently oppose the use of public funds for non-public schools.

Julie Cavazos
Self - Meeting planner
Argyle, TX

If I can't afford to send my own child to private school, why would I pay to send someone else's child to private school?

Amy Osborn
self
Austin, TX

As a Texas voter, I strongly oppose any effort to divert public funds to private schools, regardless of how it is labeled. Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, and I urge you to fully fund existing public school mandates rather than directing taxpayer dollars to unaccountable private and religious institutions.

History has shown that in states where voucher programs with minimal oversight have been implemented, public school systems have suffered significant harm, and state budgets have faced increasing strain. Texas cannot afford to follow this path. I ask you to prioritize the needs of Texas students by fully funding our public schools and rejecting the voucher bill. Please do not allow it to pass out of committee. Our children and communities deserve strong, well-funded public schools—not policies that undermine them.

Kathy Overstreet
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I disagree with the school vouchers.

Whitney Taylor
Self- Teacher
Liberty Hill, TX

?Say NO to VOUCHERS
??Fund PUBLIC SCHOOLS
??we need \$1300 Basic Allotment per child

Jenna Cope
Self
Abilene, TX

NO! please vote no. Stop supporting billionaires and vouchers. Choose to support public schools FULLY!

Brandy Childress
Self
Red Oak, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

lisa quick
self
san antonio, TX

No to vouchers - Don't destroy our public schools

Erin McBryde
Lufkin ISD
Lufkin, TX

This will be an open door for segregation. This does not offer an even playing field. You will be voting against what the majority of voters want. You are the same people who have strangled our public schools old to death. You don't want people to be upset with you or vilanize you for pushing your agenda. You expect those of us who have given our lives for the good of our children to just get pooped on and say thank you.

April Wilson
School choice
Denton, TX

No school vouchers! Not for everyone.

Sandra Thompson, Mrs
Self
Beaumont, TX

Vote NO on HB 3! No welfare for private schools!!!

Elizabeth Wagner
Self retired
Galveston, TX

This is a bad idea and will damage our public schools

Christine Demmelmaier
Self
Austin, TX

Public funds should be used to fund public schools, NOT private schools. Vouchers are a subsidy for wealthy families who already attend private school. THAT'S it. Texas has 5.5 million public school students, and that money should be used to fully fund THEIR schools. This is non partisan. The majority of small, Republican leaning rural communities don't have a private school option. They need their public schools fully funded!
Please do not pass this voucher scam!

Jennie Lou Leeder
Self, USA Club Head Swim Coach
Sunset Valley, TX

Public schools are required by law to provide an education for all students. It does not matter if you are an average student, star athlete, a student who can barely read, a child genius, or a student who needs special services, by law you have the right to a good solid education. The public school system is being asked to teach our children on a shoestring budget. Instead of taking money away, the Texas Legislature should be voting to add money to public school funding. By voting to make vouchers legal you, the Legislature who are suppose to look out for the welfare of our state are being derelict in your duties. Giving money to your campaign donors who own these private and charter schools is unforgivable. These schools are not required to accept all students and provide for whatever needs they may have. They are not required to give state and federal mandated tests. These schools can teach what they want, how they want and when they want. To compare these schools to public schools is a farce. It is time the Texas Legislature stood for all the children in this state. To provide the best opportunities for all our students. Fund public schools and teacher salaries at the highest levels. To enable our students to have success. Stop tying their hands with inadequate funding and threats of less money. Say NO to VOUCHERS and YES to PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

Derek Ensign
self, software engineer
Austin, TX

Please do not remove my tax dollars from public schools to be given to private schools. As a former Texas school teacher, and son of a Texas school teacher, I beg you to kill this bill and idea once and for all. My public education made me who I am today and we need to increase funding for Texas public schools, not decrease it. This is not school choice, it is a handout to wealthier individuals.

Breanna Rogers
Self
Pearland, TX

As a public education teacher, I have seen public education work wonders for students. I seen kids grow every year in their knowledge and confidence. Public schools give so much more to communities than just book knowledge. As a mom of kids in public education, I've seen how much they help my children grow each year too. And I've seen how much these schools give to their communities as a whole. Vouchers will destroy this. They will make it harder for communities to build and for kids to grow. They will ruin chances for all children and only help specific families that wealthy people deem worthy of help. Public education should be fair. Vouchers will ruin Texas and cost tax payers so much.

Gracie Chavez
Self
Mabank, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Lei Lei
Self/Engineering
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Kat Murph
Self
Austin, TX

Public funds should be used to fund public schools, NOT private schools. Vouchers are a subsidy for wealthy families who already attend private school. THATS it. Texas has 5.5 million public school students, and that money should be used to fully fund THEIR schools. This is non partisan, the majority of small, Republican leaning rural communities don't have a private school option. They need their public schools fully funded.

Kathy Williams

Self, retired

Aledo, TX

I do not support school vouchers and HB3.

Public schools exist for the good of the general public. Public schools need ample public funding. There are school choices available for those who both desire and can afford such a choice just as there are mansions and Ferraris available for those who desire and can afford such luxuries. Families have been making school choices for generations. I know because I had the opportunity to attend private, parochial schools for twelve years. That was my parents' choice and they never thought it should be subsidized by the government. My mother was the principal of one of those schools and school vouchers were talked about YEARS ago. She knew it would benefit the attendance at her school but she never promoted or supported it because she also knew that it would take away from those less fortunate to have such choices in life.

Today the majority of school age children are from families that cannot afford such a choice and a \$10,000 voucher is not going to provide such a difference to them. Many of those families who live in rural counties do not even have a private school available for their children to attend. A \$10,000 voucher to those who are currently choosing private over public education will just be money in the pockets of those who HAVE. What a nice vacation it will provide those families! Meanwhile those that HAVE NOT will suffer. They will not have a fancy vacation or other such niceties. Instead their schools will be underfunded, their teachers will be overwhelmed and over burdened, and their education will suffer.

Tax dollars are not meant to pad the pockets of the rich. Tax dollars are meant to provide structure and protection to the public as a whole. If we do not offer a sound education to the majority, then not only will children and families suffer, but so will our communities. I am appreciative of the private education I had. I am equally appreciative of the public education my children were able to have, both of whom continued on to higher education. Without a solid public education children will not have such choices and their dreams will be smaller. That is the real school choice. Choose public schools for all those fresh little energetic minds as well as those with disabilities who also benefit from the structure of public education.

Protect the future of our children, our communities, and the great State of Texas. DO NOT APPROVE HB3.

Susan Hall, Ms.

self; retired teacher and current student tutor

Austin, TX

Our great state's public education schools have not received a substantial increase in basic allotment since 2019. The current proposed increase is a joke. It won't cover the materials needed for one student in an elementary classroom, much less those in secondary public education. Governor Abbott has done the 99% of students in Texas who attend public schools and their families a great disservice as he held this money hostage to get his school vouchers plan. I demand that you vote to fully fund public schools and vote against this voucher plan, or ESA's, or whatever sheep's clothing that Gov. Abbott is dressing them up in today to try to sell this scam. By any name, vouchers will defund our great public schools. I vote in every election and I will be watching today. Texans clearly do not want vouchers - voters on both sides of the aisle know it's a bad deal. Our children in public schools in Texas deserve your attention and your no vote on HB 3. With fully funded public schools, our public schools will meet any educational challenge head on and educate our children to their fullest potential. I would like for you to vote to:

* have the Basic Allotment tied to inflation indexes so Gov. Abbot cannot hold it hostage anymore

*Have the Basic Allotment become enrollment based and not attendance based

*For FULL FUNDING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS to make up for 6 years of missing funding

*VOTE NO ON THE VOUCHER/ESA BILL

Thank you,

Susan Hall

11804 Rust Rd

Austin, TX 78750

Wendy Norman
Self
Montgomery, TX

I am not opposed to vouchers, but I do feel private schools need to be held to the same standards regarding attendance, testing, curriculum, and distribution of funds in order to receive taxpayer dollars.

Adam Prachyl
Self / Teacher and Coach
Waxahachie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill ? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now? These words represent the thoughts and hearts of your constituents, your voters VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Tammy Wincott, JD
Self - Attorney
San Antonio, TX

Vote Against any rights to a school voucher and in favor of teacher raises and protections. We need more funding for our public schools not less. Any comments regarding Texas giving more to public schools is bull hockey; if, this were true, why are the public schools begging parents, students, and outsiders for simple school supplies like paper and pens in order to complete projects?! Schools aren't able to fund trips or regular curricular activities and you want to take away so we can have an even less educated Texas community. It is your job to see a bright future for Texas and its residents; therefore, you should be voting to see that even the least able person has the best chance for success and that my friends is in the public school system. If you believe that is not true, then it is the public school system that is broken and it is YOUR job to fix it not add more fuel to thee fire. If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

Janet Serrano
Self
Plano, TX

Please fund public schools and teachers. I grew up in Texas and am raising my 3 children in public schools. Parents already have the choice to pay and send their kids to private school or to homeschool. If they choose that then let them. It's not the monetary responsibility of the residents to pay for private education.

Vicki Williams
Self
Lantana, TX

This proposal is devastating to public education and primarily only benefits those who can already afford private education. This will further debase an already low ranked education system in the State of Texas. I urge you to vote no for the voucher program.

Jacquelyn Chambers

Self

Dallas, TX

Dear Representative,

As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want an Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) Program. I pay my public tax dollars and, therefore, want my money to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Public school funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had inflation of over 20%. Our children and all the educators, and staff, deserve to have the funding. To be clear, I want to reiterate the following:

? I do NOT want vouchers/ESAs.

? I support an Increase of the Basic Allotment.

? I support Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Again, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Larrew

Self

Lakeway, TX

I am opposed to HB3 and using funds currently allocated to public schools for private school education. And I am in a unique space because we are planning on sending our 4 year old to private schools. We would not accept this money. Just because we have the capacity to send our child to private schools does not mean that families who can't should have worse schools. My degree is in special education and this bill will directly impact anyone with special needs.

No one, including us, HAS to send their children to private schools. We are choosing to because we feel that the Teks and legislature have made choices about curriculum and management of schools that we do not agree with. Thankfully we can afford to send our child to private schools to avoid this. I am sure HB3 is trying to make it more affordable for more families to choose this. In our case, we would still have to pay about 20k a year with the money, which is still way out of grasp of many families. Those families need quality public schools. Quality public schools are a right and shouldn't be eroded.

An option for those of us who don't like Texas TEKS, 10 commandments, and chaplains is to move out of state to a place we like the public schools. Again, many people do not have the finances to do so, and they should not be punished with bad schools.

So I am writing to you as someone who will not use the public schools begging that you protect them.

Thank You,

Jenna Larrew

Romeo Reyes, engineer

self

Lubbock, TX

No to school vouchers! Does not apply to all TEXANS. Yes to teacher pay raise! Does apply to all TEXANS!

Darcie Crumpacker
Self
College Station, TX

As a former public educator, I can say with full confidence that this bill will only hurt our students and schools by taking critical funding away from already underfunded schools. Parents have always had a choice for sending their kids to schools with magnet schools, private schools, charter schools, and homeschooling. Taking public funding away from public schools and sending to private schools is not the answer to the problem you probably this bill to correct. To not hold private schools to the same standards of curriculum and educator certification and propose sending unequal funding doesn't make logical sense. This bill is not about one political party over another. This bill is about a redistribution of wealth that will disproportionately benefit the wealthy who can already afford to send their children to private schools. The public overwhelmingly voted against this agenda the first time it came around, and we see through the farce of it now. HB3 will not help the people you claim it is most for. There are better ways to help students most in need of better educational opportunities. Properly funding our schools, all special programs, and educator salaries to recruit and retain high quality teachers is the first step. Sending public dollars to private schools who are not held to the same standards is not the common sense solution.

Courtney Lanning
Self
Lubbock, TX

The current voucher program as it stands will ruin public education. Please consider changing it to allow people who choose to send children to private school a tax credit on their property taxes. This would allow the public school system to keep their funds where they are and give everyone a "choice" in where they choose to send their children to school. There are options to the voucher program to benefit all and as it stands nobody benefits and the children suffer the most. Please consider allowing the residents of Texas to vote on this bill instead of deciding for us.

Jaqueline Amador
self
Buda, TX

Hello,
To whom ever it may concern. I would like to speak on behalf of myself, my daughter, and all families that go to Public schools. I would like to inform you that I am a single mother. I live and support myself and daughter on one income. I cannot afford the school voucher program and I am opposed to this bill because it will affect so many low income families on receiving a good education. My daughter is flourishing in public school with amazing teachers. This idea of school vouchers for private school will cause parents and students to not be able to attend school if public schools start shutting down. Private schools costs thousands of dollars a year. the vouchers will only help a fraction of that cost. And single mothers like myself or families who are low income will not be able to afford this program. I strongly believe this will affect students. Please find it in your hearts to not pass this bill. Please vouch for our low income and single mothers. Thank you.

Linda Estrada, Mrs.
Self, Public Education Advocate
Donna, TX

Please vote NO on HB 3. We already have many public-school districts in Texas that are operating with large budget deficits because Gov. Abbott and the Legislature haven't increased their basic per-student funding allotment since 2019. Also, these public schools will continue to educate the vast majority of Texas students. Public tax dollars belong in public schools and should not be diverted to private schools and their upper-income students.

Julia Smith
Self/Freelance Nonprofit Communications
Austin, TX

What is the positive case to be made for vouchers? Certainly it couldn't be cost savings, because it's blown a hole in every state budget where it's been implemented. And it can't be improved academic performance, because the data certainly doesn't support that. It's obviously not being done out of care or concern for the children of Texas. Do you remember President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" initiative? Vouchers are DESIGNED to leave children behind. Far from promoting "school choice," they promote school decay, eroding the funding and support struggling urban schools need to survive. How do voucher proponents plan to serve the students who are left behind in the public schools they're so eager to abandon? Isn't good public policy supposed to benefit the many and not the few?

Texans do not want school vouchers. You have tried and tried to pass them, session after session, and failed. Why not take the STRONG message that the voters are sending, and stop trying to force these terrible policy ideas into law?

Your job is to serve ALL the children of Texas. To make opportunities available for EVERY child. Any law you pass that deliberately undermines that goal is a failure on your part, and a shame that will follow you for the rest of your life -- because a vote for vouchers is a vote to weaken our public school system and leave children behind. Shame on any legislator who would choose to support this misguided policy.

Rachel Rivera
Self - CPA
Flower Mound, TX

Please reconsider the ESA program. As a parent of children experiencing school closure due to underfunding, I ask that you reconsider taking additional dollars of public money away from public schools. Please increase the basic allotment to reflect the huge increase in inflation over the last 5 years.

Private schools have no accountability and ESA programs have failed in every other state. ESA programs take away from our public education system. We should all be working to improve public education as it is a benefit to our communities.

I've not met any one advocating for ESAs, please listen to your constituents, we do not want ESAs.

Thank you for your time.

Bette Winegar
Retired Teacher
Temple, TX

This bill is not parent choice. Parents already have free choice. Public school enroll all students. Private schools do not have to take all students. Those with special needs are not going to be offered the same help as they would in public schools. Public schools serve all of the children of Texas. Private schools will be able to pick and choose who they will take. Private schools are not regulated, so the students who are sent to private schools are not going to have teachers held who are held to the same standards as public schools. Please do not allow a few citizens who want to spread their religious beliefs use tax payer money to educate children about their beliefs.

Private schools will take a student into their school and they can then remove that student for various reasons, then the child is sent to a public school but the money for that child is not sent to the public school. Poor use of tax payer money.

Polly Porter
Self
Woodway, TX

I support public schools and teachers. I do not support vouchers or HB3.

Darla Scates
Self, citizen
Canyon Lake, TX

Vote NO to vouchers. They will only benefit those who already have resources.

Jennifer Hanlon Patterson
Self. Stepmom
Douglass, TX

Public education is for ALL, and vouchers should never be used to fund private schools. I have a stepson with autism, adhd, depression, and have witnessed how private schools get to select which kids they will serve. This is not what our tax dollars should fund. Instead, fully fund public schools so they can educate ALL kids.

Amanda Flores
self
Austin, TX

As a concerned Texan, I strongly oppose the school voucher program. Diverting public funds to private schools undermines our public education system when it needs support most. These vouchers often don't cover full private school tuition, making them primarily beneficial to families who can already afford the difference. Meanwhile, our public schools—especially in rural areas—are left with fewer resources.

Private schools aren't held to the same accountability standards as public schools, and many can select which students they accept. This creates a system where public schools must educate all students while operating with diminished funding. The voucher program essentially asks taxpayers to subsidize private education for a few while the majority of Texas children receive less support.

Instead of vouchers, we should focus on improving public education by increasing teacher pay, reducing class sizes, and updating facilities. Our tax dollars should strengthen the system that serves all Texas children, not create a two-tiered education system.

Averi Lewis
Self
Lubbock, TX

Vote no to HB3. No school vouchers! Fund public schools!

Jose Mendoza
Self
Austin, TX

Measures like these have proven to be harmful in other states. Keep public funds for public education.

Devin Agonis
Self - Meeting Planner
Midlothian, TX

I do not know a single person with kids in school who is in support of HB 3. As a parent with three young children (a 2nd grader in public elementary and 4 year old twins who will attend kindergarten in 2026), this bill would be detrimental to our school district. Our kids deserve the opportunity to continue attending a school that is funded appropriately and provides educational services to the community.

AMY POPE

Amy Pope

Lubbock, TX, TX

As a second generation homeschool mom, I oppose HB3. The cost of this bill is two-fold. Firstly, it opens the door to future government regulation of homeschools and private schools. Texas public schools and teachers are in great need of support. I recommend developing a solution to properly fund public education and leave private education alone, or there will eventually be no viable education alternatives for the children who need a different approach to education. When bills such as this one have been passed in other states, government regulation has inevitably crept in, even for those who have chosen not to participate in vouchers/ESAs. Please do not allow this to happen in our great state of Texas. Secondly, this bill will come at a great cost to both public and private schools. I urge the House to shut this bill down and come up with a truly conservative plan to adequately support the public education system.

Carina Reyes, Asst. City Secretary

self

Lubbock, TX

NO to taxpayer money for rich people for private schools! Teachers need a raise!

Ezriel Weinberger

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Sophie Owens

Self

Aledo, TX

Vouchers will destroy our communities

Robert Waller, Minister

Self. Retired Minister of 61 years.

North Richland Hills, TX

A rather stupid idea. It will not help those with limited means to afford a private school and the ones now affording private can still afford it. Public education needs funding now and you men have the responsibility to make their needs met. Stop this ridiculous waste of our tax money!

Brooke King

Self - School Librarian

Humble, TX

I oppose HB3 and instead want public education fully funded by increasing the basic allotment by at least \$1500.

Ashley Nichols

Self

Dallas, TX

I do not support this bill, as I do not believe that our state tax dollars should be going towards private schools. They do not have the oversight that public schools are required to have and therefore we cannot know how this money will be spent. This bill does not help low income families send their children to private schools, it is a voucher for already wealthy families who have children in private schools. Do not let this bill pass as it will only hurt average Texas families.

Stephanie Davis

Self / Nurse Practitioner

Austin, TX

Please say NO to vouchers!

Karla Rivers

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am against this bill because it will harm public schools in Texas, especially children with disabilities. I do not want my tax dollars going towards vouchers for private schools. This money is better spent on improving our public schools. Teachers have one of the most important jobs there is and giving money to private schools that sometimes include unqualified people teaching our students does not seem like a good use of tax payers money.

Michelle Heard

Self. Mom of a Texas public school student

Austin, TX

Please increase funding for public school and don't approve the vouchers bill. I'm sure there's much this can be done to improve the efficiency of how funding is spent, but taking more away won't help. Let's get in line with national averages for per student funding and fund our schools and the future of Texas, our kids, properly!

Christine Sanders

Self

Buda, TX

This bill is not in the best interest of my children or any other low income families.

MIRANDA CLARSON

Self

Cypress, TX

I homeschool and I am opposed to this bill. I homeschool to be able to teach to my child's unique needs. Education is not a one size fits all as we see with our failing public schools. One child's needs will not match another's. Therefore, I oppose any legislation that attaches generalized standards, tests, etc. to homeschool families in Texas.

Chrystal Findley

Self former public school teacher, now home educator

Italy, TX

As a conservative home educator (and former Tx public school teacher) I am opposed to any form of ESA, voucher system, tax \$ following a student, etc. This type of program is an expansion of govt interference in our lives. It expands an already too big state educational bureaucracy. Some may say just don't "opt in" to the program, but history has proved once regulation begins it does not end and will eventually extend to all private/home schooled students. I am opposed to this proposed state government expansion.

Alex Meyer

Self

Austin, TX

I support public schools and strongly oppose HB3. Fully fund our schools. If we have money for vouchers, we have money to FULLY FUND our public schools first!

Cynthia Matheson

Self

Tomball, TX

I am a registered voter in Tomball, Texas and proud to call myself a professional public school educator. I come from a family of teachers and my own children attend public schools. I speak for myself and the students in Texas (both public school and otherwise) when I say that this school voucher program is a bad deal. Texans clearly do not want vouchers- voters on both sides of the aisle have raised their concerns in person and online. Our public schools face many challenges, but with fully restored funding, they can meet those challenges and educate our Texas kids to their potential. Of course our public schools are struggling when the money already allotted to Texas children is being held hostage over this political stage. How can we best serve our students without essential staff and programs - staff and programs that state money is supposed to pay for but hasn't been released?? Homeschooling and private school parents don't want to be under the thumb of the same rules and regulations as public schools- that's why they already utilize "school choice" as it should remain.

It's no secret that Texas teachers are used to doing more with less. So taking away the resources teachers do have, and giving away their TRS retirement money on top?! It's a Texas sized boot in the gut. Please vote to FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS and VOTE NO on any voucher/ ESA bill. Again, I vote and this matters to me. Thank you.

Allison Kallenberg

self

FORT WORTH, TX

I am 100% against the school voucher program. Taking money away from public schools will not help, and Abbot should release the billions he is withholding from public education.

Daniel Ellis

Self

Woodway, TX

As a family with a special needs child, the public school in our county offers FANTASTIC resources, teachers and opportunities for him to thrive. We DO NOT want private school but want him to be a part of the public school system where he currently is receiving the special programming he needs to be a member of society. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE AWAY STATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH VOUCHERS. What a slap in the face to teachers who have made that their career!

Sharon Goh

Self

Austin, TX

I am against HB3 for the following reasons:

Drains Public School Funding: Reduces resources for already underfunded public schools.

Lack of Accountability: Less oversight for private schools, raising concerns about standards and fund use.

Increased Segregation: Can exacerbate racial and socioeconomic disparities.

Harm to Students with Disabilities: Private schools may not provide adequate special education services.

Potential for Misuse: Risk of taxpayer funds being misused.

Church-State Separation Issues: Concerns about public funds supporting religious education.

Rural Disadvantage: Limited private options in rural areas further harms public schools.

Jennie King
Self/registered nurse
Buda, TX

I oppose this bill as I believe every child deserves the same opportunities to receive a quality education! Not just the wealthy! Put our tax dollars back into our public schools!

TIFFANY ROBERSON
Self - CPA, rural public school parent
DEVINE, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any bills related to education savings accounts (ESAs) or school vouchers. As a conservative Republican resident of a rural area, I am deeply concerned that diverting funds from public schools will severely harm our local school districts, which are already underfunded and struggling to meet the needs of students and teachers.

This is not about helping children—it is about shifting benefits to private schools and vendors who would oversee ESAs and vouchers. The corruption is blatant, and it is unacceptable. We already have school choice.

I urge you to let the people vote on this in the next election, rather than relying on paid pollsters or misleading ballot language that provided little detail. The people in our community overwhelmingly oppose these measures, yet it seems our voices are being ignored in favor of large donors who are influencing votes. As a conservative Republican, I find it outrageous that our representatives are not standing up for their rural communities.

ESAs and vouchers have failed in many other states, draining public education funds without delivering real benefits. Look at the disastrous rollouts in Arizona and Iowa, where costs have spiraled out of control, and families who were already paying for private school benefited the most—while public school students were left behind. Listen to our teachers.

If you truly represent us, then stand up for what you were elected to do: be the voice of the people. Read the hundreds of comments on Governor Abbott's social media posts—most Texans do not support this. I don't know a single person, Republican or Democrat, who is for this. Even my friends who homeschool or send their children to private schools are against it.

I pray that you choose to listen to the people you are required to represent—not the donors/vendors trying to buy our education system.

Jessica Levesque, Dr
Parents of schoolchildren in Texas
Austin, TX

I am the mother of 4 children. 3 are school aged who attend public schools in Texas. Special programs are being cut in school districts all across Texas. There is talk about stopping busses for some districts to save money. There are districts going to 4 day school weeks to save money. There are staff and teachers being fired to save money. Our schools are in need of better funding for teachers, staff, supplies, and facilities. School vouchers will take more funding away from our public schools. Governor Abbott was quoted stating this fact. School vouchers will only go to 100,000 of the 5.5 million Texas school children in Texas. The amount that is proposed to go towards a voucher \$10,000 versus public school students is \$6,000. This is unfair. Governor Abbott has stated that this has been done in other states. Yes, it has; and the voucher programs have failed. We do not want to fail our children. We do not want to take funds away from schools across Texas that are already struggling. Let's Make Public Schools in Texas Great Again! Let's invest our public funds in the public education of our little Texans. 5.5 million little Texans who are our future. 5.5 million Texans who deserve the best education possible. Let's not forget that there are many districts who do not have access to private education and those districts would not be able to utilize the voucher program. Let's not forget that the price of many of these private education programs is double that of the vouchers and will not provide access to lower income families. This program is not to help the majority of the 5.5 million Texas school children, it is for the select few. Millions of your constituents do not want this. 5.5 million Texas school children are counting on you for the support of their education. 5.5 million Texas school children want their schools to remain open. Make Texas Education Great Again! Vote No to school vouchers. Vote for the future of our children and public schools. No to school vouchers!

Amy Sue, Mrs
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose this bill. As a homeschool parent, I ask that Texas not intermingle bureaucracy with homeschooling. Thank you.

Richard Murphy, Dr
Self
Austin, TX

My name is Dr Richard Murphy, I'm a tenured professor of Economics at the University Texas at Austin, and I have been researching the causal impacts of education programs for 20 years.

As an economist I believe in the beneficial effects of market forces in competitive markets. There is excellent empirical research showing that competition between public sector schools, within a district, improves student outcomes, especially in the lowest performing schools. However, economic research from other states (Ohio Indiana ,Cleveland, Milwaukee, Louisiana) shows that students who are admitted to private schools through a voucher program perform significantly worse than if they had stayed in the public sector. Why is this the case?

The primary reason is because the 'education market' is not a competitive market. For the school choice market to be competitive parents have to be 'informed consumers', they need to be able to compare the quality of schools. In the public sector, parents can compare using school ratings. However without additional state oversight there will be no common benchmark between private and public schools in Texas. Parents making the important choice about where to send their child will be underinformed, meaning that schools may focus more on advertising rather than student achievement. If there is going to be a choice, at least let the parents be as informed as they can be by compelling private schools that accept vouchers to publish test score results of students that receive vouchers.

This is not a panacea however, even in Ohio where private schools are required to publish average test scores for students participating in their EdChoice program, students that move from the public to the private sector experience a drop in test scores. A common economic explanation is that it is rational for only the private schools who have trouble filling their spots to accept students on vouchers, which would be the lower quality schools if parents are acting rationally. So, parents are not getting the best of private school experience, but the worst.

Finally, parents are unlikely to get access to the best schools even with the help of vouchers as the popular private schools will raise prices in line with the subsidy. This is known as the 'pass-through rate', and is common with any government subsidy. Sometimes it is referred to as the Bennett hypothesis coined by the Secretary of Education William Bennett, who was concerned that increasing federal student loans allows universities to increase tuition fees. Providing state vouchers will do the same for private school fees, meaning that popular private schools will continue to be out of reach for most families.

Please contact me at my UT Austin email address if you have any questions.

Anne McCready Heinen
self, retired
Austin, TX

I am a parent of three children who went to Texas public schools. That the legislature would funnel money away from public education is a money grab and wrong. I strongly oppose it. In Austin alone, the already beleaguered school district will be drained of \$18million, which will lead to fewer resources for students and teachers, increased inequity, larger class sizes, and less opportunity. Writ large across the entire state, it's easy to document how this will not serve Texas schoolchildren and the future of our state and the country — unless, of course, you want the populace to be less educated. Isn't that part of Project 2025?

Rebecca Barbier

self

Houston, TX

Texas touts on being a leader but we fail miserably in educating our youth. Using limited tax dollars to fund 100K students isn't leading in education. It is setting the stage for education to be strictly for profit or to settle on subpar. It doesn't matter what other states are doing or what the Fed's want, we need to fund our public schools so that we attract the best teachers and we provided EVERY child with adequate education that sets them up for success. Until private schools, charters schools and homeschools are held to all the same rules, curriculum, mandates, testing, evaluations, certifications, etc as our public schools, they should not be entitled to a single tax dollar. This is an attempt to undermine what voters from both parties have been screaming in Austin - Texans do NOT want vouchers. Out of state Billionaires and Abbott backers do - that's why they funded campaigns that ran out any representative that aligned themselves against vouchers. IF Austin believes that this is truly what Texans want, its an easy fix - prepare the bill and then LET US VOTE!!! Its our money so put it on the ballot. Why wouldn't you?

Kristina Lange, Dr.

Self

College Station, TX

It is extremely unfortunate that we have to even be having this discussion. Quality education should be FREE for EVERYONE. This includes students with special needs. On top of that. My tax dollars should fund MY school. This will create a hierarchy on purpose. As an educator, this will also affect my retirement funds. I did not vote for this. I do not condone this. Education is for EVERYONE.

Ally Thompson, Miss

Self

Beaumont, TX

No welfare for private schools! Vote NO on HB 3!!!!

Caleb Rogers

Frisco ISD

Dallas, TX

HB3 should not be considered.

Laura Kelly

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

William Lehner

Self

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Erin Dickerman

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

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2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Sarah Rivlin

Community Voices for Public Education

Houston, TX

Please oppose HB 3. As a teacher, my school is already completely underfunded. We simply don't have enough staff in the building to ensure the safety of our students and our staff. Gov. Abbott himself admitted in a Feb. 12 X post that when families leave a school, funds leave with them. If even a small handful of students leave my school, we will lose even more staff.

In addition, I am concerned that vendors like ClassWallet and Odyssey will be benefitting from their access to taxpayer money at the expense of taxpayers, as they have done in other states with vouchers. We have already seen this happen. Why are there still inadequate guardrails in the bill to prevent this?

Diana Carranza
Self - Business Owner
Desoto, TX

I am writing to express my deep concerns about House Bill 3 and as your constituent, I urge you to vote against its passage. This bill proposes a school voucher program that would divert public funds—an estimated \$1 billion over two years—from already underfunded public schools to subsidize private education. Texas public schools serve over 5.5 million children and are struggling with severe financial challenges, often forced to cut staff and resources. Redirecting these vital funds will further strain public schools, leaving the majority of Texas students in more dire conditions and widening the gap in access to quality education. Public schools are the bedrock of our communities, and their ability to provide equitable education opportunities should not be sacrificed.

Additionally, HB 3 lacks sufficient accountability measures for private schools receiving taxpayer dollars. Unlike public schools, private institutions are not held to the same oversight standards, particularly regarding standardized testing and services for students with disabilities. This creates a two-tiered system where public schools face strict accountability while private schools operate with minimal transparency, leaving students and families vulnerable. Furthermore, the proposed voucher amounts are insufficient to cover the full cost of private education, putting low-income families at a disadvantage and exacerbating educational inequities. Texas should prioritize strengthening its public education system, not undermining it with initiatives that fail to serve the majority of its students. I respectfully urge you to consider these impacts and vote no on House Bill 3.

Michelle Mock
All the children in Texas, especially lower economic children
Navasota, TX

Vote no to sea, vouchers or whatever you call them. FULLY FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!!! Visit the public schools in your district and all across Texas. You will see the many great things that happen everyday! You will also see how lack of funding is a problem. Feel free to call me anytime. I'd love the opportunity to talk to you. Let's do a 4 way call with Abbott and Morath.

Victoria McCrary
self, marketing
Houston, TX

As a concerned resident of Houston, Texas, I urge the Texas House of Representatives to reject HB 3 and the educational savings account (ESA) program. This program would benefit only a small fraction of students while draining essential resources from public schools, leaving the vast majority of Texas students worse off. Investing in public education is the most effective way to ensure that all Texas students have equal access to a quality education. The ESA program is not about "school choice"—it's a diversion of public funds to private interests, pushed by Governor Abbott and billionaire donors, despite opposition from Texans across the political spectrum. Texans deserve strong, well-funded public schools that serve every student, not a program that prioritizes a select few at the expense of the many. Please vote NO on HB 3.

Quynh Nguyen

Self

Houston, TX

I am against this bill because it takes away funding from our public schools, from the families and communities that depends on public education. By passing this bill it will mainly help subsidize and fund already rich private schools and families. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the HB 3 Buckley Bill. This bill threatens to take away critical funding from public education, which is vital to the success of our students and the well-being of families in our community.

Public education serves as the foundation for our children's future, and by reducing funding, we are undermining their ability to receive a quality education. Without proper funding, schools will face difficult choices such as larger class sizes, reduced extracurricular activities, and fewer resources for students and teachers. This not only harms the students, but also puts a strain on the families who rely on public schools to provide educational opportunities, especially for those who cannot afford private education.

Additionally, this bill could have devastating long-term effects on our local economy and the future workforce. Education is key to building a strong, skilled workforce that can contribute to the success of our state and country. By decreasing investment in public education, we risk limiting opportunities for future generations.

I urge you to reconsider the provisions of this bill that cut funding to public education. Instead, I encourage lawmakers to focus on ensuring that public schools are adequately funded so that all students, regardless of their background or economic status, have access to the quality education they deserve.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I hope you will take these concerns seriously and work towards solutions that prioritize the future of our children and families.

Teresa Faulkenberry

Self, retired teacher

Abilene, TX

Vouchers are not the answer!! As a retired teacher, and a grandparent of three public school students and one private school student, we are all in agreement! My private school parents are NOT in favor of school vouchers, either! There is no state accountability for schools and teachers in the voucher plan. I strongly encourage you to vote AGAINST THE VOUCHER PLAN! Vote NO!

Renee Henderson

Self

Leander, TX

I do not support school vouchers for the state of Texas. It is not good for our children and specifically for those with 504s and IEPs. Vouchers will eliminate the middle class in the long run due to increased separation between the Have and Have not. The best teachers will move to private schools leaving our public schools with new or less competent teachers for those students that can't afford private schools (once they raise the price 10k/voucher amounts). The students who have no choice will not have an equal education. Look at the state of Louisiana for reference (catholic schools vs their public schools) and tell me I'm wrong. Please fund our public schools!!! Please support the next generation whom will be caring for you as a senior citizen. You WANT that person to have a good education.

Karen Reid

Self

Royse City, TX

NO VOUCHERS. Our public schools need to be supported. Same allocation as HB2.

Rachel McKee
Self
Round Rock, TX

Focus on fixing what is wrong with our public schools, not encouraging people to leave them!!!

Kristen Harford
Self
Weatherford, TX

Vouchers will only help the citizens who need the least help. They will hurt our students — those who can never afford a private school or who don't have the means to attend an independent charter school, and even my well provided for children included. Vouchers will take away from children, cost the state too much pretty quickly down the road, and involve more government oversight on private schools. And the state government doesn't have the tools to have oversight on many of the other laws on the books, so why add another unnecessary job to the list? Keep public funds in public education. Find educators who care about students — not \$\$ — who can identify solutions. They are in our public schools right now and have great ideas. Please do not pass this law.

Amy Miskovsky
Self
Austin, TX

I am a parent of students in both private and public schools, and I oppose this bill.

Public dollars should stay in public education. School vouchers are taxpayer-funded subsidies given to private schools and vendors without any transparency or oversight.

Private schools are not required to accept all students, assess alignment to state curriculum, or track student progress. They do not have reporting or accountability for the use of taxpayer funds or student performance. Private schools also do not have to provide special education services for students with learning differences or disabilities.

For these reasons, I oppose this bill.

David Stasey
Self
ANNETTA, TX

HB 3 will damage Texas public education kids especially those families in Rural counties as they have no private school options. This will raise education costs to all Tax payers for the benefit of a few in Urban areas with access and ability. Please do not support this bill, it is bad for Texas. Don't constitutional job and fully fund public schools for the benefit of all Texans. Have good day.

BLANCA GALVEZ-PEREZ
self
Pflugerville, TX

VOUCHERS are a scam, we need more allotment to give the right services to our students who are in the public system.

Maricela Torres

Self

Red Oak, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Why is it even being considered for PUBLIC TAX DOLLARS to be used for a PRIVATE purpose? Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. Ask yourself, who are you truly representing and who you will have the most impact on when you vote. You will only be making the rich, richer if you vote in favor of this bill. Please vote in favor of ALL children in Texas and vote NO.

mary sullivan

self - non profit marketing professional

austin, TX

I oppose this bill and the school voucher program.

Demitra Xidas

Demitra Xidas

San Antonio, TX

I am all for vouchers. Public schools need to perform much much better if they want parents to respect their schools and send their children to school. Get back to basics.

Writing Math Reading Science and History Geography English. It is very upsetting and disappointing to see that we spend the most per capita and are at the bottom when ranked with the rest of the world. Be better. Administrators should be striving to foster and environment for learning. Discipline is important. Give the responsibility back to teachers. It is their class room. I am FOR the VOUCHER PROGRAM. Competition is good. It will produce desired results and lift everyone's boat eventually. I taught in these schools and even in Texas ridiculous ideology has crept in. New guidelines need to be administered by the state. Get rid of the Department of Education. We were much better before Carter created this useless organization wasting our tax dollars. I am totally against the bill that is being put forth. When neighborhood schools do better they will not have to worry about voucher programs. Their results will speak for themselves. Compete! Spirit of this country. Compete. Care and competency is what is needed and what I see lacking.

Anne-Marie Roundtree-Faul

Self

Katy, TX

I have been a public school teacher for 15 years. I have a Bachelor's, A Masters, and am Nationally Board Certified. My salary is less than 10,000 more than a first year teacher. Despite receiving high ratings and student achievement my salary has stagnated. I can't save because I spend my money on my classroom, students and the raises I receive don't match cost of living increases. Now, this bill threatens my retirement savings. Fully fund public education where 90% of children are educated. Pay teachers fairly. I'm watching young teachers flee the profession year after year. I love being a teacher. Even I have considered leaving.

Clark Flinn

Self

Buda, TX

To Texas Law makers:

My name is Clark Flinn, and I am a Registered Nurse in the central Texas area. My wife is a elementary public school teacher in Lockhart. Both of us are lifelong Texans and have our roots in rural Texas.

I write to you today to voice my disapproval for HB3, the school voucher/"choice" proposal.

Education is a right to ALL Texas children. Public education, without question, offers ALL children an equitable start in life. It does not matter if you are poor, rich, black, white, hispanic, disabled: the public school system is designed to give ALL children the opportunity to succeed in life. It is a bedrock principle of a democratic society. My tax dollars are for the funding of this system.

HB3 does not honor that principle. It creates the guise of "school choice" by taking OUR tax dollars to directly fund private school entities. Private schools do not have the obligation to educate the populace; they exist to serve the children whose parents can afford to attend. Ten thousand dollars will not give any underserved child an opportunity to attend a private school, if they will even be allowed to attend in the first place.

Diverting thus funding from our already neglected public school system will cripple the vast majority of rural, underserving school districts. These districts are the foundation of MANY rural communities across Texas. Many of them will cease to exist. Those communities will disappear from the gutting HB3 will promote. Teachers will lose jobs, students will be left without schools who care for them. Communities will be fractured permanently.

HB3 is nothing but a bill designed to enrich the private school sector and those who have children enrolled in one already. HB3 is a subsidy for the rich and powerful. HB3 is a handout of OUR tax dollars to the billionaire interests who own private schools across the nation. HB3 is an attack on our rights as Texans, and our children's rights to access EQUITABLE AND EQUAL education opportunities.

A vote FOR this bill is a vote AGAINST Texas children. If you TRULY cared about Texas children and protecting their rights, you would stand up against this bill and deny its passage. Do what's right for Texans.

Clark Flinn, BSN, RN

Julie Goldmann

Self

Austin, TX

This bill must be rejected. We already have school choice. The money given to vouchers enables wealthy families to subsidize their PRIVATE schools or home schooling without any proper oversight AND takes away money from our public school system. Enough is enough. Stop buying into this scam.

Diane Smith

Self - retired public education teacher

GEORGETOWN, TX

I oppose HB 3 because it will weaken public schools where the majority of children are taught. It will primarily help wealthy parents whose children are already in private schools. Many rural counties don't even have private schools. There is only much state money available in any given year. What if we don't have a surplus?

Rafael Ruiz

Self

austin, TX

I am against this bill. Stripping the terminology away, the voucher program is in short, a way to take public funds provided by taxpayers to support private schools. Many Texans have voted against bills like this but again and again, a variation of this bill keeps resurfacing. This is a classic pattern of destabilizing, defunding then privatizing. While richer Texans (who can pay for the full tuition of such schools) benefit, it leaves the rest of Texans holding the bag to pay for an education system that punishes the poor students. Having gone through the AISD and UT systems during my entire education, I had the benefit of learning side by side with students from different backgrounds and with different financial statuses. It enriched my view of the world and has helped me in every aspect of what I achieved in life. Don't deny future generations of young Texans the same privilege.

catherine bremer, Ms

self; animal caretaker at Thundering Paws

Blanco, TX

No on School vouchers. I don't want our public schools defunded. many rural areas don't even have private schools.

Rachel McCleery

Self

Mansfield, TX

I am writing to oppose the creation of a school voucher system. As a parent and public educator, I would like my tax dollars to support public education. The creation of a voucher system takes from already underserved and underfunded populations and gives to those who do not necessarily need it. Please increase the public school allotment by \$1500. Thank you.

Angela Smith, Dr.

self

Carrollton, TX

Money tagged for spending in HB3 should be spent on public schools. There is not enough money to actually provide school choice to all public school students. In addition, a portion of the funding would go to administering the bill, which is a waste of public funds. As a life-long public educator, I have been witness to the state under-funding and over-testing public schools and then saying they are failing. This bill is a slap in the face to all public educators who have taken multiple certification tests (required by the state), attended hours of professional development each year (required by the state), and worked diligently to provide a quality education to all students they serve. The governor and sponsors of this bill have betrayed the parents of Texas whose students attend public school by refusing to increase funding and introducing this bill instead. For real examples of the lack of true funding for public schools, take a look at the DonorsChoose website and the number of Texas teachers who are requesting funding for materials to teach with. This is a disgrace to our state. Teachers shouldn't have to beg for money to buy books and supplies for their students. The state government should not be providing funds that would go to for-profit or charter schools who are not required to follow admission or testing guidelines public schools are required to follow. Public schools should receive this money for use for all students, not only the few that could benefit from HB3.

JACOB HEYDEMANN

self

El Paso, TX

I went to public school my children went to public schools in Texas ,we need to support the public schools they are the foundation for our future. Our children's minds and bodies need to be fed so that we have the economic workforce needed for our future. Taking our public tax dollars to support private business in education will not benefit the majority of Texans, it will only weaken our public education that is mandated for all Texans. What about the rural population , the special needs students ,those families that can not provide transportation ? Our teachers need proper compensation . Our schools need to be safe havens for all children . Sometimes the school is the only place a child will get a good meal. Texas has a diverse population, public schools embrace that diversity. Not everything is made better by privatization. Please use the funds properly to make our public schools the best . That is the way to make the future of Texas even brighter. Thank you

Eliza Jeffords

Self

Cibolo, TX

Vote no. Vouchers will only benefit people who already have enough money to send their kids to private school because \$10,000 is not enough to cover it, and there are many people who don't even have a private school as an option within a reasonable distance, rendering vouchers not as school choice but subsidy for the rich!

Abigail Minor

Self, teacher

Socorro, TX

Greetings, I oppose HB3 and any voucher funding scheme to funnel money away from public schools. Private and charter schools do not have elected boards or public oversight, such that they can be run like businesses where students are products. Teachers in private and charter schools are not usually represented by strong local unions. I am a public school educator, and so is my husband. We are both union members. We both attended public schools growing up, and our son (when he is old enough) will attend public schools. If parents wish to send their child to a private or charter school, they may— but not at the expense of public schools. Everyone in a community is expected to pay taxes toward public schools, whether their kids attend them or not. We already know public schools are hurting for funding— taking away more money from them will only do them harm. Please oppose any voucher program. Thank you,
Abigail Minor

Detrick DeBurr

Self

The Colony, TX

I am against any voucher program until public schools are adequately funded to keep up with inflation.

Karey Skiermont

self - parent and attorney

Southlake, TX

Public schools are the backbone of our democracy, but they have been inexplicably underfunded by the Texas Legislature for years. Vouchers will do nothing but undercut them further, and line the pockets of those donors who are pumping millions into the pro-voucher campaign. Vouchers will not help students who are not within range of a private school (i.e., much of the rural population), cannot afford the cost of tuition even with a voucher (i.e., much of the population of the so-called "failing" public schools which are dying for lack of funds), and will only serve to help parents whose children are already in private school. It's a scam on the people of Texas who believe that we are only as strong as our weakest link, and a boon to the fat cats, if vouchers are passed. This public school parent says NO!

Angela Manuel, Mrs.

Self - homemaker

Bryan, TX

This is a bad bill. In states which have passed such a measure it is statistically proven to overwhelmingly benefit the rich. It removes funds from already underfunded public schools. We rank at the bottom of state funding for schools, which is absolutely an embarrassment to our state. Please don't make it worse.

Laura Ramirez-Mann

Self

Buda, TX

I am strongly opposed using public funds to provide vouchers to families who would prefer to send their children to private schools. My tax dollars should not fund people's personal choice to not go to public schools. Choosing to take away dollars from public schools for a personal choice, seems ludicrous. These dollars should be going to getting teachers certificated, facilities updated, supplies for teachers and students, and support staff that will better our schools. Otherwise if we gut public school funding, it will be a self fulfilling prophecy that schools will fail. Instead of setting our public schools up for failure, we need to set public schools up for success. Vouchers are not the answer to better education. It is a way to provide welfare to the wealthy and/or religious individuals who want to abuse our tax dollars. Vote against school vouchers and FUND public schools.

Natalie McKay

Self

Kennedale, TX

Vote no to HB3. I have children in both public and private schools. If our state would FULLY invest in public schools our communities would thrive, not divide. Homeschool families do not want this. Private schools don't want to answer to the government. Parents and schools have always had a choice. Fully fund public schools. Treat teachers with the dignity they deserve and stop driving them away from the profession. Texas should be in the top 5 in education. Why are we not asking what Massachusetts has been doing for the past 10 years?? They have a globally ranked PUBLIC education system right here in the USA without ESA's. We are capable of having that, but that's not what this is about. You're puppets for the billionaires who fund your campaigns. Our public schools are being sold to the highest bidder to be destroyed so we can have Christian private schools rule the land. We don't want it!

Katherine Brown

Self

Lubbock, TX

School choice already exists, as parents are allowed to transfer their children to other schools. Please do not take funding allocated to public schools for these vouchers, as we are so proud of the public school education and access our students have now. Private schools will not start accepting just any students, we know this, and it doesn't necessarily guarantee a better education. Let's support our teachers and ALL students, and we know this bill is insanely unpopular. Please support our fellow Texans and students and not push through this school voucher program.

Quynh-Huong Nguyen
NAKASEC Action Fund Texas
Houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Quynh-Huong Nguyen, and I am here to voice my opposition to H.B.A No. 3, which mandates armed security officers in public schools. While intended to enhance safety, this bill disproportionately harms many communities, misallocates resources, and fails to address the root causes of violence.

Increased Policing Harms Vulnerable Students

Requiring armed security in every school will not prevent all incidents of violence but will increase student criminalization, especially among low socioeconomic and disabled students. Studies show that schools with heavy police presence experience more student arrests for minor infractions, exacerbating the school-to-prison pipeline. A safer school environment is built through support and prevention, not force.

Students in underfunded schools already experience heightened surveillance. More security does not mean more safety—it means more discipline, disproportionately affecting students of color, low socioeconomic students, and disabled students. Instead, we should invest in programs that promote well-being and conflict resolution.

Texas schools are already struggling financially. Mandating funding for armed personnel diverts money away from essential services such as mental health support, special education, teacher salaries and other educational resources. This bill ignores the real needs of students by prioritizing a security infrastructure that does little to prevent violence.

Rather than increasing police presence, Texas should invest in funding school-based mental health professionals, expand programs to de-escalate conflicts, invest in violence prevention initiatives, and ensure safety measures do not disproportionately harm marginalized students.

Texas children deserve schools that nurture and support them, not ones that police them. I strongly urge the rejection of H.B.A No. 3 in its current form in favor of solutions that create fundamental safety and equity in education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anne Johnston
slef
Austin, TX

The idea of school vouchers are absurd. I want my children to go to public school because it offers the most opportunities for education, exposure to all different types of people. Being able to spend time with people who live around you in all different socioeconomic situations is how you learn cooperation and empathy. A properly funded public school can offer more opportunities than private school. Our district recently got rid of the IB programs (which I was able to do as a high school student in a public school in Houston). Taking away these options to ALL students in the public school system is going to greatly diminish the open-mindedness of future generations. Please think of our children's futures rather than our wealth accumulation. Sincerely, Anne Johnston

Bryan Armes

Teachers

Lubbock, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and SB 2, which would divert critical taxpayer dollars from our public schools to private institutions through an expensive voucher scheme.

At an initial cost of \$1 billion in just the first two years, HB 3 threatens to drain resources that should be invested in strengthening Texas public schools. The financial burden will only grow over time, pulling even more funding away from the vast majority of students who rely on public education.

Voucher programs in other states have disproportionately benefited wealthier families while failing to improve overall student outcomes. Meanwhile, many low-income families, even with a voucher, are left unable to afford private school tuition. Texas should not follow the same failed path.

Public tax dollars should support public schools, not subsidize private education for a select few. I strongly oppose any effort to fund private school tuition through education savings accounts, tax-credit scholarships, or other voucher-style programs that undermine public education.

Texas students deserve strong, well-funded public schools. Please stand with educators, families, and communities by voting NO on HB 3 and SB 2.

Olga Anderson, Mrs

TSTA/NEA

Lancaster, TX

Please vote no to this lehislatr

Neyluz Dominguez

self

Pasadena, TX

Do not vote for this bill. Our public schools need funding and this bill diverts tax payers dollars from our public schools. We need public schools money to stay in public schools which is where the majority of children in Texas go.

Samantha De La Torre

Self, cooking instructor

Austin, TX

I oppose any publicly funded school voucher programs. Tax dollars should be going to public schools who serve all, not used for private schools who can deny access to anyone for any reason. These programs have caused other states to lose money in their budget! And they only serve to give a discount to wealthy families who can already afford private schools. Children who do not live near a private school or cannot afford it will have their education affected by a voucher program. My daughter attends Summitt Elementary school. She loves it and is thriving. She is already reading level two books and excels in every category of MAP testing. She deserves this education. Her friends deserve their education. Every kid across the state deserves a good education free from budgeting hindrances.

Keith Everett, Mr
self
Bastrop, TX

Having been a teacher for many years but now retired, I support public education in every way possible. Both my daughters are teachers - one in Texas and one in Florida. My daughter in Texas's job will be unduly influenced if the school voucher program is voted into practice. What is fair about private schools getting \$10,000 per students while public schools only get \$6500 per student. What is fair about private schools not having to prove attendance or lose money while public schools diligently keep attendance so they don't lose funding. What is fair about private schools being able to drop students who have problems while Public schools have to make plans for all students with all learning disabilities - emotional or physical. What is fair about rural neighborhoods with limited access to private schools they can afford being given less money and less opportunities within the public school system which will be underfunded. The political influence to get enough votes to pass this legislation when the majority of voters in Texas are against it, just not right or moral. Our legislatures need to start representing the will of the people and not the will of our governor. Please vote no to passing this legislation.

Carrie Jones
self
Dripping Springs, TX

Texas has been defunding public education for decades. Instead of allocating more of our tax dollars to private schools, let's fully fund public education. Parents have always had school choice; the majority of us prefer to send their children to quality public schools!

Sabrina Shaw
Self
Arlington, TX

Kill this bill!

Brian Phillips
Self
Kyle, TX

Parents deserve the right to choose the best education for their child. I support HB3 to give parents more and better options. The research is clear that school choice helps all kids, especially those in low-income families. Texas needs school choice now!

Karl Fickling, Dr.
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

Best wishes to all families that would choose to use private schools to educate their children. But that doesn't mean the rest of us should help pay for them to do so with our tax dollars. You've got all the reasons already before you (from religious objections, separation of church and state, harm to public school funding, etc.), and now we are possibly facing the need for more revenue if the national Education Department. So, just add my name to those asking you to NOT approve a "voucher" system," or savings account program, for education in Texas. Thank you.

Ann Towers
Self
Woodway, TX

Vote NO. This is selling your soul to wealthy donors with special interests. It is also a tax break for the wealthy. No, no, no

Lupe Vega
Myself
Waxahachie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

William Landers
Self
Bryan, TX

First and foremost I would like to preface what I am about to say with the fact I am a single adult with no children. I am making this comment as someone who will not benefit directly from private or public schools receiving additional public funds.

This ticket is simply a way to continue to de-fund and lower the quality of our public school system. The vouchers will be discounts for people who can already afford to send their kids to private schools and will not help any of the currently under privileged communities. If you want to actually do something useful for the school systems in Texas modify the Homestead exemption from removing tax dollars from our already underfunded schools and take it out of the \$24 Billion surplus that the state budget had last year. This would keep home taxes low (relatively) for the people of our state while putting the money that schools needs for building updates, teacher raises, supplies, and anything else back where it belongs.

Nick DiVincenzo
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am a parent who opposes HB 3 and any private school vouchers. Our kids and teachers deserve fully public funded schools. Tax payer money should be for public schools and not given to private schools and without any accountability. If people choose to send their kids to private schools they have the right to do so and can do so at their own cost.

Mackenzie Boyer
HISD
Houston, TX

As a public school teacher, I am deeply concerned about this bill being passed. Public education is in dire need of more funding. Redirecting funds to individuals to send their children to private and charter schools will result in fewer children getting a quality education and their various needs met. This bill will negatively impact families in Texas.

Megan Peglar, Rev.

Self

Austin, TX

Public funds should be directed to public schools, not private entities. I was educated in Texas public schools (San Antonio ISD, Waco ISD, and Galveston ISD) and went on to get my Bachelor's degree at TCU and my Master of Divinity at Brite Divinity School. In all of my public schools (of which there were many, because my family moved quite a bit), I was taught by caring, excellent teachers and was able to get to know other kids from all backgrounds. In the classroom and in extracurricular activities, I gained so much knowledge! My two (now adult) stepchildren were educated in public schools, and my beloved niece and nephews are in the public school system now. I shudder to think about this bill passing and taking away necessary resources from their schools. If we want a well-functioning society, we must equip every public school with the resources they need to deliver quality education that prepares every child for the future, no matter their color, where they live, their religious faith, or how much money their parents make. I have a problem with tax dollars going to religious schools that aren't accountable to taxpayers. Vouchers benefit wealthy families who can already afford private tuition, leaving working-class and rural families behind. Students with disabilities lose protections under federal and state law if they use a voucher to attend a private school. Texas schools are already underfunded. Instead of defunding them further, I urge you to fully fund our public schools. They could be the pride of Texas, if only you would support them.

Monica Trevino

Parent

Allen, TX

Vouchers will do irreparable damage to our public schools who educate the majority of our students.. Please vote NO!!

Nicole Manning

Self, unemployed

Selma, TX

Vote no!! This will destroy the public school system which is already struggling. Plus giving tax payer money to religious schools violates the separation of church and state and the Texas constitution. This is a scam that will only benefit the wealthy and deepen the divide between the rich and everyone else.

Jennifer Dewhirst

Self - educator

Houston, TX

Texans do not want this voucher program. It doesn't serve us, and it is designed to benefit lots of people, but not Texas students. It will decimate the public schools in many areas that are desperately seeking more dollars to best educate students. The fact that Republicans refused to add a conflict of interest/conduct amendment is very telling. Our country depends on a well-educated populace, & it seems evident that Texas is moving backwards. This will also take away money from the Teacher Retirement System, & teachers in TX have served the state and deserve the retirement that they earned. Simply look at other states that implemented similar programs & see that they haven't worked.

David Manuel

Self

Bryan, TX

While the idea of giving "everyone" access to private schools is nice in theory, there are several problems with using public funds for this:

1. Students of poor and rural areas, who should theoretically benefit from the program, will be unable to due to limited or no access to private schools.
2. Private schools have the ability to restrict enrollments, which create a barrier for ADA and special-needs students.
3. Since many private schools are religious, it would create an endorsement of religion (or would the state approve money to an Islamic-based private school?) If not, this is a violation of the 1st Amendment.

John Strunc

Voter, Texas citizen, Public Educator

Montgomery, TX

As a born and raised Texan, as a Republican voter, as an educator, I am strongly against this bill. This bill, along with SB 2 will continue the decades long trend of underfunding and undermining public education in Texas. The following are just a few of the reasons I am in opposition to this bill, or any other discussion of vouchers, ESAs, etc.

1) This bill will unconstitutionally shift public monies to religious institutions. While the argument has been made that the primary focus of the funding would be core instruction, those institutions would be able to use the public funds to advance their own religious programming. Will the institutions be required to submit their curriculum for state review? Will Islamic schools be required to prove that they do not teach an anti-Israel curriculum? Will the state force a Protestant world view upon Catholic institutions? These questions have not been satisfactorily answered.

2) This bill would divert funds from chronically underfunded schools. Despite the governor's statements that it would not, the math says that for every student who leaves a public school, it will be -\$6,100 (approx.) per school. (Somehow this becomes +\$10,000 at the private school). The governor himself did also admit to this.

3) This bill is welfare for the wealthy who are already sending their children to private schools. Despite the governor's statements pointing to other states that have similar programs, he ignores study after study that show less than 2% of the recipients of these funds did not attend private school originally. Instead, the remaining 98% of recipients were already attending private schools. This bill gives them a \$10,000 break on tuition, paid for by the taxpayers, which includes those who choose to send their children to public schools.

4) This bill claims it will make private schools affordable for all Texans, which it does not. This is again proved by the statements of the bills supporters. They claim that \$10,000 is the average tuition at private schools. They claim this money can be used for that tuition. When asked about transportation costs, they claim this bill can also be used for those. They ignore that every dollar spent on transportation costs is one less dollar to help cover tuition. This includes spending on extracurricular activities, uniforms, additional tutoring, and/or other fees, each of which would deduct the amount available for actual tuition. Again, this leaves those who currently can not afford a private school option without the option this bill claims to create.

5) This keeps private and public schools on an unequal playing field. Ignoring the funding imbalance, public schools will continue to be required to follow all state and federal guidelines. Public schools will continue to be required to administer and be judged by state exams, which remain poorly designed and developmentally inappropriate.

This bill is wrong for Texas and must be blocked. Thank you for your time.

Chris Kovatch

Self

Orange, TX

I oppose school vouchers in Texas because they take critical funding away from our public schools and funnel it into private institutions that aren't held to the same standards. Our public schools are already struggling with limited resources, overcrowded classrooms, and underpaid teachers—diverting money only makes these problems worse.

For rural communities like mine, where public schools are often the only option, vouchers don't offer a real choice. Instead, they drain resources from the very schools that serve the majority of students. Private schools aren't required to accept all students, meaning kids with disabilities, behavioral challenges, or lower test scores could be left behind. That's not fairness—that's exclusion.

Taxpayer dollars should be used to strengthen public education, not subsidize private institutions that operate without accountability. If we truly want to improve education in Texas, we should invest in our teachers, upgrade school facilities, and ensure every student—regardless of background—has access to a high-quality public education.

Lorena Snyder Atchley

Self

Conroe, TX

Public education needs to be funded. The vouchers, which have been used in other states, have shown to be destructive to public education. The majority of people in Texas do not want the vouchers, I truly hope you people listen. Do what's best for ALL TEXANS. Fund the public school system, quit playing games with children. Protect children of the state. They deserve to have proper education, no matter their economic status.

Holly Nelson

Self

Allen, TX

Please, do NOT pass school vouchers out of taxpayers' funds!!

Randolph Bauder

Self-Forensic Engineer

Bryan, TX

Alma Allens comments on concern with "one child" walking away from the public schools taking away funding from the public school is not the right way to approach this. She seems concerned about the money going into the public school system rather than the children's wellbeing or education. She also isn't considering that there are already thousands of children, including my own, who are already homeschooled and receiving no benefit from tax funded education dollars.

She is also stating that the teacher/student ratio has to stay at 22 to 1. What if there are less kids in the school, and the teacher child ratio is less, and the education quality becomes better as a result?

Leticia Lopez

Self

Midland, TX

I am wholeheartedly against the SB 2. The Vouchers are not beneficial to all Texas students. This Bill will benefit the wealthy & leave the students with the most needs out of getting what they truly need a Great Education. Look to the future...It will be a sad situation when The Future of our Country is not getting the Education they deserve & need in order for our State & Country to Thrive.

Shan Wang

self - Software Engineer

Lakeway, TX

Public schools are vital to the state of Texas. I vehemently oppose school voucher programs which take away funding from public schools which serve all Texans. Our public schools provide broad access to education resources which aim to serve each and every child in this state. Funneling public funds to private schools is anathema to access for all. Do not pass HB3.

Kathy Fellows
Self
Mineral Wells, TX

Good morning. As a mother and former student of the public school system, I strongly support HB3. Growing up, my parents had no school choice. We were assigned to a struggling school based on our zip code. It was underfunded, overcrowded, and lacked basic resources. Teachers did their best, but they were overwhelmed. My parents couldn't afford private school or to move us to a better district. They had no options.

Now, as a mother, I'm facing similar concerns—but today it's not just about lack of funding. I see political agendas and inappropriate content being introduced in public schools, often without parents' knowledge or consent. Topics like gender identity and sexuality are being discussed with very young children, and parents are being left out of the conversation. That's unacceptable.

I want to homeschool my son, but we live on one income, and it's financially difficult. HB3 would give families like mine real school choice and the funds to make it possible. This bill empowers parents to make decisions that are best for their children's education and future.

HB3 isn't about taking from public schools; it's about holding them accountable and giving parents alternatives when those schools aren't meeting their children's needs. Wealthy families already have choices—this bill gives middle- and working-class families the same opportunity.

Our children deserve better. Please pass HB3 and give parents the freedom to choose what's best for their kids.

Lisa Thorne
Self
Leander, TX

Thank you for considering my input on HB 3. As a product of Texas public schools and as a retired Texas public school teacher, I am adamantly opposed to this bill for implementing school vouchers. Texans need a strong public school system in order to meet the needs of our state in the coming years. Public schools need more funding, not less. Public schools are open to all students regardless of income level or learning needs. I'd rather pay taxes to fund all students having access to a strong education through the public schools than see my tax dollars diverted to private or homeschool families. I have 3 grandchildren in public schools here in Texas. Their districts are currently inadequately funded by the state. Two of these kiddos are in Gifted and Talented programs as well as having 504's for health needs. One grandchild needs Speech support as she has a language delay. Once again, Special Education is woefully under-funded. We have no business giving vouchers for private school when our public school students and their schools are making do with less \$. Thank you. Vote No on HB3.

Kennedy LeFave
Self
Edinburg, TX

I am a Texan, my wife is a born and raised Texan, and so are our 4 children. All of which are homeschooled. I am in support of this bill for many reasons, but do not think this bill does enough. I believe the funding should be clear and even across the board, much like in Florida. Not discriminatory giving back to Texas' homeschool children just tuition while other Texas children receive enough funds to cover tuition and all the extracurricular programs that allow for a complete education. Other States have figured this out and I believe Texas can too! Let's lead the way Texas! Thank you Committee for your time in reading this.

Iris Suddaby
Self
AUSTIN, TX

Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution states that the legislature has a duty to "establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools". Vouchers undermine this duty by diverting funds to private schools, which are not subject to the same accountability standards as public schools. Our public schools are the heart of our communities and our constitution protects this priceless institution. Going against our constitution to give our public funds to private companies is a unconscionable in our state.

Sabrina Broughton
Self teacher
Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Autumn Mendez, Mrs.
Self
San Marcos, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Families already have choices when it comes to educating their children how they see fit. This will have severe effects on public education that is already grossly underfunded and has been for years!
Vouchers have been proven in other states to not work and only benefit the few that are already in private education instead of the many that still attend public schools.

Jennifer Downing Hale
Self/Professor of Nursing
Austin, TX

I do not support the creation of education savings accounts for private schools when our public schools are vastly underfunded. Why is the basic allotment for each of my children \$6,160 while the allotment for a private school student \$10,000? Even if I wanted to send my children to private school, the average tuition in the Austin area is \$25,000- \$30,000. This bill misses the mark on allocating our resources. Our public schools need funding to retain teachers, issue supplies, and provide support services. It is very frustrating to know that Texas sits on a billion dollar rainy day fund, only to see year after year the same \$6,160 allotment for our public school children.

Jennifer Brand
Self- financial analyst
Flower Mound, TX

Our public schools need to be fully funded. Our teachers need to have appropriate support and resources. Vouchers will only aid the wealthy. It won't help kids with special needs or those with financial hardship. Do the right thing and fully fund public schools and teachers with TAX PAYER funds WITHOUT ridiculous stipulations.

Brad Little
Self
Bedford, TX

I think we should NOT pass HB 3. Let's call this what it is, a school voucher program, which by design, will take money from public schools, and will damage the education of the majority of people that can't afford to send their children to private schools. The voucher will still not provide enough money for normal working households to send their children to private school. This is another bill to put money in the pockets of higher income families, who already send their children to private school. In the next election, I will not vote for anyone who votes to pass this bill!

Laura Randall

self - retired teacher and parent of three public school grads

SPRING, TX

As a proud retired teacher of 30 years, parent of three successful public-school graduates, taxpayer, and lifelong Texas citizen, I am asking you to vote NO on House Bill 3 (HB 3) and stand with Texas public schools, students, and educators. This bill threatens to drain critical funding from our public schools by diverting taxpayer dollars to private school vouchers—hurting the very institutions that serve most Texas children.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities. They educate ALL children, regardless of ability, background, or zip code. Redirecting funds to private schools that aren't held to the same standards undermines our public education system and leaves rural and working-class communities with fewer resources and fewer opportunities for students. ALL students deserve a quality education, and this bill will give priority to those who can afford a private setting, weakening the public school system for the rest. As a teacher, I am very aware that there are problems in our public schools - most stemming from societal issues. Educators are tasked with a never-ending list of issues to address, and I want to see appropriate funding for public schools so educators have the means to do the work they are passionate about - educating our children to be the best citizens they can be. Without strong and secure public schools, our great state will become even more divided while the children suffer.

Additionally, HB 3 could destabilize the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) by reducing the number of active educators paying into the pension fund. Retired teachers, who dedicated their careers to Texas students, deserve financial security—not uncertainty. I know some like to focus on the myth that most teachers are "indoctrinating our children" and that many believe that teachers should not be respected (sadly, I heard this nonsense over and over at the polls), but I can assure you that the majority of teachers in Texas are giving 120% every day to make sure our kids are cared for physically and mentally. How many other professions are asked to take a bullet for their team and are trained to do that? Teachers are and would protect their kids at the cost of their own life. They are also guiding them to be respectful, responsible members of our society (but definitely don't do that through SEL because that's offensive to those who know nothing about it or our kids). They do all of this WHILE teaching the curriculum decided on by the state. It is grossly unfair to jeopardize the future of these hard-working teachers who have given so much to the children, and families, of Texas citizens.

I urge you to protect our public schools and educators by voting NO on HB 3. Instead of dismantling public education, we should be focusing on fully funding our schools, raising teacher pay, reducing class sizes, and strengthening TRS for current and future retirees.

Please stand with ALL Texas students, families, and educators—oppose HB 3

Arlis Brodie

Self

Houston, TX

Vote No on this bill. Not only will it bankrupt the state (look at Arizona) it will also kill public schools. Texans DO NOT want our tax dollars to go toward private education. As public servants, you MUST support public education and this bill will literally kill public education. There's no accountability for private schools and this will open up yet another avenue for lawsuits. Stop spending the public's money, my money, in this wasteful effort. Do you want your money to fund private Jewish , Muslim or other non-Christian education? As a Jew, I don't either. My choice i ok g schools , my money not public tax dollars. Vote NO

Lindsey Ross

Self

Buda, TX

I think this is completely against all that stands for fair public education for ALL! This merely serves the most wealthy. I'm appalled by those that support this bill, especially the ones that hide behind Christianity because Jesus would be mortified to see people prioritize the weather over the ones in need!

Elysia Yeager

Self/single parents of middle income

Houston, TX

Please support this bill. I am a single mom (currently unemployed due to the economy) whose kids go to private school. We are zoned to a C grade elementary school and given the current economic situation I can not afford to move to a better school district. My eldest is in a Montessori school where she is thriving. If she was in public school she would be looked over as one of the 'good kids' when she really needs extra assistance and time that public school teachers don't have.

My ex husband won't pay for anything beyond child support and scraping together what I need each month is a constant stressor.

I beseech you in behalf of all parents in my situation to please pass this bill!

Charlene Dailey

self

Pflugerville, TX

Dear Texas Representatives,

I encourage you to vote NO on HB3. I believe it would drain resources away from our already struggling public schools and be detrimental to our most vulnerable students.

Thank you for your time.

Alicia Dunn

Self - chief of staff to a medical school dean

Temple, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you for your serious consideration for the benefit of ALL your constituents, not just a select few.

Justin Marston

Self/ Publically Educated Landscape Architect

Rowlett, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of taxpayer money to fund private school vouchers in Texas. As a parent of three young boys in public schools, each requiring specialized support due to disabilities, I am deeply concerned about the devastating impact this policy would have on our already underfunded public education system.

Texas public schools serve over 80% of students in our state, yet they continue to struggle with inadequate funding. Families like mine—who rely on public schools to provide essential services, special education programs, and resources for children with disabilities—are being asked to do more with less, while private institutions stand to receive public dollars without the same accountability. Unlike public schools, private schools are not required to accept all students, nor are they held to the same educational and financial transparency standards. Diverting state funds to private institutions directly harms the vast majority of Texas children while benefiting only a privileged few who can already afford private tuition.

The financial burden on public schools is already evident. We receive near-constant fundraising requests to cover essential programs and supplies that should be funded by the state. If vouchers are implemented, this situation will only worsen, further reducing the quality of education and resources available to Texas students. Our legislators must focus on strengthening public education, not undermining it by redirecting taxpayer money to private entities that do not serve all students equitably.

I urge you to oppose any attempt to fund private school vouchers with public tax dollars. Texas needs leadership that prioritizes the education of all children, not policies that siphon critical resources away from the majority of families who depend on public schools. Please stand with the vast majority of Texans who support strong, well-funded public education and reject this harmful proposal.

Sean Kelly

Public schools

Waxahachie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Diane Samuel

Self

NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

I strongly urge you to reject any school voucher proposals that divert public tax dollars away from Texas public schools.

Vouchers do not increase educational choice. They subsidize private schools at taxpayer expense, often with no accountability, no transparency, and no requirement to serve all students. Texas already struggles with underfunded public schools, teacher shortages, and rural districts that would be devastated by losing even a fraction of their funding.

If you truly want to support educational choice, fully fund public schools, raise teacher salaries, and invest in better resources for all Texas students. Public tax dollars should stay in public schools that serve all children - not private institutions that can pick and choose their students.

Please vote NO on vouchers. 6 million Texas public school students are depending on you to protect their education.

Jennifer Guhlin

Self

Conroe, TX

I am a Texas resident and parent. My children currently attend and have graduated from public Texas schools. I fully understand this bill, and I do NOT support it in any way.

Ja Carter, Mrs

Self

Dallas, TX

This is not the answer to the problems in Texas schools. We need education reform that allows our teachers to teach. This is not the answer to the education problem. Teachers need to be able to teach the core subjects. The discipline problems are out of control. The number of non English speakers is a huge part of the problem. Can you imagine being in a class and not being an English speaker?

Rebecca Gerleman

Self retired

Plano, TX

I do not support the "education savings account program". Recently read editorial in the AJC about the failures of a similar program. Why don't you give the public a chance to vote on this issue? Public schools are struggling mightily and this will cause more schools to close, and make things worse.

Aaron Wolske

Self

Dallas, TX

I went to the public library the other day only to find they didn't have the book I was looking for. I asked them for a gift card for Barnes and Noble. This is school vouchers.

It pulls away money from an institution that needs it and gives to an organization that does not need it.

I don't and won't have kids, but I do not want my tax dollars going to a private school. My parents were teachers in the public school system, and I know first hand how even the best schools in the best neighborhoods need our tax dollars.

I do NOT want to subsidize the wealthy that can already afford to send their kids to private schools. Fund the public schools.

Michelle Smith

self

Justin, TX

Today is my youngest child's 13th birthday. I am up at 5 am writing to legislators to oppose HB3 (the educational committee that meets today). When we went to PTA Rally Day, her only question after meeting with Tan Parker and Mitch Little was wondering why private school students were worth \$4K more than her in public education, and still didn't have to take the STAAR test that she despises. As a birthday present to Hope, our elected representatives, please OPPOSE HB3 for all of the 5.5 million public school children in Texas. This does not offer choice, it takes desperately needed funding from PubEd and gives it to private schools with no accountability. That is neither conservative, nor fiscally responsible. Please oppose HB3.

Jay Collette, Teacher
Mansfield isd
Arlington, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Rob Waller, Mr
All Children of Texas
Waxahachie, TX

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Debra Justice
Self/Retired
Canton, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Catherine Martinez
Self
Austin, TX

An education savings program will not help the majority of Texas students. This bill will hurt more students than it helps. This bill will hurt rural school districts. This bill should not move forward and Texas representatives should focus on doing more to help all Texas students, not just the few who will be selected for this plan.

Rebekah Igo
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 3. I want equitable funding for public and charter schools. I want charter schools to get the same per student funding as public schools.

Olivia Kuchik
Self
Austin, TX

Please oppose this voucher program. It would take much needed funds from people who really need them. Public schools have had enough taken from them. The teachers work hard and underserved children can't afford to have less. Please oppose "school choice".

Lorraine Kostroun
Self
San Antonio, TX

I do not support HB 3!

Cristina Reyna-Neel
Self
Austin, TX

No to vouchers

Emily Novak
Self
Irving, TX

I am STRONGLY AGAINST HB3 and school vouchers.

Deborah Pina

Constituents

Odessa, TX

Say no to vouchers.

Veronica Lozano

Self

Kyle, TX

I strongly oppose the creation of an education savings account. Texans already have school choice and can opt to send their children to private schools. Unlike public schools, private institutions have the discretion to select their students. Diverting public funds to these accounts would only weaken public schools, which are essential for serving all students, regardless of their background or needs. Texans do not want this!!

Theodore Patman

self- advocate

Houston, TX

Hi, my name is Teddy Patman, and I'm 13 years old. I have Down Syndrome, and I really like going to my public school. I have a lot of friends there, and my teachers and the staff always help me when I need it. They support me with everything I need to succeed, like my IEP and accommodations, so I can do my best in school.

I don't think it's fair that private schools could get public money through HB3 and not have to follow the same rules that my public school does. My school is fully funded, and I get all the help I need to succeed. I'm really happy there, and I don't want to have to leave my school. I don't want other kids like me to lose the support they need because of this bill.

If private schools take public money, they should have to follow the same laws to help kids with disabilities like me. I want to stay in my school, where I am safe, supported, and where I can be with my friends. Please don't pass HB3. It's not fair to kids with disabilities like me.

Thank you for listening.

Melina Gosa, Ms

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Texas does not need school vouchers Programs! Our children in public schools are the majority, the minority of students that want to go to private or charter schools. Those funds need to be the responsibility of the parents.

Patricia Sutkin

self

Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Autumn Scott

School

Austin, TX

No

Lauren Copeland

Self

Stephenville, TX

I believe in public education!! Let your voice be heard NOW! Feel free to modify my comment for yourself-

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

“I strongly disagree with this bill’s approach to school funding and teacher compensation. It does not adequately address the root causes of educational inequality and may disproportionately impact underfunded districts, particularly rural communities. Additionally, it fails to consider the unique needs of students requiring special services, potentially widening the gap in support for these vulnerable groups.”

Brittany Navarra

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will proactively hurt students. Gutting the funding to schools who need it the most is not only wrong it’s disgusting.

Joseph Azulay

Self. Manager

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn’t one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it’s time for Texas to join them.

Kelly Moore

Self - Executive Director of Software Development Firm

Cypress, TX

I urge you to vote against this school voucher bill. As a concerned constituent and advocate for a strong public education system, I firmly believe that this legislation will harm Texas students, teachers, and taxpayers. Rather than solving the challenges facing our public schools, HB3 diverts essential funds away from the very institutions that serve the majority of our children.

The Texas Constitution mandates that the state provide a "suitable" and "efficient" system of public free schools. A voucher program directly undermines this mandate by diverting resources toward private entities, many of which lack the capacity, willingness, or obligation to serve all students equitably. Public tax dollars should remain in public schools, benefiting the greatest number of students rather than a select few.

Unlike public schools, which must meet rigorous state standards, adhere to curriculum requirements, and undergo public financial audits, private schools receiving vouchers operate with minimal oversight. This lack of accountability means taxpayer dollars could fund schools that fail to meet basic educational standards. Many private schools are not subject to the same financial transparency laws as public schools. This opens the door for potential fraud, mismanagement, and misuse of funds—something we have seen in other states that have implemented similar voucher programs. Without stringent accountability measures, Texas risks wasting public money on schools that may not provide a high-quality education.

Proponents of HB3 argue that school vouchers expand parental choice. However, in reality, vouchers often benefit only a small segment of students—primarily those who are already attending private schools. Many private schools charge tuition rates that far exceed the value of the voucher, leaving low- and middle-income families unable to cover the remaining costs. Additionally, private schools can selectively admit students based on entrance exams, religious affiliation, and other criteria, excluding many children who would benefit from school choice the most.

If lawmakers truly want to improve education in Texas, they should focus on increasing funding for public schools, raising teacher salaries, reducing classroom sizes, and expanding access to advanced coursework and vocational training. Redirecting public funds to private schools through a voucher system does not address the root causes of educational inequities—it only exacerbates them.

Public education is a public good that benefits all Texans. When we invest in our public schools, we invest in the future of our state by ensuring that all children, regardless of their zip code, receive a quality education. HB3 moves Texas in the wrong direction by prioritizing privatization over public investment, harming our students and communities in the process.

Clarisse Manuel

Self - Research Specialist

Austin, TX

I am not in support of this bill. Public education is important. Because public schools are the form of education that all Texas children are guaranteed to have access to, we should prioritize public education as a necessity. While parents have the right to make the best choices they can for their child's education, this choice should not come at the expense of other children's education through defunding public schools.

Michelle Giesen, Retired educator

Self

Highland Village, TX

I think that supporting private schools will destroy the public school system. Funding is terrible now for public schools. The Robin Hood plan already takes away money from large wealthy districts which leaves them without adequate funding. I think that by passing this bill, it's going to destroy the public school system. The vouchers are not going to help poor families. This is not an equitable bill for all Texas families. God bless and hope and pray this does not pass.

Jennifer Diaz

Self

Krum, TX

This bill should not be passed. Vouchers deny, public schools, the funds that they are due by depreciating the funds available. They also robbed teachers of their TRS savings by ensuring there won't be enough left in the future. Most importantly, this bill gives money to private schools that are not held accountable and do not have to accept all students. Not only that, but not all of us have access to private schools in our area. The neighborhood where I live has no access to private schools, but our public schools are just down the street. People in my neighborhood would have to make large commute just to send their students to private schools if they could afford them and had the time to commute. No public transportation is provided to the private schools that are so far out of reach meaning money would go to a bill that would not benefit my community.

Melissa Prince

Self, public school teacher

The Woodlands, TX

Say no to vouchers! They will only benefit wealthy families already in private schools. Public schools need more funding to support teachers and students, and this bill will hurt public schools.

Paul Quinzi

Self

Austin, TX

Listening to the hearing today, it is shameful to hear the author dodge questions about taking precious money from public school funds, not to help vulnerable kids, but to subsidize millionaires. Why is welfare only ok for people who don't need it? Does it have anything to do with them being the source of campaign contributions? This is transparent thievery to benefit your cronies. We see through it.

Melissa Harcrow Harcrow

Self

El Paso, TX

School vouchers will further the economic, ability, educational, and racial divide in our state. I urge to first have an independent analysis and study of other places that have passed school vouchers and see how successful/unsuccessful it has been for those communities

Amanda Hunt

Self - Attorney

Houston, TX

As a mother and Houstonian, I am very against this bill. I do not want state interference in our local Houston public schools. The states involvement in our public school system has been disastrous. Parents in Houston do not want this bill.

Shmuel Slonim

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Roland Manuel

Self

Katy, TX

School choice shouldn't come at the expense of public schools. Public education is very important!!!

Sylvia Rhee

Private citizen

Austin, TX

Vote NO for school vouchers and increase basic allotment for students.

Sandra McMillan

SELF/ retired

Hurst, TX

Against! All funds should go toward public education that will enhance our country. This voucher will benefit the wealthy not the betterment of the people. Totally against vouchers!

Dana Bjornstad

Self

McKinney, TX

This would ruin public education in Texas. It is a horrible idea and I am absolutely against it.

Cynthia Greenlee, Mrs

Lewisville Independent School District

Flower Mound, TX

School Choice Vouchers should not be approved. The money that taxpayers have spent needs to stay with the local school. I am an educator with Lewisville ISD.

Zalman Dubrawsky

Self

Dallas, TX

My daughter has bounced around schools, because some were not equipped to educate her. Please help her. Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

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Rachel Levertov
Chabad of Austin
Austin, TX

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Mari Casserberg
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

At a minimum, private schools should be required to follow all state and federal laws if they receive public tax dollars. This is being enforced on a national scale currently under the Trump administration (LGBTQ discrimination and Palestinian protest at colleges.)

In other states, these voucher schemes have not improved the outcome for public education. The majority of voucher recipients are already enrolled in private schools.

We are already seeing allies of Governor Abbott opening private for profit schools so this voucher scheme has all the appearances of a transfer of public tax dollars to a small minority of for-profit benefactors (who also happen to be campaign donors).

Cale Sherry
Self- CTO
Plano, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3 as it diverts public taxpayer dollars away from public schools and funnels them into private institutions with little oversight. Public funds should be used to strengthen our public education system, not subsidize private education at the expense of the majority of Texas students.

Paige Taylor
Self
Missouri City, TX

The constituents of Texas resoundingly reject school vouchers. This will hurt rural communities and students with disabilities. Support public education in Texas and vote NO to vouchers.

Christopher Wolfe, Dr.

self

Irving, TX

It is surprising that Texas, which leads the nation in so many areas of reform, has been lagging in the nationwide movement for school choice. Schools are vitally important to society and the social interest in good schools is very important. But Americans have traditionally trusted parents to make the best choices for their children, and education is not an exception. It is essential to have a great mix of well-run public schools and a variety of private school choices. That pluralism is typical of America and one of its great strengths. Especially when we are dealing with children, who are so different, it is wrong to have a cookie-cutter mold that confines most parents (who cannot afford to pay for both public schools and for private schools) to public schools. Charter schools and private schools are an essential part of the educational mix, and that requires an equitable state policy of permitting parents to choose the schools they consider best for their children, by offering parents support for all educational options. The near-universal experience is that private schools typically do an even better job than public schools in producing the kinds of educated citizens we need.

We need good public schools, but, contrary to some people's beliefs, high quality public education is not primarily a matter of money. (If that were the case, our public school students would be showing great increases in educational outcomes, as we have invested more and more money in public schools over the last 65 years -- but educational outcomes have been falling, unfortunately.) Parents should not be confined to choosing public schools, for lack of financial resources, but should have the opportunity to send their children to the schools that will be best for their children. And this competition among various sorts of schools -- standard public schools, charter schools, and various sorts of private schools -- can be one of the best ways of improving public education.

For many years, those who strongly believe that their religious beliefs require them to send their children to schools that teach, not only secular knowledge, but also a religious perspective on all the different areas of study, have been discriminated against, forced to send their children to schools that offer a purely secular view in the various areas of study. Simply "tacking on" Sunday school classes is, in their opinion (and with all due respect for the opinions of others), inadequate for instilling religious and moral values in their children. As long as public support for private schools is available to every family, irrespective of its religious beliefs, Texas would not be advancing any particular religious beliefs. It would simply be empowering parents to educate their children according to their families' beliefs.

Please support educational choice for Texas parents. This will benefit Texas families and also the state of Texas and the nation as well. Thank you.

Yosef Levertov

Tamim Academy of Austin

Austin, TX

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Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Ashley Whitt

Self

Austin, TX

I am hugely opposed to the voucher program. Texas needs to invest in its public schools. The answer is not to fund private schools that already have private funding. Why would you not invest in your own education system?? I understand people are upset with the quality of their public schools, and I wish that you would fight to better fund our Texas public schools so they can attract quality candidates and help them do their job to the best of their abilities by funding their classrooms. I know y'all can do better. You can fund public schools so they can provide livable wages to teachers and so classrooms have the necessary tools to teach our young Texans. Vouchers seem like you've thrown in the towel on public education or you're in the pockets of special interests. Either way, it's disappointing to say the least.

Darrell Alexander

Self (retired)

Alvin, TX

The Texas Constitution requires the state to fund PUBLIC schools, not private schools. Secondly, a program that could cost in excess of \$1B for less than 2% of the population is not a good use of taxpayer \$\$\$. Finally, if one is passed, I'm hoping it goes EXCLUSIVELY to low income or special needs students. Under no circumstances should ESA's go to any student/parent with a household income over \$100,000.

Remember, you represent VOTERS and STUDENTS, not out of state billionaire donors. Voters are watching what you do!!!!

Isha Archer

Self, Stay at home parent

Houston, TX

I am a parent of two traditional public school students in Houston ISD, and I urge this committee to reject the establishment of educational savings accounts that will weaken our public schools and further fracture our community bonds.

My children's public schools are essential to the sense of community in our neighborhood and need more investment and support. I am a member of two PTO boards, and parents in the community work tirelessly to fundraise for our school and to volunteer at enrichment events that serve as enrichment for all our kids and are open to the community. Our meetings and events strengthen our community bonds, but we are sacrificing more and more of our time to fill in the gaps created by the disinvestment of Texas elected officials that are constitutionally bound to support and maintain our public schools.

I know parents of special needs who use existing provisions in state law that allow the use of state funding to enroll their special needs children in private facilities that are better able to serve them. These provisions likely need to be strengthened and better publicized, not replaced with ESAs that have been shown to disproportionately benefit wealthy families with children already enrolled in private school.

While the Texas legislature has refused to keep funding in line with inflation and tie investment to attendance rather than enrollment, I have seen class sizes increase, an increase in the number of uncertified teachers, schools unable to pay librarians, a reduction in the number adults on campus contributing to increased attacks on teachers and across the state districts are moving to four-day school weeks instead of five. Despite all these cuts, districts are *still* operating on a budget deficit - all of this in one of the strongest economies in the country. The Texas legislature is underinvesting in our children and we will all pay for it with increased crime and underemployment that weaken our sense of community.

Amy Cavender

Self, event producer

Austin, TX

I support public schools and oppose HB3.

Carol Wells

Self

Spring, TX

As a Texan and from a family of public school teachers, I oppose school vouchers and this bill. Please do the right thing for ALL students in Texas and vote against HB 3.

Linda Cowles

Self

Pearland, TX

No to tax dollars being spent on vouchers.

Candace Colschen

Self

Montgomery, TX

As both a parent of four children in public education and a teacher of 20 years I say NO TO THE EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT BEING PROPOSED!

The amount of CHILDREN that this would help if it passes is a drop in the bucket to the amount of CHILDREN this would TAKE FROM AND HURT!!! We are supposed to be making decisions for children and doing what is best for them.

Why has so much time, energy, and money been spent working on trying to get people on board with vouchers instead of spending the same amount of time and energy finding ways to support PUBLIC EDUCATION. A place where over FIVE MILLION CHILDREN attend. Attached to each of those FIVE MILLION CHILDREN ARE FAMILIES!

Stop using buzz words like parent choice because that has always existed. Private schools take away parent choice by CHOOSING who can attend their school not mention many deny children who have learning difficulties, challenges, or disabilities.

What is sad is that public schools have been attacked in order to try to convince the public vouchers are needed. What is crazy is that it wasn't long ago that public schools and teachers were being praised when they found ways to connect with their students and families while the Nation was shut down. How quickly we forget all the good they have done and do.

Not only does this bill HARM children due to the fact that it will be taking funds away from the children attending their neighborhood school who can't afford the difference, won't be chosen for the program, or wouldn't be accepted it affects the one thing teachers build as their retirement. The TRS will be impacted which impacts families and generations. Even a 1% shift in TRS could cause huge implications. States who have had vouchers are the poster child for the problems and challenges that come from making this choice. We have NEVER been a state that has followed others why are we choosing to now. Why can't Texas find a solution to crest a public education system everyone can stand for and be proud of. I know as an elementary teacher of 20 years in Texas I AM PROUD OF MY PROFESSION but even prouder of the children I have taught who have gone on to do great things.

Also, it should be added that public schools should be funded by enrollment and not on attendance. This would create a HUGE SHIFT IN FUNDING and would BENEFIT CHILDREN AND DISTRICTS ALL ACROSS TEXAS!

Renee Conley

Self

Austin, TX

I DO NOT support school vouchers or education savings accounts (ESAs).

- Currently, Texas public school districts receive a base allotment of just over \$6,000 per student. This amount places Texas in the lowest 10 states on base per student allocations. School funding should not be tied to attendance. If the proposed voucher plan is put in place, Texas public school funding will decrease based on a decreased number of students attending. Increase funding to Texas public schools.

- Given the current economy, families meeting the federal low-income guidelines will likely not be able to afford the remaining private school tuition. Families with incomes up to \$160,000 will be able to use the \$10,000 as a subsidy to continue attending private schools they are already attending. Stop misleading the public by saying low income families will be able to afford private school tuition.

- Private schools have less oversight than Texas public schools. Public schools cannot pick and choose which students attend. Public schools take ALL students. If private schools accept the voucher funds, they should also take ALL students. Public schools have annual testing requirements. Private schools that accept the voucher funds should have the same testing requirements. Public schools must make efforts to hire certified teachers. Private schools that accept voucher funds should hire certified teachers.

- Despite the hefty dollar amount, less than 2 percent of Texas students will have a chance of receiving a voucher. The number is actually lower when the areas without private schools are considered. If there's not a private school in the area, this is not school choice.

- A legislative review of the proposed voucher program identifies the potential that it will weaken the retirement program for teachers. After dedicated years of service, Texas teachers deserve to retire and have confidence they will receive retirement funds they can live on. Increase Texas teacher pay without binding it to test scores. Secure Texas teacher retirement.

Shanna Norwood

Self

Conroe, TX

Worst. Plan. Ever. That is the short version.

I live in one of the more conservative areas of the state (montgomery county) and very very few people are desiring this voucher program to pass. Actually the opposite. We down right see this as working against the benefit of our children and students and teachers. My son will directly be effected. He is in special ed for behavioral challenges because of Autism. Some of the smartest people in the country are on the spectrum. He is brilliant. But not one private school, charter school, etc would take or retain him. (Except maybe Thrive, but the wait list for that charter is absurd and out of reach for most).

So we are in public school. And yes, there are definitely short comings in the school system. But the voucher program does NOT address the children most in need of such a program. It is a way to continue to give cuts to the wealthy who already send their children. It will not create competition. It will remove funding from the public schools so many rely on.

Please consider what the majority of people actually want. Not just those with money that make it seem lucrative. Don't be cowards. Stand up for the kids. This bill is not doing that, will not do that, and we all see that.

Erica Knisely, Rev.

self - minister and parent of public school student

Pflugerville, TX

As a parent of a child in public school I oppose vouchers and urge legislators to use the \$1 billion dollar allotment for HB 3 to instead go towards funding public schools. I urge you to use your position to ensure that every child in Texas receives a quality, public education.

A diversion of significant public taxpayer dollars to private education that is not accountable to the community or held to the same standards as public schools would be a miscarriage of justice. Private schools are under no obligation to accept all students who want to attend. Under a voucher system, when private schools divert high- performing students from public schools, the public system is left with less funding to educate the remaining students, some of whom have extraordinary needs.

As a minister I am also concerned that vouchers allow for the violation of religious freedom. If a voucher program exists, the state cannot exclude religious schools from participating in it without discriminating on the basis of faith. However, including religious schools in a voucher program also discriminates on the basis of faith, because it forces the taxpayer to pay for a student to be educated in a faith tradition that may not be that of the taxpayer. American religious freedom principles require private schools to be privately and voluntarily funded.

I encourage you to use your office to protect the religious freedoms of Texans and ensure that every single child in our state receives a quality, public education by adequately funding our schools and opposing vouchers.

Mireille Patman

self

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose Texas HB3 because it allows private schools to receive public funding without being required to follow federal laws regarding students with disabilities, specifically those with IEPs and 504 plans. Under federal law, public schools are mandated to provide appropriate accommodations and services to ensure that students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). However, private schools are not required to adhere to these same standards. This creates an unacceptable disparity in educational opportunities for students with disabilities. If public funds are used to support private education, those schools must be held accountable to the same standards as public schools, including providing necessary services to students with IEPs and 504 plans. We cannot allow private institutions to bypass federal protections that are crucial for students' educational development.

Jennie Spurlock

self

Stratford, TX

I completely oppose HB3 being crammed down my throat. ESA's are NOT a priority in rural Texas and I am against tax dollars being used to support private and home schools. I would appreciate the House to increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$1200 per students to allow a positive impact on the 5+ million Texas students. Along with other Texans, I will remember how you vote on this and ask you to listen to your constituents and oppose this bill. A positive vote for this bill will be documented as those who follow the billionaire agenda and will be labeled a "bought" politician who will not stand up to the governor and his school voucher platform. I encourage you to be of service to the children, teachers, and communities, as well as tax payers for not creating another financial burden in our state. Please vote NO to any ESA/VOUCHER BILL. CREATE a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for all children, educators, and communities that support public education. In addition, uphold the Texas constitution that you stated when you took your oath of office. ALL EYES of TEXANS are watching this issue.

Yaseen Tasnif
Self, University Student
Arlington, TX

The following comments are not on behalf of my employer or university.

I strongly stand against vouchers, which I firmly believe benefit the wealthy while siphoning money away from public schools that desperately need funding. I attended public and charter schools, and my siblings attend private schools, yet our family still believes in prioritizing the welfare of others who would be deeply harmed by this policy. We are inundated with facts, figures, data, and testimonies showing that the negative consequences of this bill far outweigh any potential benefits. Voucher programs in other states have already demonstrated their harmful effects. I urge all committee members to do the right thing and let this bill die a peaceful death in committee, keeping better ways to serve our children in mind.

Barbara Carneiro, Mrs.
Self
Abilene, TX

Vote No!!!! This will NOT help the majority of the state! No vouchers!!

Whitney Naquin
Self / homemaker
Driftwood, TX

As someone who cares about the future of the children of Texas and as a supporter of Texas public schools, I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 3. Texas students deserve strong, well-funded public schools. I'm asking that you fully fund public schools FIRST, to at least the level that would match inflation increases since 2019. While even this falls short of the national average for per student investment for public schools and it is an embarrassment that Texas is so far behind, we should not be falling even further.

I would also ask that if you do continue to pursue vouchers, that you ensure ANY schools that receive state funding are held to the same transparency requirements, accountability standards, and enrollment practices as public schools. It is only fair that we should hold all educational institutions accountable to the same standards.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Texas public schools. Please do your job faithfully and represent the interests of all children in Texas by supporting public education today.

Timothy Macor
Self
Montgomery, TX

"I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3 and any efforts to implement a school voucher program in Texas. Vouchers divert critical public funds away from our already underfunded public schools, weakening the education system that serves the vast majority of Texas students. Instead of increasing educational opportunities, vouchers primarily benefit private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards, do not guarantee student protections, and often exclude students with disabilities or special needs. Public tax dollars should be invested in strengthening our public schools—ensuring smaller class sizes, higher teacher salaries, and better resources for all students—rather than subsidizing private institutions with little oversight. Please prioritize the future of Texas children by rejecting HB 3 and keeping public funds in public schools."

Shalvi Heymann, Mrs.
Self
Dallas, TX

Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities. Nearly half the states have a school choice program - it's time for Texas to join them!

Amanda Baugh

Self - Parent by the grace of God, Senior Enterprise Director, Digital Marketing
Prosper, TX

SB3 is a harmful bill that poses a significant threat to the future of Texas, particularly its public education system and the well-being of everyday citizens. This bill's misguided policies will leave the most vulnerable Texans behind while empowering the wealthiest individuals and corporations to profit at the expense of our communities. It is a direct attack on the values of fairness, opportunity, and justice that we hold dear.

First and foremost, SB3 fails to support Texas' public education system, which is already underfunded and overburdened. This bill diverts resources away from our schools, cutting funding and exacerbating the inequality that already exists within the state. Rather than investing in our children's future by strengthening education, SB3 seeks to enrich special interests and billionaires who have no stake in the success of our schools. The impact will be devastating for students, teachers, and families, leading to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and a decline in the quality of education.

The bill's provisions will also have a destructive effect on Texas' communities. By prioritizing the profits of the ultra-wealthy over the needs of hardworking Texans, SB3 will drive a wedge further between the privileged elite and the working-class citizens who keep the state running. It will accelerate gentrification and displacement, leaving working families with fewer opportunities and lower standards of living. Small towns and rural areas will be especially hard-hit as SB3 continues to undermine local economies and erode the fabric of community life. The effects will ripple across the state, harming the very communities that make Texas great.

What makes SB3 particularly vile and disgusting is its blatant disregard for the people it claims to serve. This bill is not about improving the lives of everyday Texans; it is about consolidating wealth and power for those who already have far too much. It is a bill that reinforces systemic inequality, prioritizing the needs of the rich over the needs of the many. It sends a clear message that the voices of ordinary citizens do not matter, that billionaires and corporations are the true decision-makers in Texas.

As Texans, we cannot allow this bill to pass without standing up and fighting back. We will not support any Republican who votes for or champions SB3, and we will hold them accountable at the ballot box. We will vote them out of office and replace them with leaders who truly care about the people of Texas, not the interests of the wealthy elite. The impact of this bill extends far beyond our state's borders; if we allow it to pass, it will set a dangerous precedent for the rest of the nation. This is not just about Texas—this is about the future of the United States.

We will fight for a future where public education is valued, where our communities are strong, and where the interests of the many outweigh the desires of the few. We will vote, we will organize, and we will turn Te

Chana Naparstek

Self rabbi
Dallas, TX

Excited for this to pass!

Tabitha Geary

Frost ISD
Blooming Grv, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Mary Wilson

Self

Austin, TX

There is absolutely no way I am comfortable having my tax dollars diverted to non-accredited education - no more than I would be comfortable having my tax dollars spent on a bridge or road that is not inspected by a certified engineer!

I am a mother with two children in the public school system. I have watched administrations and teachers beg their Community for simple things like classroom supplies. Our public schools are underfunded as it is. I am not okay taking more money out of their pockets!!!

Judith Sanford

Self. Mother, grandmother, volunteer, retired healthcare administrator

Austin, TX

Our democracy, our economy and our values are based on the participation of an educated Texas public. This bill will be a disaster for rural Texas as it will decimate their school districts!

Daniel Strassman

Self

Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Valerie Sandham

Retired

Georgetown, TX

I oppose vouchers for private schools. Our public schools have been neglected for 5 years. Please do not send public money to private schools, instead increase the per student base allotment by \$1500.

Vouchers will hurt rural communities and neighborhood schools.

CHRISTOPHER BARNES

Self

Arlington, TX

Although there is evidence pointing to on-average better performance from charter schools. The question should be how do we reconsider our regulation of public schools to take advantage of the flexibility we give charter schools in determining curriculum and teaching methods that are most effective for the community they are supporting. Continuing to expand charter school funding at the expense of the public school districts they compete with will only serve to undermine the evolution of public school systems (less funding to make significant changes) and reinforce the idea that public school systems are underperforming. We also need to understand the end goal. If school districts are dissolved and the tax system that supports them ceases, how will these charter schools be funded in the future? How will children from disadvantaged communities be able to get an equal education as compared to children from affluent communities? The potential to devolve into separate and UNEQUAL education environments is a significant concern.

Debra Holmes

Self

Bedford, TX

I am against HB3. I believe the bill takes my tax dollars and uses it for money for private school students who are already going to private schools. Unfortunately this path will take money away from public schools, which are already underfunded. Additionally the private schools don't support all students. Those with disabilities may be rejected by the private schools who don't have to take students with learning issues, they don't have to accept all students as do public schools. They don't have to report academic achievements as public schools do. Ultimately my property taxes will increase when the state realizes they don't have enough money in their budgets. This bill ultimately only advantages those already being paid in the private sector.

Jessica Weinette

Self

Booker, TX

I am not in favor of public funds being diverted to private schools or homeschooling. I am not in favor of the establishment of an education savings account program.

Julie Callahan

Myself

Plano, TX

I do not support private school vouchers. This is an unnecessary diversion that only ensures our public schools will continue to underperform. Education funds are essential for public schools, a system that already struggles in our state. My district is one that is being forced to close schools as a result. Reject this proposal. It's not what's best for the majority of Texas children.

Troy Paul

self

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote down this bill. Thank you.

Ora Benton

Self

Round Rock, TX

Instead of diverting funds to private institutions, perhaps you should focus on strengthening our public schools to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality education. You, the members of the Public Education Committee are in charge of supporting and enhancing PUBLIC EDUCATION. The voucher program (HB3) does nothing FOR public education; rather it would take funds and facilities FROM our public schools. The public school system has many problems, and you should be trying to find productive ways to fix the system to more effectively serve our teachers and students, not trying to ignore and/or replace them. I would certainly rather my tax money be spent on improving the public school system than by sending tax payers' money to private institutions.

There are certainly many issues with our public education system that prevent it from effectively serving students, but funneling money out of this system and into private institutions through vouchers is not the solution to our problems.

Marilyn Harrington

Self and all grandparents

Boerne, TX

I am 78 years old and grew up in public education I've earned a BS, MS and Ph.D. Public education gave me every advantage in life. Texas underfunds its schools to the detriment of our economy and our livelihoods. We are ashamed of what has happened to us, our children, and grandchildren. We can afford to send our grandchildren and 3 of the six do in Massachusetts. One grandchild has severe dyslexia and is in a great public school special education classroom. Private schools will not have to provide for her - public education does. In no way do I want my hard-earned tax dollars to go to a private and/or religious school. If a family chooses that, then they should pay for it themselves. That's their choice. But do not insert the 10 Commandments and my money into the educational system. Greg Abbott has been bought and paid for by billionaires. He is selling out our children and their future. I am ashamed that I live in Texas. It's embarrassing.

Donna Walker

Self

Cooper, TX

I value most of Republican values. Although I've put other issues over education in the past, I will no longer vote for candidates that vote for devaluing public education. Public education is for all children. Even though money for these bills is coming from a separate fund, it will still take away from the public education budget. This will tie our hands (even more than now) to provide the best education for all students with inadequate funds. This will not help students to choose a private school as the fees are already out of their reach. Public school is appropriate for all. The parts of public school that people are upset about are those requirements set in law by our government. Again, this will be the reason I and other educators will vote for others in the future.

Jeana Bahl

Self

Parker, TX

As a parent with 2 kids in public schools, I am completely against school vouchers. Please consider the following reasons:

****1. Undermining Public Education:****

School vouchers divert essential funds away from public schools. Public education relies on stable funding to maintain infrastructure, pay teachers, and provide resources. When vouchers allocate this funding to private institutions, public schools suffer, resulting in reduced quality of education for those who remain in the public system.

****2. Lack of Accountability:****

Private schools that receive voucher funds are often not held to the same standards of accountability and transparency as public schools. This lack of oversight can result in uneven educational quality, unregulated teaching practices, and potentially discriminatory admission policies. Public schools, in contrast, must adhere to strict standards and are subject to government oversight.

****3. Inequitable Access:****

Vouchers often do not cover the full cost of private education, making it inaccessible to low-income families who cannot afford to pay the difference. Wealthier families benefit disproportionately, widening the gap between socio-economic classes. This inequity contradicts the principle of providing equal educational opportunities for all students, regardless of their background.

****4. Erosion of Community:****

Public schools serve as community hubs, bringing together students from diverse backgrounds. They foster social cohesion and mutual understanding among students of different socioeconomic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Vouchers that promote private schooling contribute to fragmentation, undermining the sense of community and shared identity that public schools cultivate.

****5. Constitutional Concerns:****

The use of public funds to support private, often religious, schools raises constitutional questions regarding the separation of church and state. Government funding directed toward religious education can be seen as an endorsement of specific religions, which violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

****6. Lack of Proven Effectiveness:****

Studies have shown mixed results regarding the effectiveness of school vouchers in improving educational outcomes. There is no consistent evidence to suggest that students who use vouchers perform better academically than their peers in public schools. Without clear proof of their efficacy, diverting funds to a voucher system is a gamble with the future of public education.

Overall, school vouchers pose significant risks to the public education system, social equity, and community cohesion. Public funds should be invested in strengthening public schools, ensuring all students receive a high-quality education, and fostering an inclusive society.

Nick Scottino

Self

McKinney, TX

We must continue to fund public education

Rodrigo Pereira

Self

Mckinney, TX

Texas Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) represent a dangerous diversion of public funds away from the state's public education system, undermining the foundational principles of equitable access to quality education. Instead of redirecting taxpayer dollars to private institutions or allowing wealthy families to benefit from government-funded accounts, we should be prioritizing the funding and strengthening of public schools. Public schools serve the majority of Texas students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds, and provide crucial services such as special education, free or reduced-price meals, and support for students with diverse needs. Diverting funds to ESAs would disproportionately benefit affluent families while leaving public schools underfunded, exacerbating disparities in educational opportunities. To ensure that every Texas child receives a high-quality education, we must focus on properly funding and supporting public schools, investing in teachers, infrastructure, and resources that benefit all students, not just a privileged few.

Devony Arrington, Dr

Self

MCKINNEY, TX

Myself and my community share extreme concern for development of the voucher program in Texas. Our schools are already under funded as evidenced by an email from our public ISD this week detailing significant cuts in personnel and valuable educational programs for our students. THIS WILL HURT TEXAS. Texas is already hurting!! Our public schools will fail if any less money is available to them. They already cannot exist with what they have and give appropriate support to our students.

Molly Hornbuckle

None

Georgetown, TX

I'm appalled after reading the Williamson Sun newspaper regarding the financial crisis they are facing. This is not unique to Georgetown. It is happening everywhere. The Texas Legislature is starving our public schools over the past several sessions and vouchers will make it so much worse. You must restore public funds to our schools for ALL our students. No Vouchers!

Kristen Pereira

Self - talent manager

Mckinney, TX

School vouchers destroy neighborhood schools by siphoning off essential funding, which weakens the very foundation of public education. As more resources are redirected to private institutions, public schools—especially those in underserved communities—struggle to provide a quality education. Instead of supporting vouchers, we should focus on fully funding public education and increasing the student allotment to ensure all students, regardless of their background, have access to high-quality education. By investing in public schools, we can reduce class sizes, improve resources, and create an equitable system where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

John Taylor

Self

Plano, TX

I beg you to protect our public schools by voting against the school voucher program. The majority of Texans are against this program so it is impossible to understand how it keeps going forward, unless the people wanting to build private schools are buying votes. I have begged Senator Paxton to explain why she promotes this bill but have not received any response for the last two years. I grew up in a small town and had 47 people in my graduating class. Private schools do not exist there. Yet, the Texas senate is willing to defund small schools like this. It appears Texas legislators are ignoring their constituents and listening to big donors. SB4 will further erode funding for our public schools. Texas'education system is ranked #41. We should not allow it to go any lower.

Angela Adams-Nance

Teachers

Spicewood, TX

As a public school teacher with 20 years experience who also went to private schools for my personal education, I can tell you this bill will be disastrous for education. It only benefits rich people. Our education system is great because it is available to everyone. It needs to be properly funded. Teachers need to be set up for success by having classes that are not overcrowded and adequate pay. Vouchers will cause classrooms to continue to be overcrowded because districts will have to find ways to save money because they are not properly funded. Do not pass this bill. Fund public education properly.

Desiree Hollingsworth, Mrs

Myself

Austin, TX

The strength of a society depends on education. The wealthy will also suffer if the large majority is not capable of carrying their own weight. Stop taking away from those that need it most.

Mary Alice Williams

self

Austin, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 and the establishment of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program. While I support improving education in Texas, diverting public funds to private education through ESAs undermines our public school system and exacerbates educational inequities, particularly in rural communities.

Public schools serve the vast majority of Texas students, including those with disabilities, English language learners, and children from low-income families. Instead of directing taxpayer dollars to private institutions with little oversight, we should invest in strengthening our public education system by increasing teacher salaries, improving resources, and ensuring equitable access to quality education for all students.

ESA programs are especially detrimental to rural communities, where public schools are often the backbone of the local economy and one of the few accessible educational options. Unlike urban areas, rural regions have fewer, if any, private school choices, meaning taxpayer dollars will be siphoned away from already underfunded rural public schools with no real benefit to local students. As rural districts struggle with funding shortages, teacher shortages, and limited resources, ESA programs will only further weaken these schools—forcing cuts to essential programs and diminishing educational opportunities for children who have no other options.

Additionally, ESA programs lack sufficient accountability measures to ensure that funds are used effectively and equitably. Private and charter schools are not required to serve all students and are not held to the same transparency standards as public schools, leaving our most vulnerable children behind.

I urge you to reject HB3 and instead focus on policies that support and strengthen Texas public schools for the benefit of all students, families, and communities—especially those in rural areas where strong public schools are critical to both education and the local economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Williams

Austin, TX

Niti Shah
Self / Clinical Nutritionist
Irving, TX

I oppose the voucher bills. Please don't mess with Texas public schools. It took so long to make them great! Please don't ruin it!!!

Tambralyn Suhler
Self Retired AISD Employee
Austin, TX

As a native Texan and lifelong public servant and educator, I am strongly opposed to this bill or ANY bill trying to take away money from public education. It is nothing more than folks in power intentionally trying to destroy education by defunding it even further. As a tax payer, I expect my dollars to be used for the good of every person living in this state, not the whims of an all powerful governor of his own making. Affordability, Education, Healthcare, and Public Safety is what I want my tax dollars to go. Only an educated society ensures prosperity and future success of a functioning society. Vouchers are inequities, a tax break for the rich, a dead end for everyone else. Quit ruling for the rich they don't need school choice.

Astrid Han
Self
Houston, TX

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.
This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!
Astrid Han

Elaine Coloura
Self
Cibolo, TX

Vote no!!! Takes money from public schools with zero oversight in private schools. low income families still cannot afford private tuition even with this. I vote NO NO NO!!!

Kathy Sokolic
self
Austin, TX

This bill hurts our most vulnerable. The educational system has already been casting out our kids with any sort of issues, pushing them out of our system and making it impossible for parents to get the right kind of education for our kids. We have seen a dismantling of our system over the last few decades. This leaves only the rich to get richer as the charter schools are the only ones making money, while casting out our kids who need help. This is Texans turning into Nazis and I do not want to see this. All this funding should go back to the public school districts with extra support. Stop picking and choosing who gets to be successful. Texas is better when we all succeed.

Rene Philippe, Mr.

Self, security

Austin, TX

I oppose Texas voucher bills, as they take vital resources away from public schools. Instead, we should increase the basic allotment to \$1300 for public schools and fund them based on student enrollment, not attendance. Let's ensure schools have the stability and resources needed to educate every child, regardless of attendance challenges. Let's invest in public education, not undermine it with vouchers. Thank you.

Nancy Fitzgerald, Dr

Retired Teachers

Port Bolivar, TX

Please vote no. This move for voucher system is unfair to public school systems across Texas

Bradley Reynolds

self - public school teacher

McKinney, TX

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB00003I. I believe that government funds should not be used to subsidize school attendance in institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards as our public schools. Public schools operate under rigorous admission criteria, testing, and performance metrics, which ensure that all students receive a quality education that is both measurable and equitable.

This bill, however, appears to prioritize funding for schools outside the public system—schools that do not follow the same standards or metrics. Without comparable data, it is impossible to ensure a level playing field or to guarantee that taxpayer dollars are being used effectively to support student learning. As an educator and coach, I have witnessed firsthand the benefits of accountability and uniform standards in public education, and I worry that diverting funds to less-regulated institutions will undermine our efforts to improve educational outcomes for all students.

I urge you to reconsider this bill and its implications. Our children deserve an education system where every institution is held to the same high standards of accountability, ensuring fair and transparent evaluation of performance. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Bradley Reynolds

Rhonda Wolf

Brazoria county homeschoolers

Richwood, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and urge our Texas reps to listen to the people of Texas. Most homeschool, private school, and many conservatives all oppose this bill and it is falling on deaf ears. Listen to the people!

Brooke Sanchez, Post Secondary Advisor

Waxahachie ISD

Waxahachie, TX

Instead of defunding our schools, let's actually fully fund them so the resources needed to support, protect, and educate our schools, staff, students and families to the full extent they deserve!

Brandy Smallwood
Self/ small business owner
Austin, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers. The per student allotment for public schools should be increased to \$7500 (or more!)

Karina Moreno
Spring Branch ISD Parent
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!
Karina Moreno

Ashley Jackson
Self - Realtor
Austin, TX

I am AGAINST school vouchers. I oppose taking public dollars and using them for private school. I oppose further defunding our public schools by diverting money to private schools. This will be devastating for rural Texas where there are not private schools. STOP DEFUNDING TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Sandra Rios
Self
San Antonio, TX

I do not believe education savings accounts, vouchers, or whatever name you want to give them are the right move for Texas children. Texas residents already have school choice. Families can already decide between a variety of options for educating their children. I've heard Representative Buckley's assertion that vouchers are needed for special needs students because they cannot get the services they need from public education; however, in my experience nothing is further from the truth. Two of my children were special needs and both flourished in Texas public schools. I also work in a public school and see first-hand every day the care and services our special needs students receive. I've watched teachers bend over backwards to provide differentiated instruction to their students, despite the limitations levied on them by TEA in the form of TEKS, measured by STAAR tests. Rather than throwing public dollars at private institutions, we should be learning why the districts who struggle to provide necessary service are struggling and investigating ways to fix it. Additionally, you should be preparing our state for potential disruptions in federal funding to our public schools, not actively creating programs that will further harm them.

Karen Samford
self, freelance writer
FRISCO, TX

Please do not entertain the notion of education for sale. All Texas children deserve a fair education.
thank you.

Natalia Arzeno, Dr
Self, data scientist and parent
Austin, TX

Dear Education Committee,

I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a way to fund education. These programs take critical resources away from public schools, making it harder for them to serve all students effectively.

Instead of diverting funds, I urge you to focus on strengthening our public school system by making the following changes:

1. Raise the Basic Allotment to \$7,500 – The current funding level isn't enough to meet the needs of Texas students and teachers. Increasing the basic allotment would help schools provide the high-quality education that every child deserves.
2. Base School Funding on Enrollment, Not Attendance – Schools shouldn't lose funding when students are absent. A funding model based on enrollment would give schools more stability and ensure they have the resources they need year-round.
3. Adjust Funding Annually for Inflation – Costs go up every year, and school funding should keep pace. Tying funding to inflation would prevent budget shortfalls that make it harder for schools to operate effectively.
4. Fully Fund All Mandates – When new state or federal mandates are introduced, they should come with the necessary funding. Unfunded mandates put an unfair strain on schools and take resources away from students.

Public schools are the foundation of our communities, and they need reliable funding to do their job well. I urge you to make these changes to ensure every Texas student has access to a strong, well-supported education.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Texas students.

Leslie Hay
Self/Assistant Director
Katy, TX

Dear Texas Legislator,

As a proud Texan, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. I believe private school subsidies are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair.

Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Public schools in Texas are underfunded by billions of dollars every year. The Comptroller is projecting a large increase in state revenue over the next two years compared to the past two years, and that money should go to fully funding public education.

Private schools pick and choose which students to admit. Vouchers force taxpayers to subsidize private schools' preferences. And without elected boards or state oversight, vouchers give away tax dollars with no financial or academic accountability.

Public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students, serving all the students in their boundaries. They build the workforce that powers the Texas economy. We can't afford to underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future.

We elect legislators to represent the interests of their communities. Responding to their communities, Texas legislators have rejected private school subsidies time after time.

In the face of increasing pressure from special interests, I pledge that I will stand with my legislators in opposing vouchers. When they vote against private school subsidies, I will make sure all their constituents know they did the right thing.

Sincerely,
Leslie Hay

Michelle Cole
Self
Buda, TX

Opposed to school vouchers!

Rob Noland
Self
Arlington, TX

Our students deserve better than a voucher system.

Susan Studebaker
Self
Crockett, TX

School vouchers will significantly decrease public school funding (less students) without improvising the education that we provide to students in this state. Proposals to provide private schools with more funding per child than public schools and which have no assurances that children will meet the same criteria make no sense. This is not to mention the large numbers of "eligible" students who will not be able to participate because of transportation needs, special ed requirements, etc. Children in public schools have access to reduced meals, which may be the majority of the nutrition a child gets in a day. They also have access to counseling and other services. I do not have a child in the school system but I support a healthy public school system so that we may have a productive workforce for the future. I oppose school vouchers and the proposed education savings account program. Thank you

Alexandra Furlong

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote NO against school vouchers. Please INCREASE basic student allotment to \$7500. Thank you

Princeton Palmer

Self, Teacher

Lubbock, TX

Establishing ESAs will empower Texas families to make the choice that is right for their children's education while also providing the impetus for public schools to make wiser spending choices that actually improve student learning outcomes. Schools in many countries around the world achieve greater academic success than American ones despite having far fewer resources. The notion that simply pumping more money into the system will solve our problems is naive at best and malicious at worst. Rewarding dysfunctional school systems with more money will only exacerbate their problems unless concrete steps are taken to address the root causes of those dysfunctions. Introducing competition into this important sector of the economy and society would force all schools (public and private) to cut wasteful spending and offer the best possible academic product in order to attract more students.

Klaus Pfeffer

Self

austin, TX

I do not support taking money from Public education funding for ESA's. Our public schools are already underfunded, unless you can match the money for ESA's with public funding per student then I can't support. Please advocate for equal amounts to Public and Private school allocations.

Karen Samford

self, freelance writer

FRISCO, TX

Please cease and desist thinking that a voucher program will do ANYTHING to improve our public school system! Please let go of and vote NO to any notion to make a good education available to ONLY those who will be able to afford one.

Thank you for reading this far.

Mrs Karen R Samford

Mary Ann Climer

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose the school voucher and all means thereof. Public education is the fabric of our democracy. As happened with publicly funded charter schools as loosely defined as they are, publicly funded private schools will crop up and scam students and taxpayers. ESA will only encourage more.

Nhi Lieu, Dr

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote NO against school vouchers and increase basic student allotment to \$7500.

Yehudis Rosenberg

self

Plano, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Karesha Pigmon

Self

Rowlett, TX

I strongly stand against HB 3 as I believe it will devastate public education. It fully benefits the wealthy and does not take into account all students in Texas. Please do not vote in favor of this bill!

Anne Waggoner

self, student at ACC

Austin, TX

Vote NO!

My name is Anne Waggoner and I am a proud parent of 2 AISD students. One is a graduate and now in college. The other is a junior in high school. I am also a student currently working toward a degree in Child Development and Early Childhood Education. In other words, I graduate in May and will be a teacher.

I am in complete opposition to HB3.

No matter what you call it (education savings accounts, school vouchers, school choice), HB 3 simply takes public money and uses it for private gain to the detriment of our children and our collective future.

My reasons:

1. Tax payer money earmarked for education should stay in public schools. Not just a select few.
2. Private schools are unregulated. As such, they do not need to offer all of the services that public schools do. In other words, they do less with more money. Children with special needs do not get the education they need at private schools.
3. Vouchers only allow children into private schools that can pay the difference in tuition. That leaves the lower socioeconomic children in public schools that will now have even less funding.
4. Rural families have very few "choices" other than public schools anyway.
5. Private schools do NOT offer a better education for children than well-funded public schools do. Instead of taking money from public schools, the legislature should be supporting public schools only, funding them better so that they can work as intended.
6. This country has been leading the world for money years. All with a publicly educated work force.
7. Private schools segregate. One of the prize programs my children were in was dual-language. Yes, they learned Spanish, but even more important is that they learning about culture, people whose families have less, people who have different cultures, and that they are all the same. By separating our children into private schools, we eliminate the part of education that is about learning about people who are different than us.
8. Our society is stronger when we learn to interact with people who are different than us. Private schools do not do that.
9. This version of the bill allows money to be given to children with disabilities first. However private schools often are not equipped to help these children so this does NOT help them. It's just making it should like it does.
10. I am opposed to public money going to religious schools. Separation of church and state is an important founding principle of our great nation. Public school money has not business being spent at religious schools.

Again, vote NO! I am a proud graduation of public schools and am proud to have sent my children to public schools. We have all received a high quality education.

Kimberly Lovejoy, Ms.

Self

Harker Heights, TX

As a Texas Licensed Professional Counselor, combat veteran, former military spouse, constituent in the Bell County area, and a provider of mental health services in the Bell Country area, I am highly opposed to HB3. It is concerning that taxpayer funds would be redirected to private schools who have limited accountability. Furthermore, I am deeply concerned about how this will further strain an already compromised mental health system in the state of Texas, particularly in schools. In light of recent events in the KISD in which a middle-school student was stabbed and killed, I urge you to support the use of taxpayer funds to support the mental health needs of our students.

Ann Tate

Private

Dallas, TX

If you believe this is what people in Texas want then put it to a VOTE! This is not supported by your constituents and we won't forget the transfer of wealth you take from our children!

Margaret Heiss, Ms.

Myself

Alice, TX

Don't agree with vouchers!

Heather Pagano

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Karen Johnson

Self

Keller, TX

I am against taxpayer money going to pay for private schools. Here in Keller there are schools that are in financial trouble already. Private schools don't have to deal with special needs kids and poor kids can't afford them even with the vouchers. The public schools here used to be good but if you keep underfunding them, they have no chance to improve. Please do not support vouchers for private schools.

Lacey Chancellor

Self / Homeschool parent

Tomball, TX

I homeschool my children and I oppose this bill. It is not in the true interest of homeschooling families. Please vote against it.

Karol Ann Michelsen

Self Teacher

Canadian, TX

An assault on public schools by Gov Abbott and friends. Already proven to be a scam and money maker for the rich who fund and want to run "for profit" everything. Please know rural Texans need the funds and support that you in the Legislature are killing with this propaganda of better education for all.

alina averick
self
Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Katherine Martinez
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please do not vote for HB 3. It would not be equitable for families living in rural areas. Thank you for representing your constituents honestly.

Erin Duyka
Self BCBA
Porter, TX

Say no

Chyenne Degelman
Self- Texas Counseling Association
Austin, TX

To incolude counselors

Amit Kalra, Dr.
Self
Frisco, TX

Please do not push this bill. Education savings program should be a separate program instead of being withdrawn from school funding. The next generation of Texas Work Force will be impacted by this decision. People start abusing these vouchers by treating children as sources of income. Misrepresentation of funds maybe used for WOKE education schools. Legislatures will have to create rules after rules and eventually the voucher will have no monetary value to meet the demands of high cost of private schools and inflation.

These young children will be your caretakers, how educated do you want them to be. If you want to control expenditure and then place limits on salary like there is for Federal jobs. Let the state decide the statewide salary expenditures. Or start using special tax incentives for the homeschooling parents. A private structure will not operate in the same controlled manner like a public structure where all children are equal right now. Is this the legacy you want?

David Kessler

self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Aiden Briese

Self

Austin, TX

I urge the House to vote NO on this bill. School vouchers have been used in other states and data has clearly shown that it is damaging to the education system. It has been proven that 1) states are struggling with the programs' cost and lack of transparency and accountability; 2) school vouchers are being used by families with children already in private school to subsidize their tuition; and 3) Voucher programs' skyrocketing costs will divert funding not only from public schools, but also other critical public services. This will hurt Texans in a great way, especially Texans that live in rural areas who don't have access to private schools and students who need extra care. Tim Dunn and the Wilks brothers have been trying to push this system since Rick Perry was in office. I desperately urge them to stay out of our political system and get a hobby. Texans have voted NO against vouchers time and time again. This bill is an abuse of power for certain representatives to line their pockets at the expense of the people they serve. This will not improve the lives of everyday Texans. Please vote against policies that hurt the majority of people that you serve.

Crystal Beito

Self

Tomball, TX

I am vehemently opposed to this bill. Texas has always been the best state in the union, until it comes to our public school system. Underfunding, cutting important programs, prioritizing sports programs over educational excellence have all played a role in the decline of the education of our students. But...it is the responsibility of the Texas government to clear up missteps and get those public school systems back on track, a responsibility that it seems the state has obfuscated for years now. Our public school systems deserve better. This bill as written will add a new and separate budget line item outside of the already established tax burden of public schools with an expectation of expanding exponentially over the the next 5 years and beyond. It allows for the fuelling of taxpayer dollars to private companies that we do not have oversight or accountability of. It allows unchecked government control over private and homeschools that violate the Texas constitution and undermine the freedoms our state is famous for. This is unsustainable as demonstrated by several other states that have similar failing programs right now (hey Oklahoma!).

All Texas children deserve better, not just the ones that qualify for what's left of this program after the fat cats get their share.

Denise Kudva

Self

Spring, TX

I am disappointed on the push for vouchers for education in Texas. Our public schools are extremely valuable assets to our community and a reason why we moved to our home.

This bill appears to grow the state government, favor vendor profiteering, add regulations to private and home schooling, and is predicted to financially burden the state to the tune of many billions of dollars.

This is not a conservative approach to governance. Please vote no to educational vouchers.

Alysia Stanton

Self

Lantana, TX

I support the full funding of our PUBLIC schools. I am not in favor of the use of vouchers. This bill would undermine the public school system.

Blake Jennings

self

College Station, TX

I do not support this bill. As a pastor and leader of a local charitable organization, I strongly believe we should invest more money in public schools to lift all children up. This bill does the opposite. Our communities will be weaker if this bill passes, and our children, especially those most vulnerable will suffer. Please reject this bill.

Rykiel Pritchett

Self

Lake Jackson, TX

HB 3 does not truly provide school choice for all Texas families. Voucher programs in other states have proven that they primarily benefit wealthy families while leaving rural communities, low-income families, and students with disabilities behind. The amount of money designated does not cover the cost of expensive private schools, along with their associated transportation and supply costs. Many low-income families cannot cover the gap to take advantage of this voucher program. Students in areas without public schools cannot take advantage of the voucher program. Students in areas with limited private school availability, which cannot accommodate every person in the area wanting to take advantage of the voucher program will also lack choice. There is no scenario in which this program benefits every Texas family as is continuously purported. Finally, the majority of homeschoolers who have opted out of public schooling restrictions and mandates have zero interest in participating in the state testing requirements for homeschoolers associated with the voucher program.

Kristie Shackelford

Self

Waco, TX

I do not support HB 3 or taking funds from public schools.

Karen Ruffner

Self / Rn

Montgomery, TX

Oppose school voucher bill. Texans have already voted no. Public schools need the funds and teachers. Private school is a choice. We had our own kids go to public schools. Except for our youngest our choice was private school. We paid for it. I donot want any services take away from children that need it in public classrooms. Private school usually doesnt offer that. Some peoples religion doesnt always fit a private school. Public may be better for them. Make it equal by allowing parents to make a choice with no govt involved. If private you pay for it. If public the taxpayers pay. The teachers need to be able to educate. They will not be able to if this vote goes through. Many factors involved.

Marie Dadap

Self

Austin, TX

Please say no to school vouchers. This will drain the public school system of much needed money and resources. Private schools should not receive tax dollars unless they are held to the same standards as public schools, and accept and educate all students.

Jade Vitug, Dr.

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose JHR 140 due to its use of tax dollars that would have otherwise gone to public public schools. Public schools are already underfunded enough as it is. I would rather see my tax dollars go towards funding public schools rather than private schools.

Zoe Wafelbakker

self

Manchaca, TX

A mother of three children, one with special education needs.

If this bill is passed my SPED child will be forced to go into a 'special ed school' since the resources will be limited at public schools, despite public education being the best environment for her. She has cognitive delays and speech and language requirements. The neurotypical private schools will not have the resources for her that she requires. A general education and special education mix is where she thrives, so she can interact and make friends with neuro typical kids. She struggles now, but this may not be for the future. By selecting a special ed school that is almost institutionalizing our daughter. One special ed school you must pay an extra \$2000 a year just to have PE! She thrives at PE and is an excellent runner, alas we will have to pay more for her to even have that 'privilege'.

We are blessed to earn more than the \$161,000. However with the average private school in Austin costing \$13,000 and special ed schools ranging from \$22000 - \$40,000, we are potentially paying up to \$66000 per year on educating our children. Which, will all end up being at different schools. So then how does one manage the logistics of collecting children after school, where they could potentially be located all around the city, not close to where we reside....after care programs will need to be considered at an additional expense.

Beyond our circumstances it needs to be considered the lunch meals that are provided for families over the summer. How, how are these families going to even come up with the difference between \$10k voucher and \$13k private education (average in Austin) if they are even struggling to feed their children?

Beyond that again, with such an influx of students going private, how on earth can private schools take so many children on when local schools, like ours - Manchaca Elementary have over 700 children? There are already wait lists for private schools. How can they be accommodated?

One last comment is, private schools can pick and choose who enters. For example a lot of children would thrive at Rawson Saunders, yet they specifically say on their admissions page 'Please note that Rawson Saunders is not equipped to serve students who require significant accommodations and supports related to behaviors and conduct'. My daughter who has no behavior issues and has perfect conduct would not be admitted as she falls under 'significant accommodations' with the requirement of speech therapy and academic life skills.

Christian Lopez, Mrs

Self

Highland Village, TX

Please do not pull public funds to give to private entities without installing a checks and balance across the board. If public must meet specific criteria and standards and testing so must the private entities receiving funds

Jessica Dvorscak

Self

Austin, TX

No school vouchers! Texas needs to fully fund public schools. School choice is a fallacy...we have choices. It is our responsibility to provide an education for EVERY child in Texas through public schools. We need to support public education and stop giving wealthy people more money. Public education for all Texas students!

Stan Van Hoose

Self

Austin, TX

HB3 is not a bill to support Texas education. It takes money away from our public education system; a system that is set up for all kids not some kids. It gives more financial support with less restrictions (testing, transportation, attendance requirements, special education) to the private programs. How can you defend such a system? A system where many families that support HB3 are already sending their kids to private/charter and are going to get financially rewarded if this bill passes. As someone who spent their learning years from elementary through college (University of Texas) in the public school system, I appreciate the opportunity that I had to learn in a diverse environment, a place for all students, where the color of my skin, my faith, my financial background didn't matter. My children also went to public universities after graduating from the Texas public school system. And now my grandchildren's education is at risk. Please vote No for HB3. Thank you.

Susan Syler

Self

Galveston, TX

I vehemently oppose HB 3. Texas public schools have been constantly underfunded, and this bill proposes to take \$1 billion to fund private school vouchers for 100,000 students. Why not allocate that money to public schools for teacher raises, so Texas can attract the best and the brightest to teach our children. At the very least, amend the bill to add a hard income cap on who can access the vouchers. Research shows that about 75% of vouchers in other states have gone to students already attending private schools.

Alexis Sanford

self

Austin, TX

Quality public education is essential for a thriving state. Vouchers will gut an already struggling system. We need to invest funds, talents, and ideas into public education not take it away. Vouchers are the anti-solution.

Amy Warren

Self. Graphic designer

Eules, TX

Please fund public schools at 2019 levels plus inflation. We love our local public schools. Every child in Texas should get a quality and free education. We can be the best if you fund it!

Frank Weskamp

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose any school voucher program, or any publicly funded program that subsidizes private schools. Using tax payer money to fund private schools is the equivalent of turning a public park into a private golf course that is still funded by the local tax payers.

Amber Rice

self

San Angelo, TX

I have serious concerns about this bill defunding our public schools. Parents, teachers, private schools and the general public have been voicing an overwhelming disapproval of this suggested bill. Most families would not be about to afford the portion of the cost the voucher does not cover for a private school and especially during a time in which our economy may be threatened by Tariffs and families that may be faced with unexpected job loss caused by the unstable political climate. Private schools are also not required to accept every student. They have the discretion to not to accept a child. School choice already exists. These vouchers are not doing a public service for Texas parents or children. It's doing great disservice by making it harder for our public schools to provide our children with a good education. This committee really needs to consider all outside unstable factors that could also cause devastating impacts to families and make trying to fund private schools almost impossible.

Tamara Ozen

Self, mother

Buda, TX

Please don't take our public school funding away. It is vital for our children to have successful educational opportunities. The percentage of children this bill will reach is not enough to justify the cost.

Andreana Tomz, Parent

Self

Copper Canyon, TX

As the daughter of public school teachers, a product of a public school education and a parent of public school students, I implore you not to pass this bill. We need to make Texas smarter and stronger. Taking funds from public schools will be detrimental to us ALL - for many years to come.

Amber Wood

Self, Public School Teacher

San Antonio, TX

No public money for private school vouchers! Vouchers are a political move to support wealthy families. This voucher program has repeatedly been rejected by Texas Voters. Abbott continues to try and pass this measure. Why? Politics! Public schools are underfunded, required to accept ALL students, mandated to provide state curriculum, required standardized testing, comply with federal protections for students with disabilities. This voucher plan pays private schools more money per student with NONE of the requirements of public schools. This makes absolutely zero sense. Why are taxpayers going to carry the burden of private school tuition? Public schools have long been the hub of neighborhoods. Parents rely on public schools to educate and care for their children. Parents already have options (charter schools, home school) if they aren't happy with public schools. In my experience, many students who leave to these other schools return to public schools to meet their needs. Look at voucher history in other states. It is not going well. As elected officials, speak up for those in your state and Vote NO ON VOUCHERS!

Paula Yoder, Dr

Myself

Granbury, TX

STOP THIS AND GIVE FUNDING BACK TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Linda Mundwiller, Mrs

Self

Houston, TX

Vote No

Kate Hix
Self, Attorney
Austin, TX

My name is Kate Hix. I'm an Austin parent sharing testimony AGAINST HB3. My opposition is based on the needs of Texas public schools and students and the well-documented problems with these programs in other states.

Texas has rejected vouchers again and again.

Session after session, communities across our state have told lawmakers that vouchers are the wrong choice for Texas and Texas lawmakers have voted in the interest of their communities. The conversation is different this time – not because the needs and values of Texas communities have changed, but because the resources being used to push vouchers have grown. It's important to make the choice that's right for Texas students and taxpayers, not for people who hope to profit from Texas students and tax dollars.

Vouchers undermine public education

Vouchers can undermine public education by diverting resources away from public schools, which educate about 90% of Texas children and offer a range of academic options, extracurricular programs, and student supports. Public schools are valued by communities across our state. Rather than diverting money to fund an unaccountable private school system, the legislature should invest in our public schools.

False promises of academic outcomes

Some supporters justify vouchers by promising better academic outcomes for students “trapped in failing public schools,” which struggle when they are starved of funds needed to meet student needs. Other states offer many well-documented failures to improve student outcomes with vouchers – programs described by economist and former voucher supporter Josh Cowen as delivering “dreadful academic results for voucher users.”

Lack of accountability and transparency

Vouchers offer families and taxpayers fewer opportunities to find out what's happening inside their child's school because private schools are exempt from state accountability and assessment standards, financial reporting requirements, open records laws, special education rules, student safety rules or curriculum requirements.

Benefit to wealthy families

In state after state, vouchers are being used primarily by students who never attended public school.

Please invest in public schools. Vouchers are NOT the answer.

Dawn Tunnell
Self
Red Oak, TX

I completely oppose this bill. When voting you need to decide are you one of the “bought” or are you truly representing ALL kids? School vouchers do not represent all kids and I don't want my tax dollars funding private schools when they are not held to the same standards as public schools and they don't have to accept ALL kids.

Cori Hutchinson
Self
Denton, TX

Public schools are the backbone of our state. In promoting school vouchers, we take away resources and funding from public education students, teachers, and staff and lessen their opportunities. If we are not satisfied with the quality of education given in public schools, let us instead work to reform and improve these schools for those students who do not have the opportunity or resources to move to a school that would be eligible under the education savings account program. I'm a proud alum of Texas public schools, and I want to see improvements for them, not buyouts to attend private schools!

Taylor Stone

Self

Rowlett, TX

My name is Taylor Nichols Stone and I am an attorney in the Dallas area. I was born and raised in a small town near Lubbock, Texas. My parents were public school educators—my dad retired as a superintendent. I actually also taught for two years before attending law school. There is no way that vouchers would actually benefit the children of Texas—especially our most vulnerable groups.

This legislation and the push for similar legislation is clearly stemming from the push of billionaire activists whose goal is to dismantle public education. ANY passing of voucher legislation would have a wide sweeping detrimental impact on students and teachers in our great state for generations to come. I'm not sure I fully understand the goal of the billionaire activists pushing this agenda, but the reality is that this agenda would ensure that the gap between the rich and poor in Texas would continue to grow at an alarmingly increased rate. Economically disadvantaged and rural students would feel the brunt of the impact the worst.

Please—I am begging you—do the right thing and vote against this bill. Stand up for what is right, moral, ethical, and beneficial to your constituents. The children and teachers of Texas are depending on you.

Diane Lassman

Self

Victoria, TX

Against vouchers

Amanda Clair

Self

Dallas, TX

Hi! I do not want taxpayer dollars used for vouchers. Instead I ask that you INCREASE funding for special education and diverse learners. Our public schools have wonderful staff and teachers who are underfunded. By funding public schools instead of vouchers you can better fund our schools so ALL students not just some can get the education they deserve. Thank you.

Yvonne Barrera

Self/ former educator/ small business owner

Cedar Park, TX

I vehemently oppose school the creation of a savings account program. This tax dollars, if available for use in education, should be put forward to support all taxpayers. If I choose to eat organic and pay more for my grocery bill— that's a choice. No other taxpayer should carry that cost. If someone chooses to send their child to a private institution, then that should be at their own expense. We need to make sure we support our school districts by providing them with the resources they need to to help every single student in the state of Texas succeed.

Jennifer Margulies

Self- nonprofit consultant/parent

Austin, TX

I urge a no vote on HB3 for several reasons: 1) public dollars should be used for public education, the only free education guaranteed to every student in the state, regardless of religion, ability, race, ethnicity, sexuality or gender. Giving public dollars to private schools undermines funding for public education, already lower in Texas than in most states in the country. 2) government support for private religious schools violates the separation of church and state, using state dollars to fund religious education. While this may be a feature, not a bug, of the bill, it remains unconstitutional. 3) In state after state with ESA/voucher systems, studies have consistently shown for decades that it is families who were already using private education who benefited the most from vouchers. The amount of voucher funding provided doesn't touch the tuition cost for the vast majority of students. That average tuition cost cited by the bill supporters is an average of tiny schools and large schools, so it's a misleadingly low number. The rhetoric about ESAs serving underprivileged students is just that: rhetoric, not borne out by the track record. 4) Private schools have the ability to pick and choose the students they serve and the services they provide. Our tax dollars should not be funding entities that discriminate and that are not accountable to students, families, or taxpayers.

Matthew Arnold

self (software engineer)

Austin, TX

This program is plainly inefficient and a wasteful use of taxpayer dollars. Please redirect your energy into adequately funding our public schools and their programs rather than designing convoluted systems of handouts for your wealthy friends

Melissa Key

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am absolutely against this program of taking funds out of public schools and using them to fund private education. Parents already have the choice where to send their children to school. This will only benefit a minuscule amount of children and the majority will suffer, and put Texas even further down the list on education.

Vicki Richardson, Ms.

Self

Lubbock, TX

Take vouchers out of put it to a vote. The citizens of Texas do not want this.

Ellen Hutto

Self/retired public school teacher

Houston, TX

I support public schools and OPPOSE HB3.

Flo Dobrowolski

self

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Gilda Powers

Self

Austin, TX

Public education in Texas is in need of support. Through this bill, the republicans led by Abbott will only reduce funding to public schools, and promote divisive economic measures. Public schools receive an amount per child and serve children of all economic backgrounds. The benefit will only be for those rich enough who already have their children in private schools. A working family relies on the services provided by public schools, I.e., school buses. How can a working family be able to take their kids to and from school and still make it to work on time? Our teachers deserve better salaries. Our schools need upgrading. Small rural communities do not have the luxury of private schools. This only benefits the rich. Please vote no on school vouchers.

Trenton Vela

Self

Spring, TX

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3 and any efforts to implement a school voucher program in Texas. Vouchers divert critical public funds away from our already underfunded public schools, weakening the education system that serves the vast majority of Texas students. Instead of increasing educational opportunities, vouchers primarily benefit private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards, do not guarantee student protections, and often exclude students with disabilities or special needs. Public tax dollars should be invested in strengthening our public schools—ensuring smaller class sizes, higher teacher salaries, and better resources for all students—rather than subsidizing private institutions with little oversight. Please prioritize the future of Texas children by rejecting HB 3 and keeping public funds in public schools.

Noelle Newby

Parent

Austin, TX

I am a parent of private school students, and I oppose this bill.

School vouchers are taxpayer-funded subsidies given to private schools and vendors without transparency and accountability for results.

Private schools are not required to accept all students nor assess alignment to state curriculum to track student progress. Private schools do not have reporting or accountability for the use of taxpayer funds or student performance. Private schools do not have to provide special education services for students with learning differences or disabilities.

For these reasons, I oppose this bill.

Danica Thornton

Self

San Antonio, TX

Public dollars should only be spent on public education. Parents have school choice and the ability to send their children to another school but the public shouldn't pay for that. Public dollars for public schools

Cynthia Levinson

Self

Austin, TX

HB 3 disenfranchises more public school students than it helps. Kill this bill!

Jane Wright
self/homeschooling mom
Melissa, TX

Hello,

I am a resident of your district and am asking that you vote "no" on HB3.

We are a conservative homeschool family that currently exercises "school choice", as made available by our Texas constitution under the Leeper Law.

Using the financial numbers discussed in the education committee meeting earlier this week, it is clear that HB3 will put "school choice" in the hands of few. 92,000 or 1.43% of the Texas student population to be exact. Additionally, those that will benefit are the 5 new vendors (CEAO's) that are the new businesses created by taxpayer funds, not families like ourselves or our neighbors.

As our representative, I ask that consider the future impact of HB3 by looking at states like Arizona, Florida, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The adoption of similar legislation in these states has resulted in: an increase of state debt, the forcing of small co-ops and private schools to shut their doors, an increase in access to poorly written curriculum from companies who have altered curriculum to become "approved" options, a mishandling of funds, negative impact for public schools and low income families, encouraging an increase in tuition prices of private schools and an increase in government regulation and intervention. As a conservative, I know you are opposed to more government regulation and intervention.

As homeschoolers, we enjoy the complete freedom of homeschooling in Texas with absolutely no partnership or oversight from the government. Please keep it that way by voting no to HB3.

Thank you for your time and for your service. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,
Jane Wright
Melissa, TX 75454

Melanie Jackson
Self/ teacher
Richardson, TX

While I appreciate the House taking a more measured approach to school vouchers than the Senate, I still find it deeply troubling that instead of simply funding and making our current system better, they are taking away from it. We do not need public dollars going to private entities. It is the definition of wealth redistribution, and if, this was a liberal idea, the conservatives would be up in arms about it. I also find it troubling that this continues to be a very unpopular idea that the GOP seems very dead set on passing for some insane reason. The GOP holds town halls where people are angry because they continue to push and push this wholly unpopular idea down our throats, and then they wonder why people are booing them or are angry. It seems that the GOP doesn't care to listen to the people who they serve, they are only listening to their own echos. This idea needs to be done, and then we can move on to more productive conversations that will actually help the millions of kids who are served by our public education system.

Tiffany Bell
Self
Spring, TX

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3 and any efforts to implement a school voucher program in Texas. Vouchers divert critical public funds away from our already underfunded public schools, weakening the education system that serves the vast majority of Texas students. Instead of increasing educational opportunities, vouchers primarily benefit private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards, do not guarantee student protections, and often exclude students with disabilities or special needs. Public tax dollars should be invested in strengthening our public schools—ensuring smaller class sizes, higher teacher salaries, and better resources for all students—rather than subsidizing private institutions with little oversight. Please prioritize the future of Texas children by rejecting HB 3 and keeping public funds in public schools.

Shannon Woodward

Self

Montgomery, TX

"I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3 and any efforts to implement a school voucher program in Texas. Vouchers divert critical public funds away from our already underfunded public schools, weakening the education system that serves the vast majority of Texas students. Instead of increasing educational opportunities, vouchers primarily benefit private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards, do not guarantee student protections, and often exclude students with disabilities or special needs. Public tax dollars should be invested in strengthening our public schools—ensuring smaller class sizes, higher teacher salaries, and better resources for all students—rather than subsidizing private institutions with little oversight. Please prioritize the future of Texas children by rejecting HB 3 and keeping public funds in public schools."

Velma DeLeon

LFCISD

San Benito, TX

JANIE LOPEZ refuses to listen to her constituents regarding this subject. Her community has made countless request for a town hall so she may go over the pros and cons and answer questions. She refuses to return emails, calls, and doesn't not respond to her legislative duties. We the people of San Benito Texas request a town hall and her cooperation in correspondence to her constituents.

Melanie McCammon

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I oppose the establishment of an education savings account program, because it would erode the strength of our public schools by siphoning taxpayer funds away from public education and toward private institutions and home schooling. Because we fund our public schools based on attendance, encouraging parents to remove their children from public schools decreases the money available to our public schools, hampering their ability to educate the children of Texas.

Jason Miskovsky

Self, software engineer

AUSTIN, TX

I am a parent of both private and public-school students, and I oppose this bill.

School vouchers are taxpayer-funded subsidies given to private schools and vendors without transparency and accountability for results.

For this reason, I oppose.

Cindy St John

self

Austin, TX

Please vote no on ESAs. I don't want my tax dollars paying for private education vendors.

Marissa Mapes

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I am a parent of 2 students who currently attend public schools. We chose these schools for our children and chose to live where we do for the schools. Our community thrives on the public schools as a way to bring us all together and to have a common goal. Small, rural communities do the same. Public schools are the hearts of communities. Please consider this as you listen to the push for vouchers. It will hurt communities in so many ways.

I am also a speech language pathologist in public schools and work with and abide by special education laws to make sure that every student has the ability to attain a free appropriate public education. I am very concerned that private schools do not have to abide by the same rules/laws and money will be taken away from students who need it the most. Please do not leave any Texas student behind. Please do not approve vouchers. Communities and students with disabilities are at risk if vouchers pass.

Nicol Henderson

Self

KYLE, TX

Save our public schools! Absolutely NO VOUCHERS!!!!!!

Rachel Fitzgerald

Self

Houston, TX

OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas as a whole. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Charity Cavazos, Instructional Assistant Professor

Texas A& M University

Brownsville, TX

Secure funding for public education FIRST

Claire Boyle

Self, Office Manager

Austin, TX

I disagree with this bill. Vouchers would not make private school attainable for my family. I want public schools to be better funded and teachers paid more. My school is experiencing a lot of staff changes because teachers are not paid enough. We love our school and hate to see these teachers not recognized. Please shift funding into public schools. Private schools do NOT need more money.

Susie Dorman
Self/school counselor
Canton, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill now. Please do the right thing.

yehuda Grossman
HB 3 by Buckley
San Antonio, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Velma DeLeon

LFCISD

San Benito, TX

Subject: Strong Opposition School Vouches

Dear Member of Congress,

As a mother of five sons in public schools and a current employee of the public school system, I'm deeply troubled by the actions of Greg Abbott, which seem to undermine my chosen profession. It's disheartening to see teachers and public education increasingly facing challenges. When did we become the scapegoat in the push for voucher for private schools?

I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to the recent budget cut, implemented with the intention of holding this money for vouchers, affecting our public school. As a speech pathologist, I've seen how these cuts hinder our ability to support special needs students with the necessary technology and equipment.

I'm particularly concerned about voucher programs, which risk excluding vulnerable special needs students from the resources they require. I urge you to vote against budget cuts that allocate money for vouchers and support adequate funding for our public schools.

Therefore, I urge you to vote resolutely against voucher programs and to work tirelessly to secure adequate funding for our public schools. It is imperative that we ensure our public schools can continue to serve all students effectively and inclusively.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Velma DeLeon

Speech Language Pathologist

Los Fresnos CISD

Tamara Pedraza

Self - sales

Dallas, TX

When considering JHR 140 it is important to remember that tax dollars collected no longer belong to the individual, but are meant to serve the greater good of the State of Texas. Public education is, and should remain, fully funded by the people and any monies collected for that purpose are ethically bound to remain in the support of public education to ensure that every child in this state has the opportunity for a quality education. If the school system has deteriorated to the degree that the public has lost confidence in its ability to teach their children than the solution is to address this within the public school system. I no more have the right to demand my tax dollars back to fix the road in front of only my house than anyone has the right to demand their tax dollars back to fund private education. Nothing helps us more than a strong public school system. Every child in this state deserves an equitable, accessible opportunity to learn. Diverting funds earmarked for PUBLIC education panders to more affluent voters at the expense of children who could also achieve great things for this state, and country, with the foundation of a free tax payer supported education, as intended. What helps society as a whole helps everyone. Please consider this and vote against JHR 140.

Kenneth Temple

Self CFO

Ovilla, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Makayla Mcglon

Self

Taylor, TX

Public education is a right for all Americans. It only helps boost our economy in the long run. Public school has helped generations of Texans get a a start in life in is a Pilar to our society. If most funding goes to private schools public schools will close and children of lower and middle class families will bear the consequences. This is not fair. Keep education free and public. The people who can afford private schools already send their kids there. This will be a huge mistake if this bill gets passed. As a fellow Texan, born and raised in the public school system, please keep our children in mind. ALL children, not just the rich ones.

Robert Patman

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3), which introduces an Education Savings Account (ESA) program to direct public funds to private schools. While the intention of expanding educational options may seem beneficial on the surface, this proposal endangers the integrity of Texas's public education system and jeopardizes equitable access to quality education for all students.

Public schools play a critical role in providing education to children across Texas, regardless of income, location, or background. Diverting public funds to private education through ESAs will disproportionately harm rural and underserved schools, further straining already limited resources. These schools are vital to their communities, and diminishing their funding risks undermining opportunities for countless students.

Additionally, private schools are not bound by the same accountability and transparency measures as public institutions. They are not obligated to follow state curriculum standards, administer standardized assessments, or accommodate students with disabilities. Public funds should not be allocated to institutions that are not held to the same standards of oversight and public accountability.

The proposed ESA program also raises significant equity concerns. The families most likely to benefit from this program are those already able to afford private school tuition, leaving lower-income families behind. Furthermore, many rural communities in Texas lack access to private schools entirely. For families in these areas, ESAs provide no meaningful alternative, yet these families would still face the negative consequences of reduced funding for their local public schools.

Rather than allocating funds to private schools, the Texas Legislature should focus on investing in public education. Prioritizing teacher pay, classroom resources, and support services for students will ensure lasting benefits for all Texans.

In conclusion, I urge policymakers to oppose HB 3 and commit to strengthening public education, which remains the backbone of our state's future. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments for the public record.

Leann West
self
Nacogdoches, TX

This bill will do more to harm public education and student in the state of Texas than any previous legislation. The authors of the bill are fooled into believing that they are supporting public education, but in reality they are abusing their power. ALL should vote NO on this insulting legislation

Sheri Allen, Cantor
Makom Shelanu Congregation
FT WORTH, TX

As a Texas Resident for over 30 years, as well as Jewish clergy, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I oppose private school subsidies/vouchers, and believe that they are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair.

School vouchers are taxpayer-funded scholarships for private school tuition, most of which benefit religiously segregated schools. This is simply another assault to religious liberty – and violation of the separation of church/state. The Texas Constitution is clear that public funding is not to support religious schools or the teaching of any particular faith.

Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Public schools in Texas face enough challenges without funding being diverted elsewhere, leaving fewer resources for schools that serve the majority of our nation's students.

Public schools in Texas are underfunded by billions of dollars every year. Education funding should prioritize students of all faiths, identities, and abilities. Vouchers do not address the needs of low-income, at-risk students such as transportation, free and reduced lunches, textbooks, assessment of special needs, access to additional remediation programs, the full cost of tuition and more. Additionally, without elected boards or state oversight, vouchers give away tax dollars with no financial or academic accountability.

Public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students, serving all the students in their boundaries. They build the workforce that powers the Texas economy. We can't afford to underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future.

As a Texas Resident for over 30 years, as well as Jewish clergy, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I oppose private school subsidies/vouchers, and believe that they are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair.

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Education funding should prioritize students of all faiths, identities, and abilities. Vouchers do not address the needs of low-income, at-risk students such as transportation, free and reduced lunches, textbooks, assessment of special needs, access to additional remediation programs, the full cost of tuition and more. Please oppose HB3 and all efforts to divert public funds to private schools.

Kim Kass
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill.

Robert A Bauer
Robert A Bauer
Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

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William Gober
Self
San Angelo, TX

Texas was built on the promise of opportunity, and our public schools have long been the foundation of that promise. From the one-room schoolhouses that educated our earliest settlers to the thriving districts that have shaped generations of leaders, public education has been the great equalizer—ensuring that every child, no matter their background, has a chance to succeed. But the proposed school voucher system threatens to undermine that legacy by diverting critical funding away from public schools and into private institutions that are not accountable to taxpayers.

In communities like my hometown of San Angelo, where our public schools serve as the heart of our neighborhoods and the key to our children's futures, this policy would have devastating consequences. Less funding means larger class sizes, fewer resources, and diminished opportunities for the very students who need them most. Texas cannot afford to turn its back on the schools that have built this state—we must stand firm in our commitment to strong, well-funded public education for all.

STOP THE SCAM!

Joseph Henderson

Self - teacher

Kyle, TX

The creation of a voucher system in the state of Texas will do nothing to help lower and middle income families, while providing a cost break for the wealthy. The availability of a voucher which does not come close to covering the cost of a private education will not be an incentive to lower income families, and instead should serve to raise the cost of a private education in the state of Texas by an average approximating the value of the voucher, thus doing nothing but adding funds to private schools while depriving the public schools in their area of much needed funds. If you want to fix education in the state of Texas, force the governor to stop playing political games and release the funds schools need to operate effectively. Revisit the standard allotment, which has not increased in years, to better reflect the cost of educating a student in our current economy.

Joy Clark, Dr.

Self

Belton, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas House Bill 3, a legislative proposal that threatens to divert essential funds away from public schools, thereby significantly impacting special education services. As a neuropsychologist specializing in working with children and adults with disabilities, I am deeply concerned about the potential consequences this bill poses to the vulnerable populations I serve.

Public schools play a critical role in providing equitable education opportunities for all students, including those with disabilities. The funding allocated to these institutions supports specialized programs and services that are crucial for the development and success of students with diverse needs. These services include individualized education plans (IEPs), speech and occupational therapy, and access to trained special education professionals who are dedicated to fostering an inclusive learning environment.

It is important to note that private schools are not required to provide the same level of resources or accommodations for students with disabilities as public schools. This means that if funds are diverted from public schools, students with disabilities may find themselves without access to the essential services they need to succeed. The lack of mandated support in private educational settings could leave many students without the necessary interventions and accommodations that public schools are obligated to provide.

House Bill 3 threatens to undermine these efforts by reallocating funds away from public schools, which could lead to reduced resources, larger class sizes, and diminished support for students requiring specialized attention. Such changes would disproportionately affect students with disabilities, who rely on consistent and tailored educational support to thrive academically and socially.

As a professional in the field, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact that adequate funding and resources can have on students with disabilities. These students deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that public schools are equipped to meet their unique needs.

I urge you to consider the long-term implications of House Bill 3 on the education and well-being of students with disabilities. By opposing this bill, you can help safeguard the future of special education services and uphold the principles of inclusivity and equal opportunity in our public education system.

Haley Horan

self, non-profit professional

Houston, TX

No to vouchers. Listen to your constituents. Public dollars belong in public schools.

celesa roach, mrs
self - taxpayer/teacher
Allen, TX

This bill will only serve about 25k students who are not currently in a private school. The other 75k students are already enrolled in a private school setting. Most families even with the added funds will not be able to afford a private school, and many already have waiting lists. In addition, 158 counties do not even have access to a private school remotely close to them, yet we are using their tax dollars to fund the wealthy in the larger metroplex areas. The biggest concern is the study that shows this voucher program will likely impact and defund the TRS retirement system starting in about 11 years. This not only impacts public school employees, but state college and university employees as well. Teachers in the public schools deserve better, our students deserve proper funding versus having funds on hold while our governor pushes an agenda led by his wealthiest donors. It is clear the majority of Texans do not want a voucher system, and you owe it to your constituents to not allow this to pass.

Eliyahu Block
Self
San Antonio, TX

We would be so grateful if the state of Texas would allow us to choose th education for our children and alleviate the tremendous financial burden that come along with that.

Sharon Gamliel, Mrs.
Self
Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

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Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Bailey Bodenheimer
Public Education
Flower Mound, TX

"The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts."
- C.S. Lewis

Vouchers create deserts.

Mary Katherine Marston

Self

Rowlett, TX

I am a former educator with three young boys. I feel passionate about fully funded public schools. Two of my boys are already in public schools and the youngest will join when he turns 3. If SB 2/HB 3 ends up passing, Garland ISD where my of my boys goes will stand to lose about 21 million dollars in state funding. My other son is in Mesquite ISD to attend the Mesquite Regional School for the Deaf (a phenomenal publicly funded program) would lose almost 16 million in state funding. Both districts would have to cut hundreds of teaching positions and class sizes would increase by about 7%. Our kids and teachers need smaller class sizes to thrive and this is the exact opposite. I do not have numbers on how this would impact funding for special education services, but it is valid to assume it will not be good, especially if the Department of Education is disbanded. My younger two boys are partially Deaf and will need special education services throughout their entire school career. There is not a private school option that would meet their needs. They and countless other Texas children need the expertise of special education teachers and individualized services so they can be the best versions of themselves.

While this bill does increase the per pupil allotment, it still ranks Texas in the bottom of states in per pupil allotment. If we want the state to continue to grow and thrive we must invest in our students and teachers. We are doing a disservice by allocating so little funds to them.

Additionally, it is absolutely ridiculous to give public tax payer funds to private schools without any accountability. I do not understand with in these uncertain economic times and when the federal government is focused on eliminating "waste and fraud" how can tax payers be aussrued that their dollars will be spent correctly? Public schools are held to incredibly high standards and have many rules on how funds can be spent. This is creating a seprate and unequal education system. Especially for our rural school districts and counties that do not have a private school option.

Peggy Larson

self

Dallas, TX

It is imperative that we continue to support public education in our state. Vouchers do NOT do that! I know countless students who have benefited from a Texas Public education and have gone on to do wonderful things for our state.

Mary Jane Williams
Family to Family Network
Houston, TX

Thank you Chair Buckley and Committee Representatives,
Family to Family Network is a 30+ year parent organization creates success for children with disabilities by empowering families in the greater Houston area by providing information, training, referrals to resources and support as they attempt to navigate the extremely complex education, health care and social service systems trying to get help for their children. Family to Family Network believes that all children have value and belong in our communities, not segregating them to "special" places. Children and youth with disabilities do not have "special needs"; they have the same needs for access to quality education, transportation, employment, independent living and social lives. Current funding for services for students with disabilities in education has been underfunded for years.

We are writing to oppose the educational savings accounts presented in HB 3 due to the fact that HB 2 reflects a change to an intensity level of funding and will change the IEPs of over 595,000 students with disabilities. If this bill is put in place as of Sept 1, it will be impossible for families to know what level of funding will be available for their ESAs. While \$30,000 may cover some students with disabilities in private placement, our fear is that the majority will not receive that amount of funding that will make private placements accessible for their individuals with disabilities. In addition, for much of the rural areas of the state, there are no private placements available. Will those rural areas be provided with additional funding for their school districts to adequately provide educational services for their students with disabilities? If the budgeted amount for the bieninum was used in public schools, the educational services provided could benefit all students with disabilities. Also, private schools should be subject to the same Federal laws protecting students with disabilities. As an organization who hears from families whose students were enrolled in charter schools that were dismissed because of their disability (even though they are required to follow TEA/IDEA law and rules), we are positive that this will happen with private placements also. In addition, there appears to be a wide latitude for providers providing the service (especially around therapy services) and may need some additional thought as there are current ABA providers who are not providing services by a Licensed ABA but by Rehab Techs. While Family to Family Network agrees that ABA services are often needed for some students with autism, how will the Comptrollers office determine that there is an "educational" benefit to any "therapy" services provided?

For these reasons, Family to Family Network is against the Educational Savings Account portion of the bill.

Thank you very much for committing to the education of all students in Texas.

Terri Purdy
Self
Austin, TX

As a supporter of Texas public schools, I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 3.

Texas students deserve strong, well-funded public schools. I'm asking that you fully fund public schools FIRST, to the level that would at least match inflation increases since 2019. I would also ask that if you continue to pursue vouchers, that you ensure ANY schools that receive state funding are held to the same transparency requirements, accountability standards, and enrollment practices as public schools.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Texas public schools.

Lauren Bereuter
Self, nurse practitioner
Roanoke, TX

Increase the basic allotment to \$7500

Tania Cohen
Self
Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

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Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Hang Doan-Meany
Self
Austin, TX

Writing to oppose HB3 (private school vouchers)

Karin Doerr
self/instructional assistant
College Station, TX

I am strongly opposed to state tax money being given to parents/private schools without oversight. I cannot think of any currently existing welfare program that hands out tax dollars without oversight.

When WIC and SNAP benefits are given, there are limits on what they can be used to purchase. They cannot be used to purchase expensive prepared foods to help ensure fiscal responsibility. They cannot be used to purchase alcohol. Instead, they have limits to make sure that affordable, nutritious food is purchased to keep families healthy. Under HB3, there are only the most minimal requirements to ensure that funds are being spent in a fiscally responsible manner. A parent could purchase home-schooling materials at a significantly inflated price, wasting tax dollars. HB3 also has no requirements to ensure that students are receiving a quality education with their ESA. While there are many great private schools in our state, without oversight, there is nothing to prevent state tax dollars being wasted on a school providing an inadequate education.

ESA supporters claim that school choice is a necessity. However, we already have school choice, WITH appropriate oversight. Charter schools play that role in our state. Even in small, rural communities, charter schools exist to offer school choice. These schools allow parents to choose where to send their child, but at the same time have oversight to ensure that state tax monies are being used appropriately to provide an education.

My other concern regarding school choice is that private schools don't necessarily provide families a choice. They are under no obligation to accept a child into their school. They can deny a student a spot at their school due to lack of space, disability, differences in religious beliefs, or a myriad of other reasons. Giving an ESA to a family of a child that will not be accepted into any local private school is NOT choice.

I understand ESAs are probably a foregone conclusion. Please strongly consider adding oversight requirements to ensure that tax money is used wisely to provide an education. The provision allowing ESAs to be used to pay for required uniforms seems like a waste of tax dollars. Uniforms are not necessary to receive an education. And please ensure true choice is offered by requiring private schools that accept ESA funds to accept any and all students that apply, just as public schools must do.

Michael Nowland

Self

Magnolia, TX

Please do not pass this bill. If you do not personally benefit from this bill there is no reason to do this. There has been lots of data provided by past voucher education systems and they do not work. Our students live in poor communities. We do not want to go to charter schools. Superintendents at charter schools often make millions but somehow those schools can also unexpectedly close or shutdown. There are several reports of this happening. We can use this money to reduce class sizes instead which, as a teacher, I know personally how effective this would be. We don't have to do this.

Richard Rodriguez

Self

Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Jacquelin Justice

Saigling Elementary PTA in Plano Independent School District

Plano, TX

Voucher programs in other states have exploded beyond their initial budgets, draining resources from public schools. Worse, vouchers do not improve student achievement and, in many states, lead to a decline in achievement. Furthermore, the reality is that vouchers are not about "parent choice" because the only choice in a voucher program belongs to private schools that can hand-pick their students and are not accountable to taxpayers or the state. Texas parents already have school choice, and vouchers undeniably funnel public tax dollars away from our already-strained public schools.

OPPOSE HB3 because:

Studies show vouchers do not equate to improved academic outcomes.

HB 3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas families already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity with public money.

Public money means public accountability. Any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing, and accountability requirements as public schools.

Texans should decide! Vouchers would use public dollars for private education—Texans deserve a voice in this decision. Urge lawmakers to put the measure on a statewide ballot and let the people vote!

Sarah Belyi, Mrs.

A parent in Round Rock ISD

Austin, TX

As a lifelong Texas, who went through public schools, I DO NOT support this bill for school vouchers... it's ridiculous. We ought to be funding and supporting our public schools and teachers so much better than we have been, it's disgraceful. It clear that the real mission here is to ultimately have more control over the schools and their curriculum, so that religious zealots can try to infuse their doctrine into our education system. There's good reason for separation of church and state, and maybe some folks need reminding that that separation is essential to the health of our democracy.

Lauren Dorff, Mrs
Glen Oaks PTA
McKinney, TX

I am a voter and a parent. I oppose HB3 for what all it takes away from a great majority of students in our state. Parents have always had a choice of where to send their kids to school. Giving money to wealthy people to go towards the private education that they are already giving their kids is welfare for the wealthy. Public funds given to private organizations with no oversight is ridiculous, unconstitutional and against everything that Texas used to stand for. Private schools do not usually accept children with ANY disability of any kind, they do NOT provide transportation, and they do not have to accept anyone that they do not want to. They also do not serve our rural neighbors. 90% of Texas students attend public school so let's do all we can to make it great.

By not raising student allotments since 2019 is ludicrous. Holding public school funding hostage with this voucher nonsense for the last three years is shameful. Start representing your state and not your billionaire sponsors. You have time to do the right thing even as you wrote this stupid bill. Be better for your state.

Funny how there hasn't been a single rally for people asking for vouchers, only those many, many, many people rallying against it. Guess our voices don't count anymore.

Nancy Hester
Self , retired
San Antonio, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill. My concerns are the discrepancy between the amount of the vouchers vs. the amount per student given to public schools, the fact that states who have implemented vouchers are facing financial crisis, that vouchers benefit the privileged, for example those who are able to transport their student, that public schools actually offer a lot of choices to students, that private schools are able to select their students while public schools do not, whether schools accepting vouchers will be held to the same accountability standards as public schools, if private schools will now be required to provide services to special needs students. While my children are now longer in school, I do have grandchildren in school who are taking advantage of school choice already through the public schools actually offer. Those in favor of vouchers stays that there aren't enough choices provided and that underprivileged families can't afford to move to areas with more choices. I contend that those families most likely can't provide transportation to a private school, and that those in that situation likely don't have private schools readily available either. If we need more choice for students, then public schools should be properly funded in order for Guam to be able to provide those choices. I recently attended a course fair at my grandson's high school and was astounded at the many opportunities available to students at no extra cost to their families. Many opportunities for college hours and certifications in various fields are available. Please do not allow this bill to move forward. If the Governor is so sure that Texans want vouchers, it should be put up for a vote of the general population rather than a bill that has already been defeated. It is reprehensible for this to keep being presented over and over when it is clearly not supported by a majority of citizens. If you in fact represent your constituents, you will not send this bill to the floor or vote for it. As a taxpayer. I will be watching.

Jennifer Kim
Self
Katy, TX

Public education needs to be supported as much as possible. Those who can afford private school can already do so. We should not be weakening our public school system.

Jacqui Calloway
Creative Action
Austin, TX

As a certified Texas teacher and someone who works as an arts educator with elementary, middle, and high school students, I implore you to continue to prioritize public school in your funding decisions. Private schools will remain out of reach for low-income families or students with specific behavioral or learning needs. They are not equipped to serve every child, which is the mandate of public schooling. Please use public funds to benefit those who need them most, in order to help the next generation be more successful and well-prepared for the future.

Michael Freberg

“self” / Parent

Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3, the largest and most expensive school voucher scheme ever proposed in Texas. This bill takes taxpayer dollars meant for public schools and redirects them to private schools that lack transparency, accountability, and equal access for all students.

Public tax dollars should support public schools, which serve every child, regardless of ability, income, or background. Texas lawmakers have not increased the basic per-student funding allotment for public schools since 2019, despite rising costs, inflation, and a record budget surplus. If there is money in the budget for education, our priority should be fully funding public schools first—ensuring teacher raises, better resources for students, and improvements to school infrastructure—before sending tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

Furthermore, HB 3 does not even prioritize the students who need the most support. It allows families already in private schools—including those making over \$200,000 per year—to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers. Wealthy families will get a discount on private school tuition while public schools lose funding, harming the vast majority of Texas students.

This bill also fails students with disabilities. While HB 3 offers larger voucher amounts for special education students, private schools are not required to accept them or provide the necessary services. Public schools are legally required to serve all children, yet HB 3 shifts funding away from them to schools that are not obligated to meet these needs.

Texas public schools educate more than 5.4 million students—far more than private institutions ever will. If we truly care about education, we should be investing in strong, well-funded public schools that serve everyone, rather than subsidizing private schools that can pick and choose their students.

HB 3 is bad for Texas families, bad for students, and bad for our public schools. I urge legislators to reject this costly and irresponsible voucher scheme and instead invest in fully funding public schools, raising teacher pay, and ensuring that every Texas child has access to a high-quality education.

Sincerely,

Michael Freberg

Austin

Elizabeth Lister

Self

Tomball, TX

I homeschool and want to remain able to teach what I want too. That is what free choice is. I do not want to have to be told what to teach. That is not free choice. I am against this bill bc it is not considered free choice. Fix the terminology and ask us parents before submitting a bill. The people have a say when it comes to certain criteria.

Brian Merrell

Republicans

Bryan, TX

I am writing to express my deep concern and strong opposition to House Bill 3, specifically regarding the inclusion of Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a mechanism for diverting public education funds to private and charter schools. As a lifelong advocate for public education and someone who deeply values the role of our public schools in shaping the future of Texas, I find this bill to be a direct threat to the integrity, equity, and effectiveness of our education system.

While I understand the appeal of school choice for some families, the reality is that ESAs will siphon critical resources away from Texas public schools, ultimately harming the majority of students—particularly those in rural and low-income communities. Our state has long faced challenges in adequately funding public education, and House Bill 3 threatens to exacerbate these issues rather than address them. I urge you to oppose this bill and stand with Texas students, teachers, and communities that rely on strong public schools to thrive.

The Danger of Diverting Public Funds from Public Schools

Texas public schools serve over 5.4 million students. Unlike private schools, they are required to educate all children, regardless of socioeconomic background, disability status, or learning needs. Public education is the foundation of a thriving democracy, and it is unacceptable to weaken this foundation by redirecting taxpayer dollars to private institutions that are not held to the same standards of accountability, inclusivity, and transparency.

ESAs function as a form of voucher system, where families receive taxpayer-funded dollars to apply toward private school tuition or other educational expenses. However, there is little to no oversight on how these funds are spent. Public schools are required to meet stringent academic standards, financial reporting requirements, and accountability measures, yet private institutions that receive ESA funds would not be subject to the same scrutiny. This creates an unequal playing field where public schools must continue to meet high expectations with fewer resources, while private schools benefit from public funding without having to meet the same obligations.

Furthermore, public school districts in Texas already struggle with inequitable funding. The state's school finance system relies heavily on property taxes, which means wealthier districts can generate significantly more revenue than lower-income districts. Instead of addressing these disparities and investing in equitable funding models, House Bill 3 would take even more money away from the very schools that need additional support.

The Impact on Rural Communities

Rural school districts in Texas stand to suffer the most under House Bill 3. Unlike urban areas, which have more private school options, most rural communities rely solely on their public schools for education. When state funding is reduced due to ESAs, these schools will be forced to cut programs, increase class si

Mary Spradlin, Rev.
Pastors for Texas Children
Fort Worth, TX

I write in opposition of HB 3. Specifically, I am against any voucher/ESA bill. Vouchers take public funds and give them away to private entities with very little oversight. Our tax dollars should not be used to support private entities, especially at the expense of our children. ALL children in the state of Texas deserve the very best education we can provide. There are many flaws in our current public school system. Many of these flaws are caused by mandates passed down from the Texas legislature and TEA. It is your job to work to fix these problems and to improve our public education, not give tax dollars away. My rep has told me that, "if HB3 can help those families whose kid is being bullied, then it is a good thing." He then admitted that, at first, it will help less than 1% of the schoolchildren in Texas. He also told me that if this doesn't work, he will work to rein it back in. I believe we can all agree that that won't be happening. What will happen is that the legislature will work to expand vouchers, to give more money away. We can see right now how this is harming the budget in states like AZ. We know the trajectory that is intended for vouchers, and it is one that will do harm to this state.

Regarding HB3, here are some of my specific concerns: 1) I see no clarity in how the lottery is to be administered. The bill names different "tiers" of economic and ability statuses, but gives no clarity to how these will be prioritized. The bill vaguely leaves details up to the comptroller to determine. If you were to vote on this bill as written, you wouldn't even know what you are voting on. 2) Parents don't have to resubmit annually. Why do parents have to submit annually for CHIP, creating a barrier for low-income children to receive health benefits, but parents wouldn't have to re-apply for ESAs? 3) I don't see anything that specifically states that teachers/tutors cannot be a registered sex offender. It's definitely possible for a registered sex offender to not be on a "no hire" list for public schools. 4) The 85% funding - what is this? What amount will ESAs provide? 5) Any money remaining in ESA is carried forward. There is no limit on this. A parent could get an ESA when a child is in K, then save and save and cash it in when they are in middle school and private school is more expensive? 6) Up to 8% of funds can be spent on administrative costs, between comptroller and CEOs. How is this fiscally conservative? 7) No refunds allowed. So schools win if a kid moves, drops out or is expelled. And Texas loses when kid then returns to public school and now is costing the state double. 8) No requirements for curriculum or outcomes - why are we spending tax money on this? 9) Tax \$ go to support schools that can discriminate based on a person's race, religion, etc. Not okay.

You know this is wrong. Texans do not want this. People who want to dismantle public ed want this. Our children and families are counting on you. Vote no on HB3.

Grace Elliott, Mrs.
Self, retired public school teacher
Arlington, TX

As a former public school teacher and tax payer, I want every penny of school funds to go to public education. My daughter and grandson, also public school teachers, have taught in several schools in Tarrant county, and some are really underfunded, depending upon their location. The students in these schools are just as important to the future of our nation as any other children. If any parents want their children in private school for any reason, they are free to pay the tuition. Private schools do not accept students with special needs. Staffing for those special needs children costs real money. I repeat, I don't want ANY of my money to be taken from public schools and given to private schools.

Deborah White
Self -store manager
Austin, TX

I am writing as a Texan to urge you not to use our taxpayer dollars for school vouchers. I have lived in Texas all my life and am a mother with a kid in public school.

Anna Roth
Self, parent
Austin, TX

I am against the establishment of an education savings account program. Public funds should stay with children in public schools.

Mariel Salcedo

self - project manager

Austin, TX

I wholeheartedly disagree with HB3 and as a Texas resident think it'll cause harm to families with students in the public school system. I urge my representatives to vote against this ridiculous bill.

Tami Griffitt

Self-accountant

Amarillo, TX

We should be using our public- funded tax dollars to make our public schools better! They should be receiving ALL public funds. Private schools are meant to be just that and should be paid in full by the parents that want their child to be secluded from the public. Get the public schools to the same level of education as the private schools. This should not be an option for the rich and entitled to get a discount for their entitled unaccountable children! Teachers in public schools need raises! Programs in public schools need the funding! Do what is right with our tax dollars.

Wendy Kinkade

Self - Vision Therapist

Schertz, TX

PLEASE Vote NO. We already have school choice. If you want to fix Texas Ed, stop spending millions on testing that has taken the fun and interest out of teaching and learning. Elementary students should not have anxiety over testing!

MAKE LEARNING FUN AGAIN.

Testing used to be unannounced, we would head to the auditorium and lose one day of instruction. Now EVERYTHING in curriculum/scope and sequence REVOLVES around the STAAR. I'm a vision therapist and many of my patients have difficulty reading due to eye coordination issues - they cannot track through a passage - and they are terrified of the STAAR test. How is this good for our students?

We have fantastic teachers in public schools who are leaving in droves because they aren't allowed to TEACH. PLEASE...

LISTEN TO THEM.

SUPPORT THEM.

PAY THEM.

Yes, there are woke teachers in the metro areas, and this should not be, but vouchers doesn't address this, and expecting school choice to be the answer to Tx Ed issues that are as diverse as our state is small minded and flat counterproductive.

Please tell Abbott to read the comments on alllll his FB posts. . .

TEXANS DON'T WANT VOUCHERS. Thank you for listening to us!

Jennifer James

Myself

White Settlement, TX

I'm opposed to HB3 because it expands government and we don't need government in home and private schools.

Megan Moore

Self

Boerne, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Katarina Myers

Self

White Settlement, TX

I am a product of the Texas education system and have lived here my entire life. I strongly oppose this bill and ask for the vote to be no. I have 2 sons who rely on 504. One of my sons learned to read specifically due to the help he received through 504. My other son has a non specific memory disorder and cannot retain short term information he utilizes special education services and without 504 he will not learn to read. I am asking you to vote no, this bill is not for Texas children and we owe it to them to provide them with the best education possible. The future of our state is dependent on the striking down of this bill.

Rebecca Brasher

Self- stay at home mom

Fort Worth, TX

I am against the creation of school vouchers or educational savings accounts for private schools. Other states experiences have shown that the majority of people who end up benefitting from these programs are already enrolled in private schools and well above the poverty line. Please focus your attention on increasing funding for public schools so every student in Texas can have access to a world class education! The basic student allotment hasn't been increased since 2019, but inflation has increased the costs associated with running a school significantly. Our schools desperately need an increase to the basic student allotment in order to maintain the programs that help students succeed and attract the best teachers. Funding for schools also needs to be tied to enrollment, not average daily attendance. Very few costs associated with schools go down just because students are sick one day.

Susan Malone, Former Elem Music Teacher @ Corey Academy Arlington ISD

Self

Arlington, TX

I would like to go on record as being vehemently opposed to HB 3 and SB 2.

All Texas students are Texans, and we should treat all of them as such equally.

If you are going to spend \$10,000 each on private school students, you should spend \$10,000 each on public school students. If the budget can't handle that, divide the funds equally among all students. Period.

Texans are opposed to these bills and you need to listen to your constituents' wishes.

Jody Rodriguez, Ms.

Self

College Station, TX

Subject: Protect Texas Public Schools – Oppose Vouchers in HB 3

Dear House Public Education Committee Members,

As a dedicated educator with over 21 years of experience in primary education and literacy, I am deeply concerned about the impact of school vouchers in HB 3 on Texas public schools. Our public education system serves over 5 million students, providing equitable opportunities for all children, regardless of their background or zip code. Redirecting public funds to private schools through vouchers undermines this mission, taking away critical resources from the students who need them most.

Vouchers do not promote school choice; they create an uneven playing field where private schools can selectively admit students, leaving behind those with greater needs. Meanwhile, public schools remain accountable to taxpayers and serve every child who walks through their doors. Instead of diverting funds, we should focus on fully funding our schools, increasing teacher pay, reducing class sizes, and providing the support necessary for all students to thrive.

I urge you to stand with Texas public schools and oppose vouchers in HB 3. Our students, teachers, and communities deserve strong, well-funded public schools—not policies that weaken them.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Texas education.

Sincerely,

Jody Rodriguez

Literacy Specialist & Advocate

jrodriguez@csisd.org

MaryMargaret Hansen, Ms.

self

Houston, TX

Texas does not need or want school vouchers. Small TX towns which do not have private schools will be hurt as their local public schools will have less funding for teachers, books, supplies. Schools in small TX towns are community places - think of Friday night football for which Texas is famous. Why weaken that whole long-standing system to give money to folks who wish to send their kids to private schools? There is NO good reason for doing so. Don't let yourselves cater to a very small group of old wealthy white men who have no real interest in educating Texas kids and who threaten a primary opponent for those who disagree. Do not give in as it will hurt small Texas towns and the kids who grow up there. Be a hero. mmhansen

Karenna Malavanti

Self

Woodway, TX

Vouchers will largely benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from our underfunded public schools and the kids who need funding/education the most. I am a proud graduate of Texas public schools, and I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Amanda Windsor

Self - educator

Pearland, TX

I strongly oppose the HB 3 Voucher Bill because it threatens to siphon much-needed public funds away from Texas public schools, especially harming students in special education. Vouchers primarily benefit private institutions that are not required to follow federal special education laws, such as IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). These schools can deny admission to students with disabilities or refuse to provide necessary accommodations, leaving families with fewer rights and no guarantee of services.

Meanwhile, public schools will still bear the responsibility of serving the vast majority of special education students—but with even fewer resources. Special education programs are already underfunded, and removing more money from public schools will make it even harder to provide appropriate support, hire specialized staff, and meet legally required accommodations.

This bill does not promote school choice; it promotes school exclusion. The burden of educating all students—especially those with the greatest needs—will still fall on public schools, but with diminished funding and increasing challenges. Texas must invest in strengthening public education, not diverting tax dollars to private institutions that lack accountability and inclusivity. I urge lawmakers to reject HB 3 and prioritize real solutions that support all students.

Alanna Park

Self

Tomball, TX

Vouchers will hurt public schools. Let the private schools follow TEA guidelines and let public schools have more authority in making decisions for their district. No more government overreach. Be more conservative. Less government. We don't have the money for unfunded mandates.

Stephanie Hilz

self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and I'm against school vouchers.

Kim Uhlmann

Self

Garland, TX

"Argument Against the HB3 Texas School Voucher Bill

Introduction

The HB3 Texas school voucher bill, promoted by Governor Greg Abbott, threatens public education while disproportionately benefiting the wealthy. Proponents claim it expands “school choice” by funding private school tuition with taxpayer dollars. However, evidence from other states shows vouchers fail to improve outcomes, primarily serve as discounts for affluent families, and disadvantage lower-income and middle-class students. Instead of increasing opportunity, HB3 would deepen inequality and divert essential funding from public schools.

Failure of Vouchers in Other States

Arizona: Ballooning Costs, No Benefits

Arizona’s voucher program led to \$300 million in budget overruns, with 80% of recipients never having attended public school—a direct subsidy for wealthier families.

Florida: Academic Decline and Fraud

A 2020 study found students who switched to private voucher schools performed worse on standardized tests. Additionally, Florida’s program has suffered from fraud and unregulated spending.

Indiana: No Student Gains

Indiana’s voucher students scored lower in math compared to public school peers. Over 60% of vouchers went to families above the state’s median income.

Wisconsin: Increased Segregation

Vouchers fueled racial and economic segregation, with wealthier families moving to private schools, leaving lower-income students in struggling public institutions.

HB3: A Giveaway to the Wealthy

1. Private Schools Are Still Too Expensive

The average private school tuition in Texas ranges from \$10,000 to \$30,000+ annually. HB3’s \$8,000 voucher doesn’t cover the cost, leaving lower-income families unable to afford the remaining tuition.

2. Rural Families Get No Benefit

With few private schools in rural Texas, families in these areas would see no real choices—just weaker public schools due to funding losses.

3. Special Needs Students Are Left Behind

Private schools aren’t required to accommodate disabilities as public schools are. Vouchers could leave special needs students without crucial services.

The Harm to Public Schools

1. Less Funding, Larger Classes

Public schools lose money for every student who takes a voucher, leading to program cuts, layoffs, and overcrowding. Fixed costs remain, but budgets shrink.

2. Lower Teacher Salaries

Texas already ranks 42nd in teacher pay. HB3 would make retention harder by reducing public school funding.

Conclusion

School vouchers have failed in other states and will fail Texas. HB3 would shift resources away from public schools, benefiting only families who can already afford private education. Instead of dismantling public schools, Texas should invest in them—ensuring every child, regardless of income, has access to a quality education. Lawmakers should reject HB3 and prioritize public

schools.

Christopher LaPell

Self

Spring, TX

We are a homeschool family and oppose this bill.

Lynn Bell

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly OPPOSE using taxpayer money to fund private school vouchers. Texans have "school choice" now -- they already can go to any private school they want. What is wiser and necessary is MORE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Shannon Boon

self

Buda, TX

I oppose this bill. Do not defund our public education system to give breaks to the rich and religious organizations. I am against school vouchers.

Erik Fredrickson

self, postdoctoral researcher

Austin, TX

Taxpayer money should stick with public, accountable schools and not be funneled into private institutions. The proposed program would set up a false "choice" by pulling funding and students from our public school system, inevitably weakening it, leading more families to want to leave it, etc. As a resident of Texas, I oppose the aims of this bill.

Sarah Crosby

Self

Cypress, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. As a homeschool parent, we have enjoyed the freedom to choose to homeschool our kids in a way we see fit! This will just be a back door way to regulate homeschooling under the guise of "choice". We have chosen to educate our kids not in the public sphere because the public schools are failing our kiddos- if the government starts regulating homeschooling, I can guarantee it will be the same way.

Felicia Hudson

Mansfield ISD

Grand Prairie, TX

Vote No to Vouchers

Scott Koumalats

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3. This bill is not a choice for parents, but instead a way to misuse public school funds for private school gains. Listening to the testimony today has shown that the funding is estimated to go towards students that are already in the private school system. There is not a guarantee that this bill helps public schools and most likely will negatively impact them. If the desire was to enrich students then these funds could instead be allocated towards early childhood development and daycare funding.

Braden Morehead

Self

McKinney, TX

Absolutely no one on either side of the aisle is supportive of this dumbass bill. Pay teachers more, improve public schools, do the right thing you idiots

Jonathan Serna

Self, Teacher

Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Meghab Ackley

Self

Austin, TX

This bill would be a disaster for public schools in Texas. Rich Texans don't need vouchers. Poor Texans need public schools. An uneducated electorate is a detriment to all of society and will put more of a financial strain upon all of us. We need to educate everyone in order for us all to live better lives. Please please do not pass this unjust bill.

Jan Ashcraft

Self

Cibolo, TX

Please vote no on school vouchers. I am a retired Texas teacher. I got my excellent education in a public school, Irving ISD. I got my BS in Ed. from Stephen F. Austin. School vouchers harm our public schools. They don't take care of our most vulnerable students, that need special education. They don't help Texas students in our rural areas. Vouchers only benefit the wealthiest people that are already sending their children to private schools. Fully fund our public schools and give our teachers raises. The billionaires buying politicians shouldn't be making this decision. The majority of Texans DO NOT support private school vouchers. Please, listen to us!

Betty Elizarraraz

Self

Waxahachie, TX

We do NOT want school choice or vouchers. Our dollars should go to PUBLIC schools. Not private or charter!

Sharon Blake

self

Granbury, TX

Please VOTE NO for school vouchers. It is a shameful scam orchestrated by religious right billionaires, who are lining the pockets of politicians, with No PROMISE of providing the BEST EDUCATION FOR TEXAS STUDENTS. Schools are an integral part of our communities. The rural schools, which there are many, will suffer under this crazy shit. The State should provide Funds that would assist our PUBLIC SCHOOLS to hire the Best Teachers with a minimum pay of \$80K, not only allowing a descent living wage for Teachers, but also encouraging a competitive market in hiring. Year Round School options should also be considered. We were under the impression that Lottery monies were to be used to help fund our schools, what happened to that? If the state has monies to transport immigrants around the U.S., without promise of a reimbursement from the Federal government, then you have money for schools. Those promoting vouchers only have their own self interest at heart. Just say No to Vouchers.

Judith Crumpler, Nurse

Self

Abernathy, TX

The fact that a private school student is worth more money than a public school kid is absolutely ridiculous. Private schools can deny entry to any student while public schools cannot. Rural Texas does not have private schools so we do not benefit from a voucher program. If you actually cared about education each institution would get the same amount of money per child then maybe our public educators would have access to resources to implement engaging curriculum. Private schools get tuition money and donor money so they don't lack money, they don't lack resources, they compensate their employees fairly, their students get access to different education because not only do they have money but they don't have to follow the rules like public schools do. Our public educators are stretched thin, paid poorly, and continue to show up and pour into the future generations. Additionally, I find it as a citizen of this great state highly concerning that so many representatives that are encouraging this bill have relatives that either work for private schools or sit on boards for private schools. Your family members should not be benefiting from a bill while public schools continue to suffer from poor funding. Do better.

Mindy Trejo

Self

Schertz, TX

Vote No- this is not in the best interest of all students and the details of the voucher payments do not match up with the broad generalizations that have been told to the public.

Lavetta Garvin, Mrs

Self

Haltom city, TX

Please vote against vouchers and properly support public education.

Becky Lawson

Self

Dallas, TX

No to vouchers! Quality accessible public education is a right not a privilege!

Darcy Lynx, Dr

Self, scientist, teacher

Cedar Park, TX

I am writing to fully support our Texas Educators in providing special education and ensuring equal access to education for all, including disabilities, learning challenges, color, race, religion, national origin, language, gender, orientation, and more. Especially in an era where we are seeing the state take part in a court case to challenge the constitutionality of 504 accommodations and rolling back DEI inclusions, I ask Texas to stand firm in educating every child in the community. First, this grows and supports communities, helping lift communities out of poverty. Second, the curriculum and especially some of the placement and support opportunities for seniors and post senior students in special education means that many students who would be otherwise challenged can find meaningful work and help in their own support. This helps grow communities as well. Finally, many students who use special education of 504 services are incredibly intelligent, thoughtful minds who are capable of great things, given adequate support. I have ADHD, I have an incredibly bright daughter with autism and ADHD, and I teach dyslexic and other neurodiverse children. I have gone on to get a PhD in chemical and biomolecular engineering and my daughter is, with some small supports, in the upper level of all classes. The students I work with professionally are bright, make amazing connections, and have deep and complex understanding of the science classes I teach. However they struggle with language reading and writing. What a small price it is to support these students so that we can help them realize their full potential as they inherit from us as a part of our next generation of community members.

Terry Brandhorst

Self

HOUSTON, TX

As a retired educator in the public school system, I am adamantly opposed to this legislation. This program, regardless of how labeled, will take funding away from public schools it mostly enables the wealthy to offset their CHOICE of private schools.

These private schools will be exempt from accountability tests and choose which students to enroll. This program is inequitable for the students in Texas.

Rural schools and students with special needs will suffer more than others. A solid financial investment in these students will provide a means to them becoming functional and contributing adults in Texas.

Invest in our future of all students.

Do not line the pockets of the wealthy!

Theodore Lowe

Self

Spicewood, TX

I am opposed to Vouchers and opposed to this Bill. Fund Public Education. It's pathetic where TX ranks in what is their most important duty. Let the Feds pay to protect our borders and re-direct that money to our schools.

Craig Campbell

Retired self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 for several reasons.

As Senator Robert Nichols has pointed out it is in conflict with the Texas Constitution concerning the Separation of Church and State.

The biggest advocates are billionaire Christian Nationalists whose aim is to destroy public education. The advocates for this have lied and attacked public schools and teachers calling them Marxists and Groomers. This level of disrespect for teachers should not be rewarded

Billionaires funded dishonest attacks on members of the House because they stood up for their communities. This isn't fair.

Out of state billionaires want to turn education over to corporate Wall Street, so they can monetize education and reward their stockholders. Corporations by law are required to put stockholders and profits first. This is not fair.

The money for public schools came from property taxes approved by voters in the school districts. To divert to private entities whose loyalties are to the stockholders of these conglomerates who are motivated by greed and profit compared to the educators who made a lifetime commitment to service is not fair.

The largest vote in 2022 Constitutional Amendments was not on property tax relief but on support for retired teachers. Eighty percent of the people want you to support public education.

According to the Texas Monthly this is the same program that was advocated in the 1950s after the Brown Supreme Court decision.

As I read HB 3, Elon Musk can send his 14 children to school with \$10K a piece because his income is zero. There is no measure of wealth other than annual income which is easily manipulated. Persons with multiple homes and vast capital holdings are eligible. This is not fair.

If this were a legitimate program one would use eligibility for reduced lunches, food stamps, or 200% of federal poverty guidelines which is commonly used for housing vouchers. This is not fair.

Parental Choice is the phrase used to sell this program as if parents are saints. Last year there were 235,000 child abuse and neglect investigations in Texas. How many of them will apply for home schooling funds so that can buy more drugs?

Last week it was revealed that a charter school principal was drawing a total \$870,000 in three different schools in his network. If I was a betting man, I would say that this kind of scandal will be repeated in this new environment. The nine lawyers and 33 additional staff that the Comptroller's Office will hire will be busy.

Certified Educational Assistance Organizations We need a middleman to do keep the state's hands clean. People like this are around to help people with college admissions. There have been a number of wide-scale scandals and bribery in this field of college admissions. In other states these organizations seem to be by religion Christian Evangelical, Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Lutheran, Islamic, Hindu, etc.

Ernesto Garcia, Mr.

Self, retired

Keller, TX

I oppose any form of voucher program for private schools. Most private schools are religious so this would violate separation of church and state. Also, private schools do not have to follow the rules and guidelines set for public schools and can choose who to admit. Public schools have been shortchanged financially by the state for too many years. They need a large infusion of cash from the state.

Marie Jackson

None

Flower Mound, TX

Please vote NO on this bill.

Ann Koonce

self

Round Rock, TX

I oppose this bill and I'm against school vouchers for Texas.

Carolyn Rogers

Self

Aledo, TX

No! No! No! No vouchers for private schools! Public money is for public schools, not to be used as a subsidy for rich kids who are already in private schools. Look at other states with vouchers: Majority of voucher users already attend private schools (and therefore can already afford them). Vouchers steal funding from public schools & there is zero evidence they improve overall student success. Private schools are not accountable for how they use the funds. Vouchers are rooted in segregation - if rich people want their kids in school with other rich kids, they can (and already are) pay for it out of their own pockets. Vouchers are a scam to funnel MORE money to the rich.

Swarna Madduri

Self/admin

Dallas, TX

I understand the fundamental importance of public institutions that provide opportunity for everyone. Our public schools serve without regard to background or wealth. This bill, establishing an education savings account program, violates that principle.

It's not 'school choice'; it's schools choosing which students they want to serve, creating a two-tiered system:

- For the wealthy: It offers a taxpayer-funded discount on private school tuition, a benefit they hardly need.
- For the vast majority of Texans, especially those in rural areas: It offers nothing. In counties where private schools are nonexistent, this bill simply diverts vital public school funding, further disadvantaging students who already lack resources.

This program doesn't expand opportunity; it's exacerbating existing inequities. Private schools lack the same accountability and transparency as public schools. They can cherry-pick students, exclude those with disabilities, and operate without the same rigorous standards. This undermines the very purpose of public education: to provide a quality education for every child.

Let's be clear: it's 'welfare for the wealthy.' It takes from the struggling public system and gives to those who already have more.

Instead of subsidizing private schools that serve a select few, we must invest in our public schools, the cornerstone of our democracy. We must:

- Ensure equitable funding that keeps pace with inflation and the rising cost of living.
- Provide resources to support all students, regardless of their background or zip code.
- Strengthen accountability and transparency in public education.

You took an oath to serve the people of Texas so, reject this divisive and harmful bill. Prioritize the education of all our children, not just a privileged few

Polly Johnson

Self

Houston, TX

The future of our state and country lies in the hands of our young people . The world is becoming a more complicated place in which to exist and to earn a living . In order to be well prepared for this, young people must have a good education. A good education should be available to ALL kids in Texas in our public schools .

In 2024 Texas , a wealthy state, ranked 44th in per capita student spending . This was lower than in 2020! This is shameful!! Texas must spend money on offering a good education to ALL students in public schools , not in providing assistance to parents who can already afford to send their kids to private schools.

Vouchers would be used more in larger cities where greater numbers of private schools are available. Texas's education money should go equally to all areas of Texas by increasing per capita student spending .

Laurie Sparrowhawk

self

Austin, TX

I am a parent of 3 school aged children who attend public schools in Texas. As Texans, I would like to think we all share a common goal: to build a stronger, more prosperous state for everyone. Our future depends on the education and success of our children, and the strength of our state is directly tied to the strength of our public education system. House Bill 3, which proposes diverting public education funding into private school vouchers, threatens to undermine the very future of Texas.

By shifting money into private school vouchers, we are prioritizing the wealthiest families who already have access to educational advantages. These are not the families who are being left behind. For the vast majority of families in Texas, even with a voucher, private education will remain out of reach. Meanwhile, public schools (which educate the majority of our children) will suffer from reduced resources, larger class sizes, and fewer opportunities. This leaves working- and middle-class families, as well as rural communities further behind. Again, this leaves most children in the state with fewer and lesser opportunities than they currently have.

In summary, the path proposed by HB 3 does not lead to a stronger Texas. It leads to a less competitive one.

Rebecca Saldana, Mrs.

Parent/taxpayer

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1. Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 2. HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 3. Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 4. We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.
- This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill.

Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Stephanie Ranieri

self

Highland Village, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution. If you fail to properly represent to the will of Texans, the next step will be finding your replacements

Ruth York, Mrs
Self (Direct Sales); Texas Family Defense Committee
Cisco, TX

We oppose House Bill 3.

We oppose HB 3 because:

- *It grows government.
- *It is not fiscally responsible.
- *It comes with "strings," contrary to Republicans' expressed wishes.
- *It claims to be "universal," but is actually a lottery.
- *We believe it is a "vendor bill" benefitting special interests.

IT GROWS GOVERNMENT. It requires a new structure in the Comptroller's office to administer the program. That includes deciding which curriculum is approved for purchase -- quite a broadening of the Comptroller's duties.

IT IS NOT FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE. Its billion-dollar price tag triples in three sessions, according to the bill's fiscal note. This is from general revenue, in addition to public school funding.

IT COMES WITH "STRINGS." We need accountability for public expenditures, but the Republican Party explicitly repudiated strings for any such program because we want the private and homeschool space to be free of governmental restrictions. Testing, audits, accreditation and restrictions on curriculum decisions will inevitably shape the now-free home and private schools -- and their providers -- to conform to standards similar to those imposed on public schools. "Teaching to the test" will invade this educational sector, too, in order to continue to receive the government cheese.

BEWARE OF DECEPTIVE TERMINOLOGY. These are not "educational savings accounts"; they are educational spending accounts. Eligibility is not "universal"; it aims to help a limited few determined by lottery and discriminatory criteria. It is more "school capture" than "school choice", since we already have all the same choices. It does not empower parents; rather, it limits parental decisions while it creates dependency.

WE BELIEVE IT IS A "VENDOR BILL" benefitting special interests. Without negating valid concerns for our children's education, we anticipate Certified Education Assistance Organizations, testing services, and software and textbook publishers will readily mine this new "captured" educational field. Data mining and erosion of privacy are related concerns.

BOTTOM LINE

We ask that the legislature confine itself to its constitutional duty to maintain "an efficient system of public free schools." We suggest a return to the paper-and-pencil-and-textbook standards that in past decades allowed Texas schools to produce great doctors, scientists, innovators and a "general diffusion of knowledge."

Rather than enabling a few thousand students to leave "failing" schools, recognize that MILLIONS of students will remain in the public system. There lies your constitutional duty, along with a massive chunk of our State's budget.

Instead, let's make Texas public schools great again! Please OPPOSE HB 3.

Cheryl Crafton
Self teacher of 25 yrs
Canton, TX

As a tax payer and a public school teacher I do not approve of funds dedicated to education of the majority being used for the few who have access to more resources than the average student or family.

Jeaneane McNulty

Self

Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to any legislation that distributes taxpayers dollars directly to individuals without accountability and oversight, and this is the effect of HB3. Education is a public service that Americans and Texans have long supported with our tax dollars because it so clearly benefits our society as a whole. Just like roads and other infrastructure, it is something we all benefit from indirectly and do not expect to have direct control over, but that we rely on government to manage efficiently and responsibly. How ridiculous would it be to propose that instead of funding public highways adequately, we instead give a chunk of that money to individuals who prefer to put that toward building a private driveway, since they own a helicopter? They still receive all the indirect benefits of the highway system, and as it falls into disrepair, they can simply use the parts they need without paying into it's upkeep. Meanwhile, the average non- helicopter owner, who can't afford to build a private drive even if they don't pay their taxes, is stuck using crumbling highways 100% of the time with no other options. This bill would represent an unprecedented redistribution of wealth from those who can least afford it, to those who really don't need it. And our State as a whole would suffer for it. Please oppose this and all other voucher schemes. Keep public dollars in public schools!

David Goldstein

Chabad of West houston

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Melissa Baldwin

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am a naive Texan. My husband and I both attended Texas public schools. Our 4 children attended public schools. For your grandchildren, I implore you to vote NO for school vouchers. Don't deceive parents and abandon Texas children over this folly.

No to HB3

Piper Nelson, Executive Director

Self, ED

Austin, TX

I am firmly against this legislation. Education vouchers benefit such a tiny percentage of the population, while the dollars spent on vouchers will financially destroy so many of our public school districts. Please do not pass this legislation.

Melissa Wann, Ms

Self/geologist

Austin, TX

Fund our public schools. The voucher program (now billed as a “savings account”) strips away money from our public schools & is basically a give away to people that can already afford to pay for private school. TX already has school choice options for kids in “failing” public schools so quit labeling this as school choice.

How many times has this been brought for a vote? 5? 6? If the House thinks this is what Texans want, then put it on the ballot instead of kow towing to wealthy special interest.

Our children deserve better. Increase teacher pay & work together to end wasteful spending & high admin salaries.

Vote NO on establishing an “education savings account” which is just another name for school vouchers.

Shane Allbritton

self

Houston, TX

I am a Houston resident with a child in an A-rated, music-magnet elementary school. Like many others, we moved to this neighborhood for the community surrounding the school and several high-functioning schools in the area. We are a thriving, supportive community of parents, zoned children, children bused in from across the city, and very diverse in terms of socioeconomics and cultures. We have the best talent at our schools to nurture children's academic journey, as well as their musical journey. A majority of the families here cannot afford private schools even with the choice funds being provided, therefore would have to endure at a school which is, already, being stripped of accredited teachers, nurses, and some libraries and more should the voucher program pass. This is a very successful model, all kids are thriving here and we don't want it dismantled for the benefit of more affluent families that can already pay for private school. Please don't pass this bill, look to the successful schools, such as ours, and other magnet schools that produce incredible results without alienating people based on their culture or socioeconomic background. It works so well, please save our public schools. The voucher program will only divide our families and leave most of us with even less resources.

Thank you

Alejos Salazar, Dr.

Lasara ISD

Harlingen, TX

As the superintendent of Lasara ISD, I urge you to oppose HB 3 because it fails to provide real choice for low-income families—the very students this bill claims to help. While ESAs are promoted as expanding educational opportunities, in reality, they leave many families behind and primarily benefit those who already have access to private education.

The cost of private school tuition often far exceeds the amount provided by an ESA, and parents must cover the difference out of pocket. Additionally, families must also pay for uniforms, textbooks, technology fees, transportation, and extracurricular activities, which can add thousands of dollars in additional costs. For low-income families, these expenses are simply unaffordable, meaning ESAs do not provide a real alternative. Instead, the primary beneficiaries of this program will be families who are already paying for private school or those who can afford to make up the cost difference.

HB 3 also does nothing to expand the availability of private education in rural areas, where the nearest private school may be hours away. In many cases, public schools are the only viable option for students, making ESAs an empty promise for a large portion of Texas families.

If we truly want to expand opportunities for students, we must invest in improving public schools rather than diverting resources to programs that primarily serve a select few. Funding should be directed toward proven strategies such as hiring more highly qualified teachers, reducing class sizes, expanding student support services, and increasing access to advanced coursework and career training programs.

I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 3 and instead support policies that provide real, equitable opportunities for all students—regardless of their income or ZIP code. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Martin Klein

Self

Allen, TX

I am opposing the above mentioned bill. Texas has a responsibility to fully fund public education and not misappropriate funding for private or religious education.

Chelsea Best

Self

College Station, TX

Texas must fully fund public education to ensure the state's long-term economic success, workforce readiness, and social stability. Public schools educate the vast majority of Texas children, yet they remain underfunded, leaving many students without the resources they need to succeed.

Investing in public education directly benefits the Texas economy. A well-funded school system produces a skilled workforce, attracting businesses and boosting economic growth. When schools lack funding, students graduate unprepared for college or careers, leading to higher unemployment and a weaker economy.

Teacher shortages are another major concern. Without competitive salaries and adequate resources, Texas struggles to retain qualified educators. Underfunding schools forces teachers to work in overcrowded classrooms with outdated materials, leading to burnout and high turnover rates. When teachers leave, students suffer.

Pam Beard, Mrs.

Self

College Station, TX

Please protect teacher retirement in this law. For those of us about to retire and for the new teachers coming out of college. It would be a travesty for teachers who have dedicated their lives to public service to be left without retirement because too many leave the public education system on a whim. Also please protect the education of those who will home school their children without the time or knowledge to do so. Those who just want the money. Thank you.

Kristen Trout

Self

Austin, TX

Please keep public dollars in the public schools!!!!!!

Amanda Runnels, Mrs.

Self, stay at home parent.

Pearland, TX

This voucher will drain \$8,657,817 dollars from my children's future school district. There will be 161 fewer teachers for students causing classrooms to become overfilled and students not receiving the instruction and attention they need with a projected student/teacher ratio of 7.22%. It will also mean 173,156 fewer books in the library. Do not do this to our students, invest in them rather than private education. The private schools are not hurting for money, they are being paid by the wealthy Texans that CHOOSE to send their students to those schools. By allowing this bill you are taking that choice away from the millions of students that will not win in the so called lottery.

Michael Ogg
Self
Brenham, TX

As an educator with over 20 years of experience in the Texas public school system, I firmly believe that parents have the right to decide what is best for their children. However, I cannot support legislation that benefits only a select few while leaving the majority of Texas students behind.

The fundamental purpose of public education is to serve all children, not just some. Unfortunately, in recent years, the state government has turned its back on public schools. Texas prides itself on being a leader, yet we rank near the bottom in school funding. Our students, teachers, and communities deserve better.

While this bill would allow parents to send their children to private schools, it fails to address the urgent crisis facing public schools. Texas public schools are underfunded, understaffed, and expected to do more with less every year. If we continue down this path, the damage to our public school system will be greater than what we witnessed during the COVID-19 shutdowns.

Fix school finance first. Increase the basic allotment per student, fully fund special education services, and ensure teachers receive salaries that reflect their value. Make Texas public schools the best in the nation before passing legislation that diverts funding elsewhere.

I urge you to stand with Texas public schools and fully fund them before considering private school subsidies. Our children's future depends on it.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Texas students.

Sincerely,
Michael Ogg

Catherine Wesley
Self
Sugar Land, TX

This does NOT represent what we want for our public schools. You are taking away funding from communities as well as closing doors for even possible private education for most children. I implore you to speak out for your constituents and NOT for the benefit of only the wealthy. Please protect ALL children, you represent ALL of your constituents.

Jennifer Ogle
Self / Physician Assistant
Houston, TX

Please don't support a bill that will weaken our public schools. School choice is a tax break for the rich and does not help low income families get a private school education they can afford or logistically attend. Schools receiving public money should have public standards and accountability. Please fix our public schools first.

Poppie Swarb
Self
Caldwell, TX

No to vouchers. Those states that have implemented vouchers have nearly bankrupted their public education system. Don't do this in Texas. No to vouchers.

Alison Bentley-Hercules, Dr

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3 because I believe that as a society, we have an imperative to make free, appropriate public education available to all students. HB3 takes taxpayer dollars out of public schools to subsidize private school vouchers. This is unacceptable and negatively impact children's educational outcomes as well as our communities as a whole. I support Texas children and families and ask you to stand with us against HB3.

Amber Downing

Self - SAHM

Austin, TX

My name is Amber Downing and I am writing to document my opposition to HB 3. I am a graduate of Texas public schools. I am also a parent of two children currently enrolled in Austin ISD, and an involved school volunteer. I have seen firsthand how continued yearly budget reductions have impacted our students, our teachers and our district. HB 3 is not a step towards school choice for parents, as we already can fully choose where we send our children for their educations. The only entities this bill gives "choice" to are private schools, which do not have to accept students, do not have to provide services to those students in need and are not held accountable by any state education guidelines. I oppose giving public money to private schools that do not have to adhere to the same rules and standards that our public schools are required to adhere to. Keep public money in public schools. The only problem with the Texas public schools is that they are not fully funded and have not been properly fully funded for years. Texas needs to increase funding for our public schools by at LEAST \$1300 per student to account for inflation since 2019.

Vouchers do not make sense for the majority of our rural districts, either, as there are no private schools to even send your children to. These areas rely on public schools and as such, these public schools and all public schools in Texas, need to be fully funded.

There is more than sufficient documentation that voucher programs in other states have ruined public education in those states, both financially and academically. Let's make sure that Texas learns from these mistakes and does not go down the same road to ruin with our own voucher program.

Additionally, companies coming to Texas will be needing an educated workforce. Let's not let our states' children and families down and let's not let the future economic prosperity of Texas and its' companies down, by adopting a voucher program.

Shirley Adams

Myself

Galveston, TX

Vote no. Save public education vote

Rebecca Saldana, Mrs

Parent, taxpayer

Houston, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, taxpayer and a parent of children currently attending public schools, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Erika Woods

Homeschool community

Denton, TX

We have homeschool our children since the beginning of their education and intend to continue that way. We are a working class family and have learned to manage our expenses. We do not support this bill and what the government to stay out of our lives as much as possible. Keep Texas free!

Kelly Guerin
self
Cypress, TX

I am a homeschooling mother to two boys and I OPPOSE this bill. I OPPOSE it even though it would be nice to have that stipend per child to cover homeschooling expenses, I also know that in accepting it, I would be letting the government make decisions for me about homeschooling my children and I want the government to stay out of it completely. I want to KEEP MY FREEDOM to homeschool my children as I see fit. I do not want \$4000 if it means the government will step in and tell me how to teach my children. NO THANK YOU. That money should go to public schools that need it so that students who have to attend the schools can be better supported in whatever way they need to be. Maybe if the schools were better supported, there wouldn't be so many people pulling their children to homeschool, even when it is a financial hardship to do so. You need to listen to your people. Everyone is commenting on your pages about how the voucher program is not equitable in MOST counties in Texas! Give that money to the existing schools so they can BE BETTER and leave homeschooling families ALONE!!

Steve Dobney
Self
Cypress, TX

School vouchers steal money from public schools to lessen costs for affluent people who can already afford private schools. These people are a very small minority of citizens. There are many areas in the state that do not even have access to private schools. This is welfare for the wealthy and theft from public schools. Stop pandering to wealthy people. You were elected to represent ALL Texans.

Kirsten Martin
Self
Buckholts, TX

As a Texan who is for quality education for ALL, I do not support HB 3 the education savings account bill. This bill will not help public schools or students. I urge all representatives to fight for Texas children and oppose this bill.

Ellen Gibbs
Self retired UT Library
Austin, TX

I am against vouchers. Public money must not go to private schools.

Jessica Goodrow
Self / Teacher
Conroe, TX

I am a public school teacher and parent of an elementary aged child NOT in favor of school vouchers. Fund public schools adequately before using money to support and fund private schools.

Renee Noelle
Self
Georgetown, TX

Say NO TO VOUCHERS!

Lea Walker

Self- PEIMS Director (Public Education Information Management Systems)

Galveston, TX

Support our public schools! We deserve the funding in the public schools. Show our teachers and students that they are worth just as much as those that choose private schools. Build and grow our public programs to elevate the ability of our public schools to educate our students. The voucher program will reduce our enrollment and further create a disparity. Our public schools students, teachers and staff deserve better. Please support public education in Texas.

Deborah Arya

Self

Austin, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools and rural communities. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Jeanne Carter

Self

College Station, TX

I am not in support of state tax dollars supporting private schools. If lawmakers are forced to vote for vouchers, please vote to give public school students equal funding.

Sara Tucker

self, social worker

Austin, TX

Please don't defund our public school system by setting aside tax money to pay for private schools. This is not the way to improve education in Texas; it will only cripple school districts and harm students and learning in our great state.

Christan Reilly

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Shanda Bourn

Self-assistant principal

Abilene, TX

Please say no to vouchers and yes to funding our public school-we must have more funding in order to do the work ahead of us-education of ALL Texas students.

Katie Scott

Self - social worker and mother

Buda, TX

I am against the establishment of an education savings account program. As a proud parent of a public school child, a social worker, and a product of public schools, the idea of not fully funding public schools so that people who can already afford private school can get a break is infuriating.

Fredi Bleeker Franks

RAC-TX

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members, We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because: 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force. 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents. 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools. 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars. Thank you

Roslyn Sords, Ms

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers for those who choose a private school steals from the public schools by reducing the census on which school funding is based and reduces the budget which in turn makes it hard to recruit good teachers. In addition, this proposal seems to be intending to pay for those vouchers through the school budget further reducing the funds to provide a good education. If a family has the money to choose a private school then it should be their sole responsibility to pay for it.

Jayden Delgado

Self

Houston, TX

I am a student at a public school and I don't appreciate how the wealthy students get to get funded with tax payers dollars instead of students at public schools who need these fundings. This bill is ridiculous and will only set up public schools to fail.

Andrew Zachry
Parents and Teachers
Fort Worth, TX

Any time we see public funds going to private enterprise it should give us pause. The current GOP leadership is presently hard selling the public on this as it cancels grants and contracts with little to no review (see USAID). However, it should be noted that grants and contracts specifically benefiting the private, unelected "citizens" currently doing this work are unscathed. The GOP only serves one group, themselves.

This voucher bill is no different. Before vouchers, school districts, governed by elected officials with specific duties to their constituents, had to apply for additional funds or grants with very clear oversight and accounting practices. Public funds are collected through a democratic process of passing tax legislation as well as local bond measures that serve the public doing the voting and are accountable to those same individuals sometimes referred to as We the People.

What gives us great pause at this moment is the obvious GOP push to fatten the pockets of their major donors. It is being floated that soon, foreign Russian oligarchs may be buying US citizenship. What will happen to Texan tax dollars that go floating out to the "free market" to be mopped up by predatory private schools. The possibility of a greater cycle of public figure self-dealing sits before us here with HB 3.

Why is it that a private Pennsylvanian citizen donated \$12 million dollars to the Governor's war chest? Well, we know it was this current repeated cycle of shoving private school vouchers down the throats of Texans, through their pocketbook, and back to a Pennsylvania millionaire through their connections to private schools in our state.

When will we stop selling out the public trust to the highest bidder? We see what you are, and it is far past this bill. Step back, or get put back. Vot hard no to selling out Texans via our public schools.

Sean O'Brien
Self
San Antonio, TX

Public education funding should not be taken from people in need and given to wealthy families who don't need it. School choice is already established. If you choose to pay to put your child in private school vs. the public education system, that is your choice. You do not get take money from the general public and use it to reduce the cost of your "choice" of private school.

Stephanie Ashworth
self
austin, TX
Opposed

Karen Tarzia
self/HR Program Manager
Austin, TX

Public funds should be used to fund public schools, NOT private schools! Vouchers are a subsidy for wealthy families who already attend private school. Public schools serve so many kids that have no alternatives, and taking money from those schools to give handouts to upper middle class families is un-American. Texas has 5.5 million public school students, and that money should be used to fully fund THEIR schools. This is non partisan, the majority of small, Republican leaning rural communities don't have a private school option. They need their public schools fully funded!

Jamel Cooth, Behavior IA
Self - Public School Behavior IA
Cedar Park, TX
Support Public Schools

Natalia Ornelas
Self
Georgetown, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a social worker who has worked in Title I schools across Central Texas, I have seen firsthand the impact of underfunded schools on students, families, and communities. For the future of all Texas children, I urge everyone to vote against the creation of a voucher program and to fund our public schools. Thank you.

yvonne hien moore
Constituency
Round Rock, TX

I want it known that I do not agree with this bill

Tina Fischer
Self
Allen, TX

I oppose this bill. Private education is a privilege that is not economically available to all and should not get taxpayer dollars. If parents want to send their children to a private school, it should be on their dime not the general public. This program would take funds away from public schools that already have a limited budget especially in areas where funds are limited.

Joan Yaffe
Self
Austin, TX

Quality public education was an important value in my family. My father was on our local school board for 24 years. Free, quality public education, available to all is what made America the great country it is today. Our public schools face many challenges, but with fully restored funding, they can meet those challenges and educate our Texas kids to their potential. I do not want my tax dollars going to private schools which do not have to accept all students and over which there is no oversight. Please vote to FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS and VOTE NO on any voucher/ ESA bill. I vote and this matters to me. Thank you.

Teresa Camp
self- Principal at an elementary school
Thicket, TX

The school voucher system diverts critical funding away from public schools, ultimately harming the students who rely on them. In our district alone, implementing a voucher program would cost approximately \$221,365, money that should be used to support our students, teachers, and educational programs. Public schools are already operating with tight budgets, and losing these funds would make it even more difficult to provide essential resources, maintain small class sizes, and offer quality instruction.

Vouchers primarily benefit private schools, which are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. Unlike public institutions, private schools can select their students, often leaving behind those with special needs, behavioral challenges, or lower academic performance. This creates an unequal system where public schools bear the responsibility of educating the most at-risk students while receiving even less funding to do so.

Additionally, there is no clear evidence that voucher programs improve student outcomes. Studies have shown that students who transfer to private schools through vouchers often perform no better—and sometimes worse—than their peers in public schools. Instead of diverting funds away, we should be investing in proven strategies to strengthen our public schools, such as reducing class sizes, increasing teacher support, and expanding access to academic resources.

Public education is meant to serve all children, regardless of background or income level. Taking away over \$221,000 from our district would weaken our ability to fulfill this mission. Rather than funding private schools with taxpayer dollars, we should focus on improving the schools that serve the vast majority of students in our community.

Kristyn Reed, Dr.

Self/optometrist

Conroe, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family (3 other siblings and several nieces/nephews) are products of the public education system and whose parents and sister taught in TX public schools, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Mary Rose

Self

Austin, TX

It is heartbreaking and outrageous to see Texas heading into such a misguided effort as vouchers. Public schools need more support, not efforts to help wealthy people go to private schools. One of the things the U.S. should be most proud of is its efforts - however imperfect they may be - to educate ALL citizens. The voucher proposals undermine our commitment to open-access education. For the poorest students, the vouchers do not provide enough to help them cover costs. Additionally, private schools get to pick and choose whom to educate, which puts our vulnerable students at risk, particularly if they are disabled. The bill is wrong-headed in the extreme and not what Texas needs. Please stop the madness you are inflicting on the hard-working people of our state, particularly in rural areas that are not helped by having schools be gutted to help city-people go to private schools.

Yadi Landaverde, Teacher and Parent

AISD

Buda, TX

I oppose the bill. I do not want school vouchers.

Jessica Wood

Self

San Antonio, TX

School vouchers will put tuition money in the pockets of parents who can already pay for private education for their children. Fund public education! Fund public schools. My tax dollars should be going to public schools, not private schools. It's a parent's choice if they want their children indoctrinated with your Christian nationalist rhetoric. They can spend their own money on that, not mine. Vote no for this ridiculous voucher scam!

Andrea Ramos, PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER

Public schools

Austin, TX

No to school vouchers

Jo Ann Danielson, Mrs

Self

Round Rock, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. I'm a Republican primary voter and I do hold a grudge.

Jennifer Espey
Spring Branch ISD Parent & Community Advocate
Houston, TX

Dear Chairman Buckley, Vice Chairman Bernal and committee members,
My name is Jennifer Espey, I'm the mom of three Spring Branch ISD graduates and the wife of one too. I'm also a co-chair of SBISD's School Finance Advocacy Team (SFAT). I'm writing to voice my opposition to House Bill 3. When Chairman Buckley visited SBISD in September, meeting with Superintendent Jennifer Blaine, her senior staff, school board members and the School Finance Advocacy co-chairs he told us to be "FOR" something as we advocated this legislative session.
I am FOR public school education. Our Founding Fathers had it right when they advocated for the creation of a public school system before we even had a Constitution. Public schools build strong neighborhoods and community, and give EVERYONE the right to a free, quality education. What troubles me immensely is the pro-voucher narrative that paints Texas public schools as "failing". We all get lumped together – and it is extremely disingenuous and downright wrong to paint us all with the same brush. The truth is there are many districts getting it right with strong leadership, targeted solutions, and more funding. Spring Branch ISD has achieved the strongest academic results in decades on the local, state and national levels – thanks to ESSER funds which the district used to provide instructional specialists to work with teachers and students. Texas schools have been chronically underfunded for years now. A recent Rice University Kinder Institute Report found that 73% of Texas schools are underfunded and 17% are severely underfunded. SBISD is one of the 17%. Thank goodness for those ESSER dollars. But those are gone now. And, now, with federal dollars in the crosshairs, our schools funding crisis is even more dire. What troubles me even more is "Why are vouchers being touted as the solution to "failing" schools?" What data is there that proves vouchers are the answer? And what problem are we really trying to solve? Any funds used for vouchers are public tax dollars and should have the same accountability and requirements public schools have for services required. Throwing money at a problem that will cost taxpayers more and more each legislative session with no real accountability or transparency to track success is not the solution. And, a voucher student should not be worth more than a public school student. They are all our children. Now is the time to stop starving our public schools and portraying them as failures. Our public schools should be the pride of Texas. Ranking #44 in per student funding is shameful in a state with one of the biggest economies in the world. We must prioritize our state's public school children first and foremost. WE can fix public schools together -- lean on the districts that are getting it right -- like SBISD. You have the power to be true champions of public education - say no to vouchers and yes to funding our public schools fully and fairly. Thank you for your time and consideration.

TINA ZAMAN
Self
Plano, TX

I do not support the school voucher system. I do not want my tax dollars to go toward paying for private education.

Sarah Holdgrafer, MRS
self, technical writer
Manchaca, TX

NO!!! I oppose diverting public funds to private schools! I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Kristi Goodson, Dr.
Self, Pediatrician (physician)
Celina, TX

Please vote against HB3. My children attend public school in Celina ISD and this bill would divert crucial funds away from our rapidly growing school district. Our public schools need a crucial increase in funding to provide quality education for all students. HB3 also sends taxpayer support to high earners, not targeting low income families as advertised. There is also no oversight to these private school options to require additional services that children may need (IEP, 504 plans) and can turn these students away in favor of children who do not require these services. I would like to remind the house that parents already have the right to send their children to private school if desired. This is not about school. This is about diverting taxpayer money to private schools, instead of increasing funding to our public schools that need it. Please vote AGAINST HB3.

Jeff Hobbs
Self
Austin, TX

Force
Inc parents that can't pay to self educate say their 12 kids at home in a small house will destroy and leadership US could hope to continue in STEM. The number of nuclear physicists to drop to near zero. I am a physicist a parent with a high school education has zero chance to result in a nuclear physicist son or daughter. And what about the other 11 kids?

Meghen Hiller, Mrs
self, bookkeeper
Austin, TX

As a parent with multiple children in Texas public schools, I urge you to vote against this bill. The proposed bill presents serious concerns for education funding, equity, and community cohesion. It would strain already limited resources for both rural and urban schools by enabling student departures without addressing the fixed costs these institutions must maintain regardless of enrollment numbers.

The exemption of charter schools from standardized testing requirements like the STAAR exam creates an uneven playing field. When different institutions operate under different accountability standards, we cannot make fair comparisons or ensure consistent quality across all educational options.

This bill essentially provides a subsidy that fragments our educational community. Rather than bringing parents together across income levels to work toward better schools for all children, it enables withdrawal from the shared project of public education. Most troublingly, data from neighboring states like Louisiana demonstrates that similar charter school initiatives have not delivered improved educational outcomes. On average, charter schools perform worse than their public counterparts despite operating with different rules and standards.

I urge you to vote against this bill. Our focus should be on strengthening public education through evidence-based improvements that benefit all students rather than diverting resources to alternatives without proven success. We need solutions that unite our communities in supporting education rather than fracturing them.????????????????

Oralia Hernandez
Self, Physician Associate
San Antonio, TX

Vote NO to school vouchers. This bill will take money away from the public school system that my children and many other Texas children need. Children who attend private school do so out of choice so their parents should cover this cost not myself or other Texans. VOTE NO to school vouchers!!

Maureen Orth
Self
Sugar Land, TX

Please do not pass the ESA program! This will not benefit ALL Texas students but a small minority. Please use our taxpayer money to make our public schools better for the majority of our children!

Beverly Moore
Self/Retired
San Angelo, TX

Vouchers are going to hurt middle class and low income students. Funds going to private schools will have a negative affects on public education which is already struggling due to lack of funding. Public schools are having to cut programs and close schools. Fund our public schools not private schools. NO to VOUCHERS!

Madyson Russell
self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB3. Defunding public schools through the implementation of the school choice/voucher program will only hurt our state and the people who live here.

Meredith Reid
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose HB 3. Keep public dollars in public schools so all children have access to a quality education and equal opportunity to succeed.

Cindy Moon
Me and my family
Fort Worth, TX

As an advocate for public schools, I strongly urge you to oppose school vouchers, which would divert taxpayer dollars from public education to private institutions, ultimately harming Texas' most vulnerable students and communities. Public schools serve the vast majority of Texas children, including those in rural and lower-income areas where private school options are scarce or nonexistent. Though I live in Fort Worth, I grew up in Granbury, where there are limited public school choices. Families in communities like mine rely on strong public schools as their only viable option, and taking funds away from these institutions will only widen the opportunity gap, making it even harder for students to succeed.

Vouchers do not increase educational opportunities for all students—they primarily benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition. The proposed system would funnel public money to private and religious schools that are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. These schools can deny admission based on academic ability, disabilities, disciplinary history, or other factors, leaving behind the students who need the most support. Instead of improving education overall, vouchers would exacerbate existing inequalities by favoring families who already have advantages while leaving the majority of Texas children with fewer resources and less support.

Additionally, school vouchers would weaken the Teacher Retirement System (TRS), which relies on a steady number of public school employees contributing to the system. With fewer teachers working in public schools, fewer contributions will be made to TRS, threatening the long-term financial security of our educators. My sister dedicated more than 20 years to teaching in Texas public schools, and yet she can barely make ends meet on her meager retirement. This is unacceptable. If we want to attract and retain quality educators, we must strengthen their benefits, not erode them by diverting funds elsewhere.

Public education is a fundamental pillar of our society and economy. Strong public schools benefit everyone, not just those with children enrolled. They increase property values, contribute to workforce development, and help create a well-educated citizenry that drives economic growth. Instead of pushing policies that undermine our public school system, Texas leaders should focus on fully funding education, reducing class sizes, increasing teacher pay, and ensuring all students—regardless of their background—have access to the high-quality education they deserve.

I urge you to reject school vouchers and instead support policies that strengthen public education for all Texas children. Our students, teachers, and communities deserve better.

MONIQUE Carreon

Self

AUSTIN, TX

Vote no! No negotiation here. The citizens do not want this!

Jordan Preddy

Self- attorney

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill, and I do not want school vouchers. I want fully funded public schools.

Amanda Bishop

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Keep public dollars in public schools! The rich do not need a handout. If they want public money for schools, send their child to a public school.

Invest more money (surplus tax dollars) in public schools, make them better than the 29th place they were ranked in 2024. You can't do this by taking money out of the system.

Jeremy Palafox

Self

Austin, TX

VOTE NO on HB 3

Jill Eastwood

Self

HOUSTON, TX

I strongly oppose any bill that supports any sort of public money going to private schools. I don't care what you call it, it's a voucher scam. Stop killing public education! Fully fund public education! You can't fund public education and provide millionaires with private school funds.

Sarah Wolfe

self

Lockhart, TX

This bill is a scam led by republicans to defund public schools and funnel taxpayer money directly into the hands of elitist private and charter schools with zero accountability or transparency.

Mary Carrell

N/a

Houston, TX

I am a mom of two who grew up in public school and had my children in public school up until 2022. We left public school because 1) my oldest transferred to a dual credit charter high school that provides an independent learning environment and 2) my youngest was one of the many children who suffered from the school shut downs in 2020-21. Her school diagnosed her with dyslexia and wanted to put her in special ed. While we do believe she has some dyslexia, a large contributor to her being behind on reading was because of the shutdowns. She now attends a small & affordable private school in the NAUMS organization. This is a hybrid school (both at home and in a small classroom setting) that also teaches independent learning. She is wrapping up her second year and is thriving!

We made sacrifices as a family to seek out these opportunities for our daughters. Public school has failed students due to overspending on bulky administration, abandoning basic education, and choosing funding over student/teacher success and safety.

My husband and I both work in real estate. From 2021-2023, we saw an influx of teachers quitting and switching over to jobs in our field. It felt like animals seeking shelter before a storm - the teachers knew first hand how bad it was getting and going to get.

While I do believe this bill and topic is complex - and trust me, I'm not a fan of government getting involved with private schools - barring any interference or influence from legislators outside of normal law, I am for a change.

Opponents of this bill claim it will only serve the rich - no, it will significantly help families like mine who live a modest life but want better opportunities for our children. I believe this will create more educational opportunities for children and hopefully increase the number of schools to choose from.

We transitioned

Megan Ruf

Self

Robinson, TX

I am a firm believer in school choice which we already have in this country. We have the choice to send our children to public or private school already. However I do not feel that providing state or federal funding to a parent sending a student to a school that has 0 oversight or expectations from the state or federal government is okay. Even with a voucher most students (except those that are wealthy) can't afford a private school. All we are doing is lining the pockets of a select few rather than spending the money to raise teacher pay or give more to the schools to use on students. I also feel that our governor has a pretty significant conflict of interest in this bill considering his wife seeks to benefit from this voucher as a private school employee.

Kelly Savedra

Myself

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3 and propose instead we fund public schools. Both my children are a part of the special education system, which no private school will adhere to. This bill is meant to privatize education so that rich donors to our governor can become richer. Save our schools, vote against HB3. Thank you for your time.

Molly Pratt

Self

Austin, TX

We agree that parent's should have a choice in how their child is educated. But 80,000 children out of 5.84 million is not choice, it's chance.

A 500% FPL limit on a subsidized education program--the education savings accounts--vs. a 200% FPL limit on a subsidized health insurance program--Medicaid-- doesn't equate.

Supporting parental choice when it comes to how they educate their child--public, private, or homeschooling--vs. not supporting parental choice when it comes to healthcare options for their child--equitable access to insurance, gender affirming care--doesn't equate.

I find this law as written and discussed today to be discriminatory and classist. A lot of intentionality and care went into establishing our public education and healthcare systems. It seems to me the option of greatest impact would be to allocate state funds to our public education and healthcare systems.

Pam Sohan

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Educational savings accounts or vouchers, take money away from public schools. Texas is already ranked at or near the bottom in public school funding. Private schools do not have to take every student that wishes to attend, which penalizes children with disabilities, children that don't speak English as their first language, children from different ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds. Vouchers put more money in the system which quite often leads to private schools raising their tuitions, which makes it harder for middle to low income students to attend. Don't defund public schools, the Texas constitution, specifically in Article VII, mandates the state legislature to establish AND SUPPORT a system of public free schools!!!! Vouchers will further enlarge the education gap between rich and the not rich. Private schools rarely provide transportation for students attending them. Which means a parent has to be available before and after school to transport that student. This puts an undue burden on those families where both parents work. Yet another barrier to attendance. Vouchers are not the end all and be all solution to failing public schools. There is money to help public schools, but it's being held up for political reasons. Rural schools will be further hurt by this program as their is rarely a private school nearby. This bill will deepen the educational gap between rich and not so rich, limiting opportunities for students as they move from elementary, to high school and college.

Martha Crownover

Self

Cypress, TX

Do not pass this voucher as it only serves to defund public education. We need more funding not less.

Mandy Gegoux

Self

Leander, TX

As a proud native Texan, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. I believe private school subsidies are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair.

Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Public schools in Texas are underfunded by billions of dollars every year. The Comptroller is projecting a large increase in state revenue over the next two years compared to the past two years, and that money should go to fully funding public education.

Private schools pick and choose which students to admit. Vouchers force taxpayers to subsidize private schools' preferences. And without elected boards or state oversight, vouchers give away tax dollars with no financial or academic accountability.

Public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students, serving all the students in their boundaries. They build the workforce that powers the Texas economy. We can't afford to underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future.

We elect legislators to represent the interests of their communities. Responding to their communities, Texas legislators have rejected private school subsidies time after time.

In the face of increasing pressure from special interests, I pledge that I will stand with my legislators in opposing vouchers. When they vote against private school subsidies, I will make sure all their constituents know they did the right thing.

Sandra Soria

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Vouchers are killing public schools—an educated electorate is necessary to our form of government . Please vote NO.

Elizabeth Armstrong

self

Carrollton, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program.

Mary Menzel

Women for Democracy

Austin, TX

Public schools must be fully funded with pay raises for all staff not administrative. We owe all children of Texas the very best education without religious indoctrination! We are not a theocracy!

Allison Shurr

self, program administrator

Austin, TX

I am a constituent and am urging you to vote NO on HB3. I have two children attending an incredible public school that is making do despite struggling with funding, as many of our public schools are. Every child deserves the right to a quality public education, and our schools must be fully funded and equipped to help all students succeed. Public funding should directly support public education, benefiting every Texas child who enrolls in public school.

Public funds should not be diverted to exclusive programs that are not available in many communities, do not have to serve children with disabilities and higher levels of need, and are financially out of reach and inaccessible, even with a voucher, for a significant number of Texas families.

Public schools rely on adequate funding to effectively serve ALL students. Texas communities, especially in rural areas, often rely solely on public schools, which cannot afford further funding cuts.

I urge lawmakers to firmly oppose any policies that threaten the stability and quality of public education by redirecting funds away from public schools. Please consider the diversity of communities around the state, many of which will not benefit from this voucher initiative as they do not have access to private schools. Please do what is best for our children and communities statewide, and support equitable funding for all by focusing funding on public education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Webb Murphy

Self. Teacher

San Saba, TX

I am against this.

Raquel Helton

Self/teacher

Waxahachie, TX

“Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas Constitution

Ashley Barr

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please vote NO on HB3. If Texas wants to improve public education, we must continue to invest in public schools in rural and low income areas. We will not do this by siphoning off funds from public education to private. No matter what Governor Abbott says, money will obviously have to come from somewhere and it is disingenuous to assert that public schools will not suffer as a result of this plan. I am thankful for the public education I received in Texas and am concerned about the plans to use tax dollars to fund private education. We need to focus on the public good of educating all Texas children and we can do that by investing in public school infrastructure and public school teachers. Please support public schools, public school teachers, and public education in Texas--we cannot succeed without it.

Idona Griffith

self

Austin, TX

Two years ago ESA's were defeated decisively by a bi-partisan vote of this Legislative Body. Yet here we are again. Some contend that Texans want "ESA's" or School Vouchers. Others believe that the majority of Texans do not want their tax dollars to be funneled away from public schools and into private schools. Perhaps rather than continue this back and forth debate ad nauseum, we should simply ASK the voters. Put this on the ballot in November and let's find out what the majority of Texans want. LET THE PEOPLE VOTE!

Amanda Sharp

Self- homemaker

Hutto, TX

School vouchers are an absolute scam and just another way to increase the gap between those who have, and those who have not. On top of that, does conflict of interest just not exist? The governor's wife just started a private school that will absolutely benefit from school vouchers... I can't believe that much corruption is actually ok. As someone with kids in public school but can afford to put my kids in private school I think it's disgusting that billions of dollars went into making sure this bill passes. Those billions of dollars could have been put into the very schools they seek to do out of funding. Private schools should be made to accept all students if this passes. I'm sickened and furious at that state of our State education system and values.

Laura Keating

Self

Austin, TX

I called numerous congressmen last week begging them to vote against this bill and I'm here doing the same. This is not useful for everyone. Please, don't do this.

Crystal Romanelli

Self - teacher

Cypress, TX

Please support public ed and NO to vouchers. Parents already have choice and this has hurt the already struggling teacher shortage.

Melissa Konur

Self

Fort Worth, TX

As a parent of 2 public school students, I strongly encourage you to vote no to school vouchers.

The state has undercut state funding and not adequately funded public schools for many years now despite resources. This has put a tremendous strain on our public schools.

All tax dollars and public funds should be directed to public schools, not private schools. We should not be subsidizing a personal choice or private schools which accept tuition. Not all students even have access to an option without significant distance and sacrifice. This option only undermines the public schools that are already in our neighborhoods, towns and cities.

This is about social equity. Not everyone can even make this choice and until the public schools are funded sufficiently with public dollars on a per student ratio this should not even be a question being discussed.

Say no to vouchers for private schools. Say yes to adequately funding our public schools who provide a solid education for all Texas children. Do not continue to line the pockets of those who do not need money in exchange for out of state political contributions to your political campaigns.

Do the right thing for all of Texas. Support your public schools.

Sincerely, Melissa Konur

Kellie Fontenot

Public school

Brenham, TX

I am the director of special services for a small school district in Texas. As the cost of services, such as therapies, wheelchairs, equipment, assistive technology, etc. has steadily increased, the funding school districts receive per student has not increased. I believe in school choice and students have that already. If they are not happy in the school that they are at they have the option to move to a private school. But that is their choice thus they should take care of the payments for that private school. Giving a private school student \$10,000 when that is not nearly comparable to what a public school student gets is an atrocity. This bill is basically saying that Texas teachers are not good enough. This is disrespectful to the many teachers that I work with daily. These teachers go out of their way for their students, knowing that they probably will not get a pay raise this year or the next year. It's not about the money for most teachers, it's about helping students. This bill is definitely not for students nor is it to support teachers. I already know several of my representatives and the current governor will not be receiving my vote during the next election. All due to this bill.

Donna Price

Mothers for Democracy

San Antonio, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

I respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 I support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Janetta Alspaugh

Self

Lewisville, TX

I do not like the idea or plan of “education saving accounts” they weaken our great institution of educating all of our citizens!
Free public education must be supported and not sold!

Ronda Fenn

self

Houston, TX

Please stand with Texas families.

Cedric Synnestvedt

self

Austin, TX

I respectfully do not endorse the school vouchers program. Our public schools are vital institutions that help make a better society in general, and they are already sadly under-funded. Even in a wealthy city like Austin, teachers are having to ask for donations, are not receiving competitive raises, and classroom sizes tend to exceed resources. Instead of funneling even more money away from our public schools, why not fund them and make them better? Why should my tax money go to fund schools my children are unlikely to be able to attend? Shifting the money elsewhere, putting it into private hands and interests with little oversight is not going to solve the most problems for the most people. I can only see the voucher programs as a way of benefitting already-privileged communities.

lueng tcheung

self/physician

austin, TX

Please do not pass this, I do not want my tax dollars used for private school tuition.

Karen Fernbach

Self

Bellaire, TX

No to vouchers it is a entitlement program for the wealthy

Imelda Harris

Self

Saginaw, TX

I am against this HB3 voucher system. This bill will defund our public schools in some of the smaller communities and all Texas children have the right to receive an education from the state. Gov. Abbott should release some of the funds that are currently being withheld. with the surplus that Texas has our education system should be in the top percentile not in the bottom. Education is important to the companies that have been relocating to Texas.

Monica Jones

self

Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas House Bill 3 (HB3) and any school voucher program that diverts public tax dollars away from our public schools to fund private education. Public tax dollars should remain in public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas children, provide accountability to taxpayers, and are essential to our communities.

School vouchers are nothing more than a privatization scheme that weakens public education, disproportionately harms rural communities, and lacks the oversight necessary to ensure responsible use of taxpayer funds. Unlike public schools, private institutions that receive voucher funds are not required to accept all students, follow state curriculum standards, or provide transparency in how funds are spent. This creates a two-tiered education system in which public schools are left underfunded while private schools can pick and choose students based on income, ability, or other factors.

Public schools are the backbone of our state, ensuring every child—regardless of ZIP code, economic status, or special needs—receives an education. Rather than diverting critical funds to private entities, Texas lawmakers should focus on fully funding public schools, raising teacher pay, addressing school infrastructure needs, and ensuring all students have access to quality resources.

The claim that school vouchers provide “choice” is misleading. In reality, it is private schools that do the choosing, not parents. Vouchers do not cover the full cost of tuition at many private schools, making them inaccessible to lower-income families. Instead of empowering parents, vouchers shift public money to private schools that lack accountability and fail to serve all students equitably.

Texans overwhelmingly support strong public schools, and our leaders should respect the will of the people by rejecting HB3 and any effort to undermine public education. Our focus must remain on strengthening and fully funding our public schools, not on subsidizing private institutions at the expense of the majority of Texas families.

I urge you to oppose HB3 and any school voucher program and instead invest in Texas public schools, ensuring that every child receives a quality education in a system that is transparent, accountable, and truly serves all students.

Elisa Goldstein

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Brittany Owens
self - educator
Cedar Park, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3 by Buckley, which I believe will have a detrimental impact on public education in our state. As an educator with experience in both public and private schools, I have firsthand knowledge of the challenges and differences between these systems. This bill threatens to deepen existing disparities.

Public schools serve all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, learning ability, or background. They operate under strict regulations to ensure quality education, equity, and inclusivity. Private schools, however, are not bound by the same requirements, including standardized testing, special education services, and non-discriminatory enrollment policies. By shifting state resources toward private institutions, we risk undermining the foundation of public education and leaving countless students without adequate support and opportunities.

While this bill does not directly take money from the education budget, it will indirectly reduce funds available for public schools, making it difficult to support students and maintain programs like the Teacher Retirement System (TRS). If vouchers are implemented, their value should not exceed the basic allotment provided by the state for public school students.

Evidence from other states shows that voucher programs have not successfully improved educational opportunities for all students. Instead, they often serve as subsidies for families already choosing private education. Many rural areas lack private school options, and even with vouchers, private education may remain cost-prohibitive due to additional fees and requirements.

I have personally witnessed a private school denying entrance to a special education student due to lack of resources and inability to pass the entrance exam. Other barriers, such as transportation, academic performance, attendance, and behavior requirements, may further limit access for many students.

If the goal is to offer school choice to underserved families, the majority of vouchers should be allocated to those receiving free/reduced lunches or free public pre-K, rather than including families with incomes over \$100,000.

In Texas, parents already have various educational choices. While ESAs may not immediately impact public school budgets, they risk exacerbating the funding crisis in public education without addressing core issues. This approach fails to provide necessary support to our students and teachers.

Instead of creating ESAs, I urge you to consider:

- Increasing the basic allotment for each public school child
- Enhancing funding for special education students
- Providing more support for teachers

These measures would more effectively address the challenges facing our public education system and benefit all students.

Thank you for your consideration of these critical issues.

Sincerely,
Brittany Owens

Emily Kress
Self
Spring, TX

Fund public schools. Do not DEFUND them! We DO NOT want school choice!

Jennifer Simoneaux
Self
Conroe, TX

I homeschool and am opposed to this bill.

Karol Espinoza
Retired public elementary school teacher
Highland Vlg, TX

I'm asking that the school voucher program NOT be passed. This is so very unfair & detrimental to public education. Please DO NOT support school vouchers!

Karen Galloway
Self/dental hygienist
Spring Branch, TX

I drive 4 hours a day and live paycheck to paycheck to take my daughter to Austin Waldorf school. The vouchers would help my lower middle class family and would take the worry away of how we are going to pay for our second child to go to private school too.

Nancy Latner, Ms.
Self
DALLAS, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB3 and any bill that provides money for homeschooling or private schools. Millions of children depend on public schools. Any money diverted to homeschooling or private schools will weaken our public schools. Additional funds should be given to public schools to improve them. Private schools are never going to admit thousands of children who require special education, nor who have poor grades. It is very misleading to say this bill will provide free choice to parents. This bill only helps the wealthy who already have their kids in private schools and home schools that have no educational oversight. Public taxpayer money should never be used for anything other than public schools. Please vote against this bill.

Shingi Tichagwa
Self
PROSPER, TX

I'm against HB 3, against vouchers, and i (2/3)
want our public schools fully funded. Pass it on. (3/3)

Lyndsay Brooks, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose school vouchers for Texans. Not only does voucher money take away important funding from our public schools, but it weakens our communities, neighborhoods, and children's safety and futures. We should all be invested in the education of our society's children, whether we have children or not, and whether our children go to public or private schools. This is the same as our need to use our tax dollars for roads, community centers, parks, and libraries, whether we use them ourselves or not. I am strongly opposed to any voucher bills and urge our leaders to vote against any bills that would take away funding from our public schools.

Melissa DeGraff
Self, mother of three public school students
Pflugerville, TX

Public dollars belong in public schools. The people of Texas do not want vouchers. Listen to your constituents, not billionaires!

Nancy Morin-Bernal, Ms.
Self
Austin, TX

Completely against

Amy Merritt
Self/teacher
College Station, TX

As a teacher, we DO NOT the vouchers program in Texas! You are doing a disservice to the thousands of children that will be left in public schools without proper funding! You are essentially padding the pockets of people that can already afford to send their children to private school! Think long and hard about how you vote because you will be voted out next time the election comes around!

Anne McCausland, Mrs
Self
Frisco, TX

I am respectfully asking the House Education Committee members to not advance HB 3 out of committee. I am opposed to HB 3 for the following reasons:

- 1) Studies show vouchers do not equate to improved academic outcomes.
- 2) HB 3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas families already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity with public money.
- 3) Public money means public accountability. Any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing, and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4) Texans should decide! Vouchers would use public dollars for private education—Texans deserve a voice in this decision. Put school choice on a statewide ballot and let the people vote!

alessandra beavers
self - attorney
Austin, TX

I'm an Austin resident with one child in private school and one in AISD. I am strongly against HB3 or any other programs that divert public tax dollars to private schools.

Texas has rejected vouchers before but the issue keeps being revived by the governor & lieutenant governor in an attempt to score political points, not to help the people of Texas. Vouchers are still the wrong choice for Texas communities because they would undermine public education without benefiting underprivileged students. Instead, they will primarily benefit families like ours who can already afford private school - the amount of money provided through the vouchers will not cover most private school tuition - meaning most underprivileged families still won't be able to pay for private school but families like ours will be subsidized on the backs of taxpayers. Since more than 60% of Texas students are from economically disadvantaged families, taxpayer funds should be used to benefit the larger public, not those of us privileged enough to be able to afford private school regardless of vouchers.

Further, private schools aren't held to the same accountability and assessment standards and don't have to operate under the same financial reporting requirements, open records laws, special education rules, student safety rules or curriculum requirements. Giving public money to such schools without requiring them to meet the same standards as public schools is nonsensical.

We should consider the evidence from other states, which shows that vouchers do not improve student outcomes, and instead of diverting money to fund unaccountable private school systems, the legislature should properly and fully invest in our public schools.

Vouchers are not fiscally responsible and are the wrong choice for Texas students and families and the overall public.

Hallie LaPell
Homeschool Families
Spring, TX

We are a homeschooling family and I oppose this bill.

Brianna Mcdonough
Self
Austin, TX

VOTE NO on HB3

Prairie Parnell
Self, instructor
Springtown, TX

No. No. This bill does not represent me and my family in any way and it will further the class divide between folks.

Betty Owens
self; retired attorney and former teacher
Houston, TX

I am adamantly opposed to school vouchers requiring public money to pay for private schooling. Abbott and other voucher supporters cry "school choice," but the reality is that only families that can already afford most of private school tuition, and who live in one of the minority of Texas counties with any private schools, would benefit. Public schools are for the benefit of the public. We have no children, but we recognize the importance of an educated population and happily support public schools. Do not use our tax dollars for a small number of families. Increase funding for public schools instead.

Martha Coleman
self, music teacher
Austin, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3. This bill will leave many under-served families behind, as the money used for school vouchers lacks transparency on how it will actually be used.

Christine Owen
Retired
Fairview, TX

No vouchers. Fund education for ALL students equally.

Patricia Glowacki, Ms.

None

Austin, TX

Please vote no to vouchers/ESAs. Unfortunately, they will not provide real choice for low income children. The amount allotted will not help enough for those most in need to pay private school tuition. In addition to tuition, books, uniforms, transportation, and availability still provide hurdles. Many private schools will not accept children with special educational needs. Our tax dollars can be better used to provide quality public education for all children.

As a retired teacher, I have seen first hand the effects to education when financing does not keep up with inflation. Teachers are left to do more with less.

I grew up in a low to middle income family. My father joined the military at 17 and did not finish high school. He taught me the value of education. With 3 children, my parents - even with an ESA - would not have been able to swing private education. Besides tuition, my family had one car for most of my childhood. Providing transportation to school would have been a big deterrent. For many families private schools are too distant from their home and transportation options too limited. It was a quality public education with teachers who supported and encouraged me to pursue college that eventually lead to me to complete a master's degree in education. Without the public schools providing community and support, my family and I would have had a difficult time navigating the college application process. Thankfully, a scholarship used at a state school paid for my undergraduate program. Public schools should be the great equalizers that provide the foundation for all children to pursue a better life. Draining money to support private schools is not the way to make this happen.

I proudly taught in Texas schools for 20 years. The voucher/esa program could drain teachers from public schools and place a burden on the Teacher Retirement System. This is a problem we do not need to create.

Please vote no to vouchers/ESAs. Let's put our time, care, and tax dollars into public education!

Terri Johnson

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am AGAINST vouchers and for fully funded, high quality, public education.

It's bad for the Texas taxpayer, bad for public educators, and bad for the kids in our public school classrooms.

Terri Johnson

Suzanna Finnegan Guyton

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. I do not want school vouchers

Valerie Momii

Self

Buda, TX

I completely do not support this!

Elissa Batzer

Self

Cypress, TX

Please vote no on school vouchers. Please fully fund our public schools.

Camille Mami, Dr

Parent

Austin, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Alexandra Checka, Ms.

Self, Texas Public School Teacher

Fort Worth, TX

I beg you to vote against this disastrous bill. It is a grave disservice to my Fort Worth students, and the impacts will be many times worse in rural communities. I am proud to have taught thousands of kids and to have been the teacher of the year of Fort Worth ISD. I bring my whole heart and soul into my classroom and I am fully committed to the success of my students. The kids bring their best every day, and their parents are fully invested in their learning. I am begging for you, the lawmakers elected to be responsible for the education kids in Texas, to be brave and stand for what you know is right. We, the voters, will stand by you and remember who stood against this wildly, wildly, unpopular bill. We will also remember who caved at this crucial moment and vote accordingly. My students deserve better than the widespread closures and uncertainty that have plagued us despite the state's surplus of billions. I thank you for your courage.

David Kossey

Self and over 760 school districts who will have increased losses if this bill passes.

Stinnett, TX

Honorable Committee Members,

Imagine the heart of your districts—kids laughing in hallways, teachers shaping futures, schools binding communities. Now picture that fading away. Rep. Gary VanDeaver of New Boston knows this fear, saying, “In my district, public school is the community.” His rural House District 1, where New Boston ISD faces a \$1.2 million deficit, can’t lose more—not when there’s no private school to flee to. Vouchers would rip funds from these kids, leaving empty desks and broken dreams.

Rep. Terry Wilson, in Marble Falls, your House District 20’s Marble Falls ISD is \$2.8 million underwater. Parents there plead for books, not budget cuts. Rep. Matt Shaheen, Plano’s kids in House District 66 see Plano ISD slashing \$29 million—teachers let go, classrooms packed. Rep. Tony Tinderholt, Arlington’s House District 94, where Arlington ISD braces for a \$40 million hole, families dread losing what holds their neighborhood together. Rep. Joanne Shofner, Conroe’s House District 11, Conroe ISD’s \$32 million deficit already stings—vouchers would be a gut punch to kids who’ve got nowhere else to turn.

These aren’t numbers; they’re our children—your constituents—watching their schools crumble. Vouchers don’t save them; they save the wealthy who don’t need help, draining funds to private schools miles away. Florida’s voucher mess cut public school funding 12% while private spending ballooned 313%. Texas, scraping by at the bottom of per-student spending, can’t survive that betrayal.

VanDeaver’s words burn true: “I’m philosophically against vouchers.” In rural New Boston, schools are lifelines—jobs for locals, hope for kids. Vouchers offer nothing there, just a slower death for what’s left. In Plano, Arlington, Conroe, Marble Falls, it’s the same heartbreak—schools you’ve fought for, now bleeding out. Private schools dodge rules your public schools live by; Arizona’s voucher cash bought jet skis while kids went without. And the results? Louisiana’s voucher kids fell behind—test scores crashed. Is that the future you want for your districts?

Think of the faces in your towns—the little girl in Plano dreaming of college, the boy in Arlington counting on his coach, the family in Conroe praying their school stays open. Vouchers steal their shot at a fair fight, handing it to those already ahead. You’ve stood for your people before; don’t let this policy break their trust.

In 2023, 21 Republicans said no to vouchers, 84-63, because they saw the cost: not just dollars, but futures. With \$18 billion in surplus, you can save these schools—hire teachers, fill classrooms with hope—not watch them fade. Don’t let your kids down. Stand with VanDeaver’s heart and vote no on vouchers. Keep our communities alive.

This is Texas, we don’t need New York influence in our schools—fancy voucher schemes cooked up by outsiders who don’t know our grit. We don’t abandon our own for some elite experiment.

David Kossey

Amanda Soisson

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose the use of public funds for private schools. Public money should be only for public schools.

Phyllis Geris

Retired teacher

League City, TX

Fully funded public education is the foundation for every future endeavor our children seek.

Lesli Blevins, Mrs

Myself

Cypress, TX

I was a public school teacher for 12 years. My husband is also a public school teacher. We have 2 boys in public school. We are AGAINST vouchers. Vouchers are going to encourage segregation and take funding away from already struggling schools! If people want to go to private school, they can pay for it! Public money should go to public schools.

Sherry Donahe

Self

Dickinson, TX

You all know that this is not a good idea. I am very sorry that the governor has put you all in this position and threatened your careers over this mess. Vouchers are not the answer. Fully fund our schools. Back in the day when the lottery was approved, we were told that all the money would go to our schools. But no, that money was taken from Our schools and put elsewhere. Fund our schools stop this voucher nonsense.

Ryan Olson

Self, software engineer

Breathing, TX

Please vote no. This is a clear theft of my tax dollars

Jenna Smith

Children of the State of Texas

Austin, TX

Please do not defund public schools to instead fund private schools. School vouchers will take tax payer money and allocate it to private schools. I DO NOT wish for my tax dollars to fund private, non-transparent education systems.

Anna Lindsey, Mrs.

Self, Adjunct Professor

The Hills, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Voucher programs have ruined public education in states that have implemented them. There is not ONE successful example of a voucher program, yet we are still talking about it. Don't give coupons to the rich with our taxpayer money. Put our public funds back into public schools and ensure ALL Texans have the right to be educated, for free, by certified teachers in regulated public schools.

Kyle Blackwell

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Private school vouchers are a further redistribution of wealth from Texans. If you really want to help kids, RAISE the investment in public education.

Brandi Morley

Bryan ISD

Bryan, TX

The basic allotment for students in public schools has not increased since 2019. Public tax dollars should fund - fully fund - public schools. Parents already have a choice to send their children to private schools. I oppose HB 3! Let Texans vote!!

Yolanda Garza

Self

Weslaco, TX

Please vote yes for this bill

Joshua Wright

Self

Hawkins, TX

I write to oppose this bill on several grounds. It will harm rural schools and students with special needs. The track record of states that have implemented similar bills have been overwhelmingly negative. Public schools serve all. The lack of oversight is astonishing.

Jazzmine Rosales

Self, Communications Assistant

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will most benefit families who can already afford private education while taking funds from desperately underfunded public schools. I ask you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

APRIL CALDERON, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

I am a parent of 3 children that attend highland park elementary. I have been pleased with the kind supportive education my kids have received in public schools. I attended a private school from kinder through highschool and have not once thought about sending my kids elsewhere. Public school in Austin is amazing and needs these funds to continue to offer the highest level of education.

Public funds should stay with children in Texas public schools. Period!

Megan Duffy

Self

Trophy club, TX

Please reject this bill. I am an American educator, parent and past PTA president. Our schools have been hurt by our government not fully funding them. It is NOT a solution to divert public funds to private schools, which have no accountability. Furthermore we know this favors higher income families who already have a spot in these private schools. It does NOT favor low income or special needs students, who cannot gain admission to these private schools. Do the right thing for our state, our teachers and ALL our children.

Leah Mandujano

Self/ Teacher

Willis, TX

A less than \$300 dollar allotment is not enough for public education. Education is our future. We have to invest in the future. Public schools are vital parts to the local community. I am completely against private education vouchers. There are charter schools that parents can go to that are already funded partly by the state with no elected board members... There is already parent choice, just not at the expense of the tax payer. Fund schools and pay teachers well for staying in education and watch the schools soar to success. **FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PAY TEACHERS WELL**, including a quality retirement fund. Do not take money from the TRS account to fund 1 year of raises. Most of Texans, **RED and BLUE and PURPLE** , **DO NOT WANT VOUCHERS**. If you don't believe us, put it on the ballot!

Dale Hahn

Self - retired educator

San Antonio, TX

In the strongest possible terms, I am **OPPOSED** to any voucher system removing monies from Texas public schools for use in private schools. Furthermore, Texas public schools need drastically increased funding, now.

Erin Rudd, Mrs

Self, Teacher

Tomball, TX

Vouchers will take money away needed to serve fragile learners for their success and later contributions to society. Please don't do this.

Casey Lampert

Self- business owner

Lubbock, TX

Vote **NO** for this! Our public schools need their funding!! Private and homeschoolers are outliers. The wealthy can pay to live on their own island. The majority- including those most vulnerable- do not want this!! Listen to your constituents! We do not want this!

Ashly Adcox

Self - Learning Leader

Amarillo, TX

School vouchers are not a great step nor are they wanted by most Texans. They take tax payer dollars and put them in the private industry. Private schools are not regulated, and don't have to accept all children. My child wouldn't be able to benefit from this as a child with disabilities served under an IEP. If you're going to allow this, private schools need to have more regulations to ensure they are serving the needs of all students. Private schools aren't required to teach the TEKS, their teachers don't have to be certified, and they should not be the recipient for tax dollars. In addition other states that have implemented this have seen it is to be a subsidy for the rich, rather than providing opportunity for those who normally wouldn't be able to afford private schools. No harm will come from slowing this down.

Alejos Salazar, Dr.
Self-superintendent of schools
Harlingen, TX

As the superintendent of Lasara ISD, I strongly oppose HB 3 due to its lack of accountability and transparency in how taxpayer dollars would be used. Texas public schools must meet rigorous academic, financial, and operational accountability standards, ensuring that funds are spent effectively and that students are receiving a high-quality education. HB 3 circumvents these safeguards by funneling taxpayer dollars to private institutions that are not subject to the same level of oversight. Public schools are required to administer standardized assessments, report student achievement data, comply with state curriculum requirements, and undergo financial audits. Private schools and other ESA-approved entities, however, are not held to these same standards. Without proper accountability, taxpayer dollars could be spent on low-quality or unregulated educational services that do not guarantee student success.

Moreover, HB 3 creates the potential for misuse and fraud. Other states with ESA-style programs have encountered cases where funds were used for personal expenses, unapproved services, and even fraudulent vendors due to weak oversight. Texas should not risk taxpayer dollars on a system that lacks financial controls and academic accountability.

If the goal is to improve education for Texas students, we must ensure that all schools receiving public funds meet the same high standards. Instead of diverting resources to an unregulated system, Texas should be investing in public schools that serve all children and are held accountable for student success.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3 and instead support policies that strengthen public education with transparency, accountability, and student outcomes in mind. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amy C Hays
Self, teacher
Cypress, TX

I do not support this legislation. It is a terrible decision for the future of Texas.

Jonathon Bejarano
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose H.B. No. 3, which establishes an Education Savings Account (ESA) program. This bill reflects neoliberal policies that prioritize privatization over the public good, diverting funds from underfunded public schools to private institutions. It exacerbates inequality, harming low-income communities and students with disabilities. Public education is a cornerstone of democracy, and we must resist marketizing essential services. Instead of vouchers, fully fund public schools to ensure equitable access for all.

Reject H.B. No. 3 and invest in public education.

Valeria Suarez, SLPA
Self
Uvalde, TX

I oppose

Morgan Murphy
Self - homemaker
Keum, TX

I am a homeschooling parent and I oppose this bill

Brittney Hernandez

Self and public school SLPA

Kyle, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability

Jennifer Kost, Mrs.

self (stay at home mom, volunteer in schools)

Austin, TX

The Honorable Chairman Buckley and members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am against ESA's. That said, I have read HB 3 in detail & appreciate the efforts that were made to prevent fraud, to prioritize high-need students, to provide minimum standards & some methods of measuring outcomes, & to ensure funding for ESA's doesn't outstrip funding for public education. I have comments on this bill, for your consideration.

1. Index to basic allotment: Change the program payments in Sec. 29.361(a)(1): 85 percent of the basic allotment provided in Chapter 48, Subchapter B, Section 48.051(a)
2. The above change would eliminate the need for the entire Sec. 29.361(c)
3. No roll-over: Change the way remaining ESA funds are handled in Sec. 29.361(f): Any money remaining in a participating child's account 90 days after the end of a fiscal year shall be returned to the comptroller for deposit in the program fund
4. Required assessments should match public schools: Change Sec. 29.358(b)(2)(B): administration of the appropriate assessment instrument required under Subchapter B, Chapter 39
5. Disqualify for-profit schools: Add Sec. 29.358(b)(2)(C) to read: registration with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
6. Special Education: Provide full compensation from the program fund to public schools/districts for evaluations for special education services, development of IEP's, & any appeals that are requested under Sec. 29.3615(a)-(e)
7. Gifts, Grants, & Donations: Add a subsection to Sec. 29.370 requiring that any funds received from outside sources by any certified educational assistance organization be allocated to the comptroller for deposit in the program fund
8. Modifications to collection and reporting of demographic information under Sec. 29.3715: change (a)(9) to clarify what is meant by "educationally disadvantaged" & add (a)(11) whether the child's family income is at or below 200%, above 200% but below 500%, or at or above 500% of the federal poverty guidelines at the time of their enrollment in the program, (a)(12) whether the child attended public school in the year prior to enrollment in the program, & (a)(13) if the child qualified as an English language learner at the time of enrollment in the program
9. Limit the advertising scope allowed under Sec. 29.3535 to details of the program, & explicitly disallow naming of any providers or vendors
10. Under 29.354(e), why is a certified educational assistance organization not considered to be a provider of consulting services under Chapter 2254, Government Code? It seems like they should be specified as such to limit the possibility of fraud & abuse & to require an open bid process to potentially save the state money on administration.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for crafting a thoughtful and detailed bill for ESA's.

I still believe ESA's are not right for Texas, especially while public education is underfunded, so I ask that you modify but do not pass this bill.

Frannie Sanchez

Self

Austin, TX

No vouchers. Not now, not ever. Our family supports public schools. I attended public schools and my children do as well. We have had wonderful teachers and met wonderful families. Vouchers are not school choice. Vouchers will privatize a system that is meant to serve all children. Private schools do not serve all children, they prioritize families that can pay huge sums of money. Our family will never be able to afford these private schools and neither will many families in rural districts. Public funds should NEVER be set aside for private companies. Being educated is a human right. It is the role of the government that ensure that every one of our citizens has rights. Every child in Texas requires a fully funded school. This voucher bill will drain money away from public schools. Taking money and resources from public schools denies children their right to a quality education. Our schools are already underfunded. Why would the government pay for a private system of education when they do not have any standards or accountability? The state has been obsessed with accountability and tested our children to death with STAAR testing. Now, we find out that some people are willing to hand over money to private schools. They don't take STAAR and do not have the same restrictions public schools face on a daily basis. This is extremely hypocritical. Do not vote to pass vouchers! Stay strong! The public does not want money siphoned away from our public schools! The general public believes in the basic right to an education! Private schools can do their thing without public funds! No vouchers! Not now, not ever!

Patrick Rosenberg

Self, Teacher

League City, TX

My name is Patrick Rosenberg, and I am a Texas citizen who lives in League City. My wife and I are teachers in neighboring Friendswood ISD, and I would like to express my concerns regarding HB3.

My wife and I are fortunate to live in an area with excellent public schools provided by Clear Creek ISD, and as educators in Friendswood ISD, we get to witness each and every day how important our public schools are to the children we serve. After researching HB3, I have two grave concerns regarding this bill.

First, I am worried that this bill would provide support almost exclusively to higher-income families who already send their children to private schools and provide negligible support to lower-income students. After researching education savings account policies in other states, it appears that in those states, the vast majority of students who capitalized on ESAs were students who were already enrolled in private schools! Even though HB3 claims to provide a large amount of funds to low-income students, "low-income" is defined in such a way in the bill as to potentially include families that make over \$150,000 per year - that, to many people, is not low income. Therefore, I am worried that the way the money for this program would be distributed would result in wealthier families essentially being given a \$10,000 tax-funded gift for "choosing" to send their students to schools which they may already attend.

Second, I am worried that this bill will negatively impact public schools by diverting extremely important funding away from public schools. Since public schools gain a large portion of funding from the student allotment, any student enrollment decrease due to this bill would negatively affect the funding the school district receives and, therefore, negatively affect the services that the school would be able to provide. Despite the fact that increases to the student allotment have been proposed, these increases pale in comparison to potential losses that districts could face. For instance, if just 50 students left a district due to the adoption of this bill, the district would lose over \$300,000 in student funding - for districts, this would most likely result in cutting employees and services that they already desperately need. As an educator, I want to ensure that my students have the means to succeed, and I feel that potential decreases in funding to districts that are already underfunded (when taking into account the length of time since the last student allotment increase and inflation) would be detrimental to the success of my students.

In conclusion, I have very serious concerns about HB3 and I encourage that this committee opposes the bill. I think that my students, and all students in Texas, would benefit more from a different bill that provides more resources to our public schools, which are the backbone of education in the state of Texas.

Parysa Oskouipour
self, concerned citizen
Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 (HB 3), introduced by Representative Brad Buckley, which proposes the establishment of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program in Texas. While the intent to provide families with more educational choices is commendable, I believe this bill poses significant risks to our public education system and may not effectively serve the students it aims to help.

HB 3 proposes allocating \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars to create this program. This redirection of funds would significantly reduce the resources available to public schools, which serve the majority of Texas students. Public schools are already underfunded, and diverting funds to private institutions may exacerbate existing challenges, such as larger class sizes, reduced extracurricular programs, and diminished support services. Further, although HB 3 aims to prioritize low-income and special education students, there are concerns about its practical implementation. The bill does not require private schools to accept all students, potentially allowing these institutions to deny admission based on academic performance, disabilities, or other criteria. This lack of accountability may result in the most vulnerable students being left behind, contrary to the bill's stated objectives. Examining similar programs in other states, such as Arizona, raises additional concerns. Arizona's expansive voucher program led to significant state budget issues, diverting funds from essential services and projects. This precedent suggests that implementing a similar program in Texas could result in unforeseen financial challenges and negatively impact public infrastructure and services.

Lastly, private schools receiving tax dollars through this program are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. They are not required to administer state assessments or adhere to state curriculum standards, making it difficult to ensure that students receive a quality education. This lack of oversight could lead to inconsistent educational outcomes and widen the achievement gap among students.

Instead of diverting funds to private institutions, I urge the Legislature to focus on strengthening our public schools by: 1) increasing per-student funding to reflect current economic conditions and the needs of our students, 2) investing in teacher salaries and professional development, 3) providing adequate resources for special education, counseling, and extracurricular activities to support holistic student development.

By focusing on these areas, we can improve educational outcomes for all Texas students without compromising the integrity of our public education system. Thank you for considering my concerns. I respectfully urge you to vote against HB 3 and instead work towards solutions that strengthen public education for all.

Sincerely,
Parysa Oskouipour

Diane Sanders
Dimmitt Area Retired School personnel association
Dimmitt, TX

Here is a comment if you need one. Or ideas.

Vouchers are detrimental to the Texas education system because they divert public funds away from already underfunded public schools, exacerbating inequities and reducing resources for the vast majority of students. Instead of improving education for all, vouchers primarily benefit private schools that lack accountability and can selectively admit students, often leaving behind those with special needs or from low-income backgrounds. This weakens the public education system, which serves as the backbone of Texas communities, and prioritizes private interests over the common good.

Diwana Zapalac
Self
Bolivar Peninsula, TX

Gentle Ladies and Gentlemen , Please remember all of of the children of Texas that have no rich parents, but still need and should have a good education. You all know in your hearts that this is not how you should treat others. God doesn't love you only if you are wealthy. Jesus even taught how you should help the unfortunate. It really upsets me to see how the middle class and poor are treated in our state and country now. Please show your true concern and vote no.

Thank you for your time
Diwana Zapalac

Andrée Chalaron
Self
Austin, TX

Equality in public education is crucial! Our tax dollars need to be spent where they are collected, to support the vibrant public school community in Austin. Vote no on this bill!

Katherine M Patrick
Self retired
Ft. Worth, TX

I am against this House Bill. School choice already exists, this just steals money from public education. Reducing their efficacy. Texas lags in per capita funding already, this bill would undermine our public education system.

Courtney Baker
self
Haslet, TX

As a parent, I am fully aware of the many educational options available for my children, and I have chosen public education. I am satisfied with this choice and the opportunities it provides.

I strongly oppose the use of taxpayer dollars to fund private school education, especially when private schools are not held to the same standards of accountability and testing as public schools. Public funds should support public schools, which serve all students and are subject to oversight to ensure quality and equity. Redirecting public money to private institutions undermines the integrity of our education system and exacerbates existing inequities.

I urge you to prioritize funding for public schools, ensuring they have the resources needed to serve all students effectively. Please vote against HB 3, or at minimum, consider an amendment that would increase the basic allotment to account for inflation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Janet Roberts
Self
Houston, TX

I am against education vouchers.
They do not/will not make for fair education opportunities across the economic status of different families. Just a plan to give the "well to do" financial break in their private school tuition.

Betty Perez
Self
Spring, TX

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1. Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
2. HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
3. Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
4. We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill.

Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Asher Yurowitz
Mesivta of Houston
Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Hannah McPhaul
Self
Richardson, TX

I oppose this bill and against school vouchers!

Margarita Johnston

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Hannah Holamon

Hays CISD

Buda, TX

My name is Hannah Holamon, and I am an elementary librarian in Hays CISD. I am extremely concerned about any version of a voucher program, and I am asking you to oppose HB 3 or any other voucher legislation.

Unlike public schools, private and home schools have very little accountability to taxpayers, and don't have to conform to most state and federal laws regarding curriculum standards, financial accountability, teacher qualifications, student performance, special education, and student health and safety. As an educator who attended private school by my parents' choice and financial sacrifice without the aid of school vouchers, I can attest to this statement. While the school I attended was nationally accredited, not all private and home school programs adhere to the same high quality standards of education.

Teachers and other employees are in desperate need of improved compensation, and low salaries are contributing to the shortage of qualified, certified teachers. Available funding should be directed into the classroom. Continued lack of funding, even with TIA (which is not available to librarians or other special area teachers), schools will struggle to retain qualified, certified teachers and staff. It's also important to note that private schools on average in the state of Texas pay their teachers \$12,000 less than public schools. With inflation and the high cost of living, there is typically not enough incentive for the average teacher to choose a private school position over a public school one.

Private schools can refuse to admit a student for any reason, including for special education status, family religion and disciplinary history, while public schools educate any student zoned for attendance. The majority of private schools do not fund programs that support students with behavior or academic needs nor do they hire teachers who are certified in such areas of education.

The highest performing private schools are unlikely to accept voucher students due to costs (tuition is higher than the amount of the voucher) and concerns about state regulation. Private schools are privatized for a reason and they do not want the state directing their curriculum, teacher salaries, programs, or how their money is spent.

Our public schools already offer choices, including magnet schools, virtual education, CTE programs and much more. Public schools are also now providing many alternative programs that teach students a trade. These are critical jobs that will always be needed even in a world that is highly driven by technology. Not all students fit the classic education model or system and they should also have an opportunity and access to programs or education that focuses on their skills and knowledge in other areas. Our society needs students from all backgrounds and with a variety of skills.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these points as the future of education hangs on this decision.

Jennifer Kost, Mrs.

self (stay at home mom, volunteer in schools)

Austin, TX

To the Honorable Chairman Buckley and members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am writing against HB 3. Please do not pass any bill creating an ESA program out of Committee. Instead, prioritize every dollar you can to fully fund Texas public education.

The only type of Education Savings Account we should be discussing is an accounting to save public education. Instead of appropriating \$1,000,000 for ESA's for this biennium, please appropriate that amount to increase the basic allotment by another \$90 per student, in addition to the \$220 already put forth in the introduced version of HB 2. (The fiscal note attached to this bill anticipates an approximate \$3B net cost for ESA's in FY '28 and '29, and nearly \$4B in FY '30, which would be much better spent increasing the basic allotment by another \$600, at which point we'd be just about \$400 shy of catching up with inflation since the basic allotment was last increased in 2019, but still in the ballpark of \$3,000 shy of the national average for per pupil funding according to the most recent NEA report: https://www.nea.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/2024_rankings_and_estimates_report.pdf.)

The Texas Constitution requires the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools, and the Texas Education Code stipulates the mission of public education is to ensure all Texas children have access to quality education. Until that mission has been fulfilled, there should be no consideration of appropriating any state funds to private education. Creating a system of funding private schools is not efficient, and those schools are not accountable for the quality of education they provide.

I would like to address the main arguments I have heard for school choice, which are:

1. Public schools are failing our kids, and
2. Parents have a right to choose how their child is educated.

I agree that public schools in Texas are struggling and many are not serving our students as well as they should. The solution though is not to abandon public education, but to improve it, and fast. To do that, first and foremost, public schools need ample and reliable funding - increase the basic allotment, index it to inflation, and pay based on enrollment instead of attendance. Then, listen to what districts say they need and facilitate that rather than mandating one-size-fits-all solutions - review the Education Code and remove unnecessary requirements. And work to develop meaningful student assessments that don't correlate most strongly with students' SES.

Parents already have a right to choose how their child is educated. They are not required to send their children to public schools. I understand many families cannot afford another option, which is why fully funding public education is paramount. But taxpayers should not foot the bill for unaccountable private education options that can pick and choose which students they are willing to admit.

Thank you, and please do not pass this bill.

Kirthi Hanisha Moturu

Self

CEDAR PARK, TX

No to vouchers

Amby Clinkscale

Self

Cypress, TX

As a 29-year educator and the daughter of educators, I urge you to release all funds for public education and raise the minimum allotment per student to account for inflationary costs. School choice will only benefit a select few. Pro public education, no to vouchers.

Andrea McDonald

self

Burleson, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 4th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution and is greatly stealing from poor and rural areas where there aren't any private school options at all.

Grace Chomick

Self

Austin, TX

Hello, I would like to request that you do not pass HB3. Taxpayer funds should be used for public schooling. Stronger public schools make for a stronger and more prosperous Texas. Thank you!

Lyndsey Martin

Self - Teacher

Spring, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan and public school teacher, I ask you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Valerie Caddell

Myself and my children

Dallas, TX

Here's why HB3 is a bad deal for Texans.

No income limits: Wealthy families can use taxpayer dollars for elite private schools, even if they can already afford tuition.

Private schools pick students: Parents can apply, but private schools decide who gets in. Many exclude kids with disabilities, behavioral challenges, or lower test scores.

No access for rural Texans: Over 150 Texas counties don't even have a private school, making vouchers useless for many families.

No accountability: Private schools don't take the STAAR test or follow the same standards as public schools, yet public schools lose funding if scores are low.

Public schools are already underfunded: Texas spends about \$4,000 less per student than the national average and ranks 46th in funding. Instead of fixing this, HB3 pulls even more money away.

Unfair funding rules: Public schools lose money when students are absent, but private schools get voucher money no matter what, with no oversight.

Texas can afford to fund public schools: With a \$24B surplus and \$28B rainy day fund, lawmakers want to spend \$1B on vouchers that benefit just 1% of kids—costs that will only grow over time.

This isn't about giving families more choices—it's about defunding public schools to subsidize private ones.

John Gasko, COL

Self

Shavano Park, TX

Why are my tax dollars being spent on private education??!! Invest that money into private schools where it can do the most good!

Dona Holmes

Self

Friendswood, TX

I do not want my tax money to go to private schools. The vouchers will take away from public schools in which all children are accepted and able to attend. The private schools can turn away children on the spectrum or with other special needs. This is why I do not want my tax dollars to go to support vouchers that favor private schools.

Kelli Seay

Self

Houston, TX

Today us the public hearing on school I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability

Jennifer Kranzman

MY OPINION Republican Women of Gregg County

Longview, TX

I am in favor for HB3 that will only help all public and private school settings keep education needs children focused, not party or social issue focused. We have to improve education thru best practice and elevate required standards for Texas children so they can become strong, knowledgeable Americans in the work force.

Laura Jones

Self / Retired TX public school educator

Gordon, TX

I am a third generation TX public school educator, now retired. I was impressed with former Rep. Paul Colbert's testimony last week in which he demonstrated clearly that "traditional school districts have not received an increase from actual state revenue sources for over a decade. The modest increases in recent years have primarily served as tax relief rather than new investment in education." Yet, now, HB 3 proposes to add a third funding stream for K-12 education in the form of an Education Savings Account program, that is, vouchers. The Texas Legislature should keep the main thing the main thing, which is to establish and MAINTAIN public schools as stated in Article 7 of the Texas Constitution. Public tax dollars should not be used as partial payment for private school tuition. The mantra, "competition will improve outcomes" is a myth. Fair and quantifiable competition requires a level playing field. A traditional public school, a charter school, and if vouchers are passed, a private school which accepts a voucher are not held to the same accountability standards regarding academic outcomes or finances. I implore this committee to vote No.

Daisha Anderson

Magnolia Montessori For all

Austin, TX

This is me asking nicely--- I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Rebecca Rice

Self - speech language pathologist assistant

Cypress, TX

I oppose HB3. Tax payer dollars should go towards fully funding public schools, not private schools.

Shannon Schoepflin

Self, engineer

AUSTIN, TX

As a Texas voter I am firmly against HB 3. I will not support - now or in the future - any bill/candidate that takes money from the public school system. Please - we feel like you're not listening to us. We don't want this.

Lacey Coker

Self

Electra, TX

This bill would NOT be good for public education! It will take away money from our public education system to give to private schools. The vouchers this bill is supporting will go to low socioeconomic families who rely on public transportation to get their kids to and from school. Then what about the students of parents that choose not to send their kids to private schools? They don't get funding? NO!!!!

Allison Cardwell

Self

Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Allison Cardwell and I am a graduate of Texas public schools. I am also a parent of a third grader in Austin ISD as well as a veteran teacher of 23 years in Austin ISD. Budget reductions have consistently plagued our schools and prevented students from receiving access to the level of education that they deserve. Our schools are overcrowded and teachers are asked to do too much with too little. As a fifth grade teacher, I have regularly had class sizes of more than 30 students, which means that in addition to not receiving the individualized attention that they need, students are often having to sit on the floor to learn or climbing over each other to get around the classroom. I know many teachers who have left the profession because of inadequate pay, despite the fact that they love their jobs and were excellent educators. They would have stayed if it had been financially viable. This has become a profession where the career educators are only able to do so because they have a spouse with enough earning power for the both of them. I am asking the committee to increase funding by at LEAST \$1300 per student to account for inflation since 2019. Please use public funds to fully fund public schools.

Sarah Reyes

Self

Pflugerville, TX

No HB 3

Jeana Allen

Self public school teacher

Joshua, TX

As a dedicated public school teacher and strong supporter of Texas public schools, I am deeply troubled by the growing disregard for our public education system. I am writing to express my concerns regarding House Bill 3 and to advocate for fairness in the allocation of state funding.

Texas students deserve strong, well-funded public schools, and it is only fair that any school receiving taxpayer dollars be held to the same standards. If the state is going to pass vouchers and direct public funds to private schools, those institutions must be subject to the same rules as public schools—including transparency requirements, accountability measures, enrollment practices, and STAAR testing. Anything less creates an uneven playing field and undermines the integrity of our education system.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, and they deserve support, not policies that divert resources while holding them to higher standards than their privately funded counterparts. I urge you to ensure that all schools receiving state funding operate under the same expectations, reinforcing fairness and accountability in Texas education.

Philip Brandimarte

Self teacher

Austin, TX

No HB3

Andrea Castillo

Self

Austin, TX

I am firmly against this bill as I fully support public schools and public education.

Bianca Mercado

self

Azle, TX

Hello, my name is Bianca Mercado and I am a constituent from Azle, TX, 76020. I am messaging you today because I am concerned about to SB2 program. While it does have good intentions on the basis of wanting our children to have the chance to earn a better education it falls short on the ability to do so. Many of the families here in Parker County and even here where I live on the cusp of Tarrant have a household of 4-5 in a family and \$49,996 of income per Capita. Even with a voucher for two children per household it still wouldn't cover the cost of ONE YEARS school tuition. Many of the families who live in the rural parts of Parker County live on food stamps and are part of the WIC program and public schools are able to cover for breakfast and lunch programs that public schools already have in place. Many of them rely on the school bus system or walking to school each day and the funds to go towards transportation to a "choice" private school would not be enough to cover the cost. My sister is an educator at Eagle Heights elementary and she has been teaching first grade students over the last 15 years. Not only has she had a stable job for the last 15 years but she has been able to stay in touch with a lot of students in her community that she has cultivated in that time. I would really hate for my sister to be out of job due to her school losing funding dedicated towards a hand-out for people who are already priviledged to take their children to go to private school.

Shonda Harwell

Self

Jones Creek, TX

If the State has an extra \$1B to blow, give it back to the taxpayers and let us decide how to spend OUR money.

BTW, assuming the entire \$1B goes to families and not to the Comptroller's office or the five educational assistance organizations (more government), let's do the math. \$1B divided by \$30,000 (for students on IEPs) is a potential of 33,333 ESAs. There are currently about 6MM Texas students and 350,000 of them are in private schools. Exactly how would this possibly benefit ALL families and ALL students when it doesn't even cover 10% of the students already in private schools?

Disgusted with what Abbott is pushing.

Herbert Williams

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Our schools are a public good, one meant to strengthen our communities and ensure that the next generation is better informed and more able to work towards the betterment of themselves and our nation. Unfortunately, in our current education landscape not every school is given what it needs to help accomplish that goal. Any parent would want their child to attend a school with a proven track record of success, and this scheme would allow them to pick up their tax dollars and put them towards just that. The problem with that is two fold. First, those schools with a history of success are demonstrably already properly funded and equipped to meet the needs of their students. Additional funding that would come from these vouchers will not have nearly as strong an impact as it would on schools in more need. Second, while in a perfect world this scheme would mean every student would have an opportunity to attend the best funded school possible in their community, there literally isn't enough room in one building to teach every student. What then? Those students go to the second best school? The third? I agree that we need to improve the standard of our schools, but that can only happen by ensuring that EVERY school is properly funded, and is fully equipped to offer the best education to every student. I would rather not see a further stratification in our school quality. I'm all for options, but not when it comes at the cost of a strong base line standard.

Deidra Moitzheim

Self teacher

Helotes, TX

This is an absolutely ridiculous way to spend our hard earned tax payer dollars. Private schools do NOT take all students of ALL abilities; unlike public education. Private schools do not have the same oversights as public both for funding and testing. Private schools do NOT require certified teachers!

If you truly care about our future children being successful productive members of society, then stop shoving vouchers. The amount of money you will use to have a company manage these funds is outrageous. You haven't kept up with funding public education, but want to defund it. Why?! You want to hold our pay increases over voucher approval- why?! You know this doesn't benefit enough children nor educators. This BILLION dollars needs to benefit the most and your vouchers do NOT.

Do the right thing for everyone, stop siphoning money from public schools.

Corry Thompson

Self educator

Lewisville, TX

I am opposed to the mentioned HB3 I'll being proposed for the following:

estimates that vouchers will balloon to \$4 billion by 2030. Texas cannot afford to experiment when public schools are underfunded.

Texas ranks in the bottom 10 in per-student public education funding. Lawmakers should focus on improving the funding disparities in our current system before implementing a new, private system.

Our school district in Lewisville ISD will drastically e impacted and already has had to make significant decisions impacting teachers, students and families with the closure of 5 schools for this upcoming year and no teacher pay raises while the cost of inflation continues to increase. Over the last several years I ha e seen cuts to additional district personnel , programs, and an increase in class sizes.

Based on public information resources, it is evaluated that Lewisville ISD stands to lose \$19,857,227 dollars to privatization. The outcome would result in a loss of 479 fewer teachers, 397,144 fewer library books, and another increase in student-teacher ratio of 7.27%.

I encourage you to please rethink the impact of providing funds which will DEFUND public schools.

Sincerely ,

A mother and grandmother of public school children

Kimberly Wassmuth

Self

Round Rock, TX

This bill is unfair to students. If ESAs are going to pass, then the amount a public school gets per student should equal the amount of the ESA. It should not pass through committee.

Jennifer Nicas

Self

Humble, TX

I find it absolutely appalling that this bill is even coming up again. School vouchers are a bad idea and our public school system does not need more money taken away from it so rich kids can get extra money to go to private schools. Please vote no for this bill.

Terri Koen

Self, yoga teacher

Austin, TX

I am a proud product of public schools, growing up in the suburbs of Dallas and attending the University of Texas for both my bachelor and masters degrees. I now have two kids in public school, where we depend on parent volunteers daily in the cafeteria to give staff a proper lunch break. We rely on our PTA to raise funds for new vacuums for the custodial staff. Our air conditioning units struggle to keep the building cool at peak temperatures. All public tax dollars should go to public schools. Communities depend on public schools. Families who choose to send their kids to private schools do not need vouchers; they're doing just fine on their own. HB3 is robbing the vast majority of Texas families the quality education I received in the 1980s-1990s. I strongly oppose HB3, and I hope you reject this bill. Do the right thing. Fully fund our public schools.

Susan Pratt
Self retired teacher
Austin, TX

I do not pay taxes for the money to go to unregulated private schools who do not have to accept all students. The state does not pay \$10,000 per student to public schools, why would it pay it for a private school?

This is a slap in the face to all who work in schools and try to educate children.

I ask that you vote against this education savings account program.

Emily Fuller
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to ask my representative to vote NO on HB 3. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy. Thank you.

David Castillo
Self; Business Analyst
College Station, TX

Oppose school vouchers

Michelle Mitchell
Self
DALLAS, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers. If it was such a great idea, why didn't you take it to a public vote? This is nothing but a boondoggle to steal money from public education and reroute it to private entities further weakening public education.

Carinn Sprecher-Reinke
Self & PTA
League City, TX

This is an attempt to curry favor with wealthy donors. It in no way, shape or form helps the majority of students. Private schools can be selective; public schools serve a higher purpose in educating all who enroll. The systematic undefunding and over-testing of public schools attempts to make them look inferior when no such limitations or assessments are applied to private schools.

Lacey Green, Mrs.
Self
Houston, TX

I am a hybrid homeschooling and private school parent and I oppose this bill.

Charles Richey, Mr.

Ingram Elementary 830 - 955-8547 self Teacher

Ingram, TX

Parents already have a school choice. This bill is to provide for the parents that already send their students to private schools. Meanwhile, you take away money from the public system Texas already ranks in the bottom 10 in per-student public education funding. Lawmakers should focus on improving the funding disparities in our current system before implementing a new private system. If a voucher passed, our district will lose \$532,915, meaning we would have to cut nine teachers, raising the student teacher ratio by almost 6%. As a 32 year Texas teacher, I have watched students leave the public school system for private settings and, in most cases returned to the public system farther behind. The schools I have had the privilege of working in have been very successful and all have been Title 1. Our staff members meet students where they are and work hard to grow everyone. We have already lost staff members because funds have been withheld from the public setting. What a shame for kids !!! Please do not vote for the voucher. Charles Richey Ingram Elementary School Ingram, Tx 78025.

Hayley Murray

Self

Bryan, TX

The proposed bill presents serious concerns for education funding, equity, and community cohesion. It would strain already limited resources for both rural and urban schools by enabling student departures without addressing the fixed costs these institutions must maintain regardless of enrollment numbers.

The exemption of charter schools from standardized testing requirements like the STAAR exam creates an uneven playing field. When different institutions operate under different accountability standards, we cannot make fair comparisons or ensure consistent quality across all educational options.

This bill essentially provides a subsidy that fragments our educational community. Rather than bringing parents together across income levels to work toward better schools for all children, it enables withdrawal from the shared project of public education. Most troublingly, data from neighboring states like Louisiana demonstrates that similar charter school initiatives have not delivered improved educational outcomes. On average, charter schools perform worse than their public counterparts despite operating with different rules and standards.

I urge you to vote against this bill. Our focus should be on strengthening public education through evidence-based improvements that benefit all students rather than diverting resources to alternatives without proven success. We need solutions that unite our communities in supporting education rather than fracturing them.????????????????

Dustin Grabsch

Self

Dallas, TX

Would deviate public education in Texas. As an educator, I'm against this proposed voucher program

Aihanuwa Ale-Opinion

Self

Houston, TX

I've come to speak to you today as a college student, a graduate of the Texas public education system, and as someone who works with disabled students who have graduated and are still in grade school. What concerns me about the proposed voucher program is that private schools are not required to provide the same services to students with disabilities nor offer the same protections that students are entitled to by law in public schools. Additionally, there is a significant gap in the amount of schools willing to accommodate disabled students. A report by the US Department of Education on the voucher program in Washington, DC shows that the primary reason students didn't enroll in a voucher program was because of the lack of participating schools that provided services that accommodate their child's disability. Additionally, amongst students leaving the program, 12.3% cited a lack of special needs services as the reason. Similarly, in the Milwaukee voucher program, students have been discouraged or systematically excluded from participating because most private schools lack the capability to accommodate them. Less than 70 private schools in Texas provide services focused on special needs students, and most of these are in urban areas. I did research over the summer charting the distance of these schools from Texas counties and found that on average, these private schools are over 50 miles away from the average Texas county. Many of these schools accommodate a limited range of disabilities and most explicitly give preference to students of "above average to average intelligence". Educating students with disabilities can be costly and resource intensive, giving these schools an incentive to discriminate against students with even higher support needs. I urge our representatives to reject HB3 and instead focusing on bolstering our public education in Texas.

Peter Myers

Self homeschool mom

Seabrook, TX

I homeschool and am opposed to this bill

Pam Amason

Adhd kids. I have 2

Alvin, TX

I opposed hb3

Teachers will not earn more.

Children will learning issues will not be accommodated.

Kids can be kicked out .

Teachers in private school are not legally required to have as much education.

Rich kids will get better everything.

Poor kids will get very little of anything.

Whos going to provide transportation?

Who's providing lunches?

If you want a changes... Ask the experts on the front line... Teachers!!!

Working parents also need more before, after and school break help with child care.

Abbott and trump know nothing of the daily grind of taking care of hundreds of children.

Its shameful the kids have to learn to hide in case of a shooter.

Vote no hb3

Keey Houck

Conroe ISD

Conroe, TX

Please don't do this. Improve our public schools, but don't give tax payer, public money to fund private endeavors. Public schools are the backbone of our communities. And a concerted effort to destroy our public schools needs to stop. Fix the leadership & the funding of ponzi-schemes that long ago our state legislators put in place, that does not work. The vast majority of our schools' staff are there for kids. This will is part of a long calculated plan to destroy public education & lead out state down a very slippery slope. Kind regards, Keely Houck

Tori Leymeister

Self

Austin, TX

This is so infuriating! As someone who has considered charter, private, and homeschooling, the vouchers are NOT the way to go. Public education should be a privilege and fully funded. My child can be refused entry into private for his educational accommodations, charters are vastly unpredictable. Public school's are required to allow ANY child to attend. They have given both my kids speech therapy even before kinder! They provide lunches, and so much more. Taking funding away from public school hurts the Texas general public and really really hurts rural areas. It is simply going to become a coupon for private schools.

Wynter Chauvin, Dr.

self-retired educator

Nacogdoches, TX

This use of state funds will hurt rural populations. This would also cause a crossing of the line between church and state, as many private schools are religious based. Also you are trying to compare apples and oranges. If you are going to have vouchers then the private schools should have to have the same demographic, economic and scholastic achievement of the local public schools. Any school receiving voucher money must have state certified teachers, qualified support staff and students must take the same standardized tests as the public schools.

Rhonda Hanson

Self

Haskell, TX

I am a public school teacher and my three children are excellent products of our local public district. I am opposed to HB 3 and anything to do with vouchers that take public tax dollars and gives to the privatization of education. ALL the students of this state deserve fair and full funding, not just those who desire a private education. Vouchers create a two-tiered system, create societal divides and allow individuals to PROFIT from children's education which is just wrong! Do the right thing for the schools and students of Texas - fund public schools by increasing the basic allotment \$1500, give teachers a full base pay raise, and let the parents who CHOOSE other avenues other than public schools, to pay their own way! THAT'S WHY IT'S PRIVATE.

Listen to your constituents, stop being bullied and paid by Abbott and his billionaires. The American people ousted Biden and spoke clearly about what direction they wanted for America - TEXAS will do the same for those who betray public education. Texans will find those who support public schools.

Craig Gonzalez

Self

Donna, TX

As a parent that has lost faith in the public school system, like many others, we would prefer to have a voucher to choose the school of our choice for our kids.

Patty Olree

Self

Allen, TX

I am against vouchers for schools and want you to vote against it!! Please listen to your constituents and support public schools!!

Karen Darby

Self - Retired Attorney at Law and Part-Time Organist

Georgetown, TX

I am generally opposed to routing public funds to pay for private schools. Therefore, until this legislation is modified in a manner that ensures that Texas' public schools are adequately funded, I remain opposed to HB 3. Several items in the bill raise a red flag for me. First, the creation of up to 5 "certified educational assistance organizations." These organizations will apparently administer this program. But is this not another layer of bureaucracy that will require funding for its operation? Second, I appreciate that HB 3 prioritizes awarding funds for private schools to children with special needs and those who are at a certain poverty level. However, more than half of Texas' counties have no private schools that parents can choose for their children K through 12. One mitigating factor is that funds can be used for private tutors, apparently. How widely available are private tutors? And what is their cost? Another part of the bill I noticed does not require that these private educational institutions are subject to federal and state laws regarding provisions of educational services. Does that mean that Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act does not apply? Nor other state and federal laws mandating fairness regardless of race, color, creed, or gender? Does that mean that private schools, unlike public schools, can choose to accept only certain students, possibly leaving other students with no recourse to meet their educational needs, even if they can obtain funding? In summary, the Texas Constitution provides in its Article 7 that "A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools." To date, the Texas Legislature has not authorized any significant increase in the basic allotment for children attending public schools, and school districts in my county are suffering serious deficits in funding. Tuition for private educational institutions, where they exist in Texas, often exceeds the proposed \$10,000 allotment that would go to a child wishing to attend a private school. Therefore, I still oppose HB 3 or any other "educational savings account" bill that does not ensure an appropriate FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION for ALL of Texas' children, regardless of race, creed, gender, or disability.

Sherry Rasmus

Self

Austin, TX

I am against school vouchers where public monies would be given to families to subsidize private school tuitions; because not enough money is appropriated to public schools now affecting special education and other educational needs of students and I believe that it will be destroy rural school who are struggling as is it to provide teachers and curriculum needed by their students. We have PUBLIC schools for all children. Instead of claiming that private schools provide a better education for children, more money provided to public schools to increase access to certified teachers and strong curriculums for K-12 students.

Jennifer Husband

Self, Deaf Education Teacher

Cypress, TX

Please vote NO to HB 3. This will take much needed funds from public schools taht are already underfunded by the state and the federal government. Most parents don't have a choice, even with the savings account program, so we should make our public schoola the best they can be, instead of giving a coupon to the wealthy. Fund public education, special ed, teachers, and staff appropriately.

Jennifer Connor, Mrs.

Self, tax paying, voting, Texas resident

Houston, TX

Any vote for the vouchers as written is a vote against public education. Please be bold and stand up to the corrupt members of the legislature and value our children.

Rebecca Davenport

Self, homemaker

Austin, TX

My name is Rebecca Davenport, and I'm a parent of two children in Austin ISD—James, who is in second grade, and Oliver, who is in kindergarten.

James, my oldest, is autistic and has a unique learning profile. Because I was unsure that his needs would be met in public school, I explored multiple private schools in town. We were very open with his challenges and obstacles as well as his great strengths during the application process. James wasn't granted admission to any of them. I believe that this was because of his disability. As hurtful as it was as a parent, these schools actually did nothing wrong. They don't have to accept children like mine. This highlights a critical issue. Private schools can pick and choose which students to serve, while public schools are required to accept and educate every child in Texas.

It should be a priority to adequately fund these public schools who serve ALL Texan children.

Implementing educational savings accounts will divert money away from public schools, and into the private schools who are able to pick and choose which students they want to serve. This deepens the divide between children who get access to quality education and those who do not.

Instead of funneling money into private schools, we should be increasing funding for public schools to ensure they can meet the needs of every student, including those with disabilities. I ask that you do not allow HB3 to progress out of committee.

David Kossey

Self

Stinnett, TX

Honorable Members,

Close your eyes and see your districts—kids tearing across dusty fields, teachers pouring sweat into lessons, schools stitching our towns into something proud. Now feel that slipping away. Chair Brad Buckley, your Salado ISD in House District 54 battles a \$1.5 million deficit—mamas there clutch faded photos, whispering prayers over supper for their kids' crumbling classrooms. Rep. Trent Ashby, Lufkin ISD in House District 9 faces a \$3.8 million gap—daddies fight tears as the band's last notes fade, school pride on the ropes. Rep. Charles Cunningham, Humble ISD in House District 127 slashes \$15 million—families dread silent bleachers, Friday nights gone dark.

Rep. James Frank, Wichita Falls ISD in House District 69 scrapes by with a \$5 million shortfall—grandmas mend torn jerseys, kids' dreams fraying at the edges. Rep. Todd Hunter, Corpus Christi ISD in House District 32 trims \$20 million—coastal hearts splinter as schools strain, salt air heavy with loss. Rep. Helen Kerwin, Deer Park ISD in House District 129 battles a \$7 million hole—parents beg for more than scraps, voices cracking. Rep. Jeff Leach, Plano ISD in House District 67 cuts \$29 million—teachers' cries echo in packed rooms, kids' futures stuffed in lockers. Rep. Terri Leo Wilson, Galveston ISD in House District 23 faces a \$3 million pinch— island mamas rock babies, staring at a school losing its moorings. Rep. Alan Schoolcraft, Judson ISD in House District 121 axes \$12 million—hope unravels in Universal City's halls, kids left grasping.

These aren't numbers; they're our kids—your blood—watching schools teeter. Vouchers don't save them; they fatten the rich, raiding our taxes like thieves in the night. Florida's voucher flop slashed public funds 12% while private costs exploded 313%. Texas, dead last in school cash, can't take that gut punch. In Lufkin, Plano, Wichita Falls—schools are our spine, our roots. Vouchers bring wreckage; private schools duck rules we'd never dodge. Arizona's voucher loot bought boats while kids starved—our dollars deserve better. Louisiana's voucher students sank—scores crashed, dreams drowned. That's not Texas strong.

This is Texas—we don't need New York's voucher hustle, some pinstripe con from folks who've never felt our sun. We don't trade our own for their schemes. See that Lufkin boy dreaming of wide plains, boots kicking dust; the Plano girl gripping her pencil, eyes on college; the Corpus Christi family banking on their school, salt-streaked and stubborn. Vouchers rip that away, handing it to fat cats who don't know our fight. You're their wall—don't let it crack. In 2023, 21 Republicans stood tall, 84-63, guarding our kids' tomorrow. With \$18 billion in surplus, save our schools—hire teachers, stoke fires of hope, keep our buses rolling. Keep Texas bold, fierce, ours. Vote no on vouchers.

Richard James, Dr.

Self - retired educator

Terrell, TX

Skimming public tax dollars to fund private schools is literally unconstitutional in Texas.

Vote no to diverting funds away from public schools to private schools.

Da'Taeveyon Daniels, Deputy Executive Director

Students Engaged in Advancing Texas

Fort Worth, TX

Chair Buckley and members of the committee. My name is Da'Taeveyon Daniels, and I am the Deputy Executive Director of Students Engaged in Advancing Texas, or SEAT, a movement of young people demonstrating youth visibility in policymaking. Beyond my work as an organizer, I stand before you today as a high school senior and a proud product of Texas public schools. Public education has shaped me, given me purpose, and equipped me with the tools to advocate for my peers. That's why I am here today to oppose school vouchers and urge you to reject HB 3. Vouchers are a dangerous policy that drains critical funding from public schools, institutions serving millions of Texas students, especially those in rural and underserved communities.

Instead of strengthening and investing in our public schools, vouchers would abandon them.

The reality is this:

Texas already has schools that could thrive if legislators prioritized students over corporate and billionaire interests.

We could ensure that every student, whether from a family 500% below the poverty line or 300% above it, has access to a quality education.

We should be focused on improving our public institutions, not giving up on them. Because when we give up on public schools, we give up on teachers, parents, and—most importantly—young people like me.

We've seen the consequences of chronic underfunding firsthand. Students like Sumya from Conroe ISD, a national-level debater, risk losing opportunities because of budget shortfalls. Alissa, a student in Cy-Fair ISD, has already seen her district cut bus routes and librarians. SEAT organizers across Texas sit in classrooms without functioning AC. In Sanger ISD, just north of Denton, students attend school only four days a week because of budget cuts.

Texas students deserve better. We deserve schools that give us the opportunity to succeed, no matter where we come from. I urge you—vote NO on HB 3.

Thank you for your time.

Abigail Guerra
Self- Public school educator
Hutto, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

Dear Education committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Kindergarten Public School teacher Abigail Guerra

Audrea Straub
Self / parent
Austin, TX

I am against using our tax dollars for school vouchers. We want our money going to public schools where they belong and where every child has a chance to have a descent education. Please do the right thing - it's what the people want! Think of ALL the children, not just the privileged ones.

Kimberly McAdams

self; Corporate Consultant; School Board trustee

College Station, TX

I am commenting against the bill. While I am commenting on behalf of myself, I have served as a public school trustee in College Station for the past 9 years and understand both the strengths and the needs of our public schools. I believe this bill would be detrimental to our 5.5 million students, as well as an unfair burden to the taxpayers of Texas. While there are many private schools that offer viable options to parents, it is in no way fair to send our taxpayer funds to these schools, while holding the private schools to little or no requirements regarding admissions, curriculum, accountability, and transparency. In fact, TX Legislators have spent the past decades INCREASING the rules and regulations on public schools, while keeping funding stagnant. This bill acts as a handout to private schools and current private school parents to take our tax money with no strings attached. It is NOT an equal playing field. A true "representative" of our state would not take our limited tax dollars and give handouts to the wealthy. If this is NOT your goal, then have an income CAP on applicants where it would truly help those who can NOT pay for a private schools today.

There is also much evidence that Texans do not want this bill. They want our state to fund our public schools, that support the vast majority of our students, and this bill WILL cost money that could go to our public schools. Texas can't afford this. Our schools are suffering, and with no predicted enrollment increases, and funding we lose will negatively affect the remaining students. We are already having to ask for waivers to increase class sizes, even though this is not best for our students. There just isn't enough funds. And College Station was over \$1.6M short in SPED funding last year. We do SO much for these students, but need the funding to do more. Instead of directing taxpayer funds to private schools, very few of which actually support SPED students, fully fund our teachers and programs.

Sadly, I believe this program is about politics and not what is truly good for the majority of our students. Parents have SO much choice either within our amazing public schools, or with charters, online schools, homeschooling, and yes, private schools. The way this bill hands out money with almost no requirements is NOT parent choice, but PRIVATE school choice.

Craig Campbell

Retired self

Austin, TX

There will be an impact on TRS when teachers leave. TRS gets 18.5% of their salary minimum. \$40,000 times 18.5% = \$7,400 per teacher lost.

Stephanie Showalter

Self

Allen, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB3. I do not support ESA or vouchers. Private school tuition should not be funded with public school tax dollars. Private schools do not have to accept every student, abide by IEP's or 504's. They can cherry pick students. Families that cannot afford a private school will still not be able to afford private school...

Susan Frazier

Self

Lubbock, TX

As an interventionist who works with students and teachers, I am trying to find the words to explain how disappointed I am that our "leaders" seem to be bowing to the pressures of those who have money. Why else would you be looking at giving \$10,000 to people who already send their children to private schools, while you continue to under-fund our state schools. I am curious, how are you going to hold them accountable for how the money is spent? If you really want to be fair about public education money, then every student and school that receives a school voucher needs to have to take the STAAR test since that is what you use to hold public schools accountable. If everyone who receives public funds has to take the same state test, I bet many would not be interested in the money. School districts are scrambling with deficits because "our leaders" have not released 4 billion dollars, because it is tied up in the school voucher mess. Texas is ranked 37th in money spent per student according to educationdata.org...37th and you are holding public school funds hostage! If you want to know the impact on real people, I have teacher friends who are making less money than they did in the last several years because the funds have not been released, so we can't provide extra programs and tutoring opportunities. When I say less, one is making \$500 a month less because we had to eliminate after school tutoring that our students really need. And yet you wonder why teachers are leaving the profession. As for the students, private schools aren't required to take or keep students so they don't accept students with poor grades or students that cause problems. So a voucher doesn't help the parent of a struggling student, because private school, and charter schools aren't going to accept them. So you are taking money away from the public schools who accept everyone and are working hard to help students with less resources and less money because you are taking money away from the public schools that are working with budget deficits because our elected officials are not funding the schools properly. What is going to keep schools from dismissing a student after they receive the funds? Who is going to make sure that the money is spent for education?

The article below, talks about how school vouchers are wreaking havoc in states and yet somehow this is up for another vote. <https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/no-accountability-vouchers-wreak-havoc-states>

In case I have not made myself clear, HB3 is NOT a school choice bill and should not be supported by our elected officials. If you really want to know what Texans think, let the people vote. Put it on a statewide ballot if you want to know what Texans truly think.

Sincerely,

Susan Frazier

Teacher

Interventionist

My husband and I are parents to 3 children who all attended public schools and public colleges, 2 have Masters and the 3rd one is working on her Masters.

Whitney Webb

Self

Springtime, TX

I do not support diverting public funds to private schools. I pay my taxes to fund public education not so the jerk next door can send his kids to a churchy private school with my money.

Lauren Chernow

Self and husband, both Retired and products of Texas public schools

Austin, TX

As retirees, with no children in schools at all, we oppose using any of our TAX DOLLARS to fund school vouchers. We are disgusted that public schools have not been funded as they should be by the Texas Legislature, and we do not want our tax dollars to fund private schools. That is a misuse of our tax dollars and goes against the Texas Constitution.

Jenniffer Reyna, Dr.

Self - School Based Physical Therapist

Friendswood, TX

I am writing to you as a neighbor, parent of children attending our wonderful Friendswood schools, and a physical therapist that services children with special needs in a neighboring school district.

With the passage of HB 3, all of our Texas children and Texas public school employees will be impacted negatively. Texas public education ranks in the bottom half when compared to the rest of the country, and it is not at the fault of public education. It is because for years now political games are being played with the funding that would support our Texas public schools. This has set up our schools to have bigger obstacles with less money.

The data has proven time and time again that in the states where something similar has already occurred, that it is not successful. The quality of public education continues to fall, and the majority of students are the ones that suffer. Private schools are not required to accept and provide the individual educational needs of students. So, the students that would be the most impacted are the most vulnerable... the ones with special needs and with IEPs.

This specifically tugs at my heart strings, because as a physical therapist in a public school district, I am closely involved with the most involved and the most fragile. Unfortunately, that also means they are the ones most forgotten. At work I advocate for them, their families, and their involvement in school, and now I'm advocating for their access to public education. They will be the ones that are the most hurt by HB3.

I implore you to please vote NO to HB3. But if you will ignore my (and many others request), then at the very minimum the amount per student should be equal. It is unfair that those who can afford private school are deemed to be worth more in the eye of the state then those who rely on and can only access public education

Kathleen Schwartz

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no to vouchers! They unfairly benefit the few that can already afford private schools. Many students with special needs would never be admitted to private schools. Public money should support public schools! Vouchers will hurt the majority of students!

Holland Beseda

Self

Hutto, TX

I oppose HB3 because I believe that as a society, we have an imperative to make free, appropriate public education available to all students. HB3 takes taxpayer dollars out of public schools to subsidize private school vouchers. This is unacceptable. I support Texas children and families and ask you to stand with us against HB3.

Meredith Turnbow

self - mom

Highland Village, TX

No one wants private school vouchers. There is already school choice but the public shouldn't have to pay if people choose private school. Release the funds being held hostage for public school education and increase the amount per student attending public school which hasn't been increased in over 5-6 years!

Rhonda Anderson

Myself

Longview, TX

I am testifying in favor of this bill, it's time for Texas to have parental choice

Cynthia Brinkmeyer

Self - HR Consultant

Cypress, TX

The Texas Constitution Article VII guarantees that "ALL Texas children have access to a QUALITY PUBLIC education. The state legislature is responsible for establishing and maintaining the system." Republicans have had control of the TX legislature for over 30 years. If the system is failing, why are they blaming everyone but themselves? Conservatives are supposed to be Constitution advocates with a goal of smaller government. HB 3 does the exact opposite of both of those things. While, it is widely favored by Republicans, it cannot be considered a conservative bill. It is not fiscally responsible. The current estimate is that by 2030 this program will cost the state over \$4.5B. Other current states underestimated their cost by 2-6x. Where is that money going to come from? Not the governor's office. School choice exists in Texas for those that wish to go that route. Proposed vouchers do not cover the cost of a private school education if you look at current averages. These tuition rates will also continue to rise. Vouchers are simply welfare for the rich, while public education suffers. The downfall of public education is a positive for no one. I oppose house HB3.

Tamara Stovall

Self

Rowlett, TX

Please protect public schools and public school educators; oppose HB3. I worked for 33 years and loved most of my time. I have earned my TRS and do not want to see it diminished. I also do not want my taxes going to fund voucher/private school education.

Alma Martinez

Self/educator

Portland, TX

I am firmly against creating a voucher program taking tax dollars away from public schools to be used to subsidize tuition for private schools. Calling this an "education savings account program" is insulting. As an educator, I frequently had to use personal funds to buy the supplies needed to create and present lessons to students. Do not undermine our public schools and make it harder for educators to do their job of preparing our young Texans to be productive tax paying Texans in the future. I expect you to represent your constituents and vote against the creation of a voucher program.

Rachel Crosby

Self

Rowlett, TX

I oppose the house bill 3. As a soon to be homeschool mom in the next school year I see this bill as potentially invasive on private citizens' rights to school their children in the way they see fit. While it may seem like a grand idea to give taxpayer money to private schools and vouchers to homeschool families, it is a doorway into state regulation of a private institution. State money should stay with state education. Pay teachers more! That would fix nearly every educational problem that exists. A good teacher with a smaller classroom size can do more good than all of the classroom resources and an overwhelmed teacher with a 30+ student to teacher ratio. No one can put up with the pressures of teaching without a livable wage, and monetary enticement and advancement over time. Give our money back to the teachers and let teachers be teachers. State regulations are crushing.

Vouchers and school choice take even more resources away from our public system and will compound the problems that already exist.

As a parent who has a degree in education, has had her kids in private, public, and eventually home education, I do not believe that taxes being siphoned away from the public system would be at all beneficial.

Cheryl Bentley

Self

Amarillo, TX

This will ruin our school system. Do not pass this bill.

Holly Anderson

Crowley ISD

Benbrook, TX

PLEASE VOTE AGAINST! Public schools still offer choice. Vouchers are welfare for the rich.

Lowry Manders

Self

Dallas, TX

As the daughter of a public school educator, an educator myself, and the mother of 2 children in public schools, I strongly against the voucher bills. Our public schools need more support, not less.

Laura Johnson

Self - engineer

Cypress, TX

I am begging the Texas House of Representatives to vote against school vouchers. Every other state who implemented a similar plan has failed to improve education for the children of the state. This will result in defunding public schools and hurt our poorest communities the worst. If you truly want the best for our children, vote to invest directly into public schools. Children should not be treated like a business.

Aiyana Franco

Self

Austin, TX

NO. NO. NO.

Peggy Reeder

Self, Retired

Georgetown, TX

I am adamantly opposed to school vouchers in any form, including education savings account programs. As a former teacher, I recognize that public schools need all of the resources that are available. Public schools are required to educate all children. When parents are given resources to remove their children from public school, that means that those resources are no longer available to school districts. With less money, teacher pay and working conditions deteriorate. Teachers will leave. Especially the best teachers who can easily find jobs elsewhere. The better students will also leave because the quality of education goes downhill. Ultimately, the public school is left with the students who have the most needs, and the teachers who cannot easily move on. This does not fill the promise made to citizens of the state of Texas that all children will receive a quality education. This absolutely dumps on the kids who most need help. I OBJECT!!

Melanie Lerew

Self/physician/mother

Wichita Falls, TX

We are OPPOSED TO HOUSE BILL 3

Please vote no

Ricardo Guimbarda

self/retired

Austin, TX

Please vote against HB 3. Please support public education.

Amanda Stevenson

Teacher - Music Education

San Antonio, TX

Public education provides life to our communities, state and our nation. It provides a place for kids to learn skills that are vital to living in this world. They are taught by certified professionals who care for them. It does not matter where they come from, who they are, if they have any financial or parental support. Teachers care for them. As a teacher, I have had many students who have returned to public school from charter schools. They return with a lack of education. Students return from charter schools with a lack of social skills. As a music teacher, they come back with deficiency in fundamental skills to play instruments because they were not taught by a music professional. Charter schools do not provide proper education and our future needs more. Public schools provide proper education. Public schools build skills, passion and love. Texas needs public school.

Tanya Lavelle

Self

CEDAR PARK, TX

I am a mother to a kindergartner in the TX Public School System, a taxpayer and a voter and I am vehemently against HB 3. For the purpose of my comments I will refer to "education savings accounts" by their more common and accepted name, school vouchers. School voucher programs are flawed in a myriad of ways. They've been shown to destabilize school systems (see: AZ), favor wealthy students, and invest money in schools that can reject any student for any reason, including a disability. School voucher programs take public tax dollars out of the public school system they're meant to fund, and invest them in private enterprise: I am unaware of any other scheme that misappropriates my tax dollars like this. But above and beyond anything mentioned above, school vouchers will set up Texas' children for failure. Gov. Abbott himself admitted that if a school voucher program is implemented, Texas public schools will lose money. The state already woefully underfunds the public school system to the point that we're a national punch line. My son's teacher is a brilliant, talented and kind woman who connects with him at a deeply personal level: there's no reason why she should have to print her lesson plans at home because the school ran through their copy budget. In Texas, all children have a right to a quality public education - HB 3 will strip them of this right by investing public tax dollars into private education. There is no situation in which the vast majority of Texas families should be shoved to the side to cater to a few wealthy ones. Please vote against this bill and actually invest in Texas' school kids: it is your responsibility to do so.

John Mckiernan-Gonzalez

self - educator

Austin, TX

My name is John Mckiernan-Gonzalez, I am a faculty member at Texas State University, but I am here as a private citizen, a public university graduate, a parent, a scholarship kid, a beneficiary of public schools.

Right now, public school funding is high drama, a showdown at the gates of everyone's local middle school. Will Tim Dunn's 6 million dollars campaign donation get Governor Abbott to spend all his political capital on giving 2.6 billion dollars a year to unaccountable private schools? Will the news of Jeff Yass' 12-million-dollar donation to Abbott's campaign chest convince enough rural representatives to give up on their Article IX constitutional mandate "to make suitable provisions for the support and maintenance of a system of Public Free Schools." Will they vote against often the largest and most predictable employer and institution in their rural districts? Will they vote to send rural money to private schools in high income zip codes in Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio? Will Jeff Yass' company take 3% off each voucher or ESA transaction to process the movement of public funds to private schools?

Too much drama, and deeply disrespectful to the work you do as representatives.

So, this is my no-drama suggestion. Let HB3 laps and devote the 4.4 billion dollars that 370,000 private school students might use to raise the basic allotment, adjust COLA adjustment to address housing costs, and make back the 2.6 billion dollar hole in the special education our system faces.

My back of the napkin calculations is 260,000 private school students * 10,000.00 = 2.6 billion dollars to private schools. That is 2.6 billion dollars of public funds that gets us to the current status quo. 2.6 billion public dollars in search of zero better public-school outcomes.

Now, if the numbers are correct that close to 70% of students who receive vouchers are already attending private, that leaves 30% who might be pushing to get into private schools. That is 250,000 divided by 70% = 371,428 students who could potentially attend private schools with a 10,000-dollar voucher. Or, 121,000 students – that is 1.2 billion dollars, or a total 3.7 billion dollars. But the 121,000 students leaving Texas Public Schools will leave at a minimum (basic allotment at 6,000) 750-million-dollar allotment hole, and a whole lot of chaos for districts already struggling to keep schools going and children educated.

Let us let you eliminate all this drama. Find other ways to keep our historically large surplus in publicly accountable, democratically run public schools.

Thank you for your time.

John Mckiernan-Gonzalez

Holly JACKSON

Seelf

LAGO VISTA, TX

I am OPPOSED to any bill taking money from public education to fund private education. If you do anything, you need to increase the basic allotment by at least \$1,300! As a later in life Republican that has been a huge Abbott fan, I am NOT happy nor do I agree with redirecting funds for private education. We were sold a scam with the lottery years ago - if all those dollars went into education as they made us believe, Texas would have first class public schools for all.

Jitka Snoblova

Self

Austin, TX

No to HB 3

Finances should not be taken away from public schools. I believe that well funded public education is the key to a successful, stable society.

Angela Macias

Myself

Dallas, TX

No to school vouchers. Fully fund our schools. We are the richest state but one of the poorest funded school systems.

Wendy Graves
Parent, Educator
Richards, TX

I agree parents should have choice, but as a tax payer, I should not pay for their choice. Do the right thing by tax payers!

Bobby Shelton
self
Haltom City, TX

I appose school vouchers. It is illegal and not constitutional with our state law.

Brona Hudson
Self
Allen, TX

Vouchers are not going to work an will undermine public education. Vote no to vouchers.

Jennifer Young
Self
Wylie, TX

I do not want this voucher system. Please vote no to HB3

menachem marasow
Chabad of Round Rock
round rock, TX

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Lou Ann Rockwell-Huseth

Self

Weatherford, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

I am writing to express my deep concern and strong opposition to House Bill 3. This legislation threatens to undermine the very foundation of our public education system, with far-reaching consequences for our students, communities, and higher education institutions.

Impact on Students and Communities

House Bill 3 proposes the creation of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), diverting substantial funds from public schools to private institutions. This shift could significantly reduce public school enrollment, leading to diminished resources and support for the majority of our students. Such a reduction not only affects educational quality but also weakens the communal bonds that our public schools foster. ?

Consequences for Higher Education

A decline in public school quality may result in fewer students being adequately prepared for higher education. This potential decrease in university-ready graduates poses a threat to the future of our state's workforce and economic stability.

Influence of Wealthy Individuals

It is deeply troubling to observe that House Bill 3 appears to be heavily influenced by a select group of wealthy West Texas billionaires, notably Tim Dunn and brothers Farris and Dan Wilks. These individuals have funneled immense resources to politicians, steering Texas toward their vision of Christian nationalism. Such outsized influence raises serious concerns about the integrity of our democratic processes and the true beneficiaries of this legislation. ?

Call to Action

I urge you to consider the long-term implications of House Bill 3 on our public education system and the communities it serves. Our legislators should stand firm in their commitment to represent the interests of their constituents, not the agendas of a powerful few. Please oppose House Bill 3 and work towards solutions that genuinely benefit all Texans.

Katrina Gabrielson

Self

Kingwood, TX

Public schools are woefully underfunded. I've been teaching since 1995 and can speak from experience that they have always been underfunded, but now, with inflation on the rise and wages not meeting that inflation rise, teachers will no longer be able to fill in the gaps where the state fails to support them. There has not been one school year that I have not funded my own classroom so I could put an alphabet on my wall, organize my classroom, set up stations for small group learning...the list does not end. We need to make sure that our established schools get the funding they need before throwing money at a program that will barely affect 2% of the students in our state. It is an irresponsible use of money. Education shapes our future; your bill will put disadvantaged students at an even bigger disadvantage.

Teresa Gargotta Smith

Myself and my grandchildren retired healthcare administrator

Houston, TX

Taxpayers funds belong in public schools. People who choose to homeschool or send their children to private or parochial schools are free to do so, but not on the taxpayer dime. Vouchers will primarily benefit parents who already send kids to private schools and can afford to do so. Robbing the poor to give handouts to the affluent is morally reprehensible. Stop vouchers. This is just a method to keep those at the bottom of the socioeconomic scale down

Brad Owen, Dr.
Burkburnett ISD
Burkburnett, TX

While we oppose ESAs, should this Bill move forward, we want guardrails that follow the original intent of this Bill from the 88th session. ESAs should not be available to parents of kids who have already made their choice to attend private school. ESAs should only be available to parents of kids who are actually choosing to move their kids from a public school to a private school. ESAs should also be prioritized for students in failing public schools, areas of high crime or violence, and for students coming from the lowest socio-economic backgrounds. Special Education students must also be a priority and if there is additional money to flow to the private schools for SpEd students, then those schools should have to provide IDEA services.

Also, any parent receiving an ESA for their student to attend a private school should not seek to have the local public school provide for SpEd testing. The private school who is receiving state funds for the student can contract with an outside source for that testing. Don't pull public kids and then force public schools to handle the SpEd referrals for the private schools.

This Bill is actually a \$2 Billion Bill this biennium, because it is costing \$1 Billion for just school year 2026-2027. And let's don't kid anyone, this Bill price tag will double by next biennium and won't be because of success, it will be because there are already 330,000 kids in private school. Those parents will want this money and that will cost \$3.3 Billion alone.

Again, we oppose any ESA. Parents already have choice in this state. And this will boil down to school choice on the part of the private school, versus parent choice. Also, 158 out of 254 counties don't even have private school options. So this isn't even available for over half the state geographically. We don't need another entitlement program that will further widen the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots." This will be a major step backwards when it comes to segregation of several student groups. This is not good.

Lisa Kuhl
Self homemaker/teacher
Willis, TX

I am for the education savings account. I would like to ask that you consider the middle class and those in that category when deciding who is applicable to apply. We had to make a critical decision to pull our child from public school last year. There were many many safety concerns as well as academic concerns and after a teacher's aid showed pornography to my child we knew that it was time to get him out of the public school system. We did not know how in the world we were going to pay for private school, but we have somehow managed to put him in this year. We have seen a complete turnaround in our son. He was always one of the top students academically, but he is thriving, socially, and emotionally. He feels safe in this environment and he is eager and excited to learn. We are confident in the curriculum that is provided, and we are also thankful that our son can live out his faith without being persecuted or exposed to indoctrination of sexual material that he should not be exposed to in the public school. The public school application that my son was receiving was for the most part on a computer with no interaction with the lessons provided. We are never going back to the public school system. If we are not able to afford private school in the following years, we will be going to an online option. I would love to be able to use the tax dollars for my son/daily allotment per student for my child to be able to go to private school and continue his education. I am a former teacher, and I also had two older children go through the public school system. With my last child, things have changed drastically, and it is not the right fit for him at all.

Gonzalo Sanchez
Self
Austin, TX

Do not give the money to private schools you idiots- you are against America if you do it .

Emily New
self
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will ultimately undermine public education in Texas. They will pull funding from already underfunded public schools. Texans already have a plethora of choices- local public schools, public magnet schools, in-district school choice, charter schools, private schools, and homeschooling.

I choose to homeschool my child, but I want to see fully-funded public schools that provide high-quality education as a communal good. That benefits all of us. Further, I do not want to see public tax dollars spent on homeschooling, making the Texas government think it needs to dictate any more specifics about what and how homeschoolers learn.

I urge lawmakers to vote against any education savings account program or voucher system.

Jasmine Masand
Self - Corporate Planning Manager & Mom
Frisco, TX

I am a proud product of Texas Public Schools, from Kindergarten through college (University of Texas at Austin). As a mother now, I send both of my children to public schools and this is a major reason for my husband and I to move to Frisco (great public schools). I'm concerned that HB3 will take away much-needed public school funds to support the wealthy families who choose to send their children to private schools. My husband and I can afford private schools, but we chose public school for our kids for several reasons. I currently have great choices of where to send my children and I chose FISD. With the passing of this bill I'm concerned that the reduction of funding to our public schools will lower the quality of my district, reducing my options for my children. Additionally, another reason why my family utilizes public schools is that the education does not include religious teachings that our family does not follow. Please do not pass HB3, it will be detrimental to our great Texas public schools and your millions of constituents who choose to utilize them.

Sydnee Mwakutuya
Self, social worker
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. As a social worker, I must speak against all legislation that will harm low income and marginalized communities. This bill will decrease funding toward public education and further increase the barriers and gaps that are seen in Texas public schools.

Armando Flores
Self
Hutto, TX

This could cost a billion dollars to implement with the cost only increasing in coming years. We can not afford this expense. This will harm our public schools. Private schools have the power to select their students which will lead to segregation in our education system. This would be a massive step backwards.

Sharon Mineo

Self, Admin

Austin, TX

I absolutely do not support my tax dollars/public funds going to private schools, and a majority of Texans agree with me: A recent poll found that 65% of 1,275 potential 2026 voters — including K-12 parents, Democrats, Independents, Republicans, urban residents and rural residents — totally oppose school vouchers. Private schools will be free to turn down any student for any reason, including being non-white, non-Christian, working class, lower performing, and special needs (and to be clear, I do not support vouchers even if you require private schools to take all applicants); and the average working or middle class parent still won't be able to afford private school with the vouchers, so the only people who will benefit will be upper class parents who would be sending their kids to private school regardless of the voucher program, and the companies that provide the vouchers. If the State of Texas has *one billion dollars* to invest in education, it should be going to our underfunded public schools and be used to attract and retain teachers, period. If the premise of the voucher program is that public schools are so bad that students need to go to private school, it's your own fault for devaluing public education. That *one billion dollars* could help solve the problem if funneled to public schools. Our children deserve a free, quality education. Everything about this bill is antithetical to that premise. Vote no on HB 3.

Amy Trevino

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I want our public tax dollars to stay in our public schools. Parents can currently choose to send their children to private school but THEY need to pay that tuition. Vouchers were a huge failure in Arizona. 158 Texas counties have NO private school. Private schools can choose who they accept. This amounts to a giveaway to wealthy parents who are already paying private school tuition. This is putting wealthy donors wishes above our Texas kids. Fully fund and improve our PUBLIC schools!!!

Jennifer Rioja

N/A

Corpus Christi, TX

Public funding is for public schools!!

Jennifer Harrell
Texas State Teachers' Association
Pflugerville, TX

Honorable Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

My name is Jennifer Harrell. I am a dedicated public school educator with 23 years of experience in Texas, a mother of two bilingual children thriving in a Dual Language program, and a representative of the Texas State Teachers Association.

I urge you to consider the impact of school vouchers on Texas' 1 million English Learners—24% of our public school students. While vouchers promise choice, they instead create barriers for these students and their families.

Public Schools Provide Guaranteed Support

Texas public schools must provide certified ESL teachers and specialized programs like Dual Language instruction. As Commissioner Mike Morath stated on February 25, 2025, Texas is the best state for English Learners, and we continue to improve. In my district, Dual Language students outperform their monolingual peers.

Private schools, however, are not required to offer ESL support, hire bilingual-certified teachers, or track language development. Without these resources, English Learners risk falling behind. Vouchers don't expand opportunity—they create obstacles. Instead of diverting funds, we must invest in public schools to ensure all students receive the support they need.

Limited Access & Hidden Costs

Unlike public schools, private schools can deny admission based on entrance exams, interviews, or English proficiency. Even with a voucher, many English Learner families—often from low-income backgrounds—cannot afford tuition, books, uniforms, or transportation. If a choice isn't financially accessible, it isn't truly a choice.

Transportation Barriers & Lack of Accountability

Most private schools don't provide transportation, leaving working families without a way to get their children to school. Additionally, private schools accepting vouchers are not required to track English Learner progress, report student outcomes, or ensure equitable access. How can we ensure taxpayer dollars are truly serving these students?

Risk of Increased Inequities

Vouchers will drain resources from the very schools that serve the highest number of English Learners, deepening inequities. Over time, this will create a two-tiered system—one for those who can afford private tuition and another for those left behind in underfunded public schools.

A Texas-Sized Commitment to All Students

Texas values opportunity—but opportunity must be real, not theoretical. To ensure every child receives a quality education, we must fully fund bilingual programs, recruit ESL-certified teachers, and strengthen our public schools.

Our public schools are the only ones legally required to serve every child in Texas. As Republican Rep. John Raney stated, "Using taxpayer dollars to fund an entitlement program is not conservative, and it's bad public policy." Let's invest in the schools that serve all Texas children—not undermine them.

Katrina Yang

Self

Cypress, TX

As a constituent of District 130, I would like to voice my opinion that school choice will not lead to more opportunity for ALL children and will greatly hurt public education. As a public school teacher and parent, I will not argue that there are things in public Ed that need to change. However, public education in the state of Texas has not been provided the proper funding needed to maximize potential. For example, if you have a car that gets 20 miles per gallon and a 17 gallon tank, and I tell you that you need to travel 320-340 miles without refueling. It seems like no problem, but what I failed to mention is you can only fill your tank 3/4 of the way. Can you get 320 miles? No. Are you a failure as a driver? No, you were simply given a task that is not obtainable with your guidelines and goal. In the same manner, this is what you have done to public school and educators. The demands on teachers and schools increase constantly, but funding has not changed. The reason public schools have not been able to reach their maximum potential is on you, law makers, not educators. We work tirelessly to give kids all that we can with what we have. If you say schools have failed, it is because you have failed our schools and kids. Instead of taking money from public education to meet the needs of all students, give us the resources to serve all students.

On another note, many of the people I know that have left public schools for private schools is because of the emphasis on the STAAR test. Guess what? That's on you as well. Teachers do not need a high stakes test to know how to teach. If public tax money leaves public schools, then STAAR does too. That or you tell private schools accepting educational savings accounts they must give the same testing for accountability. That is how you serve all students.

I implore you to stop saying this bill will give low income families choice. The largest private school in my area that is often used as an example for school choice is \$18,000 for elementary and up to \$23,000 for high school. It is not fiscally possible for a family living pay check to paycheck to contribute the difference in tuition even with scholarships.

In addition, as a teacher and spouse of a teacher please look at the numbers for teacher retirement. The head of TRS testified that the teacher retirement system will become unstable if we lose 1% of teachers actively contributing. Let me repeat that, 1%. Please know, that while many republican teachers are not actively speaking out against you on this because they agree with other Republican policies, if you threaten the livelihood of retired teachers and those currently in the profession, we will not stay quiet. Dr. Oliverson, as my representative that has been involved in public school board elections and vocalizes support for public education, this is your chance to prove you mean what you say. Vote no on HB3.

Lise Bessant

Voter and Tax Payer

Fort Worth, TX

This will weaken our school system, and my property value

Tyler Espino

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 as it will take public tax payer money from communities and students that are in need.

This is an elitist power grab and must be stop. We the people will not stand for it.

Noah Finney-DeWitte

self

austin, TX

I am opposed to the HB 3 Bill

Corrie Howell

self

Austin, TX

As a constituent in Travis County, I strongly oppose the school voucher bill. Vouchers divert critical funding away from public schools, redirecting taxpayer dollars to private institutions with little to no transparency or accountability.

While HB3 claims to support low-income families, its provisions will ultimately leave many underserved students behind. Public funds should be invested in strengthening our public schools, not subsidizing private education.

I urge you to vote against this bill and prioritize equitable, well-funded public education for all.

Marcy McDonough

Self

Coppell, TX

I do not support HB 3 because it will syphon money away from public schools, and I fully support the concept of unifying the country with a common understanding of history and science. We must fully fund public schools to better ensure an educated society that includes all children.

STACY Binckley

Self

Cypress, TX

No to Public School Vouchers!!!
Absolutely no.

Skylr McCormick-Isom

Self, Optometric Technician

Austin, TX

Children whose families cannot afford private school should have access to the same quality of education as wealthy families. There is absolutely no reason to take money out of my wallet and give it to private schools and wealthy families who can already afford quality education. Especially when public school is already under-funded and teachers are underpaid. How do you expect teachers at public schools to support and teach children when they aren't being compensated, and when the schools themselves aren't being funded? Please, support quality education for all. Do not pass this bill.

Anne Ormsby

Self

Houston, TX

Texas leaders who claim to be pro-life, and yet want to screw over children once they are born are not pro-life. This bill is an attempt to dissolve the line between church and state, in a state that already deeply underfunds education and healthcare for children. The people that lose in this bill are parents and children, and our leaders want to make it seem that is to offer more choices for children and parents; however, this will further lead to the decline of education in this state. It is absolutely shameful this has gotten so far.

Brandy Gray

Self, Speech Therapist

Georgetown, TX

I do not support HB 3. It will not provide choice to all. It will take funds away from our already underfunded public schools. Let's fully fund public schools and see what happens. Let's make public education in Texas the best!

Leigh Ann Kasberg
Self/ School Counselor
Cypress, TX

School vouchers take funds away from public schools and divert them to private entities. These private schools are not required to follow many of the rules, TEKS, or state testing that public schools must comply with. Also, the bill provides more money to private school students than public school. All students should have equal funding.

Miguel Saldana
Parent and tax payer
Houston, TX

If you can spare 2 minutes, please send your public comment.

Today, a public hearing at the Texas Capitol is happening on the school voucher bill (HB 3). Please take 2 minutes to send your comment to our legislators!

Copy and paste this into the comments and SELECT HB3 as the bill.

Esteemed Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1. Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
2. HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
3. Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
4. We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas with the exception of only a few Texans. Please reject this bill.

Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Blair Lundborg
Self
Waco, TX

Vouchers will hurt public education and will have harmful effects for decades. Please don't do this to our children.

Mary Beth Brady
Self
Austin, TX

I'm against this bill. I do not support school vouchers. This act is yet another way to hurt our already underfunded private schools and give money to the wealthy and hurting the children and families in our community who need help the most. I will support elected officials who represent and act based on what their constituents want. For those acting in the interests of lobbyists, billionaires, and self, you will not have my vote going forward.

Maria Izaguirre
La Joya SPED Dept.
Mission, TX

I oppose HB3

Laritza Botello
Self/ Speech Language Pathologist Assistant
Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability

Scott Klinge, Mr.
Ingram Elementary School
Kerrville, TX

Parents already have school choice. This bill is to provide for the parents that already send their students to private schools. Meanwhile, you will take money away from the public system. Texas already ranks in the bottom 10 in per-student public education funding. Lawmakers should focus on improving the funding disparities in our current system before implementing a new, private system. If a voucher is passed, our district will lose \$532,915, meaning we would have to cut nine teachers, raising the student teacher ratio by almost 6%. How is this good for any student? There is nowhere else for our students to "choose" to go that has space for them anyway. This is such a monumentally bad idea. Vote no. Please

Michele Henning
Self
Pflugerville, TX

I highly disagree that public funds be used for people who choose to send their children to a private school should not be awarded public funds unless the door swings both ways and underprivileged children are allowed to attend with the private school paying a full scholarship for these students. There must be an equal distribution on all parts. Public funds are for the public education. If privileged students and families want funds have them attend a public school. Why is this even a matter that you don't understand????!!!!

Esther Uribe, MLS
Self/school-librarian
Houston, TX

I urge you to vote "NO" on HB 3. As a public school educator, I know the harm it will cause to our already underfunded schools. Vouchers defund public schools, harm student learning, and discriminate against vulnerable kids. Vouchers subsidize private school tuition for the wealthy; 70% of voucher recipients nationally are already in private schools. The voucher will not provide enough financial assistance for most economically disadvantaged public school students to afford the private school tuition. It is like robbing the rich to feed the poor.

The best analogy I can think of is public safety. The police department is funded using tax dollars. If a private citizen wants to hire a security guard, they would need to fund it themselves. Allowing a private citizen to use public tax dollars to pay for a private security detail would take public dollars away from the police force, causing more stress on the already underfunded police departments to the detriment of public safety. Most reasonable people understand this. Public education is just as important, if not more so, than public safety. By fully funding public education, we could completely end the school-to-prison pipeline, saving the state money in the long run.

Investing in the education of our children is the right thing to do. It may sound cliché to say "the children are our future," but it is the absolute truth. Without public education, we would have no doctors, lawyers, bankers, judges, legislators, professors, or any other professions. Teachers are the most undervalued, overworked, over-regulated profession. We have degrees in education, and yet people who have no expertise are writing laws to tell us what and how to teach. There is a shortage of certified teachers willing to teach because of how poorly we are paid and treated. This has brought many unqualified, uncertified teachers into the classroom to the detriment of students. It is counter-intuitive. I would not want unqualified, untrained "associate doctors" to perform medical procedures or prescribe treatment. I also do not want unqualified, untrained "associate teachers" to be responsible for my child's core education. This is what underfunding public education is causing, and a voucher program will only make it worse.

Vouchers come in way over budget. Arizona's voucher scheme costs 1400% higher than advocates promised. Vouchers have caused the largest academic declines ever recorded, surpassing learning loss from Hurricane Katrina and the COVID-19 pandemic. Many voucher-funded schools discriminate against LGBTQ+ students or those with special needs. The Voucher Program Proposed in HB 3 will put teacher retirement funding at risk, and will likely cause tax increases in the future that could be avoided.

The only people who stand to benefit are those who can already afford private tuition. I do NOT want my tax dollars to subsidize private tuition for the rich at the expense of the economically disadvantaged. Fund our schools.

Emma Hahn
Self-mother of four
Pearland, TX

I DO NOT WANT SCHOOL VOUCHERS. Please do not pass any bill in favor of defunding our public school system.

Taylor Burge
Self, small business owner
Lockhart, TX

I oppose these vouchers. If 2% of our students in my district use vouchers, that will pull kids from all different campuses away from our schools. But because they'll come from different schools, our district can't simply reduce teachers. Our districts maintenance needs would remain the same - they'd still need the same amount of teachers because, for example, Ms Smith's 3rd grade class loss one of 20 students, she'll need to stay. But our district will still need to pay her without the voucher child's funding. Also, if this voucher passes, please please cap the income of recipients to under 100k income. Lastly, please invest more in our schools. Parents should be viewed as PARTNERS in their schools, not customers. Parents should be invited to be involved and participate. That is how we create inclusive schools that serve all of our children.

Lauren Baker
Brenham
Brenham, TX

Please! For the sake of my children and all students in Texas - DO NOT DO THIS! We need MORE funding in our schools, NOT LESS!

Mary Zimmerman
Self / public school parent
Austin, TX

Please do not pass HB 3 out of Committee. Focus on making our schools whole instead.

April Ogboenyiya
Self
Dallas, TX

I don't want public education funds to be allocated for usage for private education. School vouchers programs that have been implemented in other states have been unsuccessful at truly achieving school choice. Those programs have only managed to deplete their education budgets with no return on their investment. Why would we want to repeat the same mistake. We should be focusing on property funding public education. Our public schools are severely underfunded which of course negatively impacts academic gains. If any student/family receives voucher funds then they should only be allowed to use those funds at schools that require the same accountability standards as public schools (attendance, standardized tests, special education services, etc.) And there should never be a formula that would give voucher program students more per pupil payment than public school students receive.

Maricela Bustillos Rodriguez
Self
Lewisville, TX

As both a parent and a special education teacher at a Title I campus in Lewisville ISD (LISD), I strongly oppose HB 3 by Rep. Buckley and its education savings account (ESA) program. LISD's One Ask is clear: fully fund public schools and reject vouchers. This bill does the opposite by diverting taxpayer dollars from public schools—where over 92% of Texas students are educated—to private institutions that are not held to the same standards of accountability, transparency, or student access.

At my Title I school, our students rely on the resources and support provided by public education. Many come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and require specialized services, intervention programs, and individualized support. ESA programs do not guarantee these protections. Private schools can deny enrollment, refuse accommodations for students with disabilities, and lack oversight in how funds are used. Families may believe they are getting more opportunities, only to find that their child's needs are not met—or worse, that they are pushed out without recourse.

Furthermore, public schools in Texas are already struggling with chronic underfunding, rising costs, and unfunded mandates. Instead of funneling money into private schools that serve a select few, our legislature should prioritize funding for public schools, including teacher retention, special education services, mental health support, and classroom resources.

I urge lawmakers to listen to the voices of educators, parents, and districts like LISD. Reject HB 3 and fully fund our public schools—because all students deserve high-quality education, not just those who can afford.

Melanie Loughmiller
Self
Paris, TX

Please support public education! Our small communities need these services!

Lauren Shelton
Self, public school teacher
Brenham, TX

I oppose HB 3 and the establishment of state-controlled education savings account program. It will siphon taxpayer funds from an already beleaguered public school system.

Kayla Alix
Self
Seabrook, TX

My children benefitted from Public Education. They are all thriving in successful careers. As a product of public education, I achieved many accomplishments, and mentor students currently in P.E. I come from generations of educators. They have instilled so many positive attributes, therefore, I am and will advocate for ALL students in Texas to experience the same opportunities I and my children through Public Education.

Sarah Hansen
Self/University Professor
Cedar Creek, TX

Stop using students as cash cows to chip away at one of the untouchable pillars of our society: education. Your investment now is defunding the very future of the state and national economy for centuries to come.

Anne-Marie Alward
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose the bill. I do not want school vouchers

Susan Wilson
Self
Austin, TX

I am against robbing public schools by passing this school voucher bill. I have been an admissions coordinator at three different public schools in Texas and they all had waiting lists at full price. Private schools give very little in financial aid and always pass over a student requiring that aid for one who will pay full tuition. This bill just gives a discount to families who are already going to private schools. Private schools routinely screen out students who have special needs, may be low-performing, or who have behavioral issues. Public schools are required to serve any and all children, regardless of need, available resources, or family belief systems. Texas already underserved public schools and this is another mortal blow. I adamantly oppose this bill.

Danielle Shoaf
Self
Cypress, TX

I do not support HB 3!

We should prioritize funding public schools that the majority of Texans will attend, instead of a small minority that will benefit from education savings.

It is frustrating to read so many comments from your community not supporting this bill and our legislators still supporting it. Very disappointed in our representatives.

Please listen to your constituents.

Shelly Elizalde, Director of Data, Assessment, and Accountability

Self

Portland, TX

As a Texas educator and administrator of 26 yrs, lifelong Texan, and descendent of a long line of educators, I whole-heartedly disagree with this bill. I believe in public education and the power it holds in our Texas society. We need to fix what is wrong instead of diverting funds elsewhere. Public education is essential to our state's success and survival not only for students but also for the way its jobs support communities all across the state. In many smaller communities, the school district is the largest employer! Private schools do not educate all children. They pick and choose who to admit. Public schools have had to figure out how to reach every child because we take them all (happily I might add!). Our teachers must become skilled in differentiating instruction for all levels in one class. More so now with no increase in funding. In addition, we figure out how to get all students to graduate despite barriers such as lack of attendance, language barriers, disability, and home-situation. Private schools don't deal with these issues because many times students with challenges would never be admitted. We also prepare students for real-world industry careers through CTE courses while still preparing them for mandated state testing on EOC's that are required for graduation. These things are also not required of private schools. Tack on public districts trying to navigate the most complicated accountability system to ever exist. We are publicly graded on all of these things while educating EVERY student. Private schools could/would never!! Please do not destroy our public school districts by passing this bill! I am a conservative republican and for smaller government. This bill does the exact opposite. Many like-minded educators are vehemently opposed to this bill as I am!

Gael Alward

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose the bill. I do not want school vouchers.

Jenny Crown

Self

Flower Mound, TX

It makes no sense to me for the state to give more money to a child attending private school than a child attending public school. This seems fiscally irresponsible especially since private schools are not regulated nor do they have to accept any child that applies. Vouchers have failed in other states that have implemented them, therefore, why would Texas go down this failed path and further hurt our state's education system?

Jana Collins

Self

Austin, TX

I am a lifelong Texan, a product of public education as were my parents and children. Vouchers in every single state where they have been implemented have destroyed public education. This scam has been perpetrated by Greg Abbott and his billionaire donors. No to vouchers!

Craig Campbell

Retired self

Austin, TX

The biggest advantage of private schools is their smaller size. We should fund public schools to a level where they can have smaller schools. Public high schools have had to grow to 4-5,000 students because of the economics of scale. We should set size standards for schools, so that the environment can be managed by educators and students. Very large schools are not conducive to learning, development, and mental health. Alienation of young people is more likely in large schools. A smaller school has more opportunity to participate in sports, band, and other activities, which help them establish their identity and agency.

I went to a small high school of 400-500. I could participate in football, basketball, track, and baseball even though I was a mediocre athlete. It helped me develop identity and agency. I think this was primarily because of school size. We should study the importance of school size.

Cathlin Shahriary
Self
Flower Mound, TX

HB 3 as it is currently written will negatively effect education in our state. Providing 10k in ESAs to people who seek private education while only providing 6.1k per student in public schools as the basic allotment shows a clear lack of equity for the students in our state. While the people who want this bill to pass would have you believe that public schools receive 15k per student, that is a false statement. The 15k figure provided includes special ed programming, covid funds which have not been renewed, repayment of bonds, and teacher incentive programs that many districts don't participate in. The basic allotment to is all we currently guarantee per student.

Many people would have you believe that the ESAs would allow low income students the chance to attend private school. The students I serve at my school in Lewisville, TX would offer you a different perspective. Most of my students have parents that work 1-3 jobs just to make enough to cover their basic living. The 10k voucher will maybe cover half the cost for them to attend Liberty Christian (a private school in our area). Those students still wouldn't be able to attend with the ESA. Not to mention that when implemented in Arizona, it didn't take long for the private schools to then raise their rates.

Let's also look at accountability. If you're going to provide public funds for private schools, then they should be held to the same accountability standards as our public schools through programming to meet student needs (special education and for our English learners) and requiring state assessments. There's no clear language in the bill to show what happens to a student who uses a voucher to go to private school but then gets kicked out and has to go to public school. Does the private school get to keep the money? Should it follow the child to public school? Will the money be metted out to private schools based on attendance just like it is to public schools? Same for the homeschooling voucher. There has to be accountability or we are just sending those private schools and parents a blank check.

Parents already have plenty of choice in our state on where their child can go to school. In our district, parents can transfer to any school for programming reasons (we offer Spanish immersion at one campus, 2 way and 1 way dual language at others, several STEM academies, and so much more). If they don't like the public school options there are plenty of charter schools like Founders Classical Academy (just down the road) or North Texas Collegiate (right next to my campus). The parents also wouldn't use the ESAs to attend any of these schools as they are public charter schools.

Public funds should stay with public education. They should help the students who need them the most.

Rebecca Krauter
Self - Teacher
Round Rock, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a teacher and a parent, I implore you to put funding back into public education and work once more towards making education for all Texans a priority.

Jacqueline Markham
Self
Round Rock, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Erin Holder

Self, Educational Researcher

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose House Bill 3, which would divert public tax dollars to private schools through education savings accounts. Public funds should support public schools, which serve all students, not private institutions that can pick and choose whom they admit.

As an educational researcher in the K-12 school space, I regularly speak with teachers and students who are already struggling with underfunded classrooms, teacher shortages, and limited resources. HB 3 threatens to further weaken public schools, particularly in rural and low-income areas where school choice programs do not offer real alternatives. Instead of funneling taxpayer money into private institutions with little oversight, we should invest in strengthening public education—raising teacher pay, improving resources, and addressing systemic challenges.

Public education is a cornerstone of Texas communities. I urge you to reject HB 3 and prioritize policies that benefit all Texas students, not just a select few.

Phyllis Glenn, Dr.

Self and children of Texas

Garland, TX

Funding for Texas schools is already at a sharply lower level than needed. With no increases in years and increasing costs, children, especially those in poverty, are suffering. These same children who will be in the workforce very soon deserve the same level and quality of education as those from rich and wealthy families; however, these children will not have equal access if taxpayers pay for private school tuition. We are getting perilously close to being “separate and unequal” since the wealthy can and do pay for their children’s private education PLUS would have taxpayer money in addition to what they can pay.

The reason the USA has been a leader in the world is because we have striven to educate our young — every child. While children in poverty will get one level of service, the rich are given not only what their parents pay for but also a larger share of taxpayer dollars than the child living in poverty.

I strongly disagree with this unfair distribution of funds. The fact

Dani Brandimarte

Myself

Austin, TX

No to hb3

Janelle Harre

Self

Keller, TX

I do not support the school voucher / education savings account program. The focus should be fully funding public schools for the increase in inflation not providing a tax break for private education which is a family choice to make.

Julie Scoggins

Self

Prosper, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you.

Jennifer Bales

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

I have been homeschooling for 18 years. Texas Homeschool Coalition does not speak for me, nor for many of my homeschooling friends. Out of approximately 750,000 homeschooling families in Texas, they only have around 100,000 member families. They do not speak for all homeschoolers in Texas! I oppose HB3 because I am a fiscal conservative who does not want another government program funded by my tax dollars. The public schools are largely a disaster, but they serve a necessary purpose in our free society. So I urge the governor and our elected representatives to fix the public school problems in our state BEFORE spending state funds to create ESAs. What are you doing to improve our public schools? And why hasn't the concept of ESA programs been on the ballot for the voters to decide? "School choice" has various definitions for various people, and all previous ballot questions regarding "school choice" did not accurately represent the formation, intention, nor implementation of an ESA program. I urge Texas legislators to focus on improving our public schools and not support ESAs until that has been done. Thank you.

Gabriel Barrera, Mr.

Self Student

Houston, TX

My name is Gabriel Barrera, and I live in 77084. I ask that you vote no to HB3, HB2, or any voucher/ESA bill and instead prioritize fully funding public schools and increasing the basic allotment to catch up with inflation, and support strong teacher and staff pay raises. Tax dollars should support all students, not just a select few. Thank you for your time.

Allison Martinez, Dr

Self

Bryan, TX

Hello. I have been an educator for 13 years. I have worked in the following grades: prek, kindergarten and 1st grade. During my time as an educator I have gotten my PhD from Texas A&M University. I chose to teach in BISD because I wanted to give back to my community where I grew up. The voucher program would hurt the school district I teach in and the students I serve. We are already severely underfunded since we are still operating on the budget from 2019. A lot of the money comes from my pocket in order to provide my students with the necessary tools needed to teach them each day. This should not be the case but it is a reality for many teachers. Most teachers really can't afford to do this but do so anyways because they are so dedicated to their students and the future of our society. Please strong consider this voucher program. Think about the students, teachers, principals and school districts it will affect.

Liz Stringer

Self - parent

Austin, TX

Please don't pass this bill. Thank you.

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Jack Steiner

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing in to voice my opposition to the proposed bill. Our public schools are operated by some of the hardest working Texans I know, supporting countless other Texans in their education. The proposed bill and the damage it would do to the funding of our public schools would be tantamount to theft from these hard workers, all in an attempt to put more money in the hands of already wealthy private schools.

Laurie Moore

self

Austin, TX

Please support HB 3 - We have choice for the wealthy, we need choice for all. This bill, however, needs to be simplified. The \$ should follow the child with no strings. I have volunteered for many years in Leander ISD. I have seen the quality of education in our elementary schools deteriorate. I have seen the injection of the woke culture. I have seen many many parents pull their kids from our neighborhood school. I have seen many great teachers leave. I have seen disruptive students coddled so that an entire class loses learning so that one can misbehave. Competition is the only way to nudge the public schools back to their mission of teaching children.

Marcia Rayne, Ms

Self - public school substitute teacher

Kaufman, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

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2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

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4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Nick Schurk

self

Austin, TX

As a parent of a young child with special needs, I beg you not to sell out the future of disabled children. School vouchers benefit private schools that can and do discriminate against students with special needs. Show some spine and do what's best for Texas Children, not big money interests.

Lenelda Pennington

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote No

Perry Bentley

Self/ Vice president Insurance ¹

Prosper, TX

Funding of vouchers for private schools.i am vehemently opposed to the use of tax dollars to fund this ridiculous bill. Funding our public schools and put your stupid ego aside Governor. If this passes you will never receive my vote again.

Liz Budnek

Self

Cypress, TX

Public funds in private schools do not help solve problems in education.

Call vouchers by any name you wish, you are still using public money a private business.

I wouldn't ask the public library to fund my barnes and noble habit.

Under funding Texas schools and telling educators to do more with even less isn't helping our students.

Don't forget there are real students with real lives that need a good education to become a good Texas resident in the future. ALL students deserve a chance to become a productive adult.

The students that live a county with no private schools (158 of them) should NOT pay taxes for vouchers, when only 6% of kids go to private school.

Use the money to keep and attract teachers, Admin and programs that help the 94% of kids that benefit from our school system.

Keri Stonecipher

Self - Homeschooling Mom

Katy, TX

I am a homeschooling mom and I am AGAINST this bill.

Felipe Mondragon

Self / Consultant

Richmond, TX

I am writing to express my concerns about House Bill 3 and its impact on public schools across Texas. While I support efforts to improve school safety, I am concerned that this bill places significant financial and operational burdens on school districts without providing the necessary resources to implement its mandates effectively.

Many districts, particularly smaller and rural ones, already struggle with funding shortages. Requiring them to meet increased security measures without adequate financial support forces them to make difficult trade-offs—potentially at the expense of critical educational programs and student services.

Furthermore, increasing police presence and surveillance in schools raises concerns about student well-being, particularly for marginalized communities. Safety measures should be balanced with investments in mental health resources, counseling, and community-based support systems that address the root causes of violence rather than just reacting to it.

I urge you to consider these concerns and work toward solutions that prioritize both safety and the long-term success of Texas students. Please ensure that any mandates placed on school districts come with the necessary funding and flexibility to meet local needs effectively.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Aaliyah BalOgun

Self

Houston, TX

I want my representative to vote NO on
HB 3. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy.
Thank you.

Rebecca Kasal

Self - office work/accounting

Fort Worth, TX

While the premise of a voucher sounds solid it doesn't help those who are stuck in a poor performing school. It essentially is a way for those who can afford private education to get monetary benefits. I believe those who are poor to middle class will still suffer in this educational system. Who will drive these students (who need it the most) to the better schools? Who will pay for the additional costs of going to a better school) Any efforts to pass a school voucher does not really address the fact that there are under performing schools and teachers. Why not address the fact that there needs to be better pay for teachers as they are essentially responsible for the future of so many students. Attracting quality teachers and giving them proper resources to teach would be a better outcome.

I say this as a student of private Catholic schools as well as a parent who could afford to send my children to private schools. Sure vouchers would have helped my bottom line but we managed. There are too many that will still fall through the cracks. The school vouchers program is just another example of handing out free money to parents who don't need to have a voucher to attend a better school. Sure some will benefit but more will be left behind. Education needs to be overhauled but not this way. And education begins way before kindergarten. Some parents will be neglectful but the majority of parents want their children to do better than they did. They just don't have the resources that parents who can do more have available to them. Perhaps I am simplifying my response but I would rather pay school taxes to help society rather than just money grabbing. School vouchers in my view is just a fraudulent way for politicians to help out their donors rather than the actual intended purpose of building an educated society.

Robin McGrew, Civilian

Moms Demand Action

New Braunfels, TX

NO VOUCHERS. MY SISTER IS A TEACHER AND DOES NOT WANT THEM.

Nancy Krebbs

Self, a retired public school teacher

Lubbock, TX

Read the Texas Constitution. It states that Texas will provide public education, not give public money to religious schools.

It is not right for rich men to siphon money away from public schools to line their own pockets.

Cory Ryan

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no on ESAs. I don't want my tax dollars paying for private education vendors.

Iris Zamora

Self

Mission, TX

I am vehemently against this bill. I am a resident of Texas, a public school employee, and a mother of a child that attends public school. As a parent, we already have school choice. We do not need a bill that is going to create a private savings account program or voucher system. This bill will take away vital funds from public schools many parts in Texas or rural areas. They do not even have access to private schools. How is that equitable? I have spent my life in public schools and working at them. The benefits of the community are immense and many public schools provide vital services to children that are absolutely necessary. Hindering the ability of the school to be able to provide those services is unfair. Many private schools already have tuition assistance programs for families that truly needed. There is a strong correlation between the donors of Governor Greg Abbott, and even members of his family with ties to private schools. Instead of trying to give the wealthy a hand out they need to be looking at how they can better our state. They spend millions on statewide mandated testing when we should be spending and investing money in our kids. we do not need vouchers.

Michelle Sulak, Mrs

Self

Woodway, TX

Please DO NOT allow this to happen! School taxes are for public schools which the majority of students attended

Public schools are funded by the state private school are not!! Please don't hurt the majority of to students to benefit and pad the pockets of the minority private school attendees. The 10,000.00 voucher will not allow anyone other than the rich to attend private school. This bill is no more than a bill to help out the governor's friends! Private schools have zero accountability, but yet they would get 10,000 per student but public school only get 6500 per student. I think something is really wrong with our system when anyone thinks this is ok!

Allison Hardman

Self

Houston, TX

School vouchers will only reduce funding for public schools. Vouchers take public money for private use at private schools. If someone wants to send their child to private schools then they need to pay for it. Public funds stay with public schools. Fund our public schools to be the best in the nation and not at the bottom. Make parents wants to send their children to public schools, not private. Stop the steal of public funds for private use!

Tyler Miloy
Texas and Texans
Austin, TX

Our shared public education experience is the glue that bind together our country. Attempts to defund public education, either directly or indirectly through subsidizing private schools, rips apart the very fabric of the nation. But that's common sense . How does this proposed legislation benefit Texas and Texans? The vast majority of Texans, clearly, regardless of their party affiliation are opposed to the state subsidizing private for profit schools at the expense of public education. If legislation is not wanted by the majority of Texans, and does zero to benefit Texas or Texans, then responsible legislators should not even be considering it. Remember, voting constituents will have the final say in this matter. Representatives are replaceable for a reason

Patricia Warley
Self
Angleton, TX

I am against this bill. I feel our tax dollars need to go to Public schools. Its just welfare for the rich and takes away from our public schools. I believe a majority of Texans, from both parties are in agreement.

Carrie Ives
Self
Richardson, TX

Vouchers are not a good return on investment.
Studies have shown they go to people already in private schools.
Those schools are not held to the same standards as public schools which is unfair.
The dollar amount is higher than we spend on public schools.
Rural kids don't have the option of private school.
We have seen abuses in charter schools already where they falsified records about what classes the kids received.
Public schools have a lot of local control with the locally elected school board.
This looks like just one more way to steal from the poor and give to the rich

Junior Ezeonu
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

Dear Representative,

As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want an Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) Program. I pay my public tax dollars and, therefore, want my money to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Public school funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had inflation of over 20%. Our children and all the educators, and staff, deserve to have the funding. To be clear, I want to reiterate the following:

- I do NOT want vouchers/ESAs.
- I support an Increase of the Basic Allotment.
- I support Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Again, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Junior Ezeonu

Carolyn Bischoff

Self

Onalaska, TX

I live in rural Livingston, Texas! School vouchers will not be good for Polk County! There are two small religious price schools. What Polk County and all Public Schools need to be fully funded! If the state can provide \$10,000 voucher then give that amount for each student to every district in Texas. Also I have worked as a Special Education Paraprofessional for elementary school aged students with physical disabilities and Autism. They will not be accepted at the private schools because they don't have to be. DO NOT let HB 3 pass!

Sarah Nielsen, Mrs.

Self / Housewife

Humble, TX

To simply put, as a homeschooling family we do NOT support this bill and feel it is not representative of our views.

Erin Owens

Self, academic librarian

Huntsville, TX

Vouchers will not be a functional tool for helping most Texas children. Many rural areas have no private schools. Many families require bus service to get their children to school, and most private schools do not provide bussing. Private schools are not required to accept students with physical, cognitive, or psychological special needs, and they are not required to retain students whose performance doesn't meet their standards. Private schools are not accountable for meeting minimum educational standards. And, on the bottom line of *cost*, almost all private schools cost significantly more than the voucher amount. All this program will do is refund money to wealthy families who would use private schools anyway. Parents already have school choice -- vouchers just redirect our public tax dollars away from the schools that serve most children. Plus other states like Arizona have proven that state costs for voucher programs balloon unsustainable, while academic outcomes are not significantly better. Please vote NO to vouchers for Texas.

Summer Stotts

Self

Round Rock, TX

please vote no on ESAs. I don't want my tax dollars paying for private education vendors.

Brandy Gonzales

FWISD

Fort Worth, TX

Let the citizens of Texas vote rather than representatives who have never stepped foot in a classroom.

Bracha Silverstone

Self - Math Instructor

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Margaret Dean
Self/Retired
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. It gives money to high-income families and takes desperately needed funds away from the public school system. I don't want my tax dollars spent on private schools! I want it applied to the public education system!! Texas is ranked 28th overall in public education. We need to increase our standing. Not fall further behind. That is what will happen if HB 3 is passed.

Sarah Nielsen, Mrs.
Self - Housewife
Humble, TX

To simply put, as a homeschooling family we do not support this bill it represents our views.

Grant Benatar
Self
Keller, TX

158 Counties in the state of Texas do not have Private Schools. This legislation does not support the majority of students in Texas. Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a taxpayer and supporter of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Miguel Chirinos, Mr.
Self teacher
The Colony, TX

We do not want or need vouchers. Been a republicans all my life and defended our country to prevent other governments from indoctrinating. Now we want to act like our governemnt is not doing exactly what we are against? This is abosolutely a scam and those who vote for it along party lines are complicit.

Gary Grisaffe
Self
Austin, TX

I volunteer at our elementary school as a member of the CAC. I talk to our principal and teachers often. This voucher program is going to hurt our schools by taking funds from them. Please do not enact it.

Mache Milhauser

Self

Frisco, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3, which proposes an education savings account (ESA) program. While expanding educational choices is a worthy goal, this bill threatens the strength of our public education system and poses significant risks to Texas students, teachers, and taxpayers.

Public School Funding at Risk

Public schools depend on state funding based on student enrollment. Diverting funds to ESAs will reduce resources for teachers, classrooms, and extracurriculars, disproportionately impacting rural and lower-income communities where private school options are scarce.

Limited Access & Equity Concerns

Private schools can select their students and are not required to accept all applicants. This means ESAs will likely benefit families already able to afford private education, further widening the gap between wealthy and low-income students.

Lack of Public Support

Polling shows 65% of Texas voters oppose voucher programs, including 95% of Democrats, 72% of Independents, and 42% of Republicans. HB 3 does not reflect the will of the people and could negatively impact public school funding statewide.

Threat to Teacher Retirement System (TRS)

Public school funding reductions could lead to job losses, shrinking the pool of TRS contributors. This puts the long-term stability of teacher pensions at risk.

No Accountability for Taxpayer Funds

Public schools meet strict accountability standards to ensure quality education for all. ESA-funded private schools, however, are not subject to these regulations, potentially leading to misuse of taxpayer dollars without transparency.

Conclusion

HB 3 undermines public education by diverting funds to private schools with little oversight. I urge you to oppose this bill and instead focus on strengthening Texas public schools, which serve all students, not just a select few.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kasye Palmer

Self

Richardson, TX

I strongly oppose this legislation. Parents already have school choice. They should not be using public tax dollars to fund their own choice to attend a private school. Private schools get to pick and choose the students that they accept. This bill does not guarantee that a student with special needs can attend the private schools they desire. Public schools have the responsibility of educating all students. Instead of a "school choice" bill you should be guaranteeing a \$1300 daily student allotment raise based on enrollment, not attendance. You have the responsibility of providing a robust school system to the public. The defunding over the last many years has been devastating to the public schools. They aren't failing, they are starving! The people deserve properly funded schools. Raise the daily allotment! Raise teacher pay for all, not the crap TIA. Raise all staff pay, our paraprofessionals do such important work and barely make a living wage. Please drop this legislation and properly fund the public schools!

Stephanie Glasgow

Self, Homemaker/Disabled

Texas City, TX

I vehemently oppose this program. This will just harm our public school system even further. And what will happen to families that live in rural areas that can't access private schools? Not to mention, that private schools are unaffordable for the majority of families, and this money won't help the affordability, especially if private schools just raise their tuition. And not to mention, private schools aren't even required to take children and can deny enrollment on any factors they choose. All this does is help the wealthy that can already afford private schools. And as a homeschooling mom, I don't want the state to start putting restrictions on how I homeschool my children. Vote No against the vouchers and ensure that public schools will not lose because of this measure.

Lee Stewart

Self

Austin, TX

NO on vouchers. Instead, I support STRONG PUBLIC education. We must Keep our schools strong.

Kristen Lowrie

Self - substitute teacher

Austin, TX

Public funds need to go towards public schools. Using \$1 billion dollars to fund 100,000 students (or less with admin fees) that mostly already attend private schools vs. having it go towards the 5.5 million kids that attend Texas public schools is just plain immoral. You are taking public dollars that would benefit many and giving them to a few, many of whom are already well-off. Additionally, the conversation could be potentially different if Texas public schools were flush with money, but that is not the case. Texas school districts are struggling both in teacher retention and making their dollars go far enough in such an inflationary economy. Funding for Texas schools is abysmally low compared to other states, ranking us 41st in per pupil funding. As the ultimate stewards of the Texas constitution that mandates a fully funded public educational, you should be ashamed by that data point. New funds haven't been invested in the per pupil allotment since 2019 and with inflation, schools purchasing power over the past 6 years has drastically decreased. Even with the proposed education increases coming up this session, the state is falling woefully short of adequately funding public schools, let alone giving districts the ability to raise teacher pay long term to be more in line with the actual demands of the job. Before we go and start spending public education dollars outside of public education we need to really focus on FULLY FUNDING public schools. Not just dangling a small carrot of possible funds in order to get a voucher bill passed. All of this time spent debating vouchers could be much better spent fixing our public school funding formulas and having the state pitch in their fair share of state funds for public education. (And not relying on large tax revenues and then withholding state funds and allocated them elsewhere - sneaky sneaky).

Carrie Pritchett

Self

Pearland, TX

Please oppose school vouchers. I am a proud product of the state education system, and any money syphoned from that public system will be disastrous. Please do your job. Follow your constitutional duty to provide public education without diverting funds, and work for the greatest good of your citizenry. Oppose the vouchers.

Ian Lurie

Self

DALLAS, TX

Thank you for your support!

Angel Fuentes

NA

Houston, TX

1. **Disability Discrimination:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that educational programs provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to opportunities. This includes those recovering from substance abuse disorders, who must be given the same chances to succeed as other students without disabilities. However, the effectiveness of these accommodations often depends on the program's faith measures to understand and implement what is genuinely needed to support each family's unique situation.

2. **Homelessness:** Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, children and youth experiencing homelessness are granted specific rights to stabilize their educational experience, such as remaining in their school of origin. These protections are designed to provide a fair opportunity for homeless students to meet academic standards. Collaborations with local shelters and social services are essential but highlight a potential concern: if these associations are merely identifying and categorizing students without providing meaningful, tailored support, it might not suffice to level the playing field. The quality and direct impact of the support services determine whether these efforts are genuinely transformative or just superficial.

3. **Financial Hardship:** Educational programs that offer scholarships or sliding scale fees provide critical assistance to students facing economic barriers. However, imposing conditions like mandatory participation in rehab programs can inadvertently exclude those who need help most or might not see relevance in such programs to their educational pursuits. This approach can be seen as discriminatory if not aligned with the student's individual needs and circumstances.

4. **Accreditation and Institutional Integrity:** Accreditation ensures educational institutions meet certain standards, but the suspension of such can prevent schools from receiving funds, impacting students reliant on those institutions. While necessary for maintaining quality, the process and criteria for suspending and reinstating accreditation must be transparent and fair.

5. **Economic Class Concerns:** If resources from educational support programs are primarily funneled to the middle class, this can perpetuate economic disparities. It's crucial to design these programs to lift those at the lower end of the socioeconomic spectrum, not just circulate resources among those who are already relatively well-off. The intent should be to broaden access and opportunity genuinely, reaching students who would otherwise remain at a disadvantage.

To truly make a difference, educational support programs must be designed and implemented with a deep understanding of the barriers that different groups face. This requires going beyond mere identification and assistance on paper to providing impactful and customized support, thus upholding the claim of freedom of religion.

Sarah Lonsdale Bledsoe

Self

Houston, TX

I am a Texas mom and social worker. Texas children deserve access to quality, local public education. Vouchers significantly disenfranchise students in lower income and/or rural areas, as well as students with special needs. Vouchers do not increase access as many families cannot afford the remaining tuition or coordinate reliable transportation for their children. Quality public education is a right, not a privilege. Please vote no on HB3 and direct public funding to public schools.

Purvi Baron

Self

Sugar Land, TX

STOP HB3. It's bad for kids, teachers, school and education in Texas.

Gina Blas, Mrs.

Self

Denton, TX

Against school vouchers

Eileen Lee
Self/Public Librarian
Spring, TX

The Texas Legislature has a constitutional duty “to make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.” The Texas Constitution is equally clear that public funding is not to support religious schools or the teaching of any particular faith.

Vote against school vouchers!

Jacqueline Austin, Mrs
None
San Antonio, TX

As a public educator I strongly oppose giving public funds to private unaccountable schools. This will harm the majority of our communities not to mention educators. This is not what your constituents want. Stop allowing a few billionaires to impose their will on the rest of us.

Zenna Duke
Self
Kyle, TX

I oppose Texas House Bill 3 on school vouchers because it diverts critical public funds away from public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students. Instead of strengthening our education system, this bill prioritizes private institutions that lack transparency, accountability, and equitable access for all students. Public dollars should remain in public schools, ensuring every child—regardless of background or zip code—receives a high-quality education. Texas should focus on improving teacher pay, reducing classroom sizes, and increasing resources for struggling schools rather than subsidizing private education at taxpayers’ expense.

I also oppose HB 3 because it prioritizes the interests of wealthy donors over Texas students. Governor Greg Abbott has received millions in campaign donations from billionaire-backed groups pushing for school vouchers, effectively allowing outside interests to shape Texas education policy. These donors stand to benefit from the privatization of education, while public schools—especially those in rural and low-income communities—are left underfunded. Instead of catering to billionaires, our lawmakers should focus on fully funding public schools and ensuring every Texas child has access to a strong, well-resourced education.

Angelica Valdez, Teacher
Education
Spring, TX

Vouchers can undermine public education by diverting funds to private institutions, which may lack accountability and inclusivity. This creates inequality, as private schools can selectively admit students, leaving disadvantaged communities with fewer resources and opportunities in public schools.

Kristine Gentry, Dr
Self, business owner
Missouri City, TX

No school vouchers!

Jennifer Aguilar
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Keep public funding in public school! My 3 children are thriving in public school and we love our neighborhood schools! Vouchers are for the rich that don’t need financial help. It’s a scam. Please vote no.

Jennifer White

Self

Leander, TX

I am the parent of two students in Texas public schools and am OPPOSED to the establishment of an ESA program. My tax dollars should be funding the public education system that our Texas Constitution requires. The public school system goes above and beyond to educate and care for over 5.5 million Texas children and it is sadly doing so right now without the support of those mandated to maintain it. As a parent, if I want to send one of my children to a charter or a private school, I already have that choice. For my other child who receives special education services, however, I would not have that choice and vouchers/ESAs would not help. Private schools are allowed to choose who they admit, and I'm comfortable estimating that the majority of them do not have the capability to serve students like mine. The Legislature is going to take money away from the public schools that can serve BOTH of my children (which then prevents the public schools from fully operating) in order to give it to private schools that can not only pick and choose who they accept but do not have the public oversight/accountability that is required from our public schools. If so many people in Texas want ESAs, why has this not been allowed to appear on a ballot?

It is time for our Legislature to fund our public schools. Not only that, it is time for our Legislature to respect our educators and support them instead of allowing the hostile, inaccurate, and never-ending negative political narratives to bring them down. My children deserve better from this state, and so do everyone else's. Our public schools serve 5.5 million children who are the future of this state. Uplift them, properly fund them and their educators, and watch them thrive instead of rooting for them to fail to fulfill a political checklist that does not serve the majority."

T Kistler

Self/Substitute Teacher

Mckinney, TX

Save our public schools!! Education should be free and available to everyone...AND it should include the many facets of our history...the good and the bad from which our country learns and grows. This bill is the first step toward our US history becoming whitewashed/absent of ALL nations and races represented here. NO to vouchers!!!!

Nathan Roub

self

Northlake, TX

Against the bill as it is written. The data is clear from other states that ESAs help mostly just families that are already able to afford private school, it reallocates funds from public schools that are already under funded, and families who live under the poverty line cannot afford most private school tuition even with a \$10,000 ESA, since tuition alone is typically \$25,000, not to mention meal plans, uniforms, books, etc. The cost for ESAs will balloon over the next few years to a point it will not be feasible for our state to afford. And lastly, there is no accountability required of private schools, like there is for public schools, if we are using tax dollars we need to monitor for accountability and have the same measures for either public or private institutions to ensure our tax dollars are working.

Sarah McQueen

Self - Social Worker

Cedar Park, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a social worker who has worked in Title I schools across Central Texas, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future, in accordance with the Texas Constitution. Thank you.

Crystal Zamarron
Deeds Not Words
San Antonio, TX

School vouchers divert much-needed funding away from public schools, which serve all students, including those with disabilities, low-income families, and rural communities. These programs undermine the promise of equitable education and leave our public schools struggling to meet the needs of their students. Texas public schools are already underfunded, and voucher programs would only make this problem worse. Instead of taking resources away from our schools, we should be investing in them—supporting our teachers, reducing class sizes, and ensuring every child has access to a quality education. Texas public schools are already underfunded, and voucher programs would only make this problem worse. Instead of taking resources away from our schools, we should be investing in them—supporting our teachers, reducing class sizes, and ensuring every child has access to a quality education. I urge you to prioritize the needs of the majority of Texas students and reject HB 3 and any legislation that promotes school vouchers. Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, and they deserve your full support.

Jen Aguilar
Self
Fort Worth, TX

If you have a minute ?? A public hearing at the Texas Capitol is happening on the school voucher bill (HB 3). Use the link below to ensure your opposition is on record.

Here's what I said:

“Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a teacher whose entire family is the product of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future

Donald Goldstein
Mesorah High School for Girls of Dallas
Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Ashley Aarons
Self
Austin, TX

I'm going on the record with a big fat no. It doesn't matter what I type as most of you have decided to align with your party over the future of 5.5 Texas students who will learn about the day their education was sold to the highest bidder. A state with the 8th largest economy in the world can do better than the bottom 10 states for education. The fact that you even are considering subsidies for private entities is a sad day for Texans. At least our representatives prior to 2019 tried to do the bare minimum by keeping up with inflation. Y'all can't even vote with what the people you represent want as you have Governor to please and your hand out for some money from YASS. We have school choice now - I can move, I can rent, I can drive, I can transfer, I can apply for financial aid to any school out there and please tell me how I can't currently decide where I want my child educated?

Sarah Davis, Mrs.

self

Austin, TX

Please vote against this bill. It will destroy the public education in Texas. Parents already have the choice of where to send their children to school. Private schools are not required to admit all students that apply. Fund the current public school system instead to pay teachers a higher wage and provide more resources for the children of Texas. This bill does NOT serve the majority of the children in Texas. The program being discussed has NOT worked in other states.

Christina Sasam

Self

Pflugerville, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Lyn Meyer

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this voucher program. Fully Fund public schools first.

Nicole Taylor

Homeschoolers

Spring, TX

We are a homeschooling family and we oppose this bill.

Margarita Mintzer

Self

Austin, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Margarita Mintzer

Kimberly McCann

Self investigator

Cedar Park, TX

School vouchers does not provide school choice. It only siphons funds from public schools which are already under funded. Private schools are not required to provide accommodations to disabled students, wheelchair ramps for example, and are not required to accept all students. The vouchers come no where near enough to pay for most private schools. Rural areas with no private schools will not receive any benefit. If you are so confident this is what Texas wants, why not put it on a ballot and let the people decide? Please vote against school vouchers.

Rosemary Cooke, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3

Sara Davis
self attorney
Austin, TX

This bill would devastate public education across the state but rural areas would be more seriously affected, as there are fewer nonpublic options in rural areas. Even in urban areas with many different private school choices, public money should be spent on public education - open to all, subject to standard requirements, and nonreligious.

Mary Len Stanton
Self
Cedar Park, TX

****Subject: Request for Increased Funding and Opposition to Vouchers/ESA****

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I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, Mary Len Stanton

Anthony Decapio
Self
Georgetown, TX

No vouchers, support public schools. Tell governor hot wheels to lay off!

Nicole Calandra
Self
Leander, TX

Please please please consider ALL children - the ones with learning differences, the ones without transportation, the rural ones with only one option, the siblings of children with special needs, the economically disadvantaged, etc. ALL kids deserve an education. ALL. When you make decisions that hurt public education, you cut off vital services to our most vulnerable children. Please please please consider these children as much as your wealthy donors. Please.

Alvin McLoughlin

Self

Carrollton, TX

As a constituent, I am OPPOSED to Bill HB3 by Buckley

School vouchers have many disadvantages, including:

Undermining public schools

Vouchers take funding from public schools, which serve most students, and give it to private schools. This can hurt public schools that are already struggling.

Discrimination

Vouchers can discriminate against students with disabilities, and can exacerbate racial segregation. Private schools can also discriminate in admissions, discipline, and employment.

Lack of accountability

Private schools are largely unaccountable to taxpayers. They can pick and choose who to serve and how they serve.

No evidence of academic benefit

There's no reliable evidence that vouchers improve student success. In fact, some programs have shown to have a negative effect.

Undermining democracy

Vouchers can erode democracy by giving tax dollars to private schools that are far removed from the electorate.

Diverting attention from reforms

Vouchers can divert attention from needed reforms, such as smaller class sizes.

Creating corruption opportunities

Private schools with little accountability could lead to corruption.

Hayley Heider

Self

Richardson, TX

As a Texas mom who has 2 public school children, a spouse who is a public high school teacher and coach, and a family that can afford private school if we wanted to send our kids there, I WHOLEHEARTEDLY OPPOSE THIS BILL. Public money needs to stay in public schools and they are extremely underfunded as it currently stands. Our kids safety, security and futures are at risk. Very few people would be able to afford private school even if they receive a voucher. Private school tuitions will go up and public schools will suffer. Providing better education for our most vulnerable - those who cannot afford private even with a voucher, as well as those who won't get admitted to private - only benefits the entire community and the state. A more educated state is a safer state. Please say NO to the ESAs!

Anne Howell, Mrs

Self

DALLAS, TX

NO TO HB3

Andrea Rader

Self

Arlington, TX

Vote against this bill.

Connie Wharton

Self

Post, TX

I am adamantly opposed to this bill. As a mother and grandmother I believe public education is a foundation of this country. A voucher system that favors wealthy families is unfair. As parents who could have chosen private education but chose public education, I am appalled that this is even being considered. This bill along with other actions resulting from the November election are prompts me to switch party affiliation. I never thought I'd see this day.

Rachel Robinson

Self

Temple, TX

Please vote against HB3 in order to best support Texas public school children, teachers and families.

Michael Stotts

Self

Georgetown, TX

Please vote no on ESAs. I don't want my tax dollars paying for private education vendors.

Ellen McLoughlin

Self

Carrollton, TX

As a constituent, I am OPPOSED to Bill HB3 by Buckley

School vouchers have many disadvantages, including:

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Creating corruption opportunities

Private schools with little accountability could lead to corruption.

Jean Stayton

Self

Allen, TX

No vouchers

Greer Olenick

Self/I am a parent

Austin, TX

As a voter and the parent of two students in public schools I implore you to vote no to HB 3 and take action to fully fund our public school and special education programs. School vouchers are going to further the achievement gap in the state of Texas and leave countless children in the dust by pulling precious dollars away from their schools. This voucher system is going to ensure that vast swaths of Texas schools will not only fail to thrive, they will be stripped of any chance of helping Texas kids achieve their full potential. Politicians and billionaires stripping generations of their shot for success is the American Nightmare and HB 3 will make it a reality.

Carla Griesbach

Self

Austin, TX

I am AGAINST the voucher program. Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Mindy McClure

Self/Retired

Colleyville, TX

Voting Republican completely opposed to all forms of vouchers

Jason Williamson

Self

Carrizo Springs, TX

As a father of 6 in rural south Texas, and a mental health professional, I am opposed to all education savings account and voucher programs. This money should instead be used to add to and promote mental health in our public schools. This is much more important in today's day and age than school choice or vouchers.

Courtney Duncan

Self

Georgetown, TX

Let me be clear, we have school choice, stop misleading the public. What we do not have is a raise in school funding since 2019. Schools are having to let go of staff just to come close to the deficits they have. If you support HB 3 you support the firing of teachers librarians, and other staff members. Let's give the schools the proper funding and allow them to support students, remember you have the money, just give it to public schools not the rich.

Kelley Nance

Self

Mckinney, TX

As a parent and an educator in Texas, I fully understand the implications of this bill and how it will rob public school children of the standard of educational opportunities that they deserve and will only serve to make the rich richer. The people of Texas do not want the destruction of public schools. Your constituents do not want the destruction of public schools. The lack of priority given to education in this state is an embarrassment, and our public schools will soon be, too, as our class sizes increase to levels that are impossible to effectively teach, programs and staffing are cut, and teachers are placed with even more of the burden to sacrifice for the needs of their students. We are well aware that Republicans don't care about public school children, but maybe you will wish you did when we vote you out of office.

Gary Neagles

Self/Hotel Laundry

Abilene, TX

I am for HB3 by Buckley. I am for parents having school choice! I am for any measure that empowers parents to protect their children from WOKE, LEFTIST, SEXUAL INDOCTRINATION from certain mentally unstable teachers & school board members that seem to think they can do a better job than our founding fathers did by the Spirit of wisdom, providence, and precepts found in Bible, the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights.

Kathy Ramirez
Self
Fort Worth, TX

It is important to know public schools will need all the funding they can get. Ny law, we are to find it. As D O ed is dismantled , funds are needed to service students and teacher.

Caitlin Marcellus-Vincent
self
Spring, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3. I grew up in Texas and attended public school here. I want future generations of kids to benefit from the well deserved financial support for public schools just like I did. As it is, public schools are often underfunded. Passing HB 3 will only worsen this issue. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy.

kaci neves
self, teacher
Dallas, TX

Hi, my name is Kaci Neves, and I have a disabled child who will soon attend public school. For this reason, I have a special stake in HB3.

The proposed Education Savings Account under HB3 is severely flawed. It advertises itself as a school of choice program, an opportunity for lower and middle-class families to choose the school and therefore curriculum they think is best. While this sounds great superficially, the proposed plan has the following major limitations:

- HB3 will divert 1 BILLION DOLLARS of public funds to private schools.
- HB3 allows ESA program eligibility requirements to extend to families with household incomes of up to \$156,000. This cap is far too high, as most families in this income bracket can afford to send their children to private school without public assistance.
- HB3 puts rural students who do not have reasonable access to private schools (perhaps the closest private school is over an hour away) at a distinct disadvantage.
- HB3 does not consider that private schools are not required to accept disabled students, let alone provide classroom accommodations and modifications to disabled populations.

Nikki Harper, Mrs.
Parent of students in Northwest ISD
Fort Worth, TX

Currently everything around us has increased in price..EVERYTHING. Does this funding being proposed give the local school districts the proper funding given the current economic environment we're living in? My kids go to Northwest ISD and they offer some amazing opportunities for our students. Opportunities that are setting these students up for success right out of high school. Let's fund our public schools and get the school districts that are not on the same path as our district back on track. It seems most taxpayers are not on board with this savings account program. Now that the details are out it should be put on the ballot for us to vote on. Supporting 'school choice' and school vouchers are 2 different things. Most will not be able to bridge the cost gap for private schools. Meaning this will end up only benefitting those already paying for their child to attend a private school. Please increase the funding for the public schools. Why is there a difference in the proposed funding depending on if the child is attending public school or going to private school? The funding should be equal no matter what choice is made. The priority funding should be put on the public schools that welcome any and all students...not private schools that limit and pick who they allow in. Fund our public schools so that these districts can continue to do great things for our students!

Barbara Stevens, Mrs.

Self/Retired

Highland Village, TX

I have never, ever minded paying taxes for quality public education, even though our own children graduated long ago. I have, unfortunately, watched the Governor and legislature of the State of Texas slowly starve public education by withholding funding and I find that to be, at minimum, a high moral crime. Now you are telling us that we will be forcibly made to pay for private school education while watching public schools dry up and blow away. Unconscionable!

These monies will be chiefly allotted to people whose children are already in private school. If that's a decision they have made for their children and they have paid for the privilege, then let them continue to pay their own way. I'm sure many of you are opposed to the government paying off student loan debt. Then, pray tell, what difference do you see in the two scenarios? Further, if, as I keep hearing, it's what the people want, why not let the people vote on it?

Last, as a grandmother of two high-functioning autistic grandchildren, I can factually tell you that private schools rarely accept children with disabilities. My grandchildren can easily match or surpass most children academically, but do require special accommodations at times. You are doing all these children a disservice. You are, in essence, telling these children they don't matter, that they're not worth the trouble. And, of course, there's the not so insignificant matter of Title I students. They will be left out altogether. If their parents had the money to send them to private school and the transportation available, I imagine some would be in private school, but such is not the case. By the time vouchers make it down to them, there'll be little, if anything, they can do with said vouchers.

May I suggest that if you need to turn hearts of stone into hearts of flesh, you volunteer for a Kids Eat Free program this summer. Stand out in the summer sun as my then 10-year-old grandson and I did two summers in a row and get to know some of the Title I students. Get to know their names, their hearts, their dreams. And then ask yourself why they should be punished because their parents aren't wealthy. On one of my worst days personally (my last day serving Kids Eat Free) two children gave me cards they had made for me, one of which said, "You are loved." I will always consider that a gift from God that I made a heart connection with these children.

I am asking that you not abandon the children of Texas for the sake of private school owners or wealthy donors. At the very least, please let the people of Texas vote on the matter.

Meg Cone

Tax payer and voter

Brenham, TX

Please consider how many Texans - including parents who support private and home school education are against this bill. It is a slippery slope putting public funding into private institutions. Please protect our freedoms and reject this bill. Please support our children, our schools, our teachers, and our retired teachers,

Tiffany Perry

Self

Round Rock, TX

Please vote NO on HB 3. The bill will take money away from Texas public schools and is merely a welfare program for the rich that can already afford to pay for private schools. This is a deeply personal issue for me with 2 kids in the public education system in Round Rock ISD. Public education is the backbone for our society. Not only is it essential for our community, it's also essential for businesses to have a highly educated workforce. Globalization and AI pose challenges for our workforce which is all the more reason we need to double down on education so that we can have an educated workforce that will make us succeed and continue to lead innovation which is what has made America such a strong country.

Corey Troxell

Parent of Public School child.

Burleson, TX

Please don't move for vouchers in Texas this will move money from public schools and I do not support my taxes going to private institutions that I don't give my money to.

Jennifer Donato

Pleasanton ISD

Poteet, TX

School districts are trying to pay teachers, and are still in a deficit. A districts budget is 80-95% payroll.

Shakira Summers

self

Lancaster, TX

Hello, I am an educator and a mother. I work for the Dallas Independent School District, and my kids are products of this district as well. I am against school vouchers. There are so many families who cannot afford to go to a \$20,000 private school even with a \$10,000 voucher. Our special education students would not get the services they need to get the education they need. One of the services I speak of is transportation, public schools provide that for students in special education. I myself could not afford to send my last two kids to private school. Public education has helped so many students thrive and be successful. I don't understand why the governor wants to change a system that has helped so many families. The voucher system would take away so many resources from kids who need the resources, why would we want to affect our future? Those who could not attend schools that are not public schools will have to sit in crowded classrooms, because school funds would drop tremendously. Which would also cause educators to lose their jobs. Please, I ask that the committee oppose this voucher bill. Thank you for your time.

Heather Walley-Jimenez

Self/Mother

Austin, TX

I have two children in the AISD public school system, one of whom receives special services. This bill will hurt our family. Please invest in our public schools and not into private school vouchers.

Juanita Mckee

Self

Canyon Lake, TX

Absolutely opposed. 5th generation Texas, educated in public schools and universities. Several family members were/are public school teachers whose devotion and skills are amazing. Vouchers will only help those that can already afford private education.

Kyndal Hendricks

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no on ESAs. I don't want my tax dollars paying for private education vendors.

Renee Lindstedt
Self
Round Rock, TX

I vehemently oppose HB3. These vouchers stand to disproportionately benefit families who are already financially stable, while stripping essential resources from our underfunded public schools. Public School families should not be at the mercy of those who can't empathize with those who are not as privileged as they are. We should not be at the mercy of those don't understand what it's like to have resources at their fingertips, only to be ripped away for the sole purpose of robbing others who need it the most. Our educators are shaping some of the brightest minds to protect and ensure a future that will thrive for EVERYONE. It is essential to prioritize equitable access to quality education for ALL students.

I would hope that you, a leader, will do the right thing to ensure the best possible outcome for ALL of your constituents. Don't take away from those who need it the most. This is not just about policy; it's about justice and equity. I implore you to consider the long-term consequences of this legislation and to reject the establishment of this unjust voucher system that threatens the future of so many children. Let's advocate for a system that uplifts everyone rather than one that deepens existing divides.

Matthew Armer
Self/ Inside Sales
Cuero, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Claudia Matievic
Self - Director of Operations
Spring, TX

Vehemently disagree with school vouchers, as are the majority of your constituents.

Brenda balsam, ms
Self, LPC
houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Cecil Mattson, Mr.

Self; attorney

Leander, TX

I am writing to express strong opposition to any sort of school voucher program. Our Texas public schools are essential to keeping our children safe and our future workforce educated. Private schools have less oversight and less accountability. Vouchers would be devastating to our public schools while funneling money towards unaccountable private schools that work for profit, not for the betterment of our state.

Elizabeth Hunt

Self

Taylor, TX

I am against HB 3. Support Public education.

Nanette Bulla

Self

Round Rock, TX

I oppose school vouchers. Texas public schools need State support, not private schools.

Haley Campbell

Self - mother, PM

Austin, TX

I am a mother and a Texan and I am strongly opposed to school vouchers. School vouchers and a "savings program" seem great on the surface, but in practice they are disastrous for Texas children and families. School vouchers funnel money away from public schools that serve ALL children, into private and charter schools that are beholden to less regulations and that can pick and choose which kids to admit and educate. This leaves children with learning differences and disabilities, poor children and rural children out in the cold. It deprives families of educational opportunities. Ultimately this bill will only help deepen social and wealth divides within Texas and will limit the ability of ALL Texas children to learn, grow, and ultimately contribute to our state's prosperity.

Jennifer McKnight

Self

Glenn Heights, TX

Please vote no for the voucher program. It will only hurt our teachers and children.

Shmuel Ceitlin, Rabbi

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Deborah Jones
Self
Round Rock, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education (the rich) while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. Vouchers will not improve academic outcomes for kids. HB3 is not a school choice bill. It just funds private schools that should not receive public education money. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children's future. Passing this will only make the rich richer, and will further disadvantage everyone else.

Gary Williams
Self/Teacher
McKinney, TX

Public school teachers have always prioritized the outcome over the income, but what is happening now with the push for school vouchers using public taxpayer dollars makes me so sad. Our public schools are STRUGGLING right now and the lack of support from our state government will have long lasting consequences for the State of Texas.

These kids deserve better. Our teachers deserve better. Texas needs to do better! Support our public schools!

Derek Argueta
self, software engineer
Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

I came from a low-income family that greatly benefitted from Klein ISD in Harris County, with my siblings I proceeding to pursue careers in medicine, law, and engineering. The public school system is not perfect but is an invaluable resource and I believe is where our investments need to be made, not diverted from for the sake of rolling over to corporate interests.

Thank you!

Missy DeMoss
Self
Trophy Club, TX

I am politically conservative and vote republican but I do not feel that our tax dollars should go to private education. I strongly oppose. Working for a public school I know the struggles and challenges we face with strong policies and restrictions on purchasing resources. I hope you please consider the taking this to a ballot or voting and voting against it.

Debra Vaello
Self/Retired Texas public school teacher
Cypress, TX

I am a retired Texas public school teacher who taught in the Katy ISD. I live in the Cy-Fair ISD and my children attended school in CFISD. My daughter is currently a Special Education teacher in the Klein ISD, where my granddaughter is a student. I believe that Texas public schools should be fully funded. Taxpayer money should not be given to private schools, especially without accountability. I am witnessing severe budget cuts in all of these schools districts. I believe the ESA accounts are unconstitutional because our Texas constitution mandates the funding of public free schools.

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 7. EDUCATION

THE PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS

Sec. 1. SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM OF PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS. A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.

Annette Patterson
self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and I'm against school vouchers.

Debbie Green
Self
Houston, TX

Voucher

David Landrum
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am against this bill!

Alisha Bendler
Self
Frisco, TX

After reading of the impact of school vouchers in other states, I am confident that this is not in the best interest in our great state. I am sure our representatives have received much of the negative feedback from their constituents and will vote accordingly. Please vote against this bill.

Dana Cast
Self, engineer
Pflugerville, TX

Hello, my name is Dana and I am a constituent in zip code 78660. I am in opposition to HB3. I am deeply concerned that the school voucher amount is \$4,000 more than the per-student allotment for public school students. Our public schools are ranked 44th across the country and our districts are already not getting the funding needed to support the enrolled students. States that have passed voucher programs have found them highly unsuccessful. I'm also deeply concerned that Greg Abbott and the pro-voucher movement have accepted millions of dollars in campaign donations from Jeff Yass, Tim Dunn, and Farris Wilks. These donations stink of corruption, and I applaud Representative James Talarico for asking Yass to explain his donations.

Additionally, the average cost of private education for disabled Texas students is nearly twice the SB 2 voucher amount. Only 67 private schools in Texas even offer special education programs-and 82% of them are concentrated in major cities like Dallas and Houston. While the bill claims to prioritize low-income families, with a threshold 5 times the poverty line and double the state's median income, the bill is out of touch and does not serve our low-income families. The bill also does not account for restrictions the private institutions put on our families and are open to discriminate at their will. With funding for less than 2% of Texas students, it's clear this bill isn't about providing families with choice, but providing a tax payer funded coupon for the few. Thank you.

Holly Hays
Retired teachers
Katy, TX

As a retired teacher who taught in Texas public schools for 29 years, I am asking you to fully fund public schools and vote no to vouchers in Texas. Public schools are the lifeline of education to millions of students in Texas. Let's keep Texas public schools strong.

Jesse Rizo, Mr
Self
Batesville, TX

I am from Batesville and I oppose the voucher program. We do not have any private schools and our district has not seen an increase in the average daily attendance since 2019. Passing this bill will be detrimental to the community. Our school board passed a resolution against the voucher last night during our board meeting.

Laura Harper
Self- Neurodiagnostic Technologist
College Station, TX

The contents of this bill have been voted against over and over again. We will continue to advocate for our schools and our children despite the political gymnastics tried to get this pushed through.

Alissa Odum
Self
Trophy Club, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Tami Newmiller
Self
Denton, TX

Please do not vote for vouchers. Save public education by funding public schools.

Aziza Kendrick

Self

Stafford, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution

Sophie Renker

Self: public school teacher and parent

San Antonio, TX

I am a public school middle school teacher who has taught full time for 18 years in Texas/13 years in Northside ISD the 4th largest school district in Texas. I am a parent of two children who attend public school in Northside ISD.

1. It is **WRONG** and not Christ-like for you to treat public school children like second class citizens to children who have parents who can afford private school tuition without a voucher.
2. If you are going to use tax payer funds to provide a voucher for private school students to use, it should be the exact same amount that the State of Texas is giving to each public school student. A private school should **NOT** receive a higher amount than a public school student. It is **NOT** fair.
3. The message HB3/you are sending me as a Texas parent of elementary aged children whose only option is public school is that my children don't deserve as good of an education as a child whose parents can afford private school tuition.
4. If my children who attend public school deserve the same access to education as a private school student than give every child in the state of Texas \$10,000 to use at the school of their choice **INCLUDING AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL**.
5. The **MAJORITY** of students in Texas only have public school as their only option for school. Do not steal funding/take away funding from public schools/school districts and give it to wealthy families who can already afford the cost of private school.
6. Keep public funds in public schools. Hire more teachers and assistant teachers to teach inside classrooms to make class size smaller especially in elementary schools which will provide higher academic learning outcomes and skill mastery when there are more adult teachers inside classrooms teaching students/less students sitting in a classroom.
7. If you give 1 billion dollars to private school families you are taking away 1 billion dollars from public school families. Public schools are already under funded compared to public schools in other states. Texas teachers are underpaid for the actual amount of work they complete in one week. Teachers are already working unpaid overtime to teach Texas students. Give **MORE** funding to the public schools and public school districts.

Claire Hicks

Self- Development

Fort Worth, TX

It is an illusion to promote education savings accounts (ESAs) as a pathway for increased student achievement; making education a market-driven business that is not accountable to taxpayers only harms our students and the potential of a city-wide skilled workforce. Companies will not want to invest in a city that does not meet state college and career readiness standards through a strong public education landscape. Voting yes for ESAs by taking funds from public education is voting to dismantle our communities by decreasing resources that are available to families.

Christina LaPoint

Self/ environmental engineer

San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3 and as a constituent of Texas, as well as a parent of a child who attends private school, I ask Texas leaders to vote **NO** on this bill and not move forward with school vouchers. The parents who can afford to send their child to private school do not need a voucher to do this, the money should be spent in public schools and put back into the future leaders of America. Vote **NO** on HB 3

Chuck Lee, MAJ

Self

Coppell, TX

This is a brazen attempt to further enrich the already wealthy in Texas at the expense of the poor and middle-class Texans. There is nothing wrong with public schools when the schools are adequately funded and staffed. Shame on you for this thinly-veiled attempt and theft and grift.

Torrie Justus, Dr.

self/Administrator of Clinical Engineering Services

Dickinson, TX

Don't give my tax dollars for public schools to families who can already afford private education. Taking my tax dollars from underfunded public schools puts the majority of Texas children at risk of losing local schools. I believe in the public education system. It serves everyone. Rich people can buy their way into a school.

DO NOT VOTE for the voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution. UPHOLD THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION and do the job you were elected to do.

Shelly Lance

Self

Austin, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Aharon Shmuel Wealcatch

Self, Teacher

Dallas, TX

I am a teacher in a Texas private school. Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Thank you.

Kendra Sterner

Self

League City, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private/religious education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family is a product of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher (Educational Savings Account) program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Debbie May

Self/retired

Plano, TX

Please fully fund public education in Texas and increase teacher pay before even considering this program. Texas has amazing resources yet we rank in the bottom 10 of the states for education. The children of Texas deserve a great public school education.

Barbara Palmer

My grandson

El Paso, TX

Passing this bill only hurts the majority of students in Texas. The wealthy don't need breaks or cuts or aid of any kind in order to keep their children in private schools. And all this does is hurt public schools more than ever. If you want better education in this state, try funding the schools that truly need it and stop trying to ruin public education.

Haley Strahan, Mrs

Self: consultant

Lumberton, TX

I strongly object to the establishment of education savings account programs. As a private school graduate who sends my children to public school, I feel that public schools should be fully funded and supported, and private schools should receive no tax dollars. The privatization of so much of our public services is already having disastrous effects in so many sectors. Educating our nations children is a public good, not yet another opportunity for a cash grab.

Sonya Aleman, Dr.

Self

San Antonio, TX

NO vouchers. Stop defunding public schools!

Lisa Dennison

Self, science communicator

DALLAS, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. Public dollars belong in public schools. Many areas of the state have no private options, and private schools do not have to accept all students. This boils down to a handout for families that can already afford private school at the expense of public school children. Please use all available funds to better support our public school system.

Rebecca Duron

Self, Student, School Social Worker

Houston, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) introduced in 2025, which seeks to expand school vouchers in the state. As a concerned citizen and advocate for quality education for all Texas students, I believe this bill will harm public schools and undermine the core values of equity, fairness, and opportunity in our education system.

Expanding school vouchers would divert much-needed funding away from public schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children. Public schools are the cornerstone of our education system, legally required to accept all students, regardless of background, abilities, or socioeconomic status. By funneling taxpayer dollars to private schools, HB 3 would severely weaken the resources and programs available to students in public schools, especially those who rely on them for a quality education. This move would disproportionately impact students in low-income and underserved communities, who are already facing significant challenges and disparities.

Instead, I recommend increasing funding per student, as research shows this approach has a proven impact on academic performance. A 2023 study from Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research found that increased funding directly improves student outcomes, including academic achievement, behavior, and future employment (source: Rice University Study: <https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/when-it-comes-education-outcomes- we-get-what-we-pay>).

Hispanic, Black, and other marginalized students face disproportionate financial barriers due to systemic racism and historical inequities in education. Increasing per-student funding would help bridge this gap, offering these students greater opportunities for success. A 2021 study from Rutgers University calculated the cost of bringing the average test scores of the poorest 20% of students in each state up to the national average. The study found that in Texas, \$12,682 per student annually is needed to close this performance gap (source: Shanker Institute Study: <https://www.shankerinstitute.org/sites/default/files/The%20Real%20Shame%20of%20the%20Nation.pdf>).

While the gap in funding is substantial, it is not insurmountable. By prioritizing alternative legislation that invests directly in public schools, we can ensure all students receive the quality education they deserve.

Susan Graham, Ms
Self - retired attorney
Austin, TX

I object to this bill because it will siphon off tax dollars for public education to pay for private school tuition. We need to provide more funding for public education and not less. A good free public education system is a foundational requirement for a successful democracy. Everyone must receive this educational foundation in order to understand how our government works and participate effectively in the government. There is so much false and distorted information in the public domain nowadays it is more important than ever that students receive correct information in school. Standards must be developed and maintained to ensure students continue to receive a solid, consistent educational foundation.

As a taxpayer, I do not want to support educational programs that do not have to meet any accepted standards.

Raizy Muller
self, teacher coach
Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Jackie Welch
Self
Conroe, TX

School vouchers are not what is good for the general public. Even with the vouchers most people living in what you say are under performing schools will still not be able to afford private school, transportation and all of the things. They will leave public school and go somewhere (or not) and those places do not have the same TEKS. When they end up returning to the now underfunded public school, they will fail the test that you tie funding to. All of school funding is tied to things that the government is getting kick backs on. Public money should not fund private schools. If you are so sure this is what the people what then let's vote on it. Fund public schools. Pay teachers and staff a livable wage for the job they do. We see through the money. You are distroying the school systems.

John Martinez
Self, father
Fort Worth, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

corbin gutierrez
self
spring, TX
nope

Eileen Faz
Self
San Antonio, TX

“Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.”

Abbigail Davis
Self
Bay City, TX

House Bill 2 fr funding for Public Schools

Please support our Public Schools and the people who elected you and fully fund our schools. Texas has over 5 million students that are receiving the same amount that was given to educate them in 2019. We all know inflation has increased the cost of everything, from food to electricity to fuel costs, as well as safety costs. The state implemented increased safety requirements without giving any funding to go along with it, so that is coming from the same amount that was previously provided. Due to raised prices and no increased funding, schools have been forced to cut their staff leaving teachers without adequate planning time, increased class sizes, and lower support staff. Most educators have also not received a raise in years and are bringing home less than they did three or four years ago. The insurance that they are "provided " keeps increasing every year. Educators are paying over \$1000 a month for insurance that does not cover anything until you meet the ridiculous deductible- it does not provide a copay or anything for medication until then either. Educators put in hours of their personal time and personal money to make sure that their students get the best education they can, they deserve to be fairly compensated for it and deserve your respect. Texas' over five million students deserve to have funding increased to give them the best education possible. Please listen to the people who have elected you and expect you to do what is best and right for ALL.

Angela Harper, Director Operations
Self
Highland Village, TX

School vouchers are a national security risk. Vast majority of Texans are educated in the public schools. We need smart citizens to be competitive and achieve more than competitive countries and siphoning money away from schools will be good only for a few, but it will take most of us to ensure we have best military, best private sector, best public sector employees, best intelligence and much more. Do not threaten the future of our country for a small number of people that want this now

Francisco Laborde
Self
Austin, TX

The education savings account program uses my tax dollars to subsidize a private industry that does not have to follow the same quality standards as public industry. Texas parents already have the opportunity to send their children to private institutions, and they will have to make a personal decision of whether their money is spent wisely by the school. If parents are allowed to spend my tax dollars to send their children to a private institution, then the institution should be forced to achieve the same high standards as public schools: teachers should be certified, transportation should be provided, students with disabilities should be accommodated. Otherwise the government is allowing parents to waste my tax dollars in sub-par education.

Additionally, tying public school funding to this bill has kept funding levels at 2019 levels, even through some of the highest inflation seen in recent years. Schools have had to make cuts that directly affect children. These children will be the workforce of Texas in 10 years. If these children are not properly educated, then Texan companies will be at a disadvantage when hiring employees, Texan students will be at a disadvantage against other students when applying to colleges, Texas will be affected economically because of these poor decisions.

Fund public schools, and stop subsidizing private parties.

Laura Dale
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB 3. Please support it!

Carlisle Sloan
Self
Austin, TX

I am against public education vouchers

Leland Murphy
Self, Assistant Complex Coordinator
Austin, TX

Hello Committee,
My name is Leland Dale Murphy, and I'm a longtime Texan and proud product of Texas public schools. And I'm here to voice my strong opposition to HB 3.
Frankly, it is appalling that this committee is once again considering attempts to defund and dismantle our public schools. The public is watching, and - in addition to being bad policy- this is not popular.
But let me back up a little bit, I grew up in a small town called Kennedale, nestled between Dallas and Fort Worth. We didn't have much there. Kennedale ISD was severely underfunded and under-resourced. My classmates and I had to work extra hard just to have the potential to go to college, trade school, and pursue other paths post our K-12 education. I can only imagine the additional barriers we would have all faced if our school district had even less funding.

I am only here because of my K-12 PUBLIC education that lifted me up. I had teachers who cared DEEPLY, staff who were dedicated to educating all children—not just those who could afford private schools .
This voucher scheme would devastate school districts like the one I came from and countless others across Texas, especially in rural areas which some of you represent *at least in theory anyway.
Why are we taking money from public schools—which serve everyone—to give to private institutions that serve only a select few? Just because wealthy donors and lobbyists want to dismantle public education doesn't mean it's too late for you to do the right thing.
Our public schools belong to all of us—including yall. By gutting them with this voucher scheme, you are tearing apart the foundation that has built up generations of Texans.
I urge all of you to Vote NO on HB 3.
Thank you

Loyda Poy
Self
Helotes, TX

As a taxpayer, voting against HB 3. Abbot only wants to hurt public education to help out his rich donors get richer at the expense of our dedicated school districts personnel and students. No to HB3

Jaimie Smith
Texas registered voter
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote "NO" to vouchers. Vouchers will be devastating to public education. This Bill sounds elitest to me. Say "NO" to vouchers.

Jacklyn Svatek

Self

Flower Mound, TX

Texas should be putting children in our state over the private interest of out-of-state billionaires. Fund the teachers, schools, lunches, and communities that keep our state great!

Kindall Fredricks, RN

Self

Corps, TX

We should not be siphoning money from public schools so that we can give already wealthy families a discount. This will destroy our public schools, which are already under pressure and shortages. This is exactly why out-of-state and out of touch billionaires like Jeffrey Yass should not be allowed to donate millions of dollars to political campaigns. Nobody in Texas wants this! So much for caring about CHILDREN. This is outrageous.

Ashley Speaker

Self

Alvarado, TX

Our children are the future of our nation and our communities. The only way we have a well balanced, educated and intelligent society going forward is by supporting and fully funding PUBLIC schools across the state! HB3 calls for defunding of our public schools and gifting resources to a tiny number of private institutions made up of primarily wealthy families! PLEASE HEAR TEACHERS, STUDENTS, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS when we say we DO NOT want a school voucher system! Plenty of states have already tried and show massive failures, available for us to avoid making those same mistakes! Voucher systems fund BUDDIES of Texas lawmakers and out of state VENDORS. Do not SELL OUT our Texas families! Please, God, hear us and REPRESENT US AS YOU WERE ELECTED TO DO!

Kristin Bingham, Mrs.

Self

Lubbock, TX

As a life long Texan and registered republican, please hear me say I absolutely do not support school vouchers/education savings accounts. Our public schools are valuable investment in our future and should be treated as such. Fund our schools, trust teachers, and let students be kids.

Tonja Lopez
self - Texas Parent
austin, TX

Honored Members of the Committee,

My name is Tonja Lopez, and I am an educator, a parent of two Texas schoolchildren, and a faculty member at The University of Texas. I hold a degree in Education and Human Development and have worked as a teacher for over a decade. As both an educator and the daughter of a former Texas teacher and guidance counselor, I have seen firsthand the challenges our public schools face—both in the past and today.

I am strongly opposed to HB 3, the voucher scheme, which would divert public funds away from Texas public schools to subsidize private education for wealthier families. Our public schools are already underfunded, and rather than further starving them, we should be investing in the students and educators who rely on them.

Rural communities, in particular, have little to no access to private schools, and even where options exist, they often lack transportation, cafeterias, special education services, and teachers who meet the same rigorous standards as those in public schools. Texans across the political spectrum have repeatedly rejected similar voucher schemes because they recognize the harm they do to our communities.

Instead of diverting funds, I urge you to increase per-student funding by at least \$1,300 to help our schools recover from years of legislative neglect. Our students and teachers deserve better.

Thank you for your time, and I trust you will make the right decision for Texas schools.

Sincerely,
Tonja Lopez

Georgia Driskill
Self, Business Owner
Aledo, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program that will only help those who own or run private schools. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Audrea Hiatt
Self
Pflugerville, TX

This only benefits the wealthy.

Amanda Baxley
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please do not pass this bill. We do have school choice. This bill will take much needed funds away from my child's school district that is already struggling and has had let teachers go and cut programs. My kids are currently in 11th and 8th grade. I volunteer weekly at both schools and have seen the effects this has had on teacher and administrators who are struggling with funding. Fund our public schools NOT private schools. Not every child can get into a private school. We tried to enroll my son in private school when he was in Kindergarten and we were denied. Both of my children have dyslexia. Being denied by that private school was the best thing that could have happened. We live in a great school district. They have had amazing teachers help them learn the tools they need to be successful with their dyslexia. Now these programs are in jeopardy because of budget cuts. Please listen to the parents. Let every Texan vote if we want this or not, not just a few who stand to gain so much.

Gail Fuqua
Self/retired
Fredericksburg, TX

Please do not pass this bill. It is a voucher program under another name. It will only benefit families that are already paying for private tuition. It will not improve the Texas education system. Work toward improving teacher pay to improve teacher quality. It starts with the teachers.

Katie Beth Harry
Self
Houston, TX

Fully funded public education offers more choice than vouchers and more socioeconomic equity.

Rusty Phares
Self/teacher
Amarillo, TX

Ruining public schools for a voucher system that will benefit a very, very small group of wealthy people is not what's best for business. We should not be talking about funding private schools in any way, especially when public schools are not fully funded. There are no provisions for regulating what private schools do, but they would receive public money. Public schools have all the regulations the state has to offer, but would receive less money to ensure they are met. The majority of Texans do not want this to pass, and neither do I! The majority of school age kids in my part of the state do not have access to private schools, nor do they have the ability pay for it even if you gave them the money because of the "additional costs" that come with attending a private school. They also don't have any guarantees that they will be accepted to these institutions. No Vouchers means No Vouchers! Please listen to what the majority of people want and not what these private donors and greedy politicians who are looking put for their own personal wealth ahead of the kids needs want and vote NO! Vouchers are bad for education. Thank You

Brittany Armer
Self-teacher
Cuero, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Hunter Waldie
Self - Chemical Distribution
Rowlett, TX

I oppose school vouchers, taxpayer money should stay in the public school system.

Cynthia Riley

Self

Austin, TX

Please preserve our proud tradition of public education for all. Vouchers will financially imperil our public schools by diverting funds. They will not support legally compliant and important services for kids with special needs. They will not allow merit-based thriving. They will further divide our society. We will have more distance between the haves and the have nots. And more silo-ed groups self-selecting to have the kids hear and learn only what their homogeneous world is willing to let in.

Kindal Baker, Mrs.

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

As a working Texas tax payer, I say no to vouchers. I want all taxed resources already going to public schools to stay as it is and I'd like to see the state improve funding to public schools.

It is simple. Texas needs to improve school funding and benefit the majority of Texans. Texas needs to strengthen its majority through public school education and programs. Strengthen our future generations. Texas can only be great if we invest in the most Texans.

Also, stop giving tax breaks to corporations that would be impacted the least if taxed. Make sure they understand that you care about Texans and the future of Texas.

No to school vouchers and no to diverting funds away from public schools.

Do the job you have been elected by the majority to do.

No to vouchers and "school choice."

Christopher Betancourt

Self

SANGER, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Elizabeth Foley

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I'm a fellow Texan and parent to 2 public school students. I do NOT want HB 3 approved and do NOT want my tax dollars going to private schools. Vote no on HB 3 and instead fully fund public schools.

Rachel Fowler

Self - VP, Risk for a mortgage company

Cedar Park, TX

I oppose school vouchers to fund private schools. Well funded public education is critical for our children. Providing school vouchers will not be sufficient for low to moderate income families to afford private school tuition for their children. This is essentially welfare for the rich who already have the means to pay tuition to the private school of their choosing. This plan does not make sense and will hurt our children and their opportunities for a solid education.

Sharon Yancey

Sharon Yancey

Austin, TX

Public education should be improved before considering a private voucher program. Every child should be able to attend their neighborhood school, mingle with children from different backgrounds, and learn about cultural differences freely and without an indoctrinal philosophy attached to their education. Private schools can increase tuition at any time, thereby pricing out students and creating a social class system. We don't need or want that in Texas. We want every child to access the same excellent education opportunities in their neighborhood. Magnet schools have addressed specialized learning opportunities for years and should be expanded before sending taxpayer money into the bank accounts of for-profit schools. I am opposed to vouchers for Texas children and in favor of improving public schools.

Kelsie Wagner

Self

Cisco, TX

SB2/HB3 grows government, weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money with zero accountability. It strips rural schools of funding, and violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education. This isn't school choice this is economic segregation. Say NO to SB2 & HB3!

Isaura Bowne

RN/self

Nevada, TX

I do not support this bill.

Jolynda McGrath, Mrs

Self

Montgomery, TX

Vouchers have ruined every state they have been implemented in! Why will none of you grow a back bone and stand up against Abbott!

Kathi Thomas

myself

Austin, TX

I misspoke in my earlier communication- I was thinking about charter schools that can access low-cost loans for building schools. HOWEVER, listening to the hearing this morning, I've got a lot of concerns.

First of all, I'm willing to bet dollar to a doughnut that those Catholic Schools with tuition under \$10,000 will indeed raise their tuition to \$10,000, so they get the full amount from the state. The students who are already enrolled but don't get the vouchers, will be told it's \$10,000, but they will just "scholarship" them that extra amount, so that they're still paying the same amount as before. That will allow the Catholic Schools to reap as much as possible from the taxpayer dollars.

We saw that very thing happen with the feds gave a \$10,000 tax credit for adoptions. Overwhelmingly, agencies raised their fees. It was a big deal 24 years ago when we adopted.

The expert woman in the white blouse is dancing around the question. I know for a fact that a divorced friend of mine was not allowed to enroll her children into Regents School. They didn't give her the option to sign on to "respect" the schools values- they flat out told her she wouldn't fit in with their families. They told friends of mine who were a two moms family the very same thing. Again, nothing about "respecting" their values, just "you won't fit in with our families."

They DO discriminate!

Molly Crow

Self

Friendswood, TX

Please listen to Texans! I strongly hope you will stop pushing ESA/vouchers, they will not give all parents a choice as the Governor continuously claims. When only 1% of students will benefit, how is that all? What about the students who live in a zip code with no other option than their public school? What about these students who will not be accepted into their local private school because of their 504 accommodations? What about the students who cannot access transportation to any other school besides our local public school? As a registered Republican, I **STRONGLY** oppose ESA/voucher programs, especially in the way they are being presented. The funds, are intended for our public schools, which you are constitutionally obligated to fund. Our schools are severely underfunded, in fact when looking at inflation they are receiving less per student than they were before, it is beyond past time to increase the basic student allotment! In addition, the mandates and strings attached to the additional funding should be required if you move forward with the voucher scam. The majority of Texans are against vouchers!! The money you are caving to and the voices you are listening to are not your constituents or supporters, it is the donors who quite literally have no interest in Texas students except for lining their own pockets. Texans deserve better!!! Our public schools are the heartbeat of our communities and you are slowly killing them by refusing to fully fund them. Say no to ESA/vouchers!!!!!!

Francesca Romans

Self - Paralegal

Leander, TX

I am the parent of two students in Texas public schools and am **OPPOSED** to the establishment of an ESA program. My tax dollars should be funding the public education system that our Texas Constitution requires. The public school system goes above and beyond to educate and care for over 5.5 million Texas children and it is sadly doing so right now without the support of those mandated to maintain it. As a parent, if I want to send one of my children to a charter or a private school, I already have that choice. For my other child who receives special education services, however, I would not have that choice and vouchers/ESAs would not help. Private schools are allowed to choose who they admit, and I'm comfortable estimating that the majority of them do not have the capability to serve students like mine. The Legislature is going to take money away from the public schools that can serve **BOTH** of my children (which then prevents the public schools from fully operating) in order to give it to private schools that can not only pick and choose who they accept but do not have the public oversight/accountability that is required from our public schools. If so many people in Texas want ESAs, why has this not been allowed to appear on a ballot?

It is time for our Legislature to fund our public schools. Not only that, it is time for our Legislature to respect our educators and support them instead of allowing the hostile, inaccurate, and never-ending negative political narratives to bring them down. My children deserve better from this state, and so do everyone else's. Our public schools serve 5.5 million children who are the future of this state. Uplift them, properly fund them and their educators, and watch them thrive instead of rooting for them to fail to fulfill a political checklist that does not serve the majority.

Lauren Michaels

Self

Arlington, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Bethany Click

Self

Abilene, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 and Governor Abbott's push for Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) in Texas. This bill is not about improving education—it's about diverting taxpayer money away from public schools to fund private institutions that have little to no accountability to Texas families.

Governor Abbott claims that the state spends \$15,503 per public school student, yet he proposes giving only \$10,000 per ESA recipient. Where is the rest of that money going? If public schools are supposedly so expensive, why isn't the solution to increase their funding rather than take money away? The math doesn't add up.

Abbott argues that ESAs will allow low-income families to afford private school, but this is misleading. The average private school tuition in Texas is over \$10,000 per year, and many schools charge much more. That means families will still have to pay out of pocket for tuition, uniforms, transportation, and other fees. This program doesn't create real choice—it only benefits families who can already afford private school while leaving the majority of Texas children behind.

Additionally, other states with ESA programs have seen failure:

- In Arizona, over 75% of ESA recipients were already in private school before getting taxpayer money.
- In Florida, ESA funds have been misused on luxury items, showing how easy it is to abuse these programs.

Texas should learn from these mistakes, not repeat them.

And let's talk about the politics behind this bill. I have learned that Governor Abbott recently accepted \$12 million from a private entity to push for school vouchers. If this bill were truly about helping Texas families, why does it take private donations and partisan fear-mongering to get it passed? Abbott's social media is filled with posts attacking Democrats rather than explaining how this program will genuinely help families. That alone is a red flag.

The people most in favor of this bill don't have young children in school—but those of us with multiple young kids do. We know the consequences of shifting public funds to private schools: larger class sizes, fewer resources, underpaid teachers, and struggling rural schools with no private options at all.

Texas already underfunds its public schools—why are we making it worse? Instead of handing taxpayer dollars to unregulated private schools, we should fully fund and improve the schools that serve 5.5 million Texas children.

I urge lawmakers to reject House Bill 3 and stand up for public education, accountability, and real school funding reform. Texas children deserve better than a shady, rushed voucher scheme that benefits the few at the expense of the many.

Laura Liles

Self-Nurse

Richland Hls, TX

We all know what this is. Republicans are not fooling anyone. Stop exploiting people for your power grab. It's evil

Monica Hurtado Viera

Self

San Antonio, TX

There is no way I will ever support this bill. IT'S welfare for the wealthy. I WANT MY TAXPAYER DOLLARS TO FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS. This is coming from the mother of both public and private school students.

Adriana Owens, Ms

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

This bill or proposal will not benefit anyone. It will actually do more harm

Sommer Phillips
Self, Mental Health Therapist
Lubbock, TX

I strongly disagree with this bill's approach to school funding and teacher compensation. It does not adequately address the root causes of educational inequality and may disproportionately impact underfunded districts, particularly rural communities. Our rural districts will suffer under this bill if approved. Additionally, it fails to consider the unique needs of students requiring special services.

Jill Cox
Self
Frisco, TX

Public funding is essential to schools. Education is a right, and private school is a CHOICE that those with the means to do so, may choose. Texas public schools educate nearly 11% of students in the United States. Private school enrollment in Texas represents about 5.6% of the total school-age population. Increasing the investment in public schools not only boosts economy and local programs such as art and STEM, but you invest in the community based on your constituents. Private school is a choice for those with the means, and a voucher program would HARM public schools, the programs it offers, and its community. Fund public schools.

Andrea Gutierrez
Self/stay at home mom
Boerne, TX

For the last 18 years, I have been advocating for my higher needs child and their siblings. In those 18 years, we have utilized a variety of private education as well as public education. Private education was not able nor willing to meet the needs of a child with higher needs. They did not have the resources necessary nor the teaching staff available to offer the support necessary for that child success. Quite honestly, the private schools that I have seen in the San Antonio area, including those pricey \$30,000 a year private schools, require the parents to pay for private tutoring for their child to have success. The teachers do not have to, nor are, they required to aid the children and grasping concepts.

When voucher systems all we are talking about is subsidizing schools choosing the student students they want. We talk about a affluent families getting their private schools subsidized at the expense of public schools. And when those public schools are losing those much needed hard earned dollars, the students that will not have choice, will be dealt a significant blow and their ability to be educated. A family sending their child to a school that cost \$10-\$20,000 a year does not need a voucher to help pay for their child's schooling. But the family that's child is in speech therapy, OT, social groups, special education classrooms... they need the funds their school have always received. And removing those funds remove opportunities for children of all needs to have the educational support they need for success. It creates a greater divide between the haves and the have nots. It will create a greater barrier for higher needs children to receive the training and education needed to become gainfully employed and add to the revenue of the Texas economy.

And a bill that was pushed by a 12 million donation to our governor should not overrule the needs of the children of Texas. The needs of the major majority of children in Texas. Not the minority of children that will go to those private schools, regardless of this bill and vouchers.

Sara Akers
Collaborative Arts of Plano Immediate Past President, Founder (retired) of North Texas Performing Arts (formerly Plano Children's Theatre)
Plano, TX

As a voting Republican and Plano resident, I encourage you to vote no to school vouchers. They are not in the general public's best interest. Stand up to Abbot! Vote NO!

natalie sutton
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Karina Perez Cantu
Self
Pflugerville, TX

Hello, my name is Karinna Cantu, a former public school social worker, a mother of two children in public school, a public school graduate, and a constituent in zip and I am a constituent in 78660. I am exercising my right to voice my opposition to HB3. I am deeply concerned that our state government has given up on our state funded education. I am a proud Texan and only want the best for my state. It is embarrassing that our legislators believe that our state cannot be great again. I want to point out the voucher amount is \$4,000 more than the per-student allotment for public school students. Again, saying the private sector is better than what our great state minimum expectation to take care of our children in all schools. Additionally, the average cost of private education for disabled Texas students is nearly twice the HB 3 voucher amount. Only 67 private schools in Texas even offer special education programs-and 82% of them are concentrated in major cities like Dallas and Houston. While the bill claims to prioritize low-income families, with a threshold 5 times the poverty line and double the state's median income, the bill is out of touch and does not serve our low-income families. With funding for less than 2% of Texas students, it's clear this bill isn't about providing families with choice, but providing a tax payer funded coupon for the few. Thank you.

Nichole Sharp
Self/Public Education
Fort Worth, TX

(HB 3)“Vouchers”will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a Texas Teacher whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Jennifer Yorek

Self

76205 (Denton, TX), TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools, especially rural schools that already struggle with scarce resources. As a native Texan, I urge you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution. Education should be for everyone.

Mandy Wright

self

Fort Worth, TX

As a lifelong Texan and a Texas public school parent for 16 years, I believe funding educational savings accounts is not the best overall use of our tax dollars. Money dedicated to HB 3 does take money that could be dedicated to the public school fund. Each representative that I have spoken with stated they weren't sure how these would be funded in the future.

Without a future plan for funding ESA's, the money would likely be pulled from public school funding in the future.

I have seen firsthand the predicament that the LACK of funding to our schools has placed my kid's public education at risk. Our high school counselors have been reduced to half of the amount they were 7 years ago when we started at the high school level. We have crowded classes with as many as 35-40 kids in a class. We do not have educational offerings that suit all levels of learning. We have the same enrollment that we did 7 years ago.

Our teachers work tirelessly to continue to provide the best education at their own expense because the last legislature failed to pass public education funding. The time in FOUR special sessions was spent on an ESA bill that eventually did not pass. Our schools are endlessly testing our students to maintain accountability to the state requirements. And doing so on limited funding. This takes vital classroom educational time from our students which places more pressure on our teachers to succeed.

ESA's would provide a \$10,000 baseline to each student for a private education without the same accountability that the public schools face for a baseline of \$6,500 per student. I spoke to two representatives who each had the same response that most kids receive \$15,000/student in public schools, with a baseline of \$6,500. However, neither could name more than one designation that would add additional money per student. The only designation that they named that students received additional funding for was special education. Of the 1,900 kids at our high school, there are not enough designated special education students to qualify the statement that "most students are funded at the \$15,000 level."

The disastrous outcome of ESA's in other states should serve as a warning to Texas. How can you justify this spending on this small amount of students with proven fails throughout other states? These ESAs will not improve education for our rural students who do not have access to private education.

In a state where we are the 8th largest economy of the world, our public school spending ranks 40th in per pupil spending in the US. Businesses are coming to Texas because of the economy, but it is not funding the growth in our classrooms.

Please do the right thing and vote against educational savings accounts that benefit a small number of students at a higher rate than the majority of Texas students.

Carissa Olsen

Self, Self-Employed

Dallas, TX

AGAINST. Proposed voucher stipends of \$10K are not enough for everyday Texans to opt into this "choice." On the other hand, wealthy Texans who can already afford private school are going to get a free \$10,000 discount at the expense of our public schools which desperately need the funds. Private schools also do not have to follow any rules and can deny any student for any reason. School vouchers will only transfer taxpayer dollars from the poor to the wealthy, at the expense of our public schools which are investing in education for every Texan.

Kim Purselley
Self Teacher
Eustace, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Jeffrey Essigj
Self
Paradise, TX

Vote no to HB3

Shelby Briner
Self/ stay at home mom
Kingwood, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Abby Burnham
Self, Public School Educator
Austin, TX

Dear Representatives,

My name is Abby Burnham and I'm both a parent and teacher in the Texas Public Schools system. Every single lawmaker in Texas should be appalled about the systemic under funding of public education.

We need and demand better:

- A minimum \$1,300 increase to the basic allotment—because anything less keeps districts in crisis.
- Basic allotment needs to be based of ENROLLMENT, not attendance.
- A transportation funding increase that reflects actual costs—because the last adjustment was made when gas was \$1.00 and bus drivers made \$6.50/hour. Today, districts pay drivers \$24/hour minimum, and we all know gas prices are not a dollar.
- An increase in special education funding—because our kids deserve the services and supports they are legally entitled to.
- Higher teacher pay—because we cannot retain educators when they're underpaid and overworked.
- Reimbursement for special education evaluations—because districts shouldn't have to fight for what they're required by law to provide.
- Full funding for Dual Language programs—because our multilingual students deserve access to a high-quality education.
- A complete revamp of recapture—because Austin ISD is paying over \$900 million annually while unable to afford to educate its own students.

You were elected to lead and to serve the citizens of Texas. Not the small percentage of rich donors pushing extreme agendas. Please do your jobs and fully fund our public schools and show Texans where your priorities and morals are held. Vote No on HB3.

Sincerely,

Abby Burnham

Yair Griver
Self - Computers
San Antonio, TX

School choice is needed so that parents can provide the appropriate education for their children.

Mary Comerford
Self
Elgin, TX

Do not use Texas funds from ALL Texas property owners to benefit children of specific Texans. All available education funding should go to public schools for public education. People already have the choice to educate their children in private schools. It is not the responsibility of all Texans to pay for it. Education funds should only be allocated to to improve education in all public schools for all children in Texas. The Texas Constitution mandates funding for public education. It does not prohibit additional funding to benefit all Texas children.

Andrew Forsythe, Mr
self (retired)
Spicewood, TX

The public school system in Texas needs all the help it can get. Please do not further damage it.

Linda Litzinger
Self - Public Policy Director
Austin, TX

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input. I oppose this bill because it underfunds public schools. Also, the ESA doesn't cover the true special needs of students with disabilities. For example, students who have no use of their hands or who are blind who are in regular education don't need an evening tutor, they need to hire a scribe to dictate to, so that the parent can have a moment to cook, etc. You can't dictate math and science to a machine. Also, students who need a paraprofessional at school, but aren't given one, must have the day's lesson read to them at home. If you still intend to pass this bill, please allow for a category that funds a way for the special student to produce daily homework, remain in regular education and go to college. When you don't have use of your body to perform physical labor, it is necessary to keep up with regular education and go to college. Thank you.

Elizabeth Houser
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please vote NO to the esa. Our public schools are amazing but need to be fully funded to stay that way. The ESA scam provides for the few while hurting the majority of Texans. We already have school choice and people who want to send their children to private school already do so and don't need funds meant for Public Schools! Stop defunding public education-why be at the bottom when we can be at the top?! Plus Private schools can choose which students they want and they do not have to provide any extra support for students who have dyslexia, speech problems, autism, etc. Stop messing with our Public Education system! Vote No to HB 3 by Buckley.

Kimberly Watson
Self
Cedar Park, TX

NO to VOUCHERS
Please provide funding to PUBLIC SCHOOLS Each student should receive a minimum of \$1300 Basic Allotment.

Andy MacLaren
Self financial advisor
Austin, TX

I am not opposed to an education savings account program, but rather oppose the underfunding of Texas school districts and by using our public taxpayer dollars to fund private school tuition. Those of us who are fortunate enough to afford private school tuition should not prevent the ability of those less fortunate to be able to have their child educated in a public school. Thank you,
Andy MacLaren

Ryan Grippin
self - Marketing executive
Seguin, TX

As a Texas taxpayer without children in the public school system, I am deeply concerned about the fairness and long-term impact of HB3, particularly regarding Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and school vouchers.

While parents with children in school would gain the ability to direct public tax dollars to private institutions, taxpayers without school-age children—who still fund the education system—would have no say in where their contributions go. This creates an imbalance where certain taxpayers get to “vote” on which schools receive funding while others do not. If my tax dollars continue to support public education, I should have the same influence over how those funds are used as parents who opt into voucher programs.

Public schools are accountable to taxpayers and state oversight, but private schools receiving voucher funds are not held to the same standards. If public money follows students into private institutions, taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability on how those funds are spent. Without it, HB3 risks diverting resources from the public education system while creating a system that benefits a select few rather than all Texas families.

Texans deserve an education system that is fair, effective, and accountable to all taxpayers—not just those with children currently in school. HB3 raises serious concerns about fairness in funding allocation and the long-term consequences for Texas schools. I urge the legislature to consider how this bill affects all taxpayers, not just those who stand to benefit from ESAs and vouchers.

Dominique Williams
Self
Corsicana, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Kristin Jenkins
Self
Southlake, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3, which proposes the use of public funds for private school vouchers. This bill threatens to divert much-needed resources away from our public schools, undermining the quality of education for the majority of Texas students.

Public schools are the backbone of our education system, serving diverse communities and providing equal opportunities for all children. Diverting funds to private schools through vouchers will only exacerbate existing inequalities and leave our public schools struggling to meet the needs of their students.

I urge you to consider the long-term impact of this bill on our public education system and to prioritize the needs of all Texas students by rejecting HB 3.

Thomas Olshanski

Self

San Angelo, TX

Vouchers only benefit families who can already afford private education, while redirecting critical resources away from underfunded public schools. Furthermore, they fail to account for counties without private education options or areas where private schools are insufficient to meet the needs of the student population. I strongly encourage you to vote against the implementation of a voucher program. Instead, please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of our children and the future, as outlined in the Texas constitution.

LaDawn Davis

Self/teacher

Lubbock, TX

This bill is absolutely ridiculous. There are so many areas in our state that do not have access to private schools. You are taking money away from those rural areas. You have held public school money hostage and pretend like you are doing us a favor. All of this is ridiculous. People that send their kids to private schools do have a choice and they have made it. The children that actually need funding are not going to be able to afford private schools anyway. You have a shortage of teachers because of the way we are treated and paid. Pay your teachers and fund your schools!!! If you think it's such a good bill put it out for us to vote on it. You know it won't pass so therefore you are doing it underhanded and lying about it. I refuse to vote for anyone that supports this.

Carolyn Shirley

self

Lexington, TX

My name is Carolyn Shirley. I am 76 yr old and I live in Lee County. I oppose HB 3. Parents already have lots of Choice in the Public School System in Texas. I have chosen to stay informed, vote, meet with my children and grandchildren's teachers and principals, volunteer in the classroom, and in one case chose an excellent Houston Magnet School for my daughter in 1978. I had a good education in Texas City Schools and in 1963, limited integration came and I got my first black friend and special needs friend, both of whom enriched my perspective and my world. I believe by supplementing private education with taxpayer dollars we encourage and enable parents to splinter their children off in schools segregated by religion, class, and ethnicity. We must fully fund public schools and not hold our schools hostage to private school voucher money.

Catherine Ludeman-Hall

Self

Austin, TX

As a multi-generational, Native Texan (and member of the DRT), I am the beneficiary of public schools, as are both of my parents, and their parents, going back at least 5 generations (that I am able to retrace the education access). My mother and her family are from LaSalle County, where private schools are not an option. Our family still there equally has limited education access. Rather than focused on school vouchers that will benefit few, wouldn't it be better if we focused on ensuring Texas as the best public schools in the nation, accessible to everyone, from those in the rural corners to the urban hubs. Educating our residents is really what will make Texas great. Continuing to starve our schools makes us an embarrassment on the national stage.

Alexis Sangsvang
Daggett Elementary PTA / Parent
Fort Worth, TX

I understand that the intention behind school vouchers is to provide families with more educational choices. However, I am concerned that this policy disproportionately benefits wealthier families and diverts critical funding from public schools, which serve the majority of students. Public schools are a vital cornerstone of our community, and they should be adequately funded to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, receives a quality education. I love being a part of my public-school PTA, I love supporting all our children. I see firsthand everyday I'm at the school the impact our community has. I also have a stepson who has an IEP and I have fought hard to get him where he's at now. What about those children?

I respectfully ask that you reconsider your stance on this issue and prioritize initiatives that support and strengthen our public education system. Investing in schools and ensuring all students have access to quality education should be the main focus, rather than shifting resources to private institutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you all take into account the responses of your constituents who value and rely on public education.

Reagan Stinson, Ms.
self
North Richland Hills, TX

NO ONE WANTS THESE VOUCHERS. AS THE DAUGHTER OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER, AS A FORMER PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT AND AS A FRIEND OF MANY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS. I CANNOT IN GOOD FAITH SUPPORT THESE BILLS THAT STRIP AWAY CRITICAL FUNDS FROM STRUGGLING SCHOOL DISTRICTS. IT IS TO NO FAULT OF THIER OWN THEY ARE STRUGGLING. IT IS THE FAULT OF THE TEXAS REPUBLICAN PARTY WITH GREG ABBOTT AT THE HELM WHO IS TO BLAME. HIS CONTINUOUS LIES AND POLICIES AND BUDGET ADJUSMENTS HAVE STIPPED CRITICAL FUNDING FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THEIR TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF. GREG ABBOTT IS FAILING TEXAS SCHOOL CHILDREN. HE IS FAILING TEXAS TEACHERS AND HE IS FAILING THE FUTURE OF TEXAS BY STRIPPING FUNDING THAT WOULD OTHERWISE ALLOW FOR THE TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM THRIVE WITH OVERWHELMING SUCCESS.

THERE HAS BEEN SO MUCH PUBLIC OUTCRY ABOUT THESE VOUCHERS ALREADY, AND THERE WILL CONTINUE TO BE PUBLIC BACKLASH UNTIL Y'ALL SHUT UP ABOUT IT, DROP THESE DUMB EXTREAMLY UNPOPULAR VOUCHER PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS BECAUSE IT IS A WASTE OF OUR TAX DOLLARS. PUT THIS ISSUE TO A VOTE SO THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS CAN HAVE A SAY IN WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR CHILDREN, OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR FUTURE.

Jenny Quinn
Self
Dallas, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike. Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Gloria Rodriguez
Self
Arlington, TX

We need the money to keep educating the students in regular public school with real teachers who have degrees in education.

Emily McGee, Rev

self - Pastor

Arlington, TX

I am a Pastor, a mother of three boys in public school, a Texas public school graduate, and a strong supporter of public education. I absolutely oppose school vouchers/ESAs in Texas, a policy that will harm our already struggling public education system. My son has autism, and we have sought out several different education options for him because as a parent, I already have school choice. We are currently proudly part of Mansfield ISD, where my son is receiving multiple services to help not only his academic success but also his social-emotional learning and his ability to be a good citizen.

In the public education system, my son has access to a diagnostician, speech therapy, occupational therapy, music therapy, and an Individual Education Plan to make sure he has the accommodations he needs. I don't know of a private school that offers the same breadth and depth of services that my son gets at his local public school. In fact, none of the general education private schools in our area would even accept my son as a student because of his extra needs.

Beyond our own family, public education is a common good for all Texans. Public education is enshrined in our state constitution, and our legislature should be looking to uphold that document - not get around it, or drain funding from it, or break it apart. Defunding public schools through vouchers is a moral failure, abandoning our responsibility to ensure every child—regardless of zip code or income—has access to quality education. It betrays the very values we claim to uphold as Texans: fairness, opportunity, & commitment to the common good.

I don't want my public tax dollars supporting private schools, which often lack oversight, accountability, and the same testing requirements as public schools.

Instead, fund our public schools appropriately, and watch how our entire communities will be built up. Increase the student allotment, and watch how our children will soar.

Texas is at a crossroads. We can continue neglecting public education, or we can commit to properly funding our schools. Public education is the foundation of our democracy, economy, & communities. We must stop political games and invest in Texas' future. I implore you, as lawmakers, leaders, & fellow Texans, to do what is right and oppose ESAs.

Lori McMorris

Self

Austin, TX

No vouchers. Please support public schools. Public schools are underfunded and Austin ISD has to give away way too much in recapture. Fix recapture, fund public schools, vote no on vouchers for the rich.

Laura Saenz

Self - parent

Austin, TX

I have two disabled sons and this bill will be horribly detrimental to their educations. They wouldn't be accepted to local private schools and will be abandoned in schools that are being stripped of their funding. Special ed programs in the district already lack funding, trained educators, and resources, this won't improve if you remove students from districts already in need of support. Disability is a natural part of life, and our kids shouldn't be treated like an afterthought in the public school System. Let's put our money and efforts into providing an amazing education for ALL kids.

Kristin Gartman

Self

Houston, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a specialist working with blind and visually impaired students, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. My students as well as other special education children will never benefit from the voucher program. Public education doesn't discriminate based on the students needs and the costs associated. The voucher program will allow the for profit schools to cherry pick the students they want by changing their admission criteria to weed out students who require extra services to benefit from the education process leaving some of the most vulnerable of our children in a defunct public education system. Low income families as well could be a casualty of the voucher program. Proponents say that it will benefit low income families and allow their children to attend private schools; however, private schools have no restrictions on raising the cost so that low income families still can't afford private school even with a voucher. Public education has always been a promise to the future that we will provide them with an education no matter the circumstances. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Rachel Jordan-Shuss

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3, the largest and most expensive school voucher scheme ever proposed in Texas. This bill takes taxpayer dollars meant for public schools and redirects them to private schools that lack transparency, accountability, and equal access for all students.

Public tax dollars should support public schools, which serve every child, regardless of ability, income, or background. Texas lawmakers have not increased the basic per-student funding allotment for public schools since 2019, despite rising costs, inflation, and a record budget surplus. If there is money in the budget for education, our priority should be fully funding public schools first—ensuring teacher raises, better resources for students, and improvements to school infrastructure—before sending tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

Furthermore, HB 3 does not even prioritize the students who need the most support. It allows families already in private schools—including those making over \$200,000 per year—to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers. Wealthy families will get a discount on private school tuition while public schools lose funding, harming the vast majority of Texas students.

This bill also fails students with disabilities. While HB 3 offers larger voucher amounts for special education students, private schools are not required to accept them or provide the necessary services. Public schools are legally required to serve all children, yet HB 3 shifts funding away from them to schools that are not obligated to meet these needs.

Texas public schools educate more than 5.4 million students—far more than private institutions ever will. If we truly care about education, we should be investing in strong, well-funded public schools that serve everyone, rather than subsidizing private schools that can pick and choose their students.

HB 3 is bad for Texas families, bad for students, and bad for our public schools. I urge legislators to reject this costly and irresponsible voucher scheme and instead invest in fully funding public schools, raising teacher pay, and ensuring that every Texas child has access to a high-quality education.

Megan Huseman

Self

Wylie, TX

I do not support HB 3.

Kathleen Lyon

Self

Frisco, TX

I am a parent of several elementary aged kids. I oppose diverting any funds from public school.

Nicolas Alvarado

Houston families

Houston, TX

The proposed bill presents serious concerns for education funding, equity, and community cohesion. It would strain already limited resources for both rural and urban schools by enabling student departures without addressing the fixed costs these institutions must maintain regardless of enrollment numbers.

The exemption of charter schools from standardized testing requirements like the STAAR exam creates an uneven playing field. When different institutions operate under different accountability standards, we cannot make fair comparisons or ensure consistent quality across all educational options.

This bill essentially provides a subsidy that fragments our educational community. Rather than bringing parents together across income levels to work toward better schools for all children, it enables withdrawal from the shared project of public education.

Most troublingly, data from neighboring states like Louisiana demonstrates that similar charter school initiatives have not delivered improved educational outcomes. On average, charter schools perform worse than their public counterparts despite operating with different rules and standards.

I urge you to vote against this bill. Our focus should be on strengthening public education through evidence-based improvements that benefit all students rather than diverting resources to alternatives without proven success. We need solutions that unite our communities in supporting education rather than fracturing them.????????????????

Molly Frisinger

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote against the school voucher bill. Public schools are the backbone of our democracy. This bill would take desperately needed money away from our public schools. Every student deserves a strong public education. I was a public school student, and I'm proud to send my son to public schools as well. Please don't pass this bill which would harm public education.

Amy Kulik

Self

Austin, TX

This bill will severely damage our public school system and hurt the families who must rely on it. Please vote against this bill.

Amy Martindale

Self

Mesquite, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, a product of public education, and a public educator, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Leanne Jackson

Self

Plano, TX

This bill will ruin public education.

Carolyn Fyke, Mrs.

Self/Retired

Houston, TX

As a native Texan and like the generations of my relatives before me, who are products of many years of public education, I oppose the school voucher bill (HB 3).

Vouchers will only benefit families who are already sending their children to private schools, making them richer! In many cases, the “voucher” would not even cover most of the private school tuition! These vouchers are taking funds away from desperately already underfunded public schools!

In addition, many smaller towns and communities in Texas have no private schools, so what are these children supposed to do?

I urge you to vote NO against the establishment of a voucher system and fund public education for ALL children.

Thank you,
Carolyn Fyke

Sarah Vega

N/A

Fort Stockton, TX

Say no to vouchers!!!

Victoria Reyes

Self, public school teacher

El Paso, TX

I am against school vouchers and want to keep the money in public schools. We need more funding for those who can't afford the “choices” that have been given.

Beth O'Connor

self

Pflugerville, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Linda Autrey
Self Retired
Somerville, TX

Dear Chairman Buckley,
I'm not happy about the state raising ISD appraisal valuations to raise more funds locally through property tax because the state doesn't want to pay its fair share to our ISD's. It use to when our children in Texas ISD's were majority White.

For over a decade the Texas legislature has been paying less per student to our majority minority ISD's while us property owners pay more. How's that working out? BTW, I vote in the constitutional amendment elections and I am a home owner. I know how it isn't working out. If the system was working I wouldn't have to vote every two years for these exemptions on my property taxes.

Now, there is a scheme to take our property taxes for our ISD's and give it to wealthy, White, Christian, students whose parents already pay to send their children to private, religious, school. You are taking from the poor and giving to the rich!

While you are busy today, I just want to take a moment to catch you up on the news. President Trump is buying a Tesla tomorrow from the richest man in the world because he feels sorry for Elon's business losses. Canada has retaliated with tariffs on energy that will cost American citizens in three states an additional \$100 per month to stay warm.

Pick a side.
Thank you for your time.

Juliann Johnson
Self
Georgetown, TX

I vote against this. Public schools are already underfunded and people already have the choice to go to private school. We should consider all children and households and let education be as good as it can be.

Robin Phillips
Self
Houston, TX

Time and again, Texans have broadly opposed vouchers or ESAs, as we acknowledge the best system for everyone is well-funded public education system that preserves school choice for parents on an individual level. This time around the only difference is external political funding that has emboldened our Governor. Don't let three very wealthy men—one of whom isn't even a Texan—decide what's best for our state. Vouchers will primarily benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately and deliberately underfunded public schools. Please vote against the establishment of any voucher program. As other states' experience with such program have shown, these programs quickly become unaffordable without demonstrable benefit to the quality of education. Moreover, private institutions are appropriately wary of state standards being applied to them, along with monitoring, if they accept state subsidization. Instead of these accounts that the majority of Texans do not want, please focus your efforts on funding public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas Constitution. Let's get Texas back to being a leader in education for all Texans.

Hector Reyes
self
Muleshoe, TX

My wife is a teacher. She needs and deserves a pay raise. ESA will not help Texans. They will not bring Texans together. Money needs to stay in public schools. They are safe and provide excellent services for SPED students. The private schools do not need money. Private schools do not take the STAAR and they score lower than public school kids. They don't have regulations like all TEXANS

Amber Lindholm

Self

Austin, TX

I do not support school vouchers. I support funding our public schools for all to be successful.

Lisa Bell

Self

Murphy, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while taking funds from already underfunded public schools.

It will also devastate small communities who count on schools to provide meals, jobs, and social interaction and activities as well as rural communities that don't have private schools to choose. We voted for you and are counting on you to do the right thing.

You can't in good conscience, vote to remove funds from our already underfunded schools, allowing those who can already afford private schools to receive a tuition break. You must all vote against a voucher program. You must fund public education for our children.

Kevin Palmer

Self (Marketing professional)

Canyon Lake, TX

Argument Against the HB3 Texas School Voucher Bill

The HB3 Texas school voucher bill, promoted by Governor Greg Abbott, threatens public education while disproportionately benefiting the wealthy. Proponents claim it expands “school choice” by funding private school tuition with taxpayer dollars. However, evidence from other states shows vouchers fail to improve outcomes, primarily serve as discounts for affluent families, and disadvantage lower-income and middle-class students. Instead of increasing opportunity, HB3 would deepen inequality and divert essential funding from public schools.

Failure of Vouchers in Other States

Arizona: Ballooning Costs, No Benefits

Arizona’s voucher program led to \$300 million in budget overruns, with 80% of recipients never having attended public school—a direct subsidy for wealthier families.

Florida: Academic Decline and Fraud

A 2020 study found students who switched to private voucher schools performed worse on standardized tests. Additionally, Florida’s program has suffered from fraud and unregulated spending.

Indiana: No Student Gains

Indiana’s voucher students scored lower in math compared to public school peers. Over 60% of vouchers went to families above the state’s median income.

Wisconsin: Increased Segregation

Vouchers fueled racial and economic segregation, with wealthier families moving to private schools, leaving lower-income students in struggling public institutions.

HB3: A Handout to the Wealthy

1. Private Schools Are Still Too Expensive

The average private school tuition in Texas ranges from \$10,000 to \$30,000+ annually. HB3’s \$8,000 voucher doesn’t cover the cost, leaving lower-income families unable to afford the remaining tuition.

2. Rural Families Get No Benefit

With few private schools in rural Texas, families in these areas would see no real choices—just weaker public schools due to funding losses.

3. Special Needs Students Are Left Behind

Private schools aren’t required to accommodate disabilities as public schools are. Vouchers could leave special needs students without crucial services.

The Harm to Public Schools

1. Less Funding, Larger Classes

Public schools lose money for every student who takes a voucher, leading to program cuts, layoffs, and overcrowding. Fixed costs remain, but budgets shrink.

2. Lower Teacher Salaries

Texas already ranks 42nd in teacher pay. HB3 would make retention harder by reducing public school funding.

School vouchers have failed in other states and will fail Texas. HB3 would shift resources away from public schools, benefiting only families who can already afford private education. Instead of dismantling public schools, Texas should invest in them—ensuring every child, regardless of income, has access to a quality education. Lawmakers should reject HB3 and prioritize public schools.

Carolyn Bott
Self / Teacher
Round Rock, TX

I oppose this bill and I am AGAINST school vouchers.

ASHLEY ALANIZ
Self - Senior Demand Planner
Conroe, TX

I have lived in Texas my entire life and attended public school before going to Texas A&M. I strongly oppose the HB 3 bill. I know first hand how much our public schools are already suffering and this would only make matters worse. I do not have children but would like for my tax dollars to go to public schools and not private school or any other private organizations.

Lashelle Scott
Na
Houston, TX

I grew up in the public education system. I'm in Harris county, Houston home of the largest school district HISD. Most of the parents cannot afford a private school education. Instead of always investing in private schools let's invest in public: education is the gateway for kids future, let's make sure they continue to have that opportunity. Invest in public education.

Rena Donus
Self
Austin, TX

As a taxpayer, I stand against this bill and ask that my representatives vote against it. This will end or destroy public education in Texas, denying quality education to so many as vouchers will segment our school choices and hurt our most vulnerable populations. Please say NO!

Jennifer Lanter
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am against school vouchers. I do not believe this program is in the best interest of students and public education education.

claudia alvarez
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. It will also negatively impact rural communities that do not have access to private schools. I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Elizabeth Vargas
Mothers everywhere
Pflugerville, TX

I am vehemently OPPOSED to HB3. It is the rich stealing my tax dollars. I also am protesting the fact that I have been only sent to voicemail when I have called Ms Rebecca Bell-Metereaus office three times. I am going to show up at her office as soon as I am able. Her office works for ME and I demand to be heard. Please please we can not let this bill pass. I have four kids and this voucher will be enough to change my mind plus public school teachers are more educated and if rather send my kids there out of principal. Thank you for your time.

Lauren Baulch, Md

Self

Austin, TX

This hasn't worked in other states why do you feel like it's going to work here? How are you going to fund our public schools with the lost money going to private school.

Moshe Segelman

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Tedra Ulmer

Self/retired

Brady, TX

There is no sane argument for crippling public education in the state of Texas. Half of the state is made up of small towns supporting their schools financially and in other ways. These schools are the glue holding their respective communities together. I see no reason my tax dollars should go to private schools or homeschooling. They can continue on as they always have. This entire endeavor is a giant dog and pony show to enrich further the cronies of our governor and other public officials. As the old saying goes, "If it smells like horse hockey and attracts flies—it is." This smells like an entire barnyard. Stop the lies and fund public education.

Alicia Birdwell

Self — proofreader and Texas mom of 3 public school students

Allen, TX

I am NOT in favor of education savings accounts. I am shocked at how Texas is treating its public schools. My children deserve more. Please do not vote yes. Fully fund all our kids.

Daniel Schmidt, Prof.

Self - Cybersecurity

Austin, TX

I am submitting this comment in opposition to Texas House Bill 3 (HB3) because it represents an irresponsible approach to education funding that will harm, not help, the majority of students in this state.

HB3 proposes to take public tax dollars—money that should be used to strengthen public schools, increase teacher pay, and provide students with the resources they need—and instead funnel it into private schools that have no obligation to serve every child. That’s not education reform. That’s robbing Peter to pay Paul, except Paul runs a private school that can pick and choose who gets in, and Peter is left standing in an overcrowded classroom wondering why his district can’t afford updated textbooks.

This bill does not create choice—it creates winners and losers. And we already know who the losers will be. Public school students, particularly those in rural areas, those with disabilities, and those in communities where schools are already underfunded. They will be the ones left behind when resources are pulled away in the name of "choice," a word that in this case really means “opportunity for some, decline for everyone else.”

There is no long-term benefit here. Studies of similar programs in other states have shown no significant academic improvement for students who leave public schools using vouchers. In many cases, their test scores decline. What does improve is the bottom line for private schools that receive public money without being subject to the same oversight as public institutions.

Public education isn’t supposed to be a competition—it’s supposed to be a guarantee. It’s supposed to be the one place where every child, regardless of background or circumstance, gets a fair shot. HB3 undermines that guarantee by shifting taxpayer dollars away from the very system designed to serve all students. If lawmakers are serious about improving education in Texas, they should focus on funding the schools that serve 90% of Texas students, not diverting resources to a private system that lacks accountability and leaves too many families without real options.

For these reasons, I strongly urge legislators to reject HB3 and commit to policies that invest in public education rather than undermine it.

Kathy Weishuhn

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I freely, clearly and adamantly oppose the passage any legislation whether it be called a savings account program or a private school voucher program.

Dalia Wolf

Self

CEDAR PARK, TX

Texas families deserve strong, well-funded public schools — not a system that diverts our tax dollars to private schools with no accountability. Vouchers hurt our kids, our teachers, and our communities. Public dollars should stay in public schools!

Katie Ornelas

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Katie Ornelas and I am a native Texan who has taught in the Austin area public schools for twelve years and have two amazing daughters in the Austin ISD schools. So I am coming to you today as a product of Texas public schools, a teacher of public schools, and a parent in our public schools.

I am opposed to House Bill 3. Public Schools are immensely foundational in our communities. Public schools are where some of your first (and maybe lifelong) friends are made. Where you learn to read, which I believe is the gateway to all learning. Public school is where your horizons are expanded, where ALL learners are accepted, and where our communities come together for plays, sporting events, and Friday night lights.

But sadly, many of our public schools are already struggling to balance a budget, keep class sizes at a reasonable level, and retain teachers. It is a fact that our public schools need more funding not less.

The proposed voucher system is one where only certain people will benefit not the whole community. Even with vouchers in place, some families still can not afford to send their children to private schools even if there is one close to where they live.

Private schools can also reject students based on a variety of factors. This does not benefit all students.

If the draw of vouchers is smaller class sizes, then instead fund public schools to have smaller class sizes. If the draw of vouchers is to provide more school choice, then invest in more magnet schools. If parents think their local public school is not adequately supporting their student, then I encourage a deeper look. Texas ranks as one of the lowest states in our country in educational funding. A history of low funding has created long wait lists for testing children with suspected learning differences, has given teachers raises but not always to keep up with inflation, and have raised class size limits to levels even seasoned teachers struggle to maintain. These problems will only get worse if funding is taken away from our communities. Instead, I beg Texas to support our public schools and support educators so they can do the job they love.

Our schools are amazing places of learning, exploration, the arts, and friendship. If the public schools receive more funding, not less, many of the struggles that currently face our schools would ease. Instead of pushing schools to the breaking point, invest in them and our future.

Vouchers are not for all but will affect all our communities negatively.

Please vote in opposition to this bill and support local teachers and schools. Thank you for your time today and serving Texas.

Erin Lopez

Self

Bridgeport, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. Schools like the small rural one that my children attend will be affected. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Lynn Williams

Public school

Canton, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Abigail Henson
Self, student midwife
HOUSTON, TX

I'm a mother of 3 and use HISD public schools. I DO NOT support school vouchers, as these will only gut our school system, which is currently underfunded. Most Texans do not support school vouchers, and we need our elected representatives to properly stand for us.

Candace Cano
Self/self employed
Mesquite, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future.

Mario Barrera
self
San Antonio, TX

Good afternoon, members of the House Committee on Public Education. My name is Mario Barrera, and I am submitting the following comments with respect to HB 3, relating to the establishment of an education savings account program.

I am currently a practicing attorney with a large international firm. I am based in San Antonio but I also work in the firm's Austin office. As such, I am a member of both the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and the Austin Chamber of Commerce, where I am active in both Chambers' Education committees. And last year, I served as the Chair of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce where supporting public education and improving local workforce development initiatives were my top priorities.

As a proud graduate of Texas public schools, I have long supported our public school system because of its constitutional commitment to providing open and equal access to every Texas child, regardless of their geographic location, socio-economic status and physical/mental abilities. Our public education system is critical to ensuring that we prepare and train our state's future leaders. I could go on as to why my support for public school education puts me directly at odds with our state's efforts to create an education savings account program but I suspect the votes are already there for the creation of this alternative education system and as an attorney and loyal Texan, I have always respected our democratic system.

That said, I strongly urge this Committee to re-examine the current proposed mechanism for setting up ESAs as well as the amount of money committed to that process. In its current form, HB 3 allows participating parents to receive 85% of the estimated statewide average amount of state and local funding per student in average daily attendance for the applicable school year. Not only should the 85% figure be reduced to a maximum of 50%, but the calculation of the "statewide average amount of state and local funding" will be seriously impacted by property wealthy, recapture and poor school districts. Given that the State has refused to increase the basic allotment amount since 2019, the better calculation should be a maximum of 50% of the current basic allotment and specifically exclude any stipend or weighted amounts added, such as those for those students who qualify for free and reduced lunch or those ESL and/or special education students. Finally, the amount slated for the creation of this education savings account program should be greatly reduced to no more than \$200 Million Dollars, with specific educational attainment metrics added to ensure that these taxpayer funds are being expended correctly.

Make no doubt that creating an educational savings account program will directly impact our state's public school system but if our state leaders are bound and determined to create such a system, it should start out as a smaller and less costly pilot program to test the proposed initiatives.

Kimberli Martinez, Dr.

Self

Rowlett, TX

This bill endangered and harms our public school system. This bill only impacts the economically advantage students. This bill does not protect the everyday student it also does not legislate the curriculum being taught at the private school level it does not mandate that they must take students with lesser grades with disability with different learning needs. Private schools currently have the ability to refuse admission to whoever they want. Furthermore the rural areas do not even have access to private schools. So this leaves out a large population in Texas and our school taxes are for all students not just for hundred thousand students or a handful of students. Even if there were enough private schools to go around this does not even come close to covering the tuition which leaves the remainder of the tuition in the pocketbook of those who can afford it. I strongly encourage you to oppose this bill.

Anthony Cacciatore

self

PFLUGERVILLE, TX

I want to express my appreciation for your help in passing SB10 and Prop 9 in 2023. I am a Vietnam Veteran of 11 years that also worked in the medical field for 25 years and then a proud for 19 years. Many of my retired colleagues are struggling with inflation in this country. I am very concerned that HB 3 will take away from TRS contribution rates. So please support to maintain this progress by fully funding contribution rates and to provide an enhancement to offset recent and future inflation. Thank you for your support. Sincerely, Anthony Cacciatore

Kevin Wright
Teacher
Buffalo Gap, TX

As an educator dedicated to the success and well-being of my students at Abilene ISD I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed expansion of school vouchers in Texas. While I understand the intent behind providing families with educational choices, I believe that the implementation of school vouchers may have unintended consequences, particularly for students in low-income communities like the one I serve.

I come to this issue not just as a teacher, but also as someone who has personally benefited from public education. I am a product of Title 1 schools, and I grew up with a single mother who had me when she was just 15 years old. My experiences growing up in a low-income household gave me a firsthand understanding of the challenges that many of our students face today. It was the support of public schools, with dedicated teachers and resources, that gave me the opportunity to succeed and ultimately become an educator myself.

First and foremost, I am concerned that school vouchers could disproportionately benefit wealthier families who already have access to a wide range of educational opportunities. Low-income families, who would need the most support, may not have the resources or flexibility to navigate the private school system, leaving them with limited or no viable alternatives to their current public schools. This could deepen the educational divide between different socioeconomic groups, ultimately hindering efforts to close achievement gaps.

Moreover, diverting public funds to private schools through vouchers risks undermining the quality of education in our public schools. As a teacher in a low-income area, I have witnessed firsthand how essential funding is for the resources, staff, and programs that keep our students on track. The loss of funding to private institutions could weaken public schools, which serve as a lifeline for many students who do not have the means to attend private schools.

Another significant concern is the lack of accountability in private schools compared to public schools. Public schools are required to meet state curriculum standards and participate in standardized assessments, ensuring that students receive a consistent and quality education. However, private schools that receive voucher funds are often not subject to the same rigorous standards, which could result in a disparity in educational quality for students who rely on these programs.

Finally, I am worried that the expansion of school vouchers could exacerbate existing issues of segregation in our schools. With fewer regulations on private schools, there is a real risk that vouchers could lead to increased segregation along socioeconomic and racial lines, leaving disadvantaged students with fewer opportunities for quality education.

I believe that instead of expanding school vouchers, our focus should be on investing in public education—improving the resources, infrastructure, and support systems that are already in place

Vickie Austin
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am a retired Texas teacher, I ask you to please oppose school vouchers and ESA's.
Vouchers will drain funding from all public schools. Taxpayers should not have to pay for private school tuition with no oversight or strings attached. I say keep public funds PUBLIC!
Many rural areas have no private schools to choose from at all! How is that choice?
Taxpayers dollars should be spent on improving public education for all Texas children, not just those whose families can afford to pay the tuition balance once they use their vouchers.
Without a proposal for accountability and transparency with vouchers, taxpayers will not know if their hard earned tax dollars are being spent efficiently and effectively.
Vouchers are risky for students, risky for families, risky for rural Texans, risky for students with special needs, and finally risky for the state education budgets!
Thank you for the work you do for our state.
Vickie Austin

Toni Haines

HB3

Leander, TX

? NO to VOUCHERS! We

Ask for funding to PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

We Ask for \$1300 Basic Allotment per child.

Val McElroy

Self/retired PUBLIC school teacher

Tool, TX

As a retired teacher of Texas Public schools, I urge you to vote NO on HB3. Public money belongs in public schools.

Melinda Huff

self/retired attorney

Boerne, TX

I am very much AGAINST this bill because of the devastating harm it will cause our public schools. If people want to put their children in a private school, they can certainly do that without me, as a taxpayer, having to subsidize it. This bill will disproportionately negatively impact lower income children and further the disparity in per pupil expenditures. Please vote NO to this bill. I sent my child to public school and this bill will result in a huge funding loss to my public school district!

Nisha Rocap

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose the use of public funds for private school tuition. I am a parent of two students in the Austin ISD public school system, and am actively engaged in PTAs of the schools as well as a number of booster organizations supporting school activities. Diverting funds from public schools to partially offset a private school tuition amounts to a subsidy for the wealthy leaving the rest, especially those in rural areas, with less. Strong Public schools are the foundation of our neighborhoods and communities. Those wishing not to participate in public schools have a choice. Just like their taxpayer dollars are used to pay for roads they may not drive on, the public funds to pay for strong public schools should be increased, not stripped for the enrichment of private institutions.

Virginia Shelton

Public education

Haltom City, TX

I oppose school vouchers. Public education is foundational to democracy. Our public education has not been properly funded for years. Gregg Abbotts attempt to force vouchers by starving the public school system is immoral and honestly disgusting, The people of Texas do not want this. Abbott wants this passed because his loyalty has been purchased by rich out donors. Our representatives represent Texas not rich out of state donors. Please defeat the voucher bill and properly support public education.

Leather McCall

Self - Public School Elementary Assistant Principal

PORT LAVACA, TX

While proponents argue that school vouchers promote choice & competition, I want to highlight several reasons why this could ultimately harm the educational system that so many rely on.

1. **Undermining Public Schools:** Our public schools are the backbone of our community. They provide stability and inclusivity, ensuring that all students, regardless of background, receive a quality education. School vouchers divert critical funds from public schools, leaving them underfunded. With fewer resources, public schools will struggle to maintain essential programs, increase class sizes, and retain qualified teachers. This reduces the quality of education for all students, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

2. **Increased Segregation & Inequality:** School vouchers risk exacerbating segregation by allowing wealthier families to choose private schools that may not be accessible to lower-income families. Private schools are not always required to serve students with disabilities, English language learners, or students from diverse backgrounds, which could lead to more segregated educational environments. This undermines the principle of equity in education, leaving marginalized students in overburdened public schools with fewer resources.

3. **Lack of Accountability:** Unlike public schools, private schools that accept voucher students are often not subject to the same oversight and accountability. Public schools are required to meet state and federal standards, ensuring all students receive a fair education. Private schools, however, are not bound by the same rules, meaning there is no guarantee they will provide an education that meets the needs of all students. This lack of accountability puts students at risk, as private institutions may not be equipped to support those with diverse academic or developmental needs.

4. **Erosion of Community Cohesion:** Public schools play a central role in fostering community connections, bringing together families, local organizations, and students from all walks of life. If vouchers lead to a significant portion of students leaving for private schools, it could weaken these community ties. Public schools with fewer resources and students will find it harder to offer extracurricular activities, maintain facilities, and support a vibrant school culture, which in turn harms the overall sense of unity in our community.

5. **Lack of Evidence for Success:** Despite the claims that school vouchers improve educational outcomes, the evidence supporting this is limited. Research shows that many students using vouchers do not experience significant academic improvements, and some even show worse results. Instead of diverting funds away from public schools with uncertain results, we should focus on investing in and strengthening the schools that serve our community.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and instead focus on supporting and improving our public schools. Our children deserve an education system that works for everyone.

donna pound Pound

Self, Board Certified Behavior Analyst

Fort Worth, TX

I have been working in education for 16 years. Our schools are suffering due to funding being withheld for political agendas. Our kids and teachers are suffering while getting suboptimal educations. Please Vote no to school choice/voucher system. The children of Texas should not be turned into a commodity. Invest in all students. Our booming economy needs a well educated workforce that starts in our public schools. It is a conflict of interest when outside doners can buy our governor by paying him a huge donation.

Please vote no and focus your attention into funding the public school system before it fails due to lack of funding!

Julia Gutierrez

Self

Lubbock, TX

I do not support the school voucher program. This bill will further defund our already woefully funded public schools and give yet another leg up to students who don't need it. Political greed should not be funded on the backs of children!

Melissa Knight, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

NO to HB 3. We must fund and protect public education for ALL Texans. ALL of our children deserve access to education. These funds must be directed to public education, not taken away. Our children's future depends on quality public education today and always. NO to HB 3

Jennifer Erickson

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Texans need public education fully funded and supported. Public money should not be diverted from our public schools where all students are served. Rather than wasting public dollars on vouchers/savings accounts please fully fund public education and change from ADA to annual enrollment calculations like most other states. If Texas wants to stay strong, we must invest in public education.

Casey Lynne

Self/self employed

Austin, TX

I, and every other parent I know in this state are vehemently OPPOSED to HB3. We see through this nonsense and know that it is nothing more than a way to defund public schools and leave Texas kids even further behind than they already are. The rich don't need their kids' private education subsidized. Everyday hardworking average and low income families NEED robustly funded public schools to provide their kids with the education and support they need to thrive. Stop embarrassing us and stand up for what is right. VOTE NO ON HB3.

Kaylea Haas

Self

Huntsville, TX

I heavily oppose this House Bill. The consequences of this passing will be enormous to those in marginalized communities such as foster children, children in impoverished homes, and families who cannot homeschool or privatize their education because of jobs or funding. This will also impact teachers who have worked incredibly hard in their profession to teach children in title 1 schools or any other public school. I know teachers who have taught for 25 years who think this would severely cut already nonexistent budgets for public education, which should be equitable to all children regardless of the school they attend. Funding already heavily funded schools such as private institutions would be a disservice to our future generations.

Alexandra Martin

Self - public school parent and nonprofit executive in the Education sector

Benbrook, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3, which seeks to use public funds for private school vouchers. This bill threatens to divert critical resources away from our public schools, undermining the quality of education for the vast majority of Texas students.

Texas already offers school choice through public, charter, private, and homeschooling options. However, vouchers do not cover the full cost of most private schools, making them inaccessible to many low-income families. The additional expenses—including tuition gaps, meal plans (as private schools do not offer free/reduced lunch), transportation, and after-school care—place an overwhelming financial burden on families who rely on public education for these essential services. Rather than expanding school vouchers that primarily benefit a select few, we should focus on investing in our public schools to address existing challenges and ensure quality education for all students.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of this bill and to stand in support of public education by rejecting HB 3. Let's strengthen our public schools instead of stripping them of more funding.

Susan Morrison, Mrs.

Self and neighbors

Austin, TX

I'm against this School Voucher scam to rip off taxpayers by giving public funds to private schools. Public schools were established in our Texas Constitution and this legislation is unconstitutional. The sticker price is too expensive and I will vote against all Republicans who vote for it.

Elizabeth LeSavage

self public school teacher in Ingram ISD

Kerrville, TX

As a 24 year teacher in public education, please vote NO to vouchers. Students that I have had that move in from our local private schools are incredibly behind in academics. It is frustrating the public education is held to such a high standard of teaching the TEKS and private schools are not. I am all for revamping public education to meet more of today's needs. Focus on how we can improve public education for ALL. I have not heard much talk about how we can improve how education is handled in Texas, much less in the U.S. Vouchers are NOT the way to go. \$10,000 would hardly cover private schools where I live and certainly not in the larger cities of Texas. I am barely middle class and a voucher would not be usable for me because I have no extra funds to add. Public education is a right and should be improved to meet today's industry needs. Please vote NO- be regards

Terry Moreno

Self

AUSTIN, TX

NOT IN FAVOR OF SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Lauri Wiss, Taxpayer

Self, retired

Commerce, TX

Dear Representative,

I am a taxpayer. This hearing raises more questions than answers.
There has been a priority theoretically for special education students.

I am opposed to the 85% figure because the cost of per student expenses in public schools includes revenues from federal and local revenues along with Title 1, 504, IDEA, ESSA monies. Bond money is also available to public school districts and is included in cost per student.

The cost per student in a private school should not be based on a public school's cost. This would be a massive giveaway to private schools from public school funding. The state constitution prohibits using oil money for private schools.

Using block grant money from the federal Government to fund private school tuition rather than it all going to public school education would be illegal and immoral.

I am against piggybacking non disabled children with a family whose disabled child was the reason for admission. Those children would be taken out of order.

Just what percentage of the enrollment is needed to be considered for a special needs private school to receive state money?

What happens if there aren't enough special needs children who can progress in the school because a private school can't or won't teach what the child needs?

Does that mean most other incomes become eligible in the second year but can't afford??

Now, let us see if this bill meets the ability for special needs and low income children's academic needs can to be met in a private school setting.

An IEP must be done to determine if a child is academically disabled.

This costs approximately \$1000-\$2500 in the real world. It is indefensible to use public funds for assessments for entry to a private school. There is a shortage of professionals who are under contracts with the school district for IEPs. If there is money, it should be used for more IEPs for public school students.

How will state money be given if the child hasn't been determined to be academically disabled?

This can only be possible if an assessment can be afforded by the parent. Therefore, this is not a low to middle income program.

Additionally, private schools specializing in special needs education require the parent to go through a loan program to ensure that fees can be paid PRIOR to acceptance.

What happens if the family doesn't qualify for a loan for amounts over the school tuition?

What happens if the child cannot stay in the program and needs to go back to public school?

So, the admission is only possible if a person qualifies for a loan.

The child is determined to be academically disabled. S/he applied and did qualify for a loan. Now, there is a requirement by the school to pay everything in two payments. The State sends the money.

Six weeks later the family is told the child is not a good fit, regardless of the reason. The loan must be repaid even if the child is not a good fit for the school.

The parent is on the hook for the tuition!

Lauri Wiss

Kristin Castano, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

I absolutely do NOT approve of or support school vouchers. I oppose this bill, both as an educator and a parent.

RoseAnne Franco, Ms

Self, Director

Austin, TX

My name is RoseAnne Franco and I reside in Austin

I am a parent of a child in public school, I am a PRODUCT of public schools and I'm a PROUD SISTER of a public school teacher and Coach in the Dallas Independent School District.

I'm here to strongly oppose HB 3

I am a child of immigrants. I'm a child of a single working mother, due to divorce. My brother and I were raised in the Love Field neighborhood in Dallas – a very working class area of the city.

I attended Maple Lawn Elementary (just about 2 miles from Love Field Airport), Spence Academy, and the Talented and Gifted Magnet - ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS funded by TAXPAYERS

I was accepted at the University of Texas at Austin – just a mile up the road from us.

And then I was accepted to Georgetown University in Washington, DC where I completed my Master's degree in Foreign Service. All thanks to a stellar public education I received here in Texas.

I have a 11 year old daughter – she attends Kealing Magnet School, just on the other side of I-35. She's one of at least 300 kids that are bused daily to Kealing by choice from their local neighborhood; my husband and I firmly believe in public education.

But I don't know if she's getting as good of an education as I did 35 years ago –

they have a math teacher who left in the Fall for a better paying position in California and just got replaced over the last month; the kids were left with a substitute teacher and videos for months. Our public schools need more money, not less.

Chair and distinguished representatives, we are talking about our CHILDREN, the FUTURE of this state. And the fact that this bill would forego funding that could be spent on them in public schools and allocate it towards a select few students and private schools.

And the fact that CHILDREN in RURAL COUNTIES would be hurt the most as most private schools where these vouchers could be used are actually in the cities.

So I strongly urge you to vote against HB 3 and in favor of our children. THANK YOU

Teresa Martinez

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose education savings account programs and encourage you not to pass this bill out of committee or vote favorably for any bill that provides this type of program in Texas. Fund public schools instead!

Shonda Snyder

Self, Preschool Operations Specialist

Conroe, TX

I as a parent of children in a Texas school district where the schools are busting at the seams, the teachers are underpaid & have no say so in their classrooms, I vote NO for school vouchers. Abbott needs to fully fund public schools, so they can have the funds and tools necessary to do the job they love and signed up for. There are more children who would benefit from fully funded public school education than just a few rich kids whose parents get assistance from the government and tax payers to pay for their kids private school tuition. If we have to pay school taxes, then we should get to say where the money goes. Abbott holding public school funding hostage until his ridiculous HB3 bill is passed is completely absurd! All of the parents I've spoken to regarding this bill, all agree - NO VOUCHERS!! NO VOUCHERS! NO VOUCHERS!! FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS!! PUBLIC SCHOOLS BENEFIT MORE CHILDREN, NO VOUCHERS!!

Jamie Lewis
Self
SAN Antonio, TX

I disagree with the entire effort to support "SchoolChoice" . My preference would be more investment, SMART investment in our public schools and an equal education that affected every student. Just say no to this effort, please

Sheer Nisman
self
Austin, TX

I am writing this comment to express my position as a parent. I attended Texas public schools as a child, and now my children do as well. I am a firm believer in the value of a strong public school system. This is the most important thing we can do as a society to improve the future for our children, our communities, our state, and our country. Our money should be going toward improving public schools to make them the best places to learn, to teach, and to grow. I am strongly opposed to the use of my tax dollars for private schooling. Private schools are available for parents who wish to seek out that option for their children, but I do not want to pay for it. The money from our communities should go back into educating our communities in a fair way, and that is done through public school. It is the most ethical and appropriate way to educate our future leaders. Please do not allow this bill to pass. This will only hurt public schools, teachers, students, and our strength as a community. Instead of hurting public schools, we can strengthen them. The best way to do this is by increasing the basic student allotment. Imagine how much better our public schools would be if they received the funding they needed to provide the best education to our children! I know this can happen, and it must happen.

Joseph Lunstrum
Self/ insurance
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 3rd generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Samantha Hernandez
Texas freedom network, unemployed
El Paso, TX

I oppose this bill. Higher income parents don't need a hand out to keep their money, public schools should have every chance to thrive and taking that funding will affect the future generations of Texans. If we don't have a level playing field for all Texas students, public educated students will be poised to seek lower wage jobs in effect hurting the advancements made in this country. Keep public schools funded, the wages we make as Texas residents should only fund public schools. Increase their funds to attract and keep teachers and give them proper resources to educate.

Chris Mott
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose the adoption of vouchers for private schools.

Meghan Doman

Self

Austin, TX

The people of Texas have shown multiple times that we do not support school vouchers. This bill does not help every day Texans and only further diverts funding from our underfunded public schools. I am more than happy for my tax dollars to support access to education for all students regardless of their income and background what I am not okay with is diverting funding from public schools that can support accessible education, increasing teacher pay and educational resources so that the wealth gap in this state is further exacerbated by pushing funding into private and charter schools with already wealthy donors and high tuition. I urge this session and our representatives to vote in the best interest of ALL Texans not just a few rich donors or because Greg Abbott didn't get his way.

Lorena Waits

Self-nurse

Willow Park, TX

Do not pass this please. I look forward to sending my child to a public school and cannot afford anymore cuts to public school funding. I would also like my property taxes to decrease and not increase more. A private school education is a choice and a taxpayer should not have to fund it.

Candace Smith

Self

Richkond, TX

I am not in support of any school voucher program. You are wasting our time and doing our great state a disservice spending time on bills like this instead of listening to teachers and creating real policy based off of actual day-to-day classroom experiences.

We could be addressing the failings of no child left behind, standardized testing, teacher reporting workload, student/teacher ratios, or any number of directly actionable items that would effect real and immediate change on the quality of our children's education.

Get your priorities straight.

Benjamin Catterton

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill firmly and I will fund the opponents of any member of the house legislature that support it. This school voucher scam will defund public schools and funnel tax payer dollars to the wealthiest in our great state. This bill is anti-education and anti-family.

Michele Warren

self

Nevada, TX

Please vote to SAVE public education!

Katharin Brinegar

Self - Administrative coordinator

Benbrook, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a parent whose entire family is the product of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Lisa Kammaz
Self
Mansfield, TX

PLEASE sign and share voting today or tomorrow!!!! We need to protect our public schools and the children!

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Mel Middleton
myself, my students, and my 5 nephews
Spring, TX

It is unacceptable that the voucher will be for significantly more money than the per-pupil allotment for public schools. My nephews (and students) shouldn't be worth \$3500 more at a private school. I will only support vouchers if they are for the same dollar amount as per pupil allotment (currently \$6160).

Antonio Young
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

The mistake of a possible voucher program cannot be under stated. This program would increase the education gap by making it more difficult for rural, middle and low-income families. Teachers in public schools should have better incentive and income to stay at their schools with all the proper resources to do the jobs well. Additionally, those with developmental difficulties will be even further left behind. A voucher program seems to be a way to benefit the minority and not those who really should be receiving the assistance.

Esther Marsden
Self
Austin, TX

I STRONGLY oppose vouchers for Texas schools. This takes much needed funding away from already under funded public schools and funnels it towards private schools and families who already have access to additional education resources. The money spent per student in Texas public schools is already insufficient to meet students needs. I OPPOSE this bill

George Frey
self
Houston, TX

I oppose HB3 because public pay for private vouchers is unAmerican and abuse of government funds.

Julie Chandler
Personal interest
Mineola, TX

Texas public schools need to be fully funded, and taxpayer money should NOT be spent to subsidize private schools for only some of Texas's children. HB 3 would take money away from public education and fund programs with no oversight as to what is being taught. This may seem like a good idea to some who want their children taught Christian values in school, but what is to keep an unfit organization from taking the tax dollars of Texans and using it to push an agenda that is unregulated? It is the duty of the government of the state of Texas to make sure that public money is used to improve the education of its citizen and not just those who want a private education paid for by the state. It is also not the job of legislators to decide which companies will get contracts to open private charter schools to profit from the state on the backs of the citizens of Texas. Please listen to your constituents and vote NO on a school voucher program in Texas.

Stacy Archer
Self - public school teacher
Hickory Creek, TX

I strongly disagree with HB3. I am in my 13th year as a public school teacher. It is extremely disheartening to work tirelessly to educate ALL children and to feel such a huge lack of support from the leaders of our state. It is also so sad to want to vote republican but have to do otherwise because our republican candidates are not representing ALL people and are only focused on pushing specific agendas that help the wealthy. I am a dedicated Christian who believes strongly in the public school system. I am not scared of it nor do I think we have to provide funding as a state to help people "get out of" public education. That's not the government's job. The government should be pouring money, resources, time, support and energy INTO helping support their public schools. Instead we settle for being one of the lowest ranked states year after year. Our government sees that & decides to punish us?! Instead of come along side us and empower us?? You want to know a good way to further decline the quality of our public schools? Show your public schools teachers, admin, leaders that you do not believe in them and that what they do is not worth your money. That's what is loudly being shown to us as Texas public school educators. Worse than that, you have used OUR public school money as bait. A pawn to help your voucher system pass. You have held onto money that schools have NEEDED the past several years out of selfishness and a complete lack of love for the people of your state that you have vowed to lead well. Instead you are choosing to help a tiny demographic of people pay a little less to go to their school of choice. Again, I am strongly against HB 3. I hope you are listening to ALL of your Texas citizens, not just the ones that agree with you and personally would benefit from this bill.

Nicole Peffley
Self Educator
Houston, TX

This bill is just a subsidy for students already going to private school. Students can't attend private schools for only \$10,000. They are way more expensive than that. The average household STILL won't be able to send their kids to private school be sude of this. This bill caters to the rich who don't need this \$10,000.

Olivia Havens, Ms

Self, student

Austin, TX

Do not fall for this voucher scam. It will not help impoverished or low income students get access to private schools. It will only make it easier for those who can already afford it and take away valuable resources from our public schools. I am sick of living in a state that does not value our public schools and takes advantage of the poor and uneducated. Slowly draining our public schools of necessary funding only to sow distrust in public education is one of the most sinister ploys our government has tried. All children should be entitled to a free, well funded, high quality education. Put money into our public schools, not voucher scams.

Diana West

Self-stay at home mom

Little Elm, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Catherine L Moore, Ms

Self

Carrollton, TX

Education Savings accounts are not good for Texas. They will further undermine a public school system already massively under supported and over regulated at the state level. They will benefit very few students, if any, and millions of other students will suffer because of them. Public school is the cornerstone of a well educated public, which is the only path to a strong republic. Texas students deserve highly qualified teachers, allowed to exercise their expertise in each unique classroom. They deserve to be released from the expensive and harmful STAAR testing. They deserve safe schools to learn in. They do not deserve to have money taken from them, the many, to serve the few, and line the pockets of those private citizens who serve to profit from literally stealing education from children.

Emily Kaszczuk

Self/parent

Leander, TX

I am writing with a comment regarding the average cost of private schools in Texas which was stated to be \$9,400. How was this figure determined? I am looking at the current issue of Community Impact sent to my home in Leander. This issue contains an article about private schools in Cedar Park, Far Northwest Austin, Leander, and Liberty Hill. Over twenty private schools are listed and none offer annual tuition below \$12,000 per year. One school reports that their annual tuition is \$25,000. These costs are much higher than the suggested ESA allowance. As a parent, if I do not wish to choose private schools for that reason, may I instead request that an additional \$10,000 be allocated to the school of my choice?

Is the goal of this bill to subsidize private school tuition for students already attending or is the goal to increase the ability of students who currently attend public school to access private school? If the goal is to make the choice of private school attainable for more Texas families, the bill should address the following barriers to attending private schools.

1. Will the bill mandate that the private schools accept any/all students who have been selected to receive the voucher?
2. Will the bill mandate that the private schools waive the remainder of the fee for families who cannot afford all the costs beyond the ESA value?
3. Will the bill mandate that the private schools retain admitted students for the duration of their educational career?
4. Will the bill mandate that all IEP/504 needs are met by the private schools?
5. Will the bill mandate that the private schools be accountable to the state in terms of how the ESA funds are spent?
6. Will the bill mandate that the private schools be accountable to the state in terms of student achievement or outcomes?
7. Will the bill mandate that a private schools be physically accessible for every student? This is includes the private schools existing at a reasonable distance from the child's home and that transportation be provided so that students are able to get to said school building.

If private schools are not going to be mandated to meet the above criteria, the bill fails to make private school a realistic, achievable choice for parents. Instead, the bill makes the choice of attending private school a theoretical one that will not work in practice for most families. Instead the bill will subsidize private school tuition/fees for parents who have already made the choice for their children to attend private schools.

Katrinka Hansen, TSgt

Self

San Antonio, TX

Voucher bill. Don't use taxpayer money for vouchers.

Kira Rodriguez

Self/self

College station, TX

The proposed voucher program in Texas is marketed as “school choice,” but the reality is that it will strip funding from already underfunded public schools, widen inequities, and benefit private institutions with little to no accountability. While using public funds for private or homeschooling may sound appealing, the long-term consequences for public education—and the vast majority of students who rely on it—are devastating.

Public schools are funded through state and local taxes, with money allocated based on enrollment. When a student leaves a public school for a private one using a state-funded voucher, the money follows the student, but the school’s costs remain. Teacher salaries, facility maintenance, transportation, and special education services do not decrease when students leave. Schools are forced to operate with fewer resources while still being expected to provide the same quality of education. Texas public schools are already underfunded. Instead of improving them, this program drains even more money away. Teachers are overworked, class sizes are growing, and intervention services are stretched thin. Rather than addressing these issues, lawmakers are prioritizing a program that benefits private institutions at the expense of public education.

Public schools must meet strict state and federal accountability standards. They are required to provide special education services, follow nondiscrimination policies, and be transparent with their finances. Private schools, however, do not have the same obligations. They can reject students with disabilities, behavioral challenges, or those who do not align with their ideological beliefs. Vouchers would allow public funds to support schools that are not required to serve all students. If public money is being used for education, it should come with the same accountability as public schools. But under the voucher system, tax dollars can be funneled into private institutions that do not have to disclose how funds are spent, meet state curriculum standards, or employ certified teachers. This is not school choice—it’s taxpayer-funded discrimination. Voucher programs harm rural and low-income communities the most. Many Texas students do not have private schools nearby, meaning these families will not benefit. Rural families depend on public education, and when funding is taken away, their schools are left with even fewer resources. Wealthier, urban families are the ones who stand to gain. The amount provided by vouchers often does not cover full private school tuition. Many families will find that they still cannot afford private education, yet their local public school will have fewer resources due to lost funding. This will only widen the gap between privileged and disadvantaged students. The long-term goal of voucher programs is clear: to dismantle public education. Vouchers are not about choice. They’re diverting public money into private hands, eroding public schools, and deepening inequities

Deanna farris

Kennedale ISD

fort worth, TX

Parents should be able to make a choice, but they should also be able to be held accountable for homeschools along with the charter schools. Also, they should have the money divided into the number of students at each location.

Suzy Lofton Bullis, Dr.

Self

Round Rock, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3. I am absolutely appalled at the thought of the legislature misappropriating my tax dollars in order to fund private interests. Public schools are grossly underfunded and any and all funds that can be directed to public education should. The basic allotment should be raised at least \$1,300. If Texas wants to be the leader for something, it should be public education. If my representative votes in favor of this, you can rest assured that there will be t-shirts, billboards, bumper stickers, and a massive online campaign to ensure that her constituents know that she supported this wildly unpopular donor-funded scheme. Put Texans FIRST.

Holly Rodriguez, Mrs

Self

San Antonio, TX

The voucher program will not only benefit families who can already afford private school but will also hurt the families who cannot afford private school by defunding public schools. As a child I benefited from Texas public schools and as a mother my children have gotten so much more out of their local public schools than the private schools. Passing HB 3 would effectively bankrupt the educational experience in Texas, making us fall behind in comparison to neighboring states and resulting in a workforce that cannot meet the needs of the evolving Texas economy.

Robin Ratcliff

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I have two little boys in public school in Austin. They're in third grade -- which means, they have 9 years to go in Texas public school. I really hope the house votes against the ESA plan. It will not help us afford private school and will just undermine our public school. Please -- my kids' educational future is depending on you to vote no on this. And their teachers -- a lot of hardworking, passionate and well-educated people who have dedicated their lives to helping our young people -- are asking you to support them and our schools.

Ashley Riseman

Self

Buda, TX

As a product of the Texas public education system as well as a parent of a student in our school system, I vehemently oppose any voucher program for Texas schools. This is clearly a move to eliminate lower income area schools and opportunities. As well as being a grab for Christian Nationalist to control the curriculum taught to students. In spite of our current Administrations assurances this is not a Christian country. We were founded on the separation of church and state and the right to freedom from religious persecution. This is a push to create a labor force our lower income children. It is disgusting and history will show it as such. No to school vouchers. No to religious indoctrination of our children. No to the furthering of the fascist takeover of our democracy.

Laura Lavey
Self - Marketing
Dallas, TX

My name is Laura Lavey and I am the parent of three girls in RISD in Dallas. We specifically moved to this area because of the excellent public schools. We love our neighborhood which has a strong community of parents who are invested in the school, and love being able to walk our kids to school and know other children in the area.

Although we make a decent six-figure income we cannot afford private schools (that can accommodate Jewish students) in the Dallas metro area. In addition, private schools are over \$30k per student, inconvenient for two full-time working parents, and difficult to get into. We enjoy living in the same neighborhood as our school and private schools have kids from all over the city.

I am not in support HB3 "School Choice" vouchers and urge you to vote no for it. Parents already have a choice where they can send their children.

In public schools there are fundamental programs and operational costs that need funding the schools per student and school vouchers undermine the public school system and will; bankrupt it. RISD is already in a 14.8 million dollar deficit. The budgeted amount is less than it costs to educate a child in public school. You should focus on improving public education and fully funding your schools. Renovate and update schools, make smaller class sizes, offer more extracurricular programs, increase AP and IB schools, improve your special ed and programs for kids with ADHD and autism, and lastly invest in universal Pre-K. Private schools already benefit from funding from wealthy benefactors, alumni, and the religious institutions associated with them. Public schools do not.

The school voucher program will disproportionately affect lower-income families and kids with disabilities. Education is instrumental in raising these children out of poverty and children with learning differences are often left behind by private schools. More than half of Texas counties, or 158 out of 254, do not have private schools, and rural communities in particular would be at a disadvantage. Additionally, If the Department of Education is going to be defunded then that will affect Title 1 schools

This voucher program removes money from public schools and puts it into private schools. It only benefits wealthy and predominantly white Christian students, who are already sending their kids to private school. Additionally, there is no plan to make these schools accountable if public money is going to go into them. Similar programs have already been implemented in other states and it has not improved education. Instead, the private schools raised their tuition.

I ask you to put Texas families first by NOT supporting HB3. Together, we can ensure our students receive the best public education by funding and improving our schools.

Thank you.
Laura Lavey

Stephen Fischer
self
Galveston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

I respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 I support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you for remembering you work for the people and not for private schools.

Kindly,
Stephen L Fischer

Sherry Johnson

I am representing myself. I am a retired teacher.

Cedar Park, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. The amount being given per student is more for private schools than it is for public schools, and this does not seem right. I do not want my tax dollars to go to support those going to private schools as they are not held to the same standards as public schools. Private schools do not have to accept all students and can ask them to leave at any time. I feel that the intention of the voucher system will be not actually be accomplished with this bill. The gap between what a private school costs and what middle- or low-income students can afford will be too much. It will definitely take money away from public schools and districts will be forced to raise the tax base which will increase my taxes. They will also have to cut positions and programs in order to operate. Those benefitting from this bill will be the more affluent who are already sending their children to private schools as they will get a \$10,000 discount in what they are paying. Private schools will continue to raise their tuition and then the amount given would not come near the cost for most middle- and low-income students to attend. I would rather have these funds put into making public schools better. This school choice bill will have severe implications for Texas teachers and schools.

Melinda Marder

Self/ retired teacher

Mabank, TX

I strongly oppose this bill.

Elizabeth Manning, Dr

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

I am not for any program that takes money away from public school funding.

Martha Albright

Self / Homemaker

Fort Worth, TX

I do *not* support school vouchers. Do not defund our public schools! My children go to private school and it is ludicrous for us to receive a kickback. Do not harm rural schools. "School choice" is a scam!

Alisha Weskamp

Self

Austin, TX

Our State doesn't need a voucher system. Most people couldn't afford to send their kids to private schools with the vouchers. Keep our money in public schools where it belongs, with the kids who need it.

Margaret Marie Welch

Self

TOMBALL, TX

I homeschool and I oppose HB-3. I already have school choice which I exercise as I have chosen to homeschool for the past 13+ years. I feel that a voucher system is not needed and would harm public schools.

Meggie Hunter
Self
Shallowater, TX

Vouchers are detrimental to the Texas education system because they divert public funds away from already underfunded public schools, exacerbating inequities and reducing resources for the vast majority of students. Instead of improving education for all, vouchers primarily benefit private schools that lack accountability and can selectively admit students, often leaving behind those with special needs or from low-income backgrounds. This weakens the public education system, which serves as the backbone of Texas communities, and prioritizes private interests over the common good.

Daniel Robinson
Self
Richmond, TX

Texas House Bill 3 is being sold as a way to improve education, but in reality, it's a direct threat to our public school funding. This bill shifts financial responsibility onto local districts without providing the necessary state support, leaving schools struggling to cover basic needs.

For parents, this means fewer resources for students—larger class sizes, outdated materials, and cuts to essential programs. For teachers, it means stagnant wages and heavier workloads, driving more of them out of the profession. And for taxpayers, it means higher property taxes to make up for the funding shortfall.

Instead of pushing unfunded mandates, our legislators should be fully funding public education and ensuring every Texas student has access to quality learning opportunities. Our kids deserve better.

Jacqueline Serrano
Self
Spring, TX

School vouchers will help the people that do not need the help, leaving the ones that do, helpless. The public system is in CRITICAL need of funding You KNOW we don't want it, WHY keep pushing it, wasting time, effort, money, man power and other resorces?? Take that money and FUND the PUBLIC SCHOOLS!!! NO VOUCHERS, NO SCHOOL CHOICE!!!

Catherine Chaumont
Self, dentist
Fort Worth, TX

As a parent of children who have attended private and public schools in Fort Worth ISD and as a daughter of a former Texas teacher, I am strongly against HB 3. I oppose any and all voucher bills which will strip money from our neighborhood schools and will funnel that money to unaccountable private and religious schools. Our schools are struggling to hire certified teachers and we are already 44th in the nation for education. If the majority of Texans have access to and will be in public schools, our tax dollars should support the readily available and accessible schools that serve the majority of our population. Our past and current educators who have poured themselves into their students and schools deserve to receive full TRS benefits and this bill does not address concerns over decreased contributions that would likely occur if implemented. There are very few children who would benefit from this bill. It is our duty to serve the majority of Texans, not the privileged few who would be able to access private schools for their education. We know that wealthy families will largely be the ones who benefit the most from this bill as they have the means to make up the cost between the value of the voucher and actual cost of tuition and other charges at private schools. As a person of faith, I implore our representatives to focus on what will best serve the least of these and HB 3 does not do that. Thank you for your time.

Janette Groves
Self retired
Spring, TX

I do NOT support this, as school choice is already available, and taxpayer funds should not be directed to private education. Our public schools need more funding.

Amy Geppert
self, office manager
Austin, TX

I am against this bill. It will negatively impact our public school's funding and could lead to financial instability for school districts and reduce resources for them to use towards education of our students. This will certainly not attract quality teachers because districts are not able to pay competitively. I am also very concerned about children that need special resources and how they would not be supported properly at a private school. Please reject this voucher system and invest in our current schools! Thank you.

Emily Wilkinson, Dr.
self
LUBBOCK, TX

Vouchers will damage public education in Texas and hurt our citizens by creating an environment where educational disparities will widen. Students who are in need of special education services will have less resources available to them as private schools can turn students away at will, while public schools strive to serve all students. Vouchers are expensive and will take away much needed funding from our already neglected public schools. As more and more mandates are put on public schools, they have not been provided with an increase in funding to address these mandates. The state has already set them up for failure and this will continue to get worse as additional funding is pulled away from public schools. Public schools are accountable for how they spend tax payer money, however a private school is not. I do not want my taxes to go towards a school with no accountability to the public. It should only be spent on those public schools who have an obligation to serve their public. Vouchers should NOT be passed in Texas.

Charles Barrow
Self
Cypress, TX
No vouchers

Tiera Hall
Self, project manager
Fort Worth, TX

My name is Tiera Hall, a resident of Fort Worth, Texas. As a child that grew up in the public school system, I feel that my life has been enriched by the education and experiences I received. Not to give the illusion of perfection; there were teachers that were ineffectual and staff that were unsupportive, but the majority were there to praise and encourage students to their own successes. As an adult I served in the PTA as a volunteer, PTA president and went on school trips, including twice to our great state capitol. I am disappointed and enraged that this voucher movement is putting money before students and privilege before the education of the least of these. It is my opinion that the range and quality of the curriculum has been, and will continue to, fall if this bill passes. Public schools have already been undermined to reflect the current Governor's donors, greed and personal views and has stripped the schools from much needed funds. My concerns are in no way partisan and in fact are based on my experiences and thoughtful consideration I denounce the implementation of school vouchers and implore you to imagine the repercussions of your actions for generations to come.

Cathy Ewert
self, educator
Rorchelle, TX

I am against using tax payer dollars to fund an educational savings account program for "school choice". Parents can and do take their children to private schools if they are accepted, to charter schools, to home school and they may also apply to transfer to a different school district if they believe a neighboring district will better educate their child.

We have far too many "homeschoolers" in McCulloch County who are more "homed" than "home schooled". With no checks and balances that are consistent with the public school system, this saving account program is not equitable. In Texas, testing is such a huge issue, if tax dollars are funding a child to go a different route, shouldn't they have to show the same progress?

In our little county we have three Independent School Districts. Brady is a small 3A school and Lohn and Rochelle are 1A schools. We have students that transfer around a bit to find their fit and some students find the school where they are comfortable and their engagement increases dramatically. At this time out of district transfers are only accepted if the child is not a behavior problem. As our sand plant industry has subsided, our student population has dropped over the past ten years. The voucher program would not do anything to help this situation. Small schools that are located in small towns across the state stand to be hurt by this bill. At the small school level, there is no extra money to go around. Economies of scale are a real thing at this level, I have noticed that Rochelle has a much harder time paying for everything with the state allotment than Brady. But even 15 kids will hurt Brady noticeably.

I am afraid that this bill will do more than harm public schools, it will also harm the communities they are located in. Have you noticed how activities in small towns are based around the school? High School football for example. Imagine how the Voucher system can hurt that. Right now, Texas is one of the few states where the public schools are the best in the state in Football. What will happen once there is a way to fund Charter or Private schools to play football with no checks and balances on what they may actually be teaching the students?

Thank you for your time, Cathy Ewert

Villalon Alyssa
Mom's everywhere
Austin, TX

I do not support this bill

Elizabeth L Bosquez
Self
Cypress, TX

I oppose school vouchers. Fully fund our public schools. Maintain a separation between church and state. Vouchers have not worked, they do not improve education, and they are not what Texans want for our children. Rural counties often do not even have private school options so this is clearly not going to improve education outcomes for everyone. Put this to the ballot and let Texans vote.

Nicole C
Self
Conroe, TX

I oppose this bill, as a homeschooling mom of 5. Please respect the right to let us educate our own children.

Carole Somers-Clark
Self
Dallas, TX

Please vote to protect funding for public education. Do not fund vouchers that fail to support all of us.

Ashley McKibbin
self/operations manager
Bayou Vista, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the public school voucher bill currently under consideration. The stories I am hearing from family and friends that are teachers are astounding. Positions being cut due to funding issues are causing public schools to lose really great teachers because of the lack of resources. My children attend public schools because we can't afford the private schools available. With the voucher program, we still will not be able to afford these private schools, so our kids will still be in public school with fewer resources and aids.

While proponents claim that vouchers expand school choice, the reality is that they divert critical taxpayer dollars away from our already underfunded public schools—schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children.

Public funds should be used to support public education, not subsidize private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards. Unlike public schools, private institutions can selectively admit students, discriminate based on income or ability, and operate without the transparency required of taxpayer-funded entities. The voucher program would ultimately widen educational disparities, benefiting wealthier families while leaving behind students in rural and low-income communities who have no access to private schooling options.

Texas public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing education, meals, special services, and support for all children, regardless of their background or challenges. Instead of siphoning funds away, we should be investing in teacher salaries, infrastructure, and classroom resources to ensure every child receives a quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas families, teachers, and students by voting against this harmful bill. Protect our public schools—our children's future depends on it.

Sincerely,
Ashley McKibbin

Mary Hoover
Self
Austin, TX

Do not vote for this, it will destroy public schools.

Jaimee Straley
self
Richardson, TX

This bill is bad for Texans and it's bad for Texas. Public education is the price we pay to have a functioning society and a strong middle class. I have seen the information coming out of the governor's office about this bill, but it is not consistent with the history of vouchers in other states, nor is it consistent with the facts of the bill. The reality is that vouchers will weaken public schools, where the majority of Texas children are educated. If history tells us anything, which it usually does (we should try learning from it), vouchers will do one or both of the following - allow families who can already afford to send their kids to public school to have additional funds, or increase the price of private schools.

Giving MORE state dollars to send to private institutions per child than to public schools is just wrong. Public schools are already underfunded. We're already losing public schools and programs at public schools due to recapture and holding funds hostage for this bill. Public funds should go to public schools ONLY. Period.

I don't disagree that public schools aren't serving all kids and it would be great to expand services to help with that. With the funds that are being held, recapture dollars, and the funds that will be used for this bill. There has been a lot of research on how to increase outcomes in public education. Implementing some of these ideas is much more likely to help kids across the board and create a critically thinking, educated populace than implementing this bill. That's the outcome we all want, is it not? A better educated populace, better at thinking critically?

This is the most unpopular bill across the board I have seen in my years here. I have spoken to home schoolers, people who send their kids to private schools, people who wish they could send their kids to private schools, people who need more services from public schools, democrats, republicans-people from across the board, and have not run into one real life person who supports this bill. If this is something that the Texas government feels Texans want so much, then let us vote on it. Because right now, honestly, it definitely seems much more like something being pushed by external forces...

Kirsten Hetherly
Self Marketing Specialist
Arlington, TX

The voucher system will do irreparable harm to public schools across the state. It pulls money from public schools to provide a discount for families with children already enrolled in private school. It will not incentivize families to move their children to private schools as most private schools cost over twice the amount of the voucher being discussed. And rural areas that do not have private schools will be left with severely underfunded districts. I'm deeply disturbed that this program is being pushed in our state by a billionaire in Pennsylvania. Why are we allowing the coastal "elite" to influence policy in our state?

Jessica Karlinski
self, accountant
Plano, TX

As the mother of two public school educated kids, I implore you to vote against vouchers and properly fund public schools instead. Vouchers are simply tax breaks for the rich and will not improve public education in Texas. The people of Texas don't want vouchers and this would be made abundantly clear if the legislature was willing to put the issue to vote. Out of state millionaire donors should not decide how Texas children are educated. Thank you for your time.

Mervyn Barrow
Self
Cypress, TX
No vouchers

Jeff Scherer

Self

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you

Claudia Garate, LCSW

Self

Austin, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a social worker who has worked in Title I schools across Central Texas, I have seen firsthand the impact of underfunded schools on students, families, and communities. For the future of all Texas children, I urge everyone to vote against the creation of a voucher program and to fund our public schools. Thank you.

JoAnn Quintanilla

Self

Austin, TX

Public funds should be used to fund public schools, NOT private schools. Vouchers are a subsidy for wealthy families who already attend private school. THATS it. Texas has 5.5 million public school students, and that money should be used to fully fund THEIR schools. This is non partisan, the majority of small, Republican leaning rural communities don't have a private school option. They need their public schools fully funded! I submit this on behalf of my Kealing Middle School child and all students of AISD

Christopher Cruz

self/healthcare worker

Houston, TX

The cost of private school education should be borne by those wanting their children to have it and not the taxpayers of this state. It's their choice to forgo publicly-available options, and it should not be the choice of an extremely small few to strip away resources from those options. Period. These vouchers make no sense, and it's shameful that elected officials even attempt to bring such bills in front of the people for consideration.

Melissa Pecorino

Self

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

I respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 for these reasons:

1. Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
2. HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
3. Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
4. I support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you for remembering that you work for the people and not for private schools.

Amy Pooley, Texas Mom and Attorney

Self

Austin, TX

As a parent of three children in Texas public schools, I have serious concerns about the school voucher program shifting funds away from our public schools and over to private schools that aren't even held to the same standards. These vouchers will serve as a nice discount for families with children already in private schools, i.e., those who can afford to send their kids there. Private school tuition would still be expensive and out-of-reach for many Texas families even with these vouchers. The country's largest voucher programs in Florida and Arizona have had poor results both financially and academically, including massive state budget and spending issues.

For the 6 years I've had kids in public schools, we've endured constant budget shortfalls locally due to school funding issues. The recapture system of school funding already takes exorbitant amounts of money away from our schools in Austin, leaving us with chronic budget issues. I'm greatly disturbed at how much of my "Austin ISD" tax payment leaves our area entirely, even as the district is constantly needing to make cuts. Funding is insufficient to pay teachers what they deserve, making it hard to attract and retain the talent needed to instruct our next generations. Texas is already one of the worst-funded states in the country when it comes to education. This is embarrassing, and our kids and teachers deserve better. The proposed voucher program will only serve to exacerbate all of this by taking more money away from our public schools.

If public schools are so broken that you think families need an alternate choice, then it is incumbent upon you - the Texas legislature, Greg Abbott, TEA - to focus on FIXING those problems by providing appropriate funding, at least \$1500 additional per student vs. the inadequate \$220. It is a moral and practical responsibility of the state of Texas to provide a quality public education to all our students that will prepare them for the future.

Heather Garcia

Self

Buda, TX

Please vote against school vouchers. It is a way to take funding from public schools and subsidize private schools that do not follow the same testing requirements. My tax dollars shouldn't be given to wealthy families who can afford to send their kids to private schools. It's a way to funnel money from wealthy families away from underfunded public schools, without giving middle class families a way to send their kids to these private institutions. Stop taking our tax dollars away and start making the wealthy pay their way. The middle class cannot continue to subsidize wealth, especially at the expense of our own kids' futures.

Dr. Chad Gee, Superintendent

Kennedale ISD

Kennedale, TX, TX

As the Superintendent of Kennedale ISD, I strongly oppose HB 3 due to its lack of accountability and transparency in how taxpayer dollars would be used and its harmful impact on public school funding. Proponents claim that Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) do not divert money away from public education, but this is simply not true. HB 3 redirects \$1 billion in taxpayer funds that could and should be invested in Texas public schools, where over 5 million students are educated. Public education in Texas is already underfunded, and this significant loss of funding will directly affect the resources available to our students. These diverted funds could be used to support teacher and staff salaries, student intervention programs, special education services, mental health resources, early literacy initiatives, and college and career readiness programs. Instead, HB 3 proposes to shift those dollars to private education providers that do not serve all students and are not subject to the same accountability standards as public schools.

Furthermore, Texas public schools serve every child, regardless of their economic status, learning needs, or geographic location. When public schools lose funding due to policies like HB 3, it exacerbates inequities and disproportionately harms students. Rather than diverting essential resources, Texas leaders should focus on fully funding our public schools and making targeted investments that have a direct impact on student success. Ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality, well-resourced public education should be the state's top priority, not subsidizing the education of a select few.

Texas public schools must meet rigorous academic, financial, and operational accountability standards, ensuring that funds are spent effectively and that students are receiving a high-quality education. HB 3 circumvents these safeguards by funneling taxpayer dollars to private institutions that are not subject to the same level of oversight. Public schools are required to administer standardized assessments, report student achievement data, comply with state curriculum requirements, and undergo financial audits. Private schools and other ESA-approved entities, however, are not held to these same standards. Without proper accountability, taxpayer dollars could be spent on low-quality or unregulated educational services that do not guarantee student success.

Moreover, HB 3 creates the potential for misuse and fraud. Other states with ESA-style programs have encountered cases where funds were used for personal expenses, unapproved services, and even fraudulent vendors due to weak oversight. Texas should not risk taxpayer dollars on a system that lacks financial controls and academic accountability.

If the goal is to improve education for Texas students, we must ensure that all schools receiving public funds meet the same high standards. Thank you for your consideration of these concerns from our community.

Sara Comer

Self

McKinney, TX

This is an absolute detriment to students that are the ones that are actually in need. I work in a title one school, where we are constantly getting new students due to behavior concerns who were kicked out of their previous private school or charter school. This will continue to be the norm and we will not be able to get the students of what they need and have safety for us as the teachers if students keep getting kicked out of private education in charter schools because they are unequipped and to make room for other students. Public schools are turning into the schools for students who are unwanted that includes students with disabilities and students with disciplinary issues.

Jessica Brown
self
Pipe Creek, TX

I do not support this as a rural Texan living in an area without a private school. Taxpayer funds are not meant to fund private schools and this would be a misuse of government funding. Education funds should go to public schools that benefit all Texans. Thank you.

Cherriza Kellogg
Self
Conroe, TX

I homeschool my children and I oppose this bill.

Melanie Curl
Self
KELLER, TX

I oppose HB3, known as "school vouchers". This will only end up benefiting those that can already afford private school, and will hurt Texas public schools.

Anna Pittala
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3. I fully support public schools and my school taxes to be only be used for public schools.

Patricia Farris
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Texas don't want a voucher system. They want a quality education for EVERY Texas student.

Elizabeth Gowens
Self
Lubbock, TX

I do not support the voucher implementation both for the public education side as well as the private sector. This is devastating for the public teachers as with less funding for them- due to lower head counts etc) in an already debt consumed system, schools will close and teachers will lose their jobs. The teachers that are left will take on more students in an already stressed situation. Fine arts is also a subject that is first to be cut in these deficits which is a tragedy- studies show that those in music and fine arts achieve higher academic scores. Lastly, these private schools accepting \$10k vouchers for students may sound great but will there be restrictions on those schools raising their prices for tuition? Also, now that the government has given state funds to this private school, does this give them authority to restrict or determine what is taught in those schools? Something to highly consider because a lot of the parents sending their kids to private Christian schools do not want the government pushing their control on their children. The state of Texas has been holding hostage the funding that has already been designated for public schools for years which is another injustice to our students and teaching staff. The teachers all need raises and this is keeping that from happening. Injustice in itself.

Star Gonzales
Self
Flatonina, TX

This school voucher program is a scam and will hurt all of our Texas public schools. Certain districts are already sending emails about budget cuts. Every Texan child deserves a good education, not just the ones that can afford private schools. If Greg Abbott wants to be a leader for all Texans then he will not go through with this horrible voucher scam!

Brandon King
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I vote no!

Pamela Painter
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I do not agree with the voucher system. I think that we should keep money going to the public schools and making that system better for all children.

Jazmyn Gonzalez, Mrs.
Self
Austin, TX

I am in complete opposition and do not support this bill nor do I wish it to pass

Sarah wathen
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Please do not vote for vouchers. Public schools deserve and need all the funding they can get.
A very concerned Citizen

Melina Rios
Self
San Antonio, TX

As a middle class family, we can not afford private school even with two valued careers as a nurse and a fire fighter. We will rely on public school for our three young children's education. If the funding for public schools decrease and the teachers are short staffed due to pay or the schools are not supplied with the equipment they need how are the future children going to be growing up. I will worry that my child won't get a good education by a public school system that my property taxes help pay for. I should've have to pay into private school vouchers if I am not even using that service. Even if we got let's say \$30,000 by the time all three kids are school is that even going to be enough? Probably not because with that comes more expenses of fees, uniforms, gas to drive the children to a private school not near us vs a public school in my neighborhood. This is not valuable to the middle class who already suffers so much just paying bills and providing food for our family with grocery bills so high now due to inflation. Teachers already don't get paid what they deserve and if private schools pay more I don't blame them for leaving the public school system. What does that say about our state? Unless your wealthy your kid won't get a solid foundation of education vs the children of the rich. How do you expect our economy to succeed when only the wealthy can afford their children to have a great education and excel in life. The economy will really suffer with more children not graduating highschool or even attending college. With this being said if we have more unemployment due to not being able to get a qualified job due to affording a great education we then will have to pay even more taxes to help provide more resources for the community that we can not even afford.

Donald Stotts
Myself
Austin, TX

I do not support the use of my tax dollar to fund or support enrollment and participation in private schools. This will certainly destroy our public school system despite any and all rhetoric to the contrary!

Neeti Prasad

Self

Dallas, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Maria Schmidt, Ms.

Self - parent

Austin, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to Texas House Bill 3 (HB3) due to its long-term consequences for public education funding, equity, and accountability. While the bill is framed as a means of expanding educational choice, it ultimately diverts public tax dollars away from public schools and directs them into a system that lacks the same oversight and obligations to serve all students.

Public education is a foundational promise—a commitment that every child, regardless of socioeconomic background or geographic location, has access to a quality education. HB3 undermines that promise by reallocating funds intended for public schools to private institutions that are not held to the same transparency, accountability, or non-discrimination standards. Unlike public schools, private institutions receiving voucher funds are not required to serve all students, including those with disabilities, special needs, or behavioral challenges.

Further, existing research on similar voucher programs in other states has not shown consistent improvements in student outcomes. In fact, studies have found that students who leave public schools for private schools through voucher programs often experience declines in academic achievement. Meanwhile, public schools—particularly those in lower-income and rural communities—are left with reduced resources, larger class sizes, and fewer specialized programs as funding is siphoned away. This creates an uneven system where students who remain in public schools bear the burden of lost funding, while private schools that receive public dollars are not required to meet the same academic and financial accountability standards.

If the goal is to improve educational opportunities for Texas students, the focus should be on strengthening public schools rather than redirecting funds to private institutions with selective admissions. Increased investments in teacher salaries, classroom resources, and equitable school funding would do far more to improve educational outcomes than a voucher program that primarily benefits a small number of families while weakening the broader public education system.

HB3 does not expand meaningful choice for all Texas families—it creates an inequitable system that leaves many students behind. For these reasons, I strongly urge lawmakers to reject HB3 and instead focus on policies that strengthen and support public education for every child in Texas.

Amber Rodriguez

Self

San Antonio, TX

As a public education teacher, it saddens me to think this bill actually has a chance. We do not want nor need this bill to pass. Public School are already so underfunded and this will be detrimental to an already struggling education department. Our schools need more funding not less. Passing this bill will not provide any changes for special education students nor struggling families, this will only benefit the rich. This should not pass. We Texans are against HB3.

Charlyn Hohenstein

Self

Cypress, TX

As a homeschooler, which qualifies as a private school in the state of Texas, I strongly oppose this bill.

Joel Ausanka

Self

San Marcos, TX

I have lived in Texas my whole life and the value that public schools have brought myself and my family are immeasurable. My mother, brother, and two cousins are all educators. A school in Austin is named after my late uncle Gordon. Education runs deep in my family and is the greatest single good that this state does for its citizens. I refuse to be silent while billionaires try to rob the education my children deserve from them, an education that I PAY FOR with my property taxes. No private school voucher scam is worth sacrificing the futures of millions of our precious children. I am not surprised anymore, the Texas Republican Party long ago abandoned the families and children of Texas. The callousness of this bill is, however, something truly astounding. The notion that this theft will benefit our children is a lie. It is despicable to rob us and tell us you're "investing" - I urge anyone, Republican or Democrat, with a shred of a conscience to vote no on this bill and never try this again.

Brian Bloss

Self, teacher

Grapevine, TX

Brian Bloss

Against

In addition to the testimony I have already filed on this, I am even more opposed to the legislation now that we have a total cost estimate from now until 2030. \$13.295 billion dollars being aimed in this way will not lead to better outcomes for public schools. In fact, based on the government's own reports say that "savings" come in the form of students leaving public schools. Listening to part of today's hearings it seems like the primary benefactor is the Catholic Church. My question is if the Catholic Church has chosen to engage in charity through their schools, why does the government need to subsidize them? Why does any religion deserve to have a subsidy of state funds for education? I know there are those who claim that we will see increased test scores in public schools but if there are fewer teachers (which we now know is expected since we will see a reduction in students and per student funding is what hires staff) I challenge this notion.

Again, I am not sure how an entitlement program of this scope benefits the people of Texas. It certainly doesn't benefit our teachers. Moreover, in today's hearings we also heard the start of discussions from representatives of the Catholic schools saying they want to make sure that not too many strings are attached because that would erode from the notion of private parochial schools. Please do not let this bill pass out of committee.

Marilyn Chladil

Myself

Austin, TX

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter

Sarah Weeks

PTA

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote NO on public school vouchers. They dilute essential support for public schools, whose funding is guaranteed by the Texas Constitution that you swore an oath to support and defend. There are more than 5,000,000 children in public schools. At most, vouchers will only benefit about 10% of the Texas school children. We all know that "parent choice" is a false flag to hide the real agenda of privatization and support of private religious schools, which are the only ones where Gov. Abbott took his campaign. The concern about uncertified teachers in public schools is magnified in home schooling. The past practice of underfunding (no increase since 2019) is consistent with handicapping public schools. The proposed increased support of \$210 per student is insulting and a mockery. That is clearly inadequate when the proposed diversion to private schools is \$10,000 per student.

Thank you for taking the steps necessary to effect the improved education for the State's public school children that you claim, esp. when the federal government threatens to withdraw its support.

Liz Guzman

Self - HR and Payroll Manager

Buda, TX

I work in a public charter school at the district level and work closely with our budget. Charter schools already get a fraction of what public school gets and this bill will only hinder our young generation. Our teachers already pay for so much for their classroom and for their job to provide the BEST for our scholars. Working directly with a title 1 school would only make it harder for our economically disadvantaged scholars to get the best FREE education as possible. A huge population of our families cannot afford private schools (even with the voucher). I pray that you open your eyes and realize that our KIDS need us and by taking this money away from them and into the pockets of the rich is an abomination. This is not for our families this is clearly for the big pocket supporters and it makes me sad that as a proud republican I have to fight for this.

I Martinez

Self and I am an IT Professional

Houston, TX

Texas House Bill 3 is bad for public education because it takes resources away from public schools, especially in low-income areas. It pushes for things like school vouchers, which can make funding even more unequal and hurt the students who rely on public schools the most. This bill is welfare for the wealthy!

Catherine Lutes

Self

Benbrook, TX

I am firmly opposed to the voucher system for Texas schools. More money needs to be put into the schools that exist now. What will happen to a student that uses a voucher to go to a private school, and when arriving at the school they are told that there are no buses serving that school at

all. How would they be able to get to and from the school. If the money that would be used for a voucher system could be paid to teachers to help them get what they need for their classroom; it would be money well spent.

I do not think that the voucher system would help anyone. I ask you to please keep this all in mind when voting.

Kristen Brock, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote NO on vouchers. As a parent, a taxpayer and, most of all, a Proud Texan, I despise this bill! Our public schools are the civic glue of society. No to vouchers!

Idolina Maldonado

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Education committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as a means of funding education. These programs divert crucial resources away from public schools, undermining their ability to serve all students equitably.

I respectfully request the following changes to improve the funding structure for education:

1. ****Increase the Basic Allotment to \$7,500****: The current funding allocation is insufficient to meet the needs of students and educators. Raising the basic allotment to \$7,500 would better support our schools and allow for more equitable access to quality education.
2. ****Determine Funding by Enrollment, Not Attendance****: Funding should be based on student enrollment rather than attendance. This would provide more consistent and predictable funding for schools, allowing them to plan and allocate resources effectively, even in times of fluctuating attendance.
3. ****Tie Funding to Inflation****: Education funding should be adjusted annually based on inflation rates. This would ensure that the value of the funding keeps pace with the rising costs of education, maintaining its purchasing power over time.
4. ****Ensure Funding for All Current and Future Mandates****: All current and future state or federal mandates should be fully funded to avoid placing additional burdens on schools. This would ensure that schools can comply with legal requirements without sacrificing other essential services.

I hope you will consider these requests as part of ongoing efforts to improve the education system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Idolina Maldonado

Peggy Sue

Self

Harlingen, TX

Do your job- vote no to voucher scam

Nicole Chambers

Self

Sherman, TX

As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to ask that you please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation.

Melissa Johnson

self

Benbrook, TX

Please oppose HB3 as it will damage my son's public school education by reducing funding and deplete funding for our struggling school system. This is unethical and unacceptable.

Kristi Fryer
Self
East Bernard, TX

As a republican living and raising a family in rural Texas, I am strongly against vouchers! Please do more to fund and bake our PUBLIC schools great for the future of Texas. Less standardized testing and more common sense need to return to the classroom.
VOTE NO TO VOUCHERS

Christina Ozuna, Mrs.
Self, Director of Community Impact, Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church
Dallas, TX

As a proud multi generational Texan who attended both private and public schools and who plans to send her son to a private school. I urge this committee to reconsider yielding to the pressure of the governor and his donors. Vouchers are not what our state needs to better our education for all students. Every state that has adopted similar programs has lost money and resources and not seen any positive impact.

The facts are there. Texans do not want this. If anything let us vote for or against it in a general election. Having no choice as a tax payer when the governor is selling choice is insulting.

Patricia Melgar-Cook
Self
Buda, TX

Please respect the Texas constitution and follow the proper process & channels to make any changes as desired by the populace of the state.

daryl wall
Self
Lake Jackson, TX

It's common knowledge that vouchers will only help those who can already afford private school. Public schools will suffer even worse with the passage of this bill.

Melisandra Huerta
Self. Realtor.
Lewisville, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a Texan whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution. Our school are already underfunded, taking away more funds will impact our children in a negative way. Not to mention our special needs children whom may not be accepted into private schools or the private schools may not have programs or teachers to support their learning. I have an autistic 4 year old and the special education program and his teachers have helped him excel so much. We are depriving our children of their free education by allowing the vouchers. Every child is entitled to quality education and by supporting the voucher system you are going against it

Martha Egli
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose the bill. I do not want school vouchers.

Nancy Jo Lambert

Self

Frisco, TX

As a both a public school educator of 20 years and a parent of two children in public schools, I do NOT support ESAs in ANY form in the state of Texas. Our legislators have a state constitutional requirement to fund public education and ESAs do NOT help public education. This is a mechanism to, over time, defund public schools in Texas and help to cripple school districts and schools. We already have school choice in this state. ESAs are unconstitutional and unnecessary, but are being funded by people who want to see public education suffer in our state.

Please listen to the majority of Texans and do not pass this legislation. It will only serve to further allow additional money in future legislative sessions to be used for private school education with precious tax payer money that should be going to public schools and the millions of students in public schools all over our great state.

Evelyn Tutt

Self- seamstress

Fort Worth, TX

My tax dollars should not support a religious organization! If I wish to support a particular religion, I'll do that with my private dollars. Public money should support public schools! I have 3 children in public school and they will be staying there!

James Owens

Self

Houston, TX

We do not support this. Public schools are the great equalizer. This will further fracture our state and drive up crime rates. If you defund public schools and subsidize private schools the only people who benefit are families who could afford private schools in the first place. If you defund public education the vast majority of families will suffer the consequences of an inadequate education system. This includes increase in crime and delinquency. This voucher scam only covers \$10k meanwhile the average private school tuition is \$20k. This forces families to choose between an underfunded public school system or an over subsidized religious school system. Families will still have to pay for private school. This is going to divide our state and the repercussions will be felt for generations to come. This does not benefit the majority of Texas families, it only benefits a wealthy minority. Fund public education. it's just common sense. We do not want this voucher scam.

Geri King, Mrs

Self

Dorchester, TX

I am a retired Texas teacher and School Counselor for 33 years.

I also have 6 grandchildren that attend public school. I have many young teacher friends that tell me the problems with public school funding.....there's never enough.

Please don't send public school funds to private schools. Public schools need their funding to provide exemplary teaching and learning.

Thank you!

Laura Marques

Self

Leander, TX

I am a parent of children with disabilities receiving special education services in Leander ISD. I am opposed to this bill because it does not provide meaningful choice to families like mine. The only private schools within a reasonable distance from our home do not provide equivalent supports for my children, who are both gifted and disabled. Schools one hour from my home that advertise serving children with disabilities charge tuition in excess of the voucher amount and have additional fees for resource or gifted supports if it is even available. Ultimately, this bill will lead to discrimination against children with disabilities because we are often denied admission to or asked to leave private school. If the state truly wants families to have options, fully fund special education and public schools to relieve the funding crisis.

Sapurah Lashari
Self - HR Manager
Sugar Land, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a native Texan, 5th generation, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Virginia Wells
Texas public school parent
Austin, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Christina Charles
self
Leander, TX

Do not pass House Bill 3. I am a 5th generation Texan and the grand-daughter and niece of West Texas public school teachers. This bill will greatly affect rural school districts, kids with disabilities and retaining the best teachers. Rural schools do not have alternative private or charter schools. Most economic and social life depends on well funded public schools in those areas. My parents received an excellent public education in the heart of West Texas. This is taking away from the hard working people that pull the oil out of the ground that made this state wealthy. Every cent taken away from public schools is a divestment in the future of this state and country. Release the current funds to public schools to keep good teachers and support kids with disabilities. Majority of Texans DO NOT WANT VOUCHERS! Keep all the funds in public schools.

Rachel Hallila
Self
Cypress, TX

We are a homeschool family and oppose HB 3. It will only harm our public schools and communities.

Kathryn Estrada
Self teacher
Palestine, TX

As a teacher with over 14 years experience and a parent, I do not support vouchers in our schools. This money needs to go to our public schools since it is public funds. I do not know anyone in my community that supports this bill. Our public town hall did not have genuine responses that would answer how this would benefit our community.

Anjli Mehta
Self
Austin, TX

I am against vouchers/ESAs that only offer support to 25,000 kids out of 5+ million Texas kids. These funds should be used to fund public schools and staff. Rural communities depend on their public schools.

Erica Grandin
Self - Marketing Professional
Frisco, TX

I urge all representatives to vote No for HB 3 and keep our state funding with our public schools. As voters, we will remember which representatives fought for our children in the Texas public school education system and we will support those who VOTE NO on HB 3 and say NO to vouchers.

Amberly Marston
Self - Human Resources
Austin, TX

This bill is not only in the least interest of our children, but is fundamentally against the Texas Constitution. As lawmakers I'll remind you your duty as elected officials to protect the Texas Constitution.

Fully fund our public schools and use this money to give to public schools. Do not be fooled by the trick of Abbott and his biggest donors who primaryed out some of your colleagues to make sure they had the votes for this. Elected officials who vote for HB 3 will face not being re-elected as non-partisans agree this bill is not in the best interest of Texas children nor teachers. We already have school choice. Homeschoolers don't want the government involved in their schooling. Rural districts will suffer the most. Again, this bill is wholly against the Texas Constitution. Vote NO now and we don't want to waste any more time on the bill. Buck off Buckley

Thomas Davies, Mr.

Self

Allen, TX

My name is Tom Davies, and I am here today as a concerned citizen to strongly oppose HB3 and the proposed school voucher program. This legislation threatens the future of public education in Texas by diverting essential funds away from our public schools, deepening inequities and undermining the very foundation of our education system.

Public schools are the cornerstone of our communities educating over five million students, serving as a lifeline for families across the state providing not only academics but also critical services such as special education, meal programs and extra-curricular activities. Instead of strengthening this system, HB3 and the voucher program will siphon taxpayer dollars into private institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards, leaving our public schools with fewer resourced and greater challenges.

Diverting public funds harms students who need it most. School vouchers disproportionately benefit wealthier families who can more readily afford private school tuition, while low-income and rural students are left behind. Rural communities, in particular, lack access to private school options, meaning vouchers will do nothing for them while still draining funds from their local schools. Remember Edgewood? This creates an unjust system where public dollars serve private interests rather than the needs of all students.

Unlike public schools, private institutions receiving voucher funds are not required to accept all students, follow standardized curriculum guidelines or meet the same academic and financial transparency standards. Taxpayers deserve to know how their money is spent. Yet, HB3 fails to ensure oversight or equitable access for students with disabilities, English language [ESL] learners, and other vulnerable populations.

Strengthening public education must be our priority. If we are serious about improving education in Texas, the solution is not to defund public schools but to invest in them. We should be increasing teacher pay, reducing class size, expanding early childhood education, and ensuring that every child -- regardless of Zip Code -- has access to a high-quality education. Texas deserves to have the best public education in the country, not thirty-eighth out fifty states according to World Population Review.

I urge you to reject HB3 and the school voucher program. Our public schools are the heart of Texas communities, and they need your support -- not policies that weaken them. Let's commit to funding and improving the schools that serve the vast majority of Texas students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Davies

kinzie75025@yahoo.com

Kathryn Pole

family

Denton, TX

This bill and others that shift public funds to private education would be a disaster for Texas, Texan children, and families. I oppose public funds going to private schools. Parents who choose these schools can pay for them as they always have done. Public funds should be used to fully support public schools.

amanda Brocato

self, public relations, parent

Austin, TX

I oppose the bill. I am against school vouchers

Archangela DeSilva

Self/attorney

Houston, TX

I am opposed to vouchers because they are a form of welfare for people who can already afford to send their children to private school. If you really want to improve the education system in Texas, fund the schools, increase teacher pay, provide children with free breakfast and lunch and show some respect for an educated populace. Vouchers offer no value to rural Texans and only serve to support people who have already made a choice not to take advantage of a public education system. In addition, by taking funds away from public schools, this bill will harm the future economy because the state of Texas will not be able to offer businesses a well-educated workforce. Do your job and represent ALL the people of the State of Texas.

Michele Petty

Self

San Antonio, TX

Public money for public schools. No Texas welfare for rich private schools. Dont you dare pull funds away from our public schools!!!

Elena Minsker

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

but if I can give just a small rec for words:

Oppose any legislation that pulls funds from already underfunded public schools. Public schools are vital to our communities and historically underfunded in Texas.

Logan Clark, Esq.

Self, attorney

Austin, TX

We don't need school vouchers. We need funding for our public schools. We need to be leading the nation in education. We have the tax money to do it. One argument I've heard for school vouchers is because they can't receive services in our public schools. This argument fails if we actually fund our public schools, give teachers the resources to teach. There is also no evidence that education will improve with school vouchers. There is not a state in this union that has implemented school vouchers and seen their education system improve. They have all seen a harm caused by the voucher programs they have implemented. Please do not pass school vouchers and instead, fund our public schools and support our teachers.

Tiffany Atwood

self - homeschool parent / tutor

Fort Worth, TX

I urge the House to vote NO to the education savings account program. This in effect turns private schools into public schools, in the sense that any government funds issued to private schools would be inviting and requiring government oversight. We want LESS government - not more. 1. This is NOT about school choice - we already have school choice in Texas. 2. This money is not about tax dollars "following the child" as originally touted by the GOP - this bill in essence creates a third lane of education spending (out of the surplus) that taxpayers at some point will be on the hook for. NO. Who benefits from this bill? VENDORS. This is a horrible use of the "surplus". What happens when the surplus is depleted? Taxpayers will have to replenish - NO. This is a terrible bill - it will only assist a small group of families, it benefits vendors primarily, creates an unnecessary tax burden potentially, and isn't really about choice at all. Plus it's one more program our government would need to monitor and oversee. This is NOT a good bill for Texas - Conservatives should absolutely be opposed to this bill for the reasons stated above.

Alyss Larkin

Self

Keller, TX

NO to school vouchers. We have had cuts to our public elementary school that include losing our full time librarian and losing year long co-curr classes such as art. Our public schools NEED the funds.

Tracy Walton

Self educator

Fulshear, TX

I strongly urge you to oppose school vouchers in Texas. Taxpayer dollars should support public schools, which educate the vast majority of Texas students. Diverting funds to private institutions weakens our education system, reduces classroom resources, and puts teacher retirement funds at risk.

Vouchers do not provide real choices for most families. Private schools can reject students, including those with disabilities, and are not held to the same transparency and accountability standards as public schools. This leaves many students—especially those relying on special education services—without the support they need.

Arizona's school voucher program serves as a warning. Initially projected to cost \$65 million, it ballooned to over \$900 million, draining public school funds and straining the state budget. Despite promises to help low-income families, over 75% of voucher recipients were already in private schools or homeschooling, meaning taxpayer dollars primarily subsidized those who never intended to use public education. Meanwhile, voucher students saw no significant academic improvement, and rural communities suffered funding losses with no real benefit. Even some Republican lawmakers in Arizona have reconsidered their support as costs spiral out of control.

Texas cannot afford to repeat these mistakes. Public schools are the backbone of our communities, ensuring every child has access to a quality education. I urge you to protect Texas public schools by voting against school vouchers.

Lizan Mellinger

Self. Retired teacher

Lubbock, TX

Public tax dollars should only be used on public school funding. We keep being told that Texas is funding its schools but that's not the case. You are not paying teachers enough, and you are not giving districts enough money to keep older schools updated. We have a huge surplus of money that should go to education. We rank so far down on the list. Why is this even something that is up for discussion. FUND OUR SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS. Quit playing games with the future of our children. They deserve the best education. And not just kids of wealthy people. ALL students deserve a high quality education. And quit making teachers jump through hoops to get extra money. TIA isn't a fair system to show growth. Students are tired of testing. They're all sick of it. Just give the teachers a decent wage.

Sarah Bolton
Self
Granbury, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

I have two special needs sons who both benefit from our local ISD's special education department. Both of our sons have Autism. I could write a novel on the difficulties we have faced over the years and how heart wrenching this journey is at times. In our area there only exists one private school/alternative school that accepts children with Autism or other special needs. This bill is not beneficial to already underfunded rural areas, where most special needs children in these areas are already struggling just to get basic IEP needs met. A majority of the time if needs are not met for these special needs children it is due to understaffing, underfunding and lack of specialists working in the school district. We have many more hurdles to jump through for my two sons than families who have neurotypical children. We are blessed to have stability and the means to go outside of Granbury for doctors and specialists/Psychiatrists. But that's not a reality for many families in communities like ours. A large number of families here who have special needs children rely solely on the ISD for therapies, interventions, educational diagnosis etc. due to costs and lack of resources locally. Please, keep the special needs families of Texas in mind when deciding your vote for this. We need more funding for Special Education in Texas, not more ways for these children to fall through the cracks, especially the ones located in rural areas.

Allison Fitzpatrick
self mother
Cypress, TX

No vouchers! Keep public education public and FULLY FUNDED.

Anita Stetson
Self
Kingwood, TX

Our public schools are severely underfunded. By diverting more funds to private schools and charters under the guise of "choice" is disservice to the future of Texas. Find out public schools and allow educators in Texas to teach our children so that ALL children are able to succeed.

Michele Salinas
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am strongly against vouchers. Vouchers will take away funding from public schools. In addition, public schools would still need to be in compliance with TEA regulations. This would not be the case for private schools. Public schools would still need to adhere to testing requirements and school ratings. In addition, vouchers will reduce funds needed for special education in which so many students with special needs will be deprived. Private schools would not have to test their students. Private schools would not accept all students i.e. special needs, at-risk, and difficult students whereas public schools would. Therefore, vouchers are not fair and equal for all students. Please vote "NO" for vouchers.

Jeana Allen

Self Texas Public School Teacher

Joshua, TX

As a dedicated public school teacher and strong supporter of Texas public schools, I am deeply troubled by the growing disregard for our public education system. I am writing to express my concerns regarding House Bill 3 and to advocate for fairness in the allocation of state funding.

Texas students deserve strong, well-funded public schools, and it is only fair that any school receiving taxpayer dollars be held to the same standards. If the state is going to pass vouchers and direct public funds to private schools, those institutions must be subject to the same rules as public schools—including transparency requirements, accountability measures, enrollment practices, and STAAR testing. Anything less creates an uneven playing field and undermines the integrity of our education system.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, and they deserve support, not policies that divert resources while holding them to higher standards than their privately funded counterparts. I urge you to ensure that all schools receiving state funding operate under the same expectations, reinforcing fairness and accountability in Texas education.

Widad Kinard, Dr.

Self

Denton, TX

Texas students need strong public schools—not vouchers or Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) that drain resources and lack accountability. Public dollars belong in public schools, where they serve all students and strengthen our communities.

Over 90% of Texas students rely on public schools for quality education, special services, and skilled teachers. Diverting funds to private programs hurts the students who need support the most, especially in rural and underserved areas. Vouchers and ESAs also lack transparency, allowing taxpayer money to flow to unregulated and unproven programs.

The solution is clear: fully fund public schools. Invest in smaller class sizes, teacher retention, and strong academic programs—not privatization schemes that leave students behind.

I urge you to reject vouchers and ESAs and stand up for Texas public schools. Our students' futures depend on it.

Sincerely,

Widad Kinard, Ph.D.

Blake Barington

Self - Communications Specialist

Dripping Springs, TX

I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to HB 3. This bill will not help educational outcomes in the State of Texas, and prioritizing 1% of Texas children will not help our communities and state thrive. It will, however, cause more districts to close campuses, layoff staff and cut programs. What you all are doing is absolutely heartbreaking and you should be ashamed of yourselves. Put this on the ballot for TEXANS to vote on if you want it so much. You should also publicly state what you each are getting from this bill because you definitely aren't fighting for students and teachers. My rep hasn't even stepped in one of our schools since she's been in office, yet she seems knowledgeable to vote against our district for this bill. We're an A rated and thriving school district, so I'm interested to know what she's getting from this bill. As a sixth generation Texan and the child of two public school teachers who both put more than 30 years of service to this state, I will continue to fight this until you start doing your job and following the Texas Constitution.

Jodi Strickland

Self

Uvalde, TX

Much to the dismay of political culture and identity, I ask you to truly consider the harm and negative consequences that passing this bill will do to our Texas public education system. Please think of the child before the dollar.

Gail B Rogers, Dr

Self

Houston, TX

HB3 is a scam that will subsidize children already attending private schools and subtract funds from public schools. I am requesting that you vote AGAINST vouchers and FOR fully funded, high quality, public education. Texas children have a right to this education and the opportunity to learn and thrive at their zoned school. We should be investing in their future rather than denying their intellectual growth and development.

Melinda Barron, Miss

Self

Ingleside, TX

This is not what is best for the students of Texas. All students should be funded equally. I do not support HB3.

Tracy Porter

Self, retired

Allen, TX

I am adamantly against using public tax money to fund private education. Stop trying to fool people by calling this "school choice." Many school districts already offer the option to parents to move their child to an alternate school if space is available. Fully fund schools and give teachers and educators the raises they deserve.

Anita Stoll

self

Austin, TX

As a concerned constituent and parent, I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3 and any legislation that would introduce school vouchers or education savings accounts in Texas. I believe such programs would divert vital public funds from our already underfunded public schools, undermining the foundation of our education system and harming our children.

Kristen Luciano

Self, Project Manager

Houston, TX

I am both a Texas public school graduate and a current public school employee. I strongly oppose the school choice bill.

We've seen how similar programs in other states have failed—diverting public funds to private schools with little to no oversight, leaving students behind, and ultimately weakening public education. Texas cannot afford to make the same mistake.

Every day, I witness the incredible work happening in our public schools. Teachers, staff, and administrators go above and beyond to ensure students receive a quality education, often with limited resources. Instead of taking money away from public schools, we should be investing in them—giving educators the support they need and ensuring every child has access to a strong, well-funded education system.

School choice isn't about choice for all—it's about choices for a few at the expense of the many. Our public schools serve every student, regardless of background, income, or ability. That's something worth protecting.

I urge our representatives to reject this bill and stand with Texas public schools, their students, and the hardworking educators who make them thrive.

Samantha Butler

Self

Tyler, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 and the establishment of educational savings account. These esa's will not help all of Texas. The priority of the Texas legislature should be to fully fund public education. ESA's will not help rural Texas. They will not help families that can't afford to difference between the voucher amount and the amount of tuition. Similar bills have been rejected the last several years and still nothing has been done to improve public school funding. Just like my tax dollars shouldn't go toward a country club if tax payers don't want to go to public parks, our tax dollars should not fund private schools. The majority of Texas does not want ESA's or vouchers. I will not vote for any candidate who supports these measures that will hurt the students of Texas.

Charlotte Hopper

Self

McKinney, TX

I do not support this bill.

Cody Sheffield

Self, children, grandchildren

Longview, TX

I am a parent and educator. ESAs and vouchers will collapse public education thus taking meaningful resources from Texas children.

Jenny Peterson

Self, Exhibitions Curator

The Woodlands, TX

I live in The Woodlands, Texas, and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations. We have seen this happen in other states already. Just look to our neighbor up north, Oklahoma.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of ALL Texas students.

Thank you.

Laura Storm
self
CEDAR PARK, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students. I am the proud daughter of two Texas public school teachers and the proud granddaughter of another.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Laura Storm

Brianne Blevins
Self
Round Rock, TX

Vote no on the vouchers. This creates further disparity, lacks inclusion for students and is NOT WANTED BY THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS.

Michelle Chappell
self
Venus, TX

Dear Representative,

I am a taxpayer in the State of Texas, so I want it to be documented that I do NOT support vouchers nor an education savings accounts (ESAs) program. In fact, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools in Texas. We have had inflation of over 20% since 2019, the last time funding was provided for Public Schools in Texas. I want it to be documented that I support the following:

an Increase of the Basic Allotment, and

Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflated amount of over 20%.

Representative, we must support our Public Schools with the proper Funding necessary.
Sincerely,

Corinne Fiagome
self; consultant
Mansfield, TX

Dear Representative Buckley,

As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want a tax-funded Education Savings Accounts (ESA) Program with public tax dollars going to private schools instead of public schools. I want my education earmarked tax dollars to fund public schools. Public school funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had inflation of over 20%. Our children, their educators, and other school and district staff deserve to have the public funding they need to learn, teach, and pursue TEKS without fear of losing funding to private schools that are not held to the same standards or expectations.

To be clear, I want to reiterate the following:

- * I do NOT want state tax-funded private school vouchers/ESAs.
- * I support an increase to the basic allotment.
- * I support focusing education-earmarked tax dollars on funding public schools in Texas, including covering inflation.

Sincerely,
Corinne Fiagome

Widad Kinard, Dr.
Self
Denton, TX

Texas students need strong public schools—not vouchers or Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) that drain resources and lack accountability. Public dollars belong in public schools, where they serve all students and strengthen our communities.

Over 90% of Texas students rely on public schools for quality education, special services, and skilled teachers. Diverting funds to private programs hurts the students who need support the most, especially in rural and underserved areas. Vouchers and ESAs also lack transparency, allowing taxpayer money to flow to unregulated and unproven programs.

The solution is clear: fully fund public schools. Invest in smaller class sizes, teacher retention, and strong academic programs—not privatization schemes that leave students behind.

I urge you to reject vouchers and ESAs and stand up for Texas public schools. Our students' futures depend on it.

Sincerely,
Widad Kinard, Ph.D.

Emily Hart
Self
Abilene, TX

I am NOT in favor of vouchers. Our public schools need more funding not less. If I want my kids to go to private schools, I should pay for it. All should have access to a good and free education.

Sara Smith, Mrs.
Self
Mineral wells, TX

This bill, if passed, I feel will not do much for those that live in rural areas like my family. There are no charter schools available in my area and only one small private school. There aren't other options of school to send my daughter too besides the local ISD. This bill would take much needed funding away from the only option for schooling my daughter has unless my family relocates to a higher populated area where other schooling options are available. Homing school isn't something my daughter would benefit from because she needs the structure and social aspect that not home schooling options lack in my opinion. Please don't punished the children living in rural areas by passing a bill that would destroy the pubic schools that they rely on.

Alexander Rolf
Self
Corpus christi, TX

Districts are already working with minimal funding. This will cause districts to not be able to function. Most families even with the voucher will not be able to afford private institutions. All you are doing is providing a subsidy to families that can probably already afford the private schooling.

Jenifer Olson
Self
San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB3 and do not want you to vote for vouchers. Please fund our public schools.

Alex Ciunciusky
Self
Southlake, TX

I want to choose my kids education. Public education is failing our kids

Phyllis Hanvey
Self , RN Ret.
Georgetown, TX

We are unequivocally opposed to school vouchers, sending public school money to private schools. Hard earned Texas tax dollars belong to public schools, not private schools, which will cripple our states public schools.

Linda Gelfand
Self, underwriter
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because it provides funding to a minority of families at the expense of those who cannot afford or do not have the opportunity to have their children in private schools. Public schools are already severely underfunded, and any additional K-12 education funds should go to public schools. Private schools are comparatively unregulated and are not subject to the same testing and standards required of public schools. Neighborhood public schools accept all students, but private schools can deny admission or educational services to any student, including students with disabilities, among others. Use of tax dollars should come with standards and not allow cherry picking of the easiest students to teach. Doing so would leave only the most challenging students in public schools, at a reduction of funding for the public schools (as the daily census would fall if students moved into private schools).

Emma Luckemeyer
Self, teacher
New Braunfels, TX

I have served as a public school teacher for the last 13 years here in Texas, ever since I graduated from college. I truly feel that it is my calling to serve my students and their families. The attack on public schools in recent days in order to fund ESAs has been atrocious and uncalled for. Good things are happening every day in public school; teachers, principals, and school districts are putting in the hard work to educate tomorrow's leaders, despite the state failing to uphold its duty set forth in the Texas Constitution. I urge you to not pass HB3 (which takes public funds away from public schools) and instead fully fund Texas public schools. The 5.5 million public school students in Texas depends on it.

Tiffany Orosco

Self

Friendswood, TX

The majority of Texans do not support school vouchers. Please actually represent the views of your constituents rather than the governor's agenda by voting no. Public schools are the heart of communities, especially rural communities. Vouchers take money from the public schools that are already underfunded. Having had children in private and public schools, I know that private schools will just raise tuition to maintain exclusivity. Vouchers are a discount for those who can already afford to send their kids to public school. Please vote no and let Abbott know you represent your constituents and not his outside special interests looking to profit from vouchers.

Pamela Burns

Self

Lewisville, TX

I oppose this bill and ask that you do not vote for it. It will harm our public education system and students.

Shawnnie Taylor, Mrs.

Retired teachers

Schertz, TX

Please don't fund vouchers!

Kelley Michalski

Self

Flower Mound, TX

Vouchers are only helping kids who have money. The state should be looking out for ALL students should be the priority of our state. This bill will not allow special needs students to have the same access as their peers as private schools will only take the students with mild disabilities if at all. How is this fair??? Do you not care about special needs??? Put vouchers to the people for a vote. You all should be listening to your constituents not money from billionaires.

Marianne Reat, Ms.

Self, retired attorney

Austin, TX

I oppose education savings accounts, which in reality are vouchers that can be used to defray the cost of a private school education. I think the State of Texas instead should adequately fund its public schools, to fulfill the mandate of the Texas Constitution that requires the Legislature "to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools" because education is "essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people." (Texas Constitution, Art. 7, § 1 (1876).)

In recent years the Legislature has woefully underfunded public education, and school districts are struggling to operate with huge deficits as a result. If money is taken away from the public school system to help people pay for private education, that will weaken and destroy the public school system for lack of funding. Public schools are the backbone of many small communities in Texas. Public schools serve everyone, while private schools are able to select their students and reject those they cannot or will not educate, such as students with disabilities. That will leave public schools serving the students that are hardest to educate, and with less money to do it.

Based on what I've read about the experience of school vouchers in other states, most of the people who use them are people whose children already attend private schools. Certainly parents can choose to send their children to private schools if they wish. I have done that myself. The taxpayers of Texas should not subsidize private schools, but should dedicate more funding to public schools to bring the level of public school funding up to at least the national average and elevate the quality of public education in Texas. I urge the committee to reject HB 3.

Barb Schmidt Schmidt
Coppell ISD
Coppell, TX

I am totally opposed to the ESA program. We need to increase our per student funding and enable our public schools to thrive. Vouchers will only further diminish our public schools. Please LISTEN to the people of Texas! Thank you.

Tammy Owens
Self
Mt Enterprise, TX

As a conservative Texas voter, parent and grandparent, I strongly oppose the use of public tax dollars to fund homeschool and private school programs through ESAs. This is a misuse of taxpayer funds and the least fiscally responsible use of taxpayer funds. The Legislature would be better served putting in the work to fix the issues facing public schools after years of underfunding and poor policy. Parents in Texas have always had a choice. If they wish to have a choice free of taxpayer oversight and accountability, they should select an option that is not funded by the taxpayer.

Eddie Hernandez
Self
Little Elm, TX

Rick get richer and poor get poorer.

Jo Tampas
Self, retired
Round Rock, TX

This is not the right thing to do for Texas schools or to improve the v education of Texas students. We need kids to grow up to love Texas and be well educated, well behaved and wanting to contribute to Texas success. This bill will kill student's good will. They are already suffering under-funded schools.

Samiyyah Middleton
Self
Arlington, TX

Dear Representative,
As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want an Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) Program. I pay my public tax dollars and, therefore, want my money to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Public school funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had inflation of over 20%. Our children and all the educators, and staff, deserve to have the funding. To be clear, I want to reiterate the following:

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?
?

I do NOT want vouchers/ESAs.
I support an Increase of the Basic Allotment.
I support Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.
Again, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.

Sincerely,
Samiyyah Middleton

Kristy Wynn

Self. Mother

Dripping Springs, TX

Please. NO VOUCHERS

Nicole Schrank

Self - Public School Teacher

Corpus Christi, TX

As a public school educator, I am concerned for the future of my school district if school vouchers are passed. We have already been operating in a deficit for the past several years and to lose more funding would lead to less teachers, bigger classroom sizes, and less funding for necessary resources to provide rigorous and appropriate skills. As a parent, to know that my three children (two of whom are special education) would potentially face hardships in school due to lower funding and resources is upsetting. Charter schools and private schools are out of the question due to the distance and the fact they are not adequately set up to care for my autistic children. While incredibly smart and brilliant, they do require some support, and charter and private schools are not required to provide that and could reject my children on that premise. As a taxpayer, I am appalled that something that is not even being voted on by the constituents is being used with our tax money to pay for private school and charter school tuition when they are not held to the same standard as public schools. I do not support my tax dollars going to families to fund their private school, homeschool, or charter school tuitions when there is zero transparency required for their curriculum and standards. Enough with the gaslighting. It is obvious that the majority of Texans do not support school vouchers or this 'education savings account program'. If it something that is believed to be so supported, I say put it to a vote with the constituents of Texas! It is our tax payer money, it is our children being effected. It is only fair that something of this scale be decided on by the public and not by those that are lining the pockets of politicians.

Damon MCall, Dr.

Citizen

Lubbock, TX

Find public education appropriately! Hold private schools receiving state funding to the same standards. Lets be equal if we are getting vouchers

Shanda Beach

Self

Grapevine, TX

As a public school teacher, this will make my job more challenging due to less resources. As a taxpayer, I do not want my tax dollars going to private schools. They are for public use only. As an alumnus of St. Agnes Academy in Houston, my parents chose and paid for my education. We had a choice. Keep public money in the public schools. Vote no on HB 3.

Robin Smith
Self - Retired
Dallas, TX

All of my children and now my grandchildren are attending public school in Richardson. I regularly attend volunteer meetings and for years have learned about the lack of funding that our schools must struggle with year over year. I know it's been 5 years + since the district has received a per pupil increase. They have however incurred increased costs for property insurance, utilities, safety officer requirements and more. Our public schools and teachers need to have a significant increase to manage general cost of living increases. They DO NOT need to have funds redirected to a voucher system that sends my tax dollars to private schools. I pay taxes to support our public resources that are used and shared by all. My taxes should not be subsidizing families who in many cases are already sending their children to private schools. Private schools have none of the requirements of public schools. They can refuse admission, they do not have to offer transportation, special ed services, disability services, safety officer requirements and on and on. Many rural districts do not even have accessible private schools nearby and will be sharing resources that could be going to improve their local schools. Other states have implemented voucher programs and have found they drain state resources while not measureably improving outcomes. We need the tax dollars that have been withheld by the state to be completely allocated to our public schools and this voucher scam that is being pushed by a few billionaires needs to be nixed. You need to listen to the people of TX who overwhelmingly do not want this. Thank you.

Leah Ferguson
Leander ISD/Mason Elementary and Cedar Park High School
Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and as a mother of 3 children I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools. Our youngest is on the Autism spectrum and has ADHD. He receives incredible support at our public school and has grown so much and is thriving because of these much needed supports.

ESAs (vouchers) directly hurt students with disabilities who receive Special Education services in Public Schools in the State of Texas. Diverting \$1 Billion of my PUBLIC taxpayer money to private schools who do not even acknowledge IDEA, do not follow IEPs and only provide services when they are negotiated, compromised and then charged back to parents at exorbitant rates well above typical tuition rates it is theft of services and money to the most vulnerable population in Texas.

14% of the 5.4 million public school students in Texas receive special education services. That's 760,000 students at a minimum. These ESAs are completely inaccessible to at least 90% of our disabled students, and that is before they have a chance at any lottery or know if a private school will accept, serve, or retain them. There's no accountability. Not of services, not of the \$1 Billion of public taxpayer money this legislature wants to pour into private schools and not of impact or outcomes of our disabled students.

Even if we say ALL of the ESAs go to disabled kids receiving special education services, that still leaves a minimum of 700,000 students receiving special education services in underfunded understaffed Public Schools that this state put in this situation. This causes direct harm to these students with disabilities, the most vulnerable individuals in society, and it's at the hands of those who are supposed to represent us.

This is unacceptable. I want this legislature to take accountability, listen to the parent voice (and students), and have the courage to do the right thing: say No to ESA/Vouchers and Fund our Public Schools properly.

Please hear our voices, we the taxpayers do not want this. Thank you for your time and honest evaluation of this bill.

Sincerely,
Leah Ferguson

Leslie Berryman
Self, Retired
Forney, TX

I am opposed to the voucher scam! This is a coupon for the wealthy, who don't need it. The voucher scam is a massive transfer of wealth from the bottom to the top.

Debra Foster

Self. Occupational therapist
Stephenville, TX

No vouchers. Texans want public money in public schools. I'm an occupational therapist who has worked with the disabled.
-Private schools are not required to accept poor or disabled students.
-Private, religious, and home schools are not accountable to the state.
-Studies of similar programs found that voucher money largely goes to students ALREADY in private schools.
NO VOUCHERS. Quit trying to cram this down our throats Gov. Abbott. We do NOT want them!

Brandt Oliver

Self/My Children/healthcare administrator
Leander, TX

Public education is the foundation of a thriving society. A thriving society brings wealth to all. If you want to starve the wealth that Texas has created, than passing vouchers and taking away from public education will be the quickest way to do it. United we stand, divided we fall.

Robert Kandra

Self
Port Aransas, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any use of taxpayer dollars for private school vouchers through an education savings account plan. Public funds should be dedicated first and foremost to strengthening our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students and are essential to our communities.
Diverting public money to private schools through vouchers undermines public education by reducing much-needed resources for teachers, students, and programs. Our public schools already face challenges such as teacher shortages, outdated facilities, and insufficient funding. Rather than allocating taxpayer dollars to private institutions that are not held to the same accountability and transparency standards, we should be investing in our public education system to ensure every child in Texas has access to a high-quality education, regardless of their ZIP code or financial background.
I urge you to prioritize funding for our public schools and reject any proposals that would use taxpayer dollars for private school vouchers, also known as education savings accounts. Texas students deserve a strong, well-funded public education system that supports their success.

Cesar Galaviz

Self
Beeville, TX

Taking from public funding so the family that already affords for private school can be given 10,000 for a car (It is coupon for the wealthy!) is unconstitutional.

Alison Clover

Self
Brenham, TX

Say no to school vouchers! Fund our public schools! As a mother of a future teacher and public school students worry about OUR public schools NOT private!

Gena Lazcano

Self, mother
Whitehouse, TX

I am the daughter of two public school teachers and I have 3 boys in public school. I strongly oppose vouchers and wish for public schools to get more funding and definitely not less. Let private schools operate privately and let's focus on public schools please.

Ram Santhanam

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Please focus on funding public education and not private enterprise with our hard earned money.

Karen Urquia

self-3rd grade teacher

Fort Worth, TX

I am a 3rd grade teacher in the Northwest ISD school district. I have been a parent in the district for 9 years and a teacher in the district for almost 3. The main focus of this bill is "school choice" and I'm here to say that I made a "choice" for my children and myself when we moved. We sold our home to leave a district/school that we were unhappy with and chose to transfer into Northwest ISD. We have loved our schools and do not regret our "choice" to move and change districts. In my short 2+ years of teaching in the district I have seen massive changes to our student population, our district spending/funding and the overall climate in our schools. Teachers are exhausted, students are exhausted, students are no longer thriving all because of cuts to our programs and increasing class sizes. Our district is currently facing a 6 million dollar deficit for the 2025 school year and without state funding we are losing precious resources to support our students and our teachers. Special Education programs are limiting the number of students they will accept in specialized units, and placing these students into general education classes where they are causing massive disruptions and impeding the learning of my children and my students. I am sad to report that our SPED program will receive further cuts as well as dyslexia, ESL programs, library access, and even our highest achievers, gifted and talented. What is the end goal here? Even if I were to pull my own children to send them to private school I would need to come up with an additional \$20,000/year minimum to support their education. I am a teacher....my salary is \$61,000/year, it is not feasible. So the ones that will benefit from this bill will not be your average family with average students, it will be for your wealthy families who are already spending the money on a private education. The promise of "school choice" has failed to show any truth. I am disappointed in my elected officials, I voted you in with the promises of supporting my Texas public school educated students and children. Take the funding and either match the public school funding to that of these "vouchers" or drop them and fully fund public schools in Texas. Your constituents have an expectation of you to fulfill your campaign promises. Sincerely a conservative, Republican, Texan teacher

Lynn Parrish, Mrs

Self Teacher

San Augustine, TX

As a parent and grandparent of public school students and as a taxpayer, I ask that you please vote no on HB 2. It offers no benefit to the majority of students across this great state. Spending 1 billion taxpayer dollars on an experiment that is currently not doing well in other states where ESAs have passed is a very expensive gamble. The fact that 80,000,000 of those dollars will be taken off the top to administer the program and pay placement agencies is outrageous. Not one dollar of that money is improving education. There is additional money to be taken from the billion to advertise the program - more money that does not reach children. If the goal is to make choice more affordable for all students in Texas, there has to be a more cost efficient and equitable way to make it happen than this bill, which bloats government and wastes money. The fact that the bill offers the possibility of "choice" to fewer than 2% of students in Texas makes the bill even more disingenuous.

Chad Watt, Mr

Self

Dallas, TX

Vouchers are not needed in texas. It's a cynical scam to cause further harm to Texas public schools. Stop this bull. Stop this bill.

Cheryl Lowber

Self, theatre director

The Colony, TX

This bill will GUT public education. It will take money from already underfunded public schools and funnel it toward private schools that do not have the same requirements put upon them as public schools do. Children and their families will suffer if this bill passes. Teachers will suffer if this bill passes. The only people who will benefit are people who can already afford to send their children to private school. Why not take that money and make our public schools better? Private schools WILL be raising their tuition, which will negate any leg up families think they might be getting from this bill. It only rewards people who have money already and will further push down those families whose socioeconomic status is already at the lower end of the spectrum. Please, please do NOT pass this bill!

Julie Gross

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB 3 and on any legislation that goes against protecting Texas public schools. School vouchers divert much-needed funding away from public schools, which serve ALL students, including those with disabilities, low-income families, and rural communities. These programs undermine the promise of equitable education and leave our public schools struggling to meet the needs of their students.

As a concerned citizen, I believe strongly in the importance of protecting and strengthening our public schools. Texas public schools are already underfunded, and voucher programs would only make this problem worse. Instead of taking resources away from our schools, we should be investing in them—supporting our teachers, reducing class sizes, and ensuring every child has access to a quality education.

I urge you to prioritize the needs of the majority of Texas students and reject any legislation that promotes school vouchers. Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, and they deserve your full support.

Joa Muns

Self

Plano, TX

Vote NO to Vouchers!!

Jessica Deleon-Zahn

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any use of taxpayer dollars for private school vouchers through an education savings account plan. Public funds should be dedicated first and foremost to strengthening our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students and are essential to our communities.

Diverting public money to private schools through vouchers undermines public education by reducing much-needed resources for teachers, students, and programs. Our public schools already face challenges such as teacher shortages, outdated facilities, and insufficient funding. Rather than allocating taxpayer dollars to private institutions that are not held to the same accountability and transparency standards, we should be investing in our public education system to ensure every child in Texas has access to a high-quality education, regardless of their ZIP code or financial background.

I urge you to prioritize funding for our public schools and reject any proposals that would use taxpayer dollars for private school vouchers, also known as education savings accounts. Texas students deserve a strong, well-funded public education system that supports their success.

Sarah Patterson

Self, university staff member

Waco, TX

I was raised in Texas public schools and in a family full of Texas public schoolteachers. I do not support this bill and neither should any representative who cares about the future of our great state and the wellbeing and upbringing of our next generation. I do not support using tax dollars to enable Texas citizens to use funds that should be for the public good of education to invest in private K-12 education. Tax dollars earmarked for education should all go to funding public education. In fact, the argument should not be, “What if we fund private K-12 education?” but rather, “What if we actually properly funded and supported K-12 public education?” And then fund public education properly! Give teachers and school districts the support they need. Listen to educators! This is not what they want, and this is not what the experts recommend. This will not have the positive impact you are hoping. It will become a great stain in the Lone Star State’s history. We will lose educators. We will see our students struggle. We will see greater disparity between students of various economic classes and geographic areas. We will see this most considerably have a negative impact on schools in rural areas, much like the small West Texas town I grew up in. We will see this, overtime, have a negative impact on our public universities, which are exceptional in our nation, and on other industries and services that are critical to our communities. I am asking you to oppose HB 3 because Texans are begging you. My social media (full of conservative West Texans, mind you) is full of posts declaring this is bad. The people disagree with HB 3. The people want and deserve better. You work for us. You represent us. Not the ultra rich and corporations who fund your campaigns, and not the Governor. You work for the people of Texas. So vote accordingly to make sure all Texans have access to a well-funded, high-quality K-12 public education. Invest our tax dollars in public education. Vote no to HB 3. Listen to the people of Texas. Work for the people of Texas.

Nancy Routzon

Self - Project Manager

Watauga, TX

As a longtime public educator and citizen of Texas, I submit that this “savings account system” is tantamount to theft of the tax dollars of Texas citizens. That “parental choice” already exists; I know, I homeschooled my own children. Additionally, I challenge the proponents of this bill to put forth a quorum of examples that it works; I dare say you can’t find one. Instead, you find example after example of hard-earned tax dollars lining the pockets of millionaires and billionaires, none of whom have any business dictating anything regarding public education.

Governor Abbott needs to get his cronies off his payroll, and hand education back where it belongs: in the hands of the experts, the teachers.

I vote a resounding, hearty, angry, and highly offended NO to this voucher system.

Rona Hollyer

Self, retired teacher

Katy, TX

Texas kids deserve fully funded public schools—not a voucher scheme that benefits private schools with no accountability! Vote no to HB3!

Diane Laing

Self

McKinney, TX

Vote NO for vouchers!!!!!!!!!!!!

I don’t want my tax dollars supporting private and/or religious schools. I paid for my child to attend a private high school. Everyone else can do the same.

Fully fund public schools!!!!!!

Laura Davila

Self

Austin, TX

I, along with a majority of Texans, reject a voucher system that would drain public education funding and devastate rural areas without access to private education. Additionally, there have been multiple examples in other states, such as Arizona, where a voucher system effectively bankrupt the state beyond education, requiring the diversion of critical water infrastructure funds. Let's not be as short-sighted as our friends in the South west and instead let's stand up for public education to help uplift every Texan. Our teachers, students and communities deserve better. With many public school educators in my family, including my mother who has served the state for nearly 30 years, and as a hopeful mother of a future Texan, this matter hits very close to home for me. I know the every day work our teachers in public schools put in, despite always shrinking budgets. Our teachers dedicate so much extra time and love to help raise and nurture the future of ALL Texans. The overwhelming majority of Texans agree: SAY NO TO VOUCHERS.

Esther Brodrick

Self

Plano, TX

I do not support this bill and plead with Texas lawmakers to vote no on defunding public schools. Allow parents to make their choice for their kids' education. This means private schools will be covered by private funds. Public schools will be covered by public funds.

Kathryn Beaver, Ms.

Self

Cleburne, TX

ESAs will significantly harm Texas students. This bill will divert much needed funding from public schools and be used as a taxpayer-funded benefit for the wealthy to subsidize their private school tuition. The best way to ensure students in our state receive high quality, rigorous education is to vote no on this measure. Public funds should stay in public schools.

Chase Owen

Self / teacher

Caldwell, TX

This legislation does a major disservice to students in the public education system. We do not need our tax dollars going to fund private education. Our tax dollars should be going to public education only. If you fund public schools, pay public school teachers an equitable amount and stop this voucher nonsense, public schools will thrive. School choice already exists. People who can afford it, already choose where their students go. Let's put our tax dollars on the students and families who need it most!

Cheryl Ursin

Self

Houston, TX

I support public schools and oppose HB3.

Juanita Sanchez, Ms.

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers divert public funds to private schools, reducing the resources available for public education. This weakens public schools, which serve the majority of students, particularly those from low-income and marginalized communities. Voucher programs also lack accountability, as private schools are not held to the same academic and non-discrimination standards as public institutions. Ultimately, vouchers contribute to educational inequality by prioritizing individual choice over the collective improvement of the public education system.

Andrew Weesner

Myself

Hurst, TX

I am a public educator and fully support public education. An educational savings plan will not help the student I teach, it will only take needed funds away and reroute them to put money back into the pockets of those who are already able to afford private education. My students will still be in my classroom with less than they need.

Heather Robins

Self

Spring, TX

I oppose HB3!

Rosalie Johnson

Self

Port Aransas, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any use of taxpayer dollars for private school vouchers through an education savings account plan. Public funds should be dedicated first and foremost to strengthening our public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students and are essential to our communities.

Diverting public money to private schools through vouchers undermines public education by reducing much-needed resources for teachers, students, and programs. Our public schools already face challenges such as teacher shortages, outdated facilities, and insufficient funding. Rather than allocating taxpayer dollars to private institutions that are not held to the same accountability and transparency standards, we should be investing in our public education system to ensure every child in Texas has access to a high-quality education, regardless of their ZIP code or financial background.

I urge you to prioritize funding for our public schools and reject any proposals that would use taxpayer dollars for private school vouchers, also known as education savings accounts. Texas students deserve a strong, well-funded public education system that supports their success.

(Feel free to share the above info. Comments must be submitted before hearing ends on Monday afternoon.)

Isaiah Robertson

Self

Bryan, TX

Although the surface seems reasonable, a voucher system without income caps, is a welfare system for the rich. There needs to be proof that you cannot afford private school, your public school is failing and accreditation and non discrimination just like federal financial aid.

C. VanMichael Farmer, Mr.

Self/ Entrepreneur

Austin, TX

Subject: Opposing [Texas House Bill #3] – No to School Vouchers

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing to strongly oppose [Texas House Bill #3] on school vouchers. This bill would take money away from our public schools and give it to private schools that don't have to follow the same rules or serve all students. That's not fair, and it's not right for Texas kids.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities. They welcome every child, no matter their background, income, or abilities. Instead of pulling funding away, we should be investing more in public schools—paying teachers fairly, reducing class sizes, and giving students the resources they need to succeed.

Vouchers don't guarantee better education. In fact, they often leave families with fewer protections and fewer real choices, especially in rural areas where private schools aren't even an option. Taxpayer money should stay in public schools, where it benefits all students, not just a select few.

Please stand with Texas families and vote NO on this bill. Our kids deserve strong, well-funded public schools—not a system that drains resources and deepens inequities.

Sincerely,

C. VanMichael Farmer

Rebecca Cagle, Mrs.

Self/Teacher

Abilene, TX

Please, no vouchers!

Patricia Bisbee

Self - Public School Teacher

Cedar Park, TX

Funding public schools that support all students in Texas should be our priority, and this is what the majority of Texas residents want. Vote no on vouchers. Fully fund our schools. Increase the minimum per student allotment to \$1300.

Brian Haralson

Myself

Levelland, TX

I believe school choice/vouchers is an outstanding piece of legislation! I fully support families being allowed to use funds in order to educate their children as they choose.

I respect the idea of a free public education. However, I have seen public education failing, most strongly in academics. I have met educators in the public school who, unfortunately, had no business calling themselves an educator. Public schools seem to cater only to the athletic or academically lifted (20%), while neglecting the remainder of the students (80%).

My dealings with private schools, especially church based Christian schools, has been vastly different. These schools provide the individual attention to each and every student. Their parents are a welcomed member of the process (in public schools, the aforementioned "educators" seemed to think of parents as a necessary evil).

If I had school aged children, they would be in a Christian based private school, with or without vouchers!

Dionna Garrett

Self

Mineral Wells, TX

My highly educated family members with doctorates and multiple degrees attended our rural public ISD. Future success is not based on where you attend school. My local rural ISD receives roughly \$6000 per student. The voucher school choice program is promising \$10,000 per student. Why hasn't the State of Texas increased the actual amount per student since 2011? Why did the budget committee members act like they did not know this or understand the swap money etc? This is very concerning since our school taxes are double what our other taxing entities collect. When parents speak of their choice for their tax dollars to follow their children how about we all make a choice and say where we want our tax dollars to go? Let us vote on it! Please revamp what we already have instead of allowing the richest man in Pennsylvania to determine where OUR TEXAS tax dollars should go. Support Public schools where there are rules and regulations instead of private schools with school choice vouchers.

Regina Miron

self

Nevada, TX

Hello, my name is ___Regina Miron___ and I am a constituent in zip code 75173____. I am calling to ask my representative to vote NO on HB 3. I want fully funded public education, not be divvied up to private schools. Thank you.

LaVerne Dysart

Self, retired and an ardent service volunteer

San Antonio, TX

Public dollars should not be taken from Public Education.

Public Education is at the heart of our society. We cannot allow our investment in Public Education to erode.

Diverting funds from our Public Schools is wrong and is not in the best interest of the children in our state.

George McKee

Self

Cedar Park, TX

All dollars collected for Education should be directed to "public education" (NOT. private aka "charter")..

We need more teachers and we must be able to pay them a competitive salary and as money goes to charters this cannot be accomplished. The public should not be supporting anyone going to "charter schools" ..it is their choice and if they want to pay extra to go to a Charter school, they should pay the full price that they charge. Public education has a disadvantage when "funds" are taken from the education budget that should be going to public education NOT Charter schools!

Victoria Pearson

Self

Austin, TX

As the parent of a child with special needs, I believe in our public schools. We need to empower them and provide them with the resources they need, not ceaselessly strip them of their funding. The Education Savings Account will only benefit those who can already afford to send their children to private schools, and will harm those of us who rely on public schools for the education of our children. Please, please, please stop wasting taxpayer dollars and time with these voucher bills.

Suzann Benatar

Self

Keller, TX

Enough is enough. It's imperative that our public schools get the funding they need and deserve. Public schools deserve more than private schools per child due to the way private schools are setup. As an upper middle income household we will not be able to afford to send our children to private school even with a voucher/savings account. So how is vouchers suppose to be good for my family and for so many other families who attend public schools? Increase the allotment for public school students to meet today's costs due to inflation and release the \$20 billion + dollars that have been held captive by Abbott for the past two years. Enough is Enough.

My district Keller ISD is supposedly going to be splitting without a vote by the community because of the shortfall in school funding. Is this right? Do you support this decision the school board is making regardless of the outcome on this bill and not letting the community have a say? Enough is Enough. Do the right thing for the public school community in the state and precincts you were voted to represent.

Troye Smith

Self, Health Coach

Sherman, TX

I am against this bill and ask my Representative(s) to vote against it. This will do nothing but hurt education for the majority of students while helping only a few.

Frances Rogers

Self, retired

Bedford, TX

Children are THE FUTURE. There have been public schools in America since 1635. It is my understanding that the voucher system would allow residents to use public school funds to purchase vouchers for private schools. If people want to send their children to private schools, that is their choice, BUT it is a terrible idea to fund their choice with funds paid in good faith by Texas taxpayers to fund PUBLIC SCHOOLS. We as Texans first and foremost owe it to the children of our state to use OUR tax money to fund the best possible public schools. PERIOD.

Whitney Weesner

Self

Hurst, TX

The voucher program is awful and will hurt our public school systems. Please do not pass this bill-it will hurt so many children's education and it does not level the playing field. All it does is widen the gap between rich families and families struggling to put food on the table.

Tehya Cantu

Self

Austin, TX

This bill funnels even more money away from our already struggling public education system. I do not support this bill, nor any that takes resources away from funding public education.

Olga Jankowski

Self

Houston, TX

As a parent of three kids who attended Catholic schools from kindergarten through high school and as a Catholic school teacher of 20 years, I know that Catholic schools do an excellent job educating our students. However, the state government should be supporting our public schools, not taking away from them. Please vote NO on HB3! Keep Texas public schools strong!

Ryan McKelvy-Gonzales

self - teacher

Dallas, TX

This voucher bill will lead to drastic cuts to public schools, vouchers are an unfair transfer of wealth to parents already sending their students to private schools. In states that have vouchers 3/4 of students who take vouchers are already in private schools, these are subsidies for the wealthy at taxpayer expense.

1/4 of students who take vouchers will transfer from public schools to private/charter schools, but studies show huge academic decline, because the elite academies can deny anyone or deny to take vouchers. If they cover the tuition or not. Also it's the struggling or sub-prime schools that will take anyone and everyone. They will take vouchers because they care mostly about getting the money not the students.

There is also strong language for allowing schools to deny a student for religious reasons or because they don't fit with their educational standards. This could allow a school to exclude almost anyone for any reason from a divorced family, single parents, lgbtq parents, or any other personal beliefs that might counter the "standards of the school." Public schools don't have that option and must accept everyone no matter what.

School choice is about giving schools choice not parents. Many districts like Dallas ISD already offer school choice through TAG, Magnet, P-TECH, and non-home school transfer options.

Vouchers are bankrupting Arizona and Florida, while offering worse educational outcomes. Vouchers also take away state funding from districts, so they have to get more from local revenue and raise property taxes to make up the difference. Public schools are hurting for funding because our allotment hasn't increased since 2019. Due to inflation we are now receiving what amounts to a \$1300 cut per student. Districts all across the state are talking school shutdowns, increasing class sizes, increasing case loads for special education teachers, and less paraprofessionals that provide essential services to our state's children.

Please vote this down and pass instead an increase in allotment for at least \$1300 per student and the Educator's Bill of Rights. Both of these actions will lead to better educational outcomes for all Texas children. Especially those that need it most.

Stephenie Wood, Mrs.

Self

Wylie, TX

We as Texans already voted against this! The Texas House listened to their constituents and lost their jobs. Abbott is bullying the people who listen to their constituents people of Texas.

This bill is detrimental to our children who are our future! I have dedicated my life to helping ALL students from various backgrounds. With my vast experience in education (35+ years at all levels) this bill does is NOT good for ALL! It is only for those that can already afford private schools.

It is outrageous that school funding has been held hostage for this bill. It is unconstitutional that public schools have not been fully funded since prior to 2019! We all know the increase cost involved during this time.

I **BOLDY** ask the Texas House of Representatives to vote against this bill and Gov Abbott!

Fight for our public schools and our children! Fight against Gov Abbott wishes to pass this bill! Fight for the voters whom you represent that do not want this.

I ask each of you to look at the call logs and see that Texas overwhelmingly do not want this.

Remember you are the House of Representatives and you represent the voters who put you in office and NOT the Governor or those who are funding this bill.

Respectfully I ask and pray that you listen to the people of Texas. **VOTE AGAINST THIS BILL**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Alexis Hare

Self

Austin, TX

As a parent of a Texas public school, educated student, I highly and strenuously object to any voucher program that uses public funds for private religious education.

Public schools must be fully funded for the good of all students. Vouchers should only be considered or discussed once public schools are fully funded.

Amanda Ammerman, Mrs

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Amanda Ammerman and I am a constituent and taxpayer in Austin, Texas. I am also a mother of two young children who will be entering into the public school system within the next few years. I strongly oppose HB 3 and the creation of education savings accounts (ESAs) for private school vouchers. ESAs will divert crucial funding away from public schools, force rural communities to pay into a system they likely cannot access, and fails to protect the rights of students with disabilities. ESAs promote the creation of pop-up schools and vendors who do not provide transparency or accountability for what students are learning. Public funds belong in public schools. Texas ranks 46th in per-student spending in public schools. It is time for the State of Texas to invest and support our public schools, our teachers and our students. I strongly urge you to reject this bill.

Bridget Thomas, Mrs.

Self/teacher

Conroe, TX

I am deeply disappointed by the push for school voucher programs that divert desperately needed funds from our already underfunded public schools. This policy disproportionately harms our neediest students—those who rely on public education as their only pathway to opportunity. Instead of investing in better resources and smaller class sizes, you are funneling taxpayer dollars into private institutions that can pick and choose their students, leaving the most vulnerable behind.

Public schools serve every child, regardless of income, ability, or background. By stripping them of essential funding, you are actively widening the gap between wealthy and disadvantaged students. This is not about "school choice"—it's about privilege and profits. And let's be honest: many politicians and their donors stand to financially benefit from these policies, profiting off the dismantling of our public education system.

Education should be about lifting up all students, not padding the pockets of the privileged. If you truly cared about our children's futures, you would work to fix and fund public schools, not abandon them. This betrayal of our kids—especially those in low-income and rural areas—is a disgrace.

Do better. Our children deserve it.

Donna Brewton

My privilege of voting

Mountain Home, TX

House Members,

Please do not throw our public school students under the bus b/c of Abbotts very misguided leadership. Don't be bullied. You will be supported in doing the right thing by your school children & their parents.

Wendy Graves

Retired Educator

Richards, TX

No to vouchers! Just NO!

Ryan Meyer

Self

Dallas, TX

I am a proud graduate of Texas public schools, which gave both my sister and I the education we needed to succeed and pull ourselves up by our bootstraps into the middle class. Our public schools exposed me to the wider world, taught me the skills I needed to succeed in college and law school, and helped me develop into an active and informed member of our society. I absolutely oppose any effort to weaken our great public schools, which have pulled generations of Texans out of poverty and made the Texas miracle possible.

Adrienne Chevalier

Texas Public School

Schertz, TX

Say NO to Vouchers! Fully fund public schools! Stop holding our teachers & students hostage!

Katrina Holihan

Na

Frisco, TX

I support well funded public education. I do not support tax dollars going to families that choose to send their kids to expensive private schools. We are already seeing cuts being made to valuable programs in our district and it will just get worse with vouchers. Privatizing serves very few in the community. Tax dollars should be used to fund schools accessible by all. I will not vote for anyone that supports taking funding away from our schools

Haroon Monis

NISD Teacher

San Antonio, TX

Whatever name you resurrect this bill with time after time will never change the fact that Vouchers are a scam. I'm a public school teacher, and I want money invested into public schools where students thrive and learn to become productive citizens of our society. Vote NO on HB 3! Public dollars belong in public schools!

Rebecca Jones

Self - retired college educator

McAllen, TX

Please vote NO to vouchers.

Please vote YES to fund Texas public schools and teacher retirement plans adequately.

Jeffrey Dravis

Self

Houston, TX

I am firmly opposed to this bill. The Constitution clearly defines the separation of church and state. I firmly believe in public education and want all of my tax dollars devoted to its support and actual improvement. Christian nationalists (aka American Taliban?) are not the majority and have no right to force our tax dollars to support private (aka "christian") education in this state.

Anne Marie Barrera, Mrs.

Self teacher

Houston, TX

My name is Anne Marie Barrera, and I live in zip code 77084. Thank you for serving on the public education committee. I ask that you vote no to HB3, SB2, or any voucher/ESA bill and instead prioritize fully funding public schools first by enrollment rather than attendance, increase the basic allotment by \$1300 to catch up with inflation, and support strong teacher and staff pay raises. This bill allows people making above \$160,000 to apply such that the richest families may benefit. Our tax dollars should support all students, not just a select few. Please prioritize strong public schools for all Texas children.

Thank you for your time.

Bethany Watts

self- school librarian

Plano, TX

I am writing to urge you to oppose any school voucher plan that would divert taxpayer dollars from public schools to private institutions. As a dedicated public school employee, I witness firsthand the challenges our schools face due to ongoing budget cuts, increasing class sizes, and even school closures. The approval of a school voucher system would only exacerbate these issues, further weakening the foundation of our public education system and harming the vast majority of Texas children who rely on it.

Public schools serve all students, regardless of their background, ability, or financial means. They are the bedrock of our democracy, providing equal opportunities for children to learn, grow, and succeed. By contrast, private schools have the ability to pick and choose their students, often excluding those with disabilities, behavioral challenges, or lower academic performance. Funding private institutions with public dollars effectively creates an inequitable system where taxpayer money benefits a select few rather than the vast majority of Texas students.

Furthermore, there is no conclusive evidence that school vouchers improve academic outcomes. In fact, research from states that have implemented voucher programs has shown mixed or even negative results, with many students performing worse in private schools than their public school counterparts. If Texas truly values education, we must focus on strengthening our public schools rather than diverting funds to private entities that are not held to the same standards of accountability and transparency.

Public school funding in Texas is already stretched thin. Approving a voucher system would take desperately needed resources away from schools that are already struggling to provide essential services, pay competitive salaries to teachers, and maintain safe and effective learning environments. Instead of funding private schools, we should be investing in initiatives that enhance public education—such as reducing class sizes, increasing teacher pay, updating curriculum and technology, and expanding mental health services for students.

I understand the appeal of school choice, but true choice exists within a well-funded public education system where all children—regardless of their socioeconomic status—have access to quality learning environments. School vouchers would undermine this principle and hurt the very students who need support the most.

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to vote against any voucher plan and instead advocate for policies that strengthen and support our public schools. Texas children deserve better than a system that diverts funds from public education in favor of private interests.

I am writing to urge you to oppose any school voucher plan that would divert taxpayer dollars from public schools to private institutions. As a dedicated public school employee, I witness firsthand the challenges our schools face due to ongoing budget cuts, increasing class sizes,

Carl Hooper
Self - Band Director
Abilene, TX

Respectfully, please do what is right for ALL students. Vote NO to vouchers. There is no way that the voucher plan benefits all students. Tax dollars that are allocated for public education should not be withheld from public education and funneled directly into private schools via vouchers. It cannot be "school choice" when only a select few would be able to receive and use them. Also, "school choice" only seems to be in the hands of the schools in which the vouchers are wished to be used. When a school can turn down special needs students, special education students, those that even might have behavioral problems, and even perhaps turn down students due to gender, race, or financial income, the real power of "school choice" is held by those schools that would be accepting vouchers. Furthermore, private schools are located in urban areas. Private schools are rare in rural areas. Over half of the Texas counties do not have private schools, therefore, does the majority really benefit from "school choice"? I'm concerned that this bill will harm public education even further than what has already been done. I am also concerned that the bill elevates private schools above public schools in the way that they are unequally funded. As far as morality goes, it seems that this bill takes money from the poor and would benefit the already wealthy. I question whether this bill is in line with the Texas Constitution. Please, listen to your constituents. Please do what is best for ALL Texas students and vote no for this bill! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Carl Hooper

Irma Juarez
Self
Red Oak, TX

I am a school counselor in a public school, in a rural district in Texas and I am against HB3. Public funds belong in public schools and should not be diverted to private schools. It does not matter that they are currently coming from the "general fund," as that is still taxpayer money. Just like SB2, this is also a terrible bill that does a disservice to the millions of students and hundreds of thousands of teachers in the public school system. It will continue to contribute to the deficit in funding our public-school districts have been facing for many years. Today it is \$1 billion but over the next few years, where will that money come from? We will not always have a surplus of funds. In fact, that surplus belongs to taxpayers, and our public schools. Parents have a choice on where to enroll students, public, charter, online, private, or homeschool, it is up to them. There are zero private schools in the rural city I work in; this does not benefit a single one of my students or their families. Greg Abbott has been the governor of Texas for 10 years, and under his watch, and his appointees, he has undermined Public Schools by allowing unqualified people with no experiences in classrooms to head the TEA, placed mandates on districts without the funding to support these requirements, and withheld public funding from schools due to not passing vouchers in the last session. All of these things culminated together, plus inflation, cause budget shortfalls across districts which leads districts being short staffed, public schools to close, increased number of students per class, the cutting of special programs and extracurriculars, and a high level of stress among educators and students. HB3 will not solve these issues. HB3 will make these problems worse over time. Our students have fantastic teachers, who love students, who teach the curriculum set forth by the state, despite a student's ability, special needs, or family background. This is not about "school choice," but about the profiting of private companies who are already lobbying in Austin to get the \$50 million up for grabs if this bill passes. Anything related to education in Texas should be about fully funding our public schools so that we may have those smaller class sizes, provide all of the special education/504 services in the best environment for our students with an appropriate number of staff members. It is about fully funding our public schools so we can provide fine arts, sports, expand our CTE programs and Dual credit programs for students. We have been doing so much with less and less. It is time we do more, with more. No to HB3 and fully fund our public schools.

Laura Atlas

Self

Austin, TX

I would like to express my strong opposition to HB3. As a former teacher and parent of children who graduated from public schools in Austin, I believe that HB3 will defund public education, establishing a two tier system that would allow wealthy, urban/suburban families to get money to pay for private schools that they can already afford while poor/middle income families and rural families would still not have access even with the voucher payments. The United States stands out in the world because of our public education system and defunding it through the voucher system would have detrimental impacts for poor, middle income, and rural kids in Texas. I implore you to NOT send HB3 out of committee.

Kimberley Mendez

Self/librarian

Pflugerville, TX

HB 3 is a disservice for all of our children in Texas. Public money should not support private schools which don't have the same regulations as public schools. There is and always should be a separation of church and state! Families already have school choice- they can go anywhere they want: public schools, charter schools, home school, or private. Most public schools also allow in-district transfers as well as out of district transfers. That right there is a lot of choice! Public education is not even properly funded and hasn't been for the past 20 years! Texas needs to do right for the 95% of students who attend public schools and not cater to the 5% who can already afford private school tuition. What happens to the money when the private school kicks out the student in September or October? Does the private school get to keep the \$10,000 for the year even though the child only stayed for 1 month? That child will return to the public school that cannot kick him out but now, without the funds that should follow him. In order for a private school to receive that money- the student needs to attend for 8 months out of the 9 month school year. Something needs to be done so public schools are not left out in the cold, like we have been for the past 10+ years.

Also, fully fund public education and give ALL people in education a proper raise of \$10,000; don't limit it to rural or urban areas. It costs more to live in urban areas in the first place.

Britt Spears

Self/Ex Teacher principal

Lubbock, TX

I support public tax dollars going to public schools not private schools.

Keep Dunn/Wilkes out of state government!!!!

Follow the money!!!

Kristy Smith, Mrs.

Self, writer

Fulshear, TX

I fervently disprove of the voucher program. I am 100% in support of fully-funded public education. The vouchers will not help those who actually need the help and they will end up hurting students who need the support, as well as forcing tax-payers to pay more and get less in the process. The voucher bill DOES NOT have my support. Thank you.

Abigail Forster, Miss

Self

Houston, TX

Reallocating the tax dollars currently going to the public school system, while an interesting idea, would be highly damaging in the long run. Public school systems already struggle with the lack of funds, and giving the money to the student/the student's family gives those students the opportunity to not go to school and use the money in the wrong way. In addition, most people who choose private school or tuition schools can afford the tuition without help, and removing those funds from public school means that people who can't afford expensive private school tuitions will be forced into a less funded, and likely failing school system.

Della Richhart

Self

Spring, TX

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to voice my concern over the creation of education savings accounts. I am a parent and I am also an educator. I have

18 years of service in public schools with the majority of that time serving students who receive special education services. I am deeply disappointed that our representatives have not seen fit to support our public schools with the funds and respect that they deserve. Instead, we see representatives turning a blind eye to the needs of the majority of Texas children as they lean on creating another level of government bureaucracy instead of working collaboratively to fix the problems in the existing system. Please consider the damage ESAs will do to our public schools and truly listen to what your constituents are telling you. Our public system should be your first priority not a second system that picks and chooses which Texas children are worth the effort.

Thank you.

Sarah Hawthorne

Self

Austin, TX

Opposed strongly as a mother of children in Austin ISD. Get your stuff together!

Jacy Roach

Self

Mineral Wells, TX

Vouchers are not what Texas kids need. They need funded public education. Vouchers are not working well in the states that have already adopted them. Why would we think they would help our Texas kids? Texas has great public schools. Give us adequate funding and let us help kids.

Mark Palma

Self

Kerens, TX

I am for school choice.

Karol Rainwater

Self

Dougherty, TX

Please vote against any bill supporting vouchers. I live in a rural area without a private school close. Also vouchers would take away money from public schools which are very unfunded.

Gabriella Nissen

self

Houston, TX

I support public schools and oppose HB3.

Michelle Affek

Self

rowlett, TX

The Texas HB3 bill presents significant concerns for the future of public education in the state. Firstly, the bill reduces funding for critical educational programs, which threatens to limit access to quality education, especially for vulnerable and underserved students. By cutting funds for essential services like special education and after-school programs, HB3 exacerbates existing inequalities and fails to invest in the long-term success of Texas' students.

Secondly, HB3 undermines local control of education by centralizing decision-making at the state level, effectively removing the ability of local school districts, educators, and parents to have a say in the direction of their schools. This top-down approach disregards the unique needs of individual communities, making it harder to address specific challenges and provide tailored solutions.

Finally, HB3 prioritizes standardized testing over the overall well-being of students, shifting the focus away from developing critical thinking, creativity, and emotional intelligence. The bill creates a high-pressure environment for students and educators, further exacerbating issues like teacher burnout and mental health challenges. By emphasizing test scores over a well-rounded education, HB3 fails to address the core issues of the Texas education system, such as underfunding, overcrowded classrooms, and a lack of support for teachers.

Oske Buckley

Self, Administrative

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because every child deserves the right to a quality public education that is fair and empowering, regardless of background. Our public schools must be fully funded and equipped to help all students succeed. Public funding should directly support public education, not be diverted to exclusive program serving only select groups. With this bill, students with disabilities risk losing critical protections provided under state and federal laws when utilizing voucher programs to attend private schools. Please oppose this bill and uphold quality public education for all.

Susan Holland

Self, retired teacher

Austin, TX

Vouchers will create a new entitlement in the state, and will be an increasingly expensive budget item no matter what comes to the Texas boom and bust economy. We fund public education as a benefit to the state and the communities of the state, not as an entitlement to individual families.

David Hepler

Self

Katy, TX

I am absolutely opposed to collecting tax dollars from the public for education and channeling those tax dollars into the pockets of unaccountable private citizens (in the case of homeschooling) or private corporations (as in the case of private schools).

If parents are given the choice to choose to homeschool or send their children to private schools and collect public education tax dollars for doing so, taxpayers who are no longer sending their children to school should be afforded the option to opt out of paying tax dollars into the public education system.

Toni Valle

Self teacher

Houston, TX

I am a houston Texas resident and university professor. I do not support school vouchers. Texas tax money should support public schools only.

Yvonne Aguirre

N/A

HOUSTON, TX

I support public schools and oppose HB3

Matt Forster

self land steward

Houston, TX

I think it's outrageous that the state continues to push this anti-education agenda. Do not use my tax money to subsidize private schools and charter schools! After continually underfunding our public education system, the fix is not to hand over the reins of education to for-profit organizations that are solely motivated by the opportunity to skim more money away from our kids. I've heard this non-stop whine about "giving parents control" for decades. This is why we have school boards. It didn't make sense in the '80s and it doesn't make sense now. It's very clear that the politicians behind this are solely driven by the millions of dollars that are pouring into their pockets from rich donors. And if rich donors are willing to spend that much money to buy the governor and push this agenda, you know it's bad for the people of Texas.

If the people in leadership cared more about the communities they serve than the money they can make in office, we'd be far better off.

Ramiro Flores, Mr.

Self

Round Rock, TX

I believe funding public schools is essential. Fund the schools at the proper level first before any taxpayer dollars are sent to private schools. Vouchers do not give individuals the choice that is being claimed. Private schools don't have to accept everyone so they can be selective of who they register to their schools. They don't have to provide the same services as public schools. Their students don't have to take the state standardized tests. Most don't require certified teachers. All vouchers will do is subsidize families who can already afford to send their children to private schools. The less affluent families will still not be able to afford private schools even with vouchers. If vouchers are provided to private schools require them to comply with the same rules that apply to public schools. Then you can claim that vouchers give choice.

James Barber

Self - Education

San Antonio, TX

I am a Texas voter and taxpayer, I do not support using public school funds to supplement private school education. This bill will destroy public schools, the backbone of the Texas economy. I do not consent to what is clearly a scam to open opportunities for poorly regulated privatized schools. A shameful cash grab at the expense of our children's future. There is intense scrutiny of public schools, but charter and homeschool families will have the opportunity to spend the hard earned tax dollars of Texans with impunity. What will become of the Texas labor market when it is known that Texas students are taught whatever ludicrous nonsense their parents religion or some corporations private school seems necessary for their indoctrination. Texas education will become a laughing s I question why anyone would seek to destroy the public school system. These forces represent billionaires trying to pry the right to a free public education from our future, and steal the tax dollars of Texans in the process. And what of the Teacher Retirement System, TRS. The vouchers scam will gut its funding, putting in jeopardy the retirements and futures of thousands of professionals who dedicated their lives to the public service of education. Consider a favorite teacher from your life, could you look them in the eye tell them you plan to rob them of their retirement to satiate a corrupt cadre of billionaires? Shame. This is still a democracy, and these are public funds, they do not belong to the members of the house. You are the stewards of this money and what you are considering here is shameful, anti-democratic, and clearly NOT what your Texas constituents want. Stand up to greed, stand up for kids, do the right thing and defeat this bill.

Karin Hall
Self
Belton, TX

I am for and in support of HB 3.

Joel McGregor
Self Denton County Precinct Chair 4217
Northlake, TX

Vote no! This is not real school choice. This is government control of private and home school. Evil!

Kristi Odom
Self - Educator
Spring, TX

Please put education savings account program on the ballot and let the people vote. Do not hide behind the veil stating that Republicans were voted in, therefore the majority of people want HB 3. That is simply not true. Our Texas Constitution states that your duty is to ensure public education is funded and successful. HB 3 will hurt public education and Texans know this to be true. A perfect solution would be to allow those that want an education savings account for their children, to be able to utilize their property tax to do so. Then politicians cannot hold taxpayer money hostage, as is being done in this situation. You are an elected politician that should care what the majority of your people want, and that is not vouchers or an educational savings account.

Sarah Watkins
Self
Allen, TX

I do not support ESA's. I do not support the allocation of my tax dollars to private schools. There is little evidence to indicate that voucher /school choice programs improve student achievement. There is evidence that these programs increase segregation.

Leslie Schrof
Self
Houston, TX

I am firmly against the school voucher programs. All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them to succeed, not just students at exclusive private schools. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our neighborhood public schools for students, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private and religious schools that pick and choose who will enroll.

As a concerned Texan, I ask you to vote down any voucher scheme that diverts tax dollars from neighborhood public schools. Public dollars should stay in public schools.

Gwen Parish

self, high school math teacher

Earth, TX

Please consider this bill carefully before you vote. It does not help as many students as people would like the taxpayers to believe. Over 150 of the 254 counties in Texas do not have private school options. This includes Lamb County where I live, as well as most of the other rural counties west of I-35. Personal income in these counties does not allow families the luxury of driving their children back and forth to private schools. In addition, some of the private schools that exist do not offer high school courses.

Furthermore, it is completely inequitable to fund private schools at a higher rate per student than public schools will receive. Private schools cost more, but public schools provide many more services, such as special education, transportation, and free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch for low-income students, than private schools do. In the 35 years I've been teaching, I've seen the public school accountability system continue to raise the standards for success, and I've seen teachers and students rise to the challenge every time.

Private schools must be held to the same accountability standards as public schools if they are going to receive state funding. Safeguards to ensure that students in private schools receive an education comparable to a public school education must exist, and requiring private schools to meet the same accountability standards as public schools is a good beginning.

Brandon Hall

Self

Belton, TX

I am in support FOR HB3. This bill is necessary to allow parents the ability through ESAs to find the schooling of the parents choice.

Again, I am FOR and in support of this bill

Brandon Hall

R Whisenhunt

Self-paraprofessional

PARIS, TX

PLEASE, please, don't do this to Texas public schools! It's not working anywhere else, so why put us in this position? Please consider the amount of children enrolled in public schools as opposed to private ones, nothing about this is fair or just.

Yamini Nat, Dr

Self

Sugar land, TX

This bill will siphon funds from public schools to give to parents who are making a choice to go to private school. I am strongly against this bill

Carol John, Ms.

Self

Carrollton, TX

As a supporter of Texas public schools, I am writing to express my opinion on House Bill 3.

Texas students deserve strong, well-funded public schools. I'm asking that you ensure all schools that receive state funding are held to the same transparency requirements, accountability standards, and enrollment practices as public schools.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Texas public schools.

Kim Saunders
Self
Grapevine, TX

Keep public funds in public schools. No to vouchers

Mary Hutka
Self retired educator
Austin, TX

This is a voucher bill. I taught 31 years before I retired, my husband is a retired school administrator, and both my daughter and her husband are middle school teachers. My grandson attends a public elementary school. My family has a passion for education. In fact my great uncle and my great aunts started the first public schools in the Panhandle of Texas. Public education educates our children to be good citizens and our future leaders. Vouchers to help rich buddies of the governor run for profit schools is the worst thing that could happen to the state of Texas. Education for the wealthy only? Elitist! Racist! Narcissistic! Vouchers would create a permanent uneducated poverty class. Texas would sink.

Elsie Colwell
Self Retired
Houston, TX

Public schools should be Fully Funded before any discussion of vouchers is attempted. Teachers haven't received raises for years and schools need infrastructure and equipment improvements. Public schools also have to meet standards that private schools do not, in addition to educating special needs students. Public schools need to be fully funded for areas of the state where private schools are unavailable. Please do not abandon public school education. The majority of Texans are not in favor of any type of voucher program, so please do not fail to truly represent the majority of your constituents.

Erin Bickham
Self- Former Teacher
Corp Christi, TX

For the sake of millions of students in Texas, I strongly oppose HB3. This type of bill has been largely unsuccessful in other states and has added weight to an already strained public school system. More students would benefit from well funded public schools and supported teachers. The choice should be to make public schools better not continue to insult well meaning teachers for the sake of billionaire donors.

Sarah Wells
Self
Beaumont, TX

Every student deserves public education. Our communities deserve publicly educated kids. Our children's education should not be for profit.

Deanna Seigler
Self
Denton, TX

Put this to a vote by the people. We do NOT want this. Fund the schools you have!

Charles Farmer
self
Austin, TX

Against HB 3. It doesn't matter how you dress it up: you can put lipstick on the pig, but it won't change the smell of the sty

Christi LaMarca
Self
McKinney, TX
VOTE NO

Salazar Azania
Self
Pearland, TX

We the people have zero interest in establishing the education savings account program. Fully fund public schools. Our citizens and the future of our country deserves it. Our legacy as a country depends on it.

Pearla Romero
Self
San Antonio, TX

I do not want my tax dollars going towards vouchers. If parents want to send their children to a religious school, that's on their dime. If parents want to send their children to a school with specific curriculum/philosophy, that's on their dime. Parents already have some flexibility within the public school system that is enough and fair. To take away money from public schools for private schools is not fair and it's theft of my tax dollars. Taxes are for public institutions, not private.

Lucero Escalera
Self
Brownsville, TX

I oppose Education Savings Accounts under HB 3. Vouchers take critical funding away from public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students, and divert taxpayer money to private schools that lack accountability and do not have to serve all students.

Instead of funding private education with public dollars, we should focus on fully funding our public schools, supporting teachers, and ensuring all students—regardless of zip code or income—have access to a high-quality education. Please prioritize strengthening our public schools, not undermining them with voucher schemes.

cameron kuehne
Self
Austin, TX

I am against public school vouchers. This will undermine the public school system and ultimately fail the common child in Texas. We can't let this pass for the future of public schools. If you vote yes you hate children.

Erica Bryant
Self
Spring, TX

I live in The Woodlands, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Amy Gamblin
Public Schools
Pampa, TX

As a school employee, in a small town in the Texas Panhandle, with 14 years as a teacher, I would like to plea for all to reconsider the school vouchers. As it stands, public school is WAY under funded, teacher are WAY underpaid, and passing the vouchers is a way to wreck public education! My town has 2 options for "private schools". One of which is a Christian school and the other offers core subjects as a part time (they do not go all day or 5 days a week. We already have many parents pulling students for "home schooling". However, in all experiences that I have been apart of, all these students come back to public school being way behind their age and grade level peers. This will not make Texas students better! This will be taking educational opportunities away from the MAJORITY of Texas students whom attend public school. Shame on our Governor for pushing for something so detrimental to the children of our state!

Stephany Lopez
Self
Brownsville, TX
Against

Pamela Laflin, ms
Positive Advocates for Voter Engagement
Houston, TX

I am opposed to vouchers or ESAs in any form. It is most important that the 5.5 million public school student receive a comprehensive, well-rounded education - important for the economic health of Texas, as well the general health of the population. Data from studies of vouchers show that drain funds from public schools, fail low-performing students, and decrease the interaction of all populations of students together. Please fully fund public schools, support choice within the public school system, and make sure the majority of Texas students (which are those in the public school system) thrive in their school environment.

Ben Wright, School Board Trustee
Sunnyvale ISD
Sunnyvale, TX

Just opposed to the voucher program. Trying to save our public schools and vouchers take public school funding and my three kids are left to suffer. Please consider public schools first!

Sheree Felan
Self - Customer Success Manager
Richland Hills, TX

I implore you to vote against HB3. Fully funding our public schools is the only way to establish a foundation for making improvements, and reallocating our tax dollars away from public schools is negligent and dangerous. We are counting on you to be brave and do what's best for ALL kids.

Whitney Thomas
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am writing to the committee as a resident of Williamson County and as a former public school teacher. Vouchers take away money from our already underfunded public schools. Please help support public school teachers who are tirelessly working hard to teach our future leaders. Please help support our children who desperately need these funds to have a chance at being a productive citizen in our community. I ask that you do not pass this bill and support our public schools.

Julie Juul, Retired teacher

Self

Arlington, TX

This bill benefits only the few families who would like to embellish the tuition of their children to private a school. The majority of Texas kids will not benefit, and as a result, the education of too many Texas children will suffer. In the end, the state of Texas suffers because our population will be less educated. Who does that benefit?

Please consider the long term implications of this bill and vote no to vouchers.

Rachel Murphree

self, HR professional

Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students. Increase the basic allotment, fully fund public schools, and base funding on enrollment versus attendance.

Thank you.

Kristina Santos

Yourself

Austin, TX

Pass

Marisa Barnett

restaurant manager / self

Austin, TX

I am AGAINST a school voucher program. A VAST majority of Texans on both sides of the aisle are, as well. When will the people who represent all of us listen?

Monica Williams

Self

Cedar park, TX

Vote NO

Jennifer Simons

Self

Houston, TX

I am a voter, a parent of special needs foster and adoptive children, a former educator, and a high net worth individual with multiple properties subject to property taxes. And I beg representatives to oppose HB 3. Our public schools and children need more support, not less. Most private schools are not equipped to serve our children, and those that can are far more expensive than any voucher will support. We do not want Texas to become New Orleans where only the wealthy can access decent education. The stability of our society depends on our children getting a good quality public education. We already don't have enough teachers, supplies, or technology—please do not cut off the life blood of our democracy.

Melissa Rankin, RN

Self

Houston, TX

SB2/HB3 weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money without any accountability. It strips rural schools of funding, could send tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools, and violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education. NO to SB2 & HB3!

Michelle Sandoval

Self

PFLUGERVILLE, TX

We are a middle class family. My husband and I both work. Even if we were given \$10,000 per year, we could still not afford private school for our child. I beg if you, think of all the children that are in the same predicament we are! Leave the school vouchers alone and give money to the public schools so PTO doesn't have to do fundraising for the children.

Susan Catlett, Ph.D, BCBA-D, LBA, Dr.

Self

Houston, TX

I have been in special education for 33 years. If you support this bill, then special education children will continue to receive less and less support and fewer teachers. We are already struggling to find qualified staff.

barbara raley

self office clerk

Carrollton, TX

We need to support our Public School not defund them. This bill along with HB2 costs will escalate far beyond original estimates, creating massive funding gaps that disproportionately harm public schools as it has clearly done in other states. #HB2 / #HB3 sets the stage for similar expansion in Texas, risks following the same trajectory, jeopardizing the state's long-term education budget and straining financial resources. VOTE NO

S. E. Williams, Ms.

Self/Retired

Stafford, TX

I oppose HB 3! Public opposition to vouchers is growing. According to the Quorum Report, a recent survey shows that roughly two-thirds of voters oppose "a private school voucher program that takes tax dollars away from local public schools to subsidize a student's private school education.

Alison Monnich

Special Education Teacher AHISD

San Antonio, TX

I am a special education teacher at Alamo Heights high school in San Antonio, Texas. Please say no to vouchers as they will harm the state of our public education.

Angela Hawkins

Self

Allen, TX

Say no to vouchers! Fund public schools! We do not want an education savings account. STOP holding funding hostage to push an agenda we don't want!

Shonda Dogan

Self

Arlington, TX

Dear Representative,

As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want an Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) Program. I pay my public tax dollars and, therefore, want my money to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Public school funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had inflation of over 20%. Our children and all the educators, and staff, deserve to have the funding. To be clear, I want to reiterate the following:

? I do NOT want vouchers/ESAs.

? I support an Increase of the Basic Allotment.

? I support Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Again, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.

Sincerely

Suzanne Richmond

Self

Bedford, TX

Please vote no for HB 3.

Brendan Roth

self

Fort Worth, TX

Dear Representatives,

As a Texan who benefited from public education, and who is a public school educator, I am strongly opposed to the "School Vouchers" proposed. Legislation impacting local education should truthfully reflect the core mission of the Texas Education Code to "ensure all children have access to a quality education that enables them to achieve their potential and participate fully in the social, economic, and educational opportunities of the state and nation." School vouchers undermine this mission.

Even with an extra \$10,000, many families will still be unable to afford private school. For families struggling to meet basic needs, this amount will not make private school a viable option. In states where school voucher systems have been implemented, private school tuition has often increased. \$10,000 is insufficient for working-class families. Furthermore, private schools are not required to provide transportation. This poses significant challenges for working parents, particularly in rural areas of Texas some of which lack private schools entirely.

In this nation, every child has the right to a fair and sufficient education. The rule of law must therefore ensure every child has fair and sufficient access. A move in favor of the voucher system, empowering private institutions with the ability to discriminate in their admissions, undermines this right. Private schools can choose who to admit, meaning children with learning disabilities, behavioral challenges, or those who don't fit the school's culture may be turned away. Public schools, however, are required to accept all students and are committed to supporting them.

Additionally, private schools are not mandated to provide special education services. When they do, students must be sent to public schools for evaluation and accommodations, using public school resources. Under the voucher system, public funds would be diverted to children from wealthier families, who often already have access to private schooling. It is well-documented that in states with voucher systems, over 75% of funds go to families already enrolled in private schools, indicating that the program primarily benefits the wealthy.

Moreover, private schools are not required to administer state tests like STAAR, raising questions about accountability. Without certified teachers, we cannot be certain these schools provide quality education. As constituents and parents on various ends of the political spectrum would agree, children do not go to school to be indoctrinated. Quality education does not impose specific religious doctrine or dogma. Dedicated public educators acknowledge that the role of public education is to nurture and enrich young minds to think critically and independently.

School vouchers would only serve to harm economically disadvantaged and working class children and deepen social divides. If you truly care about Texans, support Public School.

Autumn Chim

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Autumn Chim. I am a resident of Austin, Texas; I am a stay-at-home mother of twin toddlers and a former cardiac surgery physician assistant. I respectfully oppose HB 3, which diverts essential funding from our under-resourced public schools into Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) that fund private school tuition, homeschooling, and other educational expenses.

HB 3 would shift state funds from public schools (where over 90% of Texas students learn) to private institutions. Our schools depend on per-pupil funding, and every student who leaves the public system means fewer resources for teacher salaries, supplies, special education, and support services. With Texas ranking 43rd in per-student funding nationwide, further cuts could worsen challenges, particularly in rural areas with few alternatives.

Evidence from other states is concerning. In Indiana, Louisiana, and Ohio, voucher and ESA programs have been linked to significant declines in reading and math scores. A 2019 study in Florida found that many ESA participants were already in private schools, meaning the program largely benefits those who can already afford such options. In Arizona, similar programs have been associated with financial fraud and mismanagement due to weak oversight, risking our children's academic progress.

Public schools are held to strict accountability standards, including adherence to state curriculum, standardized testing, and financial transparency. Under HB 3, private schools receiving ESA funds would not be required to meet these standards. They could reject students based on special needs or behavioral issues and are not mandated to report performance data, leaving parents and policymakers without essential information about educational quality.

Moreover, while HB 3 is promoted as a means to empower low-income families, most private schools in Texas charge tuition that far exceeds the value of an ESA. Coupled with the urban concentration of many private schools, this policy may widen the educational divide, leaving low-income and rural students with even fewer opportunities.

The Texas Constitution mandates that the Legislature "establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools." Diverting funds to private institutions without robust accountability undermines this commitment. I urge you to reject HB 3 and instead invest in strengthening our public schools — ensuring every Texas child, regardless of background, has access to a high-quality education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Allyse Pixton

Self

Austin, TX

I am against HB 3 - I am against school vouchers. It would be a mistake to take funds from public schools who serve all (the poor, the children with special needs, children from unstable homes), and give it to children in private school- who do not have to admit everyone or meet all the state requirements that public schools have to meet. Historically, vouchers have gone to children already attending private school, therefore subsidizing their tuition. Many families live in counties that don't have a private school so this wouldn't even be an option for them. Children who switch to private schools from public schools often decline academically. Voucher programs in other states are very costly and the cost just keeps increasing- would the high cost come from taking more money from public schools or should we expect more taxes? It seems the this house bill 3 is being pushed by our governor who has been underfunding our public schools and taking unprecedented amounts of money from an out of state billionaire who wants this bill passed. Why? It is shameful to allow greed and personal political gain come before those who are most needy and deserving- our public school children. Please vote NO on school vouchers- as we have done in the past- and stop bringing this bill up. We do not want it.

Diana Firley
Self
Garland, TX

My name is Diana Firley, and I strongly oppose HB 3 by Representative Buckley. This bill undermines public education and will have lasting consequences for students, teachers, and the future of our state.

By driving more teachers out of the profession, HB 3 will not only harm classroom learning but also weaken the Teacher Retirement System, affecting those who have dedicated their lives to educating our children. If there is money available for school savings accounts, then there is money to properly fund our public schools so they can reach their full potential. Holding education funding hostage to push through legislation is a direct attack on the thousands of students who rely on public schools. It demonstrates a blatant disregard for the backbone of our education system and the educators who serve our communities.

I am a mother of four, and I believe parents should have the right to choose the best education for their children. My older children have attended private school—that was my personal choice and financial responsibility. Taxpayers should not be forced to fund my decision. My younger children, who have special needs, rely on public schools because they offer the specialized services they require. With the current administration working to dismantle the Department of Education, federal funding for these critical services is at risk. If vouchers pass, students like mine—who depend on public education—may lose essential resources. And given the governor’s willingness to manipulate school funding, my children, like many others, could still be shortchanged by an already underfunded system.

I urge legislators to reject HB 3 and instead focus on fully funding public schools, supporting teachers, and ensuring that every student—regardless of their needs—has access to a high-quality education. Public schools are the foundation of our state’s future, and it is our duty to invest in them, not undermine them. Thank you.

Patricia Gouldy
Self
Arlington, TX

Now is the time to make your voice heard on

“I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.”

Stop the madness and support our local school districts, public schools need your help!!

Naomi Haught
Self
The Woodlands, TX

Please do not take away money from our already underfunded public schools so your rich donors get a private school tuition break.

David Hillin
Self
Abilene, TX

I believe my tax dollars belong in and for our public schools. It will be a tragedy to take money from our already underfunded public schools. My son deserves better. Our kids deserve better.

Ivana Brata

self

Allen, TX

I strongly oppose the "Education Savings Account" voucher scheme. No matter how enticing you package it, it still diverts public funds away from public schools, undermining the education of 90% of Texas students. It gives the false impression of school choice while placing the real decision-making power in the hands of private schools, not parents.

Our Plano ISD alone could lose up to \$19.6 million under this bill, devastating our community. Public funds should support public schools, not be funneled into unregulated private institutions. This bill diverts \$1 billion to benefit just 1% of Texas students, while public schools struggle with overcrowding, underpaid teachers, and outdated facilities. Instead of funding private tuition, these resources should go toward improving education, teacher salaries, and infrastructure.

The teachers in Plano ISD are among the best—dedicated professionals who view their work as a calling. Yet, over the past 3–4 years, our elementary school has lost an alarming number of excellent educators. Competitive pay raises are essential because great teachers shape the future of our children. In addition to teacher shortages, class sizes have swelled to the brink, making it increasingly difficult for educators to provide the attention each student deserves. Compounding the challenge, there has been a noticeable rise in student aggression, leaving many teachers struggling to manage classrooms effectively. To set both students and teachers up for success, we must provide better training, smaller class sizes, and the resources they need. Investing in teachers is investing in our children's future.

We have also watched valuable programs disappear in our school, including Accelerated Reader (AR)—a program that inspires a love of reading by rewarding students for tracking their progress. Its removal was devastating for many young readers, including my daughter. These cuts hurt students, and we must prioritize keeping meaningful programs in our schools.

Public schools are in crisis, yet Texas ranks among the lowest in per-student funding despite being the second-richest state. Redirecting public funds to private schools will only worsen this crisis. Out-of-state billionaires shouldn't dictate Texas education. Keep public dollars in public schools.

Dana Harp

Self- Public School Teacher

Sulphur Springs, TX

Done

SB2/HB3 grows government, weakens public schools, and gives taxpayer money with zero accountability to private schools and entities. It robs all public schools of funding, and sends our tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools which violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education and the separation of church and state. Say NO to SB2 & HB3!!

Yvette Benavides

Self

San Antonio, TX

This bill should not be passed. My tax money should not be utilized to fund private schools. This bill is wrong and does not protect those who need it most. Separation of church and state must continue. This bill is wrong. Do the right thing, keep our tax dollars with public school.

Jacqui Dunleavy

Self

Austin, TX

Vouchers will defund our neighborhood schools. Even the smallest voucher program being proposed would result in millions of dollars drained from our schools. I want all Texas children to have a shot at a fair education, but public school going children won't get that chance if funds are being divested to private schools. It won't be fair for Texas children, the majority of them go to a public school.

Mary Lobb, Mrs.

Self

Irving, TX

Please do not pass HB3 or any legislation that contains vouchers, ESAs or subsidies for private education. The people of Texas do not want this, only legislators do. It is not what is best for children or for school districts. If it were put to a vote, it would not pass. Represent the people and vote this down.

Patricia Edelmann

Concerned citizen- self/ educator

Austin, TX

I ask you to prioritize fully funding public schools and oppose HB3, SB2 and any voucher / ESA bill. As a property owner, citizen and educator of Texas, I strongly believe public dollars should stay in public schools. I have taught at private schools most of my career and know first hand that they are adequately funded with tuition and endowments. The voucher program is truly just a tax break for parents already affording private schools. Our public schools in Texas are embarrassingly underfunded and exist to support all the children of the great state of Texas. Please do right by our children and families and fully fund the public schools and do not take from a system that is already under resourced. To educate our future leaders we must have teachers who are empowered and supported by the community. This voucher campaign to hurts our teachers and community schools not merely by taking much needed funds but also by sending them a message that they do not matter. Let's work together to lift up our community schools. Thank you.

Mellany Lamb

Self

Flower Mound, TX

School Choice as written attaches government conditions, grows government by creating another taxpayer funded entitlement. An entitlement that only serves 100K students out of 5.5 million that attend public schools. At a price tag of a \$1B. The math doesn't math.

Please go back to the drawing board and create a bill that provides and supports parental rights over their child(ren)'s educational choice that best fits their personal needs via a TAX EXEMPTION. A tax exemption never touches the government coffers, therefore, providing accountability, too.

Thank you.

Emily Doherty

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am a 3rd generation graduate of public schools who has children currently attending public school. I have no plans to change where they attend. I chose public school because it was affordable and quality education. Teachers, admin and staff at public schools care so much about their students, truly like they are their own children. I oppose HB3 and oppose school vouchers. HB3 will NOT give more students the " choice" to go to "better" schools. HB3 will strip resources from our already underfunded public schools and harm those who need the public education system the most. In addition, the rural areas of our state rely on public schools as the best and sometimes only option for education.

I would only support hb3 if it was amended to include giving all students the option to have their voucher go to any education facility, public, charter, private or home. Increasing the allotment for public school students would allow our public schools to continue to provide quality education and pay teachers what they deserve.

Vote NO to HB3. Give public schools the funding they deserve!

Vanessa Valenzuela

Self

Seguin, TX

This bill is awful. This is not a fair bill that takes all families into consideration. We need something better that would actually focus on helping everyone not just a select few.

Christina Wolf

Self - self employed Lab Technical Consultant

Frisco, TX

My husband and I are strongly opposed to this bill. This is not school choice. Our public schools are good overall and need support. Private school is VERY expensive. We qualify under the 500% poverty line and there is absolutely no way we can afford to send our children to school for one year, let alone a full education. Private schools in the Dallas area range from \$25k-\$42k per year. Giving us \$10k does not open up any choice us. But that \$10k can be given to any income and since many already afford private school, it will likely go to these individuals and give taxpayer money to the wealthy. The vouchers are not only bad but government officials have basically been "bought" by outside billionaires like Jeff Yass. I've heard that "our schools are failing our kids" but never heard this by a parent with a kid in public school or any teachers, this is all just a mystery talking point. I've also heard that this bill will encourage public schools to do better to retain students. This is nonsensical. Giving money to private schools does not help fix public schools. Private schools don't have to offer special Ed, get to pick who they take, have waiting lists already, are allowed to discriminate, don't have the same standards for teachers or students, don't provide transportation, don't provide reduced and free lunches, have non-refundable thousand dollar application fees. Additionally, numerous counties in Texas do not even have private schools. This is not a "choice" for many families. Also, private schools don't seem strapped for cash. Prestonwood Christian Academy is hosting a gala and the highest sponsorship tier is \$100,000 for 2 tables of seats. There are 4 of these Premier sponsorships available. When you look at the full seating chart, they are pulling in 1 million dollars from sponsors just on seating for this one night gala. This is not who needs funding. They already provide scholarships to those who need and want it

Please listen to the teachers, the parents, and the general public. No taxpayer money should be given to private schools. Zero. And if you do, there should be extremely strict income rules for eligibility, transportation provided, testing standards, and teacher certification requirements.

We vote in all of our local elections, presidential year or not, and we will vote against anyone and everyone who supports vouchers in any form.

Craig Johnson, Dr.

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I want to express that I am vehemently opposed to the passage of HB 3. I am fully in support of fully funded public educational at the highest level for ALL students of Texas.

This bill is attempting to take \$1 billion from Texas taxpayers and give it to wealthy families who are already sending their kids to private schools. This will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties (more than 150 Texas counties don't have a private school to send your kid too, even if you could afford the difference between what the voucher pays and what tuition costs!).

I cannot understand how any representative with integrity and a genuine care for Texans could possibly consider this. I urge you to vote against this bill which only the supports the wealthiest in Texas. I pray that you will each be guided by a conscience that is guided by the care for all Texans.

Dr Craig Hella Johnson

Jennifer Kimball
Self/Homemaker
Sunnyvale, TX

School vouchers are not what's best for students. Please do not vote for or pass school vouchers. School choice already exists. There is nothing conservative or republican about this! Public education is the foundation of our society. Taxpayer money should not be able to be used for people's choice to send their children to private or charter schools. Properly and sufficiently fund public schools! Support public ed! It's the right thing to do. I don't know anyone who supports vouchers. I'm the product of private schools and have nothing against them. My parents chose to send me to a private school and were able to do so. They would have never expected their fellow taxpayers to fund their choice. I'm the proud wife of a Texas public ed superintendent and am a former public elementary school secretary, and both of our children attended Texas public schools and had a great experience. Please support public schools and our Texas children!!! It's what's best for students, teachers, and all of Texas!

Kay Hopper, Ms.
Self Retired from early childhood education
Richardson, TX

I am strongly opposed to school vouchers for private schools. That funding needs to be applied to improving the public schools so all children across the state will receive improved educational benefits. Teachers and support personnel need to be paid a living wage. And supported to meet the needs of all students. Vouchers distract from improving the quality of education to supporting those who want to make money off the educational system. Additionally, the dollar amount suggested per student for the voucher will not cover the annual tuition for most private schools even if there is one in that community, particularly in rural areas of the state. Additionally, private schools can accept or reject any student. Public school needs to focus on and pay to educate all the children in Texas.

Michele W Missner, None
Self retired
Austin, TX

I am against school vouchers. I worked in public education for over 20 years. I've seen dedicated teachers work long hours, pay for school supplies for their pupils, and more. Public education has been the backbone of this country, educating immigrants from many countries, helping to make our country a melting pot. Governor Greg Abbott is supported by west Texas billionaires. Abbott can use some of this money for vouchers. I do not want my tax money going to vouchers. We need to fully support public education economically. This is a fairly wealthy state and we can afford to pay public teachers salaries comparable to the best financially supported schools. Instead we are near the lower third. We need to make sure the teachers retirement pension is fully funded, that breakfast and lunch are provided for children in need. We should be proud of our public education, not ashamed of it. Thank you.

Diana Riha
Retired teacher
Canyon, TX

The people of Texas are speaking loudly and clearly. We do not want our public tax dollars allotted for the support of public schools to be given away to private schools. Public education is FREE to students as the law requires. Vouchers will steal monies that should be used for the benefit of all. Many areas in our state do not even have private schools, so vouchers are not consistent in what they offer. It is absolutely immoral to take money away from the majority of students and give it away to the privileged few. Every representative has sworn to represent the people who elected him or her. Pay attention to what is being blasted to you. If you choose your own selfish motives to support the vouchers you know are wrong and not supported, that is the cowardly way. You are not for the people. Please do what is right.

Rebecca Howard

Self / Texas public school children

Dallas, TX

I am a product of the Texas public school system, a public school mom, and our PTA president and I'm reaching out to implore you to vote NO on HB3 - the school voucher bill. There are a lot of sound bytes about this bill that sound good, but the devil is in the details.

HB 3 would divert crucial public education funds to private schools, which lack the same accountability and transparency as public schools. This will inevitably weaken our already underfunded public education system.

Taxpayer dollars should be invested in strengthening public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students, rather than funding private institutions that may discriminate or lack adequate oversight.

Representative Buckley spoke at the Texas PTA Rally Day caucus, and said that public schools don't have resources to meet the needs of special needs students and that did not go over well to the audience of parents, teachers and students. Public schools are **REQUIRED** to meet the needs of **ANY** student that enrolls. It's part of what makes public school the great equalizer! And it's part of what keeps us accountable to the tax dollars we receive!

One of my fellow PTA moms and I met last week with our school's principal and teachers at their faculty meeting to talk with them about their thoughts and concerns about the potential of the bill passing. First, all our arts teachers are worried they'll no longer have employment, as many smaller districts are already cutting those programs as a result of underfunding. Second, several teachers shared experiences of special needs children being pulled out of their classrooms in favor of private school, only to return the following year because the school didn't provide the resources their child required.

Please please please vote **AGAINST** this bill, and fully fund our public school. The families that will most be helped by private schools vouchers can already afford to be there. Every child, regardless of zip code and property tax value of their parents' home, deserves to have a quality education, right in their neighborhood.

Think of all the rural areas without alternatives to public school! We live in a large district, but my son's cousins don't. My husband's entire side of the family lives in a town of under 30,000 where there are limited options. They shouldn't have to travel 30-60 minutes away from home for other options. That's not fair on the working parents or they children they're responsible for raising. They should be able to attend a fully funded school in their neighborhood.

Please vote NO to HB3. Don't be afraid to vote against the party line on an issue that should not even be partisan. This is an issue of equity and of valuing children and their futures.

Thank you.

Barry Newton

Self

Lubbock, TX

Vouchers are **NOT** what Texans want. If another option is needed then Governor Abbott should resign as he is the one in charge of education in Texas. This is a failure waiting to happen for all of us. Please stop the madness of vouchers and give Texans what they really want. Property tax relief, money to the public schools and give teachers the raise they so desperately need and deserve.

Joseph Wilson

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

I strongly, strongly oppose. I want MY tax dollars to go to public schools to strengthen them so they can hire better teachers and upgrade schools with better books and technology. I'm truly dumbfounded that Texas isn't doing more for **PUBLIC** schools already.

Kaitlyn Howeth

Self/Teacher, Mom, & Homeschool Educator

Sanger, TX

I am a certified teacher in the state of Texas and have taught in public & private schools from early childhood through adult education. I am also currently homeschooling my child. I am thankful for the opportunity to make informed decisions about my child's education in Texas, and I exercise this freedom as a homeschool parent. However, I am against the proposed Education Savings Account program that would remove funding from Texas public schools. Our public schools need this funding. These accounts will only benefit the wealthy and privileged by giving them a discount on expensive schooling they were already paying for. Our public schools need these funds. I am asking all representatives to oppose this bill.

Avery Cox

Self- interior designer

Austin, TX

We already have school choice in Texas and this is a scheme to gut the public school system. Texans don't support this. We support anything that makes our public school systems better. I do not want my money going to support private schools who don't play by the same rules. Its BS.

Kay Simpson

Self

Stanton, TX

Please, please do not pass the voucher account program favoring private schools and degrading public education. Not everyone can attend private schools. You are destroying public education in favor of a few and rich supporters. If you consider your reelection, you will do well to remember who elected you.

Anita Churchill

Self

Abilene, TX

I do not personally know one person who supports these vouchers. I have been a public education teacher for 23 years and know first hand how underfunded our schools are. The students that I taught in my title 1 school would not be able to use this voucher as private school costs more than the voucher allows. These students' parents couldn't even afford to buy school supplies. Please do right by all Texas children.

David Chalker

Self - Realtor

Frisco, TX

SB2/HB3 grows government, weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money with zero accountability. It strips rural schools of funding and violates the constitution's duty to public education. Say NO to SB2 & HB3!

Mary Webber

Self retired teacher

Wimberley, TX

My working life was spent serving the children and families of Texas as a public school teacher. I know what is at stake here. So do you. Let your conscience be your guide as you vote. You are standing on the precipice of a decision that will allow our public school system to continue or not. My hope is that you do the morally correct action and vote against giving tax payers dollars to private entities. You know the right thing to do. Do it.

Gwendolyn Wittenbrook

Self

Plano, TX

I am a Texan who does not support education savings accounts. Support the public schools with public dollars

Sierra Smith

Self - Teacher

San Antonio, TX

Hello, my name is Sierra Star Smith and I am an educator in San Antonio, TX. I have dedicated the last three years of my life to early childhood education and I feel that it is my duty to tell you today that I am against Greg Abbott's School Voucher Program. As an educator who is employed by a Title 1 public school, the community we serve has an array of diversity and inclusion that WILL go underserved if this bill is passed. Children with high needs will be swept to the side and families will suffer from the lack of resources they are unable to access. My heart aches to think of the hard work and countless hours the educators around me have provided to these children just in order for them to be heard & advocated for. The School Voucher Program will only prove to bring pain, confusion, and regret as the high rising numbers of teachers leaving will continue to go up as well as the number of children who will go underserved. Please, we can't leave these children behind. These children need us now more than ever. Our country needs teachers now more than ever. Make the right choice for our community but most importantly, make the right choice for the children. This isn't a matter up for debate. This is for the children. HB 3 is not for the children and will not receive my vote by any means. We will continue to stand, we will continue to fight, and our voice will be heard. Thank you for your time.

Mary Tsadi
Self-teacher
Frisco, TX

I have been a public high school teacher in Texas for the past 18 years, and I am extremely discouraged and angry about HB3.

For too long the leaders at the state level have done nothing to help public schools. It is unbelievable that there has not been a per-student allotment increase in state funding since 2019, considering the amount of inflation that has occurred in the last several years and yet it is our reality.

In addition to lack of funding and ongoing vilification of our profession for political gain, we now face another attack on public education by our state leaders. Instead of adequately funding public schools, the state wants to provide money to those making a choice to not send their students to public school.

I have several issues with the new bill.

First, there have been several states that have moved to this voucher system, and are now having issues with funding the program. The costs have ballooned out of control. And in these same states (such as Arizona & Oklahoma) it has been found as many as 70% of students benefiting from these vouchers were already attending private school, and could afford the cost without the voucher. It does not seem fiscally responsible as a state to fund a program that will cause our state to eventually not be able to afford our expenses.

Next, 158 out of 254 counties in our state do NOT have a private school option. So, how is this bill really promoting school choice when it's only available to the population in less than 40% of the counties in our state? Further, the Governor and those who support his dubious mission of "choice" intentionally the fact that those who DO have access to private schools will find they don't offer programs for those with learning differences, behavioral needs, significant academic needs or really any thing that doesn't photograph nicely for their brochures. While public schools are legally required to provide all needed supports for all children in their districts. We can't pick and choose. We serve them all.

Based on the State's own actuarial report, the school voucher program is putting our Teacher Retirement System funds in danger. As teachers, we are already saddled with low salaries and terrible (yet expensive) insurance. I have never understood why teachers cannot have the same ERS insurance benefits that other government employees are provided. And now, with this bill, our retirement is in danger. If you want to know why GOOD teachers are leaving the profession in Texas, it is because the state continually acts in ways to devalue teachers.

All around in our state, public school districts are having conversations about hard choices for next year -- whether to close schools, increase classroom student numbers, and reduce staff. Yet, the leaders in our state do NOTHING to help any of these situations. Instead, they want to pass vouchers that will only harm public education and refuse to fully fund our public schools. Please fund PUBLIC schools.

Gail Wright
Self
New Caney, TX

As a Texas resident 77357, I object to HB3. Public money should be spent in public schools. If vouchers are passed it will hasten the fall of quality public education, which I fear is the goal of Governor Abbott. Please vote against this bill. Texas doesn't need vouchers. It is unfair to rural Texans who do not have a private school in many counties. This bill supports urban and suburban schools at the expense of rural Texans.

Nicol Corbin Bush

Self, physician

Frisco, TX

Please don't turn us into Oklahoma with a horrible school system because of defunding public schools. How much business revenue has Oklahoma lost because no businesses want to move where schools are terrible? Is this really what Texans want? I moved to Frisco because of its excellent schools, and will certainly work to vote out anyone who actively chooses to harm our schools and teachers. Vote NO to Vouchers!!!

Claire Buck

Self/entrepreneur

Austin, TX

In opposition. HB 3 weakens Texas schools by prioritizing taxpayer-funded privatization over real investment in public education.

Shalane Heath

Self - Dental Hygienist

Wylie, TX

I am a mom of two kids who will be attending public school. I oppose HB 3. Tax payer money should be used for public schools, not private school vouchers without any accountability.

Gerald Sledge

Public Education Teacher

FORT WORTH, TX

"I stand firmly against school vouchers because every child deserves access to a strong, well-funded public education — no matter their zip code or family income. Vouchers drain critical resources from public schools and give them to private institutions that do not serve all students or meet the same accountability standards. Our public schools are the heart of our communities, and we must invest in them, not undermine them. Say NO to vouchers — and YES to great public schools for every child."

Gladys Garcia

Self; School based speech language pathologist

Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Kathryn Lewis

Self

Mckinney, TX

I am against ESAs and HB3.

Crystal Carbone

Self

Pearland, TX

I am opposed to HB3.

I am a conservative voter who believes in free market values and competition, except when it comes to children. Students should not be treated like widgets in a free market where there are built in winners and losers. Isn't this exactly what many are arguing that we are trying to prevent!?!?

Are there problems in public education? Yes! Many legislative actions have handcuffed and handicapped public education in many ways. I wish we would spend more time and effort talking about that and problem solving around that instead of creating a new branch of government where the wealthy education is subsidized with our tax dollars (which is what has happened in every other state that has implemented this initiative).

Angela Powell

Self

Weatherford, TX

I believe that tax dollars should only be used for public education. Private schools and home schooling are choices for parents but tax dollars are for public schools only.

Vicki Reppert Altounian

self retired

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 and DO NOT want you to vote for vouchers. This will cause so much harm. Our students deserve better. Please fund our public schools!

Haley Hunter

Self- Public School Teacher

Wylie, TX

TX HB 3 is an unnecessary and harmful proposal. Texas already offers extensive school choice options without diverting public funds to private institutions. Public school choice exists through open enrollment policies, allowing students to transfer between districts when capacity allows. Texas also has many charter school systems statewide and magnet schools that focus on special programs giving families public options that align with their children's needs. For those seeking alternatives outside of the public system, homeschooling is always an option for families.

Diverting public funds to private schools through taxpayer-funded vouchers, as proposed in HB 3, undermines public education by reducing critical resources available to the vast majority of Texas students. Public schools, especially those in rural and low-income areas, rely on consistent funding to maintain teacher salaries, student programs, and essential services. A voucher system would primarily benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition, while many rural students—who have no access to private schools—would be left with fewer resources and declining educational quality. Given the current state of education this proposed bill is increasing the uncertainty that many educators are feeling and on the campus/ district I serve, we are seeing teachers leaving to the private sector. This is a major loss for our profession and students.

Private schools do not have the same accountability and transparency requirements as public schools. They are not mandated to meet the needs of all students the way we do in public schools. Taxpayer dollars should support schools that serve all students equitably, not institutions that pick and choose whom they educate. If you are going to pass this bill without the consent of the governed, I urge you to at least add an amendment that mandates all schools take the same end of year assessment to determine state funding to institutions.

Leah Dossey

Self

Conroe, TX

As a mother of two, proud Texan, and supporter of Greg Abbott, I have to speak up and oppose this bill. This bill is not the solution to creating a legacy of well educated Texans and future leaders. Every child in this state deserves the best public education possible. Each citizen of this state deserves to have their tax dollars going ONLY to public schools. We need to invest in rural public education, teachers, facilities, and creating a well educated state. This bill does not accomplish this and is NOT in the best interest of Texas students, Texas teachers, and Texas' future. God bless Texas. God bless Texas public education.

Halston McCalla

Self

Midland, TX

This is not fair to our public school kids and teachers. This is not ok. You are taking money from Texas taxpayers and giving it to private organizations. They need to be rated just like public schools if they're taking public dollars. Giving the MAP test is not rating the school like you do for public schools. Why are private schools getting tax payer money and also skirting the rules? Public education should not be privatized. You are lining pockets of rich people. Stop this madness.

Chelsea Speir

Self-Recruiter

Magnolia, TX

I want it on the record, every record applicable, that I do not support HB 3.

Grace Thompson, Miss

Self

Beaumont, TX

No vouchers! Funding for public schools!!

Lisa Bonilla
3916 Rocky Shore Ln
Pflugerville, TX

To the Honorable Members of the Texas House Committee,

I write to you today not just as a constituent, but as a dedicated educator who has devoted over 20 years of my life to the students of Texas. I have spent my career in the classroom, in our schools, and in our communities, working to provide every child—regardless of zip code, socioeconomic status, or background—with the quality public education they deserve. I am writing in strong opposition to HB 3, which seeks to establish an education savings account (ESA) program that will siphon desperately needed public dollars from our public schools and funnel them into private institutions that operate without accountability or oversight.

This bill is nothing more than a backdoor voucher scheme that threatens to undermine the very foundation of public education in Texas. Instead of addressing the real challenges facing our public schools—chronic underfunding, teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, and lack of mental health resources—HB 3 chooses to prioritize private interests over public good.

Let me be clear: our public schools are the bedrock of our democracy. They serve ALL children, not just the privileged few. They welcome students with disabilities, English language learners, and those from low-income families—students that many private institutions are not required to admit or accommodate. Diverting taxpayer dollars to private schools, which are not held to the same standards of accountability as public schools, is not just fiscally irresponsible—it is morally indefensible.

Furthermore, let's not pretend that this bill expands choice. Real choice in education comes from strengthening the schools that serve the vast majority of Texas children. It comes from ensuring that teachers are paid a living wage, that classrooms are equipped with the resources they need, and that every child has access to a quality education regardless of their family's income. This bill does none of that. Instead, it exacerbates inequities by creating a system where public tax dollars fund private school tuition for those who can already afford it while leaving our most vulnerable students behind.

Public money should be invested in public schools—full stop. Texas teachers and students deserve more than an experiment in privatization. We deserve a legislature that stands up for the millions of children who walk through the doors of our public schools every day. I urge this committee to reject HB 3 and commit to policies that strengthen, rather than dismantle, our public education system.

Our kids are watching. Our teachers are watching. And come election time, so will the voters.

Respectfully,
Lisa Bonilla
Pflugerville

Sari Gilinsky
Self
Spring, TX

As a parent of a Texas public school student (CISD) I cannot oppose this bill enough. Our public schools need more funding to improve, not less. Everyone knows that this voucher and “education savings plan” idea is not for the benefit of students, teachers, or families. Education is necessary for a functioning society and this bill, among other education initiatives from the Texas government, is not in the service of improving the quality of education or the accessibility to residents. Do the right thing and vote for a better Texas and a better future for our children.

Donald Lovering, M.D.
self, Retired
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. I do not think you should divert money from taxpayers to go to private schools at the expense of public education. And it will damage public education. Rather we need to keep that money funding high quality public education for all of our children.

Lori Ammann
Self
Farmers Branch, TX

Our tax dollars should be used to fully fund public schools, not to subsidize private schools which do not have to follow the same rules as our underfunded public schools.

Matt Thompson, Mr
Self
Beaumont, TX

Vote NO to vouchers. Fund public schools!

Allison Lanza, Rev
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I believe vouchers will hurt our schools and our students across the state. I was educated wonderfully by Texas public schools and am watching my kindergartener thrive today in a Texas public school. He loves to learn and loves going every day. I want this to continue for every child.

A voucher won't be available to every child, won't help families (like mine as a solo parent) who still could not afford a private school, won't help kids in rural communities where other educational opportunities don't exist, won't help kids with special needs or different learning abilities who don't have to be accepted by private or charter schools-but it will hurt students and schools and teachers across our state. It has been rejected by Texas many times. School choice already exists in Texas with many amazing public, private and charter schools. This bill doesn't provide choice, it limits it.

As a pastor I believe that there is no such thing as other people's kids. All kids are ours and all kids are God's and it is up to us to ensure all of them-not just the wealthy or gifted or urban-all of them-have access to wonderful education to help them thrive and to grow into the people they are called to be.

Vote no on HB3 to help all our Texas kids

Tony Canterino
Self/ Mayor Pro Tem Harker Heights, TX
Harker Heights, TX

I am in FAVOR of HB3 as presented by Chairman Buckley.

In the State of Texas, which is a very conservative state, I truly believe that adopting school choice for education is the natural progression of things. HB3 is a good bill and i am in favor of it passing.

Roy Hammock
Self
Houston, TX

I am against a voucher program. Allowing vouchers will impact funding available for public schools and allow private schools to pick and choose who can attend their schools. A strong public school system is important to adequately educate society and provide all students and opportunity to gain the knowledge needed to attend college and work towards a successful career and thus contribute more to society than a product of an ill equipped education system.

Natalie Boyd
self / bookseller
Katy, TX

I am a proud product of the Texas public education system, and both my children received valuable educations in the Texas public education system. The proposals to create school vouchers (regardless of the names used) would strip away all the ability our public schools have to enrich lives and create productive members of our communities. These vouchers would create an even larger chasm between the wealthy elite and the lower- and middle-class. Our economy **DEPENDS** on all of these classes in order to thrive, and it will be destroyed if you eliminate the ability for children to receive a decent education in this state simply because their families cannot afford to pay for private schools. I beg you to vote **AGAINST** school vouchers and an education savings account program. Your constituents **DO NOT** want this. Please listen.

Michelle Lorio
self
El Paso, TX

Hello, I am public school teacher in Fabens, Texas. I vehemently oppose vouchers and ESAs. The cost of vouchers accelerates quickly. The current senate bill proposes to spend more than \$11 billion on vouchers through 2030, yet public schools are not adequately funded. The fact that there would be an increase in employees to run the program while thousands of teachers are losing their jobs is appalling. Please oppose vouchers and ESAs and fund public schools properly.

Shay Easterwood

Self

Abernathy, TX

Teacher Friends -- here's what I submitted! It comes out to 2959 out of your allotted 3000 characters.??

I have been a public high school teacher in Texas for the past 21 years, and I am extremely discouraged and angry about HB3.

For too long, the leaders at the state level have done nothing to help public schools. It is insane to me that there has not been a per-student allotment increase in state funding since 2019, considering the amount of inflation that has occurred in the last several years.

And now, another attack on public education by our state leaders. Instead of adequately funding public schools, the state wants to provide money to those making a choice to not send their students to public school, at the expense of our public education system.

I have several issues with the new bill.

First, I am extremely uncomfortable with the number of billionaires that are supporting this bill and contributing money to our governor to get the bill passed, even some who do not live in our state. Some of these billionaires own companies that could potentially serve as administrators of the voucher funding. This is a huge conflict of interest, and should be investigated.

Next, there have been several states that have moved to this voucher system, and are now having issues with funding the program. The costs have ballooned out of control. And in these same states (such as Arizona), it has been found as many as 70% of students benefiting from these vouchers were already attending private school, and could afford the cost without the voucher. It does not seem fiscally responsible as a state to fund a program that will cause our state to eventually not be able to afford our expenses.

Next, 158 out of 254 counties in our state do NOT have a private school option. So, how is this bill really promoting school choice when it's only available to the population in less than 40% of the counties in our state?

Based on the State's own actuarial report, the school voucher program is putting our Teacher Retirement System funds in danger. As teachers, we are already saddled with low salaries and terrible (yet expensive) insurance. I have never understood why teachers cannot have the same ERS insurance benefits that other government employees are provided. And now, with this bill, our retirement is in danger. If you want to know why GOOD teachers are leaving the profession in Texas, it is because the state continually acts in ways to devalue teachers.

All around in our state, public school districts are having conversations about hard choices for next year -- whether to close schools, increase classroom student numbers, and reduce staff. Yet, the leaders in our state do NOTHING to help any of these situations. Instead, they want to pass vouchers that will only harm public education, and refuse to fully fund our public schools. Just look at our low student funding numbers in comparison to most other states. It is embarrassing to be teaching in

Chris Perkins

self

Houston, TX

Key Arguments Against Texas HB3 School Vouchers

Hurts Rural Counties Without Private Schools

158 Texas counties lack private schools, meaning families in these areas will not benefit from vouchers.

Private businesses will emerge to take taxpayer dollars while providing subpar education. When negative reviews and poor test scores surface, these operators will likely shut down, rebrand, and relocate—leaving students behind.

Private schools are not required to hire certified teachers—while good institutions do, this loophole allows bad actors to exploit the system.

Local Impact: Rural schools with smaller student populations will lose funding, while voucher money funnels to urban and suburban private schools instead.

Private School Tuition Will Likely Increase

When public money floods private schools, tuition historically rises—this has been seen in other states with voucher programs.

Local Impact: Private school education will become even more expensive, making it inaccessible even for families using vouchers.

Further Defunding of Public Schools

Texas already underfunds public education, and vouchers will drain even more resources.

Local Impact: Expect larger class sizes, fewer programs, and lower-quality education for the vast majority of Texas students.

Texas Public School Rankings Are Declining

Texas has dropped in national education rankings over the last decade due to consistent underfunding. Without increased investment, this trend will continue.

Local Impact: A lower-ranked education system makes Texas students less competitive and hurts our state's workforce and economy. Texans deserve better.

School Funding Has Not Been Adjusted for Inflation Since 2019

Schools are operating with less purchasing power each year while costs rise.

Local Impact: Lower teacher pay, outdated resources, and worsening school conditions all hurt student success.

Bottom Line: HB3 Weakens Texas Public Education

1. Action Needed: Demand full public school funding before considering vouchers. 2. Support local representatives who fight for public education, not private interests. 3. Hold policymakers accountable for rural education equity. Votes are public record—we know you opposed vouchers last session. Yet here we are again, wasting Texans' time and money on Greg Abbott's billionaire-driven agenda.

Texans deserve strong public schools, not a broken voucher scheme.

Jennifer Franz

self

Grapevine, TX

Please do not create a voucher program! We already don't fund public schools enough as it is, and vouchers will only help wealthy families who already send their kids to private school anyway. We need a strong public education system in this state to raise children that can keep us in this world. I don't want my property taxes raised to send rich kids to private or religious schools. People who want a religious education can pay for it themselves.

Amy Sidebottom

Self

Keller, TX

Parents already have the right to choose which school is best for their child. Whether it's public school or charter school/private school of their choice. Abbott needs to keep his hands off our taxpayer money and release the funds to public education. He is quickly sending Texas public schools down the drain to meet his agenda on vouchers and Texans deserve better.

Lauren Swilling
Self / digital marketing
Wimberley, TX

I am AGAINST HB3.
Public dollars should stay with public schools that educate all children, not just a select few.
Rural communities will suffer most. Many have no private schools, yet their tax dollars would be diverted away from public education.
Texas schools are already underfunded. Instead of defunding them further, lawmakers should fully fund our public schools.

Megan Wilson
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

Strongly opposed.

Kodi Crane
Self public educator
Caddo Mills, TX

No vouchers. Vouchers are not good for Texas students.

Susan Blair
Self
Ft. Worth, TX

Please do not approve this voucher program. Please do not allocate this money to benefit wealthy families and further damage public schools.

Dinali Fernando, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

My comments are against HB 2. As a reminder, Article 7 of the Texas Constitution states: "Sec. 1. A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools." As a parent of a student in elementary school in a public school in Central Texas, the ability to choose whether to send my child to public school or to private school is not, in my opinion, the emergency issue that legislators pushing for school vouchers in Texas maintain it to be. There are many more issues where I would like to have the "right to choose" as a parent (e.g., the freedom for my child to read any book they are curious about, the educational freedom where the curriculum nurtures the questioning minds of students, etc.) and having the choice to send my child to private school is not on that list. The central issue facing public schools in Texas is that the State does not fully fund public schools. Some legislators have chosen to hide behind the "complicated education funding formulae". Why is that? Why do those of you who are pushing schools vouchers on us, at the expense of public education, not talk about how the basic allotment has not gone up? Why do you not refer to the fact that it is local property taxes that pay for the majority of a school district's funding, with state funding being a much smaller percentage of the total funding? Why do you not refer to how large (in terms of student numbers), property rich schools districts -- many of those that have large proportions of at-risk and special needs children who should ideally be funded at a higher level but are not -- are recapture districts that, even though their property taxes have gone up, they are not allowed to use most of those dollars to address their budget deficits? Why does the legislature make it hard for school districts to use specific terminology in tax rate-related elections to explain to their constituents that the proposition on the ballot is meant to allow the district to access certain funding pots from the state and are not technically tax rate increases? So much can be done to simplify the state's education funding formula, to increase the basic student allotment as school districts have requested, and to fully fund existing basic and special education programs in public schools. Where there is a will there is a way. The will that we who voted you in want you to exercise is one that benefits the Texas population at large, not billionaires who choose to dictate policy in the state in a manner that only suits them. Remember, we are watching carefully. Vote with your conscience. Vote for what the general public of Texas needs and what children of today and the Texas of tomorrow deserve. Do not use tax payer dollars to subsidize the wealthy. Vote against school vouchers.

Stormy Jackson

Self

Andrews, TX

Please do not let this bill pass. I am a high school teacher and coach, and think this would be a disservice to students.

Carly Murray

Grandview Hills Elementary School in Leander ISD

Leander, TX

Approving vouchers in any way prohibits access to quality public education. You have to — you are required to — consider the needs and rights of the many instead of the selfish wants of the rich few. Our children and our state deserve better than how this will limit the future. We cannot have a thriving, healthy economy if only a fraction of our children have access to quality education. You have to do better for our kids—we owe our all of children a quality education, regardless of how their parents vote or what income bracket they fall into. We know that a major contributor to this agenda is an out-of-state billionaire with specific ideology counter to quality public education. You cannot let interests like that prevail over Texas children. You have to do right by our children.

Erika Salazar, Ms.

Self

Wichita Falls, TX

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the school voucher scam, SB 2, and ask to vote against it.

I am a parent of a student that attends school at Wichita Falls ISD. WFISD stands to lose as much as \$5,271,758 under SB 2, which would be a devastating loss for our community.

Public funds should stay in our public schools, not be divvied up to unaccountable private schools.

Thank you for your time and please vote against SB2.

Sarah Ganske, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

I am a pediatric audiologist, hopeful future mother, and Texan, and I believe that our public schools should be fully funded. Tax payer money should not be given to private schools, especially without accountability. 1st- as a pediatric audiologist I know many of my patients with hearing loss who utilize hearing aids and spoken language to communicate rely on the support services provided by the public school system. Private schools are not required to accept my patients as students and are not required to provide them the support services they need to succeed in the classroom. Therefore my patients have NO "choice" but the public schools. 2nd- I'm also hopeful to be a mother someday soon and know that even as a part of the middle class and with a voucher, private school tuition would still be out of our budget. The average cost of private school in our area is approx. \$24000 a year. A voucher for \$11000 would still leave me with a large tuition bill that we couldn't afford. Where is my "choice" for my future children? 3rd- And lastly as a Texan it is my duty to advocate for the children of our state who are unable to advocate for themselves. Taking funding from our public school system and rerouting it into the private school system will affect the resources available and quality of the education our children in the public schools receive. The only people who benefit from this school voucher bill are the individuals/families already sending their children to private school. These families currently have a choice to send their children to public school should they want to. ALL children should have the right to a good education and taking funding out of our public schools takes that right away from a majority of the children in our state. A good education is difficult to provide if the public school system doesn't have adequate funding. I strongly encourage you to think about the best interests of ALL of the children in our state, not only the ones already attending private school. Thank you.

Maria Deloso

Self associate marketing manager

Addison, TX

Voucher bills were first proposed in Texas in the 1950s as a reaction to Brown v. Board of Education as a means to avoid racial integration—and they've been rejected time and time again. We must stand together and make our voices heard! Billionaires that donated millions to our governor to push vouchers shouldn't have the final say in decisions that impact our schools and communities. Our voices matter. Our votes matter. Let's make sure our representatives hear us loud and clear! Keep public money in public schools. Fully fund our schools! Texas is the second richest state, yet we rank 46th in the nation in per-student expenditures. Our kids deserve better!

Edmond Lorts II, Mr.

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Members of the Public Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of taxpayer dollars for private school vouchers. As a Texas taxpayer, I believe public funds should be used to support our public schools, not diverted to private institutions that lack transparency and accountability.

Private schools are not required to meet the same academic and financial accountability standards as public schools. They can selectively admit students, often leaving behind those with disabilities, language barriers, or behavioral challenges—students our public schools serve every day. Vouchers do not provide real "school choice" for all families; they subsidize private education for those who can already afford it, while leaving rural and low-income communities with fewer resources for their local public schools.

As Representative James Talarico has pointed out, Texas has underfunded its public schools for years. Instead of draining money from our public education system, we should be increasing teacher pay, reducing classroom sizes, and ensuring every child has access to a quality public education. I urge you to reject any effort to implement a voucher system in Texas.

Sincerely,

Edmond Robert Lorts II

2604 Theresa Blanchard LN Austin, TX 78748

Carrie Cummings

Pearland ISD

Pearland, TX

I am a product of an outstanding public school system, growing up in Round Rock ISD. I am now a veteran teacher, having taught in Conroe ISD and Pearland ISD. My children have amassed an amazing public school education and gone on to competitive universities and been OVER-prepared. I have taught in public school without a pay raise from the state in years, despite ridiculous inflation and normal cost of living increases. Despite my history with amazing public schools, I don't mind the idea of school choice - but that money should not come into fruition by taking fund away from the public schools. We have the best opportunity to do the most good for the most kids. There's no arguing that. How the governor and his followers have already given up on the efficacy of public schools while denying us resources that would increase access to success for more school age children is the antithesis of what an elected official who is entrusted with the entire state's educational system should be promoting. Very disappointing.

Wilner Jeudy, Dr

Self, Physician

Houston, TX

I am in OPPOSITION to the passing of HB3. I am strongly opposed to the sabotage of our public school system. Public funds CANNOT be funneled to religious schools in any form.

Carl Kalbfleisch
True Texas Project TTP@Home Denison Leader
Denison, TX

I am opposed to HB3 for the following reasons:

First - GOP voters voted on Proposition 11 states: "Texas parents and guardians should have the right to select schools, whether public or private, for their children, and the funding should follow the student."

HR3 is opposed to Proposition 11. The money doesn't follow the child. It is not available for all Texas children.

Second- The 2024 Republican Party of Texas Platform states on Page 15, "Parents' Rights — Plank 84. School Choice: We support further empowering all Texas families to choose from public, private, charter, or homeschool options for their children's education and funding which shall follow the student with no strings attached. We oppose regulations on homeschooling or the curriculum of private or religious schools and believe a constitutional amendment should be adopted accordingly. In lieu of funding, citizens may use property tax exemptions."

HB3 does not align with the GOP plank. The money doesn't follow the child.

The GOP asked voters essentially do you want "school choice" by using specific terms for what is meant by school choice. Now the Governor and the legislature are changing the definition and passing it off as "school choice".

In the famous words of Obi Wan Kenobi, "this is not the school choice we are looking for".

The bill also suggests to use new money, possibly even from the "surplus" rather than the funds following the student. That new money would go to private institutions which is possibly a violation of the Texas constitution.

I would ask that this committee require the HR3 to be modified so that it aligns with Proposition 11 and HR3. If you are unable to do that then you must vote NO because this bill is not what the people of Texas have asked for.

Thomas Trangmoe
Self
Waco, TX

Hello. I am a Texas resident. I believe that the proposed funding structure in this bill is a partisan-motivated mess that does not provide any actual benefit to the kids it impacts, especially those in the public school system, that need the funding in question most desperately. I am writing for the purpose of expressing a strong dissent to this bill. Please, vote no.

Laura Sparrow, Dr.

Self

Georgetown, TX

I have two children in private school, and I completely oppose vouchers. Education is a public good, not a private commodity. I have so much respect for the educators who work in private schools, and I appreciate that parents want options for their kids. However, the legislation being considered in the Texas legislature will not give parents school choice, it will give private schools money that is allocated for public schools. There are currently 5.4 million students enrolled in public schools in Texas. Were every student to have an equal chance at a voucher, an individual student's chance of obtaining one is approximately 1.85%. Because Texas funds schools on a per student allotment basis, districts and individual schools will lose money, and the vast majority of students have no real shot at being awarded a voucher. Districts across the state are facing budget deficits due to the state passing unfunded mandates and systematically underfunding our public school systems. Leander ISD, the school district where I live, has an AA+ bond rating from Fitch and received "A-Superior Achievement" rating from the Texas School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). Despite its responsible financial management, Leander ISD is facing a \$34M budget deficit. The district will be forced to enact staff and teacher layoffs and cut student programs to address the budget deficit. Liberty Hill ISD, which is in the county where I reside, is also facing a severe budget shortage and will be moving to a hybrid 4-day a week schedule to address the deficit. These are high achieving, highly ranked districts that serve tens of thousands of students. It's unconscionable that our politicians are considering siphoning more money away from our public schools at a time when public schools are already struggling. I am asking that our representatives vote no on HB 3 and vote to fully fund public schools by increasing the public allotment by \$1500.

Jennifer Bean

Self

Pearland, TX

We do NOT want this! Look on Facebook and you'll find thousands of Texas teachers, administrators, parents, grandparents, etc who do NOT want this. Please listen to the people for once and do not pass this!

Zuriel Morales
Self, & American Federation of Teachers
San Antonio, TX

Opposition to HB3

Dear Texas Representatives,

I write to strongly oppose HB3, the voucher bill that would divert public tax dollars to private schools at the expense of Texas public school students, teachers, and taxpayers.

Public dollars belong in public schools. The Texas Constitution mandates a free, high-quality public education system, yet instead of increasing the basic allotment by at least \$1,386 to keep up with inflation and rising costs, this bill proposes to fund private institutions with no public oversight. If we truly care about Texas children, we must fully fund our existing schools, not funnel money into private institutions that can refuse students based on ability, race, or socioeconomic status.

This is not about “parent choice”, it is school choice for private schools, which can deny enrollment to any student. Public schools educate every child, regardless of disability, income, or background, and are held to higher legal, financial, and accountability standards. If private schools are not required to meet these same standards, why should they receive public tax dollars?

HB3 will harm the Teacher Retirement System by diverting funds from the very schools that keep TRS solvent. Texas teachers already receive some of the lowest salaries in the country and lack Social Security benefits. How can we justify weakening their retirement security for a program that overwhelmingly benefits wealthy families who already afford private tuition?

The facts are clear: A majority of your constituents oppose this bill. Vouchers do not benefit students; they primarily fund low-performing private schools with little regulation. This is welfare for the rich, not a solution for struggling students.

If you truly care about Texas children, as you have stated before, prioritize the children we already have in public schools, regardless of their abilities, race, or economic status. Strengthen our schools instead of subsidizing unaccountable private institutions.

I urge you to vote NO on HB3 and instead invest in fully funding Texas public schools.

Marvin Hobbs
Self Retired Life Insurance Underwriter
Driftwood, TX

I oppose the school voucher bill and ask that this bill be defeated. I fully support public schools and have attended public schools for most of my education except for my last 2 years of college. Please do not pass school vouchers.

Amy Hill
Self Senior Claims Manager
Arlington, TX

I strongly oppose school choice and school vouchers for private schools. This will not benefit all children in the state of Texas. I expect my taxes to fund public schools, not a voucher program that provides money for a select few. Our children and public school teachers deserve better. Fund our public schools instead of withholding funding!

michael kuykendall
self
Austin, TX

The data is clear, states that have adopted vouchers have gone into debt; districts will lose millions, a majority of Texans don't want vouchers. This bill was not written to support public education or citizens of Texas. Vouchers are wrong for Texas.

Jerilyn Cleere

Self. Student/Substitute

Bryan, TX

You never think your child will need special education—until they do. Maybe it's ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, a learning disability, medical fragility, or mental health challenges that qualify them for an IEP. When that happens, public schools are there.

Public schools serve everyone. For students who don't need accommodations, they still offer qualified teachers, transportation, libraries, and a hot lunch. There are gifted programs, career and technical education, college prep tracks, band, football, art—so much more than people realize.

Private schools, on the other hand, don't have to accommodate anyone they don't want to. There's no legal obligation to provide an individualized education plan. No committee working together to help your child succeed. Maybe they'll tweak a few things—if they feel like it—but they can also just tell your child to leave. That's if they even accept your child in the first place.

So when we talk about education savings accounts, I have questions:

Will they cover tuition, uniforms, food, transportation?

Will each private school be expected to create its own career tech programs?

What happens to the kids who don't fit their mold?

I come at this with a unique perspective. I attended a small private school from 1st through 5th grade, and public school from 6th through 12th. In that private school, I sat in a cubicle for 90% of the day, filling out worksheets. The worksheets used cartoon characters to portray different races going to entirely different schools. Our science books taught that the Loch Ness Monster was real—and there were no experiments, no hands-on learning. We didn't have teachers, just “supervisors.” One of mine hit me on the back of the head because she thought I wasn't working.

I was in first grade.

Public school was a different world. I did science experiments, explored diverse viewpoints, made art, joined choir, and eventually graduated and went to Texas A&M.

Not every private school is like the one I attended—mine was cheap. Worksheets are cheap. Education savings accounts might cover cheap private schools. But they won't cover most of the “good” ones. And even if they could... would those schools accept your child?

Better hope they don't have a learning difference.

Chay Runnels Chay Runnels

Myself- professor

Nacogdoches, TX

As a parent in Nacogdoches Texas, I believe this program will hurt rural schools such as ours. The superintendents in East Texas do not support this bill and neither do I. I do not want my tax dollars supporting private schools. These schools do not serve all Texans. I urge you to vote No on this bill and preserve public schools in Texas.

Tommy Simmons

Self

Abernathy, TX

All sides of government should stay out of education. No to government run vouchers.

Laurie Venuto

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers. Texas public school kids have brought home countless titles, championships and accolades for this state. Texas should be investing in and supporting them instead of holding them down by starving their schools of desperately needed funding. Public money belongs in public schools. Passing this voucher bill will make Texas less competitive on every level and will forever be remembered as your worst mistake!

Jordan Hunter

Self

Mansfield, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. Our kids deserve adequately funded PUBLIC schools. Diverting funds to the private sector for school vouchers grossly widens the wealth gap more than it already is - disenfranchising the working class to benefit the rich. Keep public school funding out of private schools. Oppose HB3.

Shelley Harrington

Self

Spring, TX

This is a terrible bill. Not only is it a bad idea to establish ESAs it's not even a CONSERVATIVE issue! This does not reduce government spending. This does not give ALL parents a choice of schools, as so claimed. And this is a bad bill. We need to be able to come to the table as Texans and talk about REAL solutions for our children's future and this is NOT it. Most Texans do not want this. We want better ideas and fully funded PUBLIC education. Please listen to us!

Ashley Narup, Mrs.

Self, teacher

Leander, TX

Fund public education by at least an increase of \$1300. The public school students of Texas deserve more. They are the future and the backbone of our state. Wonderful things are being done in our public schools that are allowing students to learn, explore, and find companionship with friends. It is also a place where they get food and other basic needs which in some cases includes clothing and shoes. Vouchers take money and resources from the vast majority of students and families in our state. Fund PUBLIC education!!!

Brad Harris

Self

Garland, TX

None of these "school choice" bills should even ne up for consideration. We already have school choice in Texas. What should be done is increasing the state funding to public schools that has been frozen for years. The Texas Constitution requires the state government to adequately fund public schools.

Kari Fay, MD

Unified women's Health

San Marcos, TX

This bill would be a giant detriment to education in Texas. As a Texas physician, I am a giant advocate for the public school system. A voucher system would only further take away much needed funding for public schools that accept ALL of our Texas children. Please vote no.

John Grom
Self-project manager
College Station, TX

Oppose School Choice Programs

School-choice voucher programs divert critical funding away from public schools and direct it toward private institutions that often lack the same level of accountability and oversight. Vouchers can deepen educational inequities by removing resources from already underfunded public schools, which serve the majority of students—including those from marginalized and low-income communities. Moreover, private and charter schools receiving voucher funds may have admissions requirements or policies that effectively exclude or discourage certain student populations, such as students with disabilities or language barriers. This selective enrollment undermines the principle of equitable access to education for all.

Additionally, voucher programs frequently fail to demonstrate consistent gains in academic performance or broader educational outcomes. Instead, their expansion can lead to a patchwork system of schools governed by differing standards. By weakening the shared investment in strong public schools—which are open to everyone and accountable to the public—voucher programs risk creating a two-tiered system where students' educational opportunities depend on their financial means or geography. Preserving and improving public education, which is essential to a healthy democracy, requires robust and equitable funding for public schools rather than diverting it through voucher initiatives.

Tana Howard
Self-Public Education Teacher and Mom
Ackerly, TX

As a Mother, Tax Payer and Public School Educator I am pleading on behalf of the more than 5.5 million students please do not allow this bill to pass. Not everyone can make up the difference that “choosing” the school your child wants to attend after it is passed. As soon as this is passed tuition per kid will not be the allotment the State will give. It will drive tuition up and the average Texan along with under privilege will also not be able to afford. Some teachers will see Private school jobs offering more money but how long will the school stay opened? They will use this to pad their pockets until the school closes and then walk away and leave students underscoring and without the education to attend Colleges and Universities. This is not for every Texan student this is for a select few. How will this affect Special Needs students? Most of these Private schools don't accept these students. How will they be served? Please please put this to a vote by the people. Better yet look at these responses. Weigh them. How many for and how many against? You were all elected into office by the people now I pleas listen to the people. The ones who are in the trenches daily, educating our babies and making it work even when we don't have the budget to do so. Why? Because we are putting kids first like we always do and will continue to do. Now it is your turn.
Thank you for your time.

Patricia Herbelin, Mrs.
Self / retired and former homeschooling parent
Lorena, TX

I am a member of THSC and I DO NOT stand with them regarding HB 3 (or this current iteration of “school choice”). This bill is a government funded education regulation expansion that creates a DUALY funded taxpayer-funded takeover of private education alongside public education. Neither education option is served well by the current iteration of "school choice" legislation as proposed in the 89th Legislative Session. I homeschooled both of our daughters from 2002 to 2014 but chose to do so even though we were paying property taxes. Yes, I had that choice just like we do now. This bill is not about school choice, it is about breaking up private schools and shorting public schools to make Texas students into the "global" citizens that Gov. Abbott is strong-arming our representatives to accomplish. This bill empowers vendors, not parents. Please, let's do better, Texas.

Jennifer Link
veterinarians
frisco, TX

I oppose vouchers for private schools. We must fund public schools and not give taxpayer money to families who already have their kids in private schools. This is welfare for the rich. Most rural counties don't even have a private school. I own a small business and we all benefit from public education, we should be increasing funds for public schools, increasing teacher pay!! And testing less!! I am a native Texan and this is catering to billionaires that support White Christian nationalism.

Acheson Suzanne
Self
Lubbock, TX

I, and every other tax payer, parent, and public educator I know vehemently oppose HB 3 and ESAs. Our state should support the masses in public education and not spend public money towards the very very few in private education. Our representatives are ignoring the desires of their constituents. Use the \$1 billion to bolster public education. Increase the allotment. Increase educator salaries. That's how you support education and improve the system! No to HB3 and ESAs. Listen to the people, please!!

Sylvia Searfoss
Self retired RN
El Paso, TX

HB3 is regarding a voucher system not an education savings account program! As a Texas taxpayer, I DO NOT support vouchers for private schools. I demand that ALL of the taxes I pay go to our public schools. Vote NO on HB3.

Melisa Finfer
Self
North Richland Hills, TX
Let Texans vote!

Fernando Diaz
Self - Engineer
Humble, TX

I do not support public funds going to unaccountable private schools.

Ann Shetler
Self / Registered Dietitian
Pearland, TX

Public dollars belong in public schools. As someone who grew up in a rural community and part of a religious minority, it was helpful for me to interact with the other kids in my community at our public schools. There is no better place to teach the importance of listening to one another with respect and finding ways to work together even with strongly held differences in beliefs and approaches towards life. Public funds should not go to unregulated and unaccountable private schools. Public funds should not be used to promote or teach religious beliefs as doctrine.

I urge you to vote against HB 3.
We don't want vouchers in Texas!

Leigh Everett
Self
Trophy Club, TX

We do not want school vouchers

Coleman Sulak

Self

Waco, TX

As a Texan, I do not support HB 3. I value, as a Texan should, the educational support of all students in our great state; not separating our students by their ability to pay for a charter school. Even when many counties in our state do not have charter schools, making access for "all students" in their school "choice" inequitable.

Laquita Sellers

self

Blanco, TX

Please do not support this bill. Private schools are not held to the standards and requirements of public schools. If and when they are, then, and only then, should they be funded with tax payer dollars. Until then, why is this even being considered. Do not lie; it is not actually providing choice. It is another way to increase the divide and make the rich richer by decreasing what they are paying to send their children to private schools. This is wrong. Fund public schools with public money and stop holding public schools "hostage" with no increase in funding until Abbott gets his way.

Public money for public schools. Do not support ESA.

Ellen Lee

Self

Dallas, TX

I am troubled by the Governor's push for and the Legislature's acquiescence to a plan to use tax payer funds to pay for private school tuition. My concern is two-fold. First, the basic allotment of per-student funding has not been increased since 2019, despite inflation of about 20% in the past 5 years. In the last legislative session, Governor Abbott essentially held public education funding hostage to his push for vouchers, even though Texas had a \$32 billion dollar surplus in state funding. Texas ranks in the bottom 10 states for per student funding, and in the bottom half for average teacher salaries. You are failing Texas public school children when you fail to properly fund public schools. Furthermore, the claim has been made that ESA funds are intended to provide school choice to students in underperforming public schools. In the last legislative session, the proposed amount was \$10,000. That amount is both greater than the current basic allotment amount and notably less than the average private school tuition. It is a slap in the face of public education to give more tax payer dollars to a voucher program than you're even willing to give to public education. And it's an empty promise to an urban family--what good does a \$10,000 voucher do when private school tuition in urban areas often costs \$12,000-\$30,000 per year? Recapture districts already remit as much as 60% or more of their tax dollars to the state with virtually no transparency or assurance that these funds are being spent on education. In the past, Governor Abbott has vowed to withhold public education funding until an ESA bill has passed. The more honorable position is solve the public education issue first--properly fund per student funding and competitive teacher pay, keeping up with inflation, and set high standards for first-rate teacher training and high-quality resources to ensure our students master the fundamentals of reading and writing, math, science and social studies foundational knowledge. If Texas did the work to provide high quality public education, vouchers wouldn't be necessary.

Joseph Leonard

Self/retired teacher

San Marcos, TX

Please vote against this!! Public dollars belong in public schools!! Keep TRS strong, as this bill would harm its solvency!!

Nicole Scott

Self

Spring, TX

The majority of the constituents in this state do not support this bill. Fund public schools with tax payer money, not private schools. Vouchers do not allow parent choice, the private schools make the decision who they accept. And they will still choose those that can afford to their tuition and vouchers will not change that. Vouchers will only be a discount given to more wealthy families. Put it on the ballot for all Texans to vote on instead.

Angela McGee

Self

Lamesa, TX

As a teacher in a rural area, I strongly oppose HB 3 and vote NO.

Brenda Bond

Myself

Spicewood, TX

Please vote NO to educational savings account accounts or vouchers in Texas. We want our public schools funded. Turning your back on public schools is terrible for our society. This is not how Texans should operate. Every child should get a good education at their local public school. We do not want this bill in Texas.

Dana Stiles

Self

Austin, TX

As a Texas public school teacher for the past 20 years, I have watched my students' eyes light up when they had an "aha" moment. Whether it be through an experiment, class discussion, or tutoring session, I have strived to provide my students a hands on experience in math. I have also watched my own money pay for more and more classroom supplies and my plate get so full that I hardly have time to eat lunch due to districts having insufficient funding to keep up with inflation. I will continue to fight for ALL Texas children, as 100% of them are our future. Education is one of the few things that can never be taken away from someone. Yet this bill is trying to lessen access to good public education in the state of Texas by privatizing our tax dollars and defunding our public schools. It is astounding that the representatives of our great state of Texas are satisfied with ranking in the 60th percentile for education in the country. PLEASE vote for our future and vote NO for HB 3.

Virgie Pedroza

Self

Lamesa, TX

I'm a Texan. I care about our K-12 public education system being well-funded for all students. I do not support HB 3, the education savings account bill, and I ask for all representatives to oppose this bill.

KatKherine Noll, Ms.

Self--Private School Facilities Director

Dallas, TX

I oppose vouchers and urge increased and adequate funding of our public schools.

Marchelle Bell

Self

VAN ALSTYNE, TX

I am against HB 3 as written. In the Bill, on page 28, it discusses tracking and assessments, which Homeschool Families are vehemently against. Earlier in the Bill it also states that "Every Parent" that Participates in this Program WILL be subject to these assessment standards.

These sections alone, go against Plank 84 in the Republican Party of Texas Priorities that were voted on by our States Delegates.

If we do not make amendments to this Bill to uphold "NO STRINGS ATTACHED" then we will be going against our own State Conventions Elected Priorities.

Leslie Griffin
Self
Port Aransas, TX

NO VOUCHERS! We all know this is not good for education. As a taxpayer, I do not want my taxpayer money to be supporting a private business. If one type of private business receives taxpayer dollars, why shouldn't others?

Natalie Kelly
AISD PTA
Austin, TX

My name is Natalie Kelly, and I am a constituent in zip code 78735. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3 and urge you to vote no. Instead of diverting resources to privatized schools with little to no public accountability, we must fully fund public education.

Texas already provides meaningful school choice. What we need are the necessary resources to ensure our public schools can fulfill their mandate—to deliver a high-quality education to every child with accountability and due process. Voucher programs like this have failed in other states, and there is no evidence that they achieve the outcomes proponents claim. If HB 3 moves forward, it will likely harm more families than it helps.

Please prioritize Texas students by investing in our public schools. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Natalie Kelly

Sophia Castillo, Ms.
Self/Teacher
Houston, TX

SB2/HB3 grows government, weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money with zero accountability. It strips rural schools of funding, could send tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools, and violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education. Say NO to SB2 & HB3!

Christina Harris
Self
Dallas, TX

I do not support school vouchers as it takes away from the focus desperately needed for our public schools and public school teachers.

Tashia Mossman
Self, fintech product operations
Leander, TX

Vote NO to an education savings account program. Please FUND our PUBLIC SCHOOLS by approving a \$1300 Basic Allotment per student.

Christina Raecher

Self

Celina, TX

I'm very disappointed that representatives that I voted for are not considering what we are asking for in terms of school vouchers. It is very clear that the majority of people do not want them, yet we keep dismissing why so many people are against the vouchers. The school vouchers are a scam and will destroy educational opportunities for all. I worry about the fairness of this bill for all students. Five years ago we watched as so many attacked and blamed our police officers for not being fair and just to all minorities. This was heartbreaking to watch as my husband was a police officer during this time. It was comforting to know that despite all the protests taking place, there were still people who cared about our police force and believed in them. We recognized that some officers were crooked, but the population that were bad was very small. There is always going to be bad apples. It is unavoidable. Now, people are turning on teachers as if we are the enemy. The same is true with teachers. Some teachers have stepped out of line and made poor decisions, but the majority of teachers are great people who just want the best for all of our kids. Our hands have been tied due to so many things such as withholding funds and forcing us to teach to a test that is not developmentally appropriate. A test that private school teachers do not have to administer. We can't keep holding teachers to these unrealistic expectations. Teachers need support, so they can help guide our students to a successful path. We are about to lose the good teachers that are left. Nobody wants to be pointed at as the villain, especially when we are the complete opposite of a villain. Teachers are professionals, and they should be treated as such. Our children of Texas need the good teachers to stay. I beg you to please reconsider what is truly the best for our public schools. Vouchers will only hurt the schools and students that attend. We have to be the voice for our children. Please consider how this bill is going to serve the children you represent because I promise you there are many who will not be able to obtain vouchers due to all of the other factors that must be considered. Please be the one who will actually care about what happens to these children. I am leaving the teaching field soon as I can't watch what is happening to these sweet babies and it is time to start taking care of me as well, so I am not saying this out of desperation of how it will affect my job. I am just genuinely worried about the children who will be dealing with the aftermath of what our government is currently handing them. Please do the right thing for the children of Texas not just the selected few who can benefit from school vouchers. We all know that this is not something that all of our kids will benefit from. If you want to fund private schools, find a way that will not require public schools to be begging for additional money to run smoothly. Thank you for thinking about our children!

GARY HOGAN

Retired

Fort Worth, TX

The State of Texas has caused havoc with public education and undo stress on nearly every ISD in the State of Texas by keeping the funding for public schools at the same rate since 2019 . STOP VOUCHERS for private and charter schools until the state first properly funds and supports our Public Schools. Wonder why they are lower performing is due to Gov Abbott holding back proper funding to support Teachers and budgets needed for ISD s programs to improve education in Texas STOP VOUCHERS until y'all fund properly our Public Schools . Hey can the State of Texas operate at the same budget as 2019 ???? . RIGHT

Kristina Fuentes

Self

Hutto, TX

As a registered nurse in the community and parent of children attending public school I strongly oppose school vouchers. Invest in public education. Children and teachers in Texas deserve better. I want my tax dollars invested in public education not a savings account program.

Karen Williams, Mrs.

Self

Mansfield, TX

Dear Representative,

I am a parent and a taxpayer in the State of Texas. I do NOT agree with vouchers or an education savings account program. I am an advocate for Public Education; in fact, my child is receiving an excellent Public Education that is robust and rigorous. It is inconceivable and irresponsible that the State of Texas has neglected its fiduciary duties and responsibilities to our children and educators since 2019. Since then, the cost of living has increased, and inflation is over 20%. Representative, you took a promised oath to the people of Texas.

I am advocating for the following:

- an increase of the Basic Allotment and
- Funding for Public Schools in Texas, including the inflated amount of over 20%.

Again, Representative, I want you and your colleagues to know that our children and the staff deserve to be treated fairly, and with dignity and respect by Funding Public Schools in Texas.

Sincerely,

Karen L Williams

Bailey Vizurraga

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am a constituent and I disagree with HB 3 and believe these funds should stay within the public school system to help improve public education which is available to all students and is meant to provide a strong foundation and support students regardless of financial status.

Marla Akin

self

Austin, TX

As a taxpayer for whom the lion's share of my property taxes go to support public schools, I find vouchers to be taxation without representation. School vouchers will drain money away from public education, and those who will be hurt will be the rural and poorer schoolchildren. The economically secure can already afford to send their kids to private schools -- vouchers to help them are unnecessary. At the same time, they will gut public education for the less privileged. This sets in motion a domino effect on life outcomes. Further, absolutely no safeguards are in place in Texas to assure the credentialing of private school faculty or the effectiveness of their curriculum. In most places, school are a neighborhood hub, a social community as much as an educational one, in which students learn to get along with all kinds of other people. School vouchers and private education will further divide our communities along economic and ideological lines. If there is enough money to administer and grant vouchers, there is enough money to invest in PUBLIC EDUCATION. By all rights, not one penny of my tax money should support the education of a student in an institution that promotes a philosophical, religious or social construct I do not support.

Jennifer Darrouzet
self, data scientist
Austin, TX

I attended Texas public school and public schools educate the children of my household and my neighbors. It is reprehensible that our so-called leaders have withheld desperately-needed funding from our neighborhood schools in order to force taxpayers to fund private schools. Private schools will not offer the range of services that our public schools do, to all the populations that our public schools serve now. They will not be truly accountable to tax payers; they can decide that boys deserve math and girls deserve cosmetology studies. And we clearly see that vouchers will not make private education available to low-income households; they will only subsidize the households who already pay for private tuition. Because of all these reasons, the 4 voters in my household will vote against anyone who seeks to remove funds from public schools and put those funds toward private schools. If someone wants to send their children to private schools, it is a free country and they can enroll their children in private schools with their own funds or with scholarships. Meanwhile, we will continue to support our neighborhood schools and the amazing, dedicated educators who show up day-in & day-out to develop the future of Texas.

Naomi Hurst
Self
Garland, TX

Please support this bill. The public schools simply do not meet the needs of many students and all families should have the choice as to where to send their children. Thank you.

Bradley Brown
Self, Engineer
Fort worth, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House Public Education Committee,

My name is Brad Brown, and I am a parent of two children in Fort Worth, Texas. I am writing to express my strong support for Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) as proposed in HB3 and SB2.

For the past nine years, I have committed a significant portion of my income—between 15% and 30% before taxes—to enroll my children in a private school in Texas. This investment exceeds what I spend on housing, transportation, or food. The exceptional experience my children have received at this school has made it worthwhile. The school has collaborated with us to address special needs, providing tailored interventions for my son and assisting my daughter with new study techniques when she struggled with sixth-grade math. These personalized approaches have been invaluable to their growth and success.

Every parent and child embarks on a unique educational journey. I am deeply grateful for the positive experience my family has had, and I believe the universal school choice bills under consideration will enable more children to benefit from similar opportunities.

My own upbringing illustrates the transformative power of school choice. I grew up in a mobile home, with my father working in landscaping and my mother staying home to care for my brothers and me. Despite financial hardships, my parents sacrificed to send us to a private school in our hometown. Over time, my mother took a job at the school to help cover tuition, and we were fortunate to receive scholarships that bridged the remaining gap. Today, I'm a college graduate with degrees in engineering—a testament to the opportunities school choice and my parents' sacrifice afforded me.

ESAs offer a lifeline to the most disadvantaged families. Parents are willing to make extraordinary efforts to secure a quality education for their children, and schools and communities often contribute to cover the difference between the ESA amount and full tuition costs. The value of school choice lies not in asserting the superiority of private or public schools, but in recognizing that individual students thrive in environments suited to their needs. For me, a private school was the better fit, and it enabled me to excel.

School choice acknowledges that students are not defined by average district test scores. Some require alternative learning styles, additional support, or a different social setting. Others may be falling through the cracks in the current system and need expanded options to succeed. HB3 and SB2 provide these opportunities, and I strongly urge each member of the Texas House and Senate to support these bills.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brad Brown

Robert Hughes
self - Web Designer
San Angelo, TX

The overwhelming majority of Texans are against school vouchers in any form and yet the Executive Branch of our state government chooses to ignore the people that they represent yet again in favor of pushing the policy agendas of wealthy donors. Texas already has "School Choice." Texas does not want vouchers that will wreak havoc on our education system like it has in most other states that have them. Vouchers are nothing but a subsidy for privatized education and privileged students who already attend private schools that have no obligation to regulate admissions or tuition prices. Voting in favor of HB 3 is a vote to defund public education and leave millions of Texas students behind.

Laura DuPont
self, engineer
League City, TX

HB3 is a voucher scam that will drain millions from our public schools, hurting children and our future workforce. Other states that have implemented voucher programs are now millions of dollars in the red - and their public education systems are worse than when they started. In all of the states where vouchers are used, over 85% of the people using vouchers were already attending private schools. This is not school choice. This is welfare for the wealthy.

Texas children deserve fully funded public schools - as is stated in the Texas constitution - not a voucher scam that benefits private schools with zero accountability.

Texas already allows parents to choose homeschooling, charter schools, and private schools - without diverting taxpayer funds away from public education. Children in public schools can access multiple education opportunities through district open enrollment, magnet programs, STEM and CTE programs, innovative learning academies, and charter schools. Investing in these public schools, that serve the vast majority of school-aged Texans, should be the focus of our state legislature.

The real issue we are facing is that Texas ranks 43rd in per-student funding and 35th in teacher pay, yet you all continue to push vouchers that will strip resources from already underfunded schools, especially in rural areas where private school options are largely non-existent.

For decades, a bipartisan coalition has rejected voucher scams - as do the majority of voters in Texas. Now billionaires including Tim Dunn, Farris Wilks, and Jeff Yass throw millions at our governor, Lt. governor, representatives and senators and expect voters to roll over and accept this nonsense. They lie about public schools and the success of the millions of children who attend public schools because they want vouchers, which serve only their personal interests.

The basic allotment has not increased since 2019 - this is a travesty. Governor Abbott has actually held new funding hostage in order to try and pass vouchers. This is equally insulting. The result is that countless districts are cutting programs and closing schools trying to deal with budget shortfalls. This will only get worse under a voucher program. The state needs to fully fund public education before it starts funding an entirely new education stream that pours public tax dollars into private schools with zero accountability.

Please don't give in to the billionaires and Gov. Abbott's demands. Please vote NO on HB3 and defeat this voucher scam. It's time for the State of Texas to deeply invest in public schools, Texas children, and Texas teachers.

Tanya Good
Self/customer service rep
Converse, TX

As a grandmother of a special needs granddaughter, I do not support school vouchers. Private schools are not required to take her, or provide any special equipment she may need. All children deserve the best education possible.

Susan Valenteen
Texas Families and Texas Public Education
Watauga, TX

WILL NOT BENEFIT LOW INCOME STUDENTS AND FAMILIES. This bill states the fund would be 85% of what the State already pays per Student which is approximately \$6900.00. So how would any family or student benefit from less spent per student this Bill proclaims. We already have one of the lowest educational rankings on the Country. This proposal would not raise our ranking, and may even lower it. **KILL THE BILL!!!**

Robert Leeper
Self
Austin, TX

No vouchers for private schools. This defunds public education.

Cheryl Locklear, Retired educator

Self

Corinth, TX

This bill does NOT support public education and is a disservice to Texas children. WHAT are you thinking? This will be the demise of public schools and the education of of all of our students. This bill serves a minority group, those with wealth, and needs to be stopped!

Allison Lanza, Rev

Self

Fort Worth, TX

As a pastor and a parent I urge you to vote no on HB 3. It will hurt our public schools, home schools and religious private schools. Texas already has school choice. This bill actually decreases choice by taking money away from public schools, limiting what home school parents can teach and putting public restrictions on religious private schools. It limits opportunities for our Texas students with special needs who do not have to be accepted by private or charter schools. It hurts students in rural communities where public school is not only the primary if only education option for students but a primary employer as well. Other states that have tried this have seen students education suffer. Across the board, Texas does not want this. This bill has been rejected by Texas already. This bill is not conservative. This bill is being pushed by people outside our state. This bill is bad for our kids and our communities.

Thank you

Caroline Porter

Self, architect

Austin, TX

This bill does not provide educational freedom. It provides tax payer dollars to a select few who are accepted into, not even all those who would choose, private school for their children. This bill would take away desperately needed funding from public schools, hurting both rural communities who don't have access to many private schools, and urban communities who are already battling funding shortages. If taxpayer money is used for this, then private schools must be held to the same public scrutiny that private schools are. I urge every Representative to vote no!

Don Hurst

Self

Garland, TX

Please support this bill and give all parents the ability to choose for their child/ren the school that is the best for them. Thank you!

Cye Stoner
self - Software Engineer
Austin, TX

I am writing as a father who cares about the quality of Texas's public and private schools.
I am strongly opposed to the redistribution of public tax funds to private education institutions.

As an Austin resident, a significant portion of the funds we contribute to the state education funds are already redistributed towards the rural communities that need them. While I wish that we could keep more of our funds for our own schools, I generally support this program since it guarantees that every child in Texas can benefit from the immense wealth that our state as a whole produces.

I am deeply concerned about the implication for public education, and our economic future, if we allow funds earmarked for public schools to instead be used for private institutions.

Proponents will argue that this bill would improve education by increasing competition, but that assumes that private and public institutions can compete on equal terms. I feel that due to the obligations faced by public education that this will not be the case. Private schools are not required to provide an education to every student in the same ways that public schools are. It will be very easy for them to appear to outperform public institutions simply by expelling students who would jeopardize their performance metrics. Public schools are incapable of doing the same.

To be clear, I believe that this is absolutely the right of a private school, and I support their decision to accept/reject any student that they wish.

Sarah Recio, Mrs.
Dixie Elementary School PTA
TYLER, TX

Public education is important to us! We need funding and it would help us!

pamela Davis Wagner
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Lancaster, TX

Public Education Savings Account Program

Calli Keener
Self
Waxahachie, TX

As a former educator, Christian and parent of 4 public school Texans. I am against HB 3.

Parents who are wealthy enough to benefit from these vouchers (ESAs) already can choose whichever approach to educating their kids they prefer.

It is selfish to undercut the quality of the public education offered to all by taking from its funding—indeed antithetical to the caring, generous, servant-mindedness of putting others first that I once believed were hallmarks of conservatism.

Public education is enshrined in our state Constitution and is for the common good.

We really don't do much in this country together for the best interests of not only the kids—whose public education would be diminished by these ESAs—but for the best for us all.

When our citizens all get a solid education, we can all work better together to responsibly shape our state and country.

And if all public funds intended for public education are distributed to public education, so that it is well-funded, it then can look at innovative ways to best meet the needs of the kids on the margins, for whom public school in its anemic state (brought on by years of unfunded mandates, outsized focused on testing, and refusals to direct surpluses toward public education) has not seemed the best fit.

Additionally, public funding to church schools opens up unnecessary opportunities for the state to impose its will upon the church, an concern equal to concerns about the church having undue influence on the state for early Americans (Baptists) who stood up for religious liberty in our nation's formation. Religious liberty is protected when lines between church and state are clear and unblurred.

School choice already exists. At least half the kids in my kids' church youth group are homeschooled or attend private schools without these voucher/ESAs.

This legislation takes funds from the kids who have no choice in their education, to give it to families already privileged enough to choose to educate their kids however they believe is best for their kids.

This bill "fixes" an issue that doesn't exist. It's unnecessary, damaging to our most vulnerable kids, and should not be passed. Texas doesn't want it. Listen to the people and stop this voucher nonsense—for the common good and for our kids.

Texas kids deserve our best. School voucher/ESAs are the opposite of that.

Respectfully, please do not make them a reality because some rich guys in West Texas spent a lot of money to get what they want. Listen to the people now, or you will hear us at the voting booth.

Anna Lundy
Self
Spring, TX

I am writing to express my firm opposition to House Bill 3. The implementation of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and vouchers violates fundamental principles outlined in our constitution and specifically undermines the integrity of public education.

To bring school funding back to 2019 levels, we need to increase the basic student allotment by over \$1,000. This adjustment is essential for ensuring that our schools can provide the quality education that every child deserves. By prioritizing education funding in our state budget, and increasing the basic student allotment based on inflation, we are not only making a wise investment in our future but also ensuring that children have the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

Serenity Coats

Self

Leander, TX

I oppose HB 3 for a variety of reasons. Vouchers divert public funds from public schools to private schools, which can lead to budget cuts, teacher layoffs, and school closures. Vouchers may not provide adequate support for students with disabilities or special needs. There's no evidence that vouchers actually improve students' academic performance. Vouchers will not ensure that all of Texas children have access to a quality education. Since the state cannot mandate the price of private education, only students from a certain socioeconomic background would benefit from these vouchers. Texas should value all their constituents and in order to do that we should fund public education.

Catherine Stroud, Retired teacher

Self

Gainesville, TX

As a retired teacher who taught 32 years in public schools I am not in favor of HB2 or HB3. Actually the people in our area have many choices where to go to school. These particular bills don't represent my idea of school choice. If a parent is not pleased with the public school he can get funds for a private or to homeschool. The parents who already pay school taxes would get money for the schooling they chose with no strings attached. That was my vision of school choice and vouchers. In my humble opinion we are putting way too emphasis on the wrong thing. We don't need more money nor more bureaucracy in the school business. . I would like to go back to standardized testing at the beginning of the year and then towards the end of the year instead of the Staar which is expensive and involves constant testing. Thank you for serving and tackling education which is very difficult and confusing. I know you want the best as do I for Texas students. Thanks so much for listening to a retired classroom teacher.

David Wolf, Mr.

Self/Registered Nurse

Frisco, TX

I'm writing to urge the Representatives to vote no on HB 3. I fear that this bill gives the illusion of school choice without it actually being a financial option for many Texans due to the high cost of private schools, especially in areas where the public schools are underperforming. The answer to improve public education is to invest in public education, where it is truly open to the public. Private schools get to "choose" who they admit: they are going to be less willing to take on special needs students that cost more compared to a student without special needs. If you want to give a tax break to parents who have the funds to send their kids to private schools, that would be a better option than giving the illusion of school choice when for many Texans, they either can't afford it, or they don't have any accredited private schools near where they live. Thank you for your consideration!

Quynh Trine

Self

Austin, TX

Say NO to ESAs and YES to Funding Public Education

Hello,

I live in Austin Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Quynh Trine

David Vizurraga

Self

San Antonio, TX

Do not pass

Mary Moore, Dr.

Self

Liberty Hill, TX

SB2/HB3 grows government, weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money with zero accountability. It strips rural schools of funding, could send tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools, and violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education. Say NO to SB2 & HB3!

Misty Whited

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Misty and I am a 5th generation Texan, a proud parent of a middle and high school student in Austin ISD, and a former public school student from Del Valle ISD. I am here today to express my strong opposition to school vouchers and to share why I believe they would be harmful to our public education system and ultimately, to our children.

I was raised in a blue-collar family and relied on public education from K-12, followed by earning a college degree at a Texas public university. Thanks to the public education system, I was able to achieve economic mobility for myself and my family of four. Public education gave me the tools to succeed, and I believe it is the foundation of opportunity for all children, regardless of their background or financial means.

As a middle-class family with a good living, this voucher bill would not allow me to send my children to a private school. Private schools in my community cost anywhere from \$15,000 to \$25,000 per student per year — far beyond what most middle-class families can afford, even with a voucher. School vouchers are a scam that primarily benefit the wealthy and will siphon critical funding from our public schools, leaving the majority of children, especially those in low-income communities, with fewer resources and opportunities.

Additionally, my son has a learning disability, and I believe a voucher system cannot guarantee that he would be accepted into a private school or, more importantly, that the private school would provide the necessary supports and accommodations he needs to thrive. Public schools are required by law to provide individualized services for children with disabilities, something that private schools are not always equipped or required to do. This is a critical concern for families like mine, who rely on the public school system to ensure our children have the resources and support they need to succeed.

Texas has a responsibility to ensure that all children, regardless of their zip code or ability, have access to a quality education. Instead of diverting funds away from public schools, we should be focusing on strengthening them so every child has the opportunity to succeed. I urge you to reject this harmful proposal and support policies that invest in our public education system — the system that serves the majority of Texas children and has helped generations of families, like mine, build a better life.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Casey Pugh

Self/Self employed

Ransom Canyon, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3. It will drain funding the public schools desperately need. This will force schools to cut extracurricular activities. It will make public schools student to teacher ratio even bigger. It will hurt rural families that have no option for private schools. It will hurt families that relay on special education programs. Furthermore, it will raise property taxes. As a Texas citizen and a parent of three schools aged kids, that are all in rural public schools, I am urging you to please vote AGAINST HB 3. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Monica Lasky

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I beleive in public education for ALL. Vouchers mean for some.

What makes our state and USA different from other countries in America. Its the public education. We have access to after school programs that other countries just dream about, we have services for gifted, no gifted, and in need students. Third world countries don't have these privileges, and the divude between rich and poor is enormous. We dont want that for Texas.

Please provide for public education.

Please provide for a larger student allotment at least 1,300.per child.

Please dont sell yourself to billionaires. We need you.

Traci Woodard
Self- Public School Teacher
Paradise, TX

Please do not allow this to pass. Our children deserve better. This will absolutely be detrimental to public schools, teachers, students, and our future

Melissa Brooks
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any school voucher programs in Texas. As a concerned constituent in Austin, I believe public tax dollars should be used to strengthen our public schools, not divert funds to private institutions that lack accountability and exclude many students.

Public schools are the foundation of our education system, serving the vast majority of Texas children. School vouchers would siphon much-needed funding from these schools, leading to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and diminished opportunities—especially for students in lower-income and underserved communities. Instead of expanding choices, vouchers primarily benefit families who can already afford private tuition while leaving our most vulnerable students behind.

Additionally, private schools that accept vouchers are not held to the same standards as public schools. They are not required to follow state curriculum guidelines, provide special education services, or accept all students. This lack of oversight means taxpayer dollars could fund schools that discriminate in admissions, teach biased curricula, or fail to meet basic educational standards. Meanwhile, our public schools remain underfunded and expected to serve every student, regardless of background or ability.

Rather than taking resources away from public education, I urge you to focus on solutions that actually strengthen our schools—such as increased funding for teacher salaries, mental health services, and classroom resources. Our public school students and educators deserve better than a system that undermines them.

Please stand with Texas families and vote against any efforts to implement school vouchers. I look forward to your response on this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Melissa

Brooke Anderson, School Based Therapist
Self
Austin, TX

I am a proud parent of two daughters in Austin ISD, I am also a proud, dedicated public school employee. Public schools are the backbone of our democracy and state. This bill robs our public schools the funds they so desperately need to make sure all students have equal access to education. Private schools don't have to serve all students. Private schools get to pick and choose who they educate. When I think about the amazing number of students who would be rejected by many private schools but my children get to learn next to and learn with, I am filled with pride for our public schools. These students might have learning differences or difficulties that a private school would see as "too challenging" or "too expensive" but a public school is always willing to educate them, and not only does that benefit that child, but all the other children that get to learn from them and with them. Our tax dollars need to stay in our public schools. We will bleed them dry for some parents to essentially get a discount for their private school. But the most important reason to vote against this bill is the MAJORITY of Texans are not in support of this bill. The majority of Texans want you to fund public education. The majority of Texans do not want this voucher scam that was created by billionaires who don't have Texan children in mind. I encourage you before you vote on this bill walk into ANY public school in this state and see the amazing things going on each and every day. Texans are proud of their public schools- and you should be too! I urge you to vote no on this bill and instead spend your time wisely passing a new school budget. And again, the MAJORITY of Texans do not want this. Bipartisan support doesn't always happen in this state, but for this bill we all say NO. Thank you for listening and supporting students in Texas public schools.

Ardis Saunders
self
San Antonio, TX

Please don't defund our public schools. Teachers are already having to deal with program and budget cuts, especially when it comes to arts programs.

Karen Kaufmann
Self
Judson, TX

I oppose the use of vouchers to fund private schools. Monies should be committed to Public Schools where all students are accepted and educated. Don't hide behind the school choice rhetoric. Vouchers that give tax payer monies to private schools is a bad idea and no one wants this except Abbott and his mega donors. Please do the right thing for Texas students and oppose vouchers. Thank you.

Rebecca Pederson
Self
Dallas, TX

The establishment of this saving account program does not improve education in Texas. Public Schools have been starved of funding for years. The Texas Constitution states that "all children in Texas have the right to quality public education." This legislation does nothing to improve education for All children. If experience from other states is used, it mainly assists those who already have children in private schools and puts the state budget in serious trouble. It especially does nothing for the students who live in areas that provide no private education. Private schools are a business, not a public good and should receive no public funds. Putting \$10,000 per student into public schools would make a significant difference. It would allow for the proper deployment of resources that could help All children. The future of Texas deserves a properly funded quality Public Education. HB3 should be defeated and proper legislation to support Public Education should be passed.

Tiffany Esteban
Self, adjuster
Leander, TX

ESAs will systematically starve the already underfunded public education system. Listening to Buckley at Texas PTA rally I heard the arguments of providing better educational opportunities for special education students. I along with the crowds of other special education families present showed up loud and proud seeking repairs and public funds for public schools. The reality is when my son struggled in public education we had few other options to consider in town and zero of those few options would consider my son. Those who said his academics weren't a considering stated his attendance in private therapies and his support needs would be too large a burden on their resources. It was a blessing in disguise because that left me to navigate the procedural safeguards and build a better relationship with my school district.

What we need is legislation to fund schools. Proper funding allows public schools to better serve all students. Ultimately this also increases student relationships in their own neighborhoods.

Texas needs to focus on strengthening the public school system not directing funds away from them crippling them further.

Lori Musquiz, Mrs.

Self - educator

Corpus Christi, TX

I have been an educator for 25 years. I oppose school vouchers. Governor Abbott continues to lie and mislead Texans into thinking vouchers are a positive school choice. These bills will take funding away from needed children like those in special education, the 504 program, free/reduced lunches, and neighborhood children who want and deserve a good public school education. Rural areas of Texas would not benefit because the resources are limited. Public schools are not required to abide by individualized educational plans nor even admit students with such disabilities. Public schools are also not required to provide transportation to students. Low-income families will not be able to take their children across town to private schools so once again the rich win. The wealthy are the only ones who will benefit from school vouchers. I propose Governor Abbott put this on the next ballot and allow Texans to vote. Of course he will not because he knows he will lose instead he is twisting the arms of representatives and senators to vote on his side. I'm disgusted with the Governor's actions and lies. Educators oppose vouchers! A vote of no against school vouchers is a vote of yes for Texas children and our future. Give teachers what they are deserving of and help children succeed!!

Jeff Wheat

Self, Educator

Cumby, TX

I am writing to express my extreme displeasure with using public money to support private schools. Our governor has been pushing this for several years. The majority of students would not be able to benefit from this as there are so many counties without private or charter schools. This would also effectively take money from rural districts which are already struggling to keep up with inflation and increasing enrollments. Governor Abbott has been holding teacher pay raises hostage for too long. Please do not support this bullying attempt that he is engaged in to support his big-money donors.

Rebecca Perkins

Self, teacher

Houston, TX

I am writing to you today as both a parent of a special needs child and an educator at a Title 1 school, to speak from my heart in opposition to the proposed school vouchers in Texas. My son, Sam, is 9 years old and has been diagnosed with dyslexia, autism, speech delay, and ADD. As both a parent and a teacher, I see every day how essential specialized support is for children like him.

As we know, public schools are legally required to provide services like Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and speech therapy—services that my son Sam, relies on to succeed. Without them, he would struggle to keep up and participate with his peers. Vouchers would greatly redirect public funds to private schools, many of which lack the resources or legal obligation to provide the support that children with disabilities, like my son, need. This would leave my son without the help he depends on, making it even harder for him to reach his full potential.

What breaks my heart even more is the current lawsuit in Texas to remove 504 protections for students with disabilities. These protections ensure that students like my son, receive accommodations like extra time on tests, which allow them to participate in school on an equal footing. Without these protections, it would be nearly impossible for my son, and students like him to access the help they need.

Special education has already been grossly underfunded for years, and if vouchers continue to drain funds from public schools, the support Sam and children like him rely on will only continue to shrink.

As both a teacher and a parent, I know how crucial it is to have a system that guarantees every child can get the support they need to succeed. Private schools accepting vouchers are not required to provide the same level of support, and many simply don't have the expertise to work with children who need accommodations.

For Sam, this means fewer choices, fewer opportunities, and a future at risk.

The voucher system isn't just a policy for my son—it's a policy that threatens the future of so many vulnerable children who depend on public schools to provide them with the services they need. I ask you, as a parent, and as an educator, to consider the lasting impact this could have on children like Sam, who deserve the chance to thrive.

Melissa Thrash

Self

Leander, TX

Hi, I'm 25 year veteran educator who has spent that entire time in public schools. I emphatically oppose HB 3. There has been a lot of information shared that suggests school choice is what Texans want. I'm wondering what Texans were polled for that conclusion. Is it the wealthy, already sending their child to private school Texans? I could see how they would benefit and desire that. The vast majority of students in Texas will NOT benefit from this bill. Public schools will suffer, as we are already EXTREMELY underfunded as it is. Just ask any superintendent of any public school system how far behind funding has remained for years. The funds that are going to assist the already more affluent families could be better spent on the students that need it most, public school children all across the state. I'm wondering how many that support this bill also supported the former President's bill to cancel student loan debt? How is this bill any different? We're going to take tax dollars and pay for someone else's student tuition to private school. Or fund someone who elects to homeschool their child. Private schools are not held to the same standards to support ALL students in their pursuit of an education. They can say yes or no to any student. We in public schools do not have that luxury. We have to educate them all, no matter their disability, their demographic or financial status. If the concern is about state testing and accountability then spend some time and energy to research that. The last several sessions various bills have been passed for education that didn't come with an increase in funding. How is it that a district is supposed to keep kids safe by hiring marshals and safety individuals without an increase in funding to pay those individuals? Ask any public school teacher their thoughts. Ask them how hard the job has become due to the lack of funding and increased responsibilities. Ask any former teacher who has left the profession because of the pressures around the job why they left. This bill could drive more teachers out than are coming in. A small change in that, can cause the TRS, which a large number of us are relying on for our main retirement income, to be compromised. I've spent my entire adult life as an educator. A decline in TRS could have a detrimental effect as both my spouse and I have dedicated our lives to education. The lack of equalizing funding the last several years is causing districts to make very difficult decisions to surplus staff members. Some of those folks are being forced to look at things like how to take care of their families and selves if there is not a job for them. I hope you will strongly consider opposing this bill and fighting for ALL Texas age school children and their amazing teachers. Thank you, may God guide your heart.

Karen Verschoor

Self, retired teacher

San Antonio, TX

As a former school teacher, I am very concerned about this. I wish to go on the record as vehemently opposed. Private schools are not required to follow the same rigorous standards as public schools. The voucher system will reduce public school funding by millions of dollars. Public schools will have to increase class size and reduce programs to help students get an education. If you were to put this up as a public referendum I'm sure it would be defeated.

Sarah Holloway

Self

Mckinney, TX

If you didn't hear from the parents at PTA Rally Day or Palestine's town hall, the majority of Texas does not want to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on around 100,000 of students. My son and daughter wouldn't be accepted at 99% of private schools or charters because they are either on an IEP or 504 plan. I cannot believe you had the audacity to say they would have more of a chance. Also, if you follow through on this ludicrous and anti-conservative plan, make it equal. Both private schools AND public schools should be funded by ENROLLMENT. Nothing about vouchers can be part of the fiscally-conservative plan. This is a sham. It is welfare for the wealthy. The fact that you had to raise the poverty level so high says everything. This is unacceptable. FULLY FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS. I am a 20-year veteran secondary teacher and we are drowning with the legislature's failed programs. Don't sink the ship and instead of repairing it, open an escape hatch for the wealthy. If you want this because you don't want kids to take the STAAR test, then the answer is simple. If the test is bad for some it's bad for all. If I were indoctrinating my students, it would be to bring a charged Chromebook every day. Do better. Stop vilifying public educators who are doing everything in our power to have an educated society.

Jamie Smethie

Self

Cedar park, TX

I do not support school vouchers as it would take money away from public schools. The basic allotment needs to be raised by a minimum of \$1300

Betty Jo Sargent

Self and retired

Canyon Lake, TX

School vouchers are a terrible idea. Public schools rely on taxpayer funding to provide quality education to all students. When Public schools rely on taxpayer funding to provide quality education to all students. Voucher programs divert these funds to private schools, public schools are left with fewer resources to support teachers, students, and essential programs. The result? Larger class sizes, outdated materials, school closures, and reduced support for students who need it most. As a resident of Texas I urge you to vote for our public schools, teachers and students to vote NO to vouchers. Vouchers are a terrible idea for Texas.

Mandy Kajs

Self/teacher

Crowell, TX

As a public educator, I do not fully understand giving more money to private school parents than public school children is fair to any tax payer. It seems to me that you are essentially telling children that if they do not attend private schools, they are not as valued.

I, also as a tax payer and educator, do not feel that my tax money should be given to people that are making a choice to send their children to a school that is not supervised or assessed to the same degree as a public school.

You also make public educators feel as though we are not good enough. For those of us that went to college to obtain an education degree, it is a slap in the face to say I am not good at my job as a public school teacher who passed required state certification tests. I have known of several people that could not pass their certification tests, so they went and taught at a private school that did not require state certifications.

If a parent chooses to send their child to a private school, they should know they are making the choice to pay as they always have.

Private schools are not going to take on the extra burden of special needs children or behavior issues that public schools cannot turn away, so of course private schools will be more "appealing" than public schools for some families.

The majority of students in Texas do not have access to private schools due to none being in their area. How is this bill helping any student in a rural area? How is helping in low income areas where private schools cost more than what is trying to be "allotted" to families?

In closing, I would think the state and their residents would want to get schools to where they were when most of us were growing up, certified teachers that went to college to teach and learn the craft they wanted to spend their career perfecting. Maybe if we put more into getting people to go to college to get their degree in education, as I did, we could make public schools flourish as they did in the past. There are so many ways to make this bill work for ALL students and educators, not just a few that can already afford a high priced education at a discounted cost.

Nelly Paulina Ramírez

self

Austin, TX

Educational savings accounts are giveaways for the rich. It is an entitlement program for the most entitled. Giving Texas taxpayer money to unaccountable private schools in an effort to line the pockets of the donors that represent the GOP. Stop this nonsense and FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS which the majority of Texas's children go to school. If rich people want more tax breaks, they should move into smaller houses and buy less stuff.

Debra Scarbrough

Self

Ft Worth, TX

Please don't pass school vouchers. You will be hurting the students that need a public education. Not all students will be accepted to private schools because they won't make the criteria. If they have discipline problems, private schools will take their money and then kick them out.

Jennifer Hammock

Self

Houston, TX

All students in Texas deserve our very best. This includes students with an Individualized Education Plan. Vouchers will only functionally help a small portion of students while hurting a greater portion of not only students but teachers, aides, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, adaptive PE teachers, etc. The loss of jobs would be damaging to the state. The loss of access would be damaging to our students. That is not worth the monetary incentives driving this scenario. VOTE No!

Lauren Flores

Self

Tomball, TX

I am not okay with public funds going to private school vouchers or savings accounts. We need to fund Texas Public Schools properly and build up our Texas Public school system.

Mackenzie Viviano

Self

Aubrey, TX

ESAs and other voucher programs have been proven ineffective by many other states who have tried before us. Please research what happened in Arizona. Texas already has school choice and it should not be the public tax dollars funding private educations. It's fine for parents to want a private school education, but I don't want to pay for it. I want my money to support ALL students, regardless of the SES, race, gender, IEP/504 status, etc. We all benefit from an educated society and continuing to divert or withhold funding from public school will further widen the gap, not fill it.

Corey Baron

self, software developer

Sugar Land, TX

I do not support this! It will hurt public schools, impact hard working teachers who work at these schools and worst of all, negatively affect a majority of Texas kids who attend those schools. Private schools are inherently privately funded, have no accountability for the state funds' use and there is no reason the government should be funding them. This is not the way to improve education in our state, and will end up making things worse. We can do better. We have a responsibility to do better.

Cynthia Grubb

Self

Dallas, TX

After reviewing numerous information regarding school choice bills, it is my strong opinion that HB 3 is a horrible bill. School Choice is a Trojan Horse and it will destroy private schools and homeschools. When the money follows the child then the state can mandate government curriculum. This action will do nothing to better educate students. This will make every school a government school and removes the choice of parents to get away from the inappropriate curriculum that they prefer their children to not be exposed to. Parents who support School Choice assume that the process will be simple. They select a school that they want their child to go to and the child can immediately can go to that school. In reality, NOT all students will be able to have the vouchers because there aren't enough allocated for every student- that in and of itself is discriminatory. If a parent is lucky enough to get a voucher, they still have to fill out an application and then wait to be accepted. What happens when that student is not accepted?

Will they seek legal recourse? Will the taxpayers be held liable if a parent sues the school and the state? This idea is a disaster waiting to happen and it is my opinion that this bill will not lift up the education of the students.

Linda Bain

Self travel agent

Needville, TX

No to school vouchers

Maria Rodriguez, Teacher

Self/Public Educator

Falfurrias, TX

Private school vouchers have been a topic of debate, and while they aim to provide families with more educational choices, there are several negative impacts associated with their implementation. Vouchers may not cover the full cost of private school tuition, limiting access for low-income families. This can perpetuate socioeconomic disparities, as wealthier families can afford to supplement the difference. This will reduce funds for public schools. When funds are allocated to vouchers, it can lead to decreased funding for public schools, which may struggle to maintain quality education and resources for remaining students. This will impact the accountability system. Private schools receiving voucher funds may not be subject to the same accountability measures as public schools, leading to concerns about educational standards and transparency. These vouchers can contribute to increased segregation by allowing families to select schools based on specific preferences, which may correlate with race or income, thus undermining diversity. The quality of education in private schools can vary significantly, and parents may not always have the information needed to make informed choices about school qualities. This will impact teacher salaries tremendously! With a shift of funds to private schools, public schools may face budget cuts, which can lead to layoffs, reduced salaries, and lower morale among teachers. The biggest concern is the neglect of our Special needs students! Private schools may not be required to accommodate special needs students to the same extent as public schools, potentially limiting educational opportunities for Special Needs Students!

Public schools often serve as community hubs, and the diversion of students to private schools can weaken community ties and reduce engagement in public education. These factors highlight the complexities and potential downsides of implementing private school voucher programs, raising important questions about equity, quality, and the overall impact on the educational landscape.

Jonathan Vanderlaan

self / software engineer

Melissa, TX

As someone with two children attending and a spouse working in public schools, the idea that you would take a quarter of the proposed increase in school funding out of public schools is devastating. You pat yourself on the back for a meager \$220 per student increase that doesn't even scratch the surface of need in Texas. This bill and the policies behind it will be the death of public schools in Texas, putting us even further behind while the elite get paid to go to private schools. I sure didn't vote for any of you supporting this bill, and yet you are still supposed to represent me and my family by fully funding the schools for which you control the budget, not providing tax dollars to individuals who want to pay less to attend private institutions they view as ideologically consistent with their personal beliefs.

Larry Miller
Retired teacher
AUSTIN, TX

I moved to Austin in 2024 from Wisconsin. There as a teacher and school board member I saw the damage done to our children because of vouchers. Resources for all children, public and private, are depleted putting U.S. education in a race to the bottom. Today, there are almost 400 private, mostly religious schools throughout Wisconsin, annually receiving roughly half a billion dollars in taxpayer money.

In the 1990s, Wisconsin (along with Ohio and Indiana) was in the forefront of a handful of states finding ways to use public dollars to support private schools. The programs go by various innocuous, democratic-sounding names — “Educational Savings Accounts,” “Education Freedom Accounts,” “Invest in Kids,” “Opportunity Scholarships,” “Empowerment Scholarships.” Some programs include homeschooling.

The people of Wisconsin never voted in favor of public tax dollars going to private religious schools. In fact, throughout the country, any time vouchers have been put to a popular vote (such as statewide referendums in Michigan, Utah, and California), they have been soundly defeated.

Looking over the more than three decades of Wisconsin’s voucher program, the strategy has been clear: gain a foothold and advance whenever possible toward the goal of universal vouchers — i.e., public tax dollars paying students’ tuition at private schools, with few if any strings attached.

Wisconsin voucher legislation allows private voucher schools to evade regulations that public schools must adhere to. Here are just a few of the important legal differences between public and private schools in Wisconsin:

- Public schools are prohibited from discriminating against students on the basis of sex, pregnancy, marital or parental status, or sexual orientation. Private voucher schools are allowed to circumvent these anti-discrimination measures. (The only restrictions are that voucher schools must adhere to federal anti-discrimination guidelines based on race, color, or national origin.)
- Public schools must honor constitutional rights of free speech and association, and due process when a student is suspended or expelled. Private voucher schools do not.
- Public schools must follow Wisconsin’s open meetings and record laws. Private voucher schools do not.
- Public schools are controlled by publicly elected school boards. Private voucher schools are not.
- Wisconsin school board meetings are open to the public. Private school board meetings are not.
- Public Schools must adhere to all special education regulations. Not so for private voucher schools.

Please vote NO for the sake of our children.

Judith Stowe
Self
Tioga, TX

I implore you to halt this school voucher bill! This bill will cause serious harm to public education in Texas and deprive students who do not attend private schools with inferior educational opportunities.

Jennifer Cooper
Self -teacher and parent
Leander, TX

Mr.Buckley,
I am a public school teacher of 21 years. I've worked in a multitude of settings with ages 5-18 in my career. I am a parent of a 4 year old and 14 year old. I appreciate your perspective coming from a household of teachers. However, I beg you to try and see many of "our" perspectives as well. "Our" meaning the majority of public school teachers. Currently, Texas school districts are making cuts to their many programs due to budget shortfalls due to the lack of funds given to the schools. Many students are losing access to programs that help them grow and thrive in school. I have had to field many concerns from students and their parents about their services being taken away due to these cuts. If vouchers pass, that means even more cuts to programs that benefit students. I work in a portable that wont heat past 65 and cool past 74. I teach with gloves and with sweat. I teach with fear and worry. Fear of school shootings, and worry of losing my job. I've spent 20 years building my career. I've taken countless trainings, obtained several certifications, presented at state conferences, and sit on the state committee for GT. I do this because I love my job, and I'm invested in our future. These kids are our future. The majority of Texas children attend public schools. We teach with limited materials, rough conditions, strict curriculum mandates, and societal pressures and misunderstanding. But we show up and teach and constantly perfect our craft in order to give these kids the education they deserve. That is what the majority of public school teachers look like, do, and feel. Can you imagine if the state invested in public schools? We could provide more choice to students through innovative avenues and measures. If the choice is based on religious access, then I think we need to remember who we serve as a "public" entity. Please don't take funds away from schools who are already struggling to keep their staff and programs. My own children will suffer as will so many others. And for what? For a portion of the population who want support paying for a religious education? We actually let the students study their passions and practice their own religions freely. Public education embraces all and commits to doing all they can to meet their needs. However, with less funding, those passionate educators will leave and the majority of students will suffer as a result. Please look at be research where vouchers have passed and have been in play. Please try and see another perspective. Thank you for your time.

Christine Hansanuwat
Self
Leander, TX

Stop what you're doing right now and get your comments into public record now AGAINST HB3! It doesn't take long. It's for the kids!

NO to VOUCHERS!
Properly fund PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Make \$1300 the Basic Allotment per child

Amanda Hollis
Self
DALLAS, TX

Out of state billionaires do NOT get the opportunity take over Texas, our Beloved Texas. Abbott is deliberately ignoring and betraying the majority of the entire state population who DO NOT WANT VOUCHERS. They are a proven scam. Welfare for the wealthy at the detriment to every day Texans. The historical grit and termination of The Lone Star State will continue to reject this profit over people mindset by the corrupt governor, who wouldn't even be able to navigate the Governor's Mansion or the state capitol without the very DEI programs he's cut from underneath those who need it. The AUDACITY to close the very educational and equity doors behind you that were opened for you. SHAME! Texas' motto is "Friendship", but we no longer deserve that recognition when this despicable leadership is determined to feed their own self interests above loving their neighbors. In this season of Lent they continue to reject, starve, dehydrate, strip, impoverish, and deport the same Jesus they claim to follow. Jesus weeps. Repent. "Sell all that you own and give it to the poor, for it is harder for a rich man to get into heaven than for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle." \$12 million can help a lot of poor folks. Repent.

Lisa Cauley

self

El Paso, TX

I am a disabled special education teacher, who lost my ability to work from a workplace accident . Because the pain and stresses of being disabled were extreme, I developed epilepsy approximately 8 years into being unable to work. I spent a year shortly after developing epilepsy not leaving my home after around two in the afternoon because I developed epileptic auras around that time daily. I couldn't drive because the few times I left the house feeling that way, I had a seizure. I am the mother to two children, who at the time did not drive. All of the medications doctors prescribed did not work, and I had lost all hope of ever living even a slightly normal life again. I have 17 years sober, and this was in 2019, so you can imagine that considering marijuana for this condition had been a difficult decision. I did try the traditional route with available smokeable THC, but it just didn't really help. I also tried CBD tinctures, but with limited success. I had an online "friend" at the time, Colt DeMorris, who I noticed worked with El Paso's branch of NORMAL. I got in touch with him to ask what would work, the doctor's didn't know, and he informed me that a high dose THC/CBD tincture had worked best. I got my medical license and purchased the tincture. THE VERY NEXT DAY I HAD NO AURAS, I was seizure and aura free for the first time in well over a year. It has been 5 years since, and I remain able to drive, help my children with things, and just generally participate in life. I also have chronic pain, and CPTSD with severe dissociation. The marijuana has helped these conditions tremendously as well. I know the political rhetoric around this issue is intense, as well as is the pressure from those who just won't listen to patients, to make it completely illegal. This would be a mistake of epic proportions. It is not just me that benefits from marijuana as medicine. I know several people who use it for illnesses such as depression, my daughter being one, and it is a life saver for them. Many of these individuals do not qualify for the med card, so they buy from local dispensaries that sell all over the state. Moreover, there are so many individuals that use these stores as places where solutions to problems that traditional medications have failed to help, can be discussed openly and without judgement. There are communities who rely on these stores as well as so many individuals, many veterans. If these places have to shutter simply because some lawmakers feel like they have egg on their face, we will be moving backwards back into the criminalized version of reality that we have been so fortunate to escape. TAX THESE PLACES. MAKE MONEY OFF OF THEM. There is an opportunity for our state to move into even more profitability here. Forgive me, but I feel to lose this opportunity simply because someone feels foolish is just absurd. Those of us that use them are adults. We deserve to retain our access.

Charity Pihlaja

self, writing consultant

Lubbock, TX

Evidence from other states show school voucher programs primarily benefit the wealthy. There is not enough money on the table to provide low-income families with tuition, uniforms, two meals a day, transportation, and special education support as needed. Even with access to vouchers, these families will not be able to make use of them. The Texas legislature is insulting hard working public school teachers by holding a state surplus hostage for fear of Abbott if the House votes in a way that supports the majority of their constituents instead of one person. I oppose school vouchers and support better-funded public schools.

Adrienne Goldsberry

self, college instructor

Austin, TX

I oppose Educational Savings Accounts and support public money being used for public education. We should be using our funds to improve public schools so that they can be the best in the country - not taking away funds from public schools. Thank you for your consideration.

Karin Tong

Self/public school librarian

Houston, TX

Please support and fund PUBLIC SCHOOLS! Vouchers are NOT the answer to improving our failing education system. Our students and educators deserve school districts that are better funded and supported by our state.

Hilary Haines

Self, physical therapist

Houston, TX

Vote "No" to HB3. Private schools can deny a student for any reason, a public school can't. And vouchers are used by rich folks who already have their kids in private schools. I don't want my tax dollars to fund a wealthy child's private education while my nieces and nephews in public school have higher student to teacher ratios and less resources.

Kevin Kosch

self, educator

Buda, TX

I am against school vouchers and am for fully funding and supporting public schools in Texas. There are over 150 counties in the state where you cannot even send your child to a private school. Distributing taxpayers dollars to help those who already have their children in private schools will only harm the less fortunate and less able in our state. The state already ranks among the worst in education and making it harder for children, especially rural children, to have access to a robustly supported public school system is only going to make the disparity more pronounced.

Sonia Chin

self, teacher

Addison, TX

It is vital to the future of our state that children receive high quality education. Voucher programs implemented in other states have not yielded educational outcomes better than public school education. Instead, they serve to siphon crucial tax dollars away from public education which serves the most families. Private education has its place - I have taught for many years in the private high school setting - but I do not want my tax dollars going towards subsidizing private education.

Tobie Riley

Self/Educator

Lubbock, TX

This bill is not within the best interest of families, students, or educators. There are statistics showing that states with school voucher systems in place have negative education results, and that these vouchers primarily help students who were never in public schools in the first place. It is the firm belief of myself and those around me that funding works better than competition in improving our public schools. This legislature will serve to harm our public schools, our public school students, and the ability of educators to do their best job.

Linda Griffin

self, retired Texas public school CTE teacher

Midland, TX

As a retired Texas public school teacher I am opposed to school vouchers. I have worked in both public and private schools and can verify that private schools are lax in the standards required of public schools. Also, charter schools were implemented in Texas to give parents a choice for their kids and it is now proven that the many students going to charter schools don't do as well as students going to public schools on state tests. Plus, I do not want my tax dollars going to fund a religious school that does not teach what I believe to be correct doctrine. Why should Texas taxpayers pay for students to attend Muslim, Chinese, Hindu or any other religious school. Since there are many different beliefs within the "Christian" faith, I do not want my tax dollars going to some questionable "Christian" school. I say NO to vouchers.

Tracy Hanes

Self

Victoria, TX

My name is Tracy Hanes, and I am submitting testimony AGAINST HB3. As a Texas parent, constitutional grassroots education activist, and Texas State Delegate in District 18, I take seriously my duty to defend educational freedom, parental rights, and local control. Texans expect their representatives to uphold conservative principles, not expand government control over education. This is not just a policy debate—it's about our children, our education system, and preserving liberty. HB3 is a direct threat to parental rights and true school choice.

HB3 Violates the Republican Party Platform

At the Republican Party of Texas Convention, thousands of grassroots delegates stood to defend Texas' sovereignty and parental rights in education.

On Page 15 of the 2024 Republican Party Platform, Plank 84 states:

“We support further empowering all Texas families to choose from public, private, charter, or homeschool options for their children's education and funding which shall follow the student with no strings attached.”

Texans reject education funding that comes with government-imposed strings. Yet, despite a Republican-majority legislature, HB3 contradicts these principles.

HB3 Expands Government—Not Freedom

Government-Run Healthcare was promised to lower costs, but it led to higher costs, fewer choices, and more bureaucracy.

Government-Regulated School “Choice” will do the same—more control, more regulations, less freedom.

Governor Abbott admitted vouchers come with testing, accountability measures, and government oversight. That is not educational freedom—it is state control over private education.

HB3 Forces Data Collection & Testing Mandates

HB3 imposes government mandates on private schools and homeschools:

Mandatory MAP Testing (4x a Year) – A massive data collection system tied to Common Core math, which Texans rejected.

Student Data Tracking – Schools accepting vouchers must comply with state oversight and curriculum control.

What Should Be Done Instead?

Dismantle the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Eliminate Property Taxes.

Offer Property Tax Exemptions for Education Costs.

Final Plea to Legislators

Do not pass HB3. Protect Texas families and their right to educate without government interference.

For Liberty,

Tracy and Troy Hanes

Victoria, Texas

Jane Wolf

Self

Midland, TX

“I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program.

As required by the state constitution, the legislature should fund PUBLIC education .- and fund it ADEQUATELY. 5.5 million young Texans are in our public schools. We need them to be well educated and career, college or military service ready!

Lyndsie Schur
Self/teacher
Meridian, TX

To whom it concerns,

It is imperative that lawmakers think of all students and teachers when making this decision. Parents have had the choice of where they send their kids to school since the beginning of time. Sure it might mean that they pick up and move to another town, neighborhood, etc, but that is still their choice. Making a decision of this nature is not doing what is best for all students; it is doing what is best for the wealthy that can already afford it. Being a teacher of 9 years, all of that time being in Title I schools, I can't help but see the faces of the students who will receive the short end of the stick from lawmakers. My ESL students, my 504 students, my special education students, even my general education students are ones that will be hurt by this. Another point I would like to mention is that just because a student goes to a Title I school does not mean that a student doesn't have the opportunity to have a successful life. Many of my students have become successful doctors, lawyers, teachers, mechanics, welders, etc. If you truly believe that money is the issue for students receiving a high quality education, release the funds to the public schools and allow us teachers to do our jobs in the best way we know how!

Thank you for your time,
A teacher who loves all of my students the same

Eric Vormelker
Self
Austin, TX

This is a scam. Despite what one of the committee members' phone answerers insisted, this has been passed in other states and all that happens is that private schools increase their tuition the amount of the vouchers leaving parents no better off, but the private schools richer. It cannot make up for what even middle class people would need to send their children to private schools. And making the private schools richer is, in effect, state supported religion. Naming it something different from vouchers doesn't change what it is. This needs to end now. The state, both urban, suburban, and rural have rejected this multiple times for years. Stop taking bribes from billionaires to ram it through. Education is the cornerstone of our civil society and our democracy. It needs to be fully funded, not stolen from and destroyed.

Tim Porch
Parent
Leander, TX

I support School choice, kids should have more options for learning.
Please support this bill

Elizabeth Vann
Self
Porter, TX

I cannot wait for these to go in effect we live in Montgomery County and in a poor district. You have two small children that attend public schools, the education lacks, and they are not taught what they need to learn at their grade due to overcrowding overworked teachers and frankly some that just do not care our baby girl has been bullied several times since she has started pre-K and is now in second grades our little boy who is now in pre-K is doing OK for the better share this is a far cry from where my older kids grew up and got a better education due to be an in a better district (Pearland) i'm glad we have put these bills up for vote and hope they pass. I believe all kids could get a fair and good education and not a crappy one due to the district being poor overcrowded and Teacher that just don't care we tend to put our two little ones into private Christian schools

Kenisha Deloach

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Dear Representative,

I am a taxpayer in the State of Texas, so I want it to be documented that I do NOT support vouchers nor an education savings accounts (ESAs) program. In fact, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools in Texas. We have had inflation of over 20% since 2019, the last time funding was provided for Public Schools in Texas. I want it to be documented that I support the following:

- an Increase of the Basic Allotment, and
- Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflated amount of over 20%.

Representative, we must support our Public Schools with the proper Funding necessary.

Sincerely,

Kenisha Deloach

Nichole York

Self - Occupational Therapist

Celina, TX

I ask that you vote NO to HB 3.

Public tax dollars are intended for public schools. Your education savings account program (vouchers) will hurt our public schools and children across our state. There will not be options for children with special needs. There will not be options for low income families who cannot cover the additional costs. There will not be options for those living in rural areas.

Fully fund our public schools then all Texas children will be able to receive quality education.

Public tax dollars for public education.

Jill Fogle

self- retired

DENTON, TX

I am a retired public school teacher and would like to voice my opposition to the voucher bill. Money given for vouchers will take away from the public schools and will be given to charter and private schools that have no accountability. Many students will not have access or transportation to these schools, and the public schools they do attend will suffer from lack of funds.

Maria Olivieri

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers. Looking at Arizona as an example, 75% of vouchers went to families with children already enrolled in private school and the program took \$300,000 away from every public school in the state. I oppose my tax money being spent to subsidize a very few children to attend private schools they would most likely already be attending. This is an egregious use of public money and it serves no one's interest in the state of Texas who care about educating the children in our state

Dialith Urista-Goss

Self

Little Elm, TX

Teachers deserve a raise but what is shameful is that politicians keep holding teacher pay as ransom in order to push their agenda. Teachers and school districts do not need anyone telling them what to teach. They do a fine job of it already and fear mongering by saying schools teach CRT is shameful. As a former U.S. History teacher I can tell you that teachers have zero time for that as it is hard enough to get all mandated TEKS taught in the allotted time. I and no other teacher I have ever met has tried to indoctrinate children, frankly teachers could care less about doing so. They just want to do their job while earning a fair wage and go home at the end of the day. Stealing money from public schools for “school choice” is disgraceful. What politicians should be doing is working hard to ensure our public schools and staff are fully supported. I remember a time when Texas public schools were highly ranked nationally and now we are near the bottom. Frankly, what has changed is the overwhelming greed of self serving Texas officials. Shame! Shame! Do better!!!

Jerleigh Thompson

Self

Arlington, TX

School vouchers is a terrible idea! This is a grift and you should be ashamed of entertaining the idea

Abbey Raymond

Self

Kyle, TX

My name is Abbey Raymond, and I am a concerned teacher, parent, and resident of Kyle, Texas. I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 2, particularly its provisions regarding education vouchers, and to urge you to vote against this bill.

As an educator and parent, I believe that the foundation of a strong, prosperous Texas lies in the strength and accessibility of its public education system. I am deeply concerned that House Bill 2's proposal to divert public funds into private school vouchers will undermine our public schools and harm the very students who need the most support.

The Negative Impact on Public Education

Texas' public schools serve the vast majority of students in our state, including those from low-income families, special needs students, and English language learners. Public schools are not just educational institutions—they are community hubs that provide essential services, including free meals, mental health support, and extracurricular programs. These services are vital for the well-being and development of Texas' future workforce.

By redirecting taxpayer dollars to private schools through education vouchers, House Bill 2 threatens to siphon critical funding away from public schools, further exacerbating existing disparities in educational resources. This bill undermines the principle of equal access to quality education for all Texas students, regardless of their zip code.

Lack of Accountability and Oversight

Private schools that would benefit from voucher programs are not subject to the same oversight and accountability standards as public schools. Unlike public schools, which are required to adhere to state and federal standards, private institutions may not provide the same level of transparency or ensure that all students are receiving a high-quality education. This lack of oversight makes it difficult to guarantee that public funds are being used effectively to benefit all students.

Impact on Vulnerable Students

Education vouchers disproportionately impact vulnerable students who rely on public schools for necessary services. Private schools are not required to provide special education services, accommodations for students with disabilities, or the same protections under the law. These gaps in service provision would harm Texas students who already face significant barriers to education.

Furthermore, private schools may choose not to accept students from certain backgrounds, further contributing to educational segregation and creating a two-tier system of education that leaves behind the most marginalized students in our communities.

Financial Burden on Taxpayers

House Bill 2, by diverting public funds to private schools, would place a heavy financial burden on taxpayers. Public schools would face budget cuts, resulting in larger class sizes, fewer resources, and a reduction in essential services that support students.

I strongly encourage you to vote against passing this house bill.

Ronald Jones

Self / Musician & teacher

Addison, TX

I am a proud alumnus of Dallas and Richardson TX Public Schools. I do not want my tax dollars to subsidize private schools. I do not want vouchers or "school choice" legislation. I support public schools, including more money for teachers, facilities and security. Thank you.

Kameran Fairchild

Self

De Leon, TX

I'm a Texan. I care about our K-12 public education system being well-funded for ALL students. I do NOT support HB 3, the education savings account bill, and I ask for all representatives to oppose this bill.

Leslye Roberts, Mrs

Self

Abilene, TX

I opposed an education savings account program. The proposed program provides taxpayer funds to private schools and homeschool families with out any accountability on how the funds are spent. School choice does not provide families choice because private schools are allowed to deny enrollment for any unexplained reason. Public funds should be invested in public schools, not private schools.

Liz Rivera

Self, Parent of a public school student

Leander, TX

I would like to say NO to vouchers. Please provide funding to PUBLIC SCHOOLS and provide \$1300 Basic Allotment per child.

Ruei Tuo

Self

Katy, TX

I am against the bill. Our tax dollars should be used to fund public education, not to subsidize rich people's kids' private education.

Kari Lavelle

Self

Austin, TX

School vouchers would be disastrous for student, educators in Texas. It would benefit public schools and it would not be beneficial for private schools. Instead we need to provide more resources and pay teachers more.

KATHY Rose

Self

Scurry, TX

No to school vouchers....public dollars should go to public schools. No to funding wealthy private schools. Your going to drive up property taxes.

Tabitha Rice, Mrs.

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

Dear House Members,

I strongly oppose this bill because we, as Texans, already have the freedom of school choice. We already have the God give right to choose how to educate our children.

We have chosen to educate our children ourselves at home because we believe this is solely our responsibility given to us by God to train our children up. This bill will take away the freedom that we have to do just that. The goal of this bill is to eventually regulate all homeschoolers and private schools and that should not be so. We already have a public school system that is over regulated by the government available to all students. The proposed intent of this bill is to rectify the wrong of the current school system and this is not what is going to happen. We should not be passing bills based on hypothetical outcomes that put more at risk than what little good may come from it.

I also submit to you that we should not be passing bills to take more money away from us, the citizens, to fund private schooling. This is not something we, as homeschoolers want. The choice not to use the public school system to educate our children is ours and the responsibility is ours alone and must be a sacrifice to do so if need be. We cannot expect others to pay for our choices.

I understand the need to help families make the choice that my husband and I have made but this is NOT the bill to do that.

The future of our ability to educate our children as parents is in danger and I am asking you, no, I am pleading with you to reject this bill. Strings and regulations and more government control is what is in the future of this bill and that is not what our founding fathers desired when they risked their lives to start in a new world. They wanted freedom from government control of their personal lives and that is what you are voting on today: To increase government control of taxes, education, values, beliefs, our children and families and essentially our future or to decrease the government overreach into our homes. We need less government control so our freedom to be the parents of the children we bore and love is not snatched away from us or from generations to come.

Please do not reverse what so many have given their lives to protect; autonomy and true freedom.

Jennifer Wolf

Self/ Homemaker and Homeschooling Parent

Fate, TX

I am opposed to school choice and school vouchers. We already have the freedom to send our children to public school, private school, charter school, or homeschool. These vouchers will open up government oversight in places it does not belong. Private schools and homeschoolers do not want to lose our freedom from government regulations. Also, these funds would be better spent strengthening what is broken in public school. Increase teacher pay, and ensure there is enough funding to help the children in need of IEP and 504 plans.

Ultimately these vouchers will lead to less freedom and simply lining the pockets of the approved curriculum vendors who lobbied for this.

Please vote no!

Estella Smith

self

Keller, TX

These funds should be going to public schools. Public schools have many resources for students, including special education resources that schools are held by. Funding should stay with public schools. If parents want a private school education or homeschool option....this option has always been there for years. They can pay for that which their own personal resources. Additionally, have y'all considered what happens when funding for a child goes to a private school and either parents can't foot the difference or students end up leaving back to their own "local" campus. That funding per child does not follow them to public schools, thus creating a bigger issue than what we are currently having. Public schools are in disarray and as representatives of this great state, you should be supporting public schools. Texas has lost so much ranking for their public education. The State should be focused on revamping and improving Texas schools, making all public Texas schools "great" again. This will only hurt our public schools and resources that could so widely be used. This funding shouldn't pay for private schools, home schools, specialized educational services, therapy or other supports; we already provide a lot of resources in the current system. Funnel that money back into public schools who already provide so much for families.

Carly Herrera

Self

Mansfield, TX

I, in no way, believe this bill has the best interest of ALL students in the state of Texas. This will take valuable resources from the underfunded schools and will only give to the rich. Education, and EQUAL education for ALL should be the only goal of this state. Lets become #1 in education by ensuring that all public schools give every student the opportunity to become great, not just a break for those who can already afford it. Let's pay our teachers their worth. It can only benefit the state if we grow strong well educated students!

Amy Lindsey

Self-teacher

Houston, TX

I am against this bill. Vouchers undermine public education and our most vulnerable students.

Sarah Olivares

Self, secretary

Dallas, TX

Districts are already cutting costs, programs, and positions in response to being defunded by vouchers. By vilifying public schools, you will be robbing millions of Texas children of the instruction and programs that make education meaningful. Public education MAKES well-rounded and successful Texans. Please say no to vouchers!

Patricia Walnick, Ms.

self

Dallas, TX

I oppose HB 3 because I think it will leave the most vulnerable children in our state out. Private schools will not be required to accept certain students, which will certainly leave some children behind. The bill also does not impose any admission or enrollment requirements on the private schools that choose to participate in the program, meaning they would face no state pressure to adjust their costs, ensure more racial and ethnic diversity, or accept students from different faith traditions.

Then there are the students that live in rural districts. I feel they will be left behind with few options.

HB 3 would continue to leave low-income children behind. I donate to help teachers in low-income schools obtain the supplies they need and I came to realize the great need for basic supplies, yet a Teacher's priority is often to ask for snack foods. The children come from homes where there is not enough food and therefore they are too hungry to be able to concentrate in school. If you don't have enough money to feed your children, how will you manage the blockades keeping you from sending your child to private school? The Voucher is unlikely to be enough, and even if there was a private school that would economically work, how would a struggling family even get the child to the school or pay for the extras private schools would demand?

Let's make Public Schools better, making it desirable and inclusive to every child's situation.

Jennifer Bohannon

Self

Boerne, TX

I do not want school vouchers in Texas

Brandi M. Ford

Self

The Woodlands, TX

As a resident of Texas and a person of faith, I oppose a private school voucher program that takes tax dollars away from local public schools to subsidize a student's private school education.

Texas is the eighth largest economy and needs to continue its investment in public schools to better educate and prepare our up and coming workforce and electorate. Our state's economy will be safeguarded through public education and our residents benefit from its strength, so they can be the best they can be as a workforce and electorate and reinvest in their families, neighborhoods, and communities.

Public dollars need to be directed to and invested in our public schools.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shelley Nathan

Self

Austin, TX

I respectfully request that you consider all aspects of a voucher program that is before you. Specifically, how is this going to continue to be funded in years when we have a lower than normal amount of state income tax to spend? I also ask you to consider that even a \$10,000 to \$12,000 voucher amount is not ever going to be enough to pay the yearly tuition amount for any private school in this state. Consequently, vouchers will only be utilized by those who have a very high income, not your majority of families that live paycheck to paycheck. How will you continue to fund our very important public schools/districts, many of which are running on a deficit? Vouchers are a terrible idea for our children of this state and will further the inequality of state education. It will further the them versus us mindset when in reality we should be taking care of all children that attend public schools and provide the districts, and ultimately the teachers with the materials and staff that is required to provide a great education. Just because vouchers are a popular idea in other Republican states doesn't make it right for Texas. Our children deserve only the best that we can provide for them. It is clear that those children left in public schools will not get the opportunities they deserve and children from wealthy families will. What kind of oversight will you have over these private school? That is every Texan's tax dollars you want to give away. Will you have the proper staff for oversight? Please vote NO on school vouchers. Thank you for your time.

Alicia Marusik
Self, Teacher
McKinney, TX

I have been a public high school teacher in Texas for the past 21 years, and I am extremely discouraged and angry about HB3.

For too long, the leaders at the state level have done nothing to help public schools. It is insane to me that there has not been a per-student allotment increase in state funding since 2019, considering the amount of inflation that has occurred in the last several years.

And now, another attack on public education by our state leaders. Instead of adequately funding public schools, the state wants to provide money to those making a choice to not send their students to public school, at the expense of our public education system.

I have several issues with the new bill.

First, I am extremely uncomfortable with the number of billionaires that are supporting this bill and contributing money to our governor to get the bill passed, even some who do not live in our state. Some of these billionaires own companies that could potentially serve as administrators of the voucher funding. This is a huge conflict of interest, and should be investigated.

Next, there have been several states that have moved to this voucher system, and are now having issues with funding the program. The costs have ballooned out of control. And in these same states (such as Arizona), it has been found as many as 70% of students benefiting from these vouchers were already attending private school, and could afford the cost without the voucher. It does not seem fiscally responsible as a state to fund a program that will cause our state to eventually not be able to afford our expenses.

Next, 158 out of 254 counties in our state do NOT have a private school option. So, how is this bill really promoting school choice when it's only available to the population in less than 40% of the counties in our state?

Based on the State's own actuarial report, the school voucher program is putting our Teacher Retirement System funds in danger. As teachers, we are already saddled with low salaries and terrible (yet expensive) insurance. I have never understood why teachers cannot have the same ERS insurance benefits that other government employees are provided. And now, with this bill, our retirement is in danger. If you want to know why GOOD teachers are leaving the profession in Texas, it is because the state continually acts in ways to devalue teachers.

All around in our state, public school districts are having conversations about hard choices for next year -- whether to close schools, increase classroom student numbers, and reduce staff. Yet, the leaders in our state do NOTHING to help any of these situations. Instead, they want to pass vouchers that will only harm public education, and refuse to fully fund our public schools. Just look at our low student funding numbers in comparison to most other states. It is embarrassing to be teaching in a state that values our public schools and teachers so little.

Jimmy Donohoe
Self/Mechanic Parent of 3 public school children
Arlington, TX

Our state's leadership has underfunded public education for far too long. It is time to prioritize Texas children and provide them with the quality education they deserve. I urge you to fulfill your responsibility to our students, teachers, and communities by fully funding our public schools—without conditions, without delay.

Sheila Legan
Self
Dallas, TX

I oppose school vouchers and ESAS. Please vote No!

Jose Soltren
Self - flight instructor
Cedar Park, TX

Against HB 3. No good for public schools. Shame on you.

Sheelpi Kalam
Self - Accountant
Allen, TX

I do not support the establishment of education savings accounts. I believe in strengthening public education and this program will do the opposite. There is no evidence that the savings accounts will help Texas students who do not live near private schools or are not able to afford transportation. Thus it is only school choice for the privileged few who can already afford private schools. Instead of sending my taxpayer dollars to them we should be using to support our public schools. I firmly stand against this bill.

Maria Caceres
Self Realtor
Richardson, TX

I support ESA program!

Angela Hernandez
Self
San Antonio, TX

I write to you to object to the school voucher program. I believe this will not be beneficial to our state. We have a lot of small town rural areas with little or no access to private schools and in these towns the schools are probably already struggling somewhat with funding. Also, most private schools cost way more than the vouchers will provide and majority of people, will not even be able to pay the remaining amount. I, myself, have not wanted to send my kids to private school and do not wish to send them in the future. I do not think it's fair to take funding from public school education to help the wealthy send their kids to private school when they would already be sending them and can afford it anyhow.

Maria Donohoe

Self- Educational Diagnostician/Educator and Parent of 2 Public School Children

Arlington, TX

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the continued underfunding of Texas public schools. Texas has long lagged behind most other states in school funding, and today, we remain in the bottom five. Since 2019, our public schools have lost \$10 billion in funding—equating to \$1,300 less per child—due to inflation and unfunded state mandates. Meanwhile, not a single dollar has been added to the basic allotment to keep up with rising costs.

Despite the state's record-breaking financial surplus, school funding has been held hostage in an attempt to push through an unpopular private school voucher scheme. Texas taxpayers have contributed to an overflowing Rainy Day Fund, projected to exceed \$25 billion, and a budget surplus of \$22 billion. These funds belong to the people of Texas, and they are meant to support our public school children—not to be used as leverage for policies that divert money away from public education.

The consequences of this chronic underfunding are dire. Currently, 60% of Texas school districts are operating in deficit, forcing school closures, teacher layoffs, and the elimination of critical programs. If the Legislature does not act now, the situation will only worsen.

I urge you to take immediate action by:

Allocating at least \$10 billion in new funding to public schools this year to restore funding lost since 2019. A \$15 billion investment would provide an additional \$1,340 per student for two years, ensuring funding levels return to where they should be. Implementing an automatic funding increase every two years to keep pace with inflation and prevent further funding shortfalls. Rejecting private school vouchers and ensuring that public funds remain in public schools, where they serve all Texas children. Placing a moratorium on the A-F accountability system and halting sanctions against underfunded schools and districts until a fair and effective system can be established.

Guaranteeing that all Texas public schools remain safe, inclusive, and supportive environments for every child, regardless of background or legal status.

Our state's leadership has underfunded public education for far too long. It is time to prioritize Texas children and provide them with the quality education they deserve. I urge you to fulfill your responsibility to our students, teachers, and communities by fully funding our public schools—without conditions, without delay.

Mike Johnson

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

I appeal to you as a fellow conservative to vote against HB3. 1. These ESA bills will increase the budget by billions. You can look to other states like Arizona where this has already happened. Public schools are screaming for help and these bills will take money that could be used to support public schools and give it to private schools and ESA popup schools. 2. ESA bills will provide money sent to private schools and homeschools. Money from the government always comes with strings attached. I do not want the government to have more power over private schools and homeschools. These types of schools are successful precisely because they keep the government out of their schools. Why would we want to open the door to government intervention? 3. The best way to help schools is to keep the government out as much as possible. We should be looking for ways to get the government out of public schools. I believe returning to local control is the best way to do this. Parents have more power in local communities. Federal and State control of schools leaves them little control and frustrated. Thank you for considering my thoughts on this subject.

Mike Johnson

Jane Jones, Ms.

Self -- retired

Rockwall, TX

Please vote NO on school vouchers. Vouchers are simply welfare for families whose children already attend private schools. Vouchers have caused financial shortfalls in states that are currently using them. Vouchers are of no benefit to rural school districts. Public funds should not be spent on private schools that are not held accountable to Texas school standards. Use the money instead to improve Texas public schools to benefit the majority of Texas students.

Michelle DeLeon
Self, Parent and Educator
Alvin, TX

Good morning,

My name is Michelle DeLeon, and I am both a parent and an educator with nearly 20 years of experience in Texas public schools. I am here today to strongly oppose the establishment of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program in Texas.

Public education is the foundation of our communities, serving more than 5.4 million students across the state. However, instead of strengthening our public schools, ESAs would divert critical taxpayer dollars to private and unregulated education providers—schools that are not required to follow the same academic standards, fiscal accountability, or nondiscrimination policies as public schools.

As a parent, I want my child—and all Texas children—to have access to a high-quality education, regardless of their background, income level, or where they live. ESAs do not guarantee choice for families; they guarantee choice for private schools, which can decide whom they admit. Many private schools do not provide the specialized services that students with disabilities, English language learners, and those from disadvantaged backgrounds rely on in public schools. ESAs would leave many of these students with fewer resources as funding is siphoned away from the public system.

As an educator, I have seen firsthand how underfunding affects our public schools. Texas already ranks near the bottom in per-student funding, and schools are struggling to retain teachers, provide adequate classroom resources, and support student mental health. Instead of addressing these challenges, ESAs would take much-needed funding away from public schools, deepening inequities and leaving the majority of students with fewer opportunities.

Texas parents do have choices—charter schools, magnet programs, and open enrollment options exist within the public system. However, those choices should not come at the expense of the vast majority of students who rely on their neighborhood public schools. Public dollars should remain in public schools, where they serve all students, not just a select few.

I urge this committee to reject the establishment of an ESA program and instead focus on policies that strengthen our public education system for all Texas children. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Michelle DeLeon
Alvin, Texas

Sarah Griffis
Self
Austin, TX

I am a product of the Texas public school system. Vouchers take away necessary funding for public schools.

I strongly urge representatives to vote no to establishing a education savings account.

Mary Jessen, Mrs
Leadership Richardson
Richardson, TX

I oppose this bill for our future grandchildren.

Andrew Naudin

Self

Leander, TX

This effort is in stark contrast to the actual desires of the people of this state. To assert that parents have rights while choosing to ignore the majority sentiment on the proper funding of public education is hypocrisy at its finest. The data indicates that this direction has not been successful in other states. Our system is already lagging behind most of the nation and our educators deserve better. Our students deserve better education opportunities than any other state. Texas should be leading the nation with our financial commitment to our children. The long term benefits are clear, except you continue to make believe that they don't. Proper school choice is possible when we properly support our public schools. We the people reject your assertion that this is the better option.

Shannon Petersen

Self

Katy, TX

I am the mother of a child with Angelman Syndrome. I have contacted many of you through social media and written my own representative many times, although he refuses to respond to anything I send related to ESAs. I appreciate Representative Hinojosa and Representative Leo-Wilson for responding to my Facebook messages. Please vote no to HB3. Unfortunately, the concept of ESAs are so bad that the whole piece of legislation needs to be revised or thrown out. My daughter was a recipient of the special education grant that uses a system similar to what ESAs will be. This system is blatant taxpayer theft and did very little to benefit my family. We wanted help to pay for my daughter's therapies since they are very costly. Unfortunately, all of the therapists were 40 or more minutes away from where I live in Katy, TX, a large suburb west of Houston. As a working mom, this made it impossible for our family to use this grant for therapy. Because we had to spend the money or lose it within a short timeframe, we wound up buying an adaptive bike and toys for my son and daughter. Now, just about 3 years later, the adaptive bike sits in our backyard rusting. My daughter never took to it and there was no way to return it. Most of the toys have been donated other than the extra large lego set my son still uses to build forts. I ask you and especially those who consider themselves conservative, is that a fiscally responsible use of taxpayer dollars? I would argue that it absolutely isn't and it bothers me that this is what that grant was for us. I am sure the vendors and vendor system ClassWallet also appreciate the profits they are earning from these grants. How would a homeschool ESA be different? ESAs drain the budget of so many other states that have adopted them. Spending \$1 billion additional taxpayer dollars on these is not fiscally conservative. Limiting parents to vendor options is not freedom. Creating more bureaucracy is not limiting government. As a conservative myself, I am disappointed to see the Republican Party supporting such legislation.

Marketing this as helping children like my daughter is the biggest myth of them all. Near us, we have approximately 2 private schools that might accept my daughter. Both range from 40-50k a year and have unusual schedules that make it impossible for this working mom to accommodate. The ESAs proposed barely put a dent in that cost. How is that "school choice"? This also further demonstrates how grossly underfunded public schools have been when it comes to special education for those with more significant disabilities. I am hoping that some of our Texas representatives will stand up to ESAs despite Greg Abbott's threats. Texans don't cower in the face of threats, they say "Come and take it!". Will that be any of you? For the sake of my daughter, I will fight these and advocate for her just like I have been for the past 10 years of her life. Thank you for your time and your service to our beloved State of Texas.

Sheila McCray

Self/ Retired Public School Teacher

Odessa, TX

The same money should be given where you want improvement....a former public education teacher of AP history, economy, and government.

Lauren Duncan
Parent of Leander ISD students
Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas. I am a parent of 2 elementary age boys at Westside Elementary and a preschool boy that will start kinder in Fall 2025. I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Lauren Duncan

Francisco Trevino
Self
Falfurrias, TX

Living in a rural committee in which the district employs the majority of the people who live here, will impact our town, residence and students. Sending students out of town daily to a private school will destroy our small town of less than 5,000 people.

Deanne Vance, Mrs.
Self/Retired educator
Wimberley, TX

Hon. Buckley: As a grandparent of two girls who are thriving in public school, becoming informed and patriotic citizens of the great state of Texas, I respectfully ask that the voucher scam being pushed through the legislature be defeated until a vote is put before all registered voters in the state. Why?

1. I voted against voucher proposal in the Republican primary because of my in depth research into the voucher programs in other states. Public schools are the life and breath of rural and mid sized districts. All voters in districts in Texas should have had the right to vote on this voucher system backed by billionaires who have a vested interest in administering the voucher program and building private schools already in the works on the promise of this legislation passing.

2. As a Christian conservative, I oppose any legislation that attempts to establish ONE religion in public schools. Yes, that's right. I trust in the intention of my forefathers who rightly decided that government and religion should be separate. Pouring state funds into parochial schools should never happen.

Please stand up for public schools and instead of approving vouchers, raise teacher pay and per pupil spending out of the basement into the top 10 states. It's truly embarrassing that Texas does so poorly in these areas when Texas is one of the largest economies globally, don't you think? And it's miraculous that our public schools do turn out so many successful students who are contributing to our country despite the lack of support we Republicans have given public education for the past decade. Surely we can and should do better! No vouchers unless the whole voting public has a say!

Suzanne Andreola
Public School Teachers
Hurst, TX

Dear Public Education Committee Members,

As a retired elementary school teacher with the Arlington ISD for 29 years and being a member of a family of public educators since the 1970s, I am aware of the advantages of public education. Vouchers will strip the schools of much needed funds to function properly. It is the State's responsibility to educate ALL children. If parents want private education for their children, they can pay for it. I do not want my taxpayer dollars going to private or parochial schools. Tax dollars should NOT be used to give preference to a family's religion, race, or social standing. By underwriting private schools, the state is promoting more class distinctions. Education is best with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Susan Martinez, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

Robust public schools are the backbone of rural Texas, employing many of its citizens and allowing folks to congregate on Friday nights for the local football game. It is the only educational resource resource for many poor and disadvantaged Texas children and their only place for free breakfast and lunch.

Even with a voucher system in place, poor Texas families and some middle class families, will still be unable to pay for private school tuition. In my experience as a parent, my children thrived in public schools here in Austin. My son was fortunate enough to attend the prestigious magnet public schools- LASA. Public education is the backbone of America. Please say no to HB 3. Thank you.

Juan Gonzalez
Self
Austin, TX

Dear Representatives,

My name is Juan Gonzalez and I'm a constituent living in zip code 78759.

I'm writing to ask you to take a principled stand against the dangerous school voucher scam, HB 3. I am married to a dedicated elementary public school teacher that has worked in Central Texas schools for 28 years. I am scared of how HB will affect her students, fellow teachers, and our own children's school district. I am even more terrified that after 28 years of service this HB 3 voucher scam will drain the state's teacher retirement system. What should my wife do if she is counting on her pension to sustain her when she retires?

Please know that I appreciate your leadership on this issue and your understanding that Texas families need more resources for our public schools, not an unaccountable voucher scheme for private schools.

I will continue to watch this legislation closely and implore you to maintain your principled stand against the voucher scam.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Juan Gonzalez

Robert Leal
Self
Harlingen, TX

Do not support vouchers. It is a scam.

Ann Teich
Self
Austin, TX

Dear Members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am a retired public school educator (34 years) and a former school board member. I attended and graduated from Texas public schools 1958-1970. I am also a grandparent to four grandchildren who are in or will be in public schools in Texas.

I have experienced and seen the benefits of public schools: a rigorous core curriculum, a rich arts and physical health curriculum, and a student body that is diverse. As a teacher I worked with educators who were committed to creating critical thinkers and involved citizens.

All across Texas independent school districts are having to cut programs that remediate and enrich and staff who assist classroom teachers, in particular librarians and parent support specialists. Austin ISD, the school district in which I live, is facing an enormous budget deficit and may have to cut parent support specialists who are critical in helping families navigate the education system and support their children's learning. Librarians, critical to the teaching of reading and digital literacy, may also potentially be cut.

I urge you to increase the basic student allotment to \$1,300. Texas public schools need this funding to support the education of millions of Texas students.

I urge you to vote against vouchers. Giving public funds to private schools violates the spirit of the US and Texas Constitutions.

Vouchers do not improve the academic outcomes of students. Numerous studies have shown that. Nebraska and Illinois have repealed their voucher programs because they didn't improve academic outcomes. A recent survey of 1,275 likely midterm Texas voters conducted by Unified for Texas shows that there is bipartisan opposition to vouchers.

Please do the right thing by Texas students. Increase the basic allotment to \$1,300 and vote against vouchers.

Sincerely,

Ann Hardeman Teich

512-797-7724

hardemanprima@gmail.com

Sonja Stapleton

Self

Conroe, TX

I am opposed to HB3. As a special education educator for 18 years, this undermines funding needed in the public education system. Our state already HAS the choice for private or homeschooling students based on the parents who choose to do so. You are wanting more control in order to regulate state testing which is ALREADY useless in our education system. Funding is needed so our public education system can actually TEACH our students. I have already spent thousands of dollars of my own personal money to purchase classroom materials for my students because YOU will not give us the funding needed! I struggle as a single parent to make ends meet because you've taken away our raises, put more paperwork on our loads and make us teach to a standardized test instead of differentiated as our students need for learning! This is an outrage that as a conservative republican I am not being represented by my state representative whom I voted for!

Larissa Rivas-Leal

Self

Harlingen, TX

Vouchers will hurt TEXAS students and only help the wealthy. Schools already struggle. PLEASE do not support Vouchers. Students with disabilities do not get a choice.

Jenna Rohde
Self / accountant
Cedar Park, TX

Hello,

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jenna Rohde

Alicia Dooley
self (digital media, parent)
Austin, TX

As a parent of two children in Texas public schools, and another starting soon, I have serious concerns about the school voucher program shifting funds away from our public schools and over to private schools that aren't even held to the same standards. These vouchers will serve as a nice discount for families with children already in private schools, i.e., those who can afford to send their kids there. Private school tuition would still be expensive and out-of-reach for many Texas families even with these vouchers. The country's largest voucher programs in Florida and Arizona have had poor results both financially and academically, including massive state budget and spending issues.

For the 13 years I've had kids in public schools, we've endured constant budget shortfalls locally due to school funding issues. The recapture system of school funding already takes exorbitant amounts of money away from our schools in Austin, leaving us with chronic budget issues. I'm greatly disturbed at how much of my "Austin ISD" tax payment leaves our area entirely, even as the district is constantly needing to make cuts. Funding is insufficient to pay teachers what they deserve, making it hard to attract and retain the talent needed to instruct our next generations. Texas is already one of the worst-funded states in the country when it comes to education. This is embarrassing, and our kids and teachers deserve better. The proposed voucher program will only serve to exacerbate all of this by taking more money away from our public schools.

If public schools are so broken that you think families need an alternate choice, then it is incumbent upon you - the Texas legislature, Greg Abbott, TEA - to focus on FIXING those problems by providing appropriate funding, at least \$1300 additional per student vs. the inadequate \$220. It is a moral and practical responsibility of the state of Texas to provide a quality public education to all our students that will prepare them for the future.

Alicia Villanueva

Self / Elementary School Receptionist and Mother to Two Children

Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

I work at an elementary school and see every day how much public education is utilized, relied on, and needed in a meaningful way. Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alicia Villanueva

Victoria Field, Mrs.

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools.

ESAs (vouchers) directly hurt students with disabilities who receive Special Education services in Public Schools in the State of Texas. Diverting \$1 Billion of my PUBLIC taxpayer money to private schools who do not even acknowledge IDEA, do not follow IEPs and only provide services when they are negotiated, compromised and then charged back to parents at exorbitant rates well above typical tuition rates it is theft of services and money to the most vulnerable population in Texas.

14% of the 5.4 million public school students in Texas receive special education services. That's 760,000 students at a minimum. These ESAs are completely inaccessible to at least 90% of our disabled students, and that is before they have a chance at any lottery or know if a private school will accept, serve, or retain them. There's no accountability. Not of services, not of the \$1 Billion of public taxpayer money this legislature wants to pour into private schools and not of impact or outcomes of our disabled students.

Even if we say ALL of the ESAs go to disabled kids receiving special education services, that still leaves a minimum of 700,000 students receiving special education services in underfunded understaffed Public Schools that this state put in this situation. This causes direct harm to these students with disabilities, the most vulnerable individuals in society, and it's at the hands of those who are supposed to represent us.

This is unacceptable. I want this legislature to take accountability, listen to the parent voice (and students), and have the courage to do the right thing: say No to ESA/Vouchers and Fund our Public Schools properly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Victoria Field

Emily Vandenberg

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1. Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
2. HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
3. Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
4. We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Karin Wasyliw

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please do not vote on the HB3 voucher program. Look at what it has done to Arizona and other states. This is not good for Texans.

Kim Gonzalez

self, public school teacher

Austin, TX

Dear Representatives,

My name is Kim Gonzalez and I'm a constituent living in zip code 78759.

I'm writing to ask for your principled stand against the dangerous school voucher scam, HB 3. I have been a dedicated elementary public school teacher working in Central Texas schools for 28 years. I am scared of how HB 3 will affect my students, fellow teachers, and school district. I am even more terrified that after 28 years of service this HB 3 voucher scam will drain the state's teacher retirement system. What do I do if I am counting on my pension to sustain me when I retire?

Please know that I appreciate your leadership on this issue and your understanding that Texas families need more resources for our public schools, not an unaccountable voucher scheme for private schools.

I will continue to watch this legislation closely and implore you to maintain your principled stand against the voucher scam.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kim Gonzalez

Caraway Elementary

2nd Grade Teacher

512-468-6528

Nancy Dunn
Self, retired
Houston, TX

Abbott and Republicans are trying to take \$1 billion from Texas taxpayers and give it to wealthy families who are already sending their kids to private schools. This will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties (more than 150 Texas counties don't have a private school to send your kid too, even if you could afford the difference between what the voucher pays and what tuition costs!).

It's bad for the Texas taxpayer, bad for public educators, and bad for the kids in our public school classrooms.

Kelly Griswold
self, parent
Austin, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Cara Hamlin
Self
Round Rock, TX

As a parent and an educator, I am adamantly opposed to vouchers. The vouchers do not benefit the Title One students I work with, instead they take more money from schools and teachers that are understaffed, underserved, and doing the best they can with the minimal they're given. The last two years, I have taught as a volunteer at my children's elementary school as GT Pullout Services were reduced to classroom only as our district was forced to make cuts for very much needed and desired programs. That's just a small example of how more and more is heaped on the public education teacher, with no resources, bigger classes, less support. This bill does not support ALL Texans. It is not in the best interests of ALL students. It benefits the wealthy and the upper middle class. It provides no accountability and excludes rural students and is not in the best interest of Special Needs students as private schools do not have to admit them or have necessary programs to support their learning. Please support public education for ALL students and vote down this harmful bill that will only harm students' and schools more. You are called to serve ALL Texans. Please do that by voting against this bill.

Meghan Barreras
Self- stay at home mother
Spring, TX

As a homeschool parent, I am STRONGLY AGAINST this bill. I want to be able to teach my children with a curriculum of my choice without the state overreaching. I believe this bill will cause taxes to increase when I'm already paying unnecessary ISD taxes. Texans have the choice between public school/private school/homeschool. Please let us continue to have the freedoms to educate our children as we like. I sat NAY.

Stormy Mitchell
Self, Registered Nurse
Conroe, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers. As a parent of two public school students, a product of Texas public schools, and a Registered Nurse (MSN) working in Texas, I see firsthand how important well-funded public schools are for our communities. Vouchers take money away from public schools—the very schools that educate the majority of Texas children—and redirect it to private institutions, often benefiting wealthy families while leaving working-class families behind.

This is not about "school choice." It's about draining resources from schools that serve all children, regardless of income, ability, or background. Public schools are already underfunded, struggling to pay teachers what they deserve, and facing budget cuts that impact everything from classroom supplies to special education programs. Vouchers make that worse.

We have seen this fail in other states. It does not improve education; it just weakens public schools. Texas students deserve better. Every child deserves a quality education, and that starts with fully funding our public schools—not diverting tax dollars to private interests. My kids, and all Texas kids, deserve strong, well-funded schools. Not this. Not vouchers.

Jose Figueroa
Self
Brownsville, TX

I am in strong opposition to HB3 and to any attempt to push school vouchers in Texas. HB3 takes money away from public schools that serve all kids and gives it to private schools that can pick and choose who they accept—without the same oversight or accountability. That is not school choice; that is just tearing apart public education.

If we truly wish to improve Texas education, we should be putting money into better teacher pay, smaller class sizes, and stronger public schools, not draining tax dollars into a system that will not work for every student. Vouchers will not "fix" education—they'll only leave more kids behind.

HB3 is bad for Texas students, bad for Texas schools, and bad for Texas taxpayers. Lawmakers need to reject this bill and instead take action to improve our public schools for everyone.

Catherine Perez
Self/Teacher
Houston, TX

I served as a public school teacher in Houston ISD for 18 years. I am now a private school teacher; however my kindergarten son is in Houston ISD. I have seen firsthand now, both as a public school teacher and as a private school teacher, that school vouchers will not work. The children who attended my Title 1 school over the years, who could likely apply for these school vouchers, would not have any additional resources to attend a private or charter school. They would also have no transportation. I also have witnessed firsthand how private schools operate their admissions process, and I am certain that nearly all of the Title 1 students I taught would not be eligible if there were space available. We need to fully fund public schools. We need to give public schools even more money than they already have(!), so considering a bill where public school money is reallocated toward vouchers is ridiculous.

Amy Willcox
self
SAN ANTONIO, TX

I am adamantly opposed to HB 3. I am a proud Alamo Heights ISD public school parent/ supporter and I oppose HB3 or any other use of taxpayer dollars for private schools. Public schools are underfunded and teachers are underpaid, making it hard to attract and retain talented people. Voucher programs in other states have ballooned in costs, and have primarily benefitted families that already sent their kids to private schools. Fund and support Texas schools, Texas teachers, and ALL Texas kids. I am a Republican primary voter, and my representative's (Marc LaHood) vote on vouchers will determine my vote next election cycle.

Katie Spillar

self, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

Leander, TX

Please vote NO to HB 3. I have a son who is gifted and dyslexic and is accommodated for both in his public school. We have been very pleased with these services. If you properly fund public schools they can continue to reach many children with many different learning needs. If we moved to a private school that could nurture his giftedness I am certain they would be unable to meet his dyslexia needs, and vice versa. We love our public school and want to stay, but I fear if we lose any more funding the quality of education will go down. I've seen it happen in Oklahoma and have heard its happening in other places like Indiana. I really haven't read about any good outcomes of the voucher program in any of the states that have already initiated it. As a licensed therapist who serves vulnerable and neurodivergent children, I also do NOT believe this voucher program will actually provide more choice for the families. In Austin there are five private schools that I found that serve children in special education. They are probably all full, and they could not possibly serve that many more children. So, I really do think this will end up only serving the wealthier children, thus eventually pulling more funds from our public schools, and as an advocate for our more vulnerable children, I just can't feel ok about this. If our public schools are properly funded, they can serve the variety of needs that our students have. Please consider the more long term implications of this bill, and vote No. Thank you so much for your time.

Jamie Pulte

Self

Lindsay, TX

I have been a public school teacher for 17 years now, we already struggle every year to meet the needs of our students in our classroom due to budget shortfalls. We should be investing more into our public schools, public school teachers and students. Teachers invest more of their own money to make sure their students get a better and more engaged education, if you would focus more on putting funds into public education and teacher salaries, then maybe the teacher retention rate would increase. It's sad that our own state cares more about other issues and not the issues with our public school education system.

Cinthia Esparza

Mother/Self

Cypress, TX

I DO NOT support HB3 for the school voucher system. My family and I live in a suburb outside of Houston where private education can go up to 30K. The average family with more than one kid won't be able to afford to send them all to private school. The quality of the education received will be questionable at best. Please keep our taxpayer dollars to better fund our public schools.

Dale Thomas

Texas Tax Payer

Jacksboro, TX

Voucher will break Texas Tax Payers as it has in other states. No accountability with voucher funds going to private schools. The long run will eventually have a negative impact on the TRS Fund.

Hillary Rodriguez

Self

Houston, TX

I am the proud mother of twelve year old profoundly gifted son. My son also has ADHD and being twice exceptional is not easy. This year he is attending a GT magnet school within the district that has a robotics team. This robotics program is funded by donors through the Clear Creek education foundation. My child thrives in a public school, one where they accept him just as he is.

Public funds belong in public schools. We should invest more in public schools, not give a small percentage of people money for schools they can either afford or already get assistance affording.

As a disability advocate, this legislation would do nothing to protect the most vulnerable.

And while there are bills on the floor increasing school funding, it's not enough!

Purvi Baron

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I'm voting NO for Texas school voucher bill (HB3). Please do not do this. Follow the proof that this will bankrupt our public school systems, it's bad for students and education in Texas, and they are already suffering. I love my public schools in Sugar Land. DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

Mandy Hardy

Self

Van, TX

Please do not pass voucher programs for Texas

Joseph Hughes, Mr

Self educator

Fort worth, TX

I do not support this bill. Do not take funding away from public schools in order to fund the voucher programs.

Sudia Paloma McCaleb McCaleb

Western Institute for Social Research (WISR) Center for Critical Environmental and Global Literacy (CCEGL)

berkeley, TX

i AM AND EDUCATOR..i WAS THWE DIRECTOR OF A REACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR 20 YEARS IN SAN FRANCISOC.I WORK ONLY IN PIUBLOIC SCHOOLS..TO DEFUND PUBLIC EDUCATION WOULD BE CRIMINAL

Peggy Cuevas, PhD

Self

Austin, TX

I began teaching in 1968 and retired in 2015. Public schools have suffered from lack of sufficient funding which will only be exacerbated by school vouchers. Taxpayer dollars should not be given to individual families.

Daniel Ward
Self
CANTON, TX

I am against HB 3 as well as any school choice legislation that redistributes tax dollars. Why would the Tx government extend the failed system of financing schools through taxes. The responsibility for the education of the children of Texas is that of the parents of those children. I urge you to vote against this bill.

Donna Beto
Self-Retired Teacher (Lifetime Member of TSTA)
Bryan, TX

I am making one last plea for you to vote "NO" to HB 3-School Vouchers. Furthermore, please don't disguise school vouchers as savings accounts for families. Let's imagine that a family wants to purchase a better car with money in their savings account. The car costs \$20,000, but the family only has \$10,000 in savings. They're out of luck and can't afford the car. Vouchers still won't help low-income families or disadvantaged students who want to enroll in private schools. Vouchers only benefit families who can already afford private school tuition.

Vote "NO" to HB 3
Respectfully,
Mrs. Donna Beto
Retired Teacher

Emily Hoppel
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I'm asking my representative (Toth) to vote no on HB3. My family wants fully funded education not welfare for the wealthy.

Brianna Relyea
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I deeply oppose HB 3. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy. Thank you.

Elizabeth Hardage
Self, IT analyst
Richardson, TX

In order to keep Texas a place where people and businesses can flourish, we need a strong and fully funded public school system, not a patchwork of unregulated charter schools, unsupervised home schooling, and underfunded public schools. Our children in rural and economically challenged areas, and those children whose physical and mental differences require extra attention that private schools may not be willing or able to provide, need and deserve a good education every bit as much as those with great grades or wealthy parents. All Texas children should have equal opportunities to learn, grow and thrive, not just those who can get into and pay for private schooling.

Nazli Blackwell
Self- Speech-Language Pathologist
Austin, TX

Public education in Texas could be outstanding if we fund them appropriately. Taking public tax dollars away from Texas education will have huge consequences. I want to live in a state that supports ALL of its citizens rather than a chosen few. We need schools that are properly funded rather than creating programs that take funds away from a child's right to a free & appropriate public education. I have served as a speech- language pathologist for a decade and I can tell you that the children of Texas need as much support as possible. Please do not pass this Bill and take away from every child's right to succeed.

Jennifer Lee, Mrs.
Self occupational therapist
Irving, TX

Let me remind you that the Texas constitution calls for public education. You have no business taking my taxpayer dollars to fund private school education. If a parent chooses to send their child to private school, they are not entitled to public dollars to fund it. Further, when researching the people promoting school vouchers, it is quite apparent that it is the donor class. Texans do not want vouchers, they want Republicans to stop starving our schools and treat our teachers with the respect they deserve. Our children should not pay for 30 years of Republican incompetence and malice.

Susan Schweikert
Self
Dallas, TX

I oppose vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Kenn Spook
Self
Allen, TX

I and my family are opposed to hb 3 "school choice" bill. After studying and reading the bill, it does little to offer school choice to Texas children.

The bill only targets a very small number, of the overall children attending public education. Every other state that has some type of school choice does so by qualifying most if not all children in their state. Sadly this TX House bill does not.

We ask that you oppose this and all bills until it equally qualifies every resident, not just a small select few families.

Sandi Hebley
Self
Dallas, TX

These vouchers will NOT enable middle income families to take their children to private schools! There is not enough to cover all the tuition; the schools do not provide transportation; the schools do not have to accept every student who wants to come; the schools do not have to provide services for kids with disabilities and do not have to meet the same requirements as public schools. We NEED good, fully-funded public schools, not voucher scams!

Erin Burns
Self
Lubbock, TX

Hi, I would like to respectfully submit the following: this bill will take \$1 billion from Texas taxpayers and give it to wealthy families who are already sending their kids to private schools. This will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties (more than 150 Texas counties don't have a private school to send your kid too, even if you could afford the difference between what the voucher pays and what tuition costs!).

It's bad for the Texas taxpayer, bad for public educators, and bad for the kids in our public school classrooms.

I hope that all legislators this year can grasp that. We already underpay our overworked teachers, and this money is not going to be spent better if it can't even reach those smaller rural communities. A bill for school vouchers is not going to fix this problem. Funding the schools we have absolutely would. I'm disappointed that the Texas Legislature even brings this for a vote, because it's obvious to anyone who's paying attention that this is another cash grab from the poor to give to the rich. I would urge all of the legislators to vote no on this bill, as it will hurt the most vulnerable of Texans.

Mary Finley
Self/ retired
Austin, TX

Dear Texas Legislator,

As a proud Texan, I value the role public schools play in shaping our future. I oppose private school subsidies, also known as vouchers or education savings accounts. I believe private school subsidies are wasteful, deceitful, inefficient, and unfair.

Public school dollars should go only to public schools. Public schools in Texas are underfunded by billions of dollars every year.

Private schools pick and choose which students to admit. Vouchers force taxpayers to subsidize private schools' preferences. And without elected boards or state oversight, vouchers give away tax dollars with no financial or academic accountability.

Public schools educate more than 90 percent of Texas students, serving all the students in their boundaries. They build the workforce that powers the Texas economy. We can't afford to underwrite a few special choices at the expense of our collective future.

We elect legislators to represent the interests of their communities. Responding to their communities, Texas legislators have rejected private school subsidies time after time.

In the face of increasing pressure from special interests, I pledge that I will stand with my legislators in opposing vouchers. When they vote against private school subsidies, I will make sure all their constituents know they did the right thing.

Sincerely,
Mary Finley

Jennifer Combs
Self
Houston, TX

This bill is not good for the majority of the state, this will directly take funding away from public schools and most rural schools and low economic families will not have access. Private schools will immediately raise rates and this policy gives the private schools the choice not their constituents, private schools don't have to accept students on 504 plans or students of color. Passing this bill is a sell out to the billionaires funding your campaigns and against the millions of Texans who will be voting in 2026. If you want to lose votes next election, vote yes for this bill.

TANYA scheepstra
SELF RN
TEMPLE, TX

I do not support "school choice".

Chelsea McCaffrey
Self
Austin, TX

As a parent, educator, and tax payer, I urge you to vote NO on school vouchers. This program will not help Texas students that have a financial need, but will serve to provide savings to already wealthy families and their children.

David McAbee
Me
May, TX

No thank you. The people of Texas don't want this so please stop trying to shove it down our throats. This is a scam that will benefit the rich while hurting average Texans.

Debi Evans

Self

Austin, TX

I am against this bill. Public education for all is where I want my tax dollars to be spent.

Denise Avery

Self

Lubbock, TX

This bill will take tax payers money away from their local public schools and put it towards private schools who don't need the money. It's not choice when vouchers take funding away from public schools, giving it to private when rural communities have ONE choice for their children. The only people who will benefit are wealthy communities in the urban areas. This bill is simply irrational and ignorant, considering it doesn't benefit the blue collar community in any way. It only benefits the wealthy. The house wants to blame public education for failing students, when in truth, are the ones who are keeping billions from going into the system to benefit low to middle class students. The house is failing the students, not the teachers. It's truly sad when our "representatives" are so out of touch with their constituents that they believe this is even an option in our great state of Texas.

Valerie Ward

Self

CANTON, TX

I oppose this HB3 and for the sake of our future Texans, I encourage all legislators to oppose this harmful bill. We need our already intentionally overfunded under-performing schools to be evaluated for higher accountability for currently spent taxpayer dollars. Instituting another government program that will ultimately fail as all others have is not the answer.

HB 3 proposed by Buckley will be diverted to private schools, which is misuse of taxpayer money. Taxpayer money should have transparency and accountability. Education is not to be dictated and standardized by the government. It is the right of the parents to freely educate and it should be kept separate. Additionally, there is no transparency for who the vendors truly are behind this scheme.

This is the least conservative proposal in recent years. If you read the comments on social media, voters do not want their dollars spent this way. They know that it is lining the pockets of the already rich and won't benefit anyone else. I urge you to vote against all forms of school choice.

Jennifer Appel

Self, Accountant

The Colony, TX

This school voucher idea would strip the public school system of the funds they need to educate EVERY child needing a public education in the State of Texas. Many rural constituents cannot rely on a voucher system which would strip the funding from the only school in their entire district. We have all relied on the public school system to provide education and safety for all children in our state. You would not only be putting children at risk of never receiving a basic education, but this voucher system will cause massive layoffs. Again, in rural areas sometimes the largest employer can be the public school system - not just teachers but administrators, librarians, coaches, operational staff, IT support, bus drivers, crossing guards, SROs, etc. This voucher system will crush small towns all across the state. These are the people who are looking to you for support and you are turning your backs on them. This system is flawed and will only give the affluent any benefit. You are ignoring the middle, working class and rural communities. This bill should not pass.

Kevin Walsh, Dr.

Year

Madison, TX

Fight the voucher scam.

Jennifer Easley

Self

San Antonio, TX

Committee Members - Thank you for your continued support of public education for Texas students. I opposed diverting public dollars away from public schools. I believe any recipient of public funds should be held to the same state standards for assessments, accountability, and parental rights. I urge you to prioritize full funding for our public schools and pause consideration of ESA legislation. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Laura Nutt

self

Floydada, TX

I want to say that we already have school choice. People can choose to go to Private Schools or be Homeschooled NOW. It is wrong to use tax dollars to help someone go to private school that is not required total anyone who wants to go there or have mandatory Staar tests. This is wrong on so many levels. If you want to ruin public schools, this is the way to do it. I am not against anyone going to private school, but they should not get government money. Public schools already are underfunded and have mandatory testing, why should private schools not be regulated? Not right on any level!

Kendall Cox

Self

Collinsville, TX

Save our public schools!

William Henderson, Mr

Self

Orange, TX

Support our public school systems. Not voucher payments

Stewart Gaitan, Mr.

Self - Texas Public School Educator

Houston, TX

I do not think it wise to establish ESA's. I strongly oppose! I have ten years of teaching in the Houston area and I know most certainly that this is going to take money away from our already deeply underfunded schools. We need to increase spending per child in public schools, hire more teachers, hire more support staff, increase salaries, build more schools, and upgrade our technology/courses offered. The amount in the voucher program would not be enough to help a student from a poorer family attend a private school, this would only benefit those families with children in private schools already but just further defund our public schools. I want to live in a city/state/country where ALL students are literate. If we continue to not prioritize education, we will keep falling behind the rest of the world. We should be pushing for world-class education for ALL, not just those in private school. No on HB 3!

Heather Mobley

Self/ Homeschool mom

PINEHURST, TX

Please pay attention to what people want. They do. Not. Want. This . Bill. We do not want government telling us what is acceptable and not, especially since they are the ones that ruined the public school system to begin with. There are ways to actually help and this bill is not it.

Adelaide Olguin

Self

Farmers Branch, TX

YES on vouchers. My children are finishing their Bachelors degrees with their high school diplomas. I'm a woman small business owner, and I have paid for all three of my kids education personally. I am taxed personally, for my business, and for my property — yet none of the funding goes to my kids' educations. I'm being taxed for other children to have a lesser outcome than I would ever want for my own children. Florida ranked #1 in education for a reason. Their Step Up program prioritizes student's learning. Arizona has a role over program each year that can be applied to state colleges if not used fully during K-12. Texas students deserve to be prioritized and reach the highest learning outcomes in the USA.

Edner Fry

CCNE

Eules, TX

No to HB3/vouchers for texas. We already have school choice which is our FREEDOM to choose for our children.

Andrea BOSTON

Self Educator

KEMPNER, TX

Don't defund my school.

Janet Chafin

myself

Houston, TX

I am adamantly opposed to education vouchers for rich people to send their children to private schools. The voucher programs reduce funding for public schools and teachers in public schools and is a regressive education system that will harm the less affluent families and their children's education. NO VOUCHERS!!! And increase per student spending in public education and increase teacher pay which is WAY deficient and below "market" compared to the majority of other states.

Mary Cortez

Self

Grape, TX

One of the IC's in our district had this posted on her Facebook! She said they vote tomorrow! I need to look more into it though. Anyways- I'll be emailing some people tonight

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB3 and reject any efforts to divert public funds to private vendors through school vouchers. HB3 is not about helping students—it is a vendor bill that prioritizes profits over education. This is government overreach and irresponsible spending that hurts students, taxpayers, and our local communities.

Our district is already struggling due to inadequate funding. We see the effects firsthand—larger class sizes, fewer resources, and overworked teachers. Instead of addressing these urgent needs, HB3 would siphon money away from public schools, violating the Texas Constitution's guarantee of a free and efficient public education.

Public dollars belong in public schools. Texas taxpayers should not be forced to fund private and unaccountable education programs while our neighborhood schools continue to suffer. I urge you to stand with our students, teachers, and communities—vote NO on HB3 and say NO to vouchers.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to Texas children.

Sincerely,

Mary Cortez

Megan Carlton

Self

Dallas, TX

I have been a TX public school teacher for over 20 years. The voucher bill is designed to decimate public schools. Abbott and the Republicans are trying to take \$1 billion from Texas taxpayers and give it to wealthy families who are already sending their kids to private schools. This will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties (more than 150 Texas counties don't have a private school to send your kid too, even if you could afford the difference between what the voucher pays and what tuition costs!).

It's bad for the Texas taxpayer, bad for public educators, and bad for the kids in our public school classrooms.

Luis Valenzuela

Self

Seguin, TX

As a product of the Texas public school system who otherwise might not have had a clear chance to access higher education, I am vehemently opposed to this bill because it will do nothing but weaken our public schools. Texas students, teachers and staff deserve to have better public schools.

David Verell

Self, Professional Engineer

Leander, TX

I vehemently disapprove of this bill, as it's aims are not to empower the education of all students of Texas, rather it will be used for selective purposes as noted, specifically for those attempting to attend private school and those attempting to home school. While these are both choices that a parent can make for their child, it is not acceptable, and should be considered illegal to have earmarked close to \$1B in taxpayer monies that were to be used for the enrichment of the public school programs here in this state, and now call them a "surplus".

Please Vote No on HB3.

Janice Wallace

Self, Retired

Georgetown, TX

I am opposed to HB 3, or any bill that would establish a program for the distribution of public dollars for the funding of private K-12 schools, through vouchers, education savings accounts or other titles. TX could do much to improve public schools using the funds that certain parties would like to divert to the benefit of private vendors of schooling and education services, as well as for the benefit of a limited number of private individuals, particularly as the student beneficiaries will be selected by the schools. Such a practice could easily present opportunities for discrimination on multiple factors, including race, religion or disability.

This program will not benefit low-income families as most private school tuitions and expenses exceed the amount available per student. In addition there is not uniform availability of private school options across all areas of Texas.

This bill as currently written is vague regarding administration of the program. It identifies a type of entity to be created for administrative purposes, "Certified Educational Assistance Organizations" which is defined simply as an organization certified as one to support the administration of the program. Such 'certification' is based on the organization's ability to assist the comptroller in administering the program in whole or in part. Criteria or experience in fulfilling such a role are not specified in the language of the bill, nor is it clear that such administering entities (certified educational assistance organizations) cannot have a fiduciary relationship to program providers of educational services.

I believe the purpose of public funds should be equitable benefit to members of the public. I believe this bill would provide select members of the public with benefits not accessible to all and therefore is in conflict with the Texas Constitution, and the intent of state governance.

Teresa Martini

Self

Dallas, TX

I am a Texas resident with two kids currently attending public schools in Richardson ISD. I am writing today to ask you to vote NO on any "school choice" bills. The public schools have not had a funding increase since 2019. Serving the 5.5 million kids in public schools in Texas should be the number 1 priority of the Texas Legislature.

ESA/Voucher programs in other states have overwhelmingly served as a coupon program for families already in private schools, averaging 75-90% of kids already enrolled in private schools. Research continues to show no significant, measurable achievement differences in these programs when compared to public schools but does show the exorbitant increase in funding that they require. They will grow the government and are funded almost exclusively by wealthy investors outside of the state of Texas who stand to make significant money from the program.

Did you know the Richardson ISD is underfunded by \$12 million for special education, \$6 million for transportation, and \$5 million for security? This is along with closing 3 elementary schools this year. That is only one district in Texas. This is not sustainable.

Current budget proposals from both the House and Senate are disrespectfully low. A 1-2% increase in funding per year is ridiculous given the high inflation numbers that everyone is aware of. School districts have had to cut programs, close schools, and use their savings accounts just to be able to pay teachers. Add in the significant underfunding in special education and the basically unfunded security mandates, and it's amazing that they are doing as good of a job as they are. Two years ago the Texas legislature proposed a basic allotment of \$500 per student. This year it's only \$220. Why is it less? Could it be that there isn't enough funding for both educational systems?

Public schools in Texas have been ignored for far too long. If you want a strong economy and want businesses to move here, your public schools should be a top priority. You must vote NO on ESAs/Vouchers and vote YES on increasing the basic allotment, switching to funding based on enrollment, not attendance, and vote YES on increased special education funding.

Show your constituents that you are not for sale and that you actually do love your local public schools by fighting for the funding they need and deserve and saying no to vouchers and ESAs.

Thank you.

JL Sterling, Ms

Self

Houston, TX

I do not want my tax dollars to support voucher programs for schools

INGRID RAMOS

Self

Killeen, TX

Fund public schools and vote no for HB3. Vouchers which are being marketed as education savings accounts are not useful to those of us that want to keep our kids in public schools. We are not interested in private schools or having choices. We have already chosen public schools as the choice for our kids. Now we are asking you to properly fund them so teachers have a higher salary, proper supplies, and enough supporting staff like bus drivers and aids. We are not interested in more private schools popping out of nowhere to take advantage of this vouchers nor private schools increasing tuition to supersede the value of the vouchers and making it near impossible for regular folks to attend. We are also concerned with special education students since private schools are not required to accommodate this demographic. If a SPED student wanted to attend a private school with vouchers the school doesn't have to accommodate them. This starts to feel like the choice is already made for them. Texans want the funding to remain with their public schools period.

It is bad enough that the Department of Education is being dismantled and no one will be overseeing the states to be sure that things are getting done.

Hannah Massie

Self - Teacher

Plano, TX

Dear Representatives,

As an educator with multiple degrees and experience across various Texas districts, I am strongly opposed to the "School Vouchers." The Texas Education Code's goal is to "ensure all children have access to a quality education that enables them to achieve their potential and participate fully in the social, economic, and educational opportunities of the state and nation." School vouchers undermine this mission.

Firstly, even with an extra \$10,000, many families will still be unable to afford private school. For families struggling to meet basic needs, this amount won't make private school a viable option. In states where school voucher systems have been implemented, private school tuition has often increased, meaning \$10,000 won't even help middle-class families.

Assuming \$10,000 is sufficient, private schools are not required to provide transportation. For working parents, this poses a significant challenge. In rural Texas, many areas lack private schools entirely, making transportation even more of an issue.

Additionally, private schools can choose who to admit, meaning children with learning disabilities, behavioral challenges, or those who don't fit the school's culture may be turned away. Public schools, however, are required to accept all students and are committed to supporting them. Under the voucher system, public funds would be diverted to children from wealthier families, who often already have access to private schooling.

Private schools are also not mandated to provide special education services. When they do, students must be sent to public schools for evaluation and accommodations, using public school resources. Moreover, private schools are not required to administer state tests like STAAR, raising questions about accountability. Without certified teachers, how can we be certain these schools provide quality education?

It's also well-documented that in states with voucher systems, over 75% of funds go to families already enrolled in private schools, indicating that the program primarily benefits the wealthy.

We acknowledge the flaws in our education system, but these issues are not the result of public schools or teachers. Those of us in the public education system are dedicated to every student, regardless of their background. The solution is not school vouchers, which would only deepen economic and racial divides. If you truly care about all Texans, you will vote to improve public education and unlock opportunities for all children.

Sincerely,

Hannah Massie

Ileana Gonzalez

Self, public school teacher

Austin, TX

Here's the revised message:

Dear Honorable Members of the Texas Legislature,

As a dedicated public school teacher, a concerned mom, and a proud aunt, I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 (HB3). This legislation threatens the very foundation of our public education system and undermines the progress we've made in providing high-quality education to all Texas students.

As a teacher, I've seen firsthand the impact of inadequate funding on our schools. HB3's proposed voucher system and privatization of public education will only exacerbate the existing inequalities in our system. It will divert essential funds away from our already underfunded public schools, leaving our most vulnerable students behind.

As a mom, I'm deeply concerned about the potential consequences of HB3 on our community. The proposed legislation will lead to increased segregation, decreased access to quality education, and a widening of the achievement gap. Our children deserve better. They deserve a well-funded, equitable, and inclusive public education system that prepares them for success in the 21st century.

As an aunt, I've witnessed the transformative power of public education in my niece's life. She attended a 6A high school with a renowned athletics program, which not only helped her develop essential life skills but also provided her with a sense of belonging and purpose. However, I'm deeply concerned that HB3's proposed funding cuts will lead to a decline in enrollment in our public high schools, putting 6A schools at risk of reclassification to 5A and 5A schools at risk of reclassification to 4A. This would have devastating consequences for our students, particularly those who rely on athletics as a means to access higher education and scholarships. University athletic scouts predominantly visit and recruit from 6A schools, providing our students with life-changing opportunities. If we compromise the quality and competitiveness of our 6A schools, we risk denying our students the chance to succeed at the next level.

I urge you to reject HB3 and instead focus on strengthening our public education system. We need to prioritize increased funding, reduced class sizes, and improved teacher support to ensure that every Texas student receives a high-quality education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anil Prabhakar

Self - Engineer

Cedar Park, TX

I'm a Texan taxpayer that supports our public schools and strongly opposes giving taxpayer money away to private schools through school vouchers (AKA education savings accounts). Instead of diverting taxpayer money to private schools, legislators should focus on fully funding public schools, which are laying-off teachers and cutting programs for students. Also legislators should focus on supporting teachers and school staff by giving all of them a significant pay raise. I would like to reiterate that I strongly oppose HB 3 and believe that taxpayer money should be used for public schools only.

Sarah Johnson
Self, State Employee
Leander, TX

I am deeply concerned by the state's own admissions and findings that school vouchers mean less money for public schools and could put TRS at risk. Both are unacceptable. I am the product of public schools and my mom was a public school teacher for 20 years. My grandfather was a public school teacher. Education is the single most important means by which a person can improve their circumstances and pull themselves and their family out of poverty. Study after study on states with voucher programs all show the same result: the majority of vouchers are used by parents already sending their kids to private schools. This does not benefit rural communities, it benefits the wealthy.

The quality of one's education should not be determined by their zip code. Tax payer money should not fund private schools at the expense of public schools.

If private schools get public money, then they should be subject to the same oversight and requirements. Period. Their teachers should be held to the same certification requirements and qualifications, the schools should be subject to the same special education, ADA accommodations, and testing requirements. To give tax payer money without the same level of oversight is to invite fraud and abuse.

Please do not sacrifice rural and small suburban schools to give handouts to families already paying private tuition. Do not risk the retirement of our teachers who've dedicated decades to educating Texas kids. Texans DO NOT WANT THIS. How many town halls have ended in the parents booing their representatives, tired of their lies? Put vouchers on the ballot and let Texans decide directly.

Bradley Porter
Self
Stephenville, TX

As a school district employee and a person of faith, I feel that every student should have the same access to education. I feel that all tax dollars should remain in the public school system. I oppose vouchers, ESA, and or any other thing that diverts fund from public school to private schools.

Sandra Londa
self
WIMBERLEY, TX

I am opposed to HB3 because of its diverting tax-payer money to private schools and further hampering public schools to do their jobs of providing quality education to Texas children. Due to the siphoning off of money for public education for so many years, including diverting "capture" money to the Rainy Day fund, our public schools have suffered. There already exists school choice in the state of Texas. People can ask for a transfer to another school district or opt to place their children in private school or home school them. Additionally, taking public money and using it for tuition at religious violates our separation of church and state that we hold sacred in this country. I urge you to vote against this bill.

Nan Baker, Reverend
Self—Ordained clergy
Dallas, TX

Democracy exists on the foundation of an educated electorate. Our investment must be in universal public education. Siphoning resources and students away to unevenly qualified schools that are not available to everyone splinters our society and undermines democracy.

Kim Knisley
Self
Sunnyvale, TX

It is very unfortunate that Texas lawmakers are not listening to their constituents. It has been noted loud and clear how Texans oppose vouchers. You are elected to represent what Texans want, not what you yourselves want. When did I get a vote on this? Never! Public education has been suffering as a result of politician's schemes to hold back money, and now use it as blackmail to give teacher raises, etc. The private school children are already there. The lower socioeconomic children do not have good private/charter schools near them, for the most part. I hate to vote republicans out of office next election, but you aren't listening. You're acting as dictators. Same with women's rights! Where is my opportunity to vote? Wake up!

Elizabeth Diebold
Self/retired
Argyle, TX

We strongly denounce vouchers as an assault on public education. Public schools educate all children, unlike private schools that pick and choose their students. All a Texas children deserve quality public schools. Children are our future. Let educate them all well and pay our educators well for the import work they do.

Bridget Brame
self
Georgetown, TX

My family and friends would like for the legislature to HOLD OFF passing HB3 until Texas can pass a Constitutional Amendment to protect private schools, including home schools, from any regulation or infringement from our state or federal government. This is necessary before we mingle any taxpayer money with private education. There are two such resolutions filed in the House, HJR 52 (Vasut) and HJR 136 (Richardson). Thank you.

Eugene Marck, Mr
Self-Retired
San Antonio, TX

I am opposed to HB3. Our first priority should be to support the public schools. I do not understand how the proposed voucher is for \$10,000 when the State does not even support public schools with that much money.

Kay Nettle
self
Manor, TX

I strongly urge you to vote against House Bill 3. We need this funding for our public schools. The state should not be providing funds for people who choose to home-school or attend a private school.

Floyd Trefny
Trefny Ranch
West Point, TX

I do not support HP 3 as I believe it will harm rural schools in my district.

Nicole Smith
Texas PTA
San Antonio, TX

Against HB3. Keep public dollars in public schools!

Addison Brownhill

Self

Tyler, TX

I graduated from Montgomery ISD, With their help I managed to graduate in 2022 with significant help and currently in college and working full time at a bank in their IT department. I'm successful, is because I had access to vital classes and school sponsored internships. I wouldn't be where I am today without that. Taking away my home districts funding will take away kids futures. They saved me from a lifetime of poverty and loss, let them continue to save and educate others.

Paul Walnick

Self/ Retired

Dallas, TX

I oppose HB3 as it deceives the public in thinking all children will be able to take advantage of the purported savings. It slants to private schools and more privileged children to take advantage of the savings. Please voted "No".

James Reed

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

Dear Representative,

As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want an Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) Program. I pay my public tax dollars and, therefore, want my money to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Public school funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had inflation of over 20%. Our children and all the educators, and staff, deserve to have the funding. To be clear, I want to reiterate the following:

- I do NOT want vouchers/ESAs.
- I support an Increase of the Basic Allotment.
- I support Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Again, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

James Reed

Eva Guzman

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vote No to Vouchers. Fully fund public education!

SHERRY MIRELES, Principal

N/A

Helotes, TX

Do not make the mistake of funding vouchers. Public schools are doing incredible work every single day, for ALL kids & this is a fact. Just come visit my school, 14100 Vance Jackson SA, TX Ed Rawlinson middle! Follow on socials @NISDRawlinson X, Instagram - we do an incredible job of offering high quality education by exceptional educators & I work tirelessly with my community, my district, & my staff to educate the whole child! In addition to high quality instruction we recognize the significance of supporting the social & emotional aspects of education as well. Giving public dollars to private schools is literally stealing from our children, our families & those who have served the public school community for decades. Call me anytime, I'm happy to show you around, you wouldn't believe how absolutely amazing public school is!!

Katherine Melara

Myself/homeschool parent/horticultural sales

Magnolia, TX

Dear sir or madam, I am writing in opposition to HB3, school choice and voucher program. I am a homeschool parent who schools 3 children at home and this bill will not help our family. We will still have to pay into this program. Why not instead adjust our property taxes and allow us to manage our own funds. The same regarding families that choose to pursue private institutions, allow them to keep their school taxes and they can distribute their money to the school of their choosing. As Texans, we already have the freedom to choose whether we send our children to public, private, or homeschool. This bill will tighten the restrictions on homeschooling and forces families to use approved curriculum that lobbyists have purchased at the cost of financial support to those government officials pushing this legislation. Texans do not want vouchers, we want to keep our tax dollars and our liberties. This program is not sustainable based on school taxes alone and tax rates will increase to cover the cost of \$10k per student. There are hundreds of thousands of students within this state and no way to accommodate that amount financially to every student. Again, I oppose HB3, and ask that this bill be stopped.

Janice Murphy

self

Denton, TX

I am against this voucher bill. Public Dollars belong in public schools and tax dollars should NOT be used for private schools.

Elizabeth Lemaster

Self

San antonio, TX

Please do not allow school voucher bill to pass. My special needs children will not be accepted anywhere but public schools and cannot be served elsewhere. Improve funding to public schools/teachers. My tax dollars do not go to fund children going to private schools. My childless neighbors don't get a "school credit" and neither should people going to school of choice other than public.

John Strodtman, Mr.

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

The creation of an education savings account will defund public education and further disadvantage rural school districts where school choice options do not exist. Private education facilities have the option of rejecting students that they may not have the ability to service. Children with learning disabilities or physical disabilities that require specialized services may not have to be offered at private schools so some families will not have the option of being able to take advantage of the education savings account. The savings account sets aside more money per child than what is currently paid per public school student over a course of an academic year. This bill is not a good or fair option for most Texas families. It actually creates a funding disparity where as families that can already afford to send their children to a private school of their choice receive a coupon courtesy of Texas tax payers and many other families who may investigate option will find that the private schools are to expensive even with the education savings account. Texas needs more public education funding, not a handout to private institutions. Texas children deserve good schools in their neighborhoods. If these education savings vouchers are passed and handed out, this will give the incentive for private institutions to raise their tuition rates by \$6000-\$10000 to take advantage of the education fund. This is not a solution to Texas education, it's a gift!

Theresa Miner, Mrs.
Education/Retired Teacher
Houston, TX

I am writing to express my personal feelings and opinions regarding HB 3. I feel it is discriminating as it takes funding from public schools, funding the State of Texas is obligated by law to provide to ALL students living in the state, and essentially gives it to those who are more than able to pay for their children's education. Public Education is faltering at this time as a result of the failure to provide adequate funding. There is a teacher shortage as well as a supply shortage of materials and programs necessary to adequately prepare our students, the students who are going to be leading our country, for the future. Many students enrolled in public schools are very capable of competing academically with private school students but are being denied that opportunity, which is, again, discrimination. The funding ratio of dollars spent per private school student vs public school student is dispicable. This is compounded by the misguided information that parents using vouchers will be able to afford to send their students to private schools when the reality is the voucher will not cover the full tuition nor will it cover books, uniforms, athletics activities, field trips, etc. Please do right by Texans by both voting against this bill and returning the money to the public schools where it belongs.

Sincerely,
Theresa O. Miner

Mark McKnight
self
Austin, TX

Please vote No for HB 3. It's a voucher program. I like our public schools here. Our kids went to the public schools in Round Rock ISD. We felt the public schools treated our kids great and really helped them. Our son is Autistic. He got a lot of accommodations he needed especially at McNeil High School which is public. We don't want to fund private Christian schools with our tax money.

Taylor Jacobs, Mrs.
Dealey Montessori PTA
Dallas, TX

This bill cannot go forward without accountability and reporting guidelines regarding its efficacy. Distributing an unequal stipend per child in Texas is equivalent to discrimination and segregation. This bill violates the very conservative guidelines outlined in the GOP mission statements. Please consider the irreparable harm that is to come with this bill passing without specific, measurable, guidelines and equality.

Montie Shelton, Mrs.
self/retired teacher
Huntsville, TX

School choice sounds wonderful, but where state money goes, strings are always attached and prices go up exponentially. Look what "student loans" did to college tuition! I oppose this bill until there is a constitutional amendment protecting private schools and home schools from state interference.

Barbara Baruch, Mrs
self, retired attorney
San Antonio, TX

My name is Barbara Baruch. I live in San Antonio. I'm representing myself and my family. We oppose HB3. I am also representing 5.4 million Texas students who deserve a well-funded public education which you are not presently providing. Counting Washington D.C, Texas is 43rd out of 51 in the nation for per pupil spending on public school education. This bill hurts public schools.

Our school districts all face deficits, and many districts are closing schools. Our home is zoned to Northside Independent School District in San Antonio. Our school district recently passed a budget nearly \$96 million in the hole. San Antonio-area schools could lose more than \$100 million and Northside ISD alone stands to lose \$41 million under SB 2. No fiscal note for HB3 has been published. It's impossible to guess how much our districts will be harmed by HB 3. But I can tell you that this legislature is not doing right by public education. Since 2023, 4 local school districts closed more than two dozen campuses in central San Antonio, most of them on the South Side and West Side. North East ISD eliminated 3 more schools this year to help close its deficit. You all represent districts in similar situations. Mr. Chairman Killeen ISD has a \$17 million deficit in the general and the school nutrition fund. Rep. Allen, Alief ISD is currently staring down a \$6.2 million deficit, I could go on and on. If your name wasn't mentioned it isn't because your school districts don't have deficits—it's because you limited my time.

You each have a constitutional duty not to use school money for religious purposes, and a constitutional responsibility to provide publicly financed education for the children of Texas. There is no constitutional requirement to educate Texas children any which way a parent chooses-- including online education, nor for taxpayers to fund private schools.

HB 3 will subsidize wealthy families who have no need of this subsidy. Because nothing guarantees that private schools will accept 1) any students who is less affluent, or 2) any student with a disability, you may be contributing little or no money to poor or disabled students' education. Finally, there is no requirement that recipients of ESL's attending private schools be educated as well as those who attend public school. Apparently, that is not your concern for your constituents. You all know how to fix education in Texas and it's not by creating ESLs.

Gay Burgess
self
Canyon Lake, TX

We do not need to pull money away from public schools. We need to support the schools and teachers we have, which for some reason the Texas governor seems to be Ok holding everybody hostage so he can cater to special interests and people who have supported his campaign. I do not want my tax dollars used to support schools that will not benefit all students - only the ones with money. This seems to be something that will hurt rural communities and children who need special education. Promising teachers a better salary only when this type of legislation is shoved thru is galling. Make good on the promise to support the local school needs instead of layering more requirements to run schools with no funding.

Mary Carvallo
Self
AUSTIN, TX

This proposal is a scam. Please vote against this. Funds should be directed towards public education and not private school. Vote no to the voucher system!

Sarah McCown, Mrs.
Self- Dyslexia Therapist
Roanoke, TX

My school district has already cut over 100 positions with 25% coming from special services. People are losing their jobs and kids will get less attention from teachers next year. ESA'a will be detrimental to public education. Public tax dollars belong in public schools.

Joseph Ammouri

Self

Frisco, TX

I am against vouchers. Please fund quality public education instead.

Teresa Ringness

Self

Austin, TX

Texans DO NOT support a school voucher system created, implemented or funded! Out Texas Public Schools need to be fully supported with our tax payer funds. What happened to the plan as promised to use the State Lottery funds for Texas public education?! Texas needs to fix our 73% underfunded school districts (14% critically). Our teachers, who play an incredibly important part of Texas' children's growth, deserve much better pay. Also, each student shouldn't adequately supported. Please stop this madness of school vouchers and fund Texas PUBLIC EDUCATION!

Kevin Washburn, Professor

Self

College Station, TX

Please vote NO on this! This will only aid those in the upper to upper middle class.

Jennifer Wang, Ms.

Texas PTA member and local PTSA officer, parent, self.

Dallas, TX

Public school funding has been held hostage for multiple legislative sessions while vouchers for private schools have been fast tracked and forced upon Taxpayers. Texas provides among the LOWEST funding per-student of all 50 states—at a little more than \$6,000 per public school student. But special interests want taxpayers to fund \$10,000 per student in private school vouchers.

Private schools do not have to accept students with learning or other disabilities. Private schools do not have to administer the STAAR exam on which all public schools are graded. Private schools would get voucher money regardless of a student's attendance record. Meanwhile, public schools' funding is not based on enrollment, but on actual attendance.

STOP this wasteful subsidy for the wealthy and actually FUND public schools.

Logan DeCleene

Self

Austin, TX

I have worked in education for the last 10 years. I have seen first hand the most vulnerable of children left behind or worse, kicked to the curb because they deemed too difficult to work with. Taking money out of the school districts, who are mandated to work with ALL children, and putting money into private schools who can pick and choose the students they serve puts all children at a disadvantage. Please fix the system that is already in place to best serve all Texas children instead of giving what will essentially be a tax break to a select few families who likely can afford private schooling anyways.

Donald CARLSON

Myself

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote no on this bill. I am a private school teacher, but I recognize the need for vibrant public education and appreciate the heroic efforts of my colleagues in public education.

Rebecca Buckley McIlwain

self, Project Manager, parent, grandparent

Houston, TX

I am a certified public school teacher, was educated in the public school system, and come from a long line of teachers reaching back 3 generations in Texas. I oppose HB3 and am appalled by the attack on our public schools in this way. I support more, not less money to be invested in the children of Texas. I support more, not less support for the devoted public school teachers, staff, and administrators of the public school districts across this state. I support more, not fewer options for parents with children who have special needs -- choices that PUBLIC not PRIVATE schools offer. Please oppose HB3. Thank you.

Ashley Sells

self

San Antonio, TX

This bill will take \$1 billion from Texas taxpayers and give it to wealthy families who are already sending their kids to private schools. This will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties (more than 150 Texas counties don't have a private school available, even if a family could afford the difference between what the voucher pays and what tuition costs). HB3 is bad for the Texas taxpayer, bad for public educators, and bad for the kids in our public school classrooms who need additional funding, not less funding. I am strongly against school vouchers and for fully funded, high quality, public education.

Katy Stout, Mrs

Self- attorney

San Antonio, TX

Please do not pass this legislation and bankrupt our public schools. While I've sent my kids to public school, I've done so knowing that they'll receive a better education from more qualified teachers and more access to diversity. I understand as a small business owner the importance of having a community of people who have good jobs and can afford my services. Please continue to support public schools.

Bryan Davidaon

Self

Ponder, TX

As a resident living in rural Texas and not in the proximity of a private school, as a resident that cannot afford private school (even with the vouchers), please do not pass HB 3. These funds belong to the already underfunded public schools, and will surely destroy our public education system.

Abby Gostein

self, cantor

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because it provides funding to a minority of families at the expense of those who cannot afford or do not have the opportunity to have their children in private schools. Public schools are already severely underfunded, and any additional K-12 education funds should go to public schools. Private schools are comparatively unregulated and are not subject to the same testing and standards required of public schools. Neighborhood public schools accept all students, but private schools can deny admission or educational services to any student, including students with disabilities, among others. Use of tax dollars should come with standards and not allow cherry picking of the easiest students to teach. Doing so would leave only the most challenging students in public schools, at a reduction of funding for the public schools (as the daily census would fall if students moved into private schools).

Hung Nguyen

Self - Software Engineer

Austin, TX

I am against the establishment of the education savings account program, which will take money out of the budget of public schools to go to the subsidizing of students attending private schools. Private schools will be entitled to more money per student than is currently set for public schools, and in turn, private schools won't be held to same standards of evaluation and accountability, won't be obligated to provide education to disabled and special needs students, and won't be obligated to provide transportation options to the school. In the mean time, as shown with similar programs in other states like Arizona and Florida, it has been shown that that majority of the families who take advantage of these programs are those who already can afford to send their kids to private schools, and also has to potential to blow up their state budgets without a participant cap on the program, potentially encroaching on the state's other budgetary needs.

I am grateful to be a product of the public school education in Texas, as the son of an immigrant family with significant economic disadvantages. It allowed me to receive a valuable education and exposure to resources and community I would not have otherwise had if such a program were in effect and my school had considerably less funding and members of the community from all walks of life. It was an important stepping stone needed to allow me and my siblings to achieve upward mobility and establish careers as successful engineers. I want that opportunity to continue to be available to all students in Texas.

Kathleen Dryer

School Librarian EA

Pflugerville, TX

I believe the children are the future, fund public schools, and let them lead the way!

Do not support the voucher system in Texas. Vouchers are essentially just a coupon for people that can already afford private school. And vouchers will take funding from the already underfunded public schools.

I have been a public school teacher in Texas for over 20 years and now work as a librarian EA in Pflugerville ISD. I have seen firsthand how the students are affected by my district operating at a 7.9 million deficit.

Vote no on school vouchers in Texas! Listen to teachers, parents, and support Texas children by fully funding public schools.

Allison Craig, Dr.
Self, college faculty
Fort Worth, TX

I am extremely opposed to HB3 as currently written and to implementing educational savings accounts in our Texas school system. Other states' experience has shown that voucher programs take money out of public schools without significantly impacting most families' options in terms of obtaining quality education for their children. In fact, vouchers will provide my family with FEWER options for choosing the education we seek for our children: we have been sending them to neighborhood elementary and middle schools that are smaller, walkable, and diverse. Those schools are likely to be closed by the school district due to the budget restrictions Texas has imposed on public schools over the past six years since the allotment has risen; if vouchers are implemented, that will be the last straw for my kids' schools, and they will close. Our family's CHOICE to move to an urban neighborhood with schools our kids can walk to is being undermined by politicians claiming to be working in the interest of giving my family more choices. HB3's current language is particularly upsetting to me as a public school parent. It gives more money per pupil to private schools than to public schools. Under HB3 (and SB 2), a \$1 billion fund would be created to pay families \$10,000 a year per student in public dollars to fund their children's tuition at an accredited private school and other expenses such as textbooks, transportation, and therapy. The bill would provide \$11,500 per student for children with disabilities (HB 3 professes that its formula could provide more than \$11,500). By contrast. The school funding bill, HB 2, adds \$220 to the current \$6160, a few thousand short of the voucher proposals. I'm aware of the arguments that public schools get money from local property taxes in addition to the \$6160--that doesn't change the fact that a state with a huge discretionary fund is choosing to give funds to private schooling families that it is withholding from public school families. Additionally, according to the TX Tribune, "The bills do not impose any admission or enrollment requirements on the private schools that choose to participate in the program, meaning they would face no state pressure to adjust their costs, ensure more racial and ethnic diversity, or accept students from different faith traditions." As a professor who works with disabled students who have struggled to access an equal education, I'm appalled that HB3 allows private schools to discriminate in admission against disabled students while taking money away from public schools that serve those students according to ADA and IEP requirements.

Jeffrey Smith, Dr.
Self
Georgetown, TX

I am writing to state my strong OPPOSITION to any proposals for school vouchers. At this point, it has become clear that vouchers would only benefit people who already have their children in private schools (which is most often aligned with financial capability). School vouchers can in no way help middle- to low-income students who would not be able to provide the additional funding to attend a private school. But larger than this concern is the concern that there is little to no accountability for private schools. Texas is already ranked 41st in the nation this year, and we are set to go lower if we continue this assault on public education. Instead of providing tax funded vouchers, what needs to happen is that we need to raise the \$6100 per student to \$10,000 per student in the upcoming budget in order to strengthen our public education. I am also a religious leader, and I am also extremely concerned about the version of Christianity being touted by much of our legislation, which means that I also vehemently oppose the use of public schools for religious education. Whose perspective on Christianity will be used? Will there be religious education for Muslim or Hindu or Buddhist students? What about students whose family claims no religion? And I do not speak in a vacuum. The things we are considering will only serve to further weaken public education, do away with critical thinking and problem solving, and set us back nationally and globally. Thank you for considering my perspective on this.

JOANNE FISCHER
self homemaker
Plano, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS!!! Will undermine and cast public schools into chaos. Many schools may close instead of being improved leading to overcrowding and long lists of those who wish to be enrolled. Meanwhile, other schools will be 'forgotten' and languish because they are seen as undesirable. Everyone is excited about the money and, even though they may be able to pay--or would have sacrificed in the past to pay--the government is seen as the cash enabler once again. Chaos and confusion are inevitable, not only for students and parents, but for teachers and admin. What IS needed is a return to basics in learning, not throwing money in, basically, a relocation scheme.

Cynthia Jimenez

Self

INGLESIDE, TX

I am a Texas School Counselor and oppose any education savings account or voucher program in Texas. The \$1 billion in funding for this program could instead be used to fund mental and behavioral health programs in public schools. I am 1 counselor to 480 students on my caseload. Please vote No to HB 3.

Calli Farmer

Self

Carrollton, TX

As a former public school teacher and mother to 3 elementary students, I find it so terribly concerning that we have not increased the flexible spending from the state in 6 years. The duty of the state to provide for a free public education for all must be the priority before ever considering using public funds for private, unaccountable, selective schools. To say that public schools don't serve every student we'll while also chronically underfunding public schools is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Why not fully fund public schools to decide if the students are better served before just blaming a system you broke?

Additionally, each state with a similar ESA program has been unsuccessful. There's more economic disparity, worse academic results, and an ever-growing tax burden on the tax payers. The data does not support improvement rather a discount for wealthy families already paying for private school.

Finally, you do not have the public support for vouchers. Electing pro-voucher representatives is not the same as public support unless you assume that other issues weren't a factor. I have heard from just as many republicans and democrats that they don't want vouchers. Private schools don't want students with vouchers. Homeschoolers don't want the oversight from vouchers. To prioritize support for 100,000 students over 5.5 million is not democracy, it's just the good ol' boy network. Please support the 98% over the 2%!

Quyen Nguyen

Self

Plano, TX

I think this bill will exponentially harm our children who are already and will be in public schools. Especially with it hard already for teachers and staff to help our kids, this bill does nothing to fix this but to increase the money taken away. This bill cannot pass if this is supposed to only support more demands of the rich.

Ann Jensen
Self, retired
San Marcos, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 and all other bills that funnel public education dollars to private schools.

I began my teaching career as an elementary school in Leander, Texas. I loved my students, but I made very little money and worked very long hours. In fact, I earned less money as a teacher than I made working as a secretary before I began teaching. Quite a few of my students had learning disabilities or emotional problems or both, and for the most part I was left to deal with these kids on my own. By the end of my third year of teaching, I felt overwhelmed and demoralized, so I left public school teaching and entered the private sector.

Texas public education is still chronically underfunded, and education savings accounts threaten to reduce public school funding further. I worry that, as more capable kids are siphoned off into private schools, public school teachers will be left to support an even greater number of challenges than I had to deal with.

****Private schools that accept vouchers should be required to also accept students with disabilities and provide the same level of support required of public schools.**

In addition to that concern, please consider that ****qualifying income limits are too high in the current legislation, thus funneling my tax dollars to parents who can already afford private school.**

Any voucher legislation under consideration should hold private schools that accept vouchers to the same standards of accountability and transparency as public schools. ****Private schools should be required report and make publicly available their students' achievement, with the same testing requirements as for public schools.****

How can we know whether voucher investments are worthwhile if private schools don't have to follow the same financial and academic reporting requirements as public schools?

Voucher legislation should ****require TEA to conduct regular audits of private schools that accept vouchers to ensure that they use the funds appropriately and comply with laws and regulations. **Texas taxpayers should be able to see how any funding provided under voucher legislation is spent, including the total dollars that go to each private school and how those funds are used.**

As a parent, I understand the desire to support parental choice, but as a taxpayer, if we must have vouchers, I believe it is incumbent upon the Texas legislature to create responsible legislation that puts my tax dollars to the best use in support of our students.

Respectfully,

Ann Jensen

Miguel Vega
Self Teacher
El Paso, TX

Many special education students would get left in public schools that already are severely underfunded and understaffed. Vouchers that would be offered to special education students wouldn't come close to covering the high tuition charged by the few private schools that accept students with special needs.

Kecia Cate

Self

Dallas, TX

Vouchers will not improve public education. Parents already have school choice. It is unjust that Texas has money to improve our current school system, but Greg Abbott refuses to release funds. Our school system is currently operating on a budget that hasn't had an increase since 2016. I am a public educator and currently am in charge of ESL, instructional coach and kindergarten team lead. All of this due to lack of funding. No vouchers! Give public education funding to allow us to do our job.

Scott Pulte

Self

Lindsay, TX

Please vote against this!

Robin Manning

Self, retired public school teacher

Kyle, TX

The law does not allow me to use public taxpayer monies to buy my private park - we have public parks. If I want my own park I have to use my own money. I can't use public taxpayer monies to pay for my private security- we have publicly paid police. If I want private security I have to use my own money to pay for it. Schools are no different. Our Texas constitution requires a system of free public education (albeit a very underfunded one). Nowhere does it say anything about using my taxes to help wealthy parents continue to send their children to private schools. They are welcome to use their own money to do that, but while our public schools are underfunded I heartily object to spending my tax dollars on private schools.

Candace Flanary

Myself

Deer Park, TX

I am a retired teacher who was named teacher of the year for Region IV. I know whereof I speak, and I am completely and utterly against vouchers. It is wrong to do this to the Texas public school children, and it needs to be voted against wholeheartedly. I taught for 30 years. The budgets of education in Texas is strained enough as it is without adding this to make it even worse. Stop this effort to destroy public education. Do your job responsibly and vote against this effort.

Anna Cordova

Self

Mckinney, TX

As a Texas public school teacher for 37 years I oppose any voucher or education fund that uses taxpayer money for private schools, home schools, for profit online schools. There is no accountability for these organizations. We cannot guarantee the taxpayer money will actually educate our children in private schools. Most students that have received home school education and came to my class had skills that were significantly below math and reading grade levels.

Tammy Davis, Mrs.

Self

Center, TX

Say NO to vouchers. It is not good for public schools. It is unfair. As a special education teacher in a small rural school I see no benefit to my kids in this bill. I am totally against Vouchers. PLEASE vote NO!!!!

Melinda James, Ms.

Self - Property Manager

Lindsay, TX

Public education already does not receive sufficient funding- please do not pass this bill.

Catherine mcfadden

Self/ retired

Liberty Hill, TX

VOTE NO!!!!

Felicia Miyakawa

Self, unemployed

Round Rock, TX

Taxpayer money should stay with public schools. ESAs will only benefit wealthy families who can already afford to send their kids to private schools. Rural districts will be especially hard hit. I am opposed to this bill and all bills that propose ESAs or vouchers.

Mary Schwab

Richardson Retired School Personnel

Granbury, TX

I oppose vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Devona Carpenter

Self

Austin, TX

I disagree with vouchers they will destroy our public schools and only help people already using private schools also we should keep churches and state separate like our constitution states do not fund Christian schools

Abeer Monem

Self

Rosenberg, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers because rich kids have enough and don't need a handout at the expense of the rest of our kids since they won't be able to afford private school costs above the voucher value.

Shella Pruitt

Community Voices/Self

Houston, TX

I have been in education for 28+ years. Public education has provided the best councilmen, educators, state and local representatives, mayors, judges, as well as presidents. Public school funding should not be pulled away. Vouchers are fine for the families who prefer them. I am a proud recipient of public education and I am raising a very smart young man in public education. Public education is very versatile and well rounded. Classes are taught that helps prepare our youth for the future. Certified teachers are working extremely hard for their students to make sure they are successful in their careers and that they are ready for the future. For those who want to take their children to schools that accept vouchers, good for them. However, funding for this should not and cannot be cut from public education. Teachers have worked hard for years and years with inadequate pay. Let's continue to work together and do what we must to keep funding for our public schools.

Karen Sebastian
Self
San Antonio, TX

HB 3 will devastate public education and will only benefit the wealthy. Vouchers do not cover the entire cost of a private school and will not benefit the middle class or low income families. They are not required to follow IEP's or 504 plans. They can also pick and choose the students they admit. They can remove students from their school at anytime. This will be the downfall of public education.

Harriettgoodfriend48@gmail.com Goodfriend
self
Dallas, TX

I'm concerned that lower income children will be left out of a better education. If more money is going to go to vouchers, how will the lower income public schools survive? I don't believe private schools will be required to accept all children that apply. They don't do that now. In my area, schools get approximately \$9870 in state funds per child. Private schools cost over \$30,000 per year. Where will the other \$20,000 come from? Lower income families simply cannot afford this. In fact, neither can lower middle income families. I do not think school vouchers is in the best interest of children. Please do not pass this bill.

Brian Davis
Self - Account Management
Dallas, TX

I'm a life-long Texas resident and am fully against the funding of an education savings account program or any voucher program that removes resources from Texas Public education and transmits it to other resources.

It is a fiscal transmission of funds that erodes the quality of our society and education. Vouchers will not enable more access to schools for Texas families, public schools and will suffer and be choked by the lack of funding being deferred, all to the benefit of socio-economic Texans that already have the means to pay for private schooling.

Voucher programs historically have been run poorly to go over budget while driving the largest academic declines surpassing COVID. Education and children are our future, and diverting funding to an education saving account program or voucher will only further set back Texas and the lead it has in education. It would be unfortunate to fall back in educational progress by weakening the public education system through a fiscal diversion of funds.

More than 70% Texans who want vouchers can already afford the luxury it assist, meanwhile it hurts every other child who cannot already afford private education. Vouchers are not an investment in our children's future, it is a robbery of the public funds and support needed.

Karen Munroe
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please do not vote in favor of school vouchers for Texas students.

Kandy Faris
HISD
Whitney, TX

I ask my house Rep. to vote no! I oppose any voucher program, including a tuition tax credit, education savings account, or any other such program that would direct public funds to private, home, or for-profit virtual schools.

Marta Ortiz
Self
Brownsville, TX

Public school is what lifted me out of my impoverished neighborhood. I went on to graduate from UT and Texas State. I currently serve as a PK teacher and work everyday to make my babies fall in love with education. I want them to succeed one day too, even if they start at a Title 1 school. I'm a Christian, mother of 3, and my campus' Teacher of the Year. When I'm making financial decisions, I question how much longer I'll afford to teach. Please reconsider and increase funding for public schools. You'll be helping lift up the communities who need public schools the most. You'll also bless the educators who love giving their all, and deserve a dignified pay for our labor. God bless each one of you.

Kristi Thibaut
SBISD parent
Houston, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. As a parent of a child in Spring Branch ISD, our school district stands to lose 10 to 13 million dollars in state funding when fully implemented. Vouchers are just a drain on an already underfunded education system. Having received no new funding since 2019 and ever increasing inflation, SBISD had to cut 35 million from its budget. As a result, we closed 3 schools, ended strategic partnerships with charter schools, eliminated over 300 positions including librarians, and increased student/teacher staffing ratios. Furthermore, our school district receives over 47 million dollars in federal funds which if frozen or eliminated, would be catastrophic for our district. There is no credible link between a voucher and gains in student achievement. The lack of transparency, oversight and accountability often leads to waste, fraud and abuse. In Arizona, the voucher program started with an initial investment of 65 million dollars which has now escalated to over 429 million dollars. Vouchers have led to a 1.4 billion dollar budget shortfall in Arizona. And more importantly parents most likely to apply for a voucher are the ones already sending their kids to private schools. Vouchers will decimate public school funding in Texas. Its a scam. Nothing more than welfare for the wealthy.

Dianna Simons
Self
Austin, TX

I do not approve of public funds going to private schools. That money needs to be used to fully fund public schools. The basic allotment has not been increased since 2019 and schools are struggling to keep their schools going because of this. Teachers also need a pay increase without it being tied to vouchers. Do the right thing for ALL students in the state of Texas. That is your responsibility according to the state constitution.

Rachael Woodside
Self, schoolPsychologist
Frisco, TX

I moved to this state to have choices and options both public and private. Having more options keeps systems competitive and diverse. I did not move to Texas to subsidize private education. I send my son to public school out of choice, I work in public schools because of choice. I DO NOT WANT TO SUBSIDIZE PRIVATE EDUCATION. No one has considered the challenges, including that private schools will have to honor special education laws. This is one of the the worst ideas ever postulated and considered. I would consider moving again, out of this state, if this passed.

Amanda Cantu
Self, Educator
Austin, TX

Vote NO to HB 3. HB 3 is BAD for Texas students, public schools, and tax payer dollars. Vote NO to school vouchers. Please, listen to and represent your constituents faithfully. Public schools need your support now more than ever. Please, do the right thing.

Issis Vela-Fox

Self

San Antonio, TX

This bill does not benefit all our Texas students - only few. It seems like our states continues to make adjustments that benefit few and hurt the majority of our students. If families choose an alternative to public education, then they are responsible for that choice. Their choices should not burden others.

There are so many nuances to this bill it is difficult to cover all. Vote NO! Do not support this piece of legislation. It is detrimental to the future of education in our state. It hurts the majority of the people you represent it hurts the future of Texas.

Melanie Trevino, Mrs.

Self

San Antonio, TX

My name is Melanie Trevino, and I am a parent of two current middle school children in public school.

Our school, Driscoll Middle School in San Antonio has been a staple in our community for many years. The NEISD School Board recently voted to close our school this year along with 2 others in the district due to no funding and low enrollment. Our community is saddened by this decision. Our children are being forced out of our community to attend other middle schools in the district. This is extremely heartbreaking for children in this age group.

HB 3 will only make matters worse. Public school funding needs to be a priority in the state of Texas. If our public schools had been properly funded none of these schools would be closing. I adamantly oppose HB 3. Public tax dollars should not be utilized towards private institutions.

Christa Schmidt

Self teacher

Addison, TX

I am a public school teacher in Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD and my school was just selected, amongst 3 others, for consolidation. My school is an A rated school, amongst the best schools in the state, but because school districts are absolutely bleeding out, it must now close. Hundreds of students will now be pushed into neighboring campuses to increase already large class sizes and rezoning will affect the entire district affecting thousands of students. This has not just affected Carrollton-Farmers Branch. Schools have closed in Lewisville, Plano, Coppell, and Fort Worth. Public schools are absolutely bleeding out and it is unfathomable to me that we are even considering using public funds to give families a \$10,000 coupon to attend private schools, when public schools literally are unable to survive. Public schools accept ALL students and provide law required special ed services that private schools are not required to. Not only should this bill absolutely not pass, funding should be raised for public schools to adjust for inflation that has occurred since 2019. Use our budget surplus and fund public schools.

Elizabeth Murray

Self

Houston, TX

This will hurt our communities. I work for a private school and there is no guarantee children will be accepted in those private schools they apply to or that the voucher will be enough to cover the costs. We are draining money from our public school system to provide welfare for the wealthy. Students protected under ADA, rural communities with limited private school choice, and low socioeconomic families will be hurt the most by vouchers.

Justine Dyess

Self

Howe, TX

I am adamantly against HB3.

No "school choice", vouchers etc.

Fully fund public schools.

Separation of church and State.

No new property taxes.

Mireille Perret

Self

Houston, TX

Please do not divert money for public schools to private schools. Please don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Erin Dieter

Self

League City, TX

I am adamantly opposed to any bill pertaining to vouchers. Our system is failing because it has not been adequately funded for years. Our per student allotment needs to be increased to match inflation. Our schools need to be funded on student enrollment not student attendance. A school should not be punished because a parent does not bring their child to school. Texas has the ability to fully fund our schools in a way that could provide amazing programs that promote all students but instead Abbott has refused to fund our schools so he can say they are failing and push vouchers. As an elected official it's your job to vote how your constituents want and how to best support our schools. All elected officials voting for vouchers in exchange for PAC money should be ashamed of themselves and should know we will NOT be reelecting you.

Jessica Trier

Self, Stay at home mom

San Antonio, TX

As a mom, I urge you to oppose HB 3 and prioritize adequate funding for public school children!

****Studies show voucher programs do not equate to improved academic outcomes**

****HB 3 is NOT a parent choice bill – This bill funds private school selectivity with public money. Texas families already have school choice.**

****Public money demands public accountability—any school or entity receiving taxpayer dollars must meet the same standards, mandates, testing, and accountability requirements as public schools.**

****Let Texans decide! Vouchers would use public dollars for private education, and Texans deserve a voice in this decision. Urge lawmakers to put the measure on a statewide ballot and let the people vote!**

Renee Kilpatrick

Self

austin, TX

Please consider funding "vouchers" via some other budgetary category. Our public schools are the backbones of our communities. Ask Greg Abbott to throw a little more of our state profit into the pot do it for the kids.

Cheryl KASAL

817-9801198

Bedford, TX

Please, please do not approve a voucher system for Texas Public schools. Our students rank very low compared to other states. We need every dime put into our schools.

It is unconscionable that Governor Abbott has withheld money approved for our schools as a bargaining chip for school vouchers. Our teachers are vastly underpaid and it is time we elevate this profession, i.e. paying them what they are worth. Should this pass I can promise there will be very strong movement to vote Governor Abbott out as governor.

Mary Wolf

Self

Muldoon, TX

If you make the choice to send your student to a private school, you should pay for it...it's the choice you made. Tax payer dollars are for the common good.

Ricky Sutton
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I do not want the expansion of funding private education at all! No school vouchers for Texas.

Allison Vanderwoude
Highland Park Education Foundation
Dallas, TX

This would be incredibly BAD for public schools and is not something Texans want. Please don't take away our dollars for private education.

Mercedes Bristol, Mrs.
Texas Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
San Antonio, TX

I am in favor of Texas Public Schools and want to advocate for better state funding for public schools to ensure that teachers have the resources they need, and that students get the education they deserve. I sent my child to a charter school because he has a 504 and I thought that the Charter school would be a better fit for him. It took me 5 weeks to get the school to get him services. I had asked them to keep my child off the computers because he was not respecting them and they did not. When he did go into inappropriate websites they were upset and asked me to withdraw him or they were going to expel him. I did not want that to happen and took him back to the public school. I found out that many charter schools accept the children, but then around October of the school year they expel the children with challenges. I would love to know how many (stats) children are in the same situation.

Lori Kleinfeld
"Self" Dietitian
Plano, TX

I am against HB3, the voucher scheme. I am a strong proponent of Public Schools. I am a proud product of public schools as are my sons who went to Texas public schools and Universities and are doing extremely well! One son said "Plano Schools prepared me well!" I believe taxpayer money should go to funding public schools, as public schools are accountable to the taxpayers. Private schools are not. Also giving money to private schools is a waste. Those who go to private schools will go there anyway. Others who think they want to go, may not be admitted, as school choice is mostly for the private schools to choose which students they want, not the other way around! (not to mention the voucher may not cover it all, so basically for the rich) Giving money to the voucher program will drain money from our public schools, which sorely needs more funding! Public schools offer wonderful programs to all, from the learning disabled to the gifted! We cannot say that about all private schools! Public schools need money for continuous quality improvement and to pay teachers so we will attract the best and the brightest. Don't our kids deserve that? I want a great future for my grandchildren and all Texas children! The kind I had and my kids had! Support public schools! If we have the money for vouchers, then give that money to Public Schools who are accountable to the taxpayers and not in it for a profit! Thank you!!

Thomas Saenz
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.
Thomas Saenz

Martin Metcalf, Mr
Self
Houston, TX

I am a retired public school teacher. The public school system is absolutely incredible and is capable of developing the best young minds of our children. I am convinced public schools are the cornerstone of society and must be fully funded. I disagree with anything which takes away from funding. If public schools close down due to vouchers, this would be a disaster. Please do not allow vouchers to be established - HB 3 must not pass.

Gaer Ferrinson
self - disabled
Stephenville, TX

I'm very concerned that the School Vouchers and Education Savings Account Programs will strip away fund from already struggling public schools, especially in rural communities. These are public tax funds already earmarked for use in public schools - hence the word PUBLIC. These two schemes boil down to rich people - who can already afford to send their kids to schools of their choosing or move in order to accomplish the same - stealing public money from middle and lower class families. It's also concerning how urgent these bills are to the Governor. Far too many Texans have no idea how school vouchers and education savings account program works, and the Governor wants to keep it that way. Our rural public schools, children, and families deserve far better than this! FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS. That is a great way to allow choice in education.

Sarah Gray
Self
Austin, TX

Let it be known I am absolutely and completely against vouchers and HB 3. No vouchers, no HB 3. Not now, not ever. HB 3 would divert critical public funds to private institutions with limited accountability. Vouchers are just schemes that burden taxpayers while benefiting only a select few, leaving most students — particularly those who live in rural areas and small towns — behind. That's unacceptable. Fund public schools first! No to HB 3.

Melissa Silerio

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

Subject: Opposition to the Establishment of an Education Savings Account Program
Dear Honorable Members of the Texas State House,
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation relating to the establishment of an education savings account (ESA) program in Texas. As a Texas Public School Educator, I believe that such a program would significantly harm our public education system and ultimately fail to provide equitable educational opportunities for all Texas children. My concerns regarding the establishment of an ESA program include, but are not limited to, the following:
Diversion of Public Funds: ESAs divert vital public tax dollars away from our already underfunded public schools. This will inevitably lead to further cuts in resources, teacher shortages, and a decline in the quality of education available to the vast majority of Texas students.
Lack of Accountability and Transparency: Unlike public schools, private schools and other educational providers receiving ESA funds are not subject to the same level of accountability and transparency. This lack of oversight raises serious concerns about the proper use of taxpayer money and the quality of education being provided.
Increased Segregation and Inequality: ESAs have the potential to exacerbate existing inequalities by allowing affluent families to use public funds to subsidize private school tuition, while leaving working class families in urban and rural areas of our state with increasingly underfunded public schools. This will lead to further segregation and a widening achievement gap.
Undermining Public Education: Public education is a fundamental pillar of our democracy, providing a common ground for children of all backgrounds to learn and grow together. ESAs undermine this vital institution by creating a parallel system that siphons away resources and students. Texas public schools have proven time and again that we are up to the challenge of educating all students, let's properly fund our schools not leave them behind.
Lack of guaranteed standardized testing: Public schools are required to administer standardized testing, ensuring a level of accountability for the students and the schools. Private schools accepting ESA funds may not be required to do the same, making it difficult to measure student progress.
I urge you to consider the detrimental impact that an ESA program would have on our public education system and the children of Texas. Instead of diverting public funds to private entities, I believe we should focus on strengthening our public schools by increasing funding, supporting teachers, and ensuring that all students have access to a high-quality education.
Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.
Sincerely, Melissa Silerio, Public School Educator 5851 Sunny Meadow Ln. Grand Prairie, Tx 75052 melbella654@gmail.com

Kelly Johnson

Self, Non-Profit Program Director

Houston, TX

I oppose HB3. The reality is this bill will end up primarily serving families who are already paying to send their kids to private schools and who already likely have significant resources to do so. This bill will not prioritize students with disabilities and low-income families to be able to accessibly transition into private schools despite the effort to address this. Several friends with children have recently left the state of Texas specifically because we are not investing in expanding public education and instead we are focusing on expanding private school access. Families are seeking better public education not better access to private education.

Hermelinda Zamarripa

Self

Austin, TX

The voucher program will destroy public education. Our public schools need financial support. We would be doing well if a huge chunk of our tax dollars were not diverted to the state. Our schools need that money to keep schools open, provide upgrades, hire and pay quality teachers and support staff for special need students. The voucher program would rob us of this and merely serve to reimburse families who are already sending their children to private schools. This is not what our forefathers considered when they insisted PUBLIC education for all. Please vote the voucher program down.

Dorothy Romero

Self

Colleyville, TX

No to vouchers/esa. Private schools will not accept most of the low-income kids eligible. They will not pass "interviews" and "admissions". So public school funding is negatively affected, thereby negatively affecting millions of children. Please consider all the kids...not only the most privileged or most advanced. Keep public funds in public schools.

Elizabeth Weaver

Self, Librarian

Carrollton, TX

We all acknowledge that vouchers are not a sufficient solution to address the needs of MOST of our special education students in Texas. Linda McMahon's plan to dissolve the Department of Education, the agency that provides the majority of special education funding, along with the state's refusal to address its \$1.7 billion annual funding gap for SPED as well as its ongoing lawsuit seeking to declare 504 plans unconstitutional, leave our most vulnerable students in a precarious situation. How will you ensure that Texas effectively meets the needs of these children? And to be clear, vouchers for private schools that do not currently exist are not the answer. I strongly oppose vouchers and do not believe in defunding our public schools. A large number of Texans feel the same. It is the first time that I, home-schooling parents, and traditional Republicans who do not wish to see the growth of spending and bureaucracy have ever been on the same side of an issue. That says a lot.

Jennifer Torrez-Mayfield

Self

Austin, TX

As a product of a public school system I value the diversity in backgrounds, cultural, and nationalities they offer. As an Army child I learned my appreciation of cultures through my father's duty stations as a child. Taking money away from public schools takes away this opportunity and gives it to unregulated educational institutions. I want our children taught by teachers certified and college educated. Private schools don't have to abide by any certifications or minimum educational standards. Many families will not be able afford private education even with a voucher. There are few rules or legislation that can protect children from bullying or harassment at private schools. Public tax dollars so stay with public institutions and away from for profit businesses.

Ashley Murray

self

Cedar Park, TX

Hello,

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Ashley Murray

Heather DeWitt

Self

Providnce Vlg, TX

As a public school teacher & parent, I strongly oppose school vouchers. Public schools need to be fully funded before school vouchers or ESAs are even discussed. The basic student allotment has not seen an increase since 2019. This allotment needs to be increased by \$1500 in order to make up for inflation. School vouchers will take away funding from our public schools. Those that will benefit from using ESAs are already enrolled in private schools. Private schools will not provide transportation, lack certified teachers, lack a viable & guaranteed curriculum and have little to no accountability. Where as public schools are asked to do so much more with less funding. I would like my comment to be part of public record as opposition to this bill. Thank you!

jane gibson, mrs
self, attorney
Taylor, TX

Thirty years ago I went to an Ivy League college after graduating from my rural, public high school in Central Texas. There were students in college who refused to speak to me because I didn't get there through a fancy prep school. Did we not all get into the same college? Which of us would you want to be your college kid?

Both my children went to the same, public rural school that I did. My daughter, also at an Ivy League school, is working on a PhD in a computer and engineering field. My son is happily working on a BA at Texas State.

So, what is the point of siphoning money away from good public schools? Some otherwise-good schools are already cutting hours and staff because they don't have adequate funding. The funding is in the Capitol but it is not reaching the schools.

Would vouchers actually enable any student to escape a "bad" public school in favor of a "good" private school? And wouldn't more students be better served by improving a "bad" public school rather than draining its resources and encouraging its students to abandon it? For example, Austin has many excellent private schools with a wide range of tuition. Saint Stephen's charges \$39,700 for a year of high school. Saint Michael's charges \$29,885 for a year of high school. And Hyde Park charges \$23,191 for 12th Grade. Those rates approximate annual salaries. How big would a voucher have to be to give a prospective student any meaningful chance at any one of those schools, not just for one year but for his or her academic career?

Analogy: I want to play golf. I don't want to play at the municipal course. Even though your taxes pay for the municipal course, I want you to pay for a private course for me. Seem fair?

Cherlyn Jacko
Self
DeSoto, TX

I am AGAINST school vouchers. It will NOT benefit Texas school children. No, No and AGAIN NO TO SCHOOL Vouchers. No!

Stacey Tanner
Self
Perryton, TX

Mr. Buckley:

I would like to encourage you to vote No for all school vouchers. Why in the world would we think it is okay to place a higher value on private school children than public school children? Why won't you simply properly fund public schools? Yet here we are because Gregg Abbott is throwing a temper tantrum because his BIG money donors from out of state want to control the education of our own children in the state of Texas. The voucher system is an outright scam with it's sole purpose to put money in the pockets of the wealthy donors. Just like all the money going to Pearson over these stupid tests. If you are so all fired up about paying for private schools, then they need to abide by the exact same rules as public schools. Please vote No on all voucher bills. The voters of Texas want this. You can no longer say that this is what Texans wanted. This was put through on a republican issue and therefore did not represent the "whole" Texas population. This is an embarrassment that our legislators would rather be puppets for the wealthy instead of standing for and representing all citizens of Texas. Shame of you for authoring such a horrendous bill.

Sincerely,
Stacey Tanner

Cindy Knackstedt
Self/Future for my Grandchildren
New Ulm, TX

I strongly oppose any public funding for vouchers, education savings plans, or any financial support for private/home schools. Fully fund public schools without strings attached or hoops, like TIA. Many areas in Texas do not have the option for a private school!

Melinda Cox
Self
San Antonio, TX

Inflation in the United States has increased by 23.45% since 2019, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This means that the prices of goods and services are 1.23 times higher today than they were in 2019.

With that written .. as an advocate and now a school board trustee .. I am not sure \$220 is going to help!! I am sure we won't agree on the \$1300 .. maybe somewhere in the middle .. I completely get and understand the \$6100-\$10,000 but \$220 does nothing to help me do my job and put forth a balanced budget .. yep part of our deficit is a small stipend and I know there is a teacher pay raise bill but for example insurance went up 90 percent .. we are closing 3 schools:: we are working with state mandates .. did you know 80 percent of our San Antonio workforce comes out of a public school .. all public schools want is an even playing field .. you have public school kids working at the Capitol ..I know I was there recently with my Smart Drinks bring Club students

Amy Gregory
Self
Crawford, TX

I strongly oppose the establishment of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program in Texas. Diverting public funds to private and home schools undermines our public education system, which serves the vast majority of Texas students. Instead of funding unregulated private institutions, we should invest in public schools to improve teacher pay(not the Teacher Incentive Allotment), reduce class sizes, and provide more resources for students. ESAs also lack accountability, meaning taxpayer dollars could be used without proper oversight or guarantees of educational quality. Texas students deserve strong, well-funded public schools—not a voucher system that weakens them.

Stacy Penney
Self/Realtor
Mansfield, TX

I am opposed to school choice for many reasons. I pay for private school for a reason, to keep the Govt out. The writing is on the wall for the rules and regulations that will come if this is passed. What is the main purpose of all of this anyway, when only approx 100,000 out of 5-6M kids will receive it anyway? Let's just work on making public schools better!

Holly Krause
Self
Humble, TX

I am a third generation Texas public school teacher married to a third generation public school teacher with children in public schools. Parents already have the choice to send their kids to public school and this bill takes public money from our public schools. Out state benefits from a well educated society, most of which will attend public schools. Public schools are held accountable to state standard and required to educate every child that comes to them and to accommodate every child that comes to them. Private schools set their own standards and pick and choose who can attend and can remove students at any time they want. Additionally, many in our state do not even have a private school near them, especially those in rural areas so this is not an option and their schools will have less money to support their children. While I hope this bill dies if the committee moves it forward I implore them to consider the following:

- lower the lottery priority qualifications for low income families to 185% to match the qualifications for free and reduced lunch
- additional funding for special education students, especially ones in rural districts that would likely have to travel significant distances to find a private school they may attend
- reduce the allotment by \$4000 to match the per student allotment in public schools

Judith Snape
Self
Round Rock, TX

Taxpayer monies are best spent on public education which needs improvement and best serves all Texas children and the public good.

Liz Ortiz
Self—retired teacher/principal
Pasadena, TX

Vote NO on school vouchers. Our public Ed teachers need our support. This bill does not show support.

Daisy Lopez
Self
Roma, TX

Favor

Dena Smith
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

I have taught for 31 years in the Texas public education system at the same rural, socioeconomically disadvantaged district in east Texas. I have advocated to stop “ School Choice” for many years by meeting on the steps of the Capitol and voicing my concerns along side with Travis Clardy. Those elected to back this bill in 2024 were endorsed by Governor Abbott and his billionaire friends to make sure this bill finally passes. As a “Teacher of the Year” declared by SFASU and a member of education who gives their best for their students- this CHOICE is not about the parents or students. They already have choices in place. They are able to choose another district (like mine) and transfer with no fees. They can choose to homeschool or attend private or charter schools. They have choices. So why are you pushing this agenda? Why do you want to undermine public education and divert resources and income from my children that will never qualify for the ‘vouchers’ or ‘choice’ you continue to represent as a positive for families? Those that stand behind this bill fail to publicly acknowledge that the options are limited to those who actually qualify for enrollment in this choice. It won’t be my student with disabilities, the middle of the road achieving academic student or the family that lacks the funds to pay the difference in tuition costs. No. It will find its way to attracting the the wealthy, high achieving students and soon after with the highest athletic talent as well. This is segregation of the wealthy vs low income. There is no evidence of any improved performance because School Choice/vouchers have no accountability or oversight. There is no curriculum or testing for the small percentage of students that may be accepted. How can you support this program and the billions of dollars with no accountability to the tax payers? Sadly and most importantly- you don’t consider my experience, my love, my dedication or my passion I have for my children over 31 years of service with little funding and no raise. I am a small part of an enormous community of wonderful educators you have failed to help and acknowledge. You actually have punished us, our students and districts with the \$400 million(paid to vendors over just a few years)for the STAAR test that you, Governor Abbott and TEA purchased to set public education up to fail. How can students or educators be expected to Master a test that is three years above grade levels? You approved this to set public expectations of public education as a failure while spending millions of taxpayer dollars to do so. We that educate know. We that educate deserve better. And Texas parents deserve the truth. Stop funding money for agendas. Put our money where it belongs. Our classrooms. Our teachers. We all have a powerhouse of a vote. If this passes, I doubt any of these current representatives will be in power to see it through. Fund money correctly for public education- not sit on it as a pawn!

Madeleine Haskins

self

San Antonio, TX

I am a constituent, taxpayer and I oppose this bill. The House should not pass this bill as it funds 'school choice' for wealthy families (wealthy families already have school choice). Families making over \$200k in TX don't need a government handout! The budget surplus should be used to support the hardworking families of Texas by making groceries and childcare more affordable -- to support the nuclear family. This bill does not do that. HB 3 bill should NOT be passed as it would negatively impact your constituents, particularly those in the rural counties (about 56% of the ENTIRE state). These rural Republican counties do not have the luxury of a private school nearby. You would use their tax money to support families making over \$200k to go to a private school. A significant majority of die-hard Republican voters, the people who voted to keep you employed fall into this rural county territory. I urge the House to be honest with themselves and consider who would really benefit from this because it's not their constituents.

Darci Burchers

Self/teacher

Kerrville, TX

SB2/HB3 grows government, weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money with zero accountability. It strips rural schools of funding, could send tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools, and violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education. Say NO to SB2 & HB3!

Thank you.

Natasha Willet, Mrs

Public Education

CEDAR PARK, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools.

ESAs (vouchers) directly hurt students with disabilities who receive Special Education services in Public Schools in the State of Texas. Diverting \$1 Billion of my PUBLIC taxpayer money to private schools who do not even acknowledge IDEA, do not follow IEPs and only provide services when they are negotiated, compromised and then charged back to parents at exorbitant rates well above typical tuition rates it is theft of services and money to the most vulnerable population in Texas.

14% of the 5.4 million public school students in Texas receive special education services. That's 760,000 students at a minimum. These ESAs are completely inaccessible to at least 90% of our disabled students, and that is before they have a chance at any lottery or know if a private school will accept, serve, or retain them. There's no accountability. Not of services, not of the \$1 Billion of public taxpayer money this legislature wants to pour into private schools and not of impact or outcomes of our disabled students.

Even if we say ALL of the ESAs go to disabled kids receiving special education services, that still leaves a minimum of 700,000 students receiving special education services in underfunded understaffed Public Schools that this state put in this situation. This causes direct harm to these students with disabilities, the most vulnerable individuals in society, and it's at the hands of those who are supposed to represent us.

This is unacceptable. I want this legislature to take accountability, listen to the parent voice (and students), and have the courage to do the right thing: say No to ESA/Vouchers and Fund our Public Schools properly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Natasha Millar-Willet

Natalie Scheuller

Self, mother and former public school teacher

San Antonio, TX

Texas public schools have not received additional funding since 2019 and the funding has not even been adjusted for inflation. Our state public schools and teachers are the 10% lowest paid in the United States. Yet this bill would pull from that meager funding and use it to subsidize private school tuition. Private schools can deny any student they want and the vast majority do not serve students with special needs. Additionally, there are no private schools in many rural Texas school districts, yet these districts will also have their funding cut. The education savings amount is not enough to fund many private schools' full tuition, therefore it will only be useful to families who can afford to pay more beyond the allotted amount. In short, this bill is going to help a few elite, wealthy students who are already attending private schools, and will fail over 5 million public school children. Education is the great equalizer and a huge driver of economic growth. Why shortchange Texas's future performance and economy all for the benefit of wealthy donors who support this discounted private school tuition? Every other state that has implemented school vouchers or "educational savings accounts" has failed and seen their public funding needs greatly increase as a result. Our already short-staffed public schools will have a true crisis in operations with less funding. How will we attract good teachers to work in these conditions? My children's school has already experienced increased teacher turnover and teachers leaving mid year multiple times in 2024. Please vote no on HB 3 and instead allocate more funding from our generous budget surplus to support the 5 million public school children of Texas—our state's future. This is absolutely the issue I care most about as a mother of four boys, former public school teacher, and Air Force Spouse.

Sara Burk

Self

DRIFTWOOD, TX

Hello! My name is Sara, and I am a farmer in Hays County. I care greatly about our public school system. I am writing to ask the Texas House committee to reject HB 3. Please do not advance this bill. I believe that quality, equitable, and free public school education is a cornerstone of our democracy. Additionally, my faith in Jesus compels me to advocate for the poor and the oppressed. Vouchers do not serve the poor. Rather, they are a gift for the wealthy. They drain resources from our already underfunded public school system. Please do not pass a voucher program in Texas.

Heather Hopper

goodyoga

PLANO, TX

This bill hurts our most vulnerable students, and Texas public education in general. The vast majority of Texans have spoken out that they do not want vouchers. Vouchers will hurt our great state, not make it better.

Lorilee Bland

Self

Eules, TX

I am a retired public school teacher. No one thinks vouchers are a good idea or what is best for our students. Please support public education and the children, parents, and educators. No to Vouchers.

Meg Nester

Self

Burkburnett, TX

I would rather not have my tax dollars spent on tuition for private schooling. I believe lower income students are at a disadvantage with this Bill. Thank you for your time.

Sonya Jones
Self/teacher
Denison, TX

Passing this bill will completely destroy an already crippled system. All students deserve the right to the best possible education. Taking more money away from public education will have lasting impacts on our entire state. Big picture/long term this will negatively impact every aspect of our state and economy. Please stop killing public education and start being a part of the solution to make it better and stronger.

Beth Edwards, Ms
Self- early childhood educator
Haslet, TX

Please vote no to both SB2 and HB3. Public school funding is intended for public schools not private schools. Rural Families, special needs children and low income children will receive a lower quality education as a result. Public education is an asset to society and strong economy.

Emily Chapman
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Houston, TX

This bill will be damaging to public schools, particularly the low income schools my church partners with. These vouchers would not help a single one of those children attend a private school in Houston- they barely put a dent in that high tuition while continuing to starve their neighborhood school. There are dozens of counties in Texas that do not even have a private school option. This is a scam and so many reasonable Texans can see that clearly. **NO TO VOUCHERS.**

Rachel Sheehy
Carrollton
Carrollton, TX

To think that politicians think they know better than all their constituents is absurd. Please listen to the parents and do NOT put this bill in place. This will do much more damage than any of you wish to acknowledge. More students will benefit from properly funding public schools (which Texas remains in the bottom 10 of the nation!) than giving discounts for the rich/privileged.

Texans already have choice. Fund public schools, not private.

Monica Bryant
Self
Canadian, TX

Texans do not want vouchers, we want the legislature to abide by the Constitution and fully fund public schools in Texas.

Lacee Sharee Westlund
Self
Granbury, TX

SB2 & HB3 grows government, weakens local schools, and wastes taxpayer money with zero accountability. It strips rural schools of funding, could send tax dollars to religious or controversial private schools, and violates the Texas Constitution's duty to public education. Say NO to SB2 & HB3!

Michael Neaves
Self. Retired Electrical Engineer
Austin, TX

Diverting public money from public education to vouchers weakens our communities, which reduces the feeling of safety and the actual safety of every rural community and every urban community.

Mary Piehl

Self/Retired Teacher/Grandparent

Tomball, TX

Vote NO for this unfair proposition that has dubious motives from politicians and will invariably destroy public schools (which have already been economically “starved” for at least a decade). Please do not allow personal gain to interfere with a decent education for ALL of our children in Texas!

Candace Volz

self

AUSTIN, TX

I oppose school vouchers because I believe in the separation between church and state that our US Constitution provides. I believe that school vouchers will take much-needed funds from public schools. Our government should NOT be funding religious schools. And yes, I support religious schools- we sent our children to one in middle and high school. But we paid for that- did not expect the state to do so. And that school provides scholarships for those who cannot pay the tuition. Separation of Church and State- a bedrock principal of our country . . .

Raemi Thompson

Westbrook ISD

Big Spring, TX

Please reconsider diverting much needed funds away from public schools into education savings accounts. Public schools are full of hard working teachers going above and beyond every day to meet all of the needs of all of the students. There simply isn't enough of us to go around. If public schools cannot find certified educators, what makes you think opening more for profit schools will be able to find certified teachers? Instead of diluting the teacher pool even further and creating an even deeper divide between the have and have nots, please give public schools the resources they need to recruit and train certified teachers in every classroom. There was once a time when teaching jobs were hard to find and once you were hired, you stayed and made a career where you could also raise a family and plan for retirement. Let's make the teaching profession that desirable again! Fully fund public schools!

Tiffany Moorman

Self

Austin, TX

I fully oppose school vouchers, education savings accounts, private school subsidies, whatever it is they are being called this time. Public schools will only continue to suffer under this system and the rich, private schools will continue to deny students who aren't within their ideal student image. These vouchers do a disservice to the over 5 million children currently enrolled in public schools in the state of Texas. Texas is already ranked in the lower half of public schools in the country due to our current Robin Hood Laws and this voucher program will only benefit the wealthy while our public school students suffer even more. No state that has ever implemented this type of bill can show any evidence that this was successful and did not hurt middle or lower class students.

Brian Bloss, Mr

Self, teacher

Grapevine, TX

Brian Bloss

Self, Public School Teacher

Opposed

To the honorable members of the Public Education Committee,

I am a public school teacher and a conservative opposed to HB3. Before explaining my opposition, I want to thank the committee for splitting HB3 from HB2. However, I urge you to consider: How does HB3 improve our current situation?

Instead of allocating \$1 billion for a new entitlement program, which will grow exponentially, HB3 undermines the ability of public schools to function, particularly in the face of an ongoing teacher shortage. I teach for Northwest ISD in Education Region 11, where 60% of districts are already in deficit. Estimates suggest my district could lose over \$12 million in funding next biennium, leading to up to 206 staff positions being cut. Already, we're cutting 106 staff and raising secondary student-to-teacher ratios from 167:1 to 180:1. I currently teach 203 students, and this trend will only lead to fewer opportunities for meaningful relationships between students and teachers. I ask, how does HB3 make things better for students?

Moreover, the head of TRS has warned that even a 1% reduction in staff contributing to TRS could lead to insolvency. Governor Abbott has claimed HB3 won't affect TRS, but with fewer students in public schools, why would schools retain staff? How does this encourage new teachers when they face the risk of a compromised pension system? It doesn't, as HB3 doesn't require schools accepting ESAs to contribute to TRS.

Public schools also serve as a key factor for economic development and help maintain property values, which many teachers and Texans rely on for retirement. We're already seeing major districts closing schools due to budget deficits caused by Governor Abbott's decision to tie ESAs with public education funding last session. How does siphoning funds from public schools address the loss of this economic engine?

As a lifelong conservative, I must express concern that this bill creates a new entitlement without accountability. Governor Abbott has claimed this bill is vital to protect children from radical indoctrination like Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). For years public schools have been demonized and no proof of radical indoctrination has surfaced because public schools have been overseen by Republicans for 30 years!

Yet, HB3 lacks any measures to shield students from such influence, and many elite private schools embrace DEI, as a core value in their selection of staff and what is taught. If protecting children from DEI is so vital, how can conservatives support funding for private schools with DEI as a core value if they fear DEI is indoctrination? For the sake of the future of public schools, please listen to the people and do not let this bill pass.

Judy Kelley

Self

Colleyville, TX

I am against vouchers in all forms. We need to fund PUBLIC education. Taxpayer money should fund public schools. There has been no increase in the state allotment since 2016. Teachers need to make a living wage and Independent School districts need the money to support education.

Laura McBride

Self, retired teacher and Pet sitting business owner

Burleson, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. I do not want my tax dollars put into an education savings account for the wealthiest of parents to use on private school tuition for their children. Our tax dollars should be used to benefit the public not private businesses like private schools. I am a retired public school teacher and know we have outstanding public schools. That money could be better spent improving the public schools we have in place. I realize there is a bill for public school funding (HB2), but know funds earmarked for vouchers would also be beneficial for our public schools and teachers which have been denied funds for several years. HB 3 could lead to larger student/teacher ratios and ultimately bankrupt our public schools.

Joan Trimble
Self/registered nurse
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers by any other name are still vouchers. Just look at AZ and LA among others. Their result are dismal. It's a lose-lose for the students and the taxpayers. The impact in my district in Bexar County for the NISD will lead to >41million, >700 teachers and the remaining teachers will have >7% increase in the student-teachers ratio. Book losses will be in excess of 900K. The majority of regular Texans are opposed to voucher programs. They want fully funded public schools that are responsive to student and parent needs. A handful of rich bullies should not be able to drive this agenda. Vote no to voucher programs and fund our public schools.

Sam Bowman
Self, educator
San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB 3 and the establishment of an education savings account

james jones
self
irving, TX

Really have not seen how vouchers can even be legal as the concept violates Article 7 of the TX State Constitution. Republicans claim the people voted in favor of voucher concepts yet those dumb questions on on the republican party primary ballot. So no democrat nor any Independent Texas voters - and there are a lot of us who favor neither party based on their current statements of charter. Even the gov stated yes it would rob money from public schools to fund vouchers after saying it would not and from what my research indicates the robbery will occur thereby hurting public schools whihc will adversely impact property values and taxes - lot of reallly uninformed people supporting vouchers.

The LAW OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES will reach out and significantly impact those who truly support vouchers because they will not see what could happen and then their loss of property values will hit them in their pocket books.

I truly believe if the State of Texas would get off the testing train and truly work to assess student achievements with real teaching that the depth of where Texas schools rank now would be overcome.

Having lived and gone to school in those bottom few states, I really do not want my Texas Schools down there. My wife & I even home-schooled our children in one state we lived because the public schools were so far down the rabbit hole for performance.

When we moved to another state the school was so happy we did home-school because other students from that former state were routinely placed back a grade there.

Cindy Fountain

TX UU Justice Ministry/Member

Cleburne, TX

As a lifelong Texan, public school graduate, and member of a faith community who believes in the strength of our public schools when they are well funded and well supported as the Texas Constitution requires, I strongly oppose HB 3!

It gives more money per pupil to private schools than to public schools.

It will create even greater disparities in access to education across Texas. In addition to the previous bullet point, many rural communities do not have private schools available and cannot sustain private schools.

Private schools can accept or reject students. Public schools serve all students.

\$1 billion is the proposed funding for vouchers/ESAs. There are about 5.5 million Texas public school students and about 325,000 private school students. Therefore, and not ever mentioned in public forums to tout this, only around 100,000 students, both public and private, can attempt to take advantage if it. The percentages vary (the Senate version and House version differ in this regard), but there is a reasonable expectation that 20% of this funding would go to affluent families and families whose children already attend private schools. That leaves about 80,000 public school students who cannot afford private schools who might be able to take advantage of the ESA/Voucher policy.

Please grant the respect and support that public school students, teachers and families deserve by putting to rest unwanted and unneeded vouchers in Texas.

Thank you,
Cindy Fountain

Susan Moffat
Self, Retired Editor
Austin, TX

As a Texas parent and taxpayer, I strongly oppose any school voucher program for Texas. Studies in states that have already adopted voucher programs show escalating costs, fraud, waste, little accountability, and the overall erosion funding for public schools. Effectively, these programs function as a discount for wealthy families with students already enrolled in private schools, rather than providing any serious support for families in need.

But knowing that many of you have already made up your minds to support a voucher program, I urge you to adopt the following safeguards to protect the rights of all Texas taxpayers and families under a voucher program.

1. Make all vouchers income-based and limit them to families with incomes of no more than 200% of the federal poverty level. Texas taxpayers should not be asked to provide a tuition discount for wealthy families already enrolled in private schools. HB 3's current proposal would allow some families making up to 500 percent of the poverty level or approximately \$156,000 per year to access vouchers. This is simply too high.
2. Require STAAR or current state accountability tests for all voucher recipients; if not, then allow traditional public schools to use the equivalent "national test" proposed for private schools to ensure an apples-to-apples comparison for accountability purposes. Private schools accepting public money should meet the same accountability requirements as public schools.
3. Require private schools to accept any student with a state voucher. Texas public schools are required to accept all students. Again, private schools accepting public money should meet the same requirement.
4. Prohibit the use of public funds for vouchers for religious schools to ensure a constitutional separation of church and state. If public funds are used for private religious schools, allow voucher students to opt out of any religious curriculum.
5. Restore full funding for the traditional Texas public schools that educate over 5.5 million Texas students. Since 2019, Texas schools have lost \$10 billion in funding, or roughly \$1,300 per student, due to inflation, resulting in serious program cuts and school closings. It is unconscionable to even consider a one billion dollar voucher program until these critical funding needs are met for all Texas students. At the very least, please provide an additional \$1,300 per pupil to bring resources back to pre-2019 levels.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to our state.

Susan Moffat
Texas taxpayer and parent

Jenny Bates
self, pastor
Denton, TX

I oppose this bill, I do not think it will be beneficial to Texans. I think Texas should focus on strengthening public education.

LaDena Drake
Self-
Burleson, TX

Please do NOT pass this bill. ESA program will not help children who are in low performing schools, rural areas or low socioeconomic students.

Chris Kovacs
Self
New Braunfels, TX

As a veteran Texas public school teacher for 25 years it is disheartening to see how public education funding has been held hostage to pass through a bill that is unpopular among most Texans and is nothing but welfare for the wealthy. While many who support this disliked voucher bill will tout the teacher raises that may come with the new funding, I would ask if you've done your research to see how this will negatively affect the Teacher Retirement System. Are teachers supposed to thank you for a few thousand dollar raise when you're putting our retirement in jeopardy? If you really think you are doing what's best for education in Texas why not put it to a popular vote with clear and concise wording rather than some obscure word salad that leaves people scratching their heads. It is also my understanding that the voucher price tag will only increase as the years pass and will continue to pull funds from public education, thus leaving public school districts with less and less money to work with. The voucher scam has proven ineffective in most states it has been implemented in. It's also odd that you would willingly divert public money to private schools while not holding them to the same standards as public schools. If you think rationally, reasonably and fairly you can only come to one conclusion... this bill is wrong for Texas, or you just don't care about what Texans really want.

Sarah Potter
Self
Justin, TX

If passed, this will end the same as every other state that has it: most vouchers will go to wealthier urban families that already have kids in private school. How will this help any kid in Comanche Country where there isn't a private school? This takes money away from rural, agricultural families to send urban ones to ritzy academies that cost at least 20k per year. Private schools generally don't take special needs children, or kids with behavior or attendance issues. Public schools have to take them all. Many American giants such as Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and General MacArthur attending public schools. Even Greg Abbott attended Duncanville High School. Fund our public schools, not this ponzi scheme to line the pockets of those that are already wealthy. As a conservative Republican, I ask that you vote no.

Teresa Stockton
Self
Cypress, TX

There are items this bill that to me as. Parent don't make sense.

1. Special needs children will receive more tax payer money to leave and go to a private school - but public schools must do the eval in 45 days. AND private schools wouldn't be required to take those students anyway??? So does the public school even get paid for that time now? Because you've taken that money away from the district.

And if you're looking at total costs per student and 15- 12K. But the state only pays 6100. We chose to live in a high taxed area for the better schools. That was the CHOICE my family made... and youre proposing handing out double the amount of state level funds to kids who want to go somewhere else. Where does that money come from???

Private schools won't have the same testing requirements or regulations. If that's the case vouchers for those students should be even less- because public schools are paying for STAAR and all of the testing requirements you've tied to public school education funding - so that "portion" should be removed entirely from private school fund distribution or they also need to be required to pay for those services.

The \$300 ish raise per student in public education is not enough. Inflation was at 8% in 2022 alone. \$300 is insulting - especially when paired against what you're proposing to give to private schools - with no strings attached.

This bill needs to be better... your district has some of the largest and best public school districts in the Houston area. I wish you would support them more.

Michelle Orth

Forney

Forney, TX

We don't need vouchers, no one wants vouchers but the rich. Abbott is misleading people about why he wants them, WE ALREADY HAVE SCHOOL CHOICE. He has debts he needs to pay so he's sacrificing our public education funds to pay off his bills. WE DONT WANT VOUCHERS!!!!

Tiffany Williford

Self

Kountze, TX

Please do not vote for vouchers. There is no real benefit to public schools with this "deal." Private schools truly will be the only schools benefiting from this. The majority of lower income families will not be able to cover the projected increases in private school tuition with the vouchers, much less be able to provide transportation for students to attend since most lower income families have working parents. Put the money back in public education! Make public education great again. Make learning accessible for all! When all students learn, all of Texas will benefit.

Alicia Smith

Self

Fairfield, TX

I am against HB3. I want you to vote NO in this committee on HB 3.

This is a bad bill for public education. It is especially bad for rural ISDs where public schools are the cornerstone of our community. Think about the 5,000 Texas children that will not have options for choice other than their rural school. There are more students in public schools than there are private options. There is nothing conservative about giving taxpayer money to private entities. Conservatives are for smaller government but this bill will be growing the government with employees to administer the bill with the third party administrators making the big bucks off the taxpayers money.

After a couple of years the money set aside will be gone leaving the taxpayers to keep it going through higher taxes. Fund Public Schools Vote NO on HB 3

Thank you for your consideration of my wants.

Heather Oliver

Self, Physical Therapist.

Leander, TX

Vote NO to HB 3. Protect our public schools by voting no. The voucher system diverts money away from public schools and does not guarantee quality education at private schools; there is no reliable evidence that vouchers improve student success. Private schools are not held accountable to the public control over how public tax dollars are spent, which can lead to corruption. Transportation is not provided and they do not cover the full cost of tuition, which will exclude students from low-income backgrounds. Private schools do not have to accept all students, which will exacerbate inequalities between different student populations, including children with disabilities. Protect our students and ensure that every child has access to quality education.

Jana White

Self

De Leon, TX

Texans do NOT want this! Listen to your constituents! This will absolutely destroy public education. Please keep in mind you are voting/deciding for an overwhelming number of rural school districts who will sink with this funding scheme. Remember who votes for you and do what is best for ALL Texas students. The voucher system is not it! And, teachers/ school district employees still deserve a raise. Even if this does not pass. Tying teacher pay to school vouchers is heartless. Teachers are one of the most underpaid careers in Texas. The state will lose thousands of dedicated and experienced teachers if a compromise is not reached in this.

Rick Warren
Self
Burleson, TX

Please vote NO to vouchers. Allie the voters to decide this issue.

Robert James
Self, rancher
New ulm, TX

Hey!
I strongly oppose any public funding for vouchers, education savings plans, or any financial support for private/home schools. Fully fund public schools without strings attached or hoops, like TIA.

Emily Cohan
Self
San marcos, TX

Protect PUBLIC education. No school vouchers. I do not condone my tax dollars going towards any religious institution- with school vouchers, I have no guarantee that my taxes will not go into funding religious private schools. This is a violation of my constitutional rights.

Mary Wilson
Self
GRAND PRAIRIE, TX

Strongly against

Amanda Molina
Self/ teacher
Fort Worth, TX

I am a mother of two three year olds and have taught high school for over 17 years. I implore you to listen to the vast majority of Texas that is strongly opposed to allow tax dollars to be used for private education. Every state that has passed similar bill with whatever name they have called it is now facing budget deficits and a reality that their intentions of creating an opportunity for more middle and lower class families to access private education did not go as planned. They note that most of their recipients were already attending private schools and prices for said schools rose after such bills passed. It is appalling to think that it is proposed to give 'education spending money' more per student than what is actually allotted to public schools. What will happen when students who leave public schools for private return to public after taking the \$ with them? I've been in this game long enough to tell you that this is facts, not hypothetical. When a student tells me that they are transferring to a private or charter school, 9 times out of 10, it doesn't take long for them to return back to school because they find that the school was not what they thought it would be. Please vote for our young generation against 'school choice' which is just a fancy way of calling school vouchers.

Christin Evans

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Texas House Members,

I urge you to oppose any effort to divert public funds from Texas public schools, whether through school vouchers, education savings accounts (ESAs), or any similar program. These programs, no matter the name, strip funding from the 5.4 million students—nearly 90% of Texas children—who rely on public schools.

Our public schools are already underfunded by at least \$4,000 per student compared to the national average, ranking 43rd in per-student funding nationwide. Texas is also facing a severe teacher shortage due to low salaries and inadequate resources, making it harder to retain high-quality educators.

Vouchers and ESAs take taxpayer dollars meant for public schools and redirect them to private institutions that lack oversight, can reject students, and are not accountable to the public. Instead of undercutting public education, Texas should be fully funding schools, increasing teacher pay, and ensuring every child—regardless of income or location—has access to a strong public education.

Please stand with Texas families, students, and educators by rejecting vouchers, ESAs, and any program that weakens our public schools. Our kids deserve better.

Thank you,
Christin Evans
Austin, Texas

Carolyn Windley

Self

Miami, TX

End Robin Hood, if you want to help schools. We have school choice. Its time for complete education reform but vouchers and ESA's aren't where we start. We have voted on this and it is a no from everyone, every time we vote. Governor please listen to what we are telling you.

Claire Peterson
Myself teacher
San Antonio, TX

Vouchers are wildly unpopular and will defund public schools. Do not pass this bill.

Alyssa Van Zandt

Self

De Leon, TX

Parents already have school choice. If they want their student to go to private school, they are welcome to find one and pay for it. On the other hand, public school serves SO MANY MORE students! Students that even if this bill passes, they would have no access to private education. Students who even with a voucher, don't live close enough to a private school. Students who even with a voucher, wouldn't make it in private school due to lack of parental involvement and transportation to school and extracurriculars. Students who even with a voucher, parents couldn't afford to send them to a private school. Students who even with a voucher, would be thrown out of private school due to low grades and behavior issues. These are the students I work with EVERY day! These students come to school after being up all night babysitting siblings, or going to work with mom because they don't trust dad, staying up all night because they have no bed to sleep in, or staying up all night because they are not safe! The only way these students can break the generation curse is public education. They depend on the transportation, meals, and overall safe place! Taking funding from these students, is setting them up for failure in the future. Taking away any type of funding is a SLAP IN THE FACE to these kids depending on the public education system to save them! I am all for parents choosing where to send their kids, but if they choose private school, they should be held financially responsible for that decision, and not further hurt public education. Teachers are already overworked and underpaid, please do not add another stressor on public schools. STAND WITH US and we fill the gaps for PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS who don't deserve some left over money, but deserve to be the CENTER of our future focus!!!!

Denise Warren

Retired teachers

Burleson, TX

As a retired Texas teacher, I vehemently oppose school vouchers. The majority of families who will benefit are wealthy Texans who already have students in private schools. Public schools will suffer as a result of lost funds. Please, let the people of Texas vote on this. I do not believe the polls are fair and accurate.

Andra Villegas

Self

N Richlnd Hls, TX

No to Vouchers!

No to Educational Savings plans!

Stand up to Abbott!

Stand up for the children of Texas!

Stand up for what's right!

KrisTia Kristia

Self

Flower Mound, TX

There has been no evidence to suggest that voucher programs are successful for students. School choice exists now in the public school system. The purpose of taxes is to fund public functions. Private schools are just that...private. This is an issue that is being driven by out of state forces. The citizens of Texas do not want this. Please do not allow this to come to a vote!

Kayla Wells
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am a parent of three public school children in Lubbock, Texas and strongly oppose house bill 3. One of the many problems I see with this bill is it doesn't provide equal financial opportunity for all students. How our my children that attend public school worth less than a child who chooses to attend private school? The funding should be the same. I also believe we do already have school choice in Texas. You can transfer to another school, attend private school or move to a new district. If those opportunities aren't available already to you where you live this bill will not change that. Yes, a small portion might be able to use the money to attend private school but almost all low income families could still not afford it. Private school can refuse to accept them, not provide for their IEP or 504 plan, they would also be responsible for athletic expenses, travel arrangements and could be kicked out at any moment if they didn't meet their standards. How is that fair to not hold them to any accountability when public schools are exhausted trying to keep up with all the hoops you demand they jump through. Maybe we should get rid of standardized testing all together and just let teachers teach. That's only fair if that's what you are going to let the private schools do. You are taking money for the poor and underprivileged children and giving it back to wealthy families who can already afford private school, tutors and anything else for their child's education. I believe if we funded Texas schools properly and we all poured into them we could see a huge change. Texas public dollars belong in Texas public schools!

Tapley Gary
Self
Valera, TX

It is ridiculous that you have not adequately funded public schools for decades, but you suddenly have enough to create grants to rich parents. Shame on you for neglecting your constitutional requirement to provide education for all public students.

Marianne Laguna
Self/ Retired
Austin, TX

I am against school vouchers. They only benefit the wealthy and children with no learning challenges. Private schools should not benefit from public funds, especially since they are not held to the same standards. School vouchers only weaken the public school system, which has been proven in other states. **NO TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS.**

Lori Bauml

Self / retired teacher / grandparent

San Antonio, TX

How are you going to ensure that vouchers are not going to go to families that are already enrolled in private school? Please address the statistic that there are only 25,000 unfilled seats in Texas private schools. And please compare the current bill to Oklahoma's situation with the overwhelming majority of school vouchers going to families that could already afford private school tuition. How are you going to prevent that situation in Texas?

How are you going to ensure that there isn't any fraud? What if a student is awarded an ESA, enrolls in a private school, pays their tuition, and then withdraws from the private school a couple months later? Will the private school be required to return the full ESA amount back to the state? How will the state track this and hold them accountable? What if a private school student funded with an ESA has chronic absenteeism? Will the private school be required to return a portion of the ESA back to the state for every day that the student is absent? It is unfair that public school funding is based on attendance but ESS payments won't be based on attendance. If private school ESA funding won't be penalized for absenteeism then public school funding shouldn't be penalized for absenteeism.

What additional costs (in time, effort, money) are private schools going to incur if they accept ESA funds for tuition payments? Labor and time is needed to process paperwork. How intensive will the paperwork and accounting be for private school administrative staff? Will private schools be required to provide the state with evidence that ESA funded students have made academic progress and are regularly attending school? If a private school expels or asks an ESA funded student to unenroll because for whatever reason the school ends up not being a good fit will the private school be required to provide evidence for dismissing the student? Will the private school be required to return the ESA money to the state?

Here's an idea if you are determined to pass a voucher/ESA bill in Texas: Lower the income limit to 600% of the poverty line and then earmark 50% of ESA funds to go to families that make under 200% of the poverty line, 30% of ESA funds earmarked to go to families 200-400% of the poverty line, and 20% of ESAs earmarked to go to families 400-600% of the poverty line. Any unused funds in each income category should be returned to public school funds each year to boost funding for things like universal school lunch, universal Pre-k, and special education.

Angie Nobles

Self

Georgetown, TX

Please do not support vouchers!

State government has a constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public schools. Let's start doing that ! 5.5 million children are depending on it !

Grace Garrigan

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

Vote No for HB 3. This bill will only hurt our public schools and most of our state's children. And for what? To give the wealthy a discount on private school?

Paula Collins

Self

Angleton, TX

No to vouchers. Keep my tax dollars going to public schools. Fully Funding our public schools is the only institution entitled to our tax money intended for education!

Elizabeth Hanks

Self, Attorney

Houston, TX

I am a Texas resident, born and raised in Missouri City and currently living in the Houston Heights. My husband and I both received an excellent public education in Texas from kindergarten to college (UT and A&M) and hate what the Texas GOP has done to gut our public schools. Our two daughters attend private schools because we have lost so much trust in the public education system in HISD under the control of our state agencies. This bill could actually benefit our family, but we are completely and totally opposed to its passage. Please vote no on vouchers to stop the further decay of our Texas public schools. Thank you.

Mary Jo Peters

Self

Hondo, TX

As a taxpayer, mother and former public school teacher, I respectfully ask you that you do NOT support anything that resembles school vouchers. It will harm public schools, particularly small rural districts who struggle financially even in the best of times. The Texas constitution requires adequate school for all students. That right should not depend on funding of private schools who do not follow the same standards and accountability requirements that oppress public schools. The ruse that vouchers provide parents with school choice is a misnomer. Parents have input in public schools if willing to engage. There are better ways to make sure that all students have opportunities.

Educated workers (and voters) are vital to the success of Texas. Let's not sacrifice public education for the benefit of a few.

Respectfully,

Heather Gann

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

This is an anti public school bill. Completely against. Will vote against you if you vote for it.

Bernadette Flores

The other students that are not part of the 100,000

San Antonio, TX

This voucher scam is nothing but a Wealth Check. The fact that the Senate passed it is deplorable. Only 100,000 students will benefit. Abbott needs to release the funds he has been holding since 2023. It's bad enough this government doesn't protect our students from gun violence. Do the right thing

Roger Martin

self - retired

AUSTIN, TX

As the country becomes more and more polarized and divided, one thing that can bring us together with a common purpose is a good public education.

Public money must go to public schools. Private schools are there for people who want it and can afford it. Do not rob from the poor to give to the rich!

Lindsay Savage
Self and procurement manager
Houston, TX

The voucher program takes away necessary funds from public schools to aid private institutions. Texas has some of the best public schools and deserves the funding to grow bigger and better. These children are our future and deserve a proper education. Could you imagine being in school or having a child in school and hearing that funds would be moved to a private school. How would you feel? Families can choose to go the private route if needed, but my tax dollars should not support it. Look at states like Indiana where the voucher program was implemented and failed with their test scores significantly dropping. The long term impacts will be devastating. This is no more than welfare for the wealthy.

Jill Daly, Mrs.
Self/ Talent Acquisition Manager
Trophy Club, TX

My children have gone to both public schools and private schools throughout their education, and I am a former public educator. I am concerned that this bill will only serve students whose parents are already able to pay for private school funding while destabilizing our much needed public schools throughout Texas. As it stands, this bill will provide a \$10k voucher to parents of a student attending private school while our district is only covered at about \$6800 per pupil. We need to appropriately fund our public schools, particularly with rising inflationary costs, before even considering expenditures to support private schools.

Not only can private schools choose who they do and don't admit, they are not required to meet the Texas state standards as public schools are. Additionally, I am concerned that special needs students in the private school setting will not receive the much needed resources in order to succeed and become thriving, productive members of society.

I understand and respect the desire to ensure that all children receive a top tier education, but vouchers are not the answer. If you are looking for an example of school choice within the public school system, I encourage you to look at Northwest ISD's successful school choice programs at the high school level.

Lucas James, Mr
Self - engineer
New ulm, TX

I strongly oppose any public funding for vouchers, education savings plans, or any financial support for private/home schools. Fully fund public schools without strings attached or hoops, like TIA.

April Prevost

Self - Home Maker, Public School PTA Board Member, Volunteer Tutor/Educational Program Coordinator

Fort Worth, TX

As a mother of two public school students and an active school volunteer, I would like to ask that HB 3 be rejected by the Texas House. For too many years funding has been withheld from Texas public schools, and our students and teachers have suffered because of this. The state is starving our schools and then blaming the schools when they fail. This bill only stands to worsen the problem and punish the children of this state.

If the state has the funds available for this bill, those funds should go to public schools to provide for their needs. Public school children have a wide range of educational needs that cannot be met with the resources they have available. Hiring more teachers would allow for smaller class sizes and more focused instruction for the children who need it. Providing school lunches allows for children to focus on their education rather than hunger. School counselors, diagnosticians, speech therapists, and special needs educators all serve to support the needs of the millions of students in our public school system and have been rationed because of the lack of funds available. Schools have been forced to close and cut off access for many students within their community.

Many public school children are not likely to be able to attend private schools for a variety of reasons and will not benefit from this bill. They may not be close enough to a private school. They may need transportation (bus) that is not available for private schools. They may have special needs that are not provided by private schools. They may need a secular option that is not available. Most likely, the funds provided would not be enough to allow them to attend a private school. It is also possible, that private schools may reject students for a number of reasons.

Yes, every student should have the opportunity to choose the school they attend, but their local public school should be a viable option. There is value in children attending a neighborhood school and rising through that school system with their neighborhood friends. There is value in a school that represents a community as a whole and not just the wealthiest, most privileged families. There is value in providing a quality education to EVERY student so that they can participate and enrich society with their contributions.

Please vote NO on this bill. Create a bill that supports our public schools and ALL students in the state of Texas. Please fund our public schools!

Morgan Summer

Self teacher

Montgomery, TX

Vouchers for the rich plain and simple. Texans are telling you no and you refuse to listen. Funding public schools!

Cara Cooke

MY Grandkids and ALL KIDS of TEXAS

NECHES, TX

As a public school educator of 35 years, I am praying that you will STOP and THINK CLEARLY about what this bill would do to public education. The funds you would set aside for an education savings account would be better utilized helping PUBLIC EDUCATION be all it could be with the right resources and 21st Century Vision. This savings account will only affect a very small minority of students, if any, according to your matrix to determine recipients. The \$10,000 will not fully fund attending a private school and most parents cannot afford the rest needed. The private schools are NOT going to accept special education students because it is too much trouble. The children of TEXAS are going to suffer if this passes. The STATE of TEXAS will suffer for years to come because if we do not find a way to make our public education work for ALL our future citizens they will not be prepared to be productive. I am a product of public education from a poor family and BECAUSE I was given the opportunity to excel in school with the nurturing of amazing educators, I have been very successful and make a tremendous difference in my community and state. Where would I be without that opportunity? Where will millions of children just like me be if you limit those who have the right to an excellent education? Please do what is right and don't let power and money guide you in this very important decision. God Bless You and God Bless TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

Michael Jackson
Self/Conf. Manager
League City, TX

I oppose HB 3.1. Public money is for public schools....Not for private schools. This is a SCAM!

Kim Grantham
Self, homemaker
Cedar Park, TX

Please vote no for HB 3. Texas needs to focus on our public education system.

Van Diep
NEISD
San Antonio, TX

Not Acceptable. Should not take a way from public school funds.

Kimberly Forster
Self
Houston, TX

The only thing school vouchers will do is degrade the education system in place and allow the rich more privilege while the poor loses their chance at a level playing field to climb out of their situation. Public Schools already struggle with funding and my kids have already lost important resources - I can't imagine how much worse it will get in this scenario.

The purpose of including PUBLIC school as part of our taxes is to support education within our communities. If people choose something outside of that public school - that is their own choice on how they spend their money. If they can already afford private school then they don't need the tax dollars toward their private school that may not even be part of the community paying taxes toward the education.

Public schools offer opportunities for communities to come together through decades in sports, arts, agriculture, and much more. The system allows for appropriate competition all the way to a state level - something our communities can be PROUD of together.

Please do NOT defund our public schools. This will have a tremendously negative impact on our schools, our kids, AND our communities.

Christie Sampson
Public schools
Hurst, TX

As a retired public school teacher of 26 years I'm asking you to PLEASE vote "NO!" to the school voucher bill. It will destroy public education.

Leslie Luhn
Self/teacher
Franklin, TX

I want to go on record to be listed as voice opposing vouchers. As a teacher, I can't see how it will help all of my students. I feel this bill only will benefit a select few. Money needs to be put in place for curriculum and teacher support.

Mary Pugh
Self/ educator
Dallas, TX

Vote no on HB3.

The priority of the Texas Legislature should be to fully fund public education. Education Savings Accounts take money from public schools. As a tax payer I do not want my tax dollars going to institutions with no accountability in teaching or in learning. Most Texans do not want ESAs. Texas rejected the national push of the Common Core and now it is time to reject the national push of vouchers. We must fully fund the school system we have.

Sandra Hancock
Self
Waco, TX

It is incumbent upon Texas legislators to provide education to ensure we have an educated citizenry. The proposed bill would in truth provide funding to families to offset private schools. Private schools will hike their tuition to ensure they remain selective, pricing them out of reach for most. Taxpayer money should go to improve PUBLIC schools. There are millions of students who deserve a quality education.

Please say NO to ESAs. Fully fund public schools and refuse to give my money to private institutions.

Esvanhnelly Podany

Self

Cedar Park, TX

1. Funding Diversion from Public Schools

- ESAs/vouchers redirect taxpayer money from public schools, which serve the majority of students, to private institutions.
- Public schools already face funding shortages, and diverting funds exacerbates inequities.

2. Lack of Accountability & Oversight

- Private schools receiving vouchers do not have to follow the same academic and financial transparency standards as public schools.
- There is no guarantee that taxpayer money will be spent effectively.

3. Potential for Discrimination

- Private schools can deny admission based on religion, disabilities, academic performance, or other factors, unlike public schools, which must accept all students.
- This creates an exclusionary system that disadvantages marginalized students.

4. No Proven Academic Benefits

- Research on voucher programs in other states shows mixed or negative results in student achievement.
- Public school students often perform better than those using vouchers to attend private schools.

5. Rural Communities Suffer Most

- Many rural areas lack private school options, meaning vouchers offer little to no benefit while still draining local public school funds.
- Public schools are often the only viable option for rural families.

6. Higher Costs for Families

- Vouchers rarely cover the full cost of private school tuition, leaving lower-income families unable to afford the difference.
- Wealthier families benefit the most since they can already afford private schools.

7. Violation of Church-State Separation

- Public funds often end up supporting religious schools, raising constitutional concerns about government entanglement with religion.

Valerie Diep, Mrs.

Self - Public School Teacher

San Antonio, TX

No do not support program.

Becky Fralix

Self

Spring, TX

I VOTE NO! Vouchers divert funding from public schools, which serve most students, to private schools.

Discrimination: Vouchers can discriminate against students with disabilities and exacerbate racial segregation.

Subtracting from public accountability: Private schools are less accountable to taxpayers than public schools.

Failing to meet student needs: Vouchers can fail to meet the needs of students with disabilities and special needs.

Not improving student performance: There is no reliable evidence that vouchers improve student success, and some programs have shown negative effects.

Eroding democracy: Vouchers can erode democracy by giving private schools that are not accountable to the public control over how public tax dollars are spent.

Creating corruption: Private schools with little or no accountability could lead to corruption.

Diverting attention from needed reforms: Vouchers can divert attention from needed reforms, such as smaller class sizes.

Reducing fair access: Vouchers can reduce fair access to educational opportunity.

Dan Schmit

Self

San Antonio, TX

This bill is a scam that funnels funding intended for the public good and instead creates a path to weaken our overall education standing in this state. The common good will be replaced by profiteering by ideological

Leca Addison

Self Retired Teacher & parent of public schools

Seagraves, TX

I DO NOT support the education savings account program. My tax dollars are for public schools, they are not to be used for private schools in any form or fashion. Period! Full stop!

Fabian Jacko

Self

DeSoto, TX

School vouchers will destroy our public schools. I am against school vouchers. Vote No.

Hans Lawshe

Self

Spring, TX

Texas House Bill 3 (HB3), the school voucher bill, poses significant risks to public education by diverting critical funding away from public schools and allocating it to private institutions. This would undermine the goal of ensuring all students, regardless of their background or location, have access to a diverse and quality education. By funneling taxpayer dollars into private schools that are not held to the same accountability standards as public institutions, HB3 could exacerbate educational inequality and weaken the resources available to Texas public school students. Investing in public schools directly, rather than promoting vouchers, is a more effective way to improve educational outcomes for all Texas children.

Darlene Piwonka

Self

Austin, TX

No to vouchers! No to privatized education funded by public schools! Public schools are the only entity obligated to provide a free and appropriate public education. Private schools are under no obligation to provide Special Ed- resources and supports that are vital to my child's opportunity to access the curriculum. Keep public schools funded!

Regina Reed
Self - Self Employeed
McKinney, TX

This letter outlines our grave concerns regarding the implementation and expansion of voucher programs in the state of Texas. While voucher programs offer the masked potential to increased parental choice, there are dramatic and significant issues that warrant careful consideration. Taking the following researched based elements into account, I implore you NOT to pass the voucher bill. Private school vouchers:

- do not save taxpayers money. Fewer students does not decrease operating costs for school districts, and M&O. It does decrease the amount of money the public schools have available in their budget. This is why vouchers often result in multi-million dollar deficits and tax increases.
- undermine public schools by diverting resources from public school systems. Public school systems educate ALL students.
- do not improve academic achievement. In most states it has led to declines in academic achievement.
- not lead to improvements in public schools. With fewer resources this further stresses our schools and makes it harder to implement improvements needed.
- do not offer a real choice. Private schools choose which students are allowed to attend their schools. They can accept vouchers but still reject students with vouchers. They do NOT accept all students.
- do not serve or support students with special needs or learning differences. They are not required to follow a student IEP.
- not serve low-income students because of the cost and fees of their school. School fees are often higher than the amount of the voucher.
- often fund poor quality schools. Because of the lack of accountability and oversight private schools that use vouchers often do not have teachers with credentials and they lack proper facilities and teach questionable curriculum.
- do not provide accountability to taxpayers. Most programs do not measure success, student achievement, or to see if they are meeting the minimum educational standards.
- do not provide students with the same rights and protections they would have otherwise had in public schools, such as IDEA, Title VI, Title IX, and the Every Student Succeeds Act. Students who attend private schools are also stripped of their First Amendment, due process, and other statutory rights guaranteed to them in public schools.
- the fundamental principle of religious freedom because they pay for religious education with taxpayer funds. They also threaten the autonomy of religious schools by opening them up to government audits, control, and interference.

Please do not destroy the public education system in the state of Texas. Make a decision that will be best for all kids, not a select few! Voucher programs do NOT help all kids! In Texas, 62% of our counties don't even have a private school option. Please do the right thing for ALL KIDS!

Sincerely,
Regina Reed
Educator for 35 Years
Daughter and Granddaughter of Teachers, Principals, Assistant Superintendents
Mother of 3 and Grandmother of 4

Sara Thompson
Self
Del Valle, TX

As an educator in Texas who has worked hard for ever student I have had for the past 21 years, I am appalled at the measly increase in funding for our public schools which teach over 5 million students. Why will private schools receive \$10,000 per student without all of the stipulations we have to go though in public school? How does sending 100,000 students to private schools help our other 5 million? How will you ensure that TRS will be fully funded when I have been forced to pay in a percentage of my salary for decades? The last couple of years have been so difficult in schools that many have left the profession. We are all covering much more than one job because we have lost staff because of funding issues. Increase the basic allotment for ALL students in Texas. Schools are not for making money-we are educating the future of Texas. Every student should have access to a premier public education in Texas with uncrowded classrooms, counselors and librarians at every school, and a safe place to explore learning. If our state wants cutting edge businesses here, we need to have educated citizens for these future jobs. Thank you.

Nancy Lawrence

Self

Plano, TX

I vote "no."

Nicole Shaheed

NEISD Community Advocates

San Antonio, TX

Our public schools are closing and can barely scrape by on the meager money they receive from the state. PLEASE fully fund our public schools, so that all students in Texas have access to a free and appropriate public education. We need at least \$1300 more per student per year.

Lindsey mcmullen

Self

Grapevine, TX

This is the worst thing that we can do for public schools. We need to pour more funding into the schools not take it away to fund private schools. What happened to supporting teachers? Every turn we are hurting them and in turn our students. I moved to our home so we can go to the public schools. Now we are sending them to the dumpsters. Please rethink this bill. It is not the way to fix this huge problem of education. Let's be better! Let's lead the country in n something besides the worst schools.

Cassandra Speer

Self

Abernathy, TX

I am a public school teacher and a mother to three kids who are also in public school. We live in a small town. I am concerned about the lack of funding that is allotted for public schools. I work every day with kids in our community. Kids who are smart, kind, empathetic, and deserving of the opportunity to learn. Teaching is a hard profession, but it is so very worth it. I work with amazing fellow educators who often spend their own money to buy things for their students. The majority of Texas children will receive their education through public schools. The amount that is given to schools per child is vastly below what is needed to give them each the education they deserve, while also keeping them safe. I value private schools and homeschool education as well. But I am concerned that public education funds have become a pawn in a political game. You and your fellow politicians have a great opportunity to make the right decision for the next generation. Please consider doing what you can to support public education. A quote that I have up in my classroom is "A small act can have a ripple effect. That's how we change the world." Please choose to do the right thing, even if it is hard and not popular with your colleagues. Thank you for your time.

Anita Sigler

self

Manor, TX

"Our school district has been careful with funds, but with no increase in the Basic Allotment in 6 years and other pressures like inflation and increased needs, we have had to let teachers and other vital staff go, increase class sizes, and discontinue programs that are beneficial to our students. I am angry about this; it will affect my child's school experience. I demand that Gov Abbott stop playing games with my child's future and FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. I also demand that you VOTE NO ON THE VOUCHER SCAM so that our limited money and resources can be put to the best use for our students- and we have full accountability and transparency of that money. This issue matters to me and I vote. Thank you."

Judy Moldenhauer
Self/Kindergarten Teacher
Boerne, TX

I oppose HB 3

Writing my state reps to oppose the voucher bill being brought to the Texas public education committee tomorrow:

As a supporter of Texas public schools, I am writing to express my opinion on House Bill 3.

Texas students deserve strong, well-funded public schools. I'm asking that you ensure all schools that receive state funding are held to the same transparency requirements, accountability standards, and enrollment practices as public schools. Please do not support vouchers for Texas schools.

As a life long Texan I attended public elementary, middle school and high school (And even a public Texas university). Public schools are such a force for good that allows all students to excel.

Texas public school teachers are constantly asked to do more with less. But at some point, you can't pour from an empty cup.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Texas public schools.

Noel Monjure, Retired
Self - retired taxpayerp
Cypress, TX

Dear Representatives: Judging by your collective educational achievements against a legislative requirement of zero, I feel certain you understand the importance of making sure that every Texas child receives the necessary education to function, grow, and succeed in the world of today. No one can be left behind for any reason. I was fortunate to receive an excellent education all the way through graduate school. The last achievement was an Executive MBA at the University of Houston. I used my education for a successful career of 53 years in upstream oil & gas. I had lots of help along the way and I am aware that my efforts at every step of the educational ladder were assisted by parents, alumni, city & state resources and teachers. I do have notable honors from my education but firmly believe that all education must be fully funded and firmly provided especially in the earliest years. Fully funded public schools make this an absolute necessity for the children of hard-working Texans across the state. Private schools and religious schools may exist because parents want to isolate their children for many reasons. These reasons should've transparent before Texas taxpayer funds are directed away from public schools. Some reason such as disabilities or learning handicaps are obvious. Separation for other reasons seem to be just on the other side of separation and prejudice. You may say that these reasons are a citizens prerogative. This is a choice made possible by living in the United States of today. However, I am convinced that we must expose our children to the real world of human variety that will greet them when they enter the real world. I am grateful for the many opportunity to succeed that my own education provided me I am also grateful for parents who both fought in World War 2 and married in 1944 He was an airman in the USAAF 8th Air Force and she was in the RAAF at Croydon airbase during the war. I am eternally grateful for my family in Great Britain. The experience of internationalism made it easier to travel for work in the oil industry as well as tourism. I know there are many in the oil & gas world who appreciate those benefits. Education makes it possible for our brains and intelligence to grow and expand and adapt to change. The poorest of the poor in rural Texas may just need the opportunity for a head start before developing into a researcher or a doctor or a soldier that changes the world. We must do everything possible to make that happen Wealthy schools and parents don't really need as much help to give their children the enabling support to teach their potential. They have nice buildings with heat & A/C and plenty of food and clothing. I understand that some may need some assistance but this is not comparable to the need nor the breadth of responsibility demanded by the vast majority of Texas. children. The proposed education savings account cannot move forward until the net result is every child equal.

Jennifer Montelongo Cruz

Self, student

Weatherford, TX

As a college student working in their second university degree who received their K-12 education from a poorly funded public school, this bill raises numerous concerns for kids from low-income families such as myself. My family could barely afford to send me to receive a FREE education much less to receive a private education where the cultural norm includes buying expensive school uniforms and tuition is arguably the same if not higher than a years worth of university tuition. Personally, I would like to raise children in the future but this along with all the other expenses associated with raising a child, turns me away from having any children at all, and I know others who feel the same way. Along with that statement, children who receive/seek higher education are also more educated on sexual education, tend to be above the poverty line, and are less likely to commit crimes. All of which are situations where people are encouraged to seek assistance from taxpayer dollars such as SNAP, WIC, TANF, unemployment, and prisons. If instead, we focused on prioritizing education for all, we could stop the need for government assistance by simply educating the public so that they can make better educated choices to stop them from making decisions that are more likely to put them below the poverty line. This bill alone would not "Keep Texas Beautiful," as the majority of the state is already considered low-income and those who are would not be able to keep their heads above water, and soon this state would resemble a third world country. However, the minority white collar folk would benefit greatly from the increased tax payer dollars as many of them are already donors to these schools which I'm sure they would receive a hefty stipend for being long time supporters. This would also increase the economic disparity between social classes but God forbid the poor actually receive a piece of the pie.

Susan RANDOING, Dr

Susan D. Randoing, Psy.D.

Richardson, TX

I am opposed

Paulette Harrison

self - retired educator (teacher, counselor, administrator)

Mesquite, TX

I ask that you reject HB3 because:

Public tax-payer monies will in many instances be used to support parochial schools which constitutes a violation of the First Amendment of The Constitution of the United States of America.

It was/is public education that has and will continue to make America the great and wonderful country it is. HB3 will, in every instance, divert/take much needed monies from these very same public schools.

Brett Gallagher

Self, CRNA

Lubbock, TX

I am firmly against using any State money to provide opportunities for children to be sent to private or home schools. Most are religious in nature and church and state should be separate entities. They don't have to meet any specific guidelines and the quality of education is extremely varied. Extra money should be spent finding solutions to make the Texas public school system better.

Caroline Cruz

Self

Austin, TX

Property owners in Texas are all required by state law to pay property taxes, which are not fixed, in order to fund public schools regardless if you have children that attend or not. Private school is a choice for people who can afford this option, and we should not be taking away money from those who do not have the option of private school. This seems like common sense if you are going to have zero reformation to the property tax system. Children in public school should not lose resources in order to benefit a group of people opting out. Not to mention, Texas public schools already rank below the National average so doing with less will only exacerbate this issue. Let's use logic here and not permit those with more resources and options to take away from those with less. We cannot support this and must instead choose to support fully funded, high quality public education.

Lisa Vienneau

Self

Austin, TX

I am fully against school vouchers which is masquerading as choice. The only people who will benefit from vouchers are wealthy families and the private schools. It will not serve a majority of Texans. Fund public schools so everyone has access to an education in their own communities. You are strangling the public education system in Texas and it's a bad look. Do the right thing and fund our public education system instead of giving welfare to folks who can already afford to go wherever they choose. Thank you

Elizma Cowle

Self

Frisco, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy. Thank you.

Crystal Riff

Hondo ISD

Hondo, TX

focus on FULLY funding public schools instead of wasting time, money and energy on vouchers. Our rural communities and kiddos deserve better now and in the future

Stephanie LeBlanc, Mrs.

Self

Pearland, TX

My family moved to Pearland, Texas over ten years ago for the amazing school district and community. Our schools need more funding not less. The parent groups work hard to fill in budgeting gaps to ensure we can offer our children the best education opportunities. If you can currently afford to have one or more of your children in a private school, that is as much as college tuition, you don't need a voucher. The voucher plan is an attempt to defund public schools, eliminate community, and make quality education only for the wealthy. These are not American values. Vote NO to vouchers!

Rachel McGuire

Self, Director of Customer Onboarding and Education

Plano, TX

I am a parent of a public school student (8th grade) in Plano ISD. We chose to move to Plano specifically because of the great public schools, as did most of my friends who live here. Since covid especially, I've witnessed up close this administration's relentless campaign to gut public schools in hopes of passing a voucher bill (after multiple failed attempts, because NO ONE WANTS THIS), and I really wish Governor Abbott would spend some time in public school classrooms, so he could SEE the amazing work our teachers and staff are doing despite lack of support from his administration, and to honestly imagine what our public schools could be if the state would simply invest in them with even a fraction of the energy Abbott has for vouchers. If HB3 passes, my family and I would strongly consider moving (with our tax dollars) out of the state, because the trajectory for places that don't fund public education is not a positive one.

This voucher bill is a total scam, and little more than welfare for the wealthy. This bill is not in any way about doing what's right by Texas students, it's about Greg Abbott making his billionaire donors happy. Greg Abbott can cherry-pick sob stories all he wants, the data is clear: taking money away from public schools in order to fund vouchers results in poorer outcomes for the vast majority of students, schools, communities, and state budgets. Greg Abbott: stop trying to make vouchers happen!! Texans do not want this.

Julia Mazurek

self, Pre-K-12 School Principal

Bandera, TX

I am writing to you as a dedicated school administrator serving in a small rural school district in Texas. I urge you to oppose any proposed legislation that would introduce school vouchers and instead focus on fully funding our public schools. As someone who works daily to ensure our students receive the quality education they deserve, I believe school vouchers would have devastating consequences for our rural communities and our state as a whole.

Our rural school district, like many others across Texas, faces unique challenges. We operate with limited resources yet strive to provide a robust educational experience for every student. Introducing school vouchers would siphon much-needed funds away from public schools and direct them toward private institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards. This diversion of funds would be detrimental to students in rural communities, where public schools often serve as the heart of the community and provide critical resources beyond academics, such as meals, counseling, and extracurricular activities.

Rural schools already face staffing challenges, limited access to specialized programs, and resource constraints. Diverting public funds to private institutions will only exacerbate these issues, leaving our students with fewer opportunities to succeed. The proposed voucher system would ultimately benefit families in urban areas with greater access to private institutions while leaving rural families with fewer educational options. For the vast majority of our students, public education is not only their best choice — it is their only choice.

Instead of pursuing school voucher programs, I urge you to prioritize fully funding public education to ensure that all Texas students, regardless of their zip code, have access to high-quality instruction, safe facilities, and necessary resources. Investing in smaller class sizes, increased teacher pay, enhanced mental health services, and improved technology access would make a significant and meaningful impact on student outcomes. Our students deserve better than a system that undermines their educational opportunities by diverting funds away from public schools.

Public education is the cornerstone of our democracy and the foundation of opportunity for all Texas children. As legislators, you have the power to strengthen that foundation by supporting policies that invest in public schools rather than dismantle them.

I urge you to reject any proposed voucher programs and instead commit to fully funding Texas public education. Our students, families, and communities are counting on your leadership to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Krista Diaz, Mrs.

Self; Stay At Home Mom

Austin, TX

Our two children have only attended public school. The oldest was diagnosed with Dyslexia two years post Covid and if it wasn't for the resources in public school we believe she would not be thriving like she does today. We are beyond grateful for the TX teachers they have who are equipped to advocate for my young children in the classroom NOW rather than passing the buck as the get older. It's because of the resources given. Our children need it more than ever because the consequences coming out of Covid are still prevalent. We need to take care of TEXAS public schools before any private entities.

Pamela Cummings

self

Lamesa, TX

This is a terrible bill for the majority of children in Texas. It is being presented to parents as an automatic entry into private schools. This is simply not true. Private schools still get to decide who are allowed in, and the probability of a student who struggles academically, has diagnosed learning disabilities or social/emotional/behavioral disabilities, or has discipline referrals is almost 0. Instead, fund public schools properly and give incentives to get into education so that certified teachers can be hired. Please do the right thing for the majority of Texas children not what helps out the few who can afford private education anyway.

Christopher Lundblade

self, Software Engineer

San Antonio, TX

I was born and raised in San Antonio and happened to receive my K-8th grade education in a Christian private school in town before transferring to Theodore Roosevelt High School for 9th-12th; so I'm able to speak, albeit anecdotally, to the relative merits of both.

In private school I learned a highly biased version of American History from a textbook that framed historic mistreatment of Native Americans as somewhat of a good thing, since many of them ended up converting to Christianity and I was also instructed quite incorrectly that several deist founding fathers of the US were in fact Christians and was subjected to many political screeds from many instructors at an impressionable age. The same school also failed to instruct me regarding the particulars of the theory of evolution (I get that they didn't want to teach me that it's true, but they didn't even accurately convey what it says), and I had teachers who insisted based on paper-thin logic that Climate Change and Global Warming were hoaxes.

By contrast, in public school, I had many wonderful teachers who both respected the religious beliefs of myself and my classmates and challenged me to think in new ways and consider new possibilities without subjecting me to incessant political rants. But most of all they strove to provide us with a great education based on solid information. I was able to take classes in Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Environmental Science, and many other subjects that would never have been available to me at my former school that I still recall fondly to this day.

My experience tells me this: the public is not well served by appropriating public funds for education at institutions like the one I spent my early years in. Such institutions can get away with teaching fake science (many other countries outstrip the US in Science education), fake history and failing to accommodate students with special needs. As a policy, the effects will be as follows: 1. Public Schools will lose funding, 2. a few working families might be able to send a child to a private school, but the price of those schools will increase with the influx of public money, and 3. Texans who are rich enough to send their kids to private schools, will enjoy a discount on something they were already buying. Respectfully, I don't think helping rich people out is an appropriate legislative priority. Texas public schools receive funding based on attendance, and each student lost to private schools will equate to a loss of funding for public schools; that is a loss of funding for educating the overwhelming majority of Texan children and the children of primarily working class parents.

The average Texan is not well-served by de-funding education for the children of average Texans and a subsidizing dubious educations for the children of a select few well-to-do Texans. Such a policy would be bad for our economy and our society and is antithetical to the idea of public education.

Rachel Lerner-Morse

Self

San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3. Vouchers/Educational Savings Accounts will harm our Public Schools that our Governor has done his best to destroy. The people of TX do not want vouchers and if the Governor truly cared what the people wanted he would fund our Public Schools. If a parent wants to send their child to private or parochial school that is certainly their option but not with our tax dollars. Rural communities whose schools depend on the States funding are going to be hurt by this bill as will all those children who are on a 504 or IEP that private schools are not required to take. Governor Abbott does not care about the education of the children in TX, he cares about the donors to his campaign like Jeff Yass from Pennsylvania. Vouchers will not help anyone but those people who already send their children to private schools. It's time for all of you to stand up for our children and vote against vouchers and for Greg Abbott to fully and immediately fund public school education before anymore school districts are forced to close schools. Our district just approved closing 2 Elementary & 1 middle school, my daughter's middle school. The games that Greg Abbott is playing with our Public Schools is hurting all of us. Vote no to vouchers.

Lauren Woodmansee

Self, Product Director and Parent

Roanoke, TX

As a parent of a child with an IEP, I feel it is essential to share my deep concerns about the potential impact of diverting taxpayer money to Education Savings Accounts. My child, like many others, depends on the resources, accommodations, and support that public schools provide, and I believe strongly that our public education system should support all children—regardless of their abilities or challenges.

I am proud to say that my local district, Northwest ISD, works hard to meet the needs of students with disabilities with what they have. Our schools need more funding, not less. Public tax dollars should remain within the public school system, where they can be accounted for and used transparently to serve all students. Northwest ISD's Board of Trustees has already made it clear that they oppose diverting public funds to private entities, and as a parent, I stand behind that position.

I am concerned about the long-term consequences of school-choice programs. We need to think about the sustainability of our education funding, and I fear that diverting money to private schools will eventually put public schools—and the children who rely on them—in jeopardy. When I met with Sen. Tan Parker's educational policy analyst at the PTA Rally Day in February, he made it clear the educational savings accounts are a pilot program. A test and see what happens. Vote now for the Governor's agenda and if it's not popular, we can reverse it down the road. I implore you to not gamble with the future of Texas children in this way. The effects of underfunded public schools will be far-reaching and will outlast your time in office. By the time we go back and try and correct these decisions, it will be too late for the kids who didn't get the support they needed in their critical years.

Public schools educate over 90% of students in Texas, including children like mine who require specialized services and support. Right now, we have a serious funding gap when it comes to providing services for students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). But rather than addressing that gap, there is a push to take funding away from public schools to support private schools—something I strongly oppose. I was there in the audience when Rep. Buckley tried to tell the PTA caucus that public schools just don't work for everyone. That sometimes parents of special needs kids need different options. He was missing the point. Lack of support for kids with disabilities is not a feature of public education. This is a direct result of underfunding schools and skimping on teacher salaries. Of not giving them the resources they need to help those kids with special needs.

Instead of focusing on draining resources from public schools, we need to invest in strengthening those schools for every child. My child, and ALL children, deserve the best education we can provide, and that means more funding for public schools, not less.

Deborah Rubinson

Self/nurse; talent management consultant

Fort Worth, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I was born in Texas and my husband was raised in Texas and attended public schools in Fort Worth. We both received our undergraduate degrees from Texas Christian University. We raised our three children in Fort Worth who all attended public schools and all graduated from colleges in Texas, as did their spouses. We have 11 grandchildren, 9 of which are school age, and several of which may leave Texas due to the quality of public education.

I care about children- all children! I served as a pediatric nurse in Texas for over 30 years caring for critically ill children and their families. My husband cares about children-all children. He is a teacher and coach in the FWISD. He keeps his office stocked with snacks and drinks for students in need, often provides clothes and shoes, and has helped find donors for needed school supplies and equipment.

Texas public schools need to be fully funded. For Texas to be in the bottom 10 states of per-student spending is not acceptable. The use of tax payer funded vouchers for private schools will siphon public dollars from public schools, and without the accountability and transparency required of public schools and with an open door for discrimination. We need the Texas Legislature to support all Texas students and public school teachers. We need to do the right thing for our students, their teachers, and our families. We need to do the right thing for Texas and give Texas a better future with an educated and skilled workforce.

James Aldrich

Self

Georgetown, TX

Private schools do not have to show how money is spent, they are nor required to have the same curriculum as public schools. Parents that want to send students to a private school need to pay it out of pocket. Choosing other than a public school is their own choice. Those who elect private schools most generally have the resources to take that direction.

Tina Rodgers

Self

Breckenridge, TX

I am against using taxpayer dollars to fund private schools. Texas public schools need to be fully funded. Public education is our hope and it is slipping away right in front of our eyes. The people have already spoken. Texans do not want this! You're not fulfilling your role as a public servant and a servant leader if you vote in favor of this bill. It is simply not right. Education reform? Yes. This? No.

Missy Bender
Texas School Coalition
Austin, TX

Chairman Buckley, Vice Chairman Bernal and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments today. The Texas School Coalition represents school districts that contribute to recapture, and we appreciate your service and your dedication to the public education system in Texas. We look forward to working with this committee on a wide range of issues during this session. However, we must respectfully express our opposition to House Bill 3.

Our primary concern with House Bill 3 is that it would allocate taxpayer dollars to private and home schools that do not have the same level of transparency and accountability that our public schools are required to uphold. Unlike traditional public schools, these private institutions would not be subject to key protections such as open meetings, publicly available financial records, or oversight by locally elected boards of trustees. More importantly, these private schools would not be held to the same academic standards and accountability measures as our public school districts.

By diverting public funds to private schools without these essential safeguards, we believe House Bill 3 puts over a billion dollars in taxpayer funds at significant risk. Texans deserve to know how their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent and, equally important, how effectively these dollars are contributing to the education and well-being of our students. Public schools are held to these standards because they are governed by locally elected trustees who are directly accountable to voters. If voters are dissatisfied with how taxpayer resources are being used, they have the power to vote trustees out of office.

Unfortunately, House Bill 3 would remove that recourse for taxpayers whose dollars are allocated to private schools. These private institutions would not have the same accountability measures in place, leaving taxpayers without the ability to hold these schools responsible for how funds are used.

We urge the committee to consider the importance of transparency and accountability in the use of taxpayer money. Public education should remain accountable to the public it serves. We respectfully ask you to support legislation that ensures all schools receiving taxpayer funding are held to the same high standards of accountability.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Missy Bender
Executive Director
Texas School Coalition

Magdalena Jungman
Self
Pearland, TX

Vote NO to school vouchers! Support our public education and all students!

Katherine Fletcher
Self - Project Manager
Houston, TX

Thank you for your service to Texas and attention to this very important issue for the future of our state. I urge you to oppose HB 3 and any use of public money to fund private education.

My mom, myself, and my children are all products of Texas public schools and we thrived and prospered with the benefit of public education. I oppose using our state tax dollars and public coffers to subsidize private education. Our children are our future, and we need every Texas child to be able to get a high quality public education. Shifting money into private schools, takes away money from our hardworking public school teachers and administrators who serve ALL Texans.

Private schools reject many applicants, are not affordable for many students even with vouchers, and are not equally distributed for rural students and students in many lower income areas. Our state will thrive economically if we ensure ALL our students are able to benefit and learn in public schools.

Gina Monson
Self
Denison, TX

This bill must not be passed. Passage will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties, many of which don't have private school availability. Even if private schools were available in all locations, most parents would not be able to afford the difference between the tuition costs and the voucher payment amounts. Public schools will be forced to reduce staff because of the decreased funding. This bill is bad for the Texas taxpayers, public educators, and for the kids in our public school classrooms.

Patricia Ellis
Self
Austin, TX

I am against school vouchers as I strongly feel that they will weaken Texas' already weak public schools. Texas public education is at the bottom of the barrow when compared to other states. We need to invest in public schools and increase the amount spent per student. We need to pay out teachers and assistant teachers more (again Texas ranks low for teacher pay.). It is not a fair argument to say that private schools do a better job because you are comparing apples to oranges. Private schools can and do choose what students attend their school. Private schools do not have to accommodate students with physical and/or learning disabilities. Private schools do not have to transport students. I don't think it is at all fair to fund private schools with school vouchers when public schools are not adequately funded. In addition, private schools do not even exist in many of Texas' rural communities so there is absolutely no benefit of school vouchers for those communities (and there are many of those considering how large Texas is.). Furthermore, I own my own home and have for many years. My children attended public schools and they are all doing well and employed in good jobs. I understand and agree to my obligation to pay taxes to support public schools. I do not want my tax dollars to pay for someone's child to attend a private school, especially if that school is a religious school as religious schools have no business receiving public tax dollars. Thank you, Patricia Ellis

Carolyn Shannon
Self
Austin, TX

I urge you not to pass this bill. Our public schools are broken but this will do nothing to fix them. This measure will harm our schools, our children, and our communities. Vote no!

Jami Watts

Self

Hondo, TX

As an educator with more than 20 years of experience and a parent of a private school student and a public school student, I ask that you commit fully to funding public education. Vouchers will divert much-needed funding away from the rural students who have no access to private school options. This smacks of wealthy politicians offering financial aid to wealthy families, and that's not a good look. Funding public education is the largest single investment you can make in the future of this state. If you love Texas, educate its children. No vouchers.

Donna Hale, Dr

Self

Pampa, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3, which would implement school education savings accounts (ESAs), commonly known as school vouchers, in Texas. While proponents argue that such programs expand educational opportunities, the reality is that voucher programs have failed in other states and would be particularly harmful to rural schools in Texas.

Research from states like Arizona, Indiana, and Wisconsin has shown that school voucher programs do not improve student outcomes. A study of Indiana's voucher program, for example, found that students who transferred from public to private schools using vouchers actually experienced declines in math achievement. Similarly, in Louisiana, students using vouchers to attend private schools performed significantly worse in reading and math than their public school peers. These programs have not delivered on the promise of improved education quality but have instead diverted taxpayer dollars away from public schools with little accountability.

In Texas, school vouchers would disproportionately harm rural communities. Unlike urban areas, where families may have multiple schooling options, many rural communities have only one public school district. When funding is siphoned away through ESAs, rural schools—which already struggle with limited resources—are left with even fewer funds to serve the majority of students. Public schools are the backbone of rural Texas, providing not only education but also community services, extracurricular programs, and workforce development. Weakening these schools would devastate small-town economies and the future of rural Texas children.

Additionally, private schools that accept vouchers are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. They are not required to provide services for students with disabilities, follow the same curriculum standards, or administer state assessments. This lack of oversight means taxpayer dollars could be funding schools that do not meet Texas's educational standards, while public schools are held to rigorous accountability measures.

Instead of diverting public funds to private institutions, I urge you to focus on strengthening our existing public school system by increasing funding for teacher salaries, improving school infrastructure, and expanding programs that directly support student success. Investing in our public schools ensures that every child, regardless of their ZIP code, has access to a high-quality education.

I respectfully request that you oppose HB 3 and any efforts to implement a school voucher system in Texas. Public funds should remain in public schools, where they serve all students equitably. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Texas students and communities.

Nancy Pontius

Self receptionist

Aubrey, TX

I oppose HB3 as it stands. There are strings attached to this money for parents.

Johanna Waters

Self

Austin, TX

Public education is a critical right of children in our state. Vouchers and charter schools seek to defund the public institutions that serve the vast majority of students in this state. We are falling behind in education leading to economic loss for our state. Vouchers, charters, and the general defunding of public K-12 education does nothing but guarantee failure for our next generation of Texans. If you give even the slightest shit about the children of our state you would allocate MORE funds to public education not less. To do anything else is to state clearly that you do not have the public interest in mind and instead are excited to take money from the vultures that run charter and private education options. It has been proven in research across the board that access to education impacts public health, economics, and general public welfare. Access especially to girls, to poor children, to children whose parents did not get the chance to access education themselves gives children the access to opportunities to better themselves, their families, and our communities. I do not have children myself and yet I am so invested in public education as a right because we are not wholly separate beings. To improve the lives of our neighbors is to improve our own lives, we are a community and an ecosystem of people. I want to be able to see my neighbors thrive as they grow and work with them to make Texas the greatest place to live it can be. It starts with education and literacy.

Jose Flores

Self

Elgin, TX

I received an excellent education and graduated from Texas public schools. I have two sisters in laws and a niece who now teach in Texas public schools. They and their students have suffered from lack of proper funding of public schools for the last few years. Please do not further erode Texas schools with public school vouchers by using public dollars for private education which will be a further drain on our public schools.

Katie Maxwell

Self

Abilene, TX

I strongly oppose education savings accounts. School vouchers do not belong in Texas.

Dayle Aldrich

self

Georgetown, TX

We OPPOSE Vouchers!

Our Public Schools have been neglected for 5 years - DO NOT send Public dollars to Private Schools.

Kelly Ausley-Flores

Self

Elgin, TX

I received an excellent education and graduated from Texas public schools. I have two sisters/aunts and a niece/cousin who now teach in Texas public schools. They and their students have suffered from lack of proper funding of public schools for the last few years. Please do not further erode Texas schools with public school vouchers by using public dollars for private education which will be a further drain on our public schools.

Daron White

Self

Wimberley, TX

This would ruin public education and favor only the wealthy. Education is not and should not be a for profit business. It is the obligation of the state and community to educate ALL of its citizens regardless of income, race, gender, or religion. This bill, if passed, would undermine communities that depend heavily on funding for public education. Funds would be diverted to private and unregulated institutions thereby harming public schools and students. Do not pass this bill.

Laura Smith

Self

Plano, TX

I retired from teaching school in Plano ISD several years ago. I am also a native born Texan who attended public schools and received an excellent education. It saddens me to see how our governor, lieutenant governor, and many of our state legislators have pushed to divert public tax dollars to support vouchers and private schools. First, I pay taxes to the state, and my tax dollars should go to the responsibilities of the state government, including the education of 5.5 million public school students. I do not want my taxes to go to private schools. There are a number of reasons why I do not want my tax dollars to go to private schools. Private schools have no accountability or transparency while teaching religion in the process. They are not held to the same standards as public schools. Vouchers also violate the constitutionally protected public trust of universal education for all children as well as religious liberty. Vouchers undermine the public school financial system. I am also concerned for students who live in rural areas. These students should have the same educational opportunities as students who live in cities and urban areas. Lastly, what about those students with physical and learning differences? Our tax dollars need to support all the students in Texas through the public school system.

Nina Johnson

Self

Leander, TX

I urge you to vote no on House Bill 3. My two teenagers are the product of an excellent education by the Leander Independent School District. We are particularly happy with the band program at their school. It's helped them grow into responsible, caring, dedicated people. It's helped them develop leadership skills. I don't know where we'd be without the band program. My son was admitted to several top tier colleges this year. This is because he's had an excellent education. We support public education. We support LISD teachers. Please put funding toward public school; not private vouchers. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sylvia MacLean

Self, Sales

Blanco, TX

I live in a rural county. Vouchers will kill the local, public schools. It will only help parents that can already afford to send their kids to private schools.

Vote no on this bill. It is bad for all of us

Thank you

Laura Coomber

Self

Dallas, TX

I am against HB 3. Public schools need to be strengthened so ALL Texas students can excel. With that billion dollars our government should be working to create public school programs and experiences.

The measure is obviously unpopular with voters, especially those in rural areas that don't have access to private schools. Private schools aren't required to provide accommodation for disabled students. Poor families that might want to access the program in most cases wouldn't get enough to actually cover all private tuition costs if they even got accepted. Higher income families already have plenty of options and don't need to be sucking money out of the public school budget.

Obviously rich benefactors are encouraging Texas politicians to make moves that don't benefit the constituents they pledged to support. I won't vote for anyone who supports this bill.

Kristen Hood, Dr.

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed education savings account program in Texas. The establishment of an educational savings program will divert essential funding away from our public schools, which serve the majority of Texas students. Public schools are already facing financial challenges, and siphoning resources to fund private education undermines the quality of education for all students, particularly those in underserved communities. Additionally, vouchers do not guarantee improved educational outcomes and can exacerbate existing inequalities by allowing only certain families to benefit. It is crucial that we invest in strengthening our public education system rather than diverting funds to private institutions. I am wholly opposed to this bill passing. Please listen to your constituents and do not pass this bill.

Sara Farmer

Self, Writer and SAHM

Austin, TX

In my early 20s, I was in favor of vouchers. I went to Catholic school until 8th grade and I saw what a struggle it was for my parents' to afford it at times.

Now that I am in my 40s and have three children attending school in RRISD, I can't believe I was ever in favor of the vouchers. The students, teachers, staff, and families do so much to keep the schools safe, friendly, and fun when possible. Their education has been excellent and the staff and teachers have worked so hard to help my two kids with special needs access a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), and have supported and encouraged all three kids.

The public schools teach the vast majority of Texas students. They receive no tuition money. They don't receive enough funding as it is and don't deserve to lose any of it to private schools. I know they struggle at times as well, but they are not the only option for those families, as public school is for others.

Every child deserves a good education. Teachers shouldn't have to pay for supplies for their students, especially when they don't make even close to enough for the job they do. They are shaping the next generation while not making enough money and worrying about getting shot. They are heroes. We adults are all where we are, thanks to teachers.

I have never seen as much passion for teaching and education as I have in my children's schools. They deserve that. In voting against HB3, you are voting for the public schools, which are our foundation and our future.

Kerstin Hellwege

Self

Roanoke, TX

I am a retired Texas Public school teacher. I am also a Texas taxpayer, and I profusely, condone education vouchers. I do not wish my tax dollars to go towards education, vouchers of any kind. Governor is very wrong in assuming that school vouchers will improve the education level in Texas my tax dollars need to go towards public schools only.

Priya Kothari
Self, Parent, Leander ISD
Austin, TX

I live in Austin, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Priya Kothari

Jennifer Spisak
Self - public school teacher
Katy, TX

Subject: Opposition to Texas House Bill 3 – School Vouchers Harm

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas House Bill 3 regarding school vouchers. While proponents claim that vouchers offer more educational opportunities, they ultimately harm Texas children and our public education system. Here are five key reasons why:

1. Diverts Public Funds from Public Schools – Vouchers take taxpayer money away from public schools, which serve the vast majority of Texas students. Instead of improving struggling schools, this bill would weaken them further by reducing funding.
2. Lack of Accountability for Private Schools – Unlike public schools, private schools receiving vouchers are not held to the same academic standards, teacher certification requirements, or financial transparency, making it difficult to ensure quality education.
3. Exacerbates Educational Inequality – Vouchers primarily benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition, while low-income students are often left with insufficient funds to cover tuition and other costs. This worsens existing disparities rather than addressing them.
4. Fails to Guarantee Better Educational Outcomes – Studies from states with voucher programs show mixed to negative results in student achievement. Public schools have more oversight, support systems, and experienced educators dedicated to student success.
5. Undermines Rural Schools – In rural areas, where private school options are limited or nonexistent, vouchers provide no real choice. Instead, they drain resources from the only available educational institutions—public schools that serve entire communities.

Texas should focus on strengthening public education, increasing teacher pay, and ensuring all children have access to high-quality schools rather than diverting funds to private institutions with little oversight. I urge you to vote against HB 3 and invest in solutions that truly benefit Texas students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Spisak
Public school teacher
Houston, TX

Denise Bennett
self/public educator
Fort Worth, TX

Say NO to vouchers! Public tax payers money belongs to public education. No voucher. No voucher. Please & thank you!

Francisco Perez
Self
San Antonio, TX

Public funds should go to public education!!! No to vouchers!!!

Mary Piehl
Self/ Retired Teacher /Grandparent
Tomball, TX

This bill will be detrimental to public education, and it does not fulfill TX constitutional requirements. This movement certainly reeks of questionable motives for many politicians who are pushing it through. Educators (who truly know the difficulties inherent to teachers and students) want what's best for all Texas children. The prospect of vouchers/ESAs was brought to the voters and it failed. If this is truly a sincere effort to help Texas children, let the voters decide, once and for all!

Aimee Johnson
Self/Public school teacher
Athens, TX

I'm asking that you fully fund public schools. Please work to improve public education instead of giving public tax dollars to private schools/homeschools.

* if public dollars go to private schools they should be held to the same accountability standards as public school. Testing standards, teaching SPED students, requiring certified teachers(or working toward certification).

Allison Watkins
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I am very much opposed to this bill. This bill would drain nearly \$30 million dollars from my already underfunded ISD. My stepdaughter has an IEP and would not be able to get the services she needs at a private or charter school. Her school has been a huge support for her and she has advanced greatly because of this environment. I am concerned she will have few opportunities to access education and a meaningful career in the future.

Michele Hercules

Myself

Salado, TX

Chairperson and esteemed members of the committee,

I am here today to express my strong support for Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and their positive impact on families, students, and the future of education.

ESAs provide parents with the flexibility and freedom to choose the best educational path for their children, whether that be private school, homeschooling, specialized tutoring, or other educational resources. Every child learns differently, and ESAs empower families to tailor their education to fit individual needs, ensuring that no student is left behind due to a one-size-fits-all system.

In states where ESAs have been implemented, we have seen firsthand how they help students access better opportunities, especially those from low-income families or children with special needs. Parents are able to invest in high-quality curriculum, adaptive learning technologies, or targeted support that directly addresses their child's academic challenges. This leads to better educational outcomes and fosters a culture of accountability where schools must meet the needs of families to earn their trust and funding.

Moreover, ESAs promote competition, which drives innovation in education. Schools and education providers are incentivized to improve their services, leading to higher standards and better student achievement. At a time when many traditional public schools struggle with overcrowding, underfunding, or rigid curricula, ESAs offer a solution that benefits students without taking away opportunities from others.

Opponents of ESAs argue that they divert money from public schools, but the reality is that these accounts ensure funding follows the student, not the system. Public education should not be about protecting institutions—it should be about ensuring every child receives the education that best suits their needs. When families have more options, all schools are encouraged to improve, creating a rising tide that lifts all students.

I urge this committee to support ESAs as a means of expanding educational opportunity, empowering families, and fostering a system where every child can thrive. Education is not just about access—it is about quality, and ESAs ensure that parents, who know their children best, can make informed decisions about their future.

Thank you!

Kendall Widner

Self

Austin, TX

Fully fund public schools without exception. Vote no to ESAs. I am a public school special education teacher and beyond me not getting a livable wage as a highly qualified professional, my students deserve fully funded public schools and access to an equitable education as mandated by federal law.

Sarah Gibson

Public education

Lubbock, TX

Vouchers are not supported by Texas PEOPLE. We voted against it and it is being ignored.

Neva Williams

Self

Austin, TX

If I chose to send my child to a private school, I can afford to do so. However, I am definitely against HB3 because it will keep a fully funded, high quality education out of the reach of the majority of Texas children. All children deserve a quality education and HB3 will hurt the future of these children and hurt the future of Texas.

Wendy Ripley

Self, homemaker

Round Rock, TX

I am a mother to three children currently in the Round Rock ISD school system. My children have also previously attended Leander ISD schools. My husband and I are graduates from Texas public schools. I have seen first hand how vitally important public schools are for Texas children. I have seen evidence from other states that leads me to believe that the creation of education savings accounts will disproportionately divert important funds away from public schools and therefore hurt all Texas students, but especially the most vulnerable children in our state. In Florida and Arizona, we have seen that these programs place an even greater strain on public school funding, leading to cuts in school maintenance and staffing. In Arizona, this program has ballooned the state budget, which has led to an unstable budget deficit and creating uncertainty for the state. In Iowa, two-thirds of scholarship recipients were already attending private schools, which makes me concerned that these programs are unfair and ineffective in actually giving low income families any school choice. Texas schools are already struggling with under funding. Texas ranks towards the bottom in per pupil spending by state. Inflation and the cost of living has increased significantly since Covid, meanwhile Texas schools haven't received an increase in state funding since 2019. This program will leave our public schools with fewer resources. If Texas goes down this path, it risks falling behind the rest of the country. A strong public education system benefits not just students but entire communities - well funded schools raise property values, attract top talent, and encourage businesses to invest in our state. The states with the best student outcomes are those that prioritize funding for public schools over private ones. Investing in public education is essential for economic growth, workforce development, and the overall success of Texas. While I understand that school choice is important to some, it should not come at the expense of the quality education our public schools provide to all students, regardless of background. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Stacey Chase

Self

Spring, TX

Public money should go to public schools. Our public schools have been starved of funding for too long. Our teachers, students, and communities deserve better. There is plenty of evidence of other states passing ESA's / vouchers that show no improvement, and even decreases, in student outcomes while incurring significant overruns. There is absolutely no good reason to pass these until your intention is to destroy public schools with the intent to steal public money and shift it to a few in the private school business.

Emily Johnston

Self -CPA

Grapevine, TX

I am opposed to this legislation. It will divert much needed funds from public schools and will only benefit those who already can afford private school. School choice already exists. Parents can choose public, private or homeschool.

This legislation will not help families who truly need a different path to education. We need to be investing in public schools to make them better.

Linus Watt

Self

Dallas, TX

As a student at one of many amazing Texas public schools, I ask you to have the courage to vote for the future of 5.5 million Texan students and not the self absorbed interests of a few outsider billionaires.

Alexandra Falco

Self

Austin, TX

This is a waste of taxpayer money. It's a gift to funnel money to the hands of the wealthy. It does not help the general public and it does not better public education. I urge you to reject this bill.

Liza Serna

None

Austin, TX

I'm oppose cutting public school funds

Megan Howard

Self/Human Resources

New Braunfels, TX

Please do not vote for school vouchers to go into effect. They are more harmful than good for the children in Texas. Those that need special accommodations, special education, or simply fall below the poverty line WILL NOT thrive under vouchers.

Carol Cooper

Self

Garland, TX

No no no no. No public money for private education. No matter what you may innocent name you call it

Angela McCall

Self

Dallas, TX

The voucher system is the antithesis of what we are as Texans. HB3 not only is blatantly re-segregating our children, but it is a direct attack on our public schools. Not all of us are "private school" people. My children went to school in Snyder, TX, and then in Allen, TX--the public schools, where they got a great launch to being responsible adults. Please hear us. This does not represent a strong state with high ideals and opportunities for all.

Robin McNeill

Self

Lubbock, TX

As a retired school administrator in Texas, I am not for vouchers at all. The only thing this plan does is take much needed money from public education. I could list all the reasons why this is not a good plan for anyone, but I'm certain you have heard them all, even if you choose to ignore them.

The bottom line is, y'all will do whatever you want despite what the majority of voters want. The ballot option was worded in such a way to get votes from people who don't even have kids in school.

As someone who has devoted my life to serving students and their families, I am saddened by the current government in Texas. Parents already have a choice. The ones with means can already send their kids to private schools. What about small districts that don't have that option? I graduated from a rural district with 19 in my class. Private school wasn't an option. In no way does this provide for all kids. But it's not supposed to. It's supposed to help out the Tim Dunn's of the state—they obviously don't have enough money yet, and this is a clever albeit crooked way to line their pockets a bit more.

It's been made crystal clear that poor families and families with special needs do not matter to the state of Texas. This whole process has been manipulated to ensure that y'all get your way and you will, no doubt.

I would encourage you and any other politician in the state to come spend one day on a public school campus. That is beneath you, it seems. The only good news I can hope for as an educator is that all the constituents who are negatively affected by this farce vote each of you out the next time you're up for re-election. I still don't understand what anyone hopes to gain in improving Texas education by this method—at least where the success of all children is concerned. I get that the current private school students will get a coupon. It will be interesting to see what happens when private schools increase their tuition as well.

This administration is an embarrassment to every public school educator in the state. So no, I'm not interested in your definition of school choice. I am, however, interested in the people's choice to vote you and any other current politician out, so that our students can have a fighting chance. With this regime, neither students nor public educators have a snowball's chance and the future of Texas' workforce is bleak.

It's terrifying to any current public educator what is about to happen with your vouchers. But one thing I can take some solace in is that there is no tougher group of people than public school teachers and administrators. We roll with every ridiculous, undeserved punch that gets thrown at us. I hope y'all can do the same when the next election comes up for each of you.

Sarah Deller

self

Longview, TX

I strongly oppose education savings accounts ("vouchers") in any form. In order to protect what our founding fathers fought so hard to ensure we **MUST** provide a **FREE** and public education to **ALL**. I have worked in private, charter, and public schools so I have a perspective from all. For my children I **CHOOSE** to send them to a public school. I **CHOOSE** a school where we do not reside in the attendance zone. I **CHOOSE** to pay a transfer fee so my children can go to the school I **CHOOSE**. I have made this choice for 7 years. Parents in Texas have a choice, we have always had a choice. Introducing vouchers is not going to positively impact parent's choice, but it will hurt our local community schools. ISDs across the state are preparing to cut programs critical to the growth and well-being of our children. We **MUST** fight to keep our local public schools funded and say a strong and decisive **NO** to vouchers in any form. Please protect the most vulnerable in Texas, our children with vote **AGAINST** HB3.

Karen Bagley

Self Mentoring Teacher for First Year Teachers

Galveston, TX

Please do not betray the children of the state of Texas by supporting this bill. Children of poverty, as well as all those children who depend on public education in order to learn needed concepts and achieve their dreams, will suffer irreparably if this bill passes. Please be brave and support our children.

Justin Neth
Self
Richardson, TX

Strongly opposed to education savings account programs. Vote no on HB 3 please.

Kelly George
Self
Austin, TX

As a mom of three children in Dripping Springs ISD, I am appalled this is still being considered when it is blatantly obvious it is not what Texans want. How is this seriously being considered when there is no data to support that it will be effective and only a very small minority are in support of it? Your job is to REPRESENT your people. Your people want the state to invest in public education, not vouchers.

Robert Fait
Self
Sealy, TX

No to vouchers! No public tax funds for private schools. Bill does not have funding sustainability. Fully fund public schools. Vouchers have become an idol for lawmakers. Money, power, and politics have become more important than 5.5 million students. Let citizens of Texas VOTE on any voucher proposal. You have pledged to support public schools. This bill will take money from public schools! Accountability-private schools don't have to take all students. Where is common sense in our lawmakers?

Zainab Tinwala
Self
Coppell, TX

DO NOT VOTE FOR THIS BILL. We need to make Texas as one of the BEST public school states and not among the worst educated. Give more money to the schools to enable high quality top notch programs

Christy Wilbanks
Precinct Chair #414 Killeen Texas
Killeen, TX

I am for School Choice because our children are worth it and deserve it!

Nancy Clayborn
Self teacher
Newcastle, TX

I am against this bill as it gives taxpayer funded education dollars to private entities with no oversight on curriculum, teacher performance or student achievement. This is a wrongheaded and expensive program to increase segregation on economic and cultural lines on our schools. Please vote against this bill.

Karla Canada
Self
Abilene, TX

I am extremely opposed to vouchers or school choice as it's falsely called. This plan will hurt public schools and weaken TRS retirement funds despite the claims of state lawmakers. The plan will also create segregation of students. Do not let this harmful bill pass. Legislators need to listen to constituents rather than wealthy donors. Fully fund public schools and put a stop to Gov Abbott holding funds hostage until he and his deep pocket donors get their way. Passage of this bill will result in irreparable harm to our schools, teachers and children. I want my comments to be on the record as against any type of school voucher program. State money is for public schools. Why do you want to fund private businesses with state money? There are hidden agendas among Republican politicians. Stop the madness & vote NO on the use of taxpayer money for private schools!!!

Crystal Norman, Ms.

CVPE

Houston, TX

No vouchers

Mary Anne Marshall, Mrs

Self / Registered Nurse

Houston, TX

Vote against all school vouchers. We want a high quality and fully funded public school system for all children!!

Janice McDonald

Citizen

Abilene, TX

I am against the school voucher program. I was a public school teacher for 27 years and feel this would weaken our public school system irreparably. Please keep our public schools strong but voting against education saving accounts.

Yvette Paredes-Gonzales

Self

Castroville, TX

No to vouchers!!

Morgan Leal

Self/Educator

Fort Worth, TX

Vote "no" for HB 3. This bill will punish public education for the empty promise of making private education "more accessible". No state that has vouchers has seen an improvement in K-12 education overall. Vouchers in every other state has lead to students already paying private school tuition receiving a "grant". The bill doesn't have the funding, doesn't have accountability and will further punish public schools. Gov. Abbott stated this wouldn't impact HS football, but it already has. The funds he withheld to try and pass ESA's last session has lead to almost every district making cuts across the board. For the sake of our children and the future of Texas, ESA's cannot pass into legislation.

Rachel Paddie

Self

Center, TX

No to vouchers! Fund education for all students.

Justin Howard

Self

Belton, TX

I am for school choice

Thomas Hokanson

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote against school voucher bill HB3. No matter how the discussion is framed, this bill is designed take money from public schools and poor people and hand it to rich people. The incredibly sad thing is that the amount of money that would be handed over to rich people is far greater than what is currently spent on public school students. This is clearly a bill that will further divide the rich and poor.

Jamie Riding
Self
McKinney, TX

Private school vouchers should only be considered after ensuring public schools have been appropriately funded. Most families who will benefit from private school vouchers can already afford for their children to attend without the voucher. Those that this bill proposes to target will not be able to afford private school even with a voucher. State funds should be responsibly used to benefit the majority of the children, not a select few. You as our elected officials have a duty to make decisions that have the interest of the majority of your constituents in mind. You as elected officials should not be making decisions based on the interest of those who donate the most money to your political office nor should you be making decisions based on your own personal beliefs or interests. I urge you to vote no on this bill as it does not positively benefit the majority of Texans.

Lori Stover
Self
Amarillo, TX

I do not support any use of public funds being used for private school tuition.

Susana Carranza, Dr.
self/retired engineer
Austin, TX

I am Dr. Susana Carranza, I live in Austin, TX and I oppose HB 3. One more time, the governor is trying to push vouchers onto Texas taxpayers. Vouchers are so unpopular that lawmakers had to rename the effort, now calling it Education Savings Account (ESA) as a way to rebrand it. Multiple states that have implemented vouchers are seeing the damage done to the state budget without measurable benefits to show for. Why would we want to do that here in Texas?

I don't oppose private schools. What I oppose is using taxpayer money to subsidize them. Even though I don't have kids, I don't mind paying taxes to public education to all Texans. But I do mind when my tax dollars get used to subsidize families going to private schools. If private schools want to give opportunities to students who cannot afford the tuition, they can make their case to private donors. If the schools cannot demonstrate their value to philanthropists, why should we as taxpayers be stuck with the bill?

Public schools per student allotment has not been adjusted for inflation in many years, causing districts to operate with below par budgets. In 2023, instead of using TX's large budget surplus to help bridge the funding gap in public schools, the governor held funding hostage and called multiple special sessions to force the lawmakers to pass vouchers.

I urge this committee to reject HB 3. It is time for the Texas Legislature to do the right thing, fully fund public schools, and stop wasting time on ESAs, vouchers, or whatever future disguise of these blatant attempts to route our taxpayer money to private school vendors.

Kimberly Monteverdi
Self
Schertz, TX

Praying our representatives truly consider the consequences of this bill. School vouchers will not help our children. It will only further create a divide in the level of education our less fortunate will receive. Instead we should create a bill that increases our support for public schools.

Kailey Smith
Self
Austin, TX

I am against HB 3. Texans do not want our tax money to pay for private education. Our public schools create community.

Audrey Barnett
Self, registered nurse
Houston, TX

I do not support school vouchers. Private schools are not required to accept poor or disabled students. Private, religious, and home schools are not accountable to the state. Studies of similar programs found that voucher money largely goes to students ALREADY in private schools. Even with a school voucher program, we cannot afford to send our child to private school because we cannot afford any extra expenses. School vouchers would defund the public school my child is going to attend this year while making life easier for parents who can already afford to choose to send their children to private school. Please do not cheat our children out of an education and punish families for economic hardships.

Lissa Harris
McKinney ISD
Princeton, TX

Dear Members of the Texas Legislature,

I write to you today to express my profound opposition to House Bill 3 (HB 3), introduced by Representative Brad Buckley, which proposes the establishment of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program in Texas. While the intent behind this bill may be to provide families with greater educational choices, I firmly believe that its implementation would have detrimental effects on our public education system, exacerbate existing inequalities, and fail to deliver on its promises to Texas families.

Impact on Public School Funding

One of the most pressing concerns regarding HB 3 is its potential to divert essential funds away from public schools. Public education in Texas is already underfunded, and reallocating resources to support private schooling through ESAs would further strain the system. A recent poll indicates that 78% of voters believe Texas public schools are underfunded and support increased funding for reducing class sizes and boosting teacher pay.

The proposed ESA program would allocate approximately \$10,000 per child, with an initial budget of \$1 billion, enabling roughly 100,000 students to participate in its first year. This substantial allocation raises concerns about the sustainability of funding for public schools, which serve the majority of Texas students.

Insufficient Support for Low-Income Families

Proponents of HB 3 argue that ESAs would empower low-income families to choose better educational options for their children. However, the reality is that the proposed \$10,000 voucher would be insufficient to cover the full cost of private school tuition, which often exceeds this amount. Consequently, low-income families may still find private schooling financially inaccessible, rendering the ESA program ineffective in achieving its intended goal of equitable educational opportunities.

Lack of Accountability and Oversight

Private schools receiving funds through ESAs are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. They are not required to administer state assessments, adhere to state curriculum standards, or publicly report student performance data. This lack of oversight raises concerns about the quality of education that students might receive under the ESA program and diminishes transparency for taxpayers.

Potential for Increased Segregation

Without requirements for private schools to accept all students, there is a risk that ESAs could lead to increased segregation within the education system. Private institutions may choose to admit only certain students, potentially excluding those with disabilities, behavioral challenges, or lower academic performance. This selective admission process could result in a more divided educational landscape, undermining the principles of inclusivity and equal opportunity.

Public Opposition

It is important to note that a significant majority of Texas voters oppose the implementation of a private school voucher program.

Gautam Penumetcha

Self - engineer

Austin, TX

I am vehemently opposed to SB 2/HB 3 and any school voucher program funded with taxpayer dollars. This bill will not support every school aged child in Texas, only a small few. Voucher programs have proven ineffective in many studies and evidenced by other programs in other states. With funding for less than 2% of Texas students, it's clear this isn't about choice, but providing a taxpayer funded coupon for the few. I am asking you to vote no - and to instead fully fund public education. The Texas State Legislature has not increased funding for public education since 2019. A voucher program funneling public tax dollars to private institutions will not solve our education gaps. Thank you.

Johanna Van Nijkerk

Self, VICE PRESIDENT of SALES, Cigna Healthcare

Southlake, TX

Vote this garbage bill down. This is being pushed down our throats now several times and neither side of your constituents want this. We all see what you're trying to do. Abbotts wife running a private school will benefit, we have great schools, stop this corrupt tax money grab. That's all it is..

I have 3 kids in these great public schools and we all see right thought this scam. Stop the corruption if you have any integrity left whatsoever...

Stop this school takeover attempt and maybe instead of trying to place the Ten Commandments and force Christianity on all kids, focus on supporting your teachers, your neighbors, your kids!

Blythe Koch

HPISD

Dallas, TX

The education savings account program should be structured in a way that it truly benefits those who do not have suitable educational opportunities. If it ends up in the hands of those who already have a suitable choice, it does nothing to improve education for Texas students and is a waste of taxpayer money.

The current proposed bill does not take into account the performance of the public school the student attends or is eligible to attend. Also, if a parent is already able to pay for private school, the government does not need to spend additional money to educate these students. Those outside of the low income brackets should not be eligible. Governmental money needs to be directed to those who truly do not have a suitable choice because their public school is not performing well (or they have special needs) AND they cannot pay for private school because of their income. This is how it will truly help those who need it, instead of going to those who don't need the help. If the amount allocated is not used by those in need, the program needs to be reevaluated or restructured.

The bill also needs to be structured in a way that gives future governments the ability to limit the size to what the government can afford. The current draft of HB3 guarantees that everyone on the wait list will receive funding in the next round. This could set up a budget disaster if the government does not have the funds it expects to have in the next round. It also guarantees that everyone on the wait list from the previous round who had no financial need will receive funds the next round. This is the opposite of fiscal responsibility.

Also, please guarantee that no recapture funds can be used to go towards ESAs. The purpose of the recapture program is to help other public schools, not private schools. Recapture funds should only be used for their intended purpose.

Lastly, please include a guarantee that a certain amount of money will continue to go into the public school system. The vast majority of Texas students will continue to rely on public schools, and they need to be improved, not abandoned. Adequate funding for public schools needs to be guaranteed, as it is required by the Texas constitution. An ESA program should not compete with or jeopardize that.

Emily Tankersley

Self

Tarpley, TX

Please don't sell our public schools short. Texas is a great state and we can make it better with a strong public education system. As a Mom of a rural student with big dreams, we depend on our local school. Our teachers need your help and resources. Thank you!

Diann McCabe

LWV-Hays Co

San Marcos, TX

I once visited a very good private school, thinking the environment there would benefit our son who struggled to read due to dyslexia and ADHD. The private school I visited was very good and very expensive, but the person I spoke to about my son said the school would not be able to provide accommodations for him such as having tests and texts read to him, as he had in our public school.

Luckily, we kept our son in the San Marcos High School where he was able to take an excellent class on Sisco Systems, learning about networking and computers, eventually securing a job in town putting this skill to work. He ended up graduating from college and now has a very good job putting all of these skills to work.

Vouchers for private schools divert state tax dollars from our neighborhood public schools to private businesses. The private businesses are the ones with choice: the choice not to accept a student with special needs. In addition, funding vouchers will suck funding from public schools which serve our communities, providing accommodations where needed, as well as investing in sporting events, the arts, and many other ways for our community to thrive. Vote NO on HB 3.

Please increase funding for public schools so Texas can be a stronger state in the eyes of the nation and the world. By not adequately funding our public schools, the Texas Legislature will further disable our community cohesion and wellbeing, marking a downfall in how we see ourselves as strong communities working together for the good of all.

Megan Li

Self, teacher

Grapevine, TX

Dear education committee, I urge you to keep an open mind and vote NO on the passage of HB3. This bill will irreparably damage education as a whole, not just public education. I have done very extensive research on this topic to try to understand why our governor seems so determined to pass this legislation. My conclusion is that he has profited financially and stand to profit even more with the passage of this. However, that is not the whole story. This will lead to more and more government control over education and more data collection over our students (the big end goal), leading to less freedom and less quality in the education afforded to the average Texan, in particular those with low income or special needs. I have a vested interest in this as I am a fine arts educator myself. My own job has already been affected by the dire lack of education funding. After a track record of 18 years of success my district, Frisco ISD, is eliminating the program. I am also very concerned about my daughter's future. She is enrolled in special education on an IEP and has had a successful 4 years so far in public school. She currently receives the supports she needs to be successful but I worry that with the push toward privatization I can't count on her future needs being met. This is an injustice to those in our society that are often overlooked and fought so hard to access the same rights to an education that all children deserve. Please take a hard look at the facts, including evidence that state who have had a voucher system in place, like FL and AZ have not seen the rise in academic performance that was promised. Additionally, the voucher primarily go to higher income families who can already afford private school. The majority of Texans DO NOT support this bill!!! Do not listen to the governor. Read any of the comment threads on his posts in support of this and you'll see that I'm right. Listen to your constituents on both sides of the aisle please. Both republicans and democrats DO NOT support a voucher system in our state. At least put it to a vote before you do anything. Thanks, Megan Li

Eric Roop
Self
Austin, TX
Do not pass!

Julia Neff, Educator
Self
Canton, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Gary Hazelip, Mr
Self
Frisco, TX

I am firmly against HB3 as it stands! This bill is about School Control and not choice. Any bill that ties funding to control of the curriculum taught will be subject to state manipulation of said curriculum. Today, parents are in full control of the curriculum and what is taught.

Allie Sauls
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Leanna Johnson
Self, Registered Nurse
Pflugerville, TX

VOTE NO TO VOUCHERS.

As a registered nurse who works with and attends school with my patients — children with special needs and disabilities — I have seen firsthand how important the public school system is for my patient population. These children deserve to have access to education as much as any able-bodied, neurotypical student does, and the voucher system would remove the legal protections and systems which are currently in place that ensure their access to education.

Jennie Hoefling
Self/ self employed
Austin, TX

I oppose HB3 bc I want our public schools to succeed and I don't want to give our tax money to rich parents who can already afford private school without it.

Mary Simpson
Self parent
Mansfield, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Angela Allen, Ms
Retired Teacher
Humble, TX

School voucher program will further divide students and not address. Their individual needs. Some teachers may need resources to teach students whether it's kinesthetic, audio, or visual. Students learn in small groups. I have seen a lot of students come to school in kindergarten that did not know their alphabet letters or songs, but they were taught them so that they could move on to the next level. I don't agree with the budget program, but I agree having pre-K for students that need that extra time to learn. All students won't be able to go to the voucher program so there's a day service right there.. if all students are not able to go to a private school then it defeats the purpose of a school voucher. Vote NO

Mike Leminger
Self/Teacher
Carrollton, TX

I am opposed to this bill as it is written. Before an ESA/Vouchers program can be addressed, we must first fully fund the public schools in the state of Texas & the over 5 million students who attend them. Pursuing any ESA bill first over this shows the citizens of our great state that our state government leaderships priorities are not in order. It is imperative that the state of Texas fully fund the public schools (which they do not currently) and give meaningful pay increases to teachers, and bring both up at least the average of the other 50 states first. Those two items should be the first priorities, so address those issues first.

Daniel Kryzanowski
self
Austin, TX

It is actually quite simple. Public tax money should be allocated to PUBLIC schools (100% of these funds). Private endeavors should be funded with private money

Mariel Cortez
Self
Flower Mound, TX

We don't want education vouchers it will affect more our public schools. Let us vote on the issue

Kea Czempinski

Self / Stay at home mother

Hutto, TX

I respectfully urge the committee to oppose the ESA/School Voucher Program. While we may all agree that our public education system needs improvement, diverting funds to private schools is not the answer. This program would strip much-needed resources from public schools and funnel taxpayer dollars into private institutions that are not held to the same standards of accountability. Public education is the foundation of opportunity for all children, regardless of background or income. But this voucher program threatens to weaken that foundation in several key ways:

It drains public school funding. Texas public schools are funded on a per-student basis. If students leave, their funding follows them—taking critical resources away from public schools. Even if a separate fund is created, it would require additional state spending, which would come from taxpayers.

It undermines teacher retirement security. The Teacher Retirement System (TRS) is funded by contributions from public school employees and the state. If teachers leave for private schools, which do not contribute to TRS, the system will suffer. A legislative report found that if TRS membership declines by just 1% annually, it could take 35 years instead of 28 to pay off its debt. To stabilize TRS, the state would have to either increase taxpayer contributions, cut funding from other programs, reduce benefits for retirees, or raise the retirement age—none of which are acceptable solutions.

It primarily benefits wealthier families. In Florida, after HB1 was passed in 2023, only 13% of voucher recipients came from public schools—meaning 87% of funds went to students who were already in private schools. These programs do not expand access; they subsidize private school tuition for families who can already afford it. Meanwhile, rural and low-income families, who have fewer private school options, are left footing the bill for a program they cannot even use.

It enables private schools to operate without oversight. Unlike public schools, private schools receiving voucher funds are not required to meet the same academic, financial, or ethical standards. Many are not required to accept students with disabilities, follow anti-discrimination laws, or disclose how taxpayer dollars are being spent.

It promotes instability in private education. Data from Milwaukee's voucher program found that 41% of private schools relying on vouchers failed between 1991 and 2015—leaving students without a stable learning environment. Unlike public schools, which have systems in place to reassign displaced students, when a private school closes, families are left scrambling.

It has failed to improve student outcomes. Studies from Louisiana, Indiana, and Ohio have shown that students using vouchers often perform worse than their public school peers—with academic declines comparable to or worse than the learning loss caused by COVID-19.

I urge the committee to invest in real solutions that will strengthen the public schools

Jai Daggett

DAGGETT Consulting Group

Pearland, TX

I feel strongly that communities with limited resources would be disproportionately burdened when implementing Educational savings accounts (ESA). Asking communities that don't have private school options to carry the burden of communities that do have private school options is the exact opposite of equitable representation. Using tax dollars to pay for a coupon for existing private school attendees is not how I would like MY tax dollars spent. No mandate on building private schools, or requiring a community to implement standards on curriculum, but asking them to foot the bill for existing students is just wrong. Politics aside, communities are struggling for medical coverage and basic internet services and we are proposing to take more resources from these already struggling communities and ask them to pay more? Please insert humility and compassion in your consideration of how things can be paid for. Please search within your own humanity.

Melissa Ibarra

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Stacey Barnes

Amarillo ISD- Caprock HS

Amarillo, TX

I am writing to urge you to ensure that your vote truly represents ****ALL**** students, especially those in public education. As a ****16-year career educator in Amarillo, Texas****, with ****15 years in a Title I school****, I have witnessed firsthand how public education transforms lives. Without the programs and support offered through our schools, many students would remain trapped in a cycle of poverty. Instead, because of ****dedicated educators who often give their own time and money****, I have seen students go on to attend Ivy League universities, start their own businesses, and completely change the trajectory of their families' lives.

Despite these successes, public education continues to be underfunded and undervalued. ****We need a meaningful, across-the-board pay increase for public school educators**** and ****increased funding that is not tied to political strings****, such as the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) or curriculum mandates. The reality is that ****SB2 would provide \$10,000 per pupil to private schools while public education funding remains stagnant at \$6,300 per student—a number that, when adjusted for inflation, is a funding decrease since pre-COVID/2019****. This is unacceptable.

I am ****extremely displeased**** with the continued push to funnel public funds into private education while our schools struggle with outdated resources, staffing shortages, and inadequate compensation for the professionals shaping the future of Texas.

****Public schools educate the vast majority of Texas students—including my own 5- and 9-year-old children, who love their public school experience.**** Our state representatives should be ****standing with public educators and students****, not wealthy donors or the governor in Austin.

I urge you to ****reject SB2 and any other measure that diverts critical funding away from public schools****. Or if you are going to be railroaded into it by Abbott at least use it as leverage to make our PUBLIC SCHOOL BETTER- not worse off! It is time to ****invest in Texas' future by fully funding public education, providing competitive salaries for educators, and ensuring every child has access to a quality education—regardless of their zip code****.

You were elected to represent me, my students, and my own public school children. ****I ask that you start doing so.****

Meagan Nelson, Mrs.

Self, homemaker, home educator

Mount Pleasant, TX

As a lifelong Texas resident, I am against HB3. I do not wish to see any such bill pass in Texas. As a homeschool parent, if HB3 is unstoppable, I want homeschool to be exempt and untouchable from any future legislation. Public schools are lacking because of the breakdown of the family unit, not because of lack of funding. HB3 undermines the autonomy of private schools, thus making them public and subject to whims of the state.

Lisa Cochran

Self

Lake Jackson, TX

No true Conservative would vote for giving tax money to public schools or expanding the government. If you have \$1B to waste, give it back to the taxpayers payers and let IS decide what we want to do with OUR money.

Even if I was for giving tax money to private schools, the math doesn't work. \$1B divided by \$30,000 is 33,333. There are almost 6MM Texas students and about 350,000 are already in private schools. Even at \$10,000 for each ESA per the Senate bill, that's only 100,000 so still not enough to cover current private school students. Abbott says ALL students and ALL families will benefit. Not even close! How would that even work for a family that's not currently in private school? They have to find a school that is willing to evaluate the student, make a decision as to whether or not that student and family meets their qualifications (something public schools don't have the luxury of doing), and then hold a spot (passing up families who have the money in hand already) while the family applies for an ESA and wades through the red tape to see if they are one of the lucky few. It doesn't sound like something any good private school is going to do.

Also, saying that private schools can't charge ESA students more doesn't keep them from raising tuition and fees. If you insist on passing this, lock their increases to a maximum of the CPI.

Invest in public schools and drop the ridiculous rules that hogtie real education!

I could go on, but I'll end with saying that Conservatives are paying attention and when Republicans act like Democrats, it won't be good for the future of Texas.

Tiffany Montgomery

Self

Weatherford, TX

No to School Vouchers

Amanda Szymanski

Self

College Station TX, TX

I do not support this bill and feel funding should go to public schools to improve our education.

Hari Bhushan

Self Marketing

Dallas, TX

This is a bad bill. Public schools are already extremely under funded. This bill would even underfund them more. We need our public schools to be better not worse and this bill will make them worse by underfunding

Erik Brown
self
Brookshire, TX

School choice is essential for improving educational outcomes, fostering competition, and empowering parents to select the best learning environments for their children. In a one-size-fits-all public education system, students are often trapped in failing schools based on their zip code, limiting opportunities for academic and personal growth. By allowing families to choose from charter schools, private schools, homeschooling, or voucher programs, school choice ensures that children receive an education tailored to their needs and aspirations. Education should be about students, not institutions. School choice empowers families, drives excellence, and ensures that every child has the opportunity to succeed, no matter their background.

Kristine Morrow
Kristine Morrow
Austin, TX

I am against vouchers. Public money should not be used for private schools. In every state where this has been attempted, public schools suffered. And the majority of those that used the vouchers....were wealthy children who were already at private schools anyway.
Most private schools cost \$20k and up (super basic at 20k and a good public school is better) and up to \$50k-60k/ year. People who are in under performing schools cannot afford \$10k/year. If they could, they could move their child to a better public school. This is welfare for the wealthy

Kimbelry Davis
self; School Nurse
Canton, TX

completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

ELAINE Mittel
Self
LIBERTY HILL, TX

I am writing to oppose school voucher system. These privatization systems will erode our public schools and not allow special education laws to be maintained. Students will suffer and the rich will just get richer with privatization of education! Let the rich pay for their kids to go to private schools if they so desire. Support public education by stopping this continued nonsense that has been going on so long and wasted so much time in legislative sessions. Abbott just wants to put more money in his pockets along with his rich friends. NO to vouchers!

Page Bishop

Self

Ennis, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Tiffany Markwardt

Self

Mansfield, TX

Oppose

Fred Woody

Self - 4 decades an educator, now retired

Ausrin, TX

Current per student funding is less than \$7,000 in our state. This bill provides \$10,000 or more per student who moves OUT of an accountable, public school system. A more balanced approach would make state funding EQUAL for ALL students, both in the public system and in private schools. Increase state funding for public schools!

Donna Knight

Red Oak ISD

Red Oak, TX

Vote NO this WILL not help Texas

Jennie Hemphill

Self

Cypress, TX

HB3 needs to be voted away with. No one wants this. We already have a choice. This will be taking away money from public schools. It will only help very few considering how many students there are in Texas. It won't be the less fortunate. Increase the funds given to public schools they all need more. Texas public schools are hurting.

Julie Ford

Self Retired Texas Public School Educator for 35 years

Bryan, TX

Please do NOT support this bill and take away more funding from our public schools to fill the pockets of our governor and some of his major donors! Public schools provide an education for all students, including those with special needs and those that are economically disadvantaged. Texas public schools are available for all students who choose to attend them. Private schools and homeschooling are choices made by parents who do not want their children to attend public school. They are NOT governed by the same rules, regulations and accountability standards as public schools and should not receive any state funding.

Emily Warr

18 year educator representing myself

Katy, TX

Hello, I am writing to you as a mother of three public school children and an educator since 2007. Texas has always been a leader in providing the best public education opportunities for ALL kids. Over the past few years, this has started to shift and no longer be the case. Funding has been held hostage by political motivations and that is not what is best for the students of Texas. Vouchers are not the answer for ALL students. Taking money from public schools to provide private school vouchers is not equitable and wrong. Taxpayers are not ok with their hard earned money going to private entities, especially when the proposed disbursements are not equal. If vouchers pass, I worry about how this will impact the education of my own children. I have been proud of raising them in Texas and giving them the best education. If Texas continues to take from public education, teachers and staff will leave the profession, districts will have to close schools, classes will be larger and the children will be left with the pieces. Those pieces will not be enough to sustain Texas as being an educational leader. I urge you as an Educator and mother, DO NOT pass the vouchers. Thank you.

Adrienne Leyva

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers and strongly support fully funded, high quality public education in Texas.

Mark Johnson

Self- Retired

Lufkin, TX

Public money needs to stay in public schools. Private schools have no accountability. Most rural counties don't even have the option for a private school. This is a giveaway to wealthy parents who already have their kids enrolled in private schools; and trying to provide over 50% more money per student than public schools receive.

Vote this horrific bill down.

Frances Prukop

Self

Mission, TX

Public dollars should not be used for private schools. HB3 as currently written threatens the stability of public schools which are there to serve the public good. It also threatens the actuarial stability of the TRS system (per your own testimony). NO on HB 3

SALENA James

Self; CDM,CNA,CMA

Midland, TX

Taking away funding for education means, we will be leaving the children behind. Offering education to all children no matter what their parents position may be is securing our future leaders.

Jessica Roop

self / Mother

Austin, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Patti Boerner
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I am a grandmother of school age children. I want strong public schools for our children. If you can afford a private school for your children that is great but do not make public schools worse to help people that can already afford a private school. Texas ranks 29 in education nationally. Why would we not want all children to get a wonderful education? I myself would rather have a state that holds public education as important. Would it not be best to have a state with well educated people? I think so and so should you. Vote NO to vouchers.

Shelly McNulty
Self
Smithville, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers and I am opposed to taking public money from public schools to pay for private school.

Tara Guillot, Ms.
Self Retired teacher
GARLAND, TX

Vouchers do nothing more than leave the most vulnerable behind. Few private schools allow students with an IEP in. This means that a very bright student with a disability such as cerebral palsy, will not be allowed to attend. Meanwhile the public schools become fewer and fewer causing smaller budgets, larger classes, longer bus rides (less sleep to meet earlier buses; less relaxation time due to late home arrival), all of which have detrimental effects on learning. There is a very small swath of upper middle-class students who MIGHT get the privilege to go to a private school with a voucher, only to face religious indoctrination in order to benefit from questionably better teaching. Vote NO on school vouchers. For the benefit of children, parents, teachers, and a better educated Texas.

Carmen Bessire
Self - Public School Teacher
Austin, TX

As a Texas taxpayer and teacher, I fully oppose this unpopular and harmful approach to educational funding. We are here yet again after years and years, and multiple regular and special sessions, to continue to vote down deeply unpopular school vouchers. This voting history and current polling continue to show how the majority of Texans, and therefore YOUR constituents, do not want this. Please listen to them over a Governor who received large campaign donations for this issue, and who seems to only care about that and not what his constituents want. He says that there is no school choice, but the majority of public school districts easily allow for campus and inter-district transfers, with no vouchers needed! He says that public schools are failing, but many of our schools, including my own, are still successful despite not having received funding increases since 2019. Public schools are still successful despite the Governor's lack of investment in us! Other voucher programs around the country have not created academic gains and have caused financial issues for states and schools. If this is passed, it will take away funding from the students in public schools who you, as lawmakers, are obligated to serve according to the Texas state constitution. Finally, this bill would not even cover the cost of tuition for private schools for middle and low-income families. Please don't give a tax-payer funded handout to the rich that won't benefit all Texans. If the Governor or any other lawmakers would like to do such a handout, please do it with your personal donations and not my tax dollars.

Joey Roberts

Self, Director of Public Relations

Abilene, TX

Vote NO to supporting school vouchers/school choice/educational savings accounts (whatever you want to call it)!

We need to fully and correctly fund public schools! Keep tax payer money in the independent school districts. Increase student allotment to where it NEEDS to be (I'd be happy in the top 25 percent in the U.S. for starters to get away from the No. 43 state we are sitting at currently (if my memory is correct). Also, we need to increase teacher pay for good, not just a two-year stipend to make people "feel" better. After that, the school districts are going to have to pick up the slack if the state doesn't figure out a way to fund teachers correctly and efficiently. And most districts don't have a way of doing that because they are underfunded.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Again, please vote NO to school choice.

Tracy Gallman

Self

River Oaks, TX

Please make a better bill. HB3 is a launch bill that is admittedly intended to grow. This bill is not about money, it is about destroying public education and eventually privatization of education.

Brooke Evans

Self -teacher

Grand Saline, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Kevin LaMarca

Self, Attorney

McKinney, TX

Public tax dollars should not be used to fund private school tuition. And with no safeguards for the Teacher Retirement System, this bill is wholly inadequate to protect Texans and the teachers who dedicated their lives to the public education system.

Gerry Carter

Self - Retired

San Antonio, TX

I am absolutely opposed to the ESA program. As a retired teacher I know that Texas public schools have not received the funds needed for their students and teachers. Giving tax breaks to rich people does NOT help our schools and is terribly misguided.

Jina Hopp

Self

Arlington, TX

As a former public school educator and administrator, I do not support education savings plans. This bill is not good for Texas students and will cause even more harm to public schools. Please do not support this bill.

Amanda Ballard
Self, Homeschool Parent
Tyler, TX

I am opposed to the ESA/voucher program in any form in Texas. We are satisfied with the educational freedom we currently enjoy as Texas homeschoolers, and this bill puts that at risk.

Chiraz Bessaoud
Self
Houston, TX

I do not support this bill, if the state wants to try something like this there needs to be a phased out approach at best. This is poorly planned

JoAngeli Kasper, LPC, ABD PhD,
Self
Denison, TX

Vote no. I do not agree. This bill would put families AND children at risk. Instead FUND public education. Everyone deserves the right to education. How can you in good conscience do this to our state and instead try and fund resorts????

Sophia Mirto
Self
Austin, TX

My name is Sophia. I was educated in the Texas public school system and hold two degrees. I also spent a year in a private Christian school, so I can speak to the difference.

My family had the economic privilege of school choice. My parents were able to buy a house that allowed me to attend a public school well-funded by high property tax dollars. When I struggled to adapt to the class sizes of the public school, my parents were able to afford a private Christian school, and drove me across town every day for over a year. Most families do not have the ability to take time out of their work day to shuttle their child across town.

After I spent a year in private school, I went back to public school. I took AP classes and had teachers who cared about my academic success. My public schools were safe, supportive environments where I had friends who spoke multiple languages, from many different countries, in different economic stratas, who practiced different religions.

Parents already have the choice of public, private, or home school. School vouchers are unnecessary and an insult to working families who cannot afford the time or money it takes to enroll their children in private schools. The suggestion that Texans, who have been paying taxes to fund our public school system for their entire working lives, should risk even less funding for our neighborhood public schools, is extremely out of touch.

I don't even have time to talk about education access for rural families who live nowhere near private schools.

In the last few decades, the Texas legislature has underfunded and defunded our public school system. Our literacy rates are shockingly low, our high school graduation rates are low, and access to higher education varies hugely between social groups and economic classes.

Now, you are considering rerouting public tax dollars from our public education system to line the pockets of private businesses that don't have the same mandates for education access or fairness. Private schools are not mandated to accept children with physical learning disabilities, adhd, speech impediments, or who are learning English as a second language.

I encourage you to properly invest in teacher salaries and school funding. I oppose vouchers and any attempt to take public tax dollars out of our public schools.

Susan Valliant, RN

Self, SREC SD10 Committee woman,
Arlington, TX

I urge you to reconsider supporting HB3. The number of students benefiting from the voucher and ESA bill is small, while the financial burden on taxpayers and the expansion of government is substantial. We want Public Education system but not at the expense of expanding government and increasing our fiscal responsibility. There are much better ways we can improve the education system for our children without expanding government and adding another tax burden on the people. Government is not the answer to our failing education system in Texas. Tax relief for parents is a much less intrusive approach that would empower the parents to make the best choice for their child. Empower the parents, NOT the government. Please do not support HB3

Ruthann Royal

Self
Austin, TX

I OPPOSE HB3, which supports school vouchers.

On all counts, vouchers harm public education and students. Vouchers steal scarce funding from public schools—which serve 90 percent of students—and give it to private schools that are unaccountable to taxpayers.

By design, voucher programs operate with impunity and are not subject to any meaningful oversight, allowing the pattern of discrimination to continue today.

I am an upper middle class Texas resident that sent my child to private school for 6 years, and then public school, and it would have been “nice” to have a voucher for her private school tuition. BUT, I would rather see Texas focus on IMPROVING PUBLIC EDUCATION and increase teacher pay before giving money to those who can already afford private education. I think this bill would be doing a disservice to the MAJORITY of our residents who rely on public education. Let’s focus on raising up the majority instead of creating more segregation and discrimination among our Texas children.

Lynda Gowin

Self
Montgomery, TX

As a life long resident of Texas and school district employee I am opposed to school vouchers. Private schools do not have to accept every student that comes to enroll, they do not have any accountability and should not be funded with public funds.

Adrienne Schoppe

Self
La Porte, TX

Please do not assume that vouchers are ok. As a teacher of 35 years, please respect not only our profession but our retirement. My classroom is 99% self funded. We haven’t gotten an increase from the state in years. And our thanks is to devalue us as a profession. Keep public schools public and private schools private or let the good citizens of Texas decide in a vote!

Allison Parkyn

Self
Fate, TX

School vouchers takes funding away from public schools and the schools are already struggling. If we fully funded public schools, you could improve education for ALL children rather than just giving wealthier families a tax cut / discount. Private schools do not accept all children and do not require the same qualifications for teachers. This voucher program would not help most families and I would like you to vote AGAINST school vouchers or “choice”. We already can choose.

Rebecca Mori

Self

San Antonio Tx, TX

The passing of these vouchers will hurt public schools and school aged children. For starters, one of the biggest issues is that it would take away money from public schools. Public school are already underfunded and to take away even more money would be disastrous. Elective art classes would suffer, classes would become larger then what they already are and schools would have even fewer resources. Another reason is policies, rules and regulations for public and private schools are much different. In a public school setting there is more accountability for teachers and certifications. In a private school setting these rules do not apply which can lead to lower quality learning in a private setting because teachers do not have to have specific certifications. There have been studies done on private schools that accept vouchers and what they found it that the academic outcomes of these students are questionable. Studies have shown that reading, writing and math scores in a voucher accepted private school are much lower than that of students from public schools, this is likely because again private schools lack accountability for those they hire. There is also the issue of inequality, you would be taking away from those families to give their children a quality education who can not afford to send them to a private school even with a voucher. Also the lack of transportation would also be an issue for those who do not have a private school close by. Passing this bill would be a mistake, one that our children would have to pay for. It would cause harm and destruction to the public school system.

Laura Garrett

Self

Dallas, TX

We do not want vouchers! It harms public education!

Jessica Reeves

Self

Kerrville, TX

I strongly oppose Texas' House Bill 3 (HB3) due to its harmful impact on public education, students, and educators across the state. While the bill purports to address issues within the education system, its provisions fail to support the true needs of our schools, especially those serving historically marginalized communities. HB3 pushes for unproven policies that divert necessary resources away from public schools, undercuts teacher salaries, and imposes unnecessary restrictions on curriculum content, all while ignoring the pressing need for increased funding and systemic reform. Education should be about equity, inclusivity, and preparing students for the future, not about restricting access to critical resources or limiting teachers' ability to teach freely. HB3 undermines these principles and threatens to deepen educational inequalities across Texas, and for these reasons, I cannot support it.

Amber Danley

Self accountant

Conroe, TX

Please do not support lowering public school funding for any purpose.

Jennifer Donato

Pleasanton ISD

Poteet, TX

In rural areas we don't have many private school options and if they do, not many special education students are being served within them.

Catherine Porter
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vote NO to any school voucher plan! States that have enacted such programs have shown only mostly wealthy families benefit and there is no real improvement in children's education outcomes. This voucher idea will strip crucial funding from public education, leaving our schools poorer. We need to fund our public schools more robustly, improve physical spaces, increase teacher pay, and offer our children the education they deserve. Vote NO to vouchers!!

Kathleen Murphy
Self, retired school receptionist
Austin, TX

I am in total support of our public schools. I do not support the voucher system. I am a grandmother, and mother to two young women who both went to Zilker Elementary in Austin. We could not love Zilker or the fabulous teachers more than we do. I vote NO on vouchers. My grandchildren attend Lively Middle School and Becker Elementary in Austin. Vouchers will take our tax dollars away from supporting these excellent schools.

Susan Mortensen
self
Georgetown, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3, which proposes the establishment of an education savings account (ESA) program in Texas. This bill would divert essential taxpayer dollars from our public schools to fund private education, undermining the foundational principle of providing quality education for all students.?

Public schools are the cornerstone of our communities, serving over 5 million Texas students. Diverting funds to private institutions through ESAs would exacerbate existing challenges, such as budget deficits, program cuts, school closures, and teacher shortages. These issues disproportionately affect rural and underserved areas, where public schools often lack adequate resources. ?

Furthermore, recent polling indicates that nearly two-thirds of Texans oppose voucher programs that redirect tax dollars from public schools to subsidize private education. This opposition spans across political affiliations, with 95% of Democrats, 72% of Independents, and 42% of Republicans expressing disapproval. ?

It is also concerning that private schools benefiting from ESAs are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. They are not mandated to administer or disclose results of state assessments like the STAAR exams, leading to limited comparability between public and private educational outcomes. ?

In light of these concerns, I urge you to oppose HB 3 and instead focus on strengthening our public education system by increasing funding, supporting our dedicated educators, and ensuring that all Texas students have access to quality education.?

Amanda Winstel
PTA and self
Garland, TX

Keep public dollars in public schools. Any institution receiving public funds should be held to all the same standard that public schools are held. Don't take away from the children of Texas, do right by them! Do what your constituents want!!!

Reagan Shedden
Parent
Roanoke, TX

No to Vouchers - Please stop Greg Abbott from hurting our public school systems any further. Vouchers are bad for our children, bad for our teachers and bad for our State. Please vote No!

Caren Christian
Wylie ISD
Abilene, TX

I am against this bill as it will inevitably take funding away from public schools where it is needed the most. If state and public funds had been taking care of public schools all this time and keeping up with inflation and paying teachers what they deserve, and if there was extra money just sitting around, then this would be a different conversation. But that is not the case. Do not fund private schools. They are already receiving funds from those who have already opted to send their kids there. Start funding public schools adequately and stop wasting time on an unneeded bill.

Amanda Dyniewski
Self, Physical Therapist
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you,
Amanda Dyniewski

Emily Jones
Self
Fort worth, TX

Vote no! This goes against everything America stands for. My children went to private school and i teach at a private school. This will drastically hurt the students who need the states help the most and benefit people who do not need help. Please vote no.

Kareena Mullens, Educator
Teachers state wide
Crosby, TX

Do not vote for this. This will segregate Texas and eventually dismantle public education. Texas will continue to move backwards This is nothing more than a move back to Jim Crow laws. Bria is Cain you will not be re elected.

Amalia Durbin
Self - clinical manager
The Woodlands, TX

Please do not pass this bill - my 2 children and our family are relying on public school and chose our home based on the public schools. Schools already get nil funding and we don't need further money taken from our public schools.
Thank you kindly.

Shannon May

Self

Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 3, I do not support school vouchers, and I ask that this bill be voted down. Public funds should not be spent on private schools. This scheme is a disservice to our children in underfunded public schools, as well as to children attending private schools with little to no oversight. This bill only serves as a tax break to wealthy Texans who can already afford private schools, and to the profiteers running those schools. Put those funds into our public schools where they can do the most good. Do not pass HB 3.

Karly Bailey

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

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This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Fran Coope

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Do not approve vouchers. Increase funding for Education

Jennifer Donato

Pleasanton ISD

Poteet, TX

Public schools get funded by attendance. How is that factored in?

Erika Gutierrez

Self, full time employee

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

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- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Crystal reeves

Self

Spring, TX

This bill will endanger the sustainability of public schools, harm underserved groups such as students with disabilities, and will further blur the line between the separation of church and state. The bill will funnel more state funds to wealthy families who do not need or require funds to send their children to private schools while simultaneously harming middle class families who rely on local schools for both education and a safe place to send their children while parents work. Private school standards are not equivalent to public standards. Texas is already failing at the education of our students and this will only exacerbate declining test scores and the ill preparation to join the work force or enter college. Please kill this bill!

Lisa Simmons

Self- Attorney

Dallas, TX

State-funded vouchers will take needed dollars from public schools. Vouchers take dollars from public schools that are already underfunded. Every dollar sent to a private or home school cannot be invested in public schools. Voucher advocates say funding schools and funding vouchers are separate, but in Texas, where “funding follows the student,” public schools will lose needed funding as millions of dollars are siphoned to unaccountable private institutions.

State-funded vouchers will take needed dollars from public schools. Vouchers will take dollars from public schools that are already underfunded. Every dollar sent to a private school or home school cannot be invested in public schools. In Texas the 'funding follows the student'. Public schools will lose desperately needed funding. Private schools do not have the same protections for students that public schools have. Private schools do not have to admit children if they have the voucher money and desire to attend. Please save the beneficial programming and teachers at my public school.

Julia Roff

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly disagree with school vouchers! They do not work and actively take money away from public school children! Be a proud Texan, and DO NOT give handouts to private schools!!

Stacey Myers

Self

Austin, TX

I am firmly against vouchers and anything else that takes money away from public schools. Please vote against passing vouchers. Thank you.

Mitzi Stoute Faniola, Nonprofit & Legislative Consulting Strategist/ Public School Parent

self

Dripping Springs, TX

Oppose any legislation that pulls additional funds from already underfunded public schools in Texas. Public Schools in Texas have been historically underfunded for decades and using underresourced and special needs families as the agenda to pass such heinous legislation is criminal.

Amy George

Myself

Lubbock, TX

As a former public school teacher I oppose the establishment of an education savings account program in Texas. Public schools in Texas should be fully funded. There is evidence that it has not been fully funded for many years. This bill will only make funding for public education decrease and hurt the most vulnerable children and families in Texas at risk.

James Doolittle

Self Retired

Galveston, TX

Please do NOT advance this weak attempt to give Billionaires & Millionaires taxpayers money. This will decimate our Rural school system. If you truly wish to help the education of Texas school children RAISE teachers salaries, hire more teachers & librarians!

Lori Logan

Self

San Antonio, TX

I don't have children or grandchildren. So why am I taking a stance on this bill? Because I want all Texas children to get a good education. I want to walk in to a grocery store where the cashier knows how to make change. I want to call a help desk and be understood and my problem solved. I want a society where we understand our history and role in the world. If only a few children receive a quality education, the working society will deteriorate and become dysfunctional.

Belinda Bennett

Self

Austin, TX

Hi y'all - I'm Belinda Bennett. I'm a concerned mom and a data engineer. But I think we've HAD plenty of extremely compelling data today. About how vouchers create worse outcomes and budget holes, not to mention that the private schools infrastructure is so far from being able to support any additional demand.

So instead I'll tell a tale. I'm FROM Midland Tx, where Timm Dunn, the billionaire behind vouchers, set up his school, Midland Classical Academy. I knew those kids. They had to take the GED because the school wasn't accredited. Not only that, they FAILED the GED multiple times. Because billionaires like Timm Dunn don't want to offer quality education, they want a complacent, uneducated proletariat. I want smart neighbors! I want open and free access to quality education for all Texas children, including my own children. Vouchers are throwing the baby out with the bath water. We need to support our students and not leave them high and dry to line the pockets of privatized education scams like Midland Classical Academy or Trump University.

I've seen the pro voucher "research". A pro voucher family member forwards it to me every two or three days. It's the most bombastic, cherry picked, misrepresentation of information. I use it in statistics classes to teach students how to spot bad research. Which is why quality public school education is so important!

So please, don't let Timm Dunn and his religious zealot revenge money scare you. Y'all are supposed to be representing the voices of Texans. Texans have voted against vouchers over and over, even in hyper conservative places like Midland. And it's not surprising! Midland has some STELLAR public schools. I'm so grateful I went through MISD and the University of Texas, and now I hold my own with my coworkers that have PhDs from MIT and Harvard and Stanford. I'm proud to be a Texas public school educated cutie pie, and I want that for the future of my own cutie pies!

Oscar Maldonado

Self - Construction Management

Boerne, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability. It's literally in the name, private schools are private.

michelle hall

Self

Willis, TX

No to this bill!

Kathy Day

Self

Van, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Samara Flener

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to private school vouchers and to advocate for full funding of Texas public schools and increasing per student funding to \$1300. If Texas wants to lead in business and industry, it needs to invest in an educated workforce. Public schools are the bedrock of building the future of our state.

Alyssia Birnbaum

Self, parent

Spring, TX

I'm curious how many private schools within Texas specifically cater to children with learning disabilities that Mr. Buckley is referencing. Are there private schools that parents in all areas, even rural parts of Texas, can choose for their children with special needs? I have not found that to be the case for myself and I live in Klein ISD.

Scott Boone

self, engineer

Austin, TX

My name is Scott Boone. I have been a home owner in Austin, TX for over a decade, I am the parent of two children who go to public school, I am the son of two public educators, and I have built a successful career as an engineer after going to public schools. I strongly oppose school vouchers. I believe that the best way to ensure that all children in Texas receive the best education and job opportunities is to adequately fund our public schools. Vouchers take money away from public schools, which will make education worse because it will increase classroom sizes and reduce materials. It's fine that some parents may want to send their kids to private schools, but there is no reason that the government should give private schools more money. If vouchers go through I wouldn't be surprised if all of these greedy private schools raise their tuitions by whatever the voucher amount is. That would just mean worse education for public school students and the same for private schools - a lose/lose for children and Texas businesses who will have a less educated workforce. I ask that the committee please oppose this bill and stop private schools from stealing money from our great public education system. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Krystal Gonzalez

Self

Fort Worth, TX

No to HB3 by Buckley

Rose Marie Dillon

Myself

Pflugerville, TX

As a conservative homeschooling parent, I strongly oppose this bill. I've been very frustrated with Governor Abbot's campaign on social media that is trying to cause more of a rift between democrats and republicans. He constantly says this is an emergency but yall have had years to fix it. Why is it an emergency now?

I do not think a new agency should be created. That is creating more government not less government.

I do not think that \$10,000 should be given to families who want to go to private school from tax money.

When we voted on the republican referendum, it talked about property tax money following the student. That is not what you are doing with this bill.

I also think our taxes will go up which is hard to take on this inflation economy as a homeowner.

Please do not pass this bill that is not improving education for the majority of Texans. It is very limited in what it is doing and who it is helping. Only 100,000 students of 5.5 million in public school and untold numbers in private / homeschooling.

We already have school choice. Our family has chosen to sacrifice things and not go on vacation and more so we can homeschool. School choice is there already.

Christine Payton

Self

Flower Mound, TX

I oppose Hb3. School vouchers are taxpayer-funded subsidies given to private schools and vendors without transparency and accountability for results.

Vote NO!

Beverly Sladek
self, retired ESL instructor
San Marcos, TX

As a native Texan, I oppose HB 3 and similar bills that shift money for public education to private schools. I share the historic skepticism of legislators who have represented rural areas in our state. They've known that strong local public schools are critical to maintaining viable communities across Texas. They've known that public schools need more state funding--not less--to attract and keep good, dedicated teachers who make public education work all over our state.

Now, politics have dictated the proposal of individual educational savings accounts (ESAs) and voucher-type use of them. This approach puts private schools that accept vouchers in competition with public schools for public funding. Proponents say that this competition will drive improvement of public schools. Opponents ask if private schools are up to the task if they provide the full range of services demanded of public schools. If we are to learn the reality of what takes place under these circumstances, then voucher legislation must create a level playing field and fair means of measurement and comparison.

To enable parents to make truly informed choices, voucher legislation should require that private schools that accept vouchers do the following:

- accept students with special needs and provide the same level of support required of public schools;
- meet the same standards of accountability and transparency as public schools;
- report and make available to the public their students' achievement as measured by the same testing instruments and procedures as required of public schools.

Furthermore, to enable Texas taxpayers to see how any funding provided by voucher legislation is spent, the voucher legislation should require TEA to conduct regular audits of private schools that accept vouchers and make the results readily available to the public. The reports should cover both appropriate use of all funding and compliance with laws and regulations in addition to stating clearly the total dollars that go to each private school and showing specifically how all funding is used.

As a mom, I can relate to the desire to support parental choice. But as a citizen and taxpayer, I call upon the Texas legislature to create responsible legislation that holds private schools that accept vouchers accountable and uses my tax dollars in the best way possible to support all our students.

Respectfully,
Beverly Sladek

Jennifer Kincaid

Self

Floresville, TX

School vouchers hurt Texas public schools because they direct funding away from an already critically underfunded system. Drain critical funding for Public Schools.

Vouchers drain additional resources from the public school system.

Texas public schools are funded based on student attendance, so each student who leaves the public school system takes crucial funding with them. This leaves schools with fewer resources and strains already tight budgets, making it harder to maintain quality education for remaining students.

Public funds should remain in the public school system that serves the vast majority of Texas students.

Financial Instability Seen in Other States.

States like Arizona, which implemented a universal voucher program, are now facing a severe budget crisis.

Importantly, nearly half of ESA voucher funding represents new costs due to applicants who were previously in private schools or homeschooled.

Uncertain Future Funding.

Texas may have a budget surplus now, but economic conditions fluctuate, and this surplus won't last indefinitely. Funding for ESAs in the future would likely compete with other state priorities, leaving public education funding at risk and creating financial uncertainty for both schools and students.

Additional reasons vouchers are bad for Texas:

Do not ensure accountability.

Vouchers send public dollars to private schools that are not accountable to the public for producing results.

Are a step backward in serving students with disabilities.

Over the past 30 years, federal and state laws have evolved to ensure students with disabilities receive a free, appropriate public education. Private schools are not required to provide special education services mandated by federal and state laws.

Violate separation of church and state.

The U.S. Constitution prohibits any government "establishment of religion." Tax dollars directed toward private schools of religious origin violates this principle.

The U.S. Constitution ensures the "free exercise of religion"; no government has proper authority to dictate a religious community's expression of faith. Regulation and oversight always accompany the allocation of public tax dollars, thus violating freedom of religion.

Parents already have "Choice."

Parents can already choose public school, charter school, home school, or private school for their children.

Provide private school choice for some, not all.

Vouchers do not address many needs of low-income, at-risk students such as transportation, free and reduced-priced lunches, textbooks and other instructional materials, assessment of special needs, access to additional remediation programs, and full cost of tuition.

Vouchers are disproportionately accessible to students living in urban areas due to limited access to private schools in rural Texas.

Private schools have a profit motive to admit students with the fewest educational challenges.

Alicia Kuhn
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

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1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Jessica Priemer
Self
Houston, TX

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Thank you!

Keeli Wilson
Kids in public schools
Lubbock, TX

I STRONGLY oppose this bill. Please vote no!

Roxanne Huckabee

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose you diverting public funds to private schools, no matter what you call it. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools. I know that virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Sarah Adamson

Self -35 year career educator

Granbury, TX

Please do not approve this voucher proposal. Public education needs to be the first priority. Parents already have the choice to pick a school. Lower income and disabled students will not benefit from this proposal. Public schools need the money to improve and serve all students -which is their purpose.

I am a career educator with 5 grandchildren in public schools in Texas. Please help them by voting no tonight "big money" and special interests who do not want public education to succeed.

Mary Huschle

Self

Garland, TX

This is not in the best interest of Texas education. This is nothing more than a new way to segregate our public schools. Private schools do not have the same scrutiny as public schools. The potential for fraud is unmeasurable! If this passes it will benefit the wealth (who don't even need it). The public schools will suffer even more possibly never to recover. It is time we have term limits because public figures no longer represent the people but their political party.

Wendy Morgan

Self

GALVESTON, TX

Representatives,

I urge you to oppose school vouchers. They undermine Texas taxpayers by diverting public funds to unaccountable private schools, many of which lack oversight. Rural communities, where public schools are the backbone, will suffer the most with fewer resources and declining quality. Vouchers also expand government entitlement programs, increasing spending rather than promoting true fiscal conservatism. Please protect public education and reject this bill.

John Miller

LaPoynor

Malakoff, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Brooke McAdams

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose Bill HB 3. I do not want my tax dollars to be diverted from public schools to help pay for the voucher program. I do not want to send my kids to private school and even if I did, the vouchers are not enough to pay private school tuition in the city of Houston. I ask my representatives to vote no against HB 3 and not devalue our public education system.

Diane Keller

Self homemaker

KINGWOOD, TX

I am against vouchers. Public money should stay in public schools. If we would fully fund public schools they wouldn't be what Abbott considers "failing." He is the one who has refused to fund them. He has created the situation not the public, not the teachers, not the school districts.

Lisa Elliott

Self, Retired Teacher

CANTON, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Ana-Alicia Horn

Self - Director/Software Comp

Mansfield, TX

Committee members, I'm writing you today to ask you to fund public schools FIRST. Public schools across Texas, including my district, Mansfield ISD, are in desperate need of a \$1,340 increase in the Basic Allotment. The State must prioritize getting public education back on track and ensuring our school districts are fiscally sound. Please vote NO on any Educational Savings Account legislation. Public funds should be kept in public schools. The most good can be done by fully funding public education.

Jerry McSherry

Self

Ozona, TX

Please put school choice ie. vouchers to a vote. The people need to decide not representation that could have been swayed by millions of dollars in donations.

Bonnie Adler
Self
San Antonio, TX

I urge you to put the well being of every Texas child above political power. These vouchers do not have support among Texas residents. You open up Facebook for two seconds and you see that. Greg Abbott is lying when he says that these vouchers won't defend public education. He's wrong. We've had a 32 billion dollar deficit because he's held that money hostage due to opposition to vouchers. Since the election, he has the people that needs to pass this legislation. I again urge you not to. If we don't fully invest in our public school, children from all socioeconomic backgrounds will suffer. Attendance will falter and schools will lose valuable staff. If we're saying that parents need choice because public schools are failing them, INVEST and have them run at full capacity so not one school is better than the other. That no matter where you live, each and every child will be provided the best environment to learn in. I can't believe we're even having this conversation but here we are. You know that this program doesn't make sense. In other states that have tried it, they've most that two thirds of the population benefiting from the programs already attend private school. Make that make sense. If private schools are not held to the same accountability as public schools, they should not receive public funds. End of story.

Miguel Larsen
Self
Daingerfield, TX

I wish to comment against the bill.

Further, it's my belief the decision to use public money as a subsidy for K-12 private education rests squarely with the voters. As such, any decision to implement the use of said funds should be presented to the citizens of Texas in the form of a House Joint Resolution and a constitutional amendment vote.

Thank you.

Leslie Perkins
Self
Brownwood, TX

I am strongly opposed to public funds going to education savings accounts. I want to see our public schools given adequate funding from state dollars before money is pulled away to cater to such a small number of people. I reside in a rural area, as many Texans do, and this education savings account will not provide opportunities for those of us in rural communities. In rural areas, we depend heavily on public schools to teach our children. Any funding for these savings accounts could be used to make our public schools better funded and able to provide more services to the children in our state.

Erin Petkovich

Self, parent

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents. As the parent of a child with disabilities, I strongly oppose public money going to schools that wouldn't accept my son.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing, attendance and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Erin Petkovich

Elizabeth Rosenthal, Dr

UT dell

Austin, TX

No thank you. I have two children and do not support private school vouchers even though I am sending my kids to private school. Public school is essential to communities and reducing funding in order to divert funds toward private education is not in line with our community values

Sylvia De La Garza

Self

Plainview, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

“I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund

Kerry Lemon

Self - Educator

Nacogdoches, TX

I am asking for a No vote on this bill. I do not feel that this bill supports public education which is one of the responsibilities of our government and a right for the people to receive an equal and comprehensive educational opportunity. This bill will also make it more difficult for children with special needs to receive the best services available to them. Vote No on HB3!

Kristen Thompson
Self / Educator
Canton, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Teri Pruitt
Self
Canton, TX

URGENT! ACT NOW THEN SHARE THIS POST!

Easy way to give comments without making a trip to Austin. This takes 2 minutes!!

Voucher bill being heard now!

Click and send:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Allison Dwyer
Forward ATX
Austin, TX

Texans do not want vouchers. We want strong public education. If you pass school choice you will give a few what you want but most will be left behind.

Trenton Fletcher
Self / CPA
Mansfield, TX

I oppose ESAs/School vouchers to fully fund public schools

Jessika Easterling

Self -SAHM

Orange, TX

This bill will destroy low income and working class communities especially in rural areas. I do not know a single person who approves of this bill. Please say no to HB3

Teri Stewart

Self

Austin, TX

I want to support public schools. I do not support vouchers.

Dustin Ellsworth

Self

Texas City, TX

School vouchers are the biggest scam to take away education from people and give money to the rich. This is just another way to siphon more money from us and give it to your billionaire buddies. Cut it out. Take care of your constituents make better choices live like Jesus would

Andrea Morgan

self Operations Manager

Lago Vista, TX

Please do not pass this bill! My three kids go to a hybrid homeschool program so we fit under the bucket of private (accredited) school which also has a component of homeschooling. Public school failed my autism spectrum son so we left. I'm a huge fan of school choice and support property tax deductions for families that choose private or homeschooling over their local schools. This bill in its present form has too many strings attached. No one I know in the private, homeschool, or public school world supports this bill. It doesn't benefit Texas families as a whole but rather caters to a small percentage of students yet also comes with requirements that may eventually make it much more difficult for private and homeschool families (since homeschool families are viewed as their own private school.) This bill seems to benefit school curriculum and service vendors instead of families. Please listen to your constituents and do not pass this bill.

Tiffany Mueller

Self - Hair Designer

N Richlnd Hls, TX

Texas children deserve better. This will take so much away from a demographic that needs so much more.

Candace Wilkins

Shallowater ISD

Shallowater, TX

As a High School Principal in Public education I do NOT support school vouchers. Vouchers are NOT supported by Texans and is NOT good use of our tax dollars. Students have choice now where they attend school. If they chose private education they pay. Private education is NOT held to the same standards as public education. SAY NO TO VOUCHERS and support our public education kids, staff, and communities!

Leo Young

Self

Buchanan Dam, TX

Vote NO on HB 3. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy.

Jolie Willis

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

D'Lisia Bergeron, Mrs.

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you!

Jennifer Giles

Self

Grapevine, TX

Fully fund public education!

Peggy Herman

Self

Cibolo, TX

Our Texas children deserve a better PUBLIC EDUCATION. Segregating rich from poor is just as evil as previous segregation. Each and every child should have a state-funded, equal education. Rural kids, suburban and urban should all get the same, quality PUBLIC education. Dividing this into some sort of rich get richer scheme leaves behind the most vulnerable. It's been proven (in Arizona) that the cost of vouchers explodes and doesn't see the whole population uplifted. You guys need to seriously stop taking your education schemes being advocated by Wilkes and Dunn and Abbott and listen to teachers and school administrators and parents from all corners of Texas. We are saying NO TO VOUCHERS. And YES to quality funding of education (meaning fund schools, teachers, and staff). The damage done over the last 6-7 years is atrocious. We need to catch up. We need innovation not bigger football fields. We need to source the brightest and most dedicated educators. That is where our money should go, not to parents. Your plan does not address at all the issues you have created. You virtually defunded education with the tiff amongst yourselves, cannibalizing your own representatives; delaying raises and letting our schools fall farther behind.

Enough! Pay better. Quit the sledge hammer approach. Let educators do their jobs. Get rid of Miles in Houston (and get your noses straightened out of fumbling with education and return it to the educators.). I know you can do this. Get politics out of education. Our country needs Texas to be part of the solution and education is the key. Vouchers cause more problems for us, the working class they are less regulated, curriculum is shady, little accountability and again, it is segregation. Vote NO to vouchers!

Cecil Allee
Self
Meadowlakes, TX

Fully fund public schools. Tax dollars should not fund private schools.

Kelly Beeler
Public Education
Weatherford, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS!!!!

Jo Lynn Dean
Self/retired
Rochelle, TX

Please vote where public school funding not decreased. Most Texas children are educated (and educated WELL in public schools!!)

Christina Landess
Self
McKinney, TX

Say NO to vouchers!!!

Donna Pfeffer
self
Austin, TX

Public dollars should go to public schools. Setting aside public dollars for private schools provides no choice for families that aren't already choosing private school. Private schools are also unregulated and do not have to allow all students to attend.

Judy Vasquez
Self
Lantana, TX

I am against HB 3, against vouchers, and I want our public schools fully funded.

Earl Bilbrey
Self/ Realtor
Lipan, TX

Governor Abbott

First off I want to thank you and your great staff for your continued hard work keeping Texas as the greatest state in the United States. With that being said. I would like to contribute my direct thoughts on Bill HB 3.

Though good for many of our more urban school districts. I whole heartedly believe this does not help in any way our more rural public school districts. Texas has been the #1 state for move ins the last 4 yrs. While many of these folks are coming to Texas for our beliefs and great benefits. They are settling into our more urban areas. Where we have better options for mass transit, schools etc.

meanwhile as we should. The folks who's sold their homes in the urban areas are looking for greener pastures and school districts where the beliefs of good wholesome education is still followed. Where kids can get out and enjoy the comfort of being outside without having to worry about such things as, fast moving traffic, unknown individuals coming into neighborhoods with bad intentions, better way of life for the family. More land to get outside and be a kid. Have the option of smaller classrooms with a teacher that you can call on her cell at anytime you discuss your child's progress. The enjoyment of getting to see your child play a sport they love. Versus some of the larger urban schools where your child may never see the field during games because of the amount of players on the sidelines. There are just so many benefits to moving to some of the more rural areas just outside of the major cities. Yes parents choose to drive over a hr one way to work. But the quality of family life far exceeds the sacrifice of those hrs in the car driving into the city to work.

Then the other side of the coin is this. Over crowded rural schools. Whose growth was so great and quick that they don't have to budgets to accommodate the building and teachers they need to keep providing that great experience. Yes you can argue that with growth comes a better tax base. But unfortunately when our rural schools have tax cap and the money coming in from taxes far exceeds our cap and goes back to the state versus stays in the district. We have a problem. Our public rural schools are strained. Yes our teachers need a raise. I guarantee they would rather have more money in the school district to better service their students. Our rural public schools are hurting. The bill does not address our rural public schools. I could go on about how this only helps families in urban based areas. I could go on how the money will get misused by people who don't care about their children's education. But I don't have that many characters to do so. We need more focus on Texas Rural Public Schools. We need relief for our Rural Public Texas Schools. Their is no greater gift than our children. Especially getting to see a young kid get a chance to play a sport they love. Or get to use their library for the first time. We need help, we don't need vouchers. Thank you

Nicole Burns
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Tax payer dollars should fund public schools, and not be redirected to private and religious institutions that lack public accountability. 5.5 million Texas students will be severely impacted because of this bill. Public schools should be the priority of our state government.

Allison McGuire
Self/retired
Ozona, TX

I adamantly oppose any PUBLIC school funds being used for PRIVATE schools. I live in a rural area with mostly low income families. The nearest private school is a 165 mile round trip. Fully fund our public schools and leave private schools out of it!

Randi Koenig

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

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Thank you!

Jennifer Drake

Self, CPA

Houston, TX

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HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
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We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.
This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Jenn Drake

Mana Anderson

Myself

Houston, TX

I am voicing my opposition to HB3

Lisa Brantley
Self
Kerrville, TX

School vouchers and the related budget cuts to public schools will devastate the rural areas where there are little or no private school options. Their budgets are already too tight and they not only cannot afford to lose any funding, they desperately need it increased. Things like bus service to and from farms and ranches are essential to working parents. You have never been interested in losing rural voters previously. Why now?

Jennifer Center
Self
Copperas, TX

In my little city there is no access to private schools. I am like many Texas in rural areas that don't have access to private education. This bill will only benefit big cities. I urge my representative to not vote for this bill. We are a small town with mostly military families with limited income. This bill would hurt military families.

Tim Church
Self, customer service
Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident who opposes vouchers as taxpayer money should go to fully fund Texas teachers and students. My partner works in a school district and vouchers would erase the funding for their retirement as well as many public school teachers who are already underpaid and overworked and spend their own money on school supplies. Send more funding to public schools instead!

Courtney McKay
Self / CPA
Arlington, TX

Vote NO on vouchers! Public money should support public schools. Private schools do not have to accept all students, do not have to follow state mandates, and do not have to provide special education services. The vouchers are also not sufficient to enable low income families to afford private schools - especially when the good ones raise tuition in response to vouchers. The public does not want or need vouchers. It has not worked in other states and won't work here. Do what's right for your constituents, not your political donors.

Donna Birdsong
Self
Austin, TX

School vouchers are one of the most ridiculous ideas ever. I taught for 26 years and public schools need all of the tax funding possible in order to make our public educated and accountable for a better populace. Money for them would benefit all of the nation. School vouchers are simply another way for the wealthier to take funds away from those who need it most.

Julie Etter
Self
Dallas, TX
NO to vouchers

Kathleen McCullough
self, public school teacher
Olton, TX

To the House Public Committee, I urge you to vote no on House Bill 3, the establishment of an education savings account program.

Firstly, please let me share what public schools provide, particularly rural public schools. I am a public high school teacher in Olton. As a rural, Title I school, the loss of taxpayer money would hurt schools like mine the most. Most rural schools in Texas have no alternative private school nearby to even choose from, so this bill would not create "choice" for our students any more than completely moving to another city would. The school is the heart and soul of our community. Within these walls, we provide two daily meals for our students, many of whom would otherwise not eat at home. We also have a service called Snack Packs for Kids, which provides much needed healthy snacks and food for our at-risk students over the weekend and long breaks. During Covid, we provided remote hot spots around town for our students to safely access internet, because many of our students do not have Wi-Fi access at home. Our world today runs on the internet, and many of our students stay connected to the world through use of the school issued Chromebooks and internet services. This especially helps with our seniors who are applying for colleges and scholarship opportunities, many of whom cannot access these websites at home. We desperately need public funds to continue to provide electronic services to our students. Right now, our district is in need of new Chromebooks, but because of this house bill, we are facing the possibility of losing more funds if our students choose to attend the private school 25 miles away. Our school provides safety and security for many of our students who come from dysfunctional or even unsafe home situations. Kids today face a myriad of issues, and counseling services aren't available for most. Many families struggle with putting food on the table, let alone being able to afford counseling services to their troubled teen. This is where the public school system yet again steps in. Many of our kids benefit from the guidance and care provided by our school counselors. They also have the watchful eyes of their caring teachers checking into their lives every single day. I wear many hats as a teacher, and counselor is one of them. I also happen to have a masters of arts degree in counseling, which brings me to my next point: Governor Abbott has posted frequently on Facebook saying that students will receive a better education from private schools, yet I want to say, we have some very well educated teachers out here in the public school system working hard everyday to become even better educators. I have a degree in English Languages and Literature along with my masters. My students leave my classroom prepared for college, and I am proud of that. I will end with this: public tax dollars should only be used for public services, not private schools. Public funds need to back public schools, not private schools.

Brittany Thomas
Self
Lewisville, TX

I live in Lewisville isd. Our district provides CTE courses for free in high school. Our district has all levels of classes for students with disabilities. Our district has open enrollment. Our district has a collegiate academy for high school and offers dual credit classes. We are doing all this we are providing all this even with a limited budget since 2019. We can only imagine what we would be able to do for our students if we were fully funded.

Kaitlin Jeffrey
Self/ public educator
Post, TX

As a public educator and a parent of children in a public school, I see first hand how public educators take what they are given and turn it into great things. Living in rural Texas, we don't have all the "choices" that are more available in other areas. The closest charter or private school is over 45 miles away. Parents in our community want more for our kids, but we want it here in our town from our current ISD. They just can't do more due to the lack of funding and the hinderances that are placed on them from bills like this. The issues facing public education are vast, but the fear is that we cripple the system to a point that it truly does fail and it will leave us with a functionally illiterate society that will in turn cripple our states workforce. We have to do better.

Brandy Wood
Brandy Wood, Olton ISD
Plainview, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill. I value public education and have been in it for 32 years. I feel parents already have a choice and taking money from public schools would actually have the adverse effect and limit many students to no choice. Please do not pass this bill.

Julianna Russell
My grandson
Lufkin, TX

I'm against school vouchers!!! Don't take from the public school my grandson depends on. He is a G&T program kid with severe ADHD and no private school would be required to meet his needs. Don't further undermine the quality of public school education in Texas for kids like my Connor!

Sincerely,

Julianna Russell

Autumn Hardin, Dr.
Self
Beaumont, TX

HB3 would unfairly destroy our already crippled public education system. All students deserve quality education!

Kelley Kilgore
Self
Austin, TX
No to HB3!

Simone Jack
Self
Kempner, TX

Every child deserves the right to a quality public education that is fair and empowering, regardless of their background, location, religion, or family's income. Our public schools must be fully funded and equipped to help all students succeed. Public funding should directly support public education, benefiting every child, not diverted to exclusive programs serving only select groups. Voucher systems predominantly benefit affluent families who already have resources for private education, disproportionately disadvantaging families in working-class and rural areas. Students with disabilities risk losing critical protections provided under state and federal laws when utilizing voucher programs to attend private schools. Public schools rely on adequate funding to serve all students effectively. Texas communities, especially in rural areas, often rely solely on public schools, which cannot afford further cuts. We urge our lawmakers to firmly oppose any policies that threaten the stability and quality of public education by redirecting funds away from public schools.

Becky Koehler
Self - Teacher/Certified Librarian
Lubbock, TX

I have been a public education teacher for the past 25 years. I am so disappointed in the state of Texas for pushing this voucher system when we have excellent public schools that you could support now. We have underpaid teachers, and even this supposed raise leaves many of them out, such as librarians and counselors. This bill will continue to leave many of our underprivileged students out of an excellent education because they will not be able to afford the part of the private school tuition that is not funded by the voucher. I feel that my job is in jeopardy for no good reason. I want our state government to support the millions of students we already have in public school and the teachers who work tirelessly to make their education the best that it can be.

Jennifer Donato
Pleasanton ISD
Poteet, TX

School choice already exists.

Sarah Murphy, N/A
Self
Pearland, TX

For the most part, we have school choice now. This is a school voucher program that will only benefit those that want to go to private schools. What about the public schools? Don't abandon those students. This is a money grab and I am not for school vouchers. Make our public school stronger and don't abandon them.

Meagan Butler
Self, Tech Executive
Austin, TX

I am writing to express my deep concern about HB3 and the impact that it will have on our children, as well as the business sector of Texas.

Texas already woefully underfunds public education, and because of this, we are missing out on the intellectual growth of our children. If we want to remain competitive in the emerging technology industry, we must put more funding into public education. If we want to recruit the brightest minds to come to our state, we need to be able to educate their children.

I am a tech executive and former public school teacher. Vote No on this harmful bill that seeks to dismantle public education and makes no business sense.

Laura Modesto
Self
austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 because it diverts critical public funds away from Texas public schools and funnels them into unregulated private institutions. This bill threatens the quality and accessibility of public education, particularly in rural communities that rely on public schools.

Texas is already facing a teacher shortage crisis, and underfunding public schools will only make it worse. Teachers are leaving the profession due to low pay and lack of support, and instead of addressing this, HB3 worsens the situation by draining resources from schools that need them most.

Public education is also a key driver of Texas' economy. Major employers choose where to invest based on the availability of a well-educated workforce. Without strong public schools, Texas risks losing out on business investments and high-paying jobs. 77% of Texas voters support increased funding for public schools, and up to 94% favor investments in teacher salaries, tutoring, and mental health services. Lawmakers should listen to their constituents and prioritize funding for public education.

I urge you to reject HB3 and instead invest in strengthening public schools, supporting teachers, and ensuring Texas remains a competitive, thriving economy for future generations.

Andrea Ingersoll Totte

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Voucher programs take public funds and give them to private school organizations which have the ability to filter which students they accept and will not accept. Studies show this is detrimental to the academic and social development of children, who benefit from diverse environments where they learn to get along with people from backgrounds that differ from their own. Texas used to be a beacon in the world of education, my sisters who are teachers often used to emulate practices from Texas public schools in their classrooms. This is no longer the case as their funding and position has eroded over the past 30 years. Please don't let Texas public schools fall further behind the rest of the country than we already have. Everyone in America has a right to a solid free education, as this is how we invest in our future. \$1 of investment in public education results in an average of \$26 in return of investment in GDP. Invest in our future. Thank you.

Janice Francis

Self, a retired teacher

Perrin, TX

Vote NO on vouchers for educational choice. Public funds should never be used for private schools! I do not know of anyone who supports this bill. Do you represent the people or not?

Philip Wilhelm

Self

Austin, TX

No to this bill.

Arnetta Murray

Self

Iowa Colony, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed establishment of an Education Savings Account (ESA) program in Texas. While I fully support efforts to improve educational opportunities for all students, I am deeply concerned that this program will divert much-needed public funds away from our public schools, ultimately weakening the education system that serves the majority of Texas students.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing equitable education to students of all backgrounds, abilities, and socioeconomic statuses. By redirecting taxpayer dollars to private and unregulated educational institutions through ESAs, we risk undermining the resources that our public schools desperately need for teacher salaries, special education programs, classroom resources, and infrastructure improvements.

Additionally, ESA programs lack sufficient oversight and accountability, raising concerns about potential misuse of funds and the quality of education provided in non-public settings. Our focus should remain on strengthening public schools by investing in educators, expanding resources, and ensuring that every child, regardless of their zip code, has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to oppose the establishment of an ESA program and instead support policies that reinforce and enhance Texas public schools. Our students, teachers, and communities deserve a fully funded, equitable, and accountable education system that serves everyone fairly.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brian Jacobson, HMCS(FMF/SW) USN, Ret

Self

Seguin, TX

As a constituent and tax payer I urge the committee to stop this Bill as it will only harm our children's lives and education. Dumping our nation's student from public education to private schools does nothing to solve the issues of our drastically declining education levels in the country nor the quality of standards. By dumping it all over to private schools we are only going to overpopulate the private institution that will result in the same issues we have now of inadequate student to teacher ratios, and decreased benchmark standards in order to save money at the Federal level. We as taxpayers need to know more about this voucher plan because although it's advertised that these vouchers will get us into better schools with no real increase to our taxes or out of pocket expenses, I know the truth. I have had children in private schools and things like uniforms are costly, as well as, the costs of expanding campus to accommodate the proposed student influx, who is going to pay for that? The private schools are not going to do it, we as parents and taxpayers will have to pay the bill somehow.

We already have great schools and amazing teachers dedicated to inspiring and encouraging our youth in the public sector so why change that when all they need is support from our government, not the abandonment for private schools. This is not a viable plan for the future of our children, please stop this bill now.

Colleen Blume

self/teacher

lewisville, TX

I am against vouchers. I want our public schools fully funded. Come on, listen to the people that elected you!

Misty Henderson, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

Texas HB 3, which proposes sweeping changes to the state's education system, should be opposed for several reasons. The bill prioritizes privatization and voucher programs, which could divert crucial funding from public schools, further exacerbating the inequities faced by disadvantaged students. Instead of strengthening public education and providing resources to improve schools, HB 3 seems more focused on fostering a market-driven approach that undermines the principle of equal access to quality education for all. Additionally, the bill fails to address the systemic issues within public schools, such as insufficient teacher pay, overcrowded classrooms, and lack of resources. By shifting attention away from supporting public schools, HB 3 could ultimately harm the students who rely the most on robust, well-funded education systems.

Heather Herrington, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

Tax dollars should go to public schools which serve ALL students and NOT to private schools that are not held to the same standards.

Kara Newcomb
Self, Accountant
Slaton, TX

As a parent to three children in public school, a taxpayer, and a leader in a small community, I strongly oppose establishing an education savings account program. There has not been any proposed accountability for private schools or homeschools to ensure that taxpayer dollars that will be spent appropriately. Currently public school systems have to meet safety requirements, testing requirements, submit financial reports, publicly disclose decisions made by the board including tax rates, and a number of other items to taxpayers, TEA, and the State of Texas. Redirecting public funds to entities that do not have the same requirements is the equivalent of embezzling. Tax rates will likely need to increase to cover the funding the public schools will lose, but then the State of Texas will come back in and cap tax rates. You are putting public schools that currently struggle with hiring and retaining good quality teachers in a lose/lose situation. The proposed increases to public funding do not sufficiently offset the cost of an education savings account program.

When explaining education savings account programs to people, it sounds ridiculous. Why would a corporate store like Walmart, Target, etc, be required to offer a gift card for their competitor? That is what an education savings account program is when you break it down.

Please do the right thing and do not approve this bill.

Angela Groves
self
Fort Worth, TX

Sec. 7. APPROPRIATIONS FOR SECTARIAN PURPOSES. No money shall be appropriated, or drawn from the Treasury for the benefit of any sect, or religious society, theological or religious seminary; nor shall property belonging to the State be appropriated for any such purposes. (Feb. 15, 1876 .)

oppose vouchers and HB3

Karen Linnartz
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please listen to the public, they do NOT support vouchers, school saving plans or whatever you want to call it. We want funding based on enrollment. Stop wasting time and start funding public education. Move Texas students to the top of the priority list. Show that you are listening to your constituents and end this nonsense

Laura Jouret
Self - Lactation Consultant/mother
Lorena, TX

Vouchers are not the way to help education. It will take money from public schools and they need more money. Vouchers seem like a good idea on paper but it's only going to give money back to privileged people that are already sending their kids to private school. Texas public schools need more resources to care for these kids. All kids school be able to have free and healthy meals at school, no matter their financial situation. Teachers need to be paid more! Vouchers will kill public schools!

Betina Ramos
Self
Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Sheila Rothe

self--retired teacher--part time teacher at private school

D'Hanis, TX

Please do not vote for this bill. I do not think it will benefit private or public schools.

Jennifer Jones

Self

Diana, TX

I am a career and technical educator in rural North East Texas. HB3 could be detrimental to a small district like mine who relies so heavily on state funding. We are barely getting by as is. Any further cuts could be the end of my district altogether. The county in which I live in does not have a private school anywhere. Meaning, students may not use the vouchers, but we will still lose funding. We also serve several students with mental and physical disabilities that will suffer if our district has to close its doors. As a CTE teacher, my abilities to find a job in private schools is next to non existent. Most private schools do not offer career prep, so if I were to continue in education, I would be forced to switch to a subject that is outside my area of expertise. I can't see how vouchers benefit anyone, except for the few individuals who pocket off private education. Public school is a wonderful thing and should be supported by the state, not punished and stripped from. Please vote NO on HB3.

Trish Garcia-King

Self/Teacher

Midlothian, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Tiffany Jones

Self

Bridge City, TX

The definition of a private school vs a public school is one does not have government funding and the other is funded by the government. That is pretty simple. These vouchers will kill public school. If there is money for this voucher program, give it to public schools to make them stronger. Raise teacher pay! Vote NO on Vouchers! Texans do not want this!

Jennifer Johnson

Retired educator

Wills Point, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Kathleen Fischer

Self

Dallas, TX

Passing Voucher system may benefit some kids in Texas. But public education is about educating ALL kids to create a stronger state. A voucher system is a terrible idea as it disadvantages the already-disadvantaged by gutting our public education system. Vote against it

Christine Smikal

Self

Dayton, TX

I do not my tax money going to unregulated schools. Passing the school voucher bill or school choice bill will not help the low income students to have a better education. Most will still not be able to afford the private schools. It will however promote inadequate private schools to be started so people can cash in on the money that will be given to unmonitored schools. I am shocked at the billion dollars that is available to fund these bill and yet there are schools that could use money to have better programs.

As a teacher I have seen less funding available over the years for Career and Technology programs, which produces student that are ready to work with certifications at graduation.

Why is the money not being invested to fix the current public system that is available to all?

Robyn Hadley, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

Public funds belong in public schools, as spelled out in the Texas Constitution.

Michael Conti

Self

Austin, TX

I am urging the committee to strongly oppose HB3. Free public education is absolutely foundational to democracy. In a state that already struggles to fund education, HB3 funnels taxpayer money away from our public schools to private institutions that can pick and choose their locations and students, leaving behind kids and communities in both big cities and rural counties.

Please stand with parents, students, teachers, and communities throughout the state in standing against this cash grab that's stealing the promise of public education. Please oppose HB3.

Lori Laynes
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Lori Laynes

Christine Celio
Self, advanced practice nurse
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers that ultimately take resources away from public education and makes our community weaker and more segregated. Strong, well-resourced, and well attended public schools are essential to having well educated citizens. I implore you to vote against school vouchers because they destabilize our public school system.

Renee Fernandes
Self, business owner
Highland Village, TX

PLEASE FULLY FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION. It's not hard. It's important for the health of our state. I have 2 children in high school in Flower Mound TX and we started them at a private STEM school. My son lasted 2 years and my daughter 1 before I realized the teachers were not qualified. There was no training and soooo many serious problems in the classroom with discipline and learning. We pulled them out of that school and enrolled them in the public schools because our district is amazing. The opportunities they have to learn and grow are unrivaled! They went through a dual language program from K-8th grade. They are part of an amazing, very successful marching band that can and never will happen at a private school. Yet as funding is cut, these programs are in jeopardy. Schools are closing. While I very much appreciate the raises for our teachers, more needs to be done. We are talking about MILLIONS of children in our state. PLEASE FULLY FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION. Don't let Abbott and his wife- who has a huge stake in a private school- run you over. Help ALL our kids. FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION. Thanks for listening.

Rachel Aragon, Public School Teacher

Self

Amarillo, TX

Public schools have been facing the same inflation as the rest of the United States. The voucher system is not going to help public schools! Private schools are not held to the same standards as public schools are. Private schools do not require teachers to have certificates. Private schools do not have to follow the same state mandates or curriculum. But yet this HB wants to give them MORE money than public schools. Public schools need funding to make education better. Public school teachers need to be paid better so we can keep great teachers.

Rebecca Jefferson

Self

LUBBOCK, TX

I am AGAINST vouchers. I believe public monies should be used for public education. Public schools benefit the largest portion of society and therefore should be supported fully.

Megan Stuart

Self & Children

Houston, TX

Support public schools & education. Vote NO for voucher programs

Morgan Salari

self

Austin, TX

Texas HB 3, which proposes sweeping changes to the state's education system, should be opposed for several reasons. The bill prioritizes privatization and voucher programs, which could divert crucial funding from public schools, further exacerbating the inequities faced by disadvantaged students. Instead of strengthening public education and providing resources to improve schools, HB 3 seems more focused on fostering a market-driven approach that undermines the principle of equal access to quality education for all. Additionally, the bill fails to address the systemic issues within public schools, such as insufficient teacher pay, overcrowded classrooms, and lack of resources. By shifting attention away from supporting public schools, HB 3 could ultimately harm the students who rely the most on robust, well-funded education systems.

Melisa Markman

Self

Austin, TX

Several organizations have been providing members of the Education Committee with accurate data for several years, and this session is no different. HB3 is detrimental to Texas students. If you're going to support it, please be honest in your support and stop telling your constituents it's good for Texas. A struggling public education system is not in the best interest of the state, and vouchers and ed savings accounts take much needed funding away from the 90% of Texas students and families who will continue in the public education system and 100% of Texans who all rely on public education regardless of whether they have children enrolled in a Texas ISD or not. Private and charter schools cannot fill the diverse needs of Texas students like a well-funded public education system can. If you are genuinely confused by the information coming from the Governor's office which states the opposite, please refer to the data provided to you by any of the organizations that have been visiting your offices opposing vouchers and education savings accounts for several sessions. Thank you.

Annalie Grubbs

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

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This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Annalie Grubbs

Grace Mancilla, Mrs.

Self

Palestine, TX

Please stop vouchers. The majority of Texans are against vouchers and our representatives are not listening to us. Save our public schools and vote No.

Mary Fried, Ms

Self

Houston, TX

Citizens have the right to send their child to private school. But Vouchers are a give away to wealthy parents who already have their child in private school. Many counties in Texas don't even have a private school to go to. Taking money out of the education budget for this is not helpful and is unethical to present it as a "choice "

Henry Ho

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Dawn Coker

Self - 2nd grade public school teacher

Lewisville, TX

Private schools should be faced with the same conditions we have in public schools - they must accept all students, provide services that they need, have certified teachers and provide transportation. Texas needs to fund education by enrollment NOT attendance!

Jeanne Connell

Self

Austin, TX

I am against this voucher bill . The majority of Texans are against this bill. Yet you are trying to ram it down our throats under pressure from the governor and special interests.

I believe good quality public school education is essential to providing opportunity for all Texas citizens and building a stronger, better educated citizenry which lifts us all up. This bill will hurt public schools. Texas has been failing students and teachers for decades and our education ranking vs other states shows that. In such a wealthy state that is shameful.

The answer is to support public schools and public school teachers, not to use taxpayer money for a scam that will support private and religious schools and benefit the few, not the many. We can do much better.

Beth Nepl

Beth Nepl

Grapevine, TX

Do not pass the Public Education Bill. Keyfunds in our public schools. The wealthy do not need subsidies for private education.

C.K. Christensen

Self

Tomball, TX

Please do not pass the voucher bill. This will detrimental to not only my own child who goes to an already underfunded school and also receives speech therapy services, but for all children who do not come from wealth. My child deserves to have a quality education- all children do. And vouchers will unfairly take funding away from public schools that need it. If someone is able to pay 5-10k a year along with the help of a voucher, to send their kids to a private school then they **DO NOT NEED THE MONEY FROM THE VOUCHER**. Most Texans live paycheck to paycheck, with no disposable income, so no matter how much money is "given" via vouchers my child, nor any child in my **ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD** would be able to go to private school. Instead these children who come from poverty, broken homes, have disabled parents (such as myself) and one income households (such as ours) are working so hard to put food on the table and provide for our children, and now our children will also have funding pulled from their school and given to private schools? Make it make sense! Every single child deserves a quality education. Disabled, poor, special needs, etc. **VOUCHERS ARE WELFARE FOR THE WEALTHY THAT DO NOT NEED THE FINANCIAL HELP**. Our schools are already struggling. My child's teachers have to buy paper and pencils for their own classroom! Teachers are already overworked and underpaid. Not only that but there is a severe lack of substitutes, so if my child's teacher is absent there is no sub for the class. Instead her class is divided into groups of 3 and sent to various other classrooms which disturbs everyone's learning. We need to work on these problems in our public schools before giving out vouchers for private schools. My child also receives speech therapy through school. She has been in speech therapy since she was 2. She is now 10. Without speech therapy she would not be where she is today. We work hard with her at home, but the speech therapists at her school have really helped her come out of her shell and be more confident in her speaking. Pulling funding will mean that children who need speech therapy such as my own and others and other special education needs will be even more underfunded than they already are. Please, I am begging you to not pass the voucher bill. Every child deserves a **QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION**. Please do not allow public school funding to go towards private school vouchers. It would truly be detrimental to my child and most children in Texas. Most people will not be able to use the vouchers, because we simply don't have the extra income to cover the test of private tuition. Also most private schools are Christian-based. Not everyone is Christian. Please take into consideration all of the above and say **NO** to vouchers. Instead put that money into our struggling public schools that so desperately need it. Do the right thing. Please. Thank you.

Judith Heike

Self

Dallas, TX

I believe this will be detrimental to our public school system as well as our community connections. The only way to lift all Texans is to continue to fund and improve our public schools. Please support our teachers, children, schools and communities and vote no!

Ronda Porter
Red Oak High School
Red Oak, TX

This bill will destroy our public education system and only be a benefit to those who are already attending private schools. Also, if they get tax payer money they should have the Sam mandates and testing requirements as public schools.

Sarah Contreras
Self
Lubbock, TX

I live in Lubbock and send both of my elementary aged children to private school. I am employed full-time, I own my home (and pay taxes into our local public schools), and I am a single parent. I would personally benefit greatly from the school voucher program, however I am GREATLY opposed to it. Government money does not belong in private schools, and our public schools need and deserve financial priority. The flimsy benefits being pitched by our local and state officials are unconvincing, and quite frankly insulting. We see the real motives behind this choice. NO SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Jeremy Brouse
Self cabinet maker
Abilene, TX

This doesn't help rural Texas. Only big cities like Austin and Dallas. Let's help all of our public schools not just some.

Victoria Falcon
self
San Antonio, TX

"Hi, my name is Victoria, and I'm a constituent from San Antonio. I urge the Public Education Committee to VOTE NO on House Bill 3. This bill is bad for Texas students, bad for public schools, and bad for taxpayers. It diverts public money to private schools with little accountability, while leaving public schools underfunded. For years, Texas lawmakers have failed to pass meaningful legislation on teacher pay raises, school repairs, and increased funding for our public schools. Yet now they're proposing \$1 billion for private school vouchers. Texas students deserve real investments in education, not handouts for the wealthy. I urge the Texas Legislature to stand with Texas students and teachers and vote NO on HB 3. Thank you.

Sherri Ledford, Retired Teacher
Self
Adkins, TX

Vote NO!
Our students and teachers deserve better!!

Julie Petri
Self
Friendswood, TX

I strongly oppose school choice/voucher programs. It depletes public education funding which affects all of our children. Parents already have a choice -if you they don't like the choice -move to a more favorable choice.

Kathleen Young

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Please vote no on HB 3. I have two high school kids in LISD and my spouse is a teacher in the same district. We are already crushed by lack of funding. It is unacceptable to take public school funds and apply them to private schools. We know from other states that have used this scam that it only benefits the rich that are already attending private schools and increases segregation. The intention of this bill is to defund public school. Please vote no for the sake of ALL Texas children, who deserve a fair and equitable education.

Lindsey Ramirez

Myself

Austin, TX

As a taxpayer and parent to 2 public school students, I oppose this bill. This bill would raise my taxes to benefit children of wealthy families, who are the only ones that could afford to go to these private schools even with the vouchers. My CHOICE is for my kids to attend public school and I don't think I should have to pay for an alternative school for people who choose not to utilize a public service (for example, would we use tax money to pay for someone's neighborhood pool we all can't use?, what about tax money for security guards for private residence? It's all a choice for alternative services to public pools, the state and federal police, etc). Additionally, these schools are not held up to the same standards. As a tax payer, I shouldn't have to pay for education that's not required to have credentialed teachers, not required to take the same state tests. I am concerned these schools do not have to be accountable to the public even though we are paying for it (unlike public schools).

Eva Cuenca, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose to pass this Bill, public money collected by public government offices needs to be spend in Public Service therefore public education.

Focus on social wealth and our communities that need our services the most ! Stop privatizing human basic rights !

Adriana Yzquierdo

Self

Houston, TX

Dear Members of the Texas Senate,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to proposals that seek to divert funding from our public schools through private school voucher programs. As a concerned citizen, I urge you to stand firmly in support of public education and reject any measures that would defund or weaken our public schools.

Texas' public education system has long been a cornerstone of opportunity, ensuring that all students, regardless of their background, have access to a quality education. Our public schools serve a diverse range of students, including those with special needs, English language learners, and children from low-income families. They are places where every child, no matter their circumstance, has the potential to succeed. Public schools offer a sense of community, foster inclusivity, and provide a range of services beyond education, such as meals, counseling, and extracurricular activities.

Introducing vouchers that funnel taxpayer dollars into private schools would have a disastrous impact on our public schools. Vouchers would effectively siphon money away from the very institutions that serve the vast majority of our students. These funds are crucial for maintaining essential programs, improving educational outcomes, and supporting teachers. Public schools are already struggling with overcrowded classrooms, underpaid teachers, and limited resources. Redirecting money to private schools would only worsen these challenges and leave public schools with fewer resources to meet the needs of Texas children.

Private schools that accept vouchers are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. They do not have to accept all students, particularly those with disabilities, special needs, or English language learners. They can select students based on academic performance, financial means, or other factors, which leaves the most vulnerable students behind. Public schools, on the other hand, are required to accept every student, ensuring that every child has a fair chance at success. By diverting funds to private institutions, we risk creating a two-tiered education system that exacerbates inequality and disadvantages those who need the most support.

The focus should not be on dismantling public education but on strengthening it. Instead of providing vouchers for private schools, Texas must prioritize fully funding its public schools to ensure every student has access to a high-quality education. We must increase teacher salaries, reduce class sizes, improve school facilities, and ensure that every child has the resources they need to succeed. Our public schools can be the best they can be if they are given the support and funding they deserve.

Private school vouchers are not the solution to the challenges facing our education system. Public education has a proven track record of providing a quality education to millions of students, and it is essential that we continue to invest in and improve this system.

Amy Feaster

self/teacher, former principal

Ralls, TX

Providing vouchers for families to attend private schools is a bad idea and also not financially responsible. Parents have always had a choice on where to send their children to school. This bill says it will provide money in order to allow those not able to pay to be able to afford private school, but the amount given will not pay for a private school tuition and many rural areas do not have private schools in close proximity to them. The vast majority of children attend public schools and the money being proposed for vouchers can better be used to fund these schools. Public schools are mandated to accept all students in their district and educate them to the best of their ability no matter if the child is gifted and talented or requires special instruction such as special education, dyslexia and english as a second language. Our current teachers and schools are woefully underfunded. We rank very low in the nation in teacher pay and money provided per student. Please do not allow this large amount of money to be used for things that will not benefit students and to appease influential donors. Please use this money to better the future of Texas, our wonderful students. They deserve better from our government leaders!!

Laura Kroll
Self / educator
Floresville, TX

Please consider the detrimental impact this bill will have on rural/public schools. The disparity between the proposed ESA and its counterpart funding per pupil public school funding is atrocious. Current promotion of HB 3 has been misleading and untruthful. In addition, the outcomes this will have for the future of education in Texas is nothing short of disheartening. Please stop take heart into what we have worked so hard for in the state for the future of all children.

Jessica Rong
self
wylie, TX

Schools all over our state are closing due to lack of funding. Priorities of this administration have continued to drive unwanted interventions in our schools. We don not want religion. We want funding. We do not want vouchers. We want funding. Our teachers can barely survive on the salary they earn. It is shocking how little they make. Not only are they underpaid, the schools are underfunded and they pay for supplies out of their already meager pay. Lawmakers should be ashamed that this is our current state and it will only get worse with vouchers. So then what? The public schools are just left in the wind? Nobody needs these vouchers. Private schools are majority religious schools, so what you are really pushing is for rich families to subsidize their children's private education at religious school while children at public school suffer the co sequences. This has absolutely nothing to do with helping the families that want to go to private school. Schools will raise tuition so that doesn't happen. Private schools will teach what they deem appropriate, many including christianity, and will not provide services that public schools are mandated to provide. You will continue to underfund schools so programs for children with special needs will no longer be provided. Ultimately you don't seem to care what is best for the children of Texas, otherwise you would listen to parents not billionaires that bought your seat.

Yehoshua Knopf
Self
Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Joe Ravitsky, Mr
Self
Dallas, TX

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Kelsei Fortenberry

Self

Lubbock, TX

As a public school teacher in the state of Texas, I do not support a voucher program in Texas. Students in Texas already have choice built into their education. My school has transfers from over 20 other schools in the area, because parents and students are already given choice in their education. The voucher program will divert funds from public schools into private schools, and will not even serve the purported low income students as the funds provided will not even be enough to help the truly low income. On top of that fact private schools do not have the same oversight that public schools have and also do not have to accept all students the same way that public schools do. Private schools do not serve every child and the system means that they will continue to not serve every child. Public schools have been and will continue to be the future of education, and we should fund them as such.

Danielle Valencia

Self - business analyst

Arlington, TX

Your constituents do not want school vouchers. Time and again when this issue is presented to voters, we vote against it. Public education is one of the most valuable public services we have in the United States and we cannot put it in the hands of private companies who have no stake in the future of our young people. We will remember those who vote for this bill during elections. Again I ask to please oppose this bill

David Wills

Self

Dallas, TX

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Leslie Jacob

Self teacher

Red Oak, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Megan Corns
Self
Waxahachie, TX

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Jack Lloyd-Reilley
Self, Engineer
San Antonio, TX

Everyone should receive the same education, so that they embark on their adult life with the same advantages and disadvantages, and rise or fall according to their own MERIT, and not the advantages conferred by their parents, or the state, on which their own decisions, skills, or talent have no bearing. These convoluted savings plans, school choice measures and voucher programs ignore the fact that it is the parents, not the student, who choose the school, and thus they are unmeritocratic regarding the student itself. Everyone should go to the same public schools, with the same funding, and have the same opportunities in life, so that they rise or fall based on their OWN choices, and not happenstance, connections or favoritism. Therefore, you should abandon this school choice effort, scrap this bill, and just reallocate the states budget surplus to improving our public schools for ALL students.

Joe Ravitsky, Mr
Self
Dallas, TX

Supporting the right for a parent to make choices as to their children's schooling increases the quality of the school product, we make all schools better, we increase diversity of education choices, and we provide parents better opportunities for their children, in doing so we improve the workforce that attracts quality companies to our state. Our public schools will not have less resources, but they will improve through some competition and will be forced to better respond to parents' and students' needs

Richard Kull
myself
Rowlett, TX

stop this scam, support appropriate funding for public schools

Dominique Buerkett
Self
Pearland, TX

The large majority of residents I come in contact with are against this bill. It does not benefit public schools in any way. Public funds should NOT be used to fund private schools. Put that money into public schools.

April Hughes
self; PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER
Moran, TX

I just heard James Frank say that public schools have choice in things that happen in their schools that parents don't have. Parents have choices in where they send their children to school. NO ONE ever said they did not. HOWEVER, choices have consequences, and those choices should be funded by the PARENTS!!!

Katrisha Smith

Self

Dallas, TX

School vouchers may seem like a way to expand opportunity, but they weaken public schools, increase segregation, and fail to improve student outcomes. In Milwaukee, decades of vouchers have drained public school funding without raising achievement. Arizona's program overwhelmingly benefits students already in private schools, diverting public funds to families who don't need them. Indiana has lost over \$500 million from public education due to vouchers, forcing cuts to essential services like special education and counseling.

Voucher programs also worsen segregation. Louisiana's system allows private schools to reject students with disabilities, leaving public schools with the most challenging cases and fewer resources to support them. In Ohio, voucher students are wealthier and whiter than their public school peers. Florida's program enables private schools to discriminate against LGBTQ+ students while still receiving taxpayer money.

Despite claims that vouchers improve education, studies show they often harm academic performance. In Louisiana, students using vouchers saw their math scores plummet. Washington, D.C., voucher recipients performed worse in math than their public school peers. Ohio's data revealed lower scores among voucher students than those who stayed in public schools.

Private schools accepting vouchers also lack accountability. In Wisconsin, some employ uncertified teachers and use unregulated curricula. Florida has seen schools take millions in voucher funds and then shut down, stranding families. In Arizona, funds have been misused for vacations and personal expenses, exposing a system with little oversight.

Vouchers are not about helping students but about privatizing education. Instead of diverting funds, we should invest in proven strategies—smaller class sizes, teacher support, and early childhood education. Public schools serve all students, and we must strengthen them, not undermine them with failed voucher schemes.

Patti Powell, M.D.

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I send my child to private school, and yet I do not support school vouchers. A society is only strong when its citizens are well educated. That is what I pay taxes for - a well run government and educated society. Please do not pass a bill that takes money away from public schools, but instead work to FIX our schools. You can start by paying our teachers more and not holding their salary hostage. Vouchers DO NOT consistently work, as demonstrated in the states that have tried them. I live in a majority Republican / conservative area of Texas, and yet I don't know anyone who supports school vouchers. Please do better for Texas and our students. Thank you for listening to your constituents!

Kathi Thomas, Ms.

myself

Austin, TX

Listening this morning, I have this question-how to poor families pay the application fees? They're generally over \$100. For a poor family, that's a lot of money- and if their child isn't accepted, that's money they can't get back. And some schools don't base their acceptance on the child, but on the family. I had friends whose students were denied acceptance due to parents being divorced, and another who was denied because parents were a same gender couple. They were told they "didn't fit their families profiles." This AFTER they applied. So yes, it is the SCHOOLS that have the choice, not the families.

I may be a rarity- our daughter was homeschooled, private schooled, and in 5th grade, transitioned to our local public school, which is excellent. Private school was a struggle, but she received a scholarship.

Taxpayer dollars should come with fairness and accountability. When the STAAR began, we were told that "public schools MUST be accountable to taxpayers." These private schools that want taxpayer dollars have zero accountability- they don't have to take the same state mandated tests that public schools do- most public schools would LOVE to be able to give norm-referenced tests instead of the STAAR, (which I believe is built to fail as many students as possible.) Taxpayers don't get to elect the boards of those private schools, we don't get to know what they're paying their admins, we don't get to vote on bonds to build their schools- they go directly to the state for low-cost loans to build whatever they want. There is NO public input or accountability and, given the strictures on public schools, it seems more than unfair. If they're willing to do all the same, then that's another conversation.

The concern about special education students is important. Despite what Chair Buckley said, most private schools don't accept special education students- given their smaller populations, special ed gets very expensive. There are schools that specialize in things like dyslexia, but not so much for other special needs. When we were considering a particular private school, we were advised by someone who taught there not to mention our child's ADHD, as that would keep her from being accepted!

Private schools tend to have few students per class, and that alone, even with a subpar teacher, would give each child more one on one time with the teacher. Why don't we put enough money into our public schools to allow them to have classes of 10-15 students- you'd be stunned how much better educated our children could be, especially with certified teachers.

Let's be honest- this is to give money to those already with students in private schools. Don't let the bullying of Abbott and his out of state billionaire force you to pass this bill, which is about removing students from public schools into schools where these far right billionaires can push their particular form of beliefs. Public Schools are where students meet with others who may be different from them.

Paula Niz, Secretary PTA & mother

Rustic Oak Elements PTA

Pearland, TX

Please don't allow this bill to pass. It is causing more harm than good to the majority of citizens. It will not promote the best education for all students and teachers in public school causing more harm to our future economy.

Sherry Owens

self/very concerned parent/grandmother/citizen

LUBBOCK, TX

NO to school vouchers - PLEASE!!

Pour any and all money into public schools, support public education - the ONLY true equalizer. Raise salaries, increase budgets for quality professional development. EQUIP districts, administrators and educators to be successful. NO, NO, NO to funding private schools and home schooling.

Carin Malmer

self

Sugar Land, TX

I vote NO to HB3. All of our Texas children need to be educated. Abbott has done very little to support students, parents, teachers or schools. As a former public school teacher of 35 years, I am opposed to taking even more money away from the students in the public school systems in Texas. We have 7 million school age children to educate in Texas and the vouchers only serve 100,000 students. How is this beneficial to our students and our future?

Scott Rogers
self
Corpus Christi, TX

Dear Legislators:
I write to convey that I do not support this proposal. We already have school choice and this will create more stress on the public school financing system. Thank you.

Amanda Elwood
Self
Orange, TX

This is absolutely absurd, vote NO!!!!

Katrina Donoughue
Self
Spring, TX

Please fund public schools and don't divert money from public schools into accounts to benefit rich donors. The public school children of Texas deserve better.

Justin Hart
Self/History teacher
Lubbock, TX

I am adamantly opposed to this bill. It is a massive giveaway to the small number of parents who can already afford private school tuition. It will not allow the average student to make a "choice" about their school. It will not protect special needs children. And, most importantly, it will further siphon money away from our already under-funded public schools--the schools that the vast majority of Texas children use.

Gail Sanchez
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

Example you can copy and paste below!

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Brooke Faulds
self- Social Worker
Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose Texas House Bill 3, as it threatens the quality and fairness of public education in our state. This bill would reduce funding for public schools, leading to an uneven distribution of resources and failing to meet the needs of all students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds and those requiring special education services.

Public schools are the foundation of our communities, and every student—regardless of their financial situation or learning needs—deserves access to a high-quality education. HB 3 risks widening educational disparities by diverting funds away from the schools that need them most. Instead of undermining public education, we should focus on fully funding our schools, ensuring that teachers have the resources they need, and supporting programs that help all students succeed.

I urge you to vote against HB 3 and stand up for Texas students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brooke Faulds
Austin, TX

Marilyn Jones, Rev.
Self, clergy
Stephenville, TX

I am a proud parent of a Texas public school student. I am also a product of a public school education, and the child of a selfless public school educator. I also serve as a pastor in the United Methodist Church. I have served churches that have had private schools.

I am writing to voice my opposition to this bill. Parents in Texas have choices about how to best educate their child. Most private school or homeschool parents that I know are well aware of the sacrifices they must make in order to make those choices. They have been hurt by private school tuition INCREASES that are already occurring in anticipation of this bill's passing. This is an indication that this will happen all over the state, making this a tougher issue for families that have chosen private school.

I strongly believe that public money should belong to our underfunded and underserved public schools. Our gifted and selfless teachers and our Texas children deserve to be advocated for by our elected officials.

Through public education, and the strength of our local ISD, I have seen my child excel. She is a strong reader, though only in the first grade. She is learning to stand up for kids that are differently abled than she is. She is learning kindness and compassion.

I urge the house to vote no on this bill and support our public schools.

Angela Ramirez
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Thank you for considering an increase to the basic public school allotment, however an increase of \$220 does not come remotely close to meeting inflation since 2019! Given the \$24B budget surplus we currently have, and how far behind we are in funding the public schools that serve the MAJORITY of Texas students, I think it is reasonable to increase the allotment by much more than \$220. Texas lawmakers have neglected our public schools for far too long, it is time to take our children's education seriously and make up for it!

Lisa Chen
Self, strategy consultant
Plano, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB3 and any school voucher program, especially ones that do not have an income cap. I want my taxpayer funds going to our already underfunded public schools, not to wealthy families that can already afford to send their kids to private schools. Private schools are enabled to accept/reject children as they wish and set whatever tuition prices they wish - that is the not the appropriate place to send public funds to. Public education has been fundamental to my success in life. Please consider your constituents and not your wealthy donors.

Israel Tarshish

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Lauren White

Self, small business founder

Austin, TX

I am a parent who opposes HB 3 and any private school vouchers. Our kids and teachers deserve fully public funded schools. Taxpayer money should be for public schools and not given to private schools and without any accountability.

2. Please take the time to text/share the link to leave a public comment to a friend! ????

Whitney Moskowitz

Self

Austin, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and support Texas public schools. This bill diverts taxpayer dollars from public schools, which educate over 90% of Texas students, to private institutions with little accountability. Schools already facing teacher shortages and rising student needs will be forced to cut programs, increase class sizes, and limit services.

Private schools receiving taxpayer funds are not required to serve all students, follow state curriculum standards, provide performance data, or maintain financial oversight. If public money is being spent, there should be transparency in how it is used. HB 3 lacks that accountability.

While promoted as a "school choice," HB 3 benefits only a small group of families. Vouchers do not fully cover tuition, leaving many working-class and rural families unable to access private schools. Meanwhile, public schools serving most students will be left with fewer resources.

Strong public schools create strong communities. When schools suffer, property values decline, businesses struggle, and workforce development weakens. Texans have consistently rejected voucher schemes, recognizing that public funds should support schools that serve all students. HB 3 threatens that foundation.

I appreciate your time and consideration in protecting Texas public education.

David Hall

Self, Insurance Agent

Sweeny, TX

All parents should have the right to select the best education available for their children.

Kellie Early

“Self”

KERRVILLE, TX

Against

Robert Hamilton

Self

Plano, TX

I am not interested in the voucher program being presented. I want all our Texas schools fully funded. Vouchers need to be on the ballot. Not pushed through a committee. We want to vote on this directly. Please vote no on this bill

Janna Whaling

Self, Graphics Manager

Carrollton, TX

As a parent and PTA Board member of our local public school here in Carrollton, I hereby strongly disagree with the HB 3 bill as it is not enough of a fund increase for public education students. Please vote NO and go back and rewrite this bill to include more funding for the 5.5 millions students in this state that need it! Our school board just announced last week they are closing 4 of our schools, due to a budget deficit that cannot support our declining enrollment. Please help with our students futures in public education!!

Katherine Smith

Self unemployed

Frisco, TX

Diverting funds meant for public schools to fund people already sending their children to private school is a travesty. School districts are having to cut programs because they don't have the proper funding from the state. Other states that have passed this scam are regretting it. People in Texas do not want this, listen to your constituents not the billionaires funding the governor. Abbott is wrong and so is this bill. NO on HB3

Katherine Martinez

Self

San Antonio, TX

I'm asking you to reconsider voting for the voucher/parent choice. It would be a disservice to those parents and children that recite in the rural areas that do not have the access to have choices thank you.

Rachel Brohammer

Self (Licensed Professional Counselor)

Eules, TX

HB3 is unacceptable and will only lead to the detriment of education in Texas. Those tax dollars belong to our already underfunded public school system, not in the pockets of private schools that are no obligation to accommodate students with special needs. If parents don't want public education they can pay for it out of pocket, it's not the problem of other taxpayers if they decide that their child is too good for public schools.

Jennifer Mollenkopf

Self - teacher

Allen, TX

I strongly reject any public school voucher legislation. Public funds belong in public education and not with curriculum vendors, private schools, or home schools. Fund our public schools properly!

Buckner Sandra, Ms

self

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote against this bill. It is a scam to destroy our public school education and convert schools run by men whose agenda no longer have free education without intervention of religion and to restrict education to only those who can pay tuitions. Further, it seeks to promote teaching conservative religious education in all schools. In addition it will not fund education for students with disabilities.

VOTE to school vouchers

Rebecca Baker, Ms.

-- please select a prefix --self

San Antonio, TX

Texas should support public, not private, schools. Texas funds SHOULD NOT be going into private school tuition. Texas funds should increase the quality of public schools and increase Texas teachers' pay.

Stephanie Standley

Self

Tyler, TX

Please don't do this! This will provide a discount for wealthy families and leave the poor children of Texas from rural communities with an even more underfunded public school system. Fully fund the public schools, pay the teachers a living wage, then all the children of Texas will have a better chance for success

Theresa Hornung

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Please stop this bill. It will only serve to hurt vulnerable children in our public schools. I know you've seen the data and this just serves the already wealthy and not every Texas student. My children are special needs and no private school would take them so I need public schools to be fully funded for them to have a chance at an education and successful life. They are already suffering from budget deficits and this will only make it worse. Please be real Texans and serve your people not the rich donors. I miss Texas politicians that loved the residents of their state so much they would actually

Listen to them and honor all our needs. "Fair" doesn't mean everyone gets the same thing. "Fair" means everyone gets what they need. This bill is no where near fair.

Cynthia Hendrickson

Self

KINGWOOD, TX

Vote no on vouchers. They are going to take money from public education and give it to private schools. That is not in the best interest of children in the state of Texas.

Jennifer Wisler

Self

Frisco, TX

My children both attend a wonderful school in Frisco ISD. As part of the public school they have an attendance minimum they have to meet in order to pass a grade, they are not allowed to pray in their classroom, they have to take the STAAR testing. They have to do all of these things in order for their school to get state funding. By doing the school vouchers, their school will get less funding and the state will fund schools who do not have mandatory attendance, they are allowed to pray and teach a religion/ bible course, and they will not have to teach to/ take a STAAR testing but will receive MORE funding than a student in a public school. The ISD should not be subjected to more stipulations and receive less money per student than a private school receiving those increases funds.

Marta Rozanich

Self

Ft worth, TX

We are spending on you to vote no on HB3. We need our neighborhood schools, they are vital to our communities. Please fully fund our schools. Fix our system, do not destroy it. The rural communities will be decimated. Our families, our children are depending on you to vote for our kids, and no on HB 3.

Luke Allison

Self

Caddo Mills, TX

Strongly opposed to this bill.

Christina Sellers, Ms.

Self, speech-language pathologist

Westworth Village, TX

I oppose HB 3 establishing education savings accounts. I am a speech therapist serving special education students in public schools. Adhering to State and Federal special education laws on the meager funding the state has provided is already a daily challenge. Private schools will not be required to serve special education students and this bill will further starve public schools of funds to provide a free and appropriate education to all. Has the state abandoned its commitment to people with disabilities? Does it intend to follow laws designed to protect it's most vulnerable citizens?

I also come from a family of public educators who have dedicated their entire careers to educating all Texans. These educators made a commitment to bettering our state. How do you intend to keep your commitment to these dedicated educators in their retirement?

An educated population is good for our economy and for democracy. I urge you to not pass HB 3 and keep your commitment to all students and teachers.

Susan Mouser

Self Retired Teacher

Abilene, TX

The Texas Constitution hold you responsible for properly funding PUBLIC schools. You are more than 10 years behind in fulfilling this obligation. Private schools should not be funded by tax revenue. NO VOUCHERS! The Senate hid a line item in their bill so as to destabilize Teacher Retirement System. Do NOT allow that to pass.

*Properly fund Public Schools.

*Do not pass any voucher bill.

*Do not strangle school districts by passing unfunded mandates.

*Provide for retired teachers.

Dawn Fields

Self

Dickinson, TX

I oppose school vouchers

Jason Wu

self - information security professional

Sugar Land, TX

I do not support the devaluation of public education.

Tina Butler
Self
Houston, TX

I do not support the use of state funds for private school. This will disenfranchise rural districts. Students with disabilities won't receive the support they deserve and require. Private schools aren't held to the same standards as public schools. We need to support public schools to elevate education in Texas

Katherine Jewett
Self
Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Katie Jewett and I am a constituent in zip code 78735. I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 3. I am asking my Representative and this Committee to vote no and to instead fully fund public education. We already have meaningful school choice in Texas - what we need are resources so that our public schools can deliver the education that each child in Texas deserves, and that which has already been mandated, with accountability and due process ensuring that delivery. We do not need resources for privatized schools to thrive with no or little accountability to the public. I don't believe proponents of this bill can point to any examples of similar laws in other states achieving any of the objectives that are the supposed motivation for this bill. To the contrary, voucher systems like this are a failed experiment, and if this bill moves forward, this will predictably harm more families than it helps. Thank you.

Sam Douglass
Self
Round rock, TX

I am not in favor of Hb3. This takes money away from public schools and gives it to wealthy people who don't need it

Nicole Fuller
Self/ Teacher/ Public school parent
Tuscola, TX

Education Savings Accounts, vouchers, parent choice are all beasts of the same nature! All take public money from the already poorly funded public schools. Our Texas students deserve better than having more money taken away and less programs available. Do what is right!! Say no to ESAs!! Find public schools first and appropriately.

I am proud of our public schools. Teachers are working night and day to make classrooms work. With no further funding, we are facing critical shortages and cutting essential programs.

Texas kids and teachers deserve better!

Eliza Nguyen
Self
Austin, TX

The vouchers are not equal. They should be equal for private and public with same expectations. Otherwise they should not go through. All Texans are equal and you are not treating us that way. This voucher bill hurts kids.

Christy Watley
Myself- educator and parent of public schools
Woodway, TX

Texans public school educators, parents, and tax payers do not want this bill approved. It does not level the playing field. Listen to your TX voices and voters!

Laura Zehl
Self
Houston, TX

No to Vouchers! Public schools are already WAY underfunded & public dollars should stay in public schools. This would take much needed money away from public schools that can't afford to lose money. We owe our teachers & staff everything for educating our children and they are leaving the profession in Texas at record rates. Let the people of Texas VOTE on the issue. We do not want legislators deciding for us. Or we will remember at the ballot box next election if this is forced on us with no say.

Margaret O'Connell
Self
Dallas, TX
School vouchers

My name is Margaret O'Connell, and I am here today as a concerned citizen to strongly oppose HB3 and the proposed school voucher program. This legislation threatens the future of public education in Texas by diverting essential funds away from our public schools, deepening inequities, and undermining the very foundation of our education system.

Public Schools Are the Cornerstone of Our Communities

Texas public schools educate over 5 million students, serving as a lifeline for families across the state. They provide not only academics but also critical services such as special education, meal programs, and extracurricular activities. Instead of strengthening this system, HB3 and the voucher program will siphon taxpayer dollars into private institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards, leaving our public schools with fewer resources and greater challenges.

Diverting Public Funds Harms Students Who Need It Most

School vouchers disproportionately benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition, while low-income and rural students are left behind. Rural communities, in particular, lack access to private school options, meaning vouchers will do nothing for them while still draining funds from their local schools. This creates an unjust system where public dollars serve private interests rather than the needs of all students.

Lack of Accountability and Transparency

Unlike public schools, private institutions receiving voucher funds are not required to accept all students, follow standardized curriculum guidelines, or meet the same academic and financial transparency standards. Taxpayers deserve to know how their money is being spent, yet HB3 fails to ensure oversight or equitable access for students with disabilities, English language learners, and other vulnerable populations.

Strengthening Public Education Should Be Our Priority

If we are serious about improving education in Texas, the solution is not to defund our public schools but to invest in them. We should be increasing teacher pay, reducing class sizes, expanding early childhood education, and ensuring that every child—regardless of ZIP code—has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to reject HB3 and the school voucher program. Our public schools are the heart of Texas communities, and they need your support—not policies that weaken them. Let's commit to funding and improving the schools that serve the vast majority of Texas students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Margaret O'Connell

Saige Prucha
self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education!

Connie Gooding

Self

Hutto, TX

School choice has existed for years and has been used by people seeking alternatives for their children. By financially subsidizing those who have chosen private schools you are not making private schools a viable option for others.

A map of all private schools in Texas shows that geography also prohibits many from your chosen education option.

I'm asking you to vote in favor of the majority of students in Texas and fund public education. I'm further asking you to prove to citizens of Texas that money from out of state does not buy its way into our state.

Thad Hill, Board Member

Bridge City ISD

Orange, TX

Please No vouchers

Benjamin Kozuch

Self / Software Engineer

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Doreen Lerner, Dr

Self

Houston, TX

Please support HB3 and the Education Savings Account program. Every child in Texas deserves access to the best educational opportunities.

Education isn't one-size-fits-all, and families should have the freedom to choose the best option for their child. This bill empowers parents to make those decisions, benefiting students, educators, and taxpayers alike.

Nearly half the states have a school choice program — it's time for Texas to join them.

Norma Celinda Martinez

Self

Pflugerville, TX

As a constituent, a parent and a taxpayer I urge you to vote against HB3. I do not support this bill and it does not benefit every Texas child.

Linda Bessmer

self; small business owner

Brenham, TX

Texas public schools are not currently adequately funded! Estimates show Texas would need to add an additional \$24 billion into public education to get schools back to the spending power they had in 2019. Texas is obligated to provide for ALL students not forcing districts to carry budget deficits to meet state mandates.

Public funds should not be spent on private K-12 education. If Texas does move forward with its "ESA" plan, private schools should be held to the same accountability standards - required to take ALL students (regardless of disability or zip code), provide services and accommodations for ALL students who need them, and administer and report on accountability standards (STAAR test). It does not track that STAAR state testing is the litmus test of success for public school students but NOT required for private school students (especially if funded with public taxpayer funds)! I hope Texas could learn from other states like Arizona as to the "true cost" of ESA/Vouchers. (<https://www.propublica.org/article/arizona-school-vouchers-budget-meltdown>).

Ginny Andersen

Self/ Retired Grandmother

Dallas, TX

I have three grandkids in Austin elementary schools. I have a daughter who teaches in Dallas area. They are so much against the voucher/saving accounts programs. We feel it would hurt the middle class students, parents and teachers the most. Please don't allow it to happen, for their sakes. Thank you.

Chelsea Rico

Self

Abilene, TX

This is just a Trojan horse coming in to take more funds from public education.

Public education takes away the chance of an educational lottery for students in Texas. Every child deserves a high quality education regardless of gender, race, economic status, learning disabilities, etc. Public schools deserve more funding as we serve regardless of these things, while private schools and charter schools get to pick and choose.

Please vote NO for the future of Texas kids.

Mary Jane Avery

self / retired

Burnet, TX

All children learn differently, and public school is not always the best option. I support HB3 because it gives parents the freedom to choose the environment and learning methods that will best suit their child. Texans should have the freedom to choose the best education for our kids. I support School Choice. Thank you for your time.

Paige Hebert

Self

HOUSTON, TX

Education choice already exists. This is unnecessary and will decimate the popular choice of public schools. Fund public schools and watch education soar. Give every kid in this state a chance by funding public education. Pay teachers and fund school resources.

Taylor Woolley
self
Longview, TX

Vouchers drain money out of public schools to subsidize private schools that are unaccountable to taxpayers and don't have to meet the same standards. Why would we create a new taxpayer-funded entitlement program to fund private schools? This largely benefits wealthy families. The only real choice in voucher schemes belongs to private schools who choose who they accept anyway. Diverting resources from the majority of Texas students to serve only a small segment of children who could be served through existing public school choice options just doesn't make sense.

Kyle Graves, Mr.
Self
Austin, TX

Creating a new big financially disastrous entitlement is not fiscally responsible nor a conservative value. Wake up Republicans: Abbott, Patrick & friends are setting you and your constituents up for higher taxes!

Joshua Nix
Mansfield ISD
Mansfield, TX

Passing this bill will hurt my children, and the teachers who have poured their lives into education. Please vote no for vouchers.

Annan Pascoe
Self -engineer
Irving, TX

Public schools need to be fully funded. They are the backbone of our education. I am
A product of the public school system.
Vouchers are insufficient to support Texas students at schools that can discriminate in any ways they choose and without the same performance accountability of public schools

Carolina Bonetti
Myslef
Prosper, TX

I do not want a voucher or parents school of choice. Leave our education system

Donna Cagle
Self retired
Burnet, TX

We put our 4 children through classical private school education at great expense. Other families deserve this option without having to pay public school taxes and pay for an alternative education that they choose.

Shelley Jansky, Speech-Language Pathologist
Slef
Hallettsville, TX

I oppose HB 3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Kristin Knight

Self

Austin, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Karen Stanfill

Self

Red Oak, TX

I oppose any form of ESA/voucher bill. Texas needs to take care of all of its children, which means providing excellent public education. It is embarrassing to be almost the last in the country in terms of public education funding. The state needs provide at least \$1000 more per student just to allow school districts to provide the minimum service. Do you want to be remembered as a person who helped reform public education, or the person who was bought and paid for by private school investors? Do the right thing and look to the future of Texas. We want to take pride in our public schools and take pride in our future workforce. Listen to your constituents! Vote NO on ESAs/vouchers!

Elise Kail

Self - Retired Educator

Midland, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Rozalyn Stuckey, Ms.

self / lawyer

Houston, TX

I respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1. Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
2. HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice.
3. This bill does not increase accessibility to private schools.
 - a) The cost of quality private schools far exceeds the amount of any proposed voucher and far exceeds the amount that the legislature has shown it is willing to spend on public or private schools. Here's a couple articles about the cost of Houston Private Schools education <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/education/article/houston-private-schools-tuition-ranking-19387743.php> and <https://www.st-agnes.org/news-detail?pk=1427535#>.
 - b) Private Schools have limited capacity and many already have waitlists. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
4. Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
5. HB3, viewed in the best light, would support a tiny fraction of Texas students. The same dollars could be used to support all Texas students.
6. Texans should vote on the proposed bill – not some vaguely worded statement such as the one included in the Republican primary.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Sara Brown

Self

Palmer, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Allison Wardroup

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

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- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Corina Cabello

Self

San Antonio, TX

We need you to stand with Texas families and not special interests! Our public schools and the children and families they serve depend on you to stand up against hb3.

Ayanna DAVIS

Self

Cypress, TX

The Texas legislature's potential diversion of public school funds towards private vouchers or education savings accounts (ESAs) poses a grave threat to the very foundation of our public education system, particularly for rural and low-income students. This scheme, cloaked in the rhetoric of "school choice," would dismantle the equitable access to quality education that public schools strive to provide.

Firstly, vouchers and ESAs siphon vital resources away from already underfunded public schools. In rural Texas, where schools often serve as the community's hub, this funding loss would be catastrophic. These schools, frequently operating on thin margins, rely on every dollar to provide essential services, from teacher salaries to transportation and extracurricular activities. A decrease in funding would inevitably lead to larger class sizes, reduced program offerings, and the potential closure of schools, leaving rural students with limited or no educational options.

Secondly, private schools, unlike public schools, are not obligated to accept all students. They can selectively enroll students based on academic performance, disability status, or religious affiliation. This discriminatory practice would disproportionately impact low-income and special needs students, who are more likely to be excluded from private institutions. Public schools, on the other hand, are legally mandated to serve all students, regardless of their background or needs. This inclusive environment fosters diversity and ensures that every child has the opportunity to learn and succeed.

Thirdly, vouchers and ESAs lack the same level of accountability as public schools. Public schools are subject to rigorous state and federal regulations, including standardized testing, teacher certification requirements, and financial audits. Private schools, however, often operate with minimal oversight, raising concerns about the quality of education they provide and the responsible use of taxpayer funds. This lack of transparency makes it difficult to ensure that students are receiving a quality education and that public funds are being used effectively. 1

1.

www.publicschoolreview.com

www.publicschoolreview.com

Fourthly, the voucher system exacerbates existing inequities. In rural areas, where private school options are scarce or nonexistent, vouchers would primarily benefit wealthier families who can afford to supplement the voucher amount or transport their children to distant private schools. Low-income families, who lack these resources, would be left behind, further widening the educational gap. In effect, public funds would be subsidizing private education for the privileged few, while public schools serving the vast majority of students would be starved of resources.

In conclusion, diverting public school funds towards private vouchers or ESAs would dismantle the pillars of our public education system, particularly in rural and low-income communities.

Natalie Aviles

self

RICHARDSON, TX

please do not approve the TX school voucher bill.

Lorie Crowder

Self

WACO, TX

This is bad for the children of Texas. We need to fully fund Texas public schools and pay teachers and staff appropriately. We need to end the STAAR test. The job of our government is to provide a public education system not subsidize private and homeschooling with public funds.

Dennis Stieber
Self - Teacher
Terrell, TX

Please vote NO! Public tax dollars should not be used for private education facilities.

Monya Crow
Self
Lewisville, TX

As a public educator for almost 30 years, I see the voucher program as the dismantling of public education. People who CHOOSE to send their children to private schools should be responsible for paying for it. To funnel any tax payer dollars to private schools is purely robbing from public schools.

Mark Sherman
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.
This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Mary Taylor
Self
Angleton, TX

This bill is unconstitutional. Public funds should be used for the good of the whole. I am a fourth generation Texan. Our public schools are where we not only learned academics but also love of state, country and community. I am recently retired from public education after 41 years. I think our schools are filled of superheroes that truly care about our kids. Politicians the last few years have teased us with empty promises of raises, held funding hostage to manipulate political gains and mandated programs without funding. This needs to stop. I appreciate the law makers who speak out concerns. I have contacted my own local representative who answers along party lines - a change from previous years. I believe vouchers are bad for the future of our great state. I believe they are unconstitutional. Sadly, when you follow the money you can see how votes can be bought and paid for by those who have never stepped foot into a local school.

Valerie Laucks
Self
San Antonio, TX

As a parent of children in public schools in Texas, and as someone who graduated from TX public schools many years ago, I ask you to continue the tradition of having strong public schools for children, and to say No to this bill. It will take away from many children, and quite frankly, the taxes my husband and I pay are not intended to fund private schools. The cost of private schools is too high to allow the state to truly pay for. This will change the landscape of academics and sports at public schools across the state. As public education would suffer with less funds, there will be less opportunity for those outside certain income levels. And this will create additional problems across our state. I ask you to please use the position and influence we have entrusted you with to do right by the current and future generations of Texas. By declining this bill, you will help more people than the select few who would be admitted to private schools if you approved revamping our current system.
Thank you!!

Kaitlin Riojas
Self, my children
Shallowater, TX

I DO NOT support HB 3. A school savings account program is stealing from public schools. I DO NOT want a school saving account or voucher program. Public schools deserve funding, and this bill strips public schools of what they need and gives to schools that will have no accountability through the state government.

Aimee Wristen
Self
Abilene, TX

I urge to please not support HB 3- this bill would be detrimental to the future educational state of Texans. As a current educator it is clear that the state of Texas does NOT support this. Public education has been starved for years upon years now- do your job and fully fund public education! It is clear that criminal activity is amiss with the backing of this bill- follow the money! Texas students deserve better and deserve equal opportunities that this bill does not provide. Any logical person is taught to do their research and it is beyond me that our politicians do not follow suit. There is so much evidence out there showing how ESA does NOT do what it claims. In fact, I have yet to find a successful program that can back this concept. More than 20% of Texas schools are rural serving over 600,000 students- this bill would literally do nothing for those students and would serve them in no way. Not only that but there are no strings attached for accountability for private institutions. Tax payer money should be fully accounted for and should stay where it belongs!!!!!! We are fed lies through our so called elected politicians who are supposed to serve the people not their own greedy interests. VOTE NO TO HB3!!

Jill Bostur
Self / Quality Engineer
Austin, TX

No to HB3!

Rachel Mendrek
Self / Public School Teacher of ESL
Austin, TX

The education savings account program is a farse. It is a lie about helping provide equitable education to all. The amount offered does not begin to cover tuition at most private schools. Families would also need to cover other expenses, including uniforms, books, field trips, sports, enrichment and lunch. It just does not make any sense, except as a subsidy for wealthier families. Additionally, most counties in Texas don't even have private schools. Even where private schools exist, most offer no transportation and are housed in areas inaccessible to low income families. Furthermore, in HB2, the voucher program has been rejected over and over by the Texas legislature repeatedly their constituents' preferences. The overwhelming majority of Texans, both Republicans and Democrats, do not want taxpayer dollars meant for public schools going to private education, including religious schools. Stop this idiotic farse and do what is best for ALL children in our state!

Tatem Oldham

Self counselor

Austin, TX

I fear this bill will decimate our public school system. My kids are both enrolled in public schools in buildings 70+ years old. They have rat problems, raccoon problems, roof problems and a major lack of resources. This bill won't help the truly needy afford private school. It will just be a stipend for those who can already afford private school while weakening our pension system, our public schools and our educational foundation. Thank you, a concerned middle class Texan parent.

Wanda Stuart, Mrs.

Self/Retired educator

Bryan, TX

I want a quality education for all Texas students. I have grandchildren in the public education system. I want the very best for them. Taking funding from the public education system is wrong. Instead, we should increase funding to the public education so that class size can be reduced. By reducing class size, teachers can provide concentrated attention to students. Vote NO to vouchers!

Jamie Martin

Self

Cooper, TX

I am AGAINST the ESA bill (HB3). We already have school choice in Texas, this bill is not necessary. It is clear there are plenty of private donors with an interest in The education system and pushing this. Why not suggest to those guys that they use those funds and set up scholarships for Texans all over to apply for and use. There is no need to use state money for something like this. Like I said, we already have school choice. Vouchers will not fix the education system. I highly recommend that all of our political officials spend one week, even better, one month with a core subject teacher and see how you can better help. I will guarantee that vouchers will not be on your radar. I would also add the insanely hard push by Abbott for this has turned away so many conservatives. If our great state turns blue this bill alone will be the reason.

Teresa Castillo, Retired teacher of 30 years

Self/former teacher

Lexington, TX

I strongly oppose HB3.

Public schools should be fully funded and taxpayer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Jeremy Davis

Self—Athletic Trainer

Shallowater, TX

HB3—. This bill is bad for public education. Children that want to go to private schools find a way without these vouchers. Many of the small details of this bill will make smaller public schools have difficulty keeping their doors open. Public educators have a big voice when it comes to voting. This will be bad for all involved if it gets passed. Withholding tax dollars for public education until this gets passed is not good practice. All this bill does is allow those with money to have more of it. Public schools should not be funding testing and evaluating kids in private schools as this bill allows.

Linda Sefton
Self
Universal City, TX

The Government School system has, had decades to clean up their act, but failed! We can no longer accept that tens of thousands of miss are written off as collateral damage and allow them to fall through the cracks and reach adulthood without being properly educated. Our entire state is suffering from having a poorly educated populace and it has to stop now! No one cares more for children than their parents and nothing gives a parent me grief and anxiety than seeing their child trapped in a system that causes actual damage to their little one, whether it is overcrowding, social engineering, lack of discipline, bullying, or teaching that does not like up with an individual child's learning style. The fact that the entire system os defended based on adult's job security, athletic programs ans protecting institutions rather than being child centrix, is absolutely outrageous. Put children first and vote yes for school choice!

Patricia Morgan
self
Austin, TX

This is a scam. Let private be private and public be public. If the free market can bear it, let there be private schools. If private schools cannot attract enough students to keep the doors open they should shut down. We need our public schools to be fully funded. The salaries of teachers and staff are a disgrace. Private schools get to pick and choose their students. Public schools educate every kind of student- including the very challenging students. We have a surplus of money in the state coffers- for the love of God spend this money fixing foster care and Child Protective Services! How long does that travesty have to go on? Sending kids to private school is a luxury. Placing kids in the CPS system is a necessity. Republicans, do you really want to help children? Walk the walk!

Linda Wright
Self
Aledo, TX

I am completely AGAINST school voucher funding in Texas. Public education should be our priority not private schools!

- Vouchers divert taxpayer money from public schools, which are already struggling to meet the needs of all students, to private schools, which may not be accountable to the public.
- Vouchers could lead to a decrease in funding for public schools, potentially impacting teacher salaries, resources, and programs, especially in underserved communities.
- Vouchers could exacerbate existing inequalities by allowing wealthier families to send their children to private schools, potentially creating a two-tiered system where public schools are left to serve primarily low-income and minority students.
- Voucher programs lack accountability, as private schools are not subject to the same regulations and oversight as public schools, potentially leading to lower quality education and a lack of transparency.
- Voucher programs disproportionately benefit wealthier families who can afford to pay for private school tuition, while low-income families may not have access to the same opportunities.
- Vouchers were first created after the Supreme Court banned school segregation with its ruling in Brown v Board of Education. School districts used vouchers to enable white students to attend private schools, which could (and still can) limit admission based on race.
- Rural communities, where public schools are often the center of the community, could suffer if funding is removed from public schools.
- Voucher programs in other states often have varying mechanics or eligibility requirements, and costly administrative burdens to implement and manage.

Jennifer Becker
Teachers in Texas
Austin, TX

This bill has been defeated numerous times. It is clear that it is not supported. It will not be available to all, it will tank TRS, and it will devastate public school funding. Continuing to fight for this bill, despite the obvious wishes of the public seems less like governing and more like a petulant child insisting they get their way.

Jesse Randle

Myself

HORSESHOE BAY, TX

Please do NOT support this bill. Please do NOT spend PUBLIC MONEY ON PRIVATE SCHOOLS!

Patrick Heep

self

Navasota, TX

This is the most un-American thing you can do. The separation of church and state is a basic good policy as it keeps all religious leaders from tainting the democratic way of life. These religious schools don't allow for any/all students to participate. These non-public schools don't accept the most difficult students because it takes more teachers/specialists to teach these students. Public school districts can not actively get into elections with public representatives and fund-raising like the church affiliated schools currently do. Why would you break a basic rule of a democratic society? Greed to expand your district voters by turning over public tax money for private institutions. And then from what I can see of any new "rules" for the private institutions, there will NOT be the public school rules to be audited, be tested, be open to public scrutiny. BAD BAD bill for all Texans if this is put into the law books.

Judy Cole

School board trustee

Bridge City, TX

I am strongly against vouchers. This will place burdens on our public schools. Vouchers should not be allowed to pay for private schools. This is public money for public schools.

Adam Humphrey

Self

Austin, TX

The school voucher system is completely unnecessary. It is a ploy to undermine public education and enrich owners of private schools. We need to improve funding of public schools to ensure that all children have equal opportunities for education. It is your responsibility to use the public's taxes to improve public resources first and foremost.

Brett Bothwell, Dr.

self

Spring, TX

If you actually pay attention to the political speech regarding this topic, you can see this issue is purely political - the right trying to weaken public education and fund the rich. If there is anything wrong with public education that needs to be fixed, you can 100% look to the Republican party, which has governed Texas for at least 30 years, mostly unopposed. When the speaking point is that public education is not performing well, the Republicans should be held to account for that. Logically, if they are responsible for causing this HB 3 need, allowing them to solve it may not be the best option. Politically, this bill gives \$10,000 to wealthy people who already spend that money - they don't "need" the money, but the bill gives \$1 billion to wealthy families. The 500% rule indicates that this bill is not directed towards low-income families (as 500% far exceeds even TEAs standards). This bill does not address the needs of SpEd students, particularly because private schools often do not accept these students, and when they do, they still pull funding away from public education to serve these kids - the bill does not change that. Because private schools often have shown they do not have space for massive numbers of additional students as they are have waiting lists to get in, there will not be a massive movement from public to private (due to space), which means the threshold to prioritize low-income and SpEd will not be met, leaving the only people getting the money to be the wealthy families that already have their children in private schools. You could write this bill to exclude the majority or all families with an income above \$160,000, for example, which would be much more acceptable. Instead, those families are the primary target of sending \$10,000 per child from my view. Why is the state so interested in giving \$1 billion of taxpayers' money to wealthy people instead of to low-income people. And, if that is truly the intent, which I believe it is, why would the people support this bill. The House is supposed to represent the people, and this does not seem as though they would be. My last issue is the number of people who work for the Texas state government that will benefit from this program directly (\$10,000 in their pockets per child) or either their businesses or family relation businesses that will profit from this bill being passed is suspicious. IN SUMMARY - if you want a bill that helps low-income and SpEd students, it could be written to exclude wealthy families. If it does not get rewritten to exclude wealthy families, then I believe it is designed for wealthy families who will disproportionately be receiving this money instead of the low-income families. All other states that have instituted something like this have failed to live up to the original promises - Texas will just be following suit. Please rewrite to exclude wealthy families or deny this bill's passage.

Sarah Pennebaker

Self

Weatherford, TX

Respectfully, Texas does not need a voucher program. Texas already has school choice as parents have a vast number of options in schooling: homeschool, charter, public, private, etc. All the voucher program has done is rob public schools of funding that they are in dire need of. After serving on my local school board for 4 years, I became much more educated on school finance and these schools need more financial assistance. Please fund our rural schools as they need and do not pass a school voucher program.

Todd Pruner

Self - Product Management

Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3 and the school voucher program. This program is a handout to wealthy families who can already afford private school. A significant number of Texas counties do not even have a private school inside county limits, and therefore would be subsidizing private schools for residents in other counties. Because Texas public school funding is tied to enrollment, creating incentives to leave the public school system will weaken it. Private schools can discriminate regarding who is allowed to attend, and can deny admission to students of color, disabled or special needs students, or students who don't subscribe to a specific religion. This bill is a handout to rich families and private school investors, and I do not support it. The founding fathers of our country specified that there should be a separation between church and state, and this bill disregards their intent by allowing religious schools who serve a specific religion to receive public funds, and this is wrong. Please vote against HB 3 and instead, provide funding for our existing public schools in Texas.

Angela Sherr
Self/ teacher
Richardson, TX

Please oppose vouchers and vote no on HB3.

Laura NICKERSON
Self
Sumner, TX

I feel that the proposed educational voucher system will be a disastrous for the education in Texas. It will not benefit the children of Texas. It is a scam and will be taking away valuable money from public education. Everyone already has a choice to chose. **DO NOT TAKE MONEY FROM OUR CHILDREN** to fund this.I do not support this. Please vote this bill down and save our public education.

Amy Linex
Self/Public Schools
FERRIS, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Pamela Rickel
Self
Hutto, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. Public schools are the core of our communities and they should be adequately funded. Our tax dollars should not be spent on private schools. Parents already have school choice. Vote no!!

Marland Dewbre
Self
Levelland, TX

As a Texas Taxpayer I do not support the funding for vouchers and ask that our legislators fully fund Texas Public Education.

Amy Moore

Self

Austin, TX

Texas House of Representatives

Committee on Public Education

Public Hearing on HB3

March 11, 2025

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing as a Texas parent, taxpayer, and voter to ask the Committee not to move forward with HB3. This is not what the overwhelming majority of Texans across the state want for their hard-earned, taxpayer dollars. This bill is not fiscally responsible, as it creates another bureaucratic system, and it has virtually none of the accountability we ask of our public schools. Please listen to the voices of your constituents, many of whom do not have a private school or tutoring company in their county.

Texans want their local, public school districts to thrive, which has been hard for them to do because they have not had a basic allotment raise since 2019. If there is \$1B sitting in an extra pot of money somewhere, then please use it to bolster our public school districts across the state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Moore

Jessica Campos

Self

Houston, TX

My name is Jessica Campos, and I am a parent in Houston ISD. I keep hearing that 'parents know best,' but let me tell you the truth—many of us don't always know, not because we don't care, but because we are struggling to survive in this economy.

Many of us are working nonstop, sometimes two or three jobs, just to put food on the table. We don't have the bandwidth to research every policy change, every school rating, every so-called 'choice' you claim to give us. Some of us don't even have internet at home. Some of us don't have cars to drive our kids across town. And what happens when we finally do find a school we think could help? If our child has a disability, they can just say no. Private schools don't have to take our kids. They don't have to provide bilingual education. They don't have to offer special education services.

So tell me, who does this really help? Because it's not families like mine. HISD is 50% Spanish-speaking, yet most of our parents have never even heard of 'school choice' because no one is explaining it to them. If you really cared about helping us, you would come into our communities, talk to our parents in our language, and ask what we actually need.

I am one of these parents. I have a child with special needs, and I am fighting every single day to get her the education she deserves. Instead of making public schools stronger, you are forcing families like mine into a system that wasn't built for us. Vouchers don't help when private schools can turn our kids away. 'School choice' isn't real when it only works for the privileged few.

What we need is investment in public schools, not a system that pushes out the families that need them the most.

Marisa Bernard

Self- stay at home mom

Boerne, TX

As the mother of 3 public school students who attend a GREAT public school, I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Susan Backer
Self and family
Liberty Hill, TX

Our public tax dollars need to go to public schools and public schools only. No vouchers! Release the surplus of money and help our Texas Public Schools.

Timothy Mann
Self
Buda, TX

I oppose ESAs and School Vouchers in all forms. Stop wasting tax dollars on special interests and fully fund our teachers and public schools.

Jennifer Ferguson
SBISD
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Linda Shell
Self
Georgetown, TX

I am against this bill. I believe it will cause irreparable harm to public education and only help the wealthy districts. Fund public education for all. No to vouchers.

Beverly McCain
Self
Katy, TX

I demand that you do not vote against this bill to enrich already rich parents while abandoning the children of the state. Education in Texas is in poor shape already due to the lack of funding and low pay for teachers. This bill will further gut the schools that need it most and decimate the programs that our children need. Many rural areas, 150 counties, do not even have private schools for children even if the parents could afford to send them. This is not why I pay extremely high school taxes in the Katy ISD. It's bad for the Texas taxpayer, bad for public educators, and bad for the kids in our public school classrooms. Personally, it will cost \$24,000 for my granddaughter - out of pocket to replace they program for dyslexia that will be cut from her school. Support our children, do your job and represent us.

Jennifer Clarke
SETX Impact Initiative
Nederland, TX

An education savings account program does not benefit the majority of Texas kids who have a right to accessible education.

You are sacrificing full access to education for millions of Texas kids.

It doesn't matter what language you wrap these bills in. They are bad for Texans. And that's who you represent.

Cara Johnson
Self
Austin, TX

Private schools receiving voucher funds are not subject to the same level of oversight and accountability as public schools. This can include a lack of standardized testing, curriculum requirements, and financial transparency. Our tax dollars must be used responsibly and private schools will not ensure that. In addition vouchers will lead to even greater inequality. As the mother of a second grade son, and as someone who cares deeply about the children in the state of Texas, I again urge you to vote no on HB 3. Thank you

Isabella Ness
Self, Author
San Antonio, TX

Public education is the crown jewel of Texas and you have sullied it beyond all recognition with the introduction of the voucher scam. Putting profits above children is the most un-Christian and un-American legislation I've seen in a very long time: Shame on you, shame on your wealth, and shame on every choice you make that strips children of their protections and birthright to build a better life for themselves and their families. If you sleep at night I hope your dreams plague you with the misery and guilt you deserve. The children will learn, someday and somehow, the way you have wronged them, and I hope you never know forgiveness a day in your life.

Christy Doolen
Self
Austin, TX

School vouchers will hurt our public schools and cost our state even more money. People who go to private schools can afford them outright. They do not need help with costs.

Savannah Stoute, Ms.
Self
Wimberley, TX

I oppose any legislation that pulls funds from already underfunded public schools. Public schools are vital to our communities and provide education and opportunities to children in our state.

Angela Wong
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote no on HB3. As someone who was raised in the public education system and now a parent with children in public schools, I'm acutely aware of how public schools are in need of more investment and support. This would severely tax an already over-burdened infrastructure. Our public schools connect our communities and neighborhoods. It's incredibly important that we can provide a healthy, accessible and equitable education to our children.

Jasana Tichy
Self
Arlington, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Jose Elias
Self
Houston, TX

My name is Jose, and I am a Houston ISD parent. I keep hearing politicians say that vouchers help low-income families, but that’s a lie. Vouchers are a scam designed to keep the rich getting richer while the poor keep getting screwed. If you actually cared about low-income families, you would know that we don’t have the time, money, or resources to ‘choose’ a private school. We don’t have the luxury to drive our kids across the city. Many of us don’t even have a car. Private schools don’t have to take our kids, and they don’t have to offer bilingual education or special ed services. So tell me—how exactly does this help working-class families? It doesn’t. It’s just another way to drain money from public schools and push out the families that need them the most. Stop lying about caring about low-income families. If you really cared, you would be investing in our public schools, not stealing from them to fund private institutions that don’t serve us. Vouchers are a scam, and we see right through it.

INNA MORASCH
Self, Business OPs
Austin, TX

NO to HB 3!!! Private schools should be funded by private funds not public tax payers money. If you take that route, you doom the foundation of accessible and quality education for all and its community as a whole.

Beverly MacNaughton
self
Austin, TX

Please do not allow school vouchers to pass in Texas. A strong and well funded public system helps to promote a strong work force in the future. This plan will hurt smaller communities that do not even have an option for private schools. This program only serves to hurt the most vulnerable children in our state. Why are setting up a system that will give money to wealthy Texans that can well afford private school tuition. This will damage our state!

Jennifer Barall
Self
Allen, TX

Support public schools! No vouchers!

Claire Miller
Self
Mansfield, TX

Good morning! I am a mother to 4 children that attend Mansfield ISD. Please oppose this bill SB3 for the sake of all public school students in Texas.

You are aware that many counties won't even benefit from this, as there are not private schools accessible. We know students with special needs will not benefit, as many private schools are not trained and equipped to handle them.

As a family at the poverty level in Texas, this bill will not give us any more choice than we have now. We can not afford to put even one of our children in private school even if we wanted or needed to. This bill will only serve upper class families that already have choice because of their income level.

Mansfield ISD prides itself on being a district of choice! One of our children attended schools in the district focusing on fine arts, and our youngest attends a Dual Language program. Please support what these districts are already accomplishing for students and support public education!

Juan Jose Reyes
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1. Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
2. HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
3. Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
4. We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Juan Jose Reyes

Graydon Jones
Self, Pastor
Fort Worth, TX

Public schools are one of the truest representations of our state, they are communities that welcome all, they are the standard for a benevolent vocation (teaching), and they need our support. I believe that vouchers will hurt my child and my neighbors' children. Please do not support this bill. Sincerely, Graydon Jones

Jenny Stevenson
Wilchester Elementary School
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
- 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
- 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
- 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
Thank you!

Kaili Tseng
Self
MCKINNEY, TX

No voucher bill from Gov. Abbot!!! We want our public school funding to go up. My son's district has been cutting staff left and right, this is negatively affecting the quality of education the kids are receiving!!

Lucinda Melendez
Self
Arlington, TX

Please fund public schools. Let the rich pay their own private school tuition.

Amanda Tadana
Self
Arlington, TX

Praying this bill passes. We reside in a poor performing school district and even though there is a fantastic public school less than 10 miles from us, we are not permitted to transfer in. My son has special needs and his educational needs could be met by a great private school down the street but we in no way can afford it. Please vote for HB 3!

Cynthia Warner
Self
Prosper, TX

As a taxpayer as well as former educator, I propose my Senators and Representatives to oppose HB3. School voucherz only brnefit the wealthy and weaken the public education. The quality private schools will be full and inferior ones will appear, Private schools hire non certified teachers and dont have the facilities to accimodate the needs of students wuth spevial needs. The vouchers don't address root problems of our schools. Enrolling in private schools only change the geography of the real problems. Please vote against vouchers. Thank you for your consideration.

Katrina Kolb

Self

Leander, TX

I am deeply opposed to HB 3 by Buckley. This bill is yet another attempt to undermine public education in favor of Governor Abbott's push for school vouchers... an agenda fueled by out-of-state money and special interests rather than the actual needs of Texas students. Texans should be outraged that our governor is prioritizing private and religious institutions over the very public schools that serve the vast majority of our children.

At the same time that Texas lawmakers are trying to force the Ten Commandments into public schools, dictating what children must be exposed to, there is no such mandate for private schools, which will benefit from public funds with no oversight. Why are public schools being held to a different standard while taxpayer money is funneled into private institutions that can operate however they please? This is not about school choice; it's about dismantling public education while enriching private entities with public dollars.

If legislators truly cared about Texas students, they would be investing in public education, supporting teachers, and addressing real issues like underfunding, teacher shortages, and student well-being. HB 3 is a direct attack on public schools, and I urge you to reject it in favor of policies that strengthen, not weaken, our education system.

Courtney Prochaska

Spring Branch ISD

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Christopher Knecht
Northside AFT
San Antonio, TX

This program has proven to be a bad deal for the public in every state it has been tried, the data is clear.

1.75% of the students that benefit are already in private school (A coupon)

2. The students that do leave the public schools have terrible outcomes on par with learning loss during COVID, why? Because they are being admitted to "sub-prime" private schools, not the elite.

3. It drains money and leads to increased debt and eventually property tax increases just to pay for programs parents are used to seeing for their kids.

4. The parents don't choose. The schools choose. They have language in the bill that allows the private schools to reject kids for any reason. We already have a Parent choice law in Texas for kids stuck in low performing schools. Why not improve that program? Because it's about transferring money to the donor class,not helping kids in Texas.

As a Texas teacher with over 20 years of experience. I urge the Texas legislature to reject this voucher bill and fully invest in public education for the first time in decades.

Chris Knecht
San Antonio, TX

Katy Dougharty
self
cedar park, TX

I oppose opening the ESA fund for private/for-profit school vouchers in Texas. All of those funds should be placed into the Foundation School Funds for our public education systems that supports and cares for 5.5million students.

Based on your assumed cost projections for the proposed ESA, I request that and increase of \$1,300 per public education be gradually installed by 2030.

Valerie MacLaurin
Self
Austin, TX

I have four children, two who currently attend public school in Austin. My older children graduate from public school and attended Texas public universities. I am happy with our public schools. The staff of our school work hard and truly care about the students. I am opposed to educational choice that uses public money for private school. Our family has significant tax burden with property and sales tax and I do not want my tax dollars being spent on vouchers.

Larry Redmond
Self
Hutto, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Put it to a public vote. Not the rich republicans who will be the ones who benefit from this. Let the people speak. We don't want it.

Brittini Garcia-King

Self

Midlothian, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

JONATHAN CAFFEY

LISD schools

Cedar Park, TX

NO TO HB 3!!!! NO

Jennifer Slater, Principal

Self

Lake Jackson, TX

Texas Texas and principals vehemently oppose this bill. By passing HB3, you are creating an even larger financial disparity for our students. Taking away PUBLIC funds to give to private institutions goes against the very foundation of our government. As a public educator and principal of a Title 1 school with 75% economically disadvantaged students, I have seen students coming in to our district that were “homeschooled” by their parents and are now years behind, because they did not do anything during that time. And now you want to give them money to do “nothing?” While your bill sets forth guidelines to supposedly prevent this, how well has that worked for Medicaid and Social Security? Let’s face it, there’s going to be rampant abuse in this system of vouchers, and the KIDS will pay the price. Not to mention the public school, when the parents returns them to public school. Meanwhile, our students in public schools will suffer every day because of reduced enrollment and reduced funding. You are robbing our students of the education AND RESOURCES they deserve. Do NOT vote for this bill. All Texas teachers will ensure any lawmaker who votes for this bill will be voted OUT next term. We deserve better!!!

Lynnor Matheney

Self

Spring, TX

Please support public schools in Texas. I do not support vouchers.

Tracy Matheson

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Sidney Beenken

Self

Paige, TX

Texans do NOT want vouchers and the resistance to place this issue on the ballot is both cowardly and dishonest. Gov. Abbott has been bought and paid for with out-of-state money and has no shame. Put money into our schools! Pay our teachers more! There is NO benefit to our kids with this bill and everyone knows it. Parents who want private schools already use them. This bill will gut our public schools....which I'm about to conclude is the goal of this administration. If you truly believe in "government by the people, for the people" then place this issue on the ballot as a single issue and let the people have the voice they are guaranteed under our constitution. Do not support this. Do not bow down to bought and paid for Abbott and his fear tactics. Stand up for the people's right to have a voice. Do not pass this bill!

Jonathan Norwood, Dr.

Self; clinical psychologist

Leander, TX

I am a parent who opposes HB 3 and any school voucher program. We have an obligation to provide universal free education to our children.

Gloria Sassman

Self (Retired Human Resource Director)

Austin, TX

I oppose using public school funds for private school funding.

Stacy Caffey

LISD schools

Cedar Park, TX

NO TO HB 3!!! PLEASE NO TO HB 3

Amy Smuts

Self

Dallas, TX

I support public schools and oppose HB3

Tana Palafox
Self. Teacher
Abilene, TX

Wealthy families are major beneficiaries of similar universal voucher schemes that already have been enacted in other states, including Arizona, while many low-income parents, even with vouchers, can't afford to send their children to private schools.

And, as reported last week by the San Antonio Express-News, critics also warn that many special education students would get left in public schools that already are severely underfunded and understaffed. Vouchers that would be offered to special education students wouldn't come close to covering the high tuition charged by the few private schools that accept students with special needs.

Many public-school districts in Texas are operating with large budget deficits because Gov. Abbott and the Legislature haven't increased their basic per-student funding allotment since 2019. And these public schools will continue to educate the vast majority of Texas students. Public tax dollars belong in public schools and should not be diverted to private schools and their upper-income students.

HB 3 is a voucher and will funnel taxpayer dollars through education savings accounts to students for private school tuition and related expenses at an initial cost of \$1 billion in state funds for the first two years that should go to our public schools.

That amount will increase in subsequent years, at a growing loss to public education and other critical public services.

State tax dollars must not be diverted from public to private schools. I oppose vouchers and related schemes — including education savings accounts, tax-credit scholarships and for-profit virtual schools — that use tax dollars to pay private school tuition for selected students while undermining public schools where the vast majority of Texas students are educated.

Voucher schemes across the country have proven to be burdensome on state budgets, and a Texas voucher would eventually add billions of dollars to the state budget without an additional funding mechanism.

The universal voucher plan that Gov. Abbott supports has been used in other states to funnel tax-paid subsidies to wealthy parents who already were sending their children to private schools, while many low-income families, even with vouchers, can't afford private school tuition.

I urge you to vote NO to vouchers! Vote NO on SB 2 and HB 3!
Thank you, Tana Palafox

Joan Olson
Self
Mansfield, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

School vouchers have not been successful in other states and it only benefits the wealthy.

Ella Haag
self
Garland, TX

I will not abide my public dollars going to private institutions. This bill is a "handout" to the wealthy. That's who you serve, isn't it?

Sarah Harman
Self
Merkel, TX

This will destroy and already VERY fragile public school system. The rural community schools, where my children attend, will not be able to survive. Please just give public schools more funding!

nicole badovinac
Self
Arlington, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Shawn Kirkpatrick
Self
Lakeway, TX
For the bill.

Heather Breen
self
Austin, TX

"I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education."

Daniel Barton
Self
Cleveland, TX

Please vote no on vouchers/ESAs.

Holly pair
Self/ diagnostician
Corsicana, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Stephanie Shelby
Self
Flower Mound, TX

The voucher program is a disgrace to our public education system. Favoring the students from wealthy parents and harming the students from lower income by removing funds from the public school system. Anyone who votes for vouchers are entitled elitists and loses my vote for you for any future public office.

Meredith Bouchey
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I am strongly against HB 3 and I urge all representatives to vote NO on HB 3. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy.

I am disappointed in the Texas lawmakers who support vouchers and ESA for working against the best interests of the public schools in our state and playing politics with our kids education.

Private schools are not school choice because the parents aren't able to chose a school - the private schools have all the power to select students by whatever criteria they determine. Private schools don't have to accommodate (and generally aren't equipped to handle students with special needs). Private schools don't provide transportation or free meals for economically disadvantaged students.

Reva Kestef, Retired teacher
Retired teacher
Weatherford, TX

Vote for public education. Stop holding our public schools hostage!

Amanda Carrell-Munywoki
Self/public school teacher
Denton, TX

I urge you to vote agains HB 3. I am concerned that the passing of this bill will weaken our public school system. Public schools should be fully funded. Vouchers for private schools will mostly benefit wealthy families that already attend private schools. You work for and should be serving the public as a whole, not the wealthy few.

Julie Wieters

self - Literacy Coach for a Title 1 school

Addison, TX

As an educator I am strongly opposed to HB 3 and beg our legislators to keep this bill from passing. I currently serve as a Literacy Coach in underserved schools but am also very familiar with the private school world. It sickens me to think that millions - maybe even billions- of dollars will be stolen from our public schools under the false promise of "parent choice". Parents already have a choice of how to school their children- well at least wealthier parents have a choice. Our public schools are in desperate need of funds and quality educators - that will not happen if HB 3 passes. Private schools are already bursting at the seams so it is a false promise to tell parents that they will now have the money to send their kids to private school - \$10,000 is not enough for most school tuitions and there is no room!

I cannot see why intelligent and dedicated Texans would pass this bill and I hope and I pray that they will outnumber the greedy and foolish ones who want it to go through.

For the sake of our youngest Texans, please do what is best and what is right - vote against HB 3.

Lia Hellman

Self

Muenster, TX

Highly Oppose HB 3!

Jaclyn Meng

Self

Abilene, TX

I am opposed to this Bill. The money proposed for the voucher programs should instead be directed to public schools increasing the allotment per student. Public funds should go to public education and the teachers and schools that have to follow state guidelines, meet the needs of special education, bus students, and educate them no matter where they live in our state. Using part of the surplus to go to unregulated schools that can choose who to accept and don't have to play by the same rules is unacceptable.

Wes Brumit

self

Longview, TX

As a staunch conservative, I'm asking that you vote No on HB 3. Creating more bureaucracy does not empower Texas families to educate their children how they deem necessary. This bill does not create freedom of education as it has been portrayed.

BreAnna Jacinto

Teacher & Mother

Desoto, TX

I completely oppose HB3 along with the vast majority of voting Texans. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas. We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the "bought"? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! **VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL!** Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Tamara Waddell
Self, mom, architect
Austin, TX

All students deserve a quality education. Please consider realistic funding to sustain the amazing work our public schools do. My son has a wonderful support team and it kills me that they might suffer financially or feel unsupported. I know folks at private schools who are discriminated against. It's not the answer. Better funding our public schools is the right answer. Don't be greedy.

Kelley Cummins
Self
Lewisville, TX

I strongly disagree with HB3. I have a 3rd grader, 1st grader, and soon to be kindergartener attending public school in Lewisville ISD. This fall, because of lack of funds, our school board had to decide to close 5 elementary schools, one of which is our school that is ranked 10/10 on Great Schools. Please do not give more money to those seeking private school education. This will not real "choice". Private schools can deny admission to any kid for any reason they want. It is not "choice" when the private schools have all the power. The majority of counties Texas do not have a private school in them, so all that will be accomplished is less funding for our already struggling schools. The vouchers will not cover the cost for private school, so all it will do is give a discount to already wealthy families. Private schools do not have to provide transportation or special education services, so this is not a fair "choice". HB3 will bankrupt our public schools. I am fine with private schools, and those that choose to attend them, but they need to pay for them on their own. Public dollars are for public schools. You will be using the tax dollars of my hardworking family and neighbors to fund benefits for the already wealthy. I am a strong Christian and firmly believe this is the most un-Christlike thing we could decide to do. We already have so many choices- in LISD we can transfer to other schools if they are a better fit, and many do. Please vote NO on HB3 and vote YES to raise the basic allotment. Our children ("the least of these" as Jesus said) need you to stand up for them!

Taylor Norton
self - teacher
Georgetown, TX

I am writing to express my deep concerns about HB3 and as your constituent and a public school teacher in Texas, I urge you to vote against its passage. This bill proposes a school voucher program that would divert public funds—an estimated \$1 billion over two years—from already underfunded public schools to subsidize private education. Texas public schools serve over 5.5 million children and are struggling with severe financial challenges, often forced to cut staff and resources. Redirecting these vital funds will further strain public schools, leaving the majority of Texas students in more dire conditions and widening the gap in access to quality education. Public schools are the bedrock of our communities, and their ability to provide equitable education opportunities should not be sacrificed.

Additionally, HB 3 lacks sufficient accountability measures for private schools receiving taxpayer dollars. Unlike public schools, private institutions are not held to the same oversight standards, particularly regarding standardized testing and services for students with disabilities. This creates a two-tiered system where public schools face strict accountability while private schools operate with minimal transparency, leaving students and families vulnerable. Furthermore, the proposed voucher amounts are insufficient to cover the full cost of private education, putting low-income families at a disadvantage and exacerbating educational inequities. Texas should prioritize strengthening its public education system, not undermining it with initiatives that fail to serve the majority of its students. I respectfully urge you to consider these impacts and vote no on House Bill 3.

Mary Holt
Self, public school teacher
Prosper, TX

My husband and I are public school teachers. Our daughter attends public school. We HAVE school choice. Please do the right thing. Abbott has sold out for money hoping Texas wouldn't notice. But we have. There is absolutely no reason why public funds should be used for private schools. It is just for others to get rich at the expense of Texas children. Please.

Lauren Sieckenius

Self

Uvalde, TX

I am here to speak against HB 3. I am a mother of 2 Uvalde CISD students. I vote NO school vouchers. No matter how many times Abbott tries to promote this move as positive, we all know it will be financially disastrous to many districts across the state. Especially, rural districts like my own. I do NOT see how we can take from these teachers and students anymore than we already have. I can guarantee if you put this bill on a ballot and let the people of Texas vote, it would be a landslide NO, again. Abbott is too scared of that. Therefore, he's using his power push it through anyways. LET THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS VOTE ON IT!!! It's only fair!!

Blythe Goodin

Self-Customer Support Analyst

Cedar Park, TX

NO to ESAs and NO to De-Funding Public Education and Special Education

Dear Legislators,

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools.

I am writing as a deeply concerned parent of two autistic sons who rely on our public education system for the specialized support essential to their growth and development. Every day, dedicated educators provide the tailored interventions and nurturing environment that help my children overcome unique challenges, fostering skills that empower them to engage with the world. Cutting funds to public education would not only diminish these critical programs but also jeopardize the progress and futures of children like mine—whose potential depends on consistent, high-quality, and compassionate educational support. I urge you to reconsider any measures that would undermine the resources vital to ensuring every child receives the opportunity to thrive.

ESAs (vouchers) directly hurt students with disabilities who receive Special Education services in Public Schools in the State of Texas. Diverting \$1 Billion of my PUBLIC taxpayer money to private schools who do not even acknowledge IDEA, do not follow IEPs and only provide services when they are negotiated, compromised and then charged back to parents at exorbitant rates well above typical tuition rates it is theft of services and money to the most vulnerable population in Texas.

14% of the 5.4 million public school students in Texas receive special education services. That's 760,000 students at a minimum. These ESAs are completely inaccessible to at least 90% of our disabled students, and that is before they have a chance at any lottery or know if a private school will accept, serve, or retain them. There's no accountability. Not of services, not of the \$1 Billion of public taxpayer money this legislature wants to pour into private schools and not of impact or outcomes of our disabled students.

Even if we say ALL of the ESAs go to disabled kids receiving special education services, that still leaves a minimum of 700,000 students receiving special education services in underfunded understaffed Public Schools that this state put in this situation. This causes direct harm to these students with disabilities, the most vulnerable individuals in society, and it's at the hands of those who are supposed to represent us.

This is unacceptable. I want this legislature to take accountability, listen to the parent voice (and students), and have the courage to do the right thing: say No to ESA/Vouchers and Fund our Public Schools properly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Blythe Goodin

Madison Shera
Self- Public School Teacher
Lewisville, TX

My name is Madison Shera and I'm a resident of Lewisville, Texas. I have been a Texas public school teacher for 10 years, and I am in strong opposition of this bill which would promote defunding public education and further damage our public school system. I've seen firsthand the challenges our schools face, and wholeheartedly believe that the way to a brighter future for Texas and our children is to fully fund and support our public schools. Taxpayer public dollars should go toward public schools to help them meet the needs of ALL students. I hope you'll agree and oppose this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kristen Bryant
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Vote no to vouchers. Vote NO to vouchers... unless private schools who take public funds follow our state's accountability standards. They must do what public educators do. Otherwise, you must vote no.

Angie Sifferman, Ms.
Self, Business Consultant
Plano, TX

Please vote NO on public school vouchers. They dilute essential support for public schools, whose funding is guaranteed by the Texas Constitution that you swore an oath to support and defend. There are more than 5,000,000 children in public schools. At most, vouchers will only benefit about 10% of the Texas school children. We all know that "parent choice" is a false flag to hide the real agenda of privatization and support of private religious schools. The concern about uncertified teachers in public schools is magnified in home schooling. The past practice of underfunding (no increase since 2019) is consistent with handicapping public schools. The proposed increased support of \$210 per student is insulting, insufficient, and insignificant. That is clearly inadequate when the proposed diversion to private schools is \$10,000 per student. Thank you for taking the steps necessary to effect the improved education for the State's public school children that you claim, esp. when the federal government threatens to withdraw its support. Please protect the future of our children and our state. Your vote will be observed closely.

Jessica Mang
Self
Forest Hill, TX

Vote NO. This is a money grab. It does not serve ALL Texans. I DO NOT SUPPORT this Bill.

Charles Rawlings, Jr
Self. Student. Army veteran.
Harker Heights, TX

I believe it is a parents right to choose for their child where they receive their education. I also believe it is safer for children to learn in the walls of their own home.

Susan Pham
Self/mother
Missouri City, TX

No to school voucher. No to subsidizing private school for the rich. No...just NO

John Snelson, Mr.
Self
Dickinson, TX

Public tax dollars need to go to public schools, not private schools.

Justin Gomez

Self- public school Assistant Principal

Leander, TX

Please vote No to vouchers in Texas.

Please fund our public education schools and give the basic allotment of \$1300 per student.

Jessica Haskell, Mrs.

Public education teachers

Deer Park, TX

Look at the disaster the vouchers have done to Arizona to the state budget. Please vote no for school vouchers. This bill would harm public education. It would harm our most vulnerable populations including low income and special education students. Passing this voucher bill is setting public education up for failure. No one wants this passed except wealthy families that can already afford private school. Public funds should go to public education. Parents have always had a "choice" on where their kids are to receive an education. There are even open enrollment options in better districts that do not take money away from public schools. Please vote no.

Amanda McCampbell

Self, teacher

Rockwall, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 and what it will do to the Texas public education system.

Juile Bobo

Self

Hurst, TX

Please do not do this! Please, please! Public education is far too important to take funds away from it. I'm the daughter of a public school teacher, and I watched her work so, so hard. I enjoyed my public education, and I have 2 daughters in the HEB school district now, where I went to school and where my mother taught. I think that it is absolutely atrocious of you to think about taking away funds from kids who need the public school system for their educations and give it to people who can attend private schools with their own money! If they don't want to have to pay for private schooling, then their kids can go to public schooling like the rest of us! Thank you.

Jennifer Rainey, Mrs

My family

Spring, TX

Please do not pass this bill.

This is not helpful for Texas families or our communities as a whole. Other states with this program have not seen an improvement in educational outcomes.

For teachers, private schools tend to pay less than public schools. And they do not have access to administrative help that is guaranteed with public funding for children that require 504s.

It's not good for parents. Providing a limited number of vouchers will just increase the price of private schools due to the increase in demand. But also, it is limited by the number of vouchers which means we are not helping everyone that may need help.

It's not good for students. There is no required minimum to graduate with homeschooling and private schools. There are no mandatory help for 504s. And schools also are selective and can discriminate against students.

It's not good for our community. We need well educated people to meet the staffing requirements needed in our state. We have a significant amount of technical jobs that require critical thinking skills. We should be working to improve our curriculum and increasing teacher and staff pay, rather than following through with this bill. Also there is no guarantee that parents who are Homeschooling are actually teaching their children. Which could lead to children with no education and a parent receiving \$2000 a year to neglect their children.

Please do not pass this bill! Listen to your constituents and vote no.

Adela Meraz

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Public education must not suffer. Public schools and the teachers who work within them need our full support. Expanding funding for charter schools fails to ensure adequate funding for 1) children who need accommodations for special learning needs, 2) campus safety needs of students, 3) teacher compensation.

Pam ADAIR

Self/retired FWISD teacher

Fort Worth, TX

All students have a human right to education. Vote no to school vouchers. Vouchers limit choices for all students and give more to people who can afford private schools versus those who need it. We are taking away the rights of all students if you support vouchers. There needs to be an increase in money per student. Teachers and students haven't failed the system, lawmakers have. As a retired teacher I feel that the testing system has failed students and teachers for years. Use that money spent on testing toward helping students in all of our schools and not just the affluent. Why do billionaires who sent our governor money get to decide what's right for all children. If it's done either no agenda, then invest in our students by increasing per student money. I am fortunate to live in a nice neighborhood where our school benefits greatly from the monetary support of PTA's but not all schools have this. I pay high property taxes to support education and am proud to do so. When I became an educator in 2007, I saw firsthand the struggles with inner city schools needing things as simple as choir dresses for contests, basketball shoes and sports equipment just so we could instill pride in our kids to look like the other kids from nicer neighborhoods. We know that fine arts and sports can and do motivate young people to study harder so they can pass classes and be eligible for other things that they love. I had \$200 per year budget as a teacher and spent on average \$200/month for supplies and materials. Our school was low-performing according to STAAR but some of the most respectful students in the district as far as kindness and character. They matter, their neighborhood schools that they walk to matter, and are a point of pride to them. They are unfortunately a part of generational poverty and education is their key to success and funding is essential to their success. If you want a great education system, go to the teachers who know should love their kids, not just their data and test scores, but know and love their kids, who want for them like what they want for their own.

I think you all forget what happens day to day. Go to school and shadow a student in the inner city, ride the bus, walk to school, ask them about their day and what their dreams are. Build that relationship. It is those people over 50 million children who you represent too, their families and teachers. Do the same for teachers and walk through the process of STAAR, a school day, an athletic event, a fine arts concert and then you would know why we need more funding for all kids. You can do this but, respectfully, I think some of you have forgotten your first priority of taking care of those. If you are a person of faith, this first love includes personal sacrifice, servant hood and looking through a filter of love and a filter of personal accountability. It starts with no vouchers and I am hoping and praying that you see that as clearly as many teachers do. Thank you and bless you.

Jessie Brooks

Self - Retired

Houston, TX

I am opposed to this bill. It takes money that could be better spent in improving public schools for all students and gives it to private schools. Our private schools will suffer tremendously and a system will be set up that will benefit the rich -- who can already afford to send their kids to private school. Please vote NO on this bill. Overall, vote down Christian nationalism!!!

Katheryn Moore, Educator

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please do not forward this bill for school

Choice and ESAs as is. As an educator with over thirty years experience, please reconsider and correct the major flaws with this bill. 1)This bill grows the government by creating more entities that oversee the plan and that is a bad idea. 2)This bill takes away the freedom and autonomy of educational institutions by limiting participation to only those who use government choices which may not be best for child. 3)This program encourages data mining which invades privacy. 4)This bill will dumb down education by requiring only government options for curriculum and programs. 5)This is not truly the free market working to make things better because of the controlling factors on participants, therefore the controls will actually weaken and water down the educational institution. 6) The controls and stipulations of this bill deter individualized accommodations for students since tight parameters will govern the stipulations of participation. 7) This bill is a financial burden to the taxpayer and creates more spending. 8)Private and home schools that comply will lose their freedom to choose what is best for their students by having to comply with what the state deems best and this will be detrimental to the student. For these reasons and so many more, this is a bad bill. A school choice or ESA program must have few strings attached to be any good or the beauty of competition is stifled and cannot elevate and improve the system. Curriculum should not be dictated. Dumb down and socially driven required state testing is ruining Texas children and should be eliminated and certainly not required. The money must follow the child without strings attached if this plan is to work to improve education and elevate Texas students.

Lauren Muskiet, Mrs
Self- public School Counselor
Spring, TX

As a public school teacher and counselor for over 25 years, I urge all elected officials to vote against any voucher program or ESA. Public tax dollars should go to public schools. Period. Public schools accept all students, no matter their needs or backgrounds, and private schools do not. Public schools provide special education and 504 services to kids in need and private schools are not required to do so. Public schools are held to state mandates and STAAR testing and private schools are not. Texas legislators are beholden to follow the Texas Constitution which requires that Texas fund its public schools. Shame on anyone who is shirking this duty and allowing outside influencers with big money to sway their votes. Texas school children and their families deserve better. Anyone who votes for ESAs or vouchers by any other name will see that reflected in the polls. The overwhelming majority of your constituents do not support this bill.

Theresa (Teri) Wilson
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

This is bad for Texas. More wasteful spending and not rooted in anything good for schools, children, taxpayers, or truth. Texans already have "choice" in their public schools. This bill is about welfare for the wealthy. Brings no accountability. I am one for voice and I say no.

Jeff McKinley
Self/Teacher
New Braunfels, TX

I am against HB 3. I don't believe that tax dollars should go to private schools. To call this school choice is not accurate. Texas has school choice. This bill benefits very few at the expense of public school students. I believe this bill is not supported by the majority of Texans and should be put to a public vote.

Pam Gray
self
Keller, TX

I am totally against vouchers. Public money should only go to public schools. The Texas legislature needs to fully fund its public schools. Vouchers will not end up helping the students in struggling public schools, they will only give monetary breaks to students already in private schools and homeschoolers. People make a choice to send their children to private schools or homeschool them. In making that choice, they should incur the total cost themselves. Vouchers will in no way improve the education of all of Texas' children, only a select few that are already getting "special" schooling. Stop this foolishness!!!!

Mark Dykes
Myself
Childress, TX

Public Tax Dollars should not subsidize private schools.
The voters of Texas should be given the opportunity to vote on the matter.
Unfortunately the Governor has been wrongly influenced by taking campaign contributions from private school donors who own private schools.
Vote NO!

Wendy Stone
Self- Registered Nurse
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

I oppose the education savings account program as well as the entire voucher plan. Texas has school choice, it needs a fully funded, high quality system that eliminates inequality instead of furthering it. There are several rural areas where students simply will not have the same resources as others, even if their parents are wealthy enough to participate. Fund public schools, provide teachers a living wage, and enable Texas students to obtain an education through the public system. Vouchers have shown to not be successful in other states, we have too many students to take chances that any could fall through the cracks. These students are our future, let's take care of them and ourselves.

Chrissy Healey
Self
Dallas, TX

I urge you to vote against this voucher. My three children attended private school in Dallas from 2015-2020. During those years, I watched the school discriminate against parents who were not donors (on top of the tuition), giving preferential treatment on education opportunities and lowered discipline for serious behavioral offenses. When it was clear one of my children was not learning to read in the way that was preferred by the school, we chose to move to public school. My children have all thrived in public school, where schools are accountable to laws. Test scores for all 3 of my children have skyrocketed.

Private schools do not have to provide the same protections for students that are required of public schools. Few students will actually benefit from a voucher system.

Vouchers will NOT provide competition for public schools. Competition exists when the same rules apply to the competitors; public schools have hundreds of laws, rules and regulations that must be followed; private schools have none.

Priscilla Swanson, Dyslexia Teacher
Self
Rockwall, TX

I am a parent/Texan who opposes HB 3 and any private school vouchers. Our kids and teachers deserve fully public funded schools. Tax payer money should be for public schools and not given to private schools and without any accountability.

Kacy Davis, Mrs.
Self Educator
Trophy Club, TX

Good Morning, as you sit, far removed from a classroom where students with special needs are learning, I am begging you to please not pass HB3. Public School has not had a significant increase in funding in nearly 6 years, we are in need of a solution that equally funds all students. ALL of them. Not a few, not a coupon for rich private school people, ALL students. Please invest in Texas for the future, please invest in public education.

Bruce Melberg
self
Weatherford, TX

I am opposed to HB3 in it's current form and ask that my representative Mike Olcott to please oppose this. Thank you.

Debra Beck

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose vouchers. I am a retired teacher from TN who is now living in TX. I have grandchildren in Texas public schools. Taking tax payer money to fund private schools is robbing public schools of much needed funding. Public schools exist to include all children, not just a select few. I have a grandchild who needs special needs accommodations. Voucher schools do not provide these. Please. Show by your vote that you represent all Texans, not just a few. Rural schools will be affected, too. People by and large love their community schools. Vote to save them! Thank you for your attention.

Harris Flax

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers! FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. \$1300 allotment per student at minimum and across the board teacher pay raises.

Trinity Erwin

Self, Student of NISD

Helotes, TX

Chair Buckley, Vice Chair Bernal, and members of the committee: I am a senior at O'Connor High School and proud product of Northside Independent School District. I stand in opposition to House Bill 3, which threatens the integrity of our public education system and poses harmful consequences for Texas parents, teachers, and students.

While "school choice" sounds appealing in theory, it disproportionately benefits wealthy families while reducing resources for the majority of students who depend on public schools. Living in Texas, I've witnessed families struggle paycheck to paycheck. This voucher program would only cover a portion of private school tuition, leaving families scrambling to pay the remainder.

Moreover, HB3 lacks accountability measures to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent effectively. Unlike public schools, private schools are not held to the same standards of transparency, curriculum requirements, or special education accommodations. Public schools have to take the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness or STAAR test, are required to accept all students, and provide SPED programs—private schools do not and can reject students and avoid offering such services. Instead of funding private alternatives with minimal oversight, we should invest in improving public schools to ensure every child has access to quality education.

Passing HB3 would lead to cuts in essential programs like band, theatre, Advanced Placement classes, SPED services, and sports. At O'Connor, I have been a member of the theatre department, troupe 5872. Theatre has improved my public speaking, teamwork skills, and empathy. My school's AP courses have allowed me to start college as a sophomore in the fall. And thanks to the Independent Study Mentorship or ISM program, I have been able to mentor with an elected office inspiring me to pursue a career in government. Public schools have provided students like me with opportunities to succeed. If HB3 was passed, schools would cut these programs to save money, reducing our opportunities to succeed.

As you review HB3, consider how this bill would have impacted your former peers, students and/or school districts. Public schools provide opportunities for all students—not just those who can afford private alternatives. Texas students deserve a strong public education system that serves everyone equitably.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote against HB3. As I conclude, I want to leave you with one last phrase: the saying goes, "Don't mess with Texas," yet, I am here to tell you, "Don't mess with public education". Thank you.

Mary Russell

self

West Tawakoni, TX

I am violently against this scam! I want my tax dollars to go toward improving PUBLIC schools and PUBLIC school teacher pay!

Katherine Keske, Mrs

Self

Austin, TX

I do not support public taxes going to private schools. Our taxes need to go to public schools to support them. If parents don't want their kids to go to public school, then they should pay out of their own pocket.

Margaret Schulenberg

self/retired

Round Rock, TX

I am firmly opposed to HB 3 or any equivalent bill in the House or Senate.

My opposition rests on two main points.

First, all Texas children deserve a good education, and all Texans deserve a well educated citizenry. Public education is best suited to these dual purposes. Public education, by design, serves all Texans as well as the public good of the state. Vouchers, as they are generally called, will decrease funding for public education, shortchanging not only our children but the future well-being of our state.

I am also opposed to any policy which transfers my tax dollars to a private, profit-seeking entity. Private schools have their place, but they must in fact be private. Giving them my tax dollars is nothing but pork.

There is plenty of room for policy prescriptions and debate to improve our schools and education system. But we must always keep in mind that the private and public sectors serve different purposes.

Vouchers do nothing but enrich a few at my expense, while betraying our children and the future of all Texans.

Christmas Graslle, Mrs

Self

Dallas, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 as I believe it is a dismantling out of public schools. I do not believe this is the right choice for our community and believe this bill will cause great harm to the education of our children please do not move forward with HB 3.

Jessica Vass, Mrs.

Self - Public Educator

Baytown, TX

As a citizen of Texas, a parent of 3 Texans, and an Educator who has spent 21 years educating Texans, I am appalled at the illogical and ignorant idea that public funds should be removed from public schools. The deplorable attacks on public education do not reflect the work I have spent my lifetime on. My fellow public educators and I need your support, not your disdain. We need bold representation, not defunding. We need brave men and women to stand up against this current attack and hear our voices. Parents have always had a choice in Texas. This bill is a sham that will does not hold water fiscally and is morally repugnant. Every child in Texas deserves a high quality education. The data repeatedly shows that the very best way to achieve this is to fund our public schools. Please don't allow Texas to slip into lining the pockets of wealthy donors at the very expense of our greatest resource... our children. FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION! SAY NO TO HB 3!

Angel Fuentes

Houston, Texas of Harris County

Houston, TX

In Houston, which harbors the largest population of foster children in Texas, many of our youth are tragically labeled as forgotten or burdensome. This labeling is not just a label—it's a byproduct of systemic failures that allow subjective criteria and personal connections to influence who receives support and who does not. We must confront this issue head-on to ensure no child is left behind due to arbitrary standards or systemic biases.

To counteract this, I propose that HB3 include a provision that mandates the use of transparent and objective criteria in the allocation of funds from the education savings accounts. Specifically, these criteria must prioritize socioeconomic need over any other factor. This shift will help ensure that support reaches those who need it most, rather than those who are simply well-positioned or well-connected.

Moreover, to combat nepotism and favoritism, which are all too common in such programs, there must be rigorous oversight and accountability mechanisms. These should include:

Regular audits by independent bodies to assess compliance with the needs-based allocation criteria.

Public reporting of the demographics and socioeconomic status of the beneficiaries to ensure transparency.

Grievance procedures that allow families and advocates to report and challenge unfair practices within the system.

By embedding these safeguards into the legislation, we can start to dismantle the barriers that have historically prevented equitable distribution of resources in Texas. This is not merely a legislative change but a moral imperative to uphold the dignity and rights of every child in our community.

Jennifer Mlodzik

Self, Teacher/School Librarian

Leander, TX

NO to VOUCHERS

Funding to PUBLIC SCHOOLS

\$1300 Basic Allotment per child

Sandy Self

Self/teacher

Canadian, TX

Public school monies should stay with public schools! We already have a terrible time with school funding as it is. This bill will drastically hurt rural schools like mine! This bill is NOT good for Texas nor our students. Class sizes have grown due to loss of funding already. After teaching for 38 years, I can promise you, class sizes matters. Please fully fund our public schools so that our students can receive the best education possible. If this passes, how do you plan to hold them accountable? If they don't have to go through the same STAAR test as public schools, then you should stop the test altogether. It's poorly written and designed to make our students fail anyway. When a test question is asked on a way to purposely trick a child, well, that's totally unacceptable! Fully fund public schools, and give teacher the pay they deserve, or you're going to wake up and not have any good public school teachers left. The teacher shortage will only increase and the problem will continually grow! Trust me! Please do not let this bill pass.

Sara Thompson, Ms.

Self/Retired

Austin, TX

Vote NO on vouchers! ALL children need to become thoughtful, informed citizens. We cannot prepare our Texas kids for the future without a strong and well funded system of public schools. If we divert public funding, the future—ours and theirs—will be the worse for it!

Sheila Weekly

Self

Austin, TX

I support public education and believe that diverting funds through school vouchers will greatly damage our public school system. We ignore the masses by allowing privileges to a few. Effective public education protects our future by educating most of our young people to be productive citizens in the future.

Let's direct our funds to bettering public schools which serves the majority of our children.

Angel Fuentes, Mr.

Houston, TX in Harris County

Houston, TX

Angel Fuentes Enters and Addresses the Court of Congress

"May it please the Court,

My name is Angel Fuentes. I stand before you today not only as a proud Texan and patriot but as a foster child alumni who has navigated every facet of our state's support systems. From childhood to adulthood, these experiences have given me a deep understanding of the critical impact legislative changes can have on vulnerable populations—especially changes proposed in HB3.

HB3, while theoretically safeguarding the budget for child welfare with commitments to 'help build stronger families and care for our vulnerable,' warrants a closer examination. We must ensure that its funding mechanisms do not inadvertently divert essential resources from these critical services. Specifically, the bill outlines its funding as follows: 'The fund is composed of: (1) general revenue transferred to the fund; (2) money appropriated to the fund; (3) gifts, grants, and donations received under Section 29.370; and (4) any other money available for purposes of the program' (HB3, Section 29.353). It is imperative that Congress ensures these funds are designed to supplement, not replace, the existing frameworks supporting our most vulnerable children.

The implications of HB3 extend beyond just funding; they touch on socio-economic disparities and educational equity. Without stringent safeguards, this bill could further alienate those less able to navigate the bureaucratic labyrinth required to access new educational savings accounts—primarily impacting disadvantaged families and increasing the gap between them and more advantaged groups.

Furthermore, the administrative hurdles of implementing such a program without a pilot to test its feasibility or consensus-driven research focused on particular populations in Texas could lead to deteriorated conditions and outcomes in our public education systems. This not only risks inefficiencies but could strain our budget further, diverting funds from where they are desperately needed.

Thus, I implore you, our legislators, to approach this bill with the utmost care and foresight. We must craft our funding initiatives to preserve the integrity of Texas's commitment to its future generations, ensuring that all children, irrespective of their socio-economic status, have equitable opportunities to succeed.

Thank you for considering these perspectives. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that legislative changes support, rather than undermine, the foundations of our society's welfare."

Lauren Gavin

Self

Princeton, TX

No, I do not want ESA's.

Jennifer Perry
Self-School Counselor
Carrollton, TX

Distinguished Legislators,

I am a school counselor with 21 years of experience in a large suburban Texas district, working with students from diverse backgrounds. I write as both a professional deeply committed to the well-being of my students and a concerned community member, deeply worried about the potential impact of school vouchers on our state and on our students.

While I understand the intent behind school vouchers—to offer families more educational choices—I believe their implementation in Texas would harm our most vulnerable students. As a counselor supporting students facing academic, mental health, and personal challenges, I see firsthand how essential public schools are in ensuring that all students receive the support and resources they need to succeed.

Public schools, unlike private institutions, serve every child, regardless of their background or needs. We support students with disabilities, English language learners, and those from low-income households. Public schools are equipped with services like special education, counseling, and critical support programs. In contrast, private schools are not obligated to provide the same services or accept all students, creating a system where access to a quality education is limited to certain children, while others are left behind—potentially segregating students along lines of race, class, and ability.

Moreover, school vouchers would undermine the financial stability of public schools. Diverting public funds to private institutions drains resources from our public schools, which are already struggling with budget constraints. This would force schools to operate on even tighter budgets, leading to larger class sizes, cuts to essential programs, and reductions in staff. Students who need the most support—those facing mental health struggles, academic difficulties, or challenging family situations—would be the ones most affected when schools are forced to do more with less.

As a school counselor, I know the critical role public schools play not just in academics but in providing a safe, nurturing environment for all students. We are often the first line of support for children in crisis, offering services that are unavailable elsewhere. School vouchers threaten to weaken the inclusive, supportive environment that public schools provide, especially for at-risk students.

I urge you to carefully consider the long-term effects of school vouchers on our public education system. Rather than diverting funds to private schools, we should focus on strengthening and supporting public schools so every child, regardless of their background, can access a high-quality education. Our focus should be on creating a system that ensures equity for all students, not one that exacerbates existing disparities.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I am happy to continue this conversation and share my experiences as a school counselor to find solutions that benefit all Texas students.

Sincerely,
J. Perry

Susan Umphres, Retired teacher
Self/retired teacher
Sandia, TX

Public school is a critical resource. Where we live, there are few private schools, they are 45 minutes away, and lack teacher skill sets and culturally appropriate settings. We had to go back to the public school! If anything, the public schools need a smaller class size limit, aides to assist learning, resources for challenging students. Up with public school funding, down with welfare for the rich!

Amy Van Blaricum
Self
Dallas, TX

As a teacher and a mom of 7 - all of whom went through public school, and now grandmother of two also attending public school here in Texas- I implore you to please make good and sounds decisions regarding the education of our Texas youth.

Patrick Huff

Self Retired Public School Principal

Tomball, TX

Representatives Oliverson, I stand against HB 3 in its present form. I ask as one of your constituents that you reject this bill. I am concerned that by approving HB3 private school integrity and independence will be jeopardized. Instead, I urge you to concentrate your efforts on legislation that will correct our public schools. In order to do this the #1 item that must be removed or severely amended, is the Accountability System. It is at the root of most of the problems, including the discipline problems, curriculum matters and teaching to the test issues. Removing the Accountability System, as it exists, is the only way ISD's can return to local control and the only way to save the teaching profession. I urge you to reach out to me and work with me to solve the education issues in our State.

Cynthia Garcia, Ms

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vote no not necessary when we should be funding public schools.

Shannon Fordyce

Self

Dickinson, TX

I am strongly AGAINST the voucher program and have many questions. First and foremost is why is Gov. Abbott pushing so strongly for what seems to be a highly unpopular plan? Additionally, when I look at the impacts to a local district, this does not make sense unless you are actively trying to destroy public education.

Texas City ISD (TCISD) has 8,000 students. They receive about \$4,000 in state funding per pupil per year. So, if just 160 students leave with a voucher, TCISD loses \$640,000 per year.

- Can Texas school districts and their surrounding communities afford to lose those funds? Especially when they may already be deficit spending?
- What happens to the teachers, staff, students, parents, local businesses, etc.?
- How many accredited private school options are nearby to consider? And would they even accept a student who has special needs?
- Will Texas tax payers property taxes go up to make up for that lost state money?
- Where exactly is that lost money going? And by whom will it be spent?
- Who else will be the "losers" and "winners" when vouchers become the law of the land.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL. TEXAS CHILDREN DESERVE BETTER.

Melissa Knee

Self

Conroe, TX

Families who choose to go to private school should pay for their choice. My tax dollars should go towards public schools!

Sarah Thayer
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am against the school voucher program. Taking money from every Texas taxpayer and giving it to wealthy urban families is unfair.

We must protect public school education for all, especially in rural and remote counties that don't even have private schools.

Defunding public schools for special interest groups is bad for Texas taxpayers, bad for public educators, but most of all bad for Texas public school students who deserve full funding, no matter where they live or their parent's economic status or religion.

Staci Kelly
self, teacher
Leander, TX

As a public school teacher, I am strongly against vouchers as it will divert money from public schools that are already struggling with funding.

Kirbi Barbosa
Self - Realtor and public school parent in Temple ISD
Temple, TX

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Texas regarding the proposed education voucher system. I strongly oppose any efforts to pass a voucher program that would divert public funds away from our public schools to private institutions.

Public schools serve as a cornerstone of our communities, offering an essential and equitable education to all students, regardless of their socioeconomic background. Introducing a voucher system undermines this foundation by siphoning off critical funding from already underfunded public schools. This will disproportionately affect students in lower-income and rural areas, further widening the educational achievement gap.

Vouchers may provide an illusion of choice, but in reality, they only serve to benefit families who can already afford private education or who have access to more educational opportunities. The reality is that most families, especially those in underserved areas, will not see the benefits of a voucher system. It will result in overcrowded classrooms, a reduction in resources, and fewer opportunities for our public school students.

I urge you to consider the long-term effects of such a policy on Texas students and to prioritize investments in public education that will help improve outcomes for all children. Rather than cutting funding from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve them.

Please do not pass any legislation that would create an education voucher system in Texas. I hope you will stand for the future of our students by supporting policies that ensure equitable, quality education for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amy Crist
Self
Lubbock, TX

I urge you to vote no on vouchers. Using taxpayer money to fund private schools and homeschooling is opening the doors to fraud and misuse of money. I don't want tax dollars used for this. We already have school choice... I can choose where my kids go to school... whether it be a public school, private or homeschool. The latter two should be at my expense as those are personal decisions that involve many factors. We have great public schools to choose from too. Public schools accept all students therefore are the schools that should be funded with tax money. States who have introduced voucher programs have seen it become a drain on the budget and in many cases have done away with vouchers. Why would we be wasteful with taxpayers money and start funding something that isn't going to be successful.

No to using our tax money to supplement private schools and homeschooling. It's been proposed that private schools that take the vouchers will need to test their students with a nationally normed test that the private school chooses. That is laughable! Let them do the STAAR test like public schools. Most nationally normed achievement tests are much easier and straightforward than the STAAR test. The system being set up is wrong. No to using taxpayer money to support private schools and homeschools!

Caleb Lenard
Self
San Angelo, TX

Please do not make this bill happen. This is a threat to our public education system which has worked and continued to work in the United States. This is deemed unfair to the public education eyes and to citizens.

Sandi Therrell
Self/Teacher
Seabrook, TX

Despite what some would try to have us believe, Texans know and have seen the overwhelming majority are not in favor of an ESA. We do not want our public dollars going to unaccountable private institutions. Those who wish to homeschool do not want public funds, either.

Texas Republicans have held this state's education hostage for 30 years. They want to blame everyone for themselves for the state of it. As a teacher, I can tell you the problem is not with our local level decisions. The problem is with a state that wastes taxpayer funds on over testing our students to over pay their donors.

Properly fund Texas schools. Quit pushing something that actual Texans do not want in favor of Greg Abbott's OUT OF STATE donors.

Mary Calzada
Self
Canyon Lake, TX

DO NOT PASS THIS BILL !! YOU ARE NOT CONSIDERING ALL THE CHIKDREN IN TEXAS. THOSE IN PUBLIC WONT DO WELL AND THAT WILL BE ON "YOU"

ERIN Dempsey

Self attorney

Austin, TX

Public schools are the souls of our community and they are already drastically under funded. Our children deserve to have access to the best education possible and diverting money to wealthy people so that they can clip a coupon to send their child to private school is not the answer to the problem. School choice exists and if parents choose to send their kids to private school there is nobody stopping them. Their choice not to send their children to public school should not be the burden of taxpayers. Also, private schools do not exist in large swaths of Texas and the only schools available to children in these areas are public. I can think of nothing more punishing than taking away public funding that supports the public schools which are literally the only schools available for kids to attend in certain areas of Texas. In addition, private schools do not accept all applicants and many children who attend public schools have special needs that only public schools will and can address. Please do not take critical funding from our public schools to support private schools. We all know that these schools will only raise tuition and focus on becoming money making institutions rather than places of learning for all. And lastly, the amount of money given to support sending a child to private school is not even close to the entire amount that will be owed. Most people in Texas will not be able to afford attending a private school even if they are able to obtain the school vouchers. And as stated before, that is why this entire idea is a scam. The money will be used by people who are already sending their children to private school. Texas kids in public school need support and they will not be able to get the education they deserve if this bill passes. It is unfair and it is cruel. Do not sacrifice our children for the wealthy few who can already afford to send their children to private school. Our communities deserve to thrive, and we only thrive by giving our children access to the greatest public school opportunities possible.

Susan Sexton

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am against this. At a time when we need better public education, higher paid teachers, it is 100% wrong to take my tax money to help someone pay for a private education. The future of Texas, and by extension the US, depends on all of our children receiving the best education possible.

Emily Matthews

ACPTA

Austin, TX

I am a constituent in zip code 78735. I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 3. I am asking my Representative and this Committee to vote no and to instead fully fund public education. We already have meaningful school choice in Texas - what we need are resources so that our public schools can deliver the education that each child in Texas deserves, and that which has already been mandated, with accountability and due process ensuring that delivery. We do not need resources for privatized schools to thrive with no or little accountability to the public. I don't believe proponents of this bill can point to any examples of similar laws in other states achieving any of the objectives that are the supposed motivation for this bill. To the contrary, voucher systems like this are a failed experiment, and if this bill moves forward, this will predictably harm more families than it helps. Thank you.

Denise Simmons

Oak Hill Elementary PTA

Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Denise Simmons and I am a constituent in zip code 78735. I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 3. I am asking my Representative and this Committee to vote no and to instead fully fund public education. We already have meaningful school choice in Texas - what we need are resources so that our public schools can deliver the education that each child in Texas deserves, and that which has already been mandated, with accountability and due process ensuring that delivery. We do not need resources for privatized schools to thrive with no or little accountability to the public. I don't believe proponents of this bill can point to any examples of similar laws in other states achieving any of the objectives that are the supposed motivation for this bill. To the contrary, voucher systems like this are a failed experiment, and if this bill moves forward, this will predictably harm more families than it helps. We are counting on you as our elected representatives to not pass this bill.

Carl Franklin, Dr.
Self; Small Business Owner
Brenham, TX

Public funds should never be used for private K-12 education. If HB3 passes, private schools should be held to the same accountability standards as public schools (e.g., STAAR exams). It would be far more effective to fully fund Texas public K-12 education. Please learn from the costly mistakes that Arizona and Florida have made after pursuing this private voucher agenda.

Denise Guanco
Self, CPA
Frisco, TX

I object strongly to this measure. Subsidizing private schools for the wealthy few harms the public schools system which helps the majority of our youth. This bill is a disservice to my children and many others. It also has the potential to harm our teachers as funding is taken from our public schools.

Jenn Massey
self
Cedar Park, TX

NO VOUCHERS!!! It will destroy public school education and athletics.

Please fund public schools!

Provide \$1300 basic allotment per student.

Frank Hayes
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Texas public schools are not fully funded and have NOT been since 2019.
•Districts are operating in the red and being forced to close schools and hire uncertified teachers.

Susan Holloway
Self
Friendswood, TX

Keep public school public. Vote No. Keep church and state separate. Vote NO. Instead give \$10,000 per student to public schools. Vote NO. Parents already have a choice to do something else but should not be funded. Vote NO.

Megan LeCompte
Self
Cedar Park, TX

The voters of Texas have already spoken on this issue and rejected the idea of tax dollars being used to fund private education. Until our Texas legislature decides to fully fund our public schools, there is NO justification for establishing an ESA program. As a Republican, I am embarrassed by the obvious corruption with my party that has lead to this issue being up for debate without voter input. I'd also like to hear why this program will succeed in our state despite failing in others. Are we really that arrogant? And finally, let me bring your hero Elon Musk into the equation so maybe you'll actually hear my words. DOGE just uncovered rampant fraud from COVID programs meant to send tax payer funded dollars to those financially burdened by the pandemic. Good luck avoiding similar fraud with this program where most families who need access to better education aren't near a private school or able to accommodate the inconvenience of private school hours and lack of transportation. If this program passes, I can assure you the voters will ultimately decide what's best at the polls. We can do better. It's time for Abbott to go.

Amy Rork
Self - copy editor
Grapevine, TX

Public money should NEVER be used for private enterprise. Invest in Texas families by supporting a strong public school system. This will shore up property values and give Texas kids a bright future. Giving money to private organizations with no failsafes or accountability is theft from the taxpayer. Never never never again make us fight for our communities. Vouchers are theft. They're amoral.

Patricia Smith
The school children of Texas! Self!
TEMPLE, TX

This is a blatant violation of church and state!!! I am AGAINST THIS BILL!!!!

Linda Stoneking
self
Marble Falls, TX

In the midst of writing this comment, I was cut off in the middle and the message said that my comment was processed. I was not finished. In addition to lack of funds by parents who cannot already afford private school, these organizations do not provide any special assistance to children who need special accommodations, whether that is additional help because they are behind or gifted and talented programs for students who need that. In addition, private schools can refuse to accept any student without cause. Public schools are required to accept and educate all students. Please choose wisely for the children of Texas.

Sincerely,
An active registered voter.

Liz Edelbrock
Self author
Frisco, TX

Texans do not want this bill passed. We are only as strong as our people are educated, and this bill will severely harm public schools and the most vulnerable Texans. Vote no.

Leslie Guidry
Self
Austin, TX

Vote against school vouchers. They aren't going to help those who really needed as they don't account for uniforms, food, transportation, and accessibility (as in close to where they live). It will hurt rural schools. Instead support our Public Schools.

Mai Vo
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3. This will not benefit our students, families, or the general public. The passing of this bill will be a detriment to the success of our state now and in years to come.

Brian Cunningham

Self

Cibolo, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. It will cost taxpayers too much in the long run, and the benefits to a few do not outweigh the burden placed on the majority.

Focus on fixing the public school system. Vote against this costly bill that will not make a significant impact on student outcomes, and shift your focus to fixing the actual problem.

Jo Henderson

Self

Houston, TX

Vote against an elitist program. If you focused more on better education programming for children and continued education for teachers people would value the public sector more and want to stay in their neighbors for the children. Those who want private typically have the means or can qualify for scholarships.

Strengthen equal devices, books, and quality across the state, ie rural areas should be as robust as urban.

My daughter benefited from Houston ISD vanguard programs. She is Class of 2025. Her education had a downturn when Mike Miles came to help the school district. He focused more on his profiteering benefits ie bonus than the safety and consistency. Her high school years have been filled with inconsistent leadership. If this was fixed many parents would feel better about the school. My daughter is in public school which reflects the societal population of meeting people from all backgrounds and ethnicities. This is important as America is a melting pot. This builds social skills.

Jenni Trietsch

Self

Abilene, TX

Vouchers for “school choice” are effectively defunding public education and diverting much needed resources from the children of Texas. They will primarily benefit families who are already paying for private education. Redirecting these resources will especially damage rural and lower income school districts. It is not what Texans want. In the long run, this scheme is a scam and will cost significantly more than just properly funding our public schools.

Amy Moreland

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to ask you to protect neighborhood schools and oppose House Bill 3 in Texas.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them to succeed, not just students at exclusive private schools. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our neighborhood public schools for students, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private and religious schools that pick and choose who will enroll.

As a concerned Texan in the field of STEM teacher preparation (and an ex-science educator myself), I ask you to vote down House Bill 3, which diverts tax dollars from neighborhood public schools. Public dollars should stay in public schools.

Say NO to vouchers that use tax dollars to fund the tuition at exclusive private schools.

Linda Stoneking
self
Marble Falls, TX

HB 3
As a retired public school teacher and librarian, I have seen the damage the Texas legislature can cause by underfunding public schools. This school voucher bill will be one more disaster for public education and Texas children. I am opposed to this bill. Please use our taxpayer funds wisely to provide a quality education for our children through the public education system. Private schools provide a service to parents who do not wish to participate in the taxpayer funded public education system, but my tax dollars should be used to supplement their choice. Common sense will tell you that private schools will not help disadvantaged children at all. In addition to tuition, there are a number of other expenses for private school students, including uniforms, transport

John Gallen
Retired from teaching at CCHS after 20 years
Copperas Cove, TX

Look at how to level the playing field and potential for abuse of vouchers. There needs to be checks and balances on the voucher system. Additionally, fund public schools (allotment) comparable to the max voucher amount or at least a number closer to the proposed voucher.
Suggest \$7500-\$8000 per pupil,

Julie Loera
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Please do not support this bill. Private schools do not support ALL students. Public schools support every student regardless of their social or academic ability. HB 3 will take money away from supporting EVERY student.

Dawn Wallner
Self
Austin, TX

Both of my current AISD students (7th grade and 10th grade) attended a title 1 school that was under funded and overcrowded. Half their classrooms were portables. The teachers and administrators still managed to provide excellent instruction and motivation for learning. Both of my children CHOSE to attend magnet programs offered by AISD (THEIR CHOICE). They are both thriving at Kealing Middle School and LASA High School. However thanks to underfunding by Texas to our local schools and AISD being short millions of dollars to balance their budget (even though Texas has a HUGE surplus) Parents have been asked to participate in numerous meetings asking what our children can give up, transportation! , libraries, counseling etc. Because of Abbott trying to pass vouchers that would only help a very small percentage and not funding the schools we have, we are at risk of losing OUR CHOICE.
NO TO VOUCHERS

Christina Hollander
Public school counselor
Cedar Park, TX

Please vote NO to Texas vouchers. They only harm public schools and help those who are already taking advantage of private schools. Families have every right to choose their education for their child. They can enroll in the local public school, they can homeschool, they can do private school... they've always had that choice and the choice will continue. Our public schools have not seen a cost-of-living increase for students in years. Everything costs more now. Districts are doing what they can with what little they have. They are making cuts everywhere possible. They are increasing class sizes. They are cutting great programs. They are doing the best that they can with what you, our state elected officials, have given them. It's time to fund public schools. I want my future grandchildren to have the option of good doctors and good electricians and good plumbers and good lawyers and good teachers. It's our duty to educate all youth, but if vouchers are passed, it will harm students. Put money into public schools rather than taking it away and let's see what our amazing educators can do.

Angela Mestemaker

Self

Austin, TX

A public school teacher of 26 years and a now serving students with difficulties in the private sector- the gap in funding is evident and apparent! Vote NO to vouchers and fund public education at \$1300 per student.

Katherine Regis

Self engineer

Wimberley, TX

Experience at other states who have instituted similar schemes shows this bill not improve school choice. Rather, this bill will result in transfer payments to wealthy individuals and harm Texas's already poor schools. Stop HB 3.

Bryan Murry, Past President of MISD School Board

Self

MIDLAND, TX

During my 2 terms at MISD, we valued our work with 1882s. Texas has school choice! Public Education needs increased funding to return to at least the 2019 levels adjusted for inflation. At MISD, we have paid in more than a billion dollars to chapter 49 and its predecessors. We are currently running a deficit budget.

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education. It's constitutional! Thank you!

Marie Medina

Self

Midlothian, TX

Vote no on HB3 for the children of Texas. The wealthy already have choice and do not need a billion dollar hand out. Public money should stay in public schools. These scams have failed in other states. Do not waste tax payer money on this scheme.

Kristie Vick

Self-public school teacher

Hemphill, TX

I would like to implore you to vote against the school vouchers/school choice program that is coming before you in the Texas House of Representatives. I realize that you have been a strong proponent of this plan, but I would like to express my beliefs on why I feel this program is an unfair use of taxpayer dollars. I am hoping to persuade you to change your mind on this issue. I am a public-school teacher of over 20 years (21 years in middle school and high school and 5 years of state adult education) I currently teach high school Spanish and Theatre Arts in Hemphill. I completely agree with you that we need more transparency and accountability in our schools. It is true that many of our public schools are failing our children in epic ways. I primarily teach high school, and I see students every day that can barely read or who have extremely limited skills in math and writing. That's inexcusable. I have said for years that we need major reform in our public schools. While MANY teachers are doing an amazing job, there are others that are simply collecting a paycheck, and that is theft of taxpayer money. While this is all true, I don't believe that the reform we need will come through the voucher program. We need higher educational standards, better discipline measures, and more accountability. Schools need the ability to fire teachers that aren't doing their job. We need to stop passing every child whether they have mastered the skills or not, and we need to return to some very BASIC skills in reading, writing, and math. We need fewer social/emotional mandates, and we need to teach history and civics more effectively. These measures could radically change the results in our schools, but we must have the courage to stand behind our teachers and administrators. The school voucher program simply aims to ignore rather than address the current situation in our schools, or even worse, it aims to dismantle public education altogether.

I believe that I am doing the job that I am called to do. I have been nominated in more than one district for "Teacher of the Year," and I received the 2014 Region VI Secondary Teacher of the Year award. (one of 20 finalists for State Teacher of the Year) I have worked in eight different districts in my career, I've taught in schools ranging from 2A-6A, and I've taught in rural and suburban schools in Central, South, and East Texas, so I have a great deal of experience in diverse school settings. I believe this experience has given me a uniquely qualified perspective on the current state of Texas public schools, and I feel this is why I am able to speak knowledgably about public schools and the effect a school voucher program will have on them. Here are the reasons I oppose school vouchers/school choice:

- The amount of money that is proposed for the ESAs for private schools is higher than what public schools receive per student. I cannot understand how anyone can justify giving \$10,000 to private schools.

Jeremy Fry, Assistant Principal

Self

Round Rock, TX

Keep public money public and stop giving more tax cuts to the families who can already afford it. This bill will not add value to the public school systems that have already been decimated by the governor and the states funding. Say no to vouchers

Deborah Hokenson, Mrs.

THSC

Bryan, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Deborah Hokenson, and I am a mother of seven. I currently homeschool six of them, and my oldest—who was homeschooled his entire education—is now a college athlete with a 4.0 GPA. I'm here to support Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and the life-changing opportunities they offer families like mine.

Homeschooling has been an efficient and effective way to educate our children. It allows them to learn at their own pace, explore their interests, and develop strong character and work ethic. But it also comes with financial challenges. We have made sacrifices to give our children the best education possible, but an ESA would ease that burden and allow us to do even more. With the proposed ESA, we could fully educate any of our children, providing high-quality resources without overwhelming financial strain.

Every child is unique, and parents should have the right to choose the best education for their child with any available option. ESAs give families the flexibility to invest in what truly meets their child's needs, leading to greater success and opportunity.

I urge you to support ESAs and give families like mine the freedom to educate our children in the way that best prepares them for the future. Thank you.

Shannon Reynolds

Self/retired School Counselor

Willow Park, TX

Please vote NO to vouchers/education Savings Account Program. The current bill is not ok. The current proposal does not take care of students equally. The current bill proposal does not align with the Texas Constitution. The current bill proposal can ultimately threaten TRS. I dedicated 28 years of service to children in Texas with no option but to pay into TRS instead of Social security. For a bill like this to cause my pension to be in the line of fire is unacceptable.

Taxpayers money simply should not go to private schools.

Please come up with a better solution to address the needs of ALL our students AND then let the voters of Texas be the one who vote and approve it. Again, please say no to Vouchers

Brooke Green

Self, admission coordinator

Richardson, TX

I am against giving public funds to private schools. I mainly fear the size of government this type of program would need and the corruption we will see as funds are wrongly distributed. Our beautiful rural parts of Texas can't be helped since there aren't enough private schools there. I previously lived in Arizona and saw how shady private schools popped up in shopping centers that tried to be in the "business" of schools. They failed and the state has no control over this project. Texans need to be smarter. Let's protect our public schools, students and precious things (like football!) by keeping public school dollars in public schools. Thank you.

Sheila Clemmons

Self

Fort Worth, TX

School choice = homeschool control. We the People of Texas want LESS govt.

Silkitwa Ferrel
Self
San Antonio, TX

I was educated in the public school system and my daughter was educated in the public school system. We must support and strengthen our public schools, making equitable education a right for everyone, rather than tearing it apart. Ignorance thrives in darkness!

Geany Glock
True Texas Project
Justin, TX

We need to be able to have school choice.

Gerald Finley
Self
Colleyville, TX

Vouchers support the ability for competition, and without competition, few excel. So let's compete and reap the rewards.

Deborah Ortega
True Texas Project
FORT WORTH, TX

I oppose HB3

Meredith Harris
Self, educator and parent
Leander, TX

Education Savings Accounts strip choice from far more students than they will help. Rural districts stand to be harmed the most by stripping yet further funding from our public schools. Instead of ESAs the legislature should focus on providing more funding for public schools by increasing the per student allotment.

Placido Gomez
Self, Grants Manager
Houston, TX

My name is Plácido Gómez. I'm an elected school board member in Houston ISD. I want to start by clearly stating that I'm in favor of school choice. We have a choice program within HISD and we have high-performing charter schools that operate in my district. But when the average private school tuition in Houston is over \$25,000 per year and the proposed voucher wouldn't even cover half of it, the math simply doesn't add up for this bill which wouldn't provide most people in my district with more "choice."

I want to speak directly to our state legislators who represent districts where there are no (or almost no) private schools. Though I represent an urban part of the state, I grew up in rural New Mexico where the nearest private school was more than an hour away. I've heard talking points downplaying the negative effects of this bill in rural Texas, claiming that your schools won't lose funding since there are no private schools nearby. But this analysis completely ignores the \$1,000,000,000 that could be going into the state's public schools but wouldn't if this bill passes.

In bringing up the harm this bill would do to rural Texas, I'm asking some of our Republican legislators to go against their party. I understand firsthand how challenging that could be. In the 2024 election, I went against my party in an extremely contentious bond proposal. My party said to vote "no," but my conscience told me to be outspoken about voting "yes" since many schools in my district desperately need major upgrades to keep our students safe. Though it was very unpleasant to go against people who would support me in most other issues, I can look my constituents in the eyes and tell them with honesty and conviction that I'm fighting for them. I ask you to do likewise for your constituents; vote your conscience and vote your district (keeping in mind that the governor's mansion is not in your district and its occupant doesn't get to vote in your election).

Holly Rudnick
Self - Attorney
McKinney, TX

School vouchers are shortsighted, premature, and illustrate a complete disregard or outright disdain for public schools. Seriously, are those who are pushing this that out of touch? Do they not see what is happening in our public schools? Services and programs are being cut, schools are closing, teacher-student ratios are increasing, teachers are leaving the profession, and school districts are opening enrollment to outside the district to try to cover costs. Look at McKinney ISD, Frisco ISD and Plano ISD - all suffering. Fund public schools!!! 5.5 million children are counting on you! Then we can talk vouchers.

Carolyn Yu
SHORE
Highlands, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 as it is a violation of church-state separation and will negatively impact public schools and its students. This is not "school choice" option, rather this is moving public funds away from public schools and into private schools, which are often religious and less accessible for many students. I urge all who are concerned to vote no on HB 3!

Glen Reed
Self
Midlothian, TX

Please oppose school vouchers, as they divert essential funds from public schools. It's deeply troubling that an individual can sway policy by donating \$12 million to a campaign, especially when his wife serves on the board of a private school. Moreover, it's concerning that many representatives may still support vouchers despite being aware of these issues.

Michelle Maley

Self teacher

Leander, TX

NO vouchers

Min. 1300.00 allotment per child granted

Fund public schools

Patricia Hilborn

Self, retired

Haslet, TX

I ask that you be leaders who take responsibility for the education of our children. Stand up to the Governor's voucher scheme, which siphons money away from public education needs. Instead, fully fund public education for Texas children. Defeat this bill that uses public tax dollars to fund private schools. No to vouchers! Thank you.

Terry Ganske

Self retired teacher

Katy, TX

I am a retired teacher that believes public schools should be fully funded. Tax payer money should not be given to private schools, especially without accountability.

Brandi Ancira

Self service industry

Canadian, TX

I would like to implore you to vote against HB3. Texas does not need a voucher system to allow for school choice. Parents already have a choice as to where they'd like to send their children. However, by implementing the voucher system you are robbing money from the public school system which will be detrimental to rural communities as well as the teacher retirement system. The governor's wife is in charge of a private school, he has his own personal agenda with this bill. Please, vote against school vouchers!!

Melissa Jezek

Self

Dallas, TX

Opposed

Russell Anderson

Self

Rowlett, TX

No Vouchers

Mary Coffee

Self, registered nurse

Plano, TX

I oppose this bill because public funds should remain in public schools. My son goes to school in our neighborhood and he has a fabulous group of teachers, including special education for his autism, adhd and dyslexia. My mother taught at the private school I attended growing up and there was a wide gap in qualification of teachers, quality and no opportunities for special education, if I had needed that.

Private schools are not regulated and therefore are a huge opportunity for students to fall behind.

A lot of rural students do not have physical access to a private school.

Private schools can deny admission to whoever they want. Private schools set their own curriculum which can remove standardized requirements needed to help children get prepared for college admission. Private schools aren't required to offer dual credit courses which saves kids thousands of dollars on college tuition. They are not required to pay teachers equitably. My mother had a masters in education and was paid less than a man who was not even a teacher. He was a pastor and was given a job and paid more than my mom because he was the head of his household. People who are not licensed teachers should not teach children. This is stealing from the texas tax payers and we demand the money be returned where it is desperately needed, not randomly dispersed to random children already fortunate enough to attend private school. All the studies from other states who have attempted this model shows 75% and higher of the lottery winners to children already in attendance. Welfare for the wealthy, since admission can be denied to any student who can't afford to attend. This is fraudulent and anyone who votes for this knows what they are doing. It is wrong. Send the money where it was intended, where it is needed, where it helps the most kids and pays the public school teachers, in public neighborhood schools.

Thank you.

Valerie Christ

Self

Cedar park, TX

Hello. Please do not support this bill. Please put \$ to support public education. The future depends on what you do. Please put our students first and leave the \$ in public education.

Wellesley Rogers

Self

Pearland, TX

As a parent of a 7th grader in Texas public schools and a supporter of the Texas PTA, I strongly oppose Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3). While presented as a school safety measure, HB 3 imposes unfunded mandates, misplaces priorities, and undermines public education.

1. HB 3 Creates an Unfunded Mandate

The bill requires every campus to have an armed security officer but fails to provide adequate funding. With over 9,000 campuses, the financial burden on school districts could reach hundreds of millions of dollars annually, forcing cuts to teacher salaries, student programs, and essential services. Public schools already face severe funding shortages, and this bill exacerbates the crisis.

2. It Misplaces Priorities, Ignoring Root Causes of School Violence

Instead of addressing mental health, bullying, and firearm access, HB 3 focuses on placing more officers in schools. Research shows this can lead to increased student arrests, higher anxiety, and a school-to-prison pipeline, disproportionately affecting students of color and those with disabilities. Safety policies should focus on prevention, not just reaction.

3. It Fails to Address the Mental Health Crisis

Texas schools suffer from a severe shortage of counselors and psychologists, with student-to-counselor ratios far exceeding the recommended 250:1. Instead of funding mental health support, HB 3 diverts money to security measures that do little to prevent violence. A more effective approach would be hiring more counselors, funding mental health programs, and expanding social-emotional learning initiatives.

4. HB 3 Undermines Local Control

Texas is diverse, and school districts need flexibility to determine safety strategies that fit their communities. Some may benefit more from mental health services than security officers. HB 3 forces a one-size-fits-all mandate, stripping local decision-making from school boards, educators, and parents.

5. It Ignores the Real Funding Crisis in Public Schools

Texas ranks below the national average in per-pupil spending. Instead of addressing low teacher pay, large class sizes, and outdated resources, HB 3 forces schools to shift funds to security costs, further damaging the quality of education.

A Better Path Forward

Rather than imposing unfunded mandates, Texas lawmakers should:

1. Fully fund public education to meet safety and academic needs.
2. Invest in mental health services, increasing counselors and psychologists.
3. Empower local school districts to determine safety strategies.
4. Focus on root causes of school violence, supporting gun safety and anti-bullying programs.

HB 3 fails to protect students and weakens public education. Texas must adopt evidence-based solutions that prioritize real safety, mental health, and adequate funding—not political posturing at the expense of our children's futures.

Marla Tillery

Self

Hillsboro, TX

Vote NO for school vouchers!!!! They are bad for all forms of the education system! Homeschoolers are against this!!

Annie Reeves

Self/teacher

Orange, TX

I am whole-heartedly against school choice vouchers, I am opposed to the open-district policy changes as proposed, and I fully oppose the withholding of funds from public schools. All monies appropriated to public education should be sent to the schools immediately. And shame on those who are working AGAINST public education.

Katie Duzan

Self

Arlington, TX

I urge you to vote no on HB 3. Good, funded public education helps our communities and creates more opportunities for more students. Do not divert public education funds into private schools. It's an inefficient and ineffective use of taxpayer dollars with no accountability.

Why put Texas kids at an educational disadvantage against kids from other states?

Emily Chenault

Leander ISD

Leander, TX

Stop what you're doing right now and get your comments into public record now AGAINST HB3! It doesn't take long. It's for the kids!

Hearing is tomorrow (3/11) at 8am and cannot be entered after they finish.

NO to VOUCHERS!

Please give funding to PUBLIC SCHOOLS
and \$1300 Basic Allotment per child

Marliese Stripling

Brandon Creighton

Montgomery, TX

I am for this bill. I am a certified teacher who had to quit to homeschool my son and daughter. I am not rich but I sacrificed to give them what they needed. Something needs to change in education

Sara Taylor

self

plano, TX

When gambling was allowed in Texas, we were assured the money would go to education. Our governor apparently lied. The money has gone to EVERYTHING but education. When will the Texas Congress honor their pledge? Or will we still be waiting? We await your decision and wait to vote.

Mimi Zotzky

Educator family and friends

Justin, TX

Hello, Both family and friends, who are educators would highly appreciate, help with funds to help supply needs for educating students (e.g., textbooks, supplies, computers, and more). I kindly ask for support FOR HB-3.

Thanks so much!

Renaë Heilman
Self
Van Alstyne, TX

Please if you care about our kids, vote no on vouchers. I was in public education and it still has my heart. Vouchers will serve a very very small population but hurt a large population. Our schools need a lot of work, our system needs reform, but taking money away and giving it to public schools is NOT the answer. We will see the fall of public education. While it may not happen this year, vouchers will destroy public education. If you truly represent the people vote no on vouchers

Erin Craig, JD
Self - attorney
Houston, TX

I oppose the voucher program in Texas, as it will take much-needed funds from public schools. I also object to the increase in religious schools.

Julie Slaven
Self
Grapevine, TX

Please vote no to HB3. As a republican, I do not believe public funds should be allowed to go to private schools. I think it's a fools errand to continue down this path and our children will pay the cost for it.

Mary Jackson, Mrs.

Self/Retired

Cypress, TX

Please represent your Texas constituents and not just a few billionaires, vendors, lobbyists or special interest groups. I watched the hearings last week from home and occasionally it looked like you were looking for input from the people testifying.

My input for you today is to stop trying to fix H.B.3. This bill needs to be trashed. Our public schools have been purposely destroyed over the past few decades. As I read through the 35 pages of H.B.3 I noticed a very expensive plan using millions of our tax dollars. To me it is a bureaucratic nightmare which doesn't address the need of many families in the current public schools.

In June 2024 at the Texas GOP Convention, a group of conservative delegates from across the state which included me spent Monday – Saturday (on our own dime) working diligently to get the Education Plank under Parent Rights “School Choice” out of the platform. As we spoke over and over with the determined Education committee members, who all but one, were unwilling to listen to the “serious concerns” we had with the plank, we decided to at least make sure the phrase “without strings” stayed in the plank. And that was a battle as well!

The School Choice plank which was passed by the thousands of grassroots delegates in the Republican party in June 2024 states: “We support further empowering all Texas families to choose from public, private, charter or homeschool options for their children’s education and funding which shall follow the student with no strings attached. We oppose regulations on homeschooling or the curriculum of private or religious schools and believe a constitutional amendment should be adopted accordingly. In lieu of funding, citizens may use property tax exemptions.

H.B.3 is loaded with strings and accountability. As a taxpayer I believe our tax dollars should be watched closely and have people accountable for the spending and oversight. That is why I believe using tax dollars to fund private education is a bad idea. I believe home schools and private schools should keep their freedom.

However, the propaganda and school choice slogans being thrown around by Governor Abbott, and many Representatives is very misleading to Texas families. I have seen and heard these slogans over the past couple years -- “Fund Students, Not Systems”, “Don’t Want It, Don’t Take It”, and “It’s My Tax Money”. These catch phrases are designed to hide the reality that any publicly funded option will be controlled by the same government that produced and broke the public education system.

H.B.3 proves the CEAO’s, and Comptroller will be controlling many aspects of how families will be allowed to educate their children if they take the funds in their Education Savings Account (ESAs). More and more voters are finally starting to hear the truth and are not buying the government’s rhetoric any longer!

Nyssa Powers

Self / First Responder

Lubbock, TX

I oppose this bill. If Governor Abbott genuinely believes that this bill aligns with the preferences of his constituents and desires its enactment, he should propose it for consideration in the upcoming election. However, this bill will only benefit 100,000 students out of the over 3 million enrolled in Texas Public Schools.

Historical evidence from other states demonstrates the ineffectiveness of state vouchers. Oklahoma serves as stark evidence of this. Implementing this bill would divert funding from public schools, potentially leading to increased class sizes. Furthermore, private schools will not be obligated to provide specialized education services or transportation for students. Private school tuition fees significantly exceed the \$10,000 offered by Governor Abbott.

While Governor Abbott asserts that this bill will benefit every student in Texas, it is misleading to claim that it will. Considering that only 100,000 students will receive funding, this assertion is inaccurate. Individuals residing in rural counties without viable private school alternatives will be compelled to contribute their tax revenue to benefits that their children will not be able to access.

Governor Abbott portrays this initiative as school choice, but Texas already offers ample school choice options. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from public schools and pursue homeschooling or enrolling in private schools. Therefore, it is unnecessary to provide subsidies to those who can already afford these expensive educational institutions.

Furthermore, Governor Abbott markets this bill as benefiting homeschool students, but in reality, it will impose specific curriculum requirements on homeschoolers seeking funding. This is not true school choice; rather, it favors those who can afford to send their children to private schools.

A more appropriate bill would allocate increased funding to our existing public school system and provide wage increases for our teachers. While Governor Abbott boasts that teachers in Texas earn six figures, it is important to note that this statistic is derived from 6A schools, where sports coaches receive higher salaries than average school teachers in Texas. This legislation has repeatedly failed in Texas, and the fact that Governor Greg Abbott threatened those who opposed this bill with diminished support is appalling. The citizens of Texas have made their voices unequivocally clear: we unequivocally oppose the passage of this bill. Instead of representing the interests of his constituents, Governor Abbott is now pursuing the desires of his multimillionaire donors.

Dee Oliver

Tax payer private citizen

New Braunfels, TX

Bad for public education! This is only to help good ole buddies get richer.

Aimee Prudhomme

Self / Customer Success Management

Houston, TX

If vouchers pass, I worry that our already struggling public schools will lose even more funding. The way this bill is written, it won't actually help the lowest-income families—many of them won't even be able to use the vouchers because the value isn't large enough to even cover private school tuition. And what about the people who don't live near a private school? If their public school shuts down due to lack of funding, where are they supposed to go?

Vouchers aren't about real "school choice"—they're just a discount for the wealthy.

P.S. I don't even have children and I care about this. Strong public schools benefit everyone in society, not just families in the traditional sense.

Tara Alt
Self
McKinney, TX

When we moved to Texas from Louisiana 20 years ago, we were shocked to find that our very bright child was struggling in McKinney ISD. After all, we were sending her to one of the best private schools in New Orleans. That's when it hit us - Texas offered us not just a good or ok public school system, but an excellent public school system, with far greater resources and opportunities that even our fancy private school could offer.

And we saw that Texas was being made stronger because that excellent public school system was available to all students. Our public school system is what makes Texas a desirable location. Indeed, it drove the "Texas miracle." Companies want to locate here because their employees like living somewhere they can send their kids to strong public schools, and they have a deep pool of well-educated applicants to hire from locally.

In my case, the savings allowed me to be a stay-at-home mom, a school volunteer and a PTO president. I was lucky enough to see first-hand the dedication and professionalism of our public school teachers and staff. To see them maligned so by our own governor makes me sick. They deserve better than to be pawns to a sad political game.

In my 20 years as a public school parent and volunteer, I have seen first-hand how great schools make great communities. This voucher plan would destroy what we have worked so hard to build in this state. I urge you to say no to voucher plans and yes to funding our public schools fully and without strings.

Thank you.

Feliza Fernandez
Katy isd
Cypress, TX

Vote No on HB 3

Beverly Thoers
Self
Dallas, TX

Please vote no! Support all school children. Vouchers will ruin our school districts. Public tax dollars need to support public schools

Allison Bolton
Self
Granbury, TX

I am against vouchers. Please do not hurt our public school children's education with vouchers. Instead please stop the STARR test and give our children a good education that will help them be successful. Only being taught to pass the STARR test is not helping our children be prepared for college or life. Please do give our tax dollars to fund private school education. I don't know anyone who supports vouchers but Governor Abbott , big corporations and West Texas Billionaires.

Barbara Tatum, Ms.

Self Retired

Burleson, TX

I am against HB3 using public tax dollars to support private schools. Is there even one state that has implemented "school choice" where the majority of vouchers go to public school students? I could not find one. In fact, 70% of vouchers in states that currently have them go to students who were already enrolled in private schools.

In Arizona, 71% of students using ESAs in 2023 were already enrolled in private or homeschool.

In Arkansas, 95% of students using vouchers didn't come from public schools.

In Ohio, the percentage of participating students who were already enrolled in private school jumped from 7 percent in 2019 to 55 percent in 2023.

Vouchers are simply welfare for the rich.

It is baffling that you would be willing to give public tax dollars to private schools that are not required to abide by the same standards as public schools.

In addition, the discrepancy between the amount of money a voucher is worth and the per student allotment given to public schools is an insult.

I constantly hear from elected state officials that the overwhelming majority of Texans are in favor of vouchers. This is blatantly false as proved by the most recent polling published today (March 10). If you are truly confident in this statement, it seems you would have no problem putting vouchers on the ballot. Yet, you do not - even though it deals with huge amounts of public tax dollars. The fact that so many of you were confronted by your constituents at recent town halls should give you an idea of how Texans really feel about this voucher scam.

All of you need to gather your courage and put vouchers on the ballot or drop the issue. You do a disservice to your constituents and the State of Texas by continuing down this path that will benefit a few and hurt many.

Lareshia Bragg

Self

Dalhart, TX

I oppose the vouchers for private schools. There's no reason why people should be given vouchers for public schools, which are higher than the amount the state pays per student at public schools. And also, this will cause private schools to come under the rules of the government, private schools do not want that. That is why they are a private school. Put this money into public schools so we have the best public schools we can have. Pay the teachers what they should be paid to teach our future generations. I will not vote for anyone who supports this bill.

Rebecca Paige Martin, Attorney

Self - Education Lawyer

Missouri City, TX

Texas public schools are incredible places of education and formation for our students, especially those with disabilities. Our public schools in Texas are already vastly underfunded, and approving ESAs or any type of voucher program would be a terrible disservice to public educators and students. As a taxpayer, I do not want my money to be spent by a few people who want to send their kids to private schools. Public schools would greatly benefit from increased funding instead of giving money to private schools. Private schools in Texas do not have the staff and structure to meet the educational and behavioral needs of any student, especially those who qualify for special education. This bill would harm all public school students and employees, and devastate the Texas economy.

Please give Texas public schools as much funding and support as possible and do not pass HB3.

Amy White
Self/Professional Piano Teacher
Amarillo, TX

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to respectfully ask you to not support HB3. I know that we can agree that school choice is important and that education should be a priority in Texas but this bill is not an effective solution to those issues.

I am confident that you will hear from many sources discussing the parts of the bill that are ineffective or concerning for Homeschool, Private School and Public education and so I would like to focus on lesser represented areas of concern. In addition to these, I am deeply concerned about the effects on the private tutors/self employed education provider. If a student qualifies for funds and wants to use them toward private tutoring or music lessons, for example, then the system, as it is proposed, leaves the education provider with a requirement to be certified at personal expense, to obtain approval from the system and to agree to be paid by the system and not by the student's family or guardian. Private, one on one, self employed, education providers often do not have the time or financial resources to allocate to obtaining these credentials or maintaining the new paperwork and documentation this bill would require. Also of note, these individuals have chosen this field because they deeply desire to help students and the time spent in documentation, approvals and paperwork would limit the time they actually had remaining to educate.

I know this bill is set up to be a "choice." But whose choice? The parent's or the education service provider? What happens when a student is granted an account and has a need to work with a math tutor but they cannot find one willing to participate in the ESA program? How does it help the student to have money available that they cannot spend?

I will reference my own case. I am a private piano teacher with a specialized bachelors degree in piano performance with emphasis in pedagogy. I am not officially certified, only degreed. I have owned and operated my independent studio for 21 years. What will happen when a current student asks me to be an authorized provider so I can be paid by their ESA? I can choose to pay out money and time that I do not have to become approved or I can tell the student, "I am sorry, but I cannot afford to participate." What happens if I loose the student because of saying no? What happens if I loose multiple students? I cannot afford to be a part of the ESA program, as it is proposed, and I cannot afford to loose a significant portion of business due to a funding issue. My family is partially dependent on this income.

The proposed bill creates a problem where individual educators will face increased, unnecessary pressure and parents could, likely, struggle to find providers.

This is unnecessary. This is a terrible choice to make, not a benefit. I truly believe current education problems can be solved, but this bill does not solve them, it creates more. Please, do not pursue this bill.

Anna Hendrix, Ms
Self
Houston, TX

I am writing to share my concerns about House Bill 3 and its proposed Education Savings Account program. While the idea of more educational choices is appealing, this bill could seriously harm our public schools.

Recent polls show that 65% of Texans oppose using taxpayer dollars for private and parochial education, and 85% doubt that the proposed \$10,000 per student would cover the real costs of private schooling. Frankly, the very introduction of this bill raises questions about the commitment to support the communities that public schools serve, especially when so many Texans disagree with diverting funds away from our public institutions.

Moving funds to an unproven voucher system risks weakening our public schools, especially for students with special needs who may not get the support they require in private settings.

I urge you to invest directly in our public schools by increasing funding, improving teacher pay, and enhancing special education services. This approach will better serve all students and strengthen our education system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. -Anna

Autumn Horne
Self-social worker
Sherman, TX

Please take a minute and submit a comment for the Education Committee. Feel free to copy and paste this comment:

Texas students need strong public schools—not vouchers or Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) that drain resources and lack accountability. Public dollars belong in public schools, where they serve all students and strengthen our communities.

Over 90% of Texas students rely on public schools for quality education, special services, and skilled teachers. Diverting funds to private programs hurts the students who need support the most, especially in rural and underserved areas. Vouchers and ESAs also lack transparency, allowing taxpayer money to flow to unregulated and unproven programs.

The solution is clear: fully fund public schools. Invest in smaller class sizes, teacher retention, and strong academic programs—not privatization schemes that leave students behind.

I urge you to reject vouchers and ESAs and stand up for Texas public schools. Our students' futures depend on it.

Megan Teal
Self/Teacher
Buffalo Gap, TX

Please say NO to vouchers. Public schools are necessary to ensure all Texas children have an opportunity for education.

Nova Broome
Self-Senior Analyst
Carrollton, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Keep funding public education. Vouchers and savings account favor the wealthy and are segregation tactics.

James Busch
self.
Lubbock, TX

Any vote for school voucher programs is a vote against the interests of your constituents. It's nothing but a wealth transfer system away from rural school districts to the pockets of the already rich. Public schooling is a net public benefit. Every citizen benefits from an educated society and public education is the best way to achieve that goal. The number of private schools in the state could quintuple and there wouldn't be enough capacity to replace what is lost when public schools close. I write this knowing it will do nothing to convince our state representation to do anything that might improve the lives of its citizens. You only seem interested in enriching yourselves and hurting our most vulnerable populations. Try to stand up for us if y'all still have the backbones.

Alyson Cooley
Self. Retired Teacher
Portland, TX

Money for public schools will be diminished greatly if this bill is passed, and so will its success! My father, who passed away in 1995, has always said that private school vouchers would put an end to the success of public schools! He was an exceptional, highly respected educator with 30 years experience as a teacher and a principal. I can remember his opinion on the subject, and he knew what he was talking about!! Please consider the negative affect that the passing of this bill will have on our public school system, and vote NO for vouchers!! Thank you all!!

Alayne Jurgens
Self/retired
Georgetown, TX

Taxpayer funds need to go to Public NOT Private Schools!

Our Public Schools have been neglected for 5 years - DO NOT send Public dollars to Private Schools.

Billionaires do NOT dictate how taxpayers dollars are spent. Stand up for the hard-working Texans.

Vouchers HURT our neighborhood schools!

Vouchers HURT our rural communities ! We HAVE choice in our public schools right now! But the legislature is NOT funding CHOICE in public schools!

Texan billionaires just want WHITE, CHRISTIAN PRIVATE schools! We do NOT agree and you need to demonstrate courage and commitment to hard-working Texans and say NO!

We voted you into office to represent US -- say NO to VOUCHERS!

The Texas Senate was bought out by the Billionaire Texans -- the House needs to represent the people of Texas and show more courage!

State government has a constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public schools. Let's start doing that ! 5.5 million children are depending on it !

Sascha Grimes

Self
Spring, TX

Dear Committee Members,

As a parent and an educator, I employ you to disregard and dismiss HB 3. This bill seeks to underfund public education, limits accessibility for all students, and lacks accountability and transparency for all educational entities.

The implementation of educational savings plans/school vouchers/school choice (ie HB 3) will reduce public education funding in Texas. Texas is already at the bottom of the bottom quarter for per student spending. This bill would increase the deficit in spending on all Texas students. Texas government officials, including our governor, have admitted that spending for public education students would decrease. Texas must continue to support and grow our greatest assets, our children. You must dismiss HB 3 and work to adequately fund public education for the overall success of Texas.

Addition, many students across the state of Texas do not have access to school options and must attend their local public school. My husband grew up in rural East Texas without the option to even consider a private/charter school as there was not one available to him in his town. Many student across the state face the same lack of equitable options as they do not exist or the optional school is lacking academically.

Finally, HB 3 does not require private/charter schools to follow the same rigorous educational standards that are placed on public schools. Public schools have extremely high expectations to show growth of students while other schooling options are not held to the same standards from certification requirements to standardized testing.

Please stand for Texas children, choose to abolish the concept of an education savings account program and HB 3. Texas and all of our children deserve better, we all deserve fully funded public education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Emily Wheelwright
Self
Georgetown, TX

Vote no! Please vote no - we highly value our local public schools. We have amazing teachers and administrators. I have 5 children in public schools - grades 4, 6, 8, 11, and 12. The lack of funding is harming education.

Julie Perkins

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no to school vouchers and protect our public schools.

Peter Glasser

Self, Data Engineer

Elgin, TX

Public funds are for public schools, and should not be funneled toward some private corporation for wealthy children. I say this as a parent who sent my Autistic son to a private school for grades 6-12. Yes, my family was able to put together the resources for that, and I would have loved to have had help, but not at the expense of Public School funding. We lived in Austin where there happened to be a private school that better met his needs. But for many Texans, there aren't those options. A lot of politicians hate public services because they exist for the public benefit, and their wealthy buddies don't get the chance to get richer from it. This needs to stop. Don't play games with our kids. No to vouchers.

Vahista Ussery

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please stand with Texas families, and not special interest groups. Vote no to school vouchers. They are lose/lose for everyone. My husband and I choose to send our kids to public school, where funds are already lacking and our community has had to step in financially to help. Vouchers will hurt our school district even more. Also, think of all the rural communities in Texas. These families do not even have reasonable access to private or charter schools, yet will experience funding declines. Vote for ALL of our kids. Vote for our future.

D.S. Zamora, Ms.

Self/Retired/Graduate & Lifelong Patron of Texas Public Schools

Houston, TX

Opposed to HB 3.

I am very tired of people having zero notion about how kids learn trying to pull this malarkey **every time** the Legislature meets. The governor has some sort of dementia issue preventing him from acting logically or even properly recalling what public education did for him. He should be ignored every time something about public education emerges from his mouth, his typing digits, or his pen. Same goes for the lieutenant governor.

We are still paying the price for the students we neglected under Rick Perry's special education cap. Special education needs proper attention and funding. Address that, and then be more serious about what we should be doing for the other students.

Jessica Singh

Self

Missouri City, TX

“Humanity will destroy itself, body and soul, before it will learn a simple lesson.” - Wells

There is no reason we should start a societal decline if we only just stop to think about the impact this bill will have. It may not be easy to be honest and make the right decision here but it is righteous to say no to school vouchers. We all know why. Now please, just make the right choice.

Halim Sakarya
Self-Educator
Houston, TX

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns as an educator regarding the proposed HB3, which I believe poses significant threats to public education and, by extension, to our community and its future.

HB3 threatens to undermine the very foundation of public education, which guarantees equal access to learning for all children regardless of their socio-economic status. By diverting funds or support away from public schools, this bill risks widening the educational disparities that already exist between different economic and social groups. Such a shift not only disempowers the most vulnerable populations but also strengthens existing privileges, exacerbating inequality in a fundamental area of public life.

Furthermore, the implications of HB3 extend beyond immediate educational concerns. The potential constitutional challenges it may invite due to conflicts with established educational rights and standards could lead to protracted legal battles, draining resources that could be better used to directly enhance educational quality and access.

Moreover, the broad and sweeping changes proposed by HB3 may result in numerous unforeseen consequences, affecting aspects of community life and governance well beyond the scope originally intended. The lack of clarity and the potential for wide-ranging negative effects should compel us to approach such sweeping legislation with the utmost caution and responsibility.

I urge you to consider these points carefully and oppose HB3. Please recognize that despite the challenges facing public education, numerous expert and dedicated educators are tirelessly working to create positive change against formidable odds. Our focus should be on strengthening public education, ensuring it remains accessible and equitable for all students, thus fostering a well-informed and capable future generation.

Thank you for your attention to these critical issues. The children of Texas need your support in protecting and promoting an equitable educational system.

Michelle Bellah
Self / Homemaker and Certified Teacher
Albany, TX

As a teacher, parent, and rural public school stakeholder, I am not in support of the ESA/voucher system. This legislation is a gross misuse of public funds, it will only serve to harm rural schools like the one my children attend, and this entire work detracts from the actual serious issues facing public schools. What an abomination that our elected officials have been wasting time with this billion-dollar scheme to serve 100k children when 5.5 million are in need of legislation that would improve their education. Please listen to the input of professionals tirelessly serving Texas students and say no to vouchers.

Mary Henderson
Self; retired teacher
El Paso, TX

School Vouchers are not helping ALL who need to have a public education. Keep funding public schools.

Carole Widmann
True Texas Project
N Richlnd Hls, TX

Vote NO

Deidre Feeguson

Self

Lubbick, TX

I am against vouchers or ESAs and in total support of public schools. I know there are improvements that need to be made to our public schools but give them the funding to do so. Private schools will not have the accountability that public schools do but will still receive taxpayer money. Our constitution states that taxpayer money will not go to private entities. Please don't let the big money of a few stop a good education for all. We already have school choice. Parents can home school or send their children to private school, but it should not be funded with taxpayer money. Vote no on this bill!

Olga Anderson, Mrs

TSTA/NEA

Lancaster, TX

Touching Tomorrow Today' we must fully fund Public School for Today's Future Leaders

Marisol Herrera

Self: Education Specialist

Fort Worth, TX

As funding for voucher programs has expanded in other states, the overall portion of state funding for public schools has decreased. Research shows that public school students who use vouchers don't stay in voucher programs long-term, returning to their public schools. Vouchers also typically don't cover the full cost of private school tuition, making it a tax subsidy for higher-income families. A growing body of credible research about school vouchers finds voucher programs often fail to serve students from disadvantaged or marginalized backgrounds, and the impact of vouchers on student achievement is either insignificant or mixed. Many voucher programs, including Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), claim to serve students with special needs by allowing voucher funds to go toward private schools or special education services. But these private schools and vendors are under no obligation to accept or serve students with special needs.

For these, and many other reasons, I strongly oppose ESAs and other "school choice" or voucher programs in Texas. My vocation and my passion is education, and I have been a public school teacher at Title I schools for over a decade. My hope is to continue to work in Texas public schools until I retire, and to continue to advocate for all students and their families. My son attends the same public school district I did growing up in Fort Worth, and the district I have chosen to serve as an educator. He receives Special Education services, and we have been blessed with wonderful school opportunities in our district. He participates in the FWISD Schools of Choice program and attended an Applied Learning middle school that focused on project-based learning, and now attends a Visual Performing Arts program at a local high school. Texas already offers many choices for education through public schools and charters. What would most benefit my son is to have more stability and funding for these existing programs, instead of the "choice" to attend a private school that may or may not accept him due to his disability, or that would be under no obligation to meet his needs and protect his rights. The public schools our state have are NOT failing, instead the state government is FAILING our schools by not supporting them fully. Do not undermine the work we are doing everyday with our students in places like the FWISD, and commit to fully funding all of these wonderful existing public school programs instead of using our tax dollars to subsidize private education for a minority of higher-income families.

Meredith Howse

Self /mom & business owner

Katy, TX

To the members of the committee:

I am a mom and former middle school teacher from Katy. You've heard all the arguments for and against vouchers, but I am sincerely asking you to look at the LOGIC, or lack of it, with this bill.

1. Public schools must adhere to various subject curricula approved by the state. Private schools will not be verified if they adhere to the same standards in the TEKS.
2. Public schools and their districts are given "report cards," but private schools won't have them.
3. The public elects boards of trustees to select a superintendent, set a budget and create policies that support enforcement of state and federal education laws. Again, will private schools be required to be transparent and will those tax dollars from vouchers be properly accounted for?
4. Public schools are required to take in any student at any point in the school year. Private schools limit enrollment numbers and limit enrollment periods to the semester before the new year starts.
5. Under current law, students with special needs must be supported with personnel and equipment where required. There is no such requirement for private schools. In fact, they can tell the parent that they do not have the ability, nor will they acquire the necessary personnel or equipment to assist a severely handicap child.
6. Many private schools are religious in nature. Because public schools are secular, all students are welcome. Religious private schools can, and have in the past, discriminated against students in admissions because they don't worship or believe the same way.
7. Our nation is a secular republic that does not favor one religion over another. By giving tax dollars to religious schools, we are showing preference and bias. It is the antithesis of what our Founding Fathers created and fought a war over.

Public schools in Texas have not been fully – and adequately- funded since at least 1999. That is when I became a teacher, and I saw shortcomings then. It has not gotten better, because there is no desire by many to actually improve the schools in their communities.

I urge all of you to vote down this voucher scheme because it is against the values of Texas. Look at our constitution for the state. It talks about fully funding our public schools, not giving tax dollars without accountability and transparency, to private schools.

Vote this down and end this.

Thank you.

Jared Shoemaker
self, business technology consultant
Plano, TX

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I'm Jared Shoemaker, resident of House District 66, and I support HB3 and the establishment of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs).

My personal experience navigating the educational system for my sixth-grade son has revealed significant flaws in our current system. The assertion that Texas "already has school choice" through inter-district transfers is, in practice, often inaccessible. Honestly, its a myth. In Dallas ISD, we witnessed friends struggle when our highly-rated school ceased accepting transfers due to capacity issues. When we later moved to Plano ISD, we ourselves were denied a transfer from a low-performing school to a higher-performing one, despite the latter being closer to our home.

These experiences highlight a critical issue: families are in practice constrained by arbitrary lines on a map drawn by bureaucrats who do not and cannot know individual student needs or family circumstances. ESAs would address this problem by truly empowering families to make the best decisions for their children with the financial means to access a wider range of educational options.

While we eventually opted for private education, this choice required substantial financial sacrifice – but is still a luxury we have that many Texas families cannot afford. HB3 and ESAs would democratize this choice, making quality education accessible to a broader spectrum of Texans.

It's important to note that supporting ESAs is not about undermining public education, but about empowering every Texas family with meaningful choices which will create a more dynamic and responsive educational ecosystem. By turning the mirage of choice into a reality where every child can access the education that best suits their needs, we can drive improvements across all educational sectors.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support HB3. This legislation has the potential to transform our education system from one of limited options to one of abundant opportunities. By empowering families with real choice, we can ensure that every Texas child has access to an education that best fits their individual needs and aspirations. Let's make Texas a beacon of educational freedom and innovation. Thank you for your consideration.

Jared Shoemaker
Plano, Texas

Jessica Rasnick
Self
Silsbee, TX

I am very much against this bill. Lets stop finding ways to spend more money and let's budget what we have. If I can figure out how to budget our bills inspire of the rising costs of living then the government should be able to better allocate where the money is going to the public schools. That's what needs to be done. Figure out where the 15k per kid in public school is going. We already have school choice in Texas. We don't need the government to give us free money so they can tell us what and how to teach our kids. Obviously it's not going well in the already failing public school system. Fix the problem at hand. Pay teachers better. Less kids per class. Stop useless spending.

Lisa Jacob
Baptist Joint Committee
Lewisville, TX

I am ask you to reject HB 3 as I am deeply concerned about the allocation of funding to Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). Not only does this use Texas taxpayer dollars to fund religious education and instruction, but it also funds institutions that have no government oversight and accountability. Private schools that receive these funds can deny students access due to any reason and do not have to comply to ADA accommodations. There is no accountability in ensuring student achievement through standardized testing. Additionally, ESAs pull from funding that can be allocated towards severely underfunded public schools. In seeking to be equitable for low-income communities, ESAs do not provide the funding needed for students to pay their entire tuition and expenses, and thus, ESAs only support families wealthy enough to already afford a private school education. A vote for ESAs is a vote to cripple the public schools that 5.5 million students currently attend. Please vote NO to HB 3.

Alexandra Luning
Self, Self Employed
San Angelo, TX

As a military family, we rely heavily on well resourced public schools for the education of our 2 children. The district we currently live in has aging infrastructure and our property taxes will continue to raise as years of chronic underfunding are addressed. I am opposed to HB3 and the use of public dollars to fund tuition for private schools. If that money was directed instead to our public schools, children like mine could continue to have a reliable quality school to learn in no matter where they are in Texas. We have lived in other states that use lottery systems for charter schools and unfortunately we have missed the deadline for those limited spots. Since we move when the military tells us, often with little warning, the likelihood we could use the ESA/voucher is low. Not to mention the only private schools in a 100 miles radius are religious and lack transportation. Public schools have always been there for our kids and family though. They have accepted us last minute and mid year, provided supports we need, and have offered a community hub to meet families in our area. Please keep public funds out of private schools and protect the right to education for children like mine by opposing HB3. Thank you.

Jennifer Remington

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Please vote NO to ESAs and NO to De-Funding Public Education and Special Education

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools.

ESAs (vouchers) directly hurt students with disabilities who receive Special Education services in Public Schools in the State of Texas. Diverting \$1 Billion of my PUBLIC taxpayer money to private schools who do not even acknowledge IDEA, do not follow IEPs and only provide services when they are negotiated, compromised and then charged back to parents at exorbitant rates well above typical tuition rates it is theft of services and money to the most vulnerable population in Texas.

14% of the 5.4 million public school students in Texas receive special education services. That's 760,000 students at a minimum. These ESAs are completely inaccessible to at least 90% of our disabled students, and that is before they have a chance at any lottery or know if a private school will accept, serve, or retain them. There's no accountability. Not of services, not of the \$1 Billion of public taxpayer money this legislature wants to pour into private schools and not of impact or outcomes of our disabled students.

Even if we say ALL of the ESAs go to disabled kids receiving special education services, that still leaves a minimum of 700,000 students receiving special education services in underfunded understaffed Public Schools that this state put in this situation. This causes direct harm to these students with disabilities, the most vulnerable individuals in society, and it's at the hands of those who are supposed to represent us.

This is unacceptable. I want this legislature to take accountability, listen to the parent voice (and students), and have the courage to do the right thing: say No to ESA/Vouchers and Fund our Public Schools properly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jenny Remington

Brett Guillory, Mr

Self

Houston, TX

Pass vouchers at your own peril. We will primary every single one of you. I'm a Republican and have voted Republican since I was 18. I'm 44 now. I will never vote republican again if you pass this scam bill. You all belong behind bars for taking bribes if you vote yes. Don't you dare.

Elizabeth Love

Self and retired

Austin, TX

I DO NOT WANT MY TAXES TO BE USED FOR PRIVATE AND RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS. USE TAXES FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION!

Debbie Smith

Self

Plano, TX

No to vouchers.

Fund schools across the state and pick us up from a dismal 43/50 states. Vouchers WOLL NOT fix this.

Giving away \$1B to vouchers and scatter children around the state is ludicrous. Fix what is in place now and LISTEN TO US!

We voted NO to vouchers more than once.

Lottery money that was promised to education never happened and ended up in a slush fund. Another promise broken.

LISTEN TO US. Actually!

Trent Juarez

Self, Substitute Teacher

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the establishment of an education savings account program. These vouchers—had they been present years ago—likely would have diminished the quality of public school education that I was fortunate to receive due to efforts toward adequate funding for public education. Additionally, this bill is taking up valuable time and resources capable of being used more efficiently and in less politically divisive ways. Thank you to the House of Representatives for your time and consideration.

Pauline Mims

UAW, 360 Corridor, TX afl cio

Fort Worth, TX

Dear Representative,

I am a taxpayer in the State of Texas, so I want it to be documented that I do NOT support vouchers nor an education savings accounts (ESAs) program. In fact, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools in Texas. We have had inflation of over 20% since 2019, the last time funding was provided for Public Schools in Texas. I want it to be documented that I support the following:

an Increase of the Basic Allotment, and

Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflated amount of over 20%.

Representative, we must support our Public Schools with the proper Funding necessary.

Sincerely,

Dear Representative,

I am a taxpayer in the State of Texas, so I want it to be documented that I do NOT support vouchers nor an education savings accounts (ESAs) program. In fact, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools in Texas. We have had inflation of over 20% since 2019, the last time funding was provided for Public Schools in Texas. I want it to be documented that I support the following:

an Increase of the Basic Allotment, and

Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflated amount of over 20%.

Representative, we must support our Public Schools with the proper Funding necessary.

Sincerely,

Pauline Mims

Mary Stevenson
Self
Round Rock, TX

I went through school in both the public school system and in some parochial school (Catholic). I understand the need to make sure kids are getting a good, quality education and agree that parents should have a choice. My concern is that, from a homeowner for 30 years and taxpayer, I see that the school finances appear that there is a slush fund for stadiums that is not a part of the picture when we voted for raising our taxes, there isn't clarity at all as to how much money they have and what it is being spent on. Many small towns only have one public school and "choice" for many means ripping at the fabric of their culture. With so much on the line for taxpayers, parents, children and our government to get this right. My suggestion is that if you decide to go ahead with vouchers, that you do test cases in several counties to make sure that if you roll this out statewide, it doesn't create problems for citizens and gets real education to kids. I also believe that if we raised teacher salaries, there wouldn't be a shortage of teachers. Teaching kids shouldn't be a starter job for people in college who took majors where they can't get employment elsewhere. Why are our schools seemingly scraping the bottom of the barrel for teachers for the next generation of leaders, parents and citizens. That is shameful. I've seen how privatization of our roads has created toll roads everywhere owned by foreign entities, privatized wars (no bid contracts) create huge military industrial companies and stripped rural areas of decent paying jobs so that companies could get huge salaries and pay 2 workers \$9 an hour to do the job of a former government worker who knew how to do the job well and was replaced with workers who didn't have the ability to know all aspects of the job or do them tasks correctly. All of this was done to make our country better but it hasn't done that. I don't think that vouchers will really do anything but help private companies get wealthy. It is also intended so that each school can create rules to discriminate, deny any student. It all doesn't pass the smell test because it seems this is just a way to discriminate against handicap students, oppress teachers, corral the money for those at the top and for what? Do we have iron clad guarantees that they will raise education standards for kids? That is what this is all about and I don't hear anyone for this except the greedy. They want vouchers so they can get their hands (the private educators) on the money. The public is already frustrated about school finance. This is only going to make it worse. Greg Abbott needs to FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Jennifer Ray, Mrs
self
Huntsville, TX

The national average tuition for private school is more than \$12,000.

Pegged as a solution for financially struggling families to get their students into private schools, the real beneficiaries of such programs in other states are students who already attend private schools. In states like Arizona, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin, anywhere from 75% to 89% of the students using vouchers already attended a private school, showcasing that the parents who could already afford private schools are the primary beneficiaries of the programs.

While vouchers do a great job in providing financial assistance to parents who could already afford private schools and would have likely sent their children to private schools anyways, vouchers often leave behind other student populations. This is most evident in the lack of protections for students who require special education resources.

Students with physical, mental, or learning disabilities may not have access to the services they need. All of these services are legally required at a public school, but will not be guaranteed at a private school. Special education vouchers can hurt students with disabilities by weakening rights given to them under federal regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). When a parent enrolls their child with special needs in a private school, they waive those rights.

Whether you call it an ESA, special education voucher, or some other flashy name that privatizers come up with, all of these vouchers do the same thing: undercut the communities they claim to serve. Using taxpayer dollars to fund private schools and vendors that do not have to account for their spending or the academic outcomes of their students is not a responsible use of these funds.

No matter how you package it, vouchers hurt our public schools and communities across the entire state of Texas. Public dollars should remain in public schools.

Aspen Larsen

Self

Spring, TX

I live in the Klein ISD boundaries and we love our school district. We left Denver, CO six years ago after the voucher program there destroyed the public schools. I have four school aged children and when we transferred from Colorado schools my children were far behind the Klein ISD students. The voucher system caused the wonderful teachers to move on after they were neglected and defunded in the public sector. The charter schools were out of reach for most people in the area who weren't wealthy. Even with the voucher system- they provided no transportation help, added costs of uniforms and astronomical registration fees. It is gross negligence to take from the public fund and support private education. The most vulnerable suffer and it makes little difference to the students who would have gone to a private school anyway. Educating the community with all the support of the state and local

Government is the best answer for the whole community. Please don't further divide the communities between the haves and the have nots. It doesn't build a better America- it continues to divide. Please vote no on the voucher bill.

China Young

Self

San Angelo, TX

DO NOT MOVE THIS BILL FORWARD!

(1) This bill is full of variables that will continue to perpetuate inequity in educational access and support for students across Texas. It redirects public school funds into the private education sector through an application process that explicitly excludes children enrolled in public education. The only exception are students with special education needs, who may apply for an ESA as long as they stay in public schools, essentially segregating special education students OUT of private schools. In addition to this blatant segregation, the bill states that organizations that administer the application process "shall post on the organization's website and provide to each parent who submits an application" a notice that "private school is not subject to federal and state laws regarding the provision of education services to a child with a disability in the same manner as a public school" AND to "provide information regarding rights to which a child with a disability is entitled under federal and state law if the child attends a public school. "

This is the legislative equivalent of school-yard bullying that effectively shames children with disabilities and their families THROUGH LEGISLATION. I don't understand how you lawmakers can be so cruel to include this kind of discriminatory hatefulness in a House Bill, yet here it is.

(2) Parents/guardians must not only apply for this ESA program to receive these public tax dollars, but the language creating alternative allocation methods "due to insufficient funding" of the program give the impression that the program is inherently unstable, or is just another loophole to provide opportunities for discrimination and exclusion. It is also noted that the comptroller may deduct administration costs from the amount of money a participant is supposed to receive every year, redistributing THAT money to organizations administering the ESA program.

(3) Further, this bill also seems to legislate nepotism and favoritism with section 29.359, "(i) the comptroller or a certified educational assistance organization designated under Subsection (a):

1. MAY require the participating parent to submit annual notice regarding the parent's intent for the child to continue participating in the program for the next school year; and
2. May NOT require a program participant in good standing to annually resubmit an application for continued participation in the program.

This vague and indirect language leads me to conclude that this bill's primary purpose is to gate-keep how, when, and where public dollars are funneled into private education systems.

(4) Finally, the secondary purpose of the bill "achieve a general diffusion of knowledge" is not elaborated on, and is even more vague than the rest of the bill.

This bill is written BY THE ELITE, FOR THE ELITE and is NOT what Texans need or want.

Again, DO NOT MOVE THIS BILL FORWARD!

Heidi Geis

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no on HB3. I am a parent to a student in a loving public school community. They say everything is bigger in Texas, except apparently for the investment in our children and schools. As you are aware, Texas sadly ranks among the lowest per-student investment in the country. The voucher system will further drain much needed funding from our public schools. Those who wish to seek out private education are of course welcome to do so, but every student across the state deserves to receive the education they need to thrive in a public school setting.

Brittany Cordero, Mrs

Self

Spring, TX

No vouchers! They are taking money from public schools and are disproportionately supporting wealthy families.

Amy Bakken

Self

Humble, TX

I oppose HB 3. It would devastate our public schools. My home ISD is expected to lose over \$19 million alone.

Private schools cost too much for the \$10,000 largely.

There is little to no oversight.

They can deny admittance.

They do not have to follow the same high standards.

Many counties in our state have zero private schools.

Let's strengthen our public education system instead of disenfranchising our kids and educators sabotaging their futures.

James Teet

Self

San Antonio, TX

Let my testimony be known, I strongly oppose the establishment of an education saving account program to be used for a school vouchers program. The state should be investing more money into public education. The schools in our district are overcrowded, we need more assistance with public schools not school vouchers.

Renon Freels

Self

Austin, TX

Texas needs to commit to fully funding our public schools prior to distributing our tax dollars to private schools. My kids currently attend a private school (because we already have choice!) and we still would prefer this money goes to funding our public schools in Texas.

I want all students to have the choice fo a great education and pulling money away from public schools (especially in rural texas) gives students less choices for well funded and thriving schools. I do not want the government to fund private religious schools with no accountability nor requirements to accept ANY student whose family pays taxes into the fund. If I pay into a fund that sends money to a private school than that school better be required to accept my student.

Just find public schools and stop holding our tax dollars hostage at the state!

Ann Stewart
Self
Stephenville, TX

Please vote against the proposed HB3 school voucher scheme currently being debated in the Texas House. This is a misguided and harmful policy that threatens the integrity of our public education system. At its core, this voucher program undermines the importance of a well-rounded education that can only be achieved in a public school setting where students learn alongside their peers from diverse backgrounds, gaining crucial skills in socialization, collaboration, and empathy. Public schools are not just places to receive an academic education—they are communities where children from all walks of life can interact and learn from one another, building a foundation for future success in a diverse society. Diverting tax dollars to private schools, as HB3 proposes, is both unacceptable and unethical. It represents a direct violation of the trust placed in our public funds, which are meant to serve all students, not a select few. The argument that spending public funds on private education would improve outcomes for all students fails to account for the unequal and exclusive nature of private institutions, which can pick and choose who attends.

Moreover, even with the substantial funding proposed by proponents of HB3, the scheme would only benefit approximately 100,000 students. This is a minuscule fraction of the total student population in Texas, which currently has almost 300,000 students attending private schools. Even if HB3 were to expand access to private schooling, it would still not address the needs of the majority of private school students, let alone the many students in public schools who are already underserved. Looking at other states that have implemented voucher programs, such as Arizona, Florida, and Oklahoma, we see troubling evidence of the failure of such initiatives. These states have seen massive overspending on their voucher programs without any clear improvement in student outcomes, leading to growing concerns over the sustainability of the system. These states have demonstrated that vouchers do not lead to better education, but instead foster a system of inequality and underfunding.

Texas should be focused on strengthening and fully funding our public schools, ensuring that all students have access to high-quality education provided by certified teachers and well-qualified support staff. We must prioritize equitable access to education for all children, not just those who can afford private school tuition or who are fortunate enough to benefit from a narrow and ineffective voucher system. Rather than diverting resources away from public schools, we should invest in improving the quality of education in every public classroom, addressing disparities in funding, and supporting our teachers who are the backbone of our education system. The future of Texas depends on a strong, inclusive, and well-supported public education system, not on an ill-conceived voucher program that ultimately undermines the goals it claimsto support.

Melynda Cook
Self, retired teacher
Overton, TX

As a conservative Christian voter, I do not want my taxes funding private or homeschooling. Tax dollars should instead fully fund public schools and mandates for those public schools so that all students (including those with special needs) have a free, fair education. State government should not be involved in private and homeschooling choices which already exist. Therefore, I do not support house bill 3 or any bill that includes Education Savings Accounts, vouchers or any other named program that gives public tax dollars (surplus or otherwise) to private or homeschooling options. The basic allotment in public schools should instead be raised to account for inflation and fully fund education as stated in our Texas constitution. Thank you, Melynda Cook retired teacher with over 30 years experience as a Texas teacher

Laurel Hoitsma
Self
Dallas, TX

Anyone paying attention knows this is an EXTREMELY unpopular bill among Texans of all political leanings. Read the comments on Gov. Abbott's social media pages. Even people who voted for him do not want vouchers. They want adequately funded public education that's accessible to ALL, not just those in cities or those with money. This. Is. Not. What. Your. Constituents. Want!!!

William Matthews

Self

Denton, TX

My personal concerns over HB3 are the following;

1. The different levels of funding for ESAs and public school students. Ask yourself: why is there a difference in the value attributed to students in Texas?
2. The long-term plan seems to be also focused on making TRS (Teacher Retirement System) insolvent. When I started teaching 26 years ago I was enrolled in this program and denied the option of Social Security. As a teacher nearing the end of their career in the next decade, I am terrified that everything that I have worked toward is a lie.
3. In the misinformation campaign Gov Abbott is trying to justify his ESAs as legitimate and not a handout by promising lower taxes. If the legislature wants to lower taxes, they should increase the state contribution to lower the burden on local taxpayers - this also would increase local control.

I am advocating on behalf of public education in the State of Texas. Schools in Texas, when compared to other states per student funding, are in the bottom five states - depending on the criteria. I am aware that the argument of spending shows that schools are funded more favorably, but that is really an indicator of the total number of students, and how widespread the influence is across the state. This increase also would not fully fund students at the same levels as 2019 when inflation is taken into consideration.

Just because teachers aren't protesting, speaking out, or striking doesn't mean they agree with this ridiculously low (not taking into account current inflation) increase in the per student allotment. Most teachers are intimidated or scared to speak out because we have been conditioned that way through rules that have put our certifications at risk. (This is my 26th year in Texas public schools).

The election was not a mandate on school choice. I feel that if this was sent back to the people in a referendum it would be overwhelmingly rejected.

Thank you for taking the time to read my appeal to create a truly bipartisan approach to serving the students and educators of Texas Public Schools.

Kayley Hager

Self/higher education administrator

Coppell, TX

As a mother of three children under 10 and with a background in higher education, I strongly support a free market that provides educational options outside the traditional public model. My husband and I both attended private faith-based universities, and we plan to send our younger children to a faith-based preschool before enrolling them in our neighborhood public school. While these institutions are privately funded, I do not believe taxpayer dollars should be used to subsidize them.

I am also opposed to using taxpayer funds for K-12 private school vouchers. A recent ProPublica article (Dec. 2024) raises concerns about the lack of transparency in voucher programs and their potential for misuse. In addition, my experience as a college admissions administrator has shown me how some for-profit colleges prey on young adults, knowing that federal loans and grants can help get these students to their door, but then they close, leading to the inability or extreme difficulties in students finishing their degrees. This misuse of taxpayer dollars makes me wary of extending similar funding opportunities to private schools at the K-12 level through a state voucher program.

For these reasons, I believe state taxpayer dollars should be allocated exclusively to public schools at the K-12 level, because they are accountable to the state. This would protect Texas families from the potential harm caused by private voucher programs.

Larry Bartoli, Precinct chair Parker county 325

Parker County GOP Precinct 325

Weatherford, TX

bad bill as stands increases government Administrative size
without efficiency vote No on current bill

Rebecca Perry

self/artist and writer

Milford, TX

Chairman Buckley and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rebecca Perry, and I am a completed homeschooling parent from Milford, Texas. I would like to express my strong opposition to HB3 for a host of reasons.

I educated eight children at home for their entire primary and secondary school education. The two youngest are still in higher education; my youngest daughter is a PhD candidate at Harvard University, and my youngest son is a junior honors student at Texas Tech University. I have been thankful for the freedoms we have enjoyed as homeschooling parents in Texas, and I share my testimony simply because I would like to see those freedoms preserved for the next generations of Texas home educators.

We already have school choice in Texas. HB3 is not a solution to education problems in Texas; it is a pathway to more bureaucracy, more spending, and more regulation. Many proponents point to the ESA programs in other states. The budget-busting and regulation-increasing ESA programs in other states should, in fact, be cautionary tales to Texas legislators.

When my children were being taught at home, I would have very much appreciated the ability to use my own tax dollars to cover our homeschool needs rather than sending those dollars to the local school district. However, this is not the sort of "money following the child" idea that is proposed in HB3.

I urge you to vote against HB 3 -- against more bureaucracy, against more regulation. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Perry

Crystal Rivas
Self
San Antonio, TX

Hello committee members,

School choice is now a reality in Texas, particularly in Northside ISD in San Antonio. Back in August 2006, my son started at a charter school. I was initially drawn in by the new building and the promise of “100% of our students get into college.” But what they don’t tell you is that they only keep students who fit their mold.

My son faced behavioral challenges, and as a first-time mother, I was struggling to find a solution. After numerous requests for him to meet with the school counselor and for me to meet with the principal, I was finally notified of a meeting. However, this meeting wasn’t to support my son—it was to discuss whether he could remain enrolled, and I was told the school had no counselor. That’s when I made the decision to withdraw him.

I immediately searched for a local public school and called to inquire about enrollment. The next day, I visited the public elementary school and was warmly welcomed by Sylvia, who guided us through the process. She mentioned that if we needed supplies, they could assist us, and that the entire school received free breakfast and lunch thanks to a grant. I vividly remember that moment, and it brought me to tears. Sylvia asked if I was okay and if I needed anything.

It was then that I realized I had no reason to doubt my public school district. This is the same district that helped me improve my reading skills when I struggled with English as my second language. The same district that sparked my love for the culinary arts. The same district where I met my husband. The school embraced us, and when my son’s behavior challenges returned, his kindergarten teacher recommended counseling, which led to testing for ADHD.

Do you see where I’m going with this? Public schools are the backbone of our education system. They accept every child who walks through their doors—regardless of income, language, religion, or background. So, why should my public tax dollars go to a program that could harm our public schools?

You claim public schools are inadequate, but whose fault is that? Teachers aren’t paid a livable wage, and public schools are struggling to survive. And your solution? Send children to private schools, where they can decide who to accept and who to reject. Private schools aren’t required to accommodate children with additional needs. And to top it off, this plan would only benefit families with access to private schools nearby.

Make it make sense. It doesn’t.

The governor continues to say, “Texans want school choice.” If that’s true, let Texans decide. Let us vote. As a born-and-raised San Antonioan, I have school choice for my children—and I choose NO VOUCHERS!

Debbie Owen
Self/Retired Librarian
Prosper, TX

I am a retired middle school teacher and librarian from Prosper. You've heard all the arguments for and against vouchers, but I am sincerely asking you to look at the LOGIC, or lack of it, with this bill.

1. Public schools must adhere to various subject curricula approved by the state. Private schools will not be verified if they adhere to the same standards in the TEKS.
2. Public schools and their districts are given "report cards," but private schools won't have them.
3. The public elects boards of trustees to select a superintendent, set a budget and create policies that support enforcement of state and federal education laws. Again, will private schools be required to be transparent and will those tax dollars from vouchers be properly accounted for?
4. Public schools are required to take in any student at any point in the school year. Private schools limit enrollment numbers and limit enrollment periods to the semester before the new year starts.
5. Under current law, students with special needs must be supported with personnel and equipment where required. There is no such requirement for private schools. In fact, they can tell the parent that they do not have the ability, nor will they acquire the necessary personnel or equipment to assist a severely handicap child.
6. Many private schools are religious in nature. Because public schools are secular, all students are welcome. Religious private schools can, and have in the past, discriminated against students in admissions because they don't worship or believe the same way.
7. Our nation is a secular republic that should not favor one religion over another. By giving tax dollars to religious schools, we are showing preference and bias. It is the antithesis of what our Founding Fathers fought for and created.

Public schools in Texas have not been fully – and adequately- funded since at least 2000. That is when I became a teacher, and I saw shortcomings then. It has not gotten better, because there is no desire by many to actually improve the schools in their communities.

I urge you to vote down this voucher scam because it is against the values of Texas. Look at our constitution for the state. It talks about fully funding our public schools, not giving tax dollars without accountability and transparency, to private schools.

Stand up for your constituents and Stand UP TO Gov Abbott. Vote this down and end this travesty.

Sarah Freaney
Self, Finance Manager
Wylie, TX

My name is Sarah Freaney and I am writing today as a concerned parent to strongly oppose HB3 and proposed school voucher program. This legislation threatens the future of public education in Texas by diverting essential funds away from our public schools, deepening inequities, and undermining the very foundation of our education system.

Public Schools Are the Cornerstone of Our Communities

Texas public schools educate over 5 million students, serving as a lifeline for families across the state. They provide not only academics but also critical services such as special education, meal programs, and extracurricular activities. Instead of strengthening this system, HB3 and the voucher program will siphon taxpayer dollars into private institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards, leaving our public schools with fewer resources and greater challenges.

Diverting Public Funds Harms Students Who Need It Most

School vouchers disproportionately benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition, while low-income and rural students are left behind. Rural communities, in particular, lack access to private school options, meaning vouchers will do nothing for them while still draining funds from their local schools. This creates an unjust system where public dollars serve private interests rather than the needs of all students.

Lack of Accountability and Transparency

Unlike public schools, private institutions receiving voucher funds are not required to accept all students, follow standardized curriculum guidelines, or meet the same academic and financial transparency standards. Taxpayers deserve to know how their money is being spent, yet HB3 fails to ensure oversight or equitable access for students with disabilities, English language learners, and other vulnerable populations.

Strengthening Public Education Should Be Our Priority

If we are serious about improving education in Texas, the solution is not to defund our public schools but to invest in them. We should be increasing teacher pay, reducing class sizes, expanding early childhood education, and ensuring that every child—regardless of ZIP code—has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to reject HB3 and the school voucher program. Our public schools are the heart of Texas communities, and they need your support—not policies that weaken them. Let's commit to funding and improving the schools that serve the vast majority of Texas students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chris Jones, Mr
Self
Argyle, TX

These

Vouchers are awful as a parent with two kids in the public schools as well as a kid with a iep my kid can't just go to any school public education has been the best environment for my kid the Texas teachers are incredible why should our kids suffer for something that they want to pass like this and have our tax money go to wealthy by people who can afford private schools it's not fair they have chosen to send there kids it's a choice parents that have kids with iep public school is the way to go and to under fund these public schools is wrong for teachers and especially the kids there's already been multiple schools that have to close due to low enrollment and not enough money if this bill passes it's going to hurt even more and why should our tax money go to the rich people for private schools it doesn't make sense send that tax money for the special education teachers for more funding for the school the schools need it your not thinking about the kids that will suffer public school is there safe place for so many I can't believe this would even come up it's so sad my special ed kid wouldn't have the services to even help him out at a private school public schools are top for all kids but especially for kids that need a little extra help I ask you not to pass this bill not for me but for the kids that would suffer

Miriah Sachs
Self, disabled
Houston, TX

As a homeschooling parent, I vehemently oppose HB3 as written. As a family, we practice choice already and the requirements of this bill will limit our existing choice for our children, who are thriving with their current programs. We oppose ANY form of testing and data collection on children and would be defacto opted into these by our programs' participation. The RPT plank and Prop 11 both called for the money to follow the child and NO STRINGS ATTACHED. NOT a separate fund and a host of requirements allowing govt intrusion - STRINGS. Testing is not a good indicator of knowledge and harms children and does not improve outcomes. It is not enough that my family can decline participation when the program itself must adhere to testing requirements and ultimately alters curriculum to do so. We have made many major sacrifices in order to choose the options that work best for our children, which will be no longer a choice for us if this bill passes. This directly impacts their educational stability and continuity.

I have multiple other objections including teacher certification requirements, lack of definitions/criteria for what will be approved, and the cost. But I wanted to speak specifically to the very real immediate impact to my own children who would be directly harmed.

I ask that you not pass HB3 and instead look at tax credits/exemptions or eliminating property tax completely so that families can just keep their money up front to direct to the education of their children. This would be truly beneficial to all Texans vs a small percentage and taking away current choices.
Please vote no on HB3.

Devon Skinner
Self
Dallas, TX

Honorable Members of the House Public Education Committee,

As a Texan and product of the public education system in this great state, I request that the Committee not advance HB 3.

The State of Texas has a moral and constitutional obligation to uphold and maintain a free public education system in Texas. Any measure which would undermine such efforts are not acceptable. Further, subsidizing a program state-wide is hardly a Republican value, especially if that subsidy is poorly managed and not held accountable. Additionally, and despite claims to the contrary, this will certainly have initial and long term consequences on our TRS funding.

I had a unique education. I was homeschooled, I went to private school, and I went to public school. My family had the blessing of having enough money to afford private school at times, though the cost was not sustainable long-term. My discontinued private education was not just due to the cost of tuition, though that certainly played a role, it was also due to extenuating costs (for example, required uniforms). The voucher bill as currently proposed serves Texans making up to 500% of the poverty threshold, it caps at a certain amount that fails to account for expenses beyond tuition, and it does not adequately hold accountable those public funds in the private sector of education in Texas. It's hardly the shining example of government efficiency that Texans expect from the majority party in this State.

Public schools are a necessity and private schools are a privilege. We must sustain that which is a necessity before we can invest in that which is a privilege. We owe it to the families who, even with this program, could not afford private education and would rely on our public school system. If Texans deserve a better public education, then it should not come at the cost of abandoning our system of free public education. Rather, we should vigorously invest in our public schools, making our free education system the envy of the United States. We have an unprecedented means, we simply need an unprecedented will.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I am available should you wish to follow up.

Respectfully,

Devon Skinner

Amber Caniglia

Self

Lubbock, TX

This is not good for Texas education and will make a bigger mess of public education than it already is. Vote no! We do not want this! Put the billions spent on standardized testing to actual good use in public schools. Let teachers and administrators do their already stressful, thankless jobs. Pay teachers to teach life skills students will use for the rest of their lives, not some nonsense they stress over when it comes test time. Let educators educate, rather than mandating what and how they teach just so kids will pass a test full of trick questions. Not every kid learns the same. No two students are alike. What works for one doesn't work for all. Give public funds to public schools to be put to good use whether that's leading kids down a path to higher education or steering them towards a vocation. Do what's right for Texans and leave public funds to public schools. Fix the issue, not create a bigger mess!

Laura Henry

self, public education parent

Houston, TX

We don't need a second educational system when we haven't fully funded the first one. Put the vouchers aside and fully fund public education.

Carrie Baker

Self

Flower Mound, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. Our Texas legislature should use public dollars to fund our public schools. As the mother of a special needs child, I am grateful for the amazing services that are available to our family, at no cost to us, through our public schools in Lewisville ISD. It is devastating to know that our leaders have moved to force the passage of ESAs by withholding funding that our schools and teachers desperately need in order to continue providing these life-saving services. I hope that the leaders of our Great State of Texas will, in the future, choose to serve the people who are impacted by their decisions, and not the highest bidder.

Caryn Goggans, Mrs

Self

Uvalde, TX

Vote no to school vouchers. It won't help our community, only take away more funds from our poor district. And stop connecting funds to attendance. Teachers/districts can't control attendance.

Thomas Bean
Self
Trophy Club, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed school voucher program. Please consider the following concerns:

- **Unrestricted growth of vouchers:** The voucher proposal has already doubled in cost from \$500 million two years ago to \$1 billion today. Will it cost \$2 billion two years from now? What prevents this program from growing indefinitely?
- **Underfunded public schools:** Because of the failed promise two years ago to allocate \$4.5 billion for public schools, districts across the state have been forced to make extreme budget cuts. With the unspent money from the previous biennium and a major surplus this year, only a paltry \$4.85 billion increase is being proposed for public schools in this year's budget. Additionally, public schools still have not been compensated for the \$5 billion cut in 2011, the unfunded security requirements, or the impacts of inflation. School districts need much more support than is being proposed.
- **Incorrect assumption private schools are better:** Private schools haven't been proven to be better than public schools. Private schools aren't held to the same standards. This bill doesn't require accountability, doesn't grade private schools like public ones, doesn't require teachers to be certified, and doesn't create a system to measure whether this voucher scheme is working. Why should we funnel taxpayer money to private institutions when the state won't hold them to basic standards of accountability?
- **Questionable motives of billionaires:** Billionaire-funded organizations, are spending millions in Texas to push this plan. Why aren't you asking why these individuals are so invested in school vouchers? What is in it for them? These powerful groups are driving a program that could benefit a small, select group while potentially harming the majority.
- **A handout to the rich:** Vouchers would primarily benefit wealthy families who already have access to private schools. A little over 250,000 students currently attend private schools. The proposal calls for 100,000 vouchers. It's unrealistic to expect private schools to instantly accommodate 40% more kids, meaning the majority of voucher funds will go to existing private school families, not to the low-income families who need it most.
- **Unpopular and failing in other states:** The experience in other states has shown that school vouchers often lead to financial problems. Arizona is already backtracking on their voucher program, and last November, voters in Nebraska, Kentucky, and Colorado rejected similar plans. If vouchers are truly a solution, then let the people of Texas decide through a public vote. The proposed program will direct large sums of money to a small, wealthy group without accountability or evidence of success. This is not a conservative approach—it is not the responsible use of taxpayer funds.

I urge you to reject this voucher proposal. Our public schools need real support, not further erosion of funding.

Thank you.

Robbie Low, Parent, educator, voter

Self, teacher

Center, TX

Texas HB 3 (2025) could negatively impact public education in several key ways:

1. Reduction in Public School Funding

- **Loss of Per-Student Funding:** Texas public schools receive state funding based on student enrollment. If students leave for private schools or homeschooling through the Education Savings Account (ESA) program, public schools will lose funding. This could force schools to cut programs, staff, or resources.
- **Fixed Costs Remain:** Even if enrollment declines, public schools still have to pay for facilities, transportation, and teacher salaries, leading to financial strain.

2. Widening Educational Inequality

- **Benefit to Wealthier Families:** ESAs may not fully cover private school tuition, making them more accessible to middle- and upper-income families rather than low-income students, who may still struggle to afford private school costs.
- **Special Needs Students at Risk:** While priority is given to students with disabilities, private schools are not required to follow the same special education laws as public schools, potentially leaving these students without adequate support.

3. Lack of Accountability for Private Schools

- **Public Funds Without Oversight:** Unlike public schools, private institutions receiving ESA funds are not required to follow the same curriculum standards, testing requirements, or teacher certification rules. This could lead to inconsistent education quality.
- **Potential for Fraud or Misuse:** With state money being used for private education expenses, there's a risk of funds being mismanaged or directed to unregulated institutions.

4. Further Strain on Rural Schools

- **Limited Private School Options:** In rural areas, students have fewer private school options, meaning ESAs may not be as useful. However, public schools in these areas could still lose funding, making it harder to maintain staff, transportation, and educational programs.
- **Teacher Shortages Worsen:** Funding cuts could lead to layoffs, lower salaries, and fewer resources for teachers, exacerbating Texas' existing teacher shortage.

5. Undermining Public School Improvements

- **Diversion of Resources:** Rather than increasing funding for struggling public schools, HB 3 shifts focus to private options, potentially stalling necessary improvements in public education.
- **Decreased Community Support:** As students leave for private options, public schools may lose community investment, further weakening their ability to serve all students.

In summary, while HB 3 aims to provide school choice, it could ultimately weaken Texas' public education system by diverting funds, increasing inequality, and reducing accountability.

Jo McEnroe
Self - retired teacher
Cedar Park, TX

The greatest thing a nation does for itself is to invest in its greatest resource: the education of children. HB3 , aka Voucher scam, aka Vendor hill, is DEvesting the education of children in public schools. Don't rob the taxpayers by funneling their money into private schools. How can you possibly explain why private vouchers are worth \$10-\$11,000 when we're still in the \$6000 range for public school kids. And please don't tell me that this is school choice. It is not! If it was then every child would get to pick a school. Private schools don't have to take students with disabilities, but if they do and need resources- that comes out of the public funds. Do not tell me that those funds come from the federal government as a excuse because when you pull a teacher or an aid or equipment or money to help a private school, it comes out of a public school. Public schools have to take the state test, and lose so much instruction time testing and testing and testing putting our kids further and further behind while private schools don't have to do this. I am disgusted that this bill only aims to serve 20 - 25% of our students. How can anyone put their head on their pillow at night after supporting this knowing they are hurting children in schools? Wouldn't you agree the statistics from other states that show that over 75% of voucher money went to kids who were already attending private schools would indicate they don't need this help? And wouldn't you agree that a family of two or three kids who will receive \$20-\$30,000 are receiving more than their parents would pay in property tax? So why are they getting extra money?
Governor Abbott brought this to four legislative sessions last term, and it failed every session. Billionaires paid big campaign donations to replace the people who voted against it with people they could manipulate. Please know that plenty of people out in the public know this. Those of us who stand against this vender voucher scam will not be supporting those who vote in favor of it in the next election. I urge you to not pass this voucher scam. Close your eyes and imagine all the kids in a public classroom. How does anyone look innocent kids in the eyes and explain they weren't worth the money, but this kid over here whose parents has money was worth it!

Heather Wilcox
Self
Webster, TX

Dear Members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 3 and any effort to implement a school voucher program in Texas. Vouchers take public funds away from our neighborhood schools and redirect them to private institutions that are not accountable to taxpayers. This weakens our public education system and leaves many students behind.

Public schools serve all children, regardless of background or ability. Private schools, on the other hand, can select their students, leaving those with disabilities, behavioral challenges, or lower-income backgrounds with fewer options. Expanding vouchers would further strain already underfunded schools, particularly in rural areas where private school options are scarce or nonexistent.

As legislators tasked with overseeing public education, I ask that you stand with the vast majority of Texas families who rely on strong public schools. Taxpayer dollars should remain in the public education system, where they benefit all students rather than subsidizing private tuition.

I appreciate your time and your service to Texas students and families. Please prioritize strengthening public schools instead of undermining them with HB 3.

Sincerely,
Heather Eden Wilcox
Webster, TX 77598

Mellissa McCreary
Self/former teacher/private school administrator
Kilgore, TX

This bill will be a disaster for Texas students. It will be a giveaway to rich families and make things worse for the poor. Our property taxes will go up.

Amber Bond
Self
Richardson, TX

As a concerned parent of school aged children and a former public school teacher, I strongly oppose the implementation of school vouchers in Texas. While proponents argue that vouchers would provide parents with more choices for their children's education, the reality is that this legislation, in its current form, is nothing more than a taxpayer funded coupon for the wealthy who are already sending their students to private schools.

My children are in 2nd grade and kindergarten, and my youngest will start public school in 2027. My children, young as they are, are already feeling the impact of the public school funding crisis in Texas; a crisis that will only be exacerbated by the creation of ESAs. My kindergartner has 22 students in his class, my second grader has 25. All studies show that smaller class sizes lead to greater educational gains yet more and more students are put into classes as more teaching positions are cut to make up for the gap in funding. I fear what their class sizes will be, as well as the educational opportunities offered to them if more programs and services are cut as the funding crisis is exacerbated due to the creation of ESAs. Will my children have access to art and music classes, athletic programs, or basic school safety as more and more money is funded to ESAs?

Texans already have school choice. I can choose to make the financial sacrifice to send my students to a private school if that is my choice. Just the same as I cannot ask the taxpayers of our state to pay for a private country club membership for my family because we don't like the public parks, we cannot ask taxpayers to pay for families personal choice to pay for private education. To do so is a misappropriation of taxpayer funding. The schools who receive these funds will not be held to the same testing, safety, and accountability standards that public schools are held to and, therefore, should not be entitled to the same funds. Vouchers/ESAs are stealing from the poor to fund the rich. They are government overreach. They are wrong, plain and simple. Public support for vouchers is not there and voters will remember who chose to fund the rich at the expense of their constituents. I urge you to act on behalf of the 5.5 million public school students whose programs will be cut, schools will be overcrowded, and learning harmed to giving tax-payer funded coupons to the wealthy Texas families. I urge lawmakers to reject the push for school vouchers and instead invest in strengthening our public education system for the benefit of all students in Texas.

Derinda Nickel
Self/teacher
Saginaw, TX

I do NOT support vouchers! Fund our public schools!

Elizabeth German
self - retired
Richardson, TX

I oppose school vouchers! Please do not vote for this. Our tax dollars should be spent for ALL Texas kids. Implementing the vouchers for private school will only benefit the affluent families who already send their kids to private schools. Take those billions of dollars to make our public school SAFER, pay the teachers in order to attract and retain quality educators who care about our kids. Kids are our future leaders, and they ALL deserve quality education, not just the more affluent. Where are the private schools accessible for rural kids, who make up a large number of Texas school children? Texas already ranks in lower percentages for education quality in the United States, please don't make it any lower. Parents shouldn't want to take their kids out of public schools - Invest in the public education. Parents still have a choice - taxpayers should too. If you pass this bill, then at least make it equal - for every dollar of the \$10,000 you give to fund private education/vouchers, then you should equally give \$10,000 for EVERY child in the public schools. Anything less than equal is just WRONG.

Tina Page
Self/ homemaker
Lumberton, TX

I am against bill HB3. I do not want it voted for or passed. Within a few year there will be rules and regulations attached to this money. There is no way this money will be given to us and you not make us jump through hoops once we take it. Public schools will suffer. Private school won't get enough money to cover tuition, uniforms, and anything else. Homeschool will get the most regulations. Within a few years they will have to take the state testing and answer to their districts ISD school. There is no way this money will leave regulations the same for anyone. This voucher will not make education better. The other states thay have it do not have good education. None of them are in the top 10, only 2 are in the top 25. Vouchers are not the way to make it better. Get some actual teachers from low income areas to come to Austin and tell you how to make it better. Stop asking private school achool teachers from affluent areas what needs to be done. Please vote against it.

Carrie Teague
Self
Pearland, TX

As a parent with children attending a public school, I oppose the HB3 bill. I would only support this bill if all regulations, requirements, and policies were enforced in all school receiving the vouchers. Until the bill reflect conformity among all types of school receiving the funds it is one side and unbalanced. Abbott keeps saying that all these other states already have it; great for them, go live there. We shouldn't be compared to other states as well. There is a reason Texas has more people coming here than any other state. Quit trying to make Texas, California. NO TO VOUCHERS

Suzanne Rahman
Spring branch ISD
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you!

Keith Harris
Self/Retired Texas Educator
Perryton, TX

If you're not going to increase funding to allow public education to flourish don't fund private education. "If" it's broken then help fix it but don't destroy it.

J Lawton Lander

Self, Parent of a Student With Special Needs and Public School Administrator

Bryan, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 3, which proposes the creation of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). HB 3 provides funding to ESAs at a level higher than current public school funding (when compared against the basic allotment), unfairly diverting public resources to private institutions without appropriate oversight or accountability. Additionally, the bill does not adequately support families with limited financial means, as the proposed ESA amount falls short of covering tuition costs at most private schools. This primarily benefits families already able to afford private education. Furthermore, HB 3 overlooks geographic challenges, as many Texas students live in areas without access to private schools, rendering this initiative ineffective for many families. Establishing ESAs would significantly reduce essential funding for public schools, weakening the education system relied upon by the majority of Texas students.

Rather than establishing ESAs, I urge the legislature to focus on improving current school funding formulas. This includes reinforcing weighted programs such as Special Education and increasing the basic allotment to, at minimum, match inflation rates since 2019. This approach would provide adequate and fair funding to benefit all Texas students.

I strongly encourage the legislature to reject HB 3 and prioritize improving public education funding that addresses the diverse needs of Texas communities.

Celeste Fahnert, Parent

Public school parents/taxpayers

Leander, TX

My name is Celeste Fahnert, and I am a resident of Texas, a taxpayer, and a strong supporter of public education. I am here today to oppose HB3 and the implementation of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) or vouchers in any form.

Texas is already failing to adequately fund public schools. Our school districts are struggling under the weight of underfunded mandates, teacher shortages, and outdated funding formulas that do not keep pace with inflation or student needs. Yet, instead of addressing these critical issues, HB3 proposes diverting public dollars away from our public schools and into private institutions that are not held to the same standards of accountability or transparency.

This is not school choice—this is taxpayer-funded privatization. Vouchers and ESAs are not about helping all Texas students; they are about subsidizing private education for a few while leaving the majority of our children behind.

Let me be clear: I do not want my tax dollars to be used as a coupon for private school tuition.

Public schools serve all students. Private schools can and do reject students based on disability, academic performance, behavior, or financial status. Public schools take every child who walks through the door, no matter their circumstances.

Public funds should remain in public schools. Texas already underfunds education—our per-student funding ranks among the lowest in the nation. Taking additional funds away will hurt the vast majority of Texas students.

Vouchers do not improve education outcomes. Decades of research show that voucher programs in other states have failed to improve student achievement and have often led to increased segregation and fraud.

If lawmakers truly cared about parental choice, they would fully fund public schools so every parent can choose a high-quality neighborhood school instead of forcing parents into a system where "choice" only applies to those who can afford to cover the tuition gap or live near a private school.

Texas does not need a scheme that benefits a select few at the expense of the majority. Texas needs strong, well-funded public schools that serve every child, in every community. I urge you to vote NO on HB3 and any attempt to take public tax dollars out of our public schools. Thank you

Julie Draper
Self, teacher
San Antonio, TX

I'm writing to vehemently oppose the voucher scam. I am a public school teacher who has a masters degree and a National Board certification. I have devoted 16 years to teaching in public schools, and I have seen the impact first hand as a teacher and also as a parent that lack of funding has played in the schools. The district where I teach, Alamo Heights ISD, has made many cuts to programs and personnel that have directly impacted kids. The only outcome of passing vouchers is that public school children will suffer. Public school teachers cannot do any more with any less. We are already there. The plethora of evidence from the other states that have already started voucher systems is that they simply don't work. I urge you to stop following Abbott's scam. Be a true leader and lead the state in the direction that puts public funds in the hands of public school children.

Taylor Sullivan
Self
Trophy Club, TX

I do not support this bill passing. I am a parent of 3 children who attend public school in Texas. Our school is amazing and does so much to provide excellent education to my children. Our governor holds school funding hostage currently instead pushing monetary support to residents through property taxes. This is shameful to not invest in our children's education as a state. This bill is also shameful. Its intention is to pass savings to wealthy parents whose children are already attending private school. It's a slap in the face to public school educators and parents, as well as Texas children who will one day operate as citizens (and economy stimulators). Please do not pass this bill and show our governor and other greedy selfish Texans that claim to support and advocate for our state that we see right through their lies.

Rachel Tarshis
Self
Austin, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and support Texas public schools. This bill diverts taxpayer dollars from public schools, which educate over 90% of Texas students, to private institutions with little accountability. Schools already facing teacher shortages and rising student needs will be forced to cut programs, increase class sizes, and limit services.

Private schools receiving taxpayer funds are not required to serve all students, follow state curriculum standards, provide performance data, or maintain financial oversight. If public money is being spent, there should be transparency in how it is used. HB 3 lacks that accountability.

While promoted as a "school choice," HB 3 benefits only a small group of families. Vouchers do not fully cover tuition, leaving many working-class and rural families unable to access private schools. Meanwhile, public schools serving most students will be left with fewer resources.

Strong public schools create strong communities. When schools suffer, property values decline, businesses struggle, and workforce development weakens. Texans have consistently rejected voucher schemes, recognizing that public funds should support schools that serve all students. HB 3 threatens that foundation.

I appreciate your time and consideration in protecting Texas public education.

Sarah Pell
Seld
Austin, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and support Texas public schools. This bill diverts taxpayer dollars from public schools, which educate over 90% of Texas students, to private institutions with little accountability. Schools already facing teacher shortages and rising student needs will be forced to cut programs, increase class sizes, and limit services.

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I appreciate your time and consideration in protecting Texas public education.

Kami Winter
Self - curriculum consultant
Ovalo, TX

This bill will put public schools at risk of not being able to function. There are so many districts at the moment that are in a financial crisis and taking more money away from them will be detrimental. Public schools educate ALL students and with the right funds can do so very well. The districts I have been a part of are superior to the private schools in our area. Private schools have the luxury to pick and choose the students that attend and do not accept students with behavior issues or severe learning differences. Public schools not only continue to educate ALL students, they make a difference in the lives of ALL students. Funds need to be allocated to help the districts that desperately need staff and resources to assist in this education.

Michal Reed
Self
Dallas, TX

I support this bill and would like it to pass.

Elaine Talley
Self retired educator
Bridgeport, TX

We do not want vouchers. Vouchers are not the people's choice. I should never have to pay for someone to attend private school especially when our public schools are not fully funded! Listen to your constituents and not big bucks donors that don't care about all children.

Sincerely,
Elaine Talley

Mark Gray
Self
Argyle, TX

I am AGAINST HB 3 and against vouchers, and want our public schools fully funded!

Janice Ridlehoover

Myself

Austin, TX

I do not support hb3. Public schools need more funding not a loss of funding. My special needs granddaughter can only get what she needs in public schools. I had a child that needed a smaller high school environment and paid for private schools need never expecting taxpayers to reimburse me. Public money should never go to private unregulated schools.

Melissa Stillwell-Williams

Self

Flower Mound, TX

Taxpayer funds should not be funneled to the wealthy's private and religious education. They will never let the poor in their schools nor could we afford it if they did, even if subsidized. Keep taxpayers money in public schools and begin to better support public education. The US is steadily collapsing in terms of education around the world and this is a primary example of why. The privilege is disproportionately out of control, criminal, and deplorable.

Kaye Knox

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose - strongly oppose sending public funds to private school in the form of vouchers as co templates by this bill. Vote NO on HB3

Katharine Moore, Mrs

self

Lubbock, TX

I would like to voice my opinion on HB 3. I am NOT in favor of passing this bill. No to vouchers!!!!!! Public schools are paid for by public money and that public money should stay with the school districts. This money taken away from districts will hurt them even farther than Abbott retaliatory actions to not fund public education since before 2019. Inflation is killing our schools. Teachers pay enough money on their own for supplies for schools as well as students. I believe if you choose not to go to a public school than that is your choice. Rural students will not get the choice to go to private school. Our Sped kids will not be able to go to a private school because they do not have the programs necessary. As a retired teacher of 35 years public school are the center of all cities and town. The good that goes on in there is 10 fold the bad. All districts have problems, but Abbott desire to please the billionaire and indoctrinate the kids into Christian nationalism will cause more problems then solve. Look at AZ for example, the voucher scam is bankrupting their state. Here is a thought, let Dunn and Wilks supply all the kids that want to go to private school scholarships, Abbott and all the money he has received from the out of state lobby he can create scholarships and not one penny will come out of the budget. Then they will be able to indoctrinate as many kids as they have money. Sincerely, Katharine Moore

Melinda Grayson

Please Select

Round Rock, TX

I grew up in a town of 2500 people. The life of our town was it's public schools with its sport and music events. This bill would harm our smaller communities as well as their schools. These towns don't even have any private schools. Please vote against school vouchers and keep the separation of church and state. Small towns have plenty of churches to meet the religious needs of the people. You don't need to combine the two.

Saralyn Johnson
Self, Executive Director
Highland Village, TX

Lack of funding to Texas public education is ensuring our public education system fails. My children's school is closing after this year. After my husband retired from the Army, we wanted stability in schools for our children, since they had already moved away from friends so often. We found the best school that fit our family, only for my kids to again be forced to change schools. Lack of funding is moving some of our excellent teachers to other fields because they can no longer survive being a teacher in this economy. Our children are suffering. One of my children requires some extra help and has an IEP, charter, private, and religious schools rarely have options for students who need extra help every day. These schools also rarely provide transportation from lower income neighborhoods, so this bill only keeps more money in the pockets of families who can already afford the schools they choose. Lower income families are unable to pick these schools because they are not in their communities and transportation is not provided from their low income neighborhoods.

Please fund our public education so that we can be the best. Texas is soon to be the worst place to raise kids, because our children won't be able to get a quality education at public or any other charter, private or religious schools. Those schools will have more money, but they won't have to provide education, meals, or transportation to ALL Texas children, including those with special needs. Your constituents have continued to ask you to not vote in these voucher, or saving account, programs. Listen to what we, who have children, want. We Do NOT want vouchers, not by any name! Vote NO and save Texas education!

Laura Bearden
Self
Marble Falls, TX

So many of us are strongly against vouchers! If parents want private schools, it should be at their own cost. Let's work to make public education better rather than enabling the wealthy and disadvantaging the under-served.

Johanna Wolfe
Self - executive director
Houston, TX

For multiple sessions our Texas legislators have held public schools hostage by refusing to increase funding which would support student learning and teacher salaries. Billions have remained in the "rainy day fund" while legislators refused to take action to support Texas students.

Now that action is finally being taken, it's not to support ALL Texas students. Rather it is directed toward families who have the resources and access to attend private schools - to the disadvantage of families who have neither funds nor access to attend private schools.

Private school vouchers will not provide equal access to all. They will provide enhanced access for students with resources, students with access, and students who do not need the extra support guaranteed under the law for students with learning differences. In addition, it will limit student access to those "extras" - band, theater, choirs, and clubs - that help to engage children in learning. Finally, to place tax dollars with schools who have no accountability to parents, tax payers or the public is simply unAmerican and certainly unTexan.

I ask you to vote against HB3 and fund our public schools with our Texas tax dollars.

Henry Nguyen

Self/ CPA

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Henry Nguyen

Emily Habermehl

Self

Austin, TX

I am a social worker and mother of two elementary school age kids. I am begging you not to support vouchers in Texas. My son and daughter have attended public school since kindergarten. My son receives special education services at his school that have completely changed his life for the better. Now more than ever our public schools need our full support. Please fund public schools so every child can have what my son has. Vouchers do not give parents more options, they give wealthy families who were going to send their kids to private school anyway a discount. Speak up for the families that won't be accepted to a private school. The families that don't live anywhere near a private school. Speak up for my son and his public education and his growth as a student and human being. If you support vouchers, you take away money from schools that desperately need support. Thank you for considering my comment.

David Thompson

Self - Educator

Buchanan Dam, TX

Members of the Committee, I respectfully but adamantly oppose HB 3. This bill is Governor Abbott's signature piece of legislation in the 89th, and is funded by individuals with no real interest in Texas (e.g., Jeffrey Yass). The bill sets up new bureaucracy in the Comptroller's office, has a huge fiscal note, will establish increased control over private education, and is not conservative by anyone's definition of conservative. Contrary to Gov. Abbott's assertions, the bill will take money that could otherwise be used to raise the basic allotment for the first time since 2019. A parent of a child with a disability will very likely not be able to use the bill to choose and fully fund a highly specialized school (to the extent they exist). In addition, if passed this bill would be a death knell for rural communities in Texas, who have already suffered enough. Finally, this bill offends, at a minimum, the spirit of Article VII, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution, i.e., "A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools." Please leave the bill to die in committee, and exercise your constitutional duty to fully support our public schools. Thank you.

Tala Nimri

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 because it diverts critical public funds away from Texas public schools and funnels them into unregulated private institutions. This bill threatens the quality and accessibility of public education, particularly in rural communities that rely on public schools.

Texas is already facing a teacher shortage crisis, and underfunding public schools will only make it worse. Teachers are leaving the profession due to low pay and lack of support, and instead of addressing this, HB3 worsens the situation by draining resources from schools that need them most.

Public education is also a key driver of Texas' economy. Major employers choose where to invest based on the availability of a well-educated workforce. Without strong public schools, Texas risks losing out on business investments and high-paying jobs. 77% of Texas voters support increased funding for public schools, and up to 94% favor investments in teacher salaries, tutoring, and mental health services. Lawmakers should listen to their constituents and prioritize funding for public education.

I urge you to reject HB3 and instead invest in strengthening public schools, supporting teachers, and ensuring Texas remains a competitive, thriving economy for future generations.

Sa Nguyen

Self/ stay at home mom

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Sa Nguyen

The Honorable Evelyn Brooks

5.4 million public school students - Teacher

Frisco, TX

Public Comments by: The Honorable Evelyn Brooks

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025

HB 3: Against HB 3 as it stands

Comments:

More legislation does not make the great state of Texas better. I ask that you consider the negative impact that HB 3 will have on all choices of education before rushing to legislate. Calvin Coolidge, our 30th United States President once said in a letter to his father while serving as a Senator in Vermont, "It is much more important to kill bad bills than to pass good ones." I urge you to consider his words of wisdom as you get ready to vote on this bill. I speak as an expert teacher, a lover of freedom and liberty and as a parent who has already exercised her freedom of school choice for her own children using the options of public school, private school and homeschool.

Public Comments by: The Honorable Evelyn Brooks

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Callie Liles

Self

League City, TX

Commented: Vote No on House Bill 3

Used 2/3 of limit on comments. Representing Galveston County - Voting Precinct 353 Vote No!!!!!!!

Jean Potter

Parents in Technology

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 because it diverts critical public funds away from Texas public schools and funnels them into unregulated private institutions. This bill threatens the quality and accessibility of public education, particularly in rural communities that rely on public schools.

Texas is already facing a teacher shortage crisis, and underfunding public schools will only make it worse. Teachers are leaving the profession due to low pay and lack of support, and instead of addressing this, HB3 worsens the situation by draining resources from schools that need them most.

Public education is also a key driver of Texas' economy. Major employers choose where to invest based on the availability of a well-educated workforce. Without strong public schools, Texas risks losing out on business investments and high-paying jobs. 77% of Texas voters support increased funding for public schools, and up to 94% favor investments in teacher salaries, tutoring, and mental health services. Lawmakers should listen to their constituents and prioritize funding for public education.

I urge you to reject HB3 and instead invest in strengthening public schools, supporting teachers, and ensuring Texas remains a competitive, thriving economy for future generations.

Lesli Townsend, Mrs.
Self - Homeschool Mom
Oak Point, TX

It would be a huge mistake to pass HB3. This bill would take freedom away from Texas families, increase the size of our government, take much needed funds away from public schools, and require increased taxation to support this new program. The majority of Texas families do not want this education "savings." Please do not pass this bill. It would have negative consequences for generations of children and families.

Courtney Bonn
Self and TEACHER
Cibolo, TX

VOTE NO

Cynthia Manning Swain
Self
Pflugerville, TX

I do not want my tax money spent to support private education by teachers with no required experience. I want you to give schools enough money to carry out the job you charged them with. It's HORRIBLE that this is more per child than the state gives, and it will result in far less educated adults who cannot do the work of the future because they will further lack critical thinking skills. SAVE OUR COMMUNITIES! DON'T PRIVATIZE EVERYTHING.

Mandy Niles
Self - interior designer
Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts in Texas.

William FREANEY
Self- Environmental, Health and Safety professional
wylie, TX

I believe this bill only benefits those who are already able to afford private education. It's simply a discount those rich elite few who can afford private school for kids. A \$10k voucher is not even close to private school cost. And there are no private schools in my town. Why are we not using these funds to support public schools? Why are elite texas families being given better and cheaper education?

Lizeth LoCicero

Self - house wife and substitute teacher

Frisco, TX

Texas House Bill 3 threatens the foundation that has enabled students like our son Edward to succeed. Edward's journey through Frisco ISD—from Early Childhood School to Memorial High School—demonstrates the transformative impact of a well-supported public education system. Born with chronic kidney disease and later diagnosed with autism, Edward's success is not just his own; it is the result of a network of dedicated educators, specialists, and resources that ensured he had the support needed to thrive.

HB3 undermines this essential support system by diverting public funds to private school voucher programs. Unlike public schools, private institutions are not required to provide special education services, follow individualized education plans (IEPs), or ensure equitable access for students with disabilities. Had Edward been placed in a private school without these mandated supports, his academic and personal growth could have been severely compromised.

Public education works when it is adequately funded. Edward's ability to participate in mainstream classrooms, excel in challenging courses like 3D animation, and find his voice in choir directly results from the collaboration and dedication within his public school system. Teachers like Heather Friese and Rachel Massey, who adapted instruction to meet his needs, could not have done so without the resources available through public education funding.

Edward's success should not be an anomaly—it should be the expectation for every student in Texas. HB3 threatens this by siphoning the funds that enable public schools to provide specialized instruction, mental health resources, and inclusive programs. Every dollar diverted to private vouchers is taken away from the students who rely on public education the most.

Texas must invest in its public schools, ensuring every child can reach their full potential regardless of ability or background. We urge policymakers to oppose HB3 and commit to strengthening public education—not weakening it. Our children's futures depend on it.

Lynz CostaAdams

Self - teacher and therapist

Dickinson, TX

Hello- teacher, social worker and foster/adoptive mom here. I have two girls in the public education school system in Dickinson ISD. I was a special education teacher there too before becoming a therapist. In my current career trajectory- I will never make enough money, nor will I be able to have enough time off to either homeschool or send my girls to private school. I adopted them in December 2022 and even with 10,000\$ per year in subsidies - that would not cover the full years tuition of a private school.

My girls love their public school- their friends, sports and extra curricular. This bill drains public education and puts money into private schools. There is one problem with private schools- they aren't required to meet the needs of students with special needs.

As a special education teacher I poured thousands of my own salary into making my room one welcoming and supportive of children with special needs. The money wasn't there in the district to get my children devices to communicate with or to get basic necessary supplies.

I explore the state of Texas to put money back into public education- to people with degrees and the heart to teach children. Please don't take more away from my daughters or my former kiddos with special needs. I disagree with this bill and with think the entire state should be ashamed of its spending on public education.

Nancy Bankson
Self homemaker
Pearland, TX

HB3 is intended to financially benefit a small, special interest group of parents. Those monetary benefits will come at the expense of students. Most students in our state attend public school and will lose funding to pay for this outrageous plan. The citizens of Texas are aware that Texas billionaires are attempting to reshape politics in Texas by funding seats in the Texas legislature in order to force their political views on the majority of Texans that want fairly funded public schools. I urge lawmakers to listen to constituents, rather than the few writing the checks.

Amanda Neal
Self
Austin, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and support Texas public schools. This bill diverts taxpayer dollars from public schools, which educate over 90% of Texas students, to private institutions with little accountability. Schools already facing teacher shortages and rising student needs will be forced to cut programs, increase class sizes, and limit services.

Private schools receiving taxpayer funds are not required to serve all students, follow state curriculum standards, provide performance data, or maintain financial oversight. If public money is being spent, there should be transparency in how it is used. HB 3 lacks that accountability.

While promoted as a "school choice," HB 3 benefits only a small group of families. Vouchers do not fully cover tuition, leaving many working-class and rural families unable to access private schools. Meanwhile, public schools serving most students will be left with fewer resources.

Strong public schools create strong communities. When schools suffer, property values decline, businesses struggle, and workforce development weakens. Texans have consistently rejected voucher schemes, recognizing that public funds should support schools that serve all students. HB 3 threatens that foundation.

I appreciate your time and consideration in protecting Texas public education.

Tara Bowman, Mrs.
self - librarian
Austin, TX

NO to HB 3. Public dollars for public schools.

Kristin Powers
Public education- speech language pathologist
Manchaca, TX

90% of the population of children and 95% of children with disabilities learn and grow in public schools. Millions of students across the country benefit from programs run by the department of education. Eliminating this department, and/or providing "school choice" is not for the people, but for the wealthy ONLY. You are giving up on our future and our growth and differences as a society and stealing resources from those that are vulnerable, poor and up to higher middle class, as well as CHOICE to stay in public schools. This will explode class sizes, overwork teachers, and professionals such as me, a Speech Language Pathologist, while cutting jobs, programs, and taking special education away from those in great need to even a child with just a speech-sound disorder like articulation errors that are extremely common and majority or a schools special education caseload. Passing this bill takes away rights and leaves most of American student's without free and appropriate education.

Sheri Yates

Texans

Boerne, TX

A public education is one of the rights provided to all citizens in our great country. A well educated public is what will sustain our future as a great country. The children of today will be your protection when you are feeble.

Private schools vouchers take money from the most vulnerable, our special needs, our great libraries, our famous sports programs and our wonderful music programs among other great attributes.

Please consider all of our citizens and all of the children as you do your constitutional obligation to represent all.

God Bless America and Texas

Tricia Evans

Public schools

Austin, TX

This bill is the result of government prioritization of donors rather than support for public school children. A handout for students already enrolled in private institutions that will further cripple schools who are already underfunded and jeopardize the educational opportunities of public school students. It must not pass.

Kim Bischoff Bischoff

Self

Highland Vlg, TX

Please have the interest of the 5.5M children that rely on public education in Texas in mind during this discussion. Diverting funding from public schools will devastate our education system which is already struggling so much.

Our public schools are making an incredible impact on the students in their classrooms but if funding decreases, additional cuts will have to be made. The schools, teachers, and administrators will have to make decisions that will leave a long lasting devastating impact across our state.

Stacey Wimberley

Self

Pearland, TX

The push for this bill is Ming boggling. Vote NO for these vouchers! Republicans do not want this! Democrats do not want this! Teachers especially do not want this! We are not the experts, they are! Listen to them. We voted you in to represent us. We do not want school vouchers. Please hear us.

Kali Bailey

self-homemaker

Rockwall, TX

I am a parent of two children and oppose HB 3 and any private school vouchers. Our kids and teachers deserve fully public funded schools. Tax payer money should be for public schools and not given to private schools and without any accountability. Please fully fund public schools-that should be the priority!

Sherri Baker

Myself and family

Flower Mound, TX

Do not pass this- we need more funding for our public schools teachers and students. I want my tax dollars to go to public education!

LeeAnn Turner
Self
Fort Worth, TX

As a lifelong Republican and former educator, I strongly oppose the voucher program. This will harm students who require special programs, the poor who cannot afford private school (even with a voucher), and those in rural settings with no access to private school. This is not good for the majority of Texas students and seeks to take funds from already poorly funded public schools and reapportion them to those who can ALREADY afford private education. Billionaires should not get to decide what is in the best interest of our students.

Courtenay Euton
Self
San Antonio, TX

Against HB3. Public school funding should not be taken away in favor of private schools.

Jessica Ramsey
self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you!

Heather Fitzgerald
Self
Azle, TX

As a former homeschooling mother, I am AGAINST school choice. We have actual freedom and choice as it is here in Texas. We do not need more government involvement in education, and despite peoples's best efforts In other states to keep the money from becoming strings attached to homeschoolers, eventually that's exactly what happens. History has proven it out in other states, and will only repeat itself here.

Karen Michie
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. My family have all attended public schools and we support public education. I oppose vouchers and am strongly against this bill. Thank you

Debbie Meiser

Self

Mabank, TX

I believe that this bill should not pass as it most definitely caters to those who already have children in private schools and only benefits them. Stop this bill and fund our public schools appropriately!

Alison Steele

Self

Austin, TX

No vouchers!

Shelly Server

Self

Burleson, TX

I feel that if this bill passes, public education will never recover. Vote for kids, not for corporations to make money.

Jana Pittides, CPA

Self

Universal City, TX

Vote NO! Texas public schools need proper funding and resources. Our children and their futures cannot be used for political games. The vast majority of Texans do not want school vouchers. My daughter goes to a Title 1 school. Most kids are on free lunch and take the bus to and from school every day. They do not have the means necessary to attend a school that doesn't provide these resources. Vouchers will further divide the haves and have nots and tear communities apart.

Michele Bennett

Self

Cuero, TX

I am a parent/Texan who opposes HB 3 and any private school vouchers. Our kids and teachers deserve fully public funded schools. Tax payer money should be for public schools and not given to private schools and without any accountability.

Gurlene Amin

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I oppose this bill. Please vote no.

Donns Featherstone

Self

Lantanna, TX

I am against vouchers and want our public vouchers fully funded.

Brianna Neal

Self, paralegal, mom.

Katy, TX

Vouchers are a horrible idea and will deteriorate the quality of education in this state. They are wildly unpopular and unwanted. Please vote no and protect our children's education.

Danelle Schwertner

Self - business owner/School board member - Miles ISD

Miles, TX

Vendor bills are not in the best interest of Texas school children. Texas should be innovating change, not advocating to follow in the footsteps of other states who are failing at voucher systems or education savings accounts. These programs have historically escalated into unmanageable systems that are pulling funding from public education. Texas does not need this. Texans have continually and overwhelmingly told legislators that they don't want vouchers, and yet you aren't listening to us. Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike have said this over and over. What is the reason you aren't listening? Please kill this bill.

Trina Williams

Teachers

Mineral Wells, TX

Vouchers are only beneficial to the wealthy. Put this to a public vote. The majority of citizens do NOT want vouchers. Stop letting billionaires pad your pockets and do what is right for children. Vouchers are NOT the answer.

Mendy King

Self

N Richlnd Hls, TX

I do not support the voucher bill in any way. This is not helping low income families have a choice all it's doing is providing those already in private schools a discount, 10k will barely get you in the door of ANY private school. Public education is FREE to all students and if our school tax money was actually going to the schools and the per student funding was increased we would be able to maintain all of our public schools, retain our excellent teachers and enrollment would once again grow. The state has handicapped all of our public schools to the point where we lose teachers and students every day because they can't provide what should be provided to their students every day. Greg Abbott and others should be ashamed of themselves for what they've done to the public school system, you are making everything worse, not better. Public education is the basis for the majority of Americans NOT a select few. INCREASE OUR PER STUDENT FUNDING across the board, release OUR money to OUR public schools and watch how everything improves.

Cindy Fleharty

Self

Leander, TX

NO to vouchers!!

Vouchers hurt Texans with disabilities. Private schools are not required to accept students with disabilities (most do not accept students with disabilities), and private schools are not required to provide accommodations under IEPs or 504s.

Christen Grace

Self

Frisco, TX

I qualify as wealthy, I live in the suburbs and I have school aged children. I am VEHEMENTLY opposed to this bill. In fact, I do not know of ANYONE in Collin County that actually supports this bill. I have many homeschool friends and they do not support this bill. It hurts EVERYONE and only benefits the wealthy who can already afford private school. I do NOT want my tax dollars diverted from public schools to support a small number of students in private schools. This hurts rural communities, special needs children, non-religious families. FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, not the pockets of wealthy donors. Please stand up to Greg Abbott and the billionaires funding him. DO NOT support this bill.

Joa Muns

Self

Plano, TX

NO to Vouchers!

Mark Gormley

Self

Manor, TX

No to Vouchers!!!

Sheri Ceglarek

Self

Granbury, TX

I do not support the school voucher program. You should eliminate the STAAR test, pay public school teachers hers more & allow teachers to teach not teach to pass the STAAR test. Do not allow illegal immigrants to attend public schools it's ridiculous they are allowed to attend public schools. Vote no go school vouchers

Virginia Jarman, Rev Dr

Self, retired clergy

Hurst, TX

School vouchers will not help most Texas children. Our family has been educated in Texas public schools since 1924, for 4 generations. I am a retired pastor. In the churches I've served, some wealthy families sent their children to private schools. Many families could never afforded private school, even with vouchers covering partial tuition. Wealthy families have a choice. Poor and middle class families do not! I would like our TX legislature to turn down this bill, and increase funding to public schools and teachers salaries. Please vote NO today!

Beverly Kiser

Self

Leander, TX

Vote no for school vouchers. This will destroy public education in Texas. I'm a fourth generation Texan and raised my 3 daughters as fifth generation Texans and we all went to public schools. The public money should only go to public schools. The permanent school fund and property taxes should be plenty to fund public schools. They need more money, not less. I am now a substitute teacher and I see the need daily. Vote NO on vouchers.

Lisa Chapman

Self

Flower Mound, TX

A free quality Public education is a fundamental right. This bill is a clear representation of party politics and not what the people of Texas want. It has been shoved down our throats by the likes of Governor Abbott and his party only having a chance of being successful this year because he manipulated the primary process to replace those who stood against him. This is an action item that affects all residents and should be put on the ballot for vote. I have a son recently diagnosed with dyslexia and dysgraphia. He would not be welcomed in private schools and is dependent on a quality education with special ed resources that our public schools provide. Allowing vouchers will only poach funds from the school he attends putting him at more risk for academic failure. This bill is not about every student and choice, it is tax break for the wealthy. Fund Texas public schools properly, do not rob them.

Joshua Trott

self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3, vote NO. I want fully funded public education for my 2 sons currently in early elementary school.

Jessica Kuehn

Self, marriage and family therapist

Plano, TX

My child's school is being closed this year because of underfunding. We attend a high achieving district and my kids receive a great public education. Fully funding public schools will allow for our school district to do more and allow small rural districts to provide better education. This bill leaves rural students with no options and hurts my students in a big district. Please use your heart and own mind and support your constituents! No to HB 3!

Susan I Jones

Self, consultant

Austin, TX

I oppose public funds being used by private schools as proposed by HB 3.

Kimberly Trott

self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3. I want fully funded public education, my two small children depend on their elementary school education. Their teachers are already over worked, under paid, and our students deserve better. Essential areas are critical to their learning and development.

Susan Woodard

Self, Lecturer

College Station, TX

If passed, House Bill 3 will have negative consequences for our already struggling, underfunded public schools. Until Texas is a leader in K-12 public education, it is inappropriate to use taxpayer money to offset the costs for students choosing alternatives to public school education. Texans have a right to choose but siphoning funds away from public schools to private schools, where there is less accountability regarding students served, is a bad choice for the families of Texas. Please look out for the interest of all school children in Texas by voting against this bill.

mary bickert

self

austin, TX

Please don't pass school vouchers. Please support public schools. It's in our best interest to provide education to all Texas children. Vouchers would take money away from public schools. What would it do to Teacher Retirement System? It would create a hardship for most parents. Most Texas parents are struggling already and don't need this extra burden. Texans already have choice. We don't want to pay for their choices.

Ann Reed

Retired teachers

Jones Creek, TX

Texas education is sadly declining- compared to other states and compensation to teachers and staff us is far behind others. Vouchers is not going to help the situation!

Kathryn Riedesel

Speech Pathologist / Self

Victoria, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability.

Angela Reese
Self/homemaker
Sachse, TX

Vouchers erode the public school system by taking tax money meant to educate everyone and put it back in the laps of those that have walked away from the public school system rather than working to make it better. Vouchers take away any checks and balances for how that money is used because private schools and home schools are not checked. Vouchers were enacted in a school district I taught in outside of Texas, and it slowly eroded a way the benefits of having strong education in a community because it took education out of the community. Keep schools strong and well funded! Keep the tax payers money where it can be accountable.

LKevin Starnes, Mr.
Selt
College Station, TX

I strongly oppose HB3! We need to increase funding to our public schools. School choice is already present in Texas. Passing this will have massive implications for Public Ed and will create a "have vs have nots" system. Please don't pass this bill!

Stacey Gould
Self/engineer
Austin, TX

I oppose ESAs and support public money being used for public education.

Lauren McCracken
Self- parent
Mansfield, TX

As a parent with 3 school aged children, I am incredibly troubled by the idea of Educational Savings Accounts. Public money belongs in Public Education. A basic tenet of Public Education is that it is available to ALL students, without expectation for payment, without entrance exams, and available for ALL children— including those with special needs or learning disabilities. Diverting funds from public education will further divide the haves from the have nots... with private schools being able to cherry pick their students, and leaving the public schools with less money than what is needed to provide the free and appropriate public education that is needed to educate the populous of children that won't be served by private schools.

Looking at the numbers from states that have already passed vouchers/ESAs, Texas can see that it is a poor choice. In Arizona alone, the state is facing a \$1.4 billion dollar budget deficit due to school vouchers originally touted to save the state money. In Florida, the cost of school vouchers for the state is roughly \$3.9 billion.

In the states that have passed ESA legislation, many people that are taking advantage of it are people that are already sending their children to private schools or are homeschooling. These families have already made the choice in how to educate their children, and now just have a coupon for an additional money off. Sure that is "nice", but the cost for our society is too high a price to pay.

As I mentioned, I have 3 school aged children. All three have different educational needs. I have chosen to have one homeschool/private hybrid. I have one child in the district we reside in, and one child at a neighboring district with open enrollment who had a school that better suited her academic interests and needs. As a parent, I DO have school choice! Both Mansfield ISD and Grand Prairie ISD have amazing schools of choice options that provide opportunities to tailor the public education experience to each student's needs. Though I have chosen to withdraw one child from public education, it is MY CHOICE to do so, and MY CHOICE with how we choose to educate her. I, unequivocally, would also choose to have any and all monies earmarked for her education remain IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, because I know that when the time comes for her to resume her public school tenure, there will be public schools available to her, with qualified and certificated teachers, to provide a free and appropriate public education.

Please VOTE NO on HB3

Ashley Poole

Self

Corinth, TX

Regarding the school voucher bill proposed and further shoved into Texas by Greg Abbott. Texans have overwhelmingly voiced that we do not want this bill. School choice has always existed and stealing money from tax payer funds to give to people who can already afford private school is lunacy. That is especially true given that our public schools are grossly underfunded. Our constitution calls very clearly for separation of church and state. You cannot mix the two. You can legislate using your own religious beliefs. You can allocate public funds to private (religious) institutions. It is illegal. You were hired by the people of Texas to represent our needs, desires, and to reflect our voices. Continuing to push a bill that your constituents have told you, we don't want, time and time again, is outrageous.

Your plan is to dismantle public education. You do not want equal opportunity for all children to learn, grow and someday become successful, contributing members of society. You are trying to create a bigger divide between the wealthy, the middle class and the underserved lower class. It's despicable, it's criminal, and if passed, we will not stop fighting until every penny that was stolen from public funds and illegally given for the use of unregulated private education has been recovered and properly utilized to fund our public schools.

NO SCHOOL VOUCHERS!

Sarah Huang

Self

Round Rock, TX

I am a public school elementary student mom, I oppose any funds diverted away from public schools to a voucher program.

Rachel Mitchell

Self

Allen, TX

Public funds should never be used for private schools unless they are required to meet the same testing, financial accountability, teacher and curriculum standards as public schools.

Jennifer Wilhelm

Self

Austin, TX

No

Shelli Moore

Self

Tomball, TX

Vouchers are terrible for the average person/student. They benefit people who already have resources and take money away from students in public education. Even if the rainy day fund is being used and no money is directly being diverted from public school funding, the rainy day fund could be used to benefit all Texas students not just a select few. Please vote against School vouchers!

Rebecca Rutledge

Self

Bridge City, TX

The basic allotment has not been increased since 2019 and needs to be increased substantially more than the proposed \$220. By increasing the basic allotment it will fund raises to all supporting staff in the District such as custodians, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, librarians, counselors, etc.

Teacher deserve pay raises but they should not be tied to incentives. There are too many hoops for teachers in the current TIA program.

Vote NO to all voucher/ESA programs. The vast majority of Texas public schools are thriving. Diverting funds to private schools will hurt public schools.

Do not tie funding our schools to the passage of a voucher program. Schools are still trying to recover from the last legislative session.

Please do not sell out to the billionaires who stand to profit from the privatization of our schools. Do what is right for the children of Texas

Pamela Terry

Self

Friendswood, TX

Please vote NO on school vouchers. I would ask that you would consider the detrimental effect on the education of ALL Texas children. There are so many reasons why this should not happen in Texas, some of which are gutting rural schools, creating a huge financial obligation (see Arkansas) to the state, undercutting our teachers.... Please consider the good of all children in texas. Please do not pass this bill.

Jeni Rasco

Timber Creek Elementary

Flower Mound, TX

Please do not pass this bill!!! Our students have already been dealing with the effects of not enough funds and this bill would just make it worse. They are already missing out on services when teachers are pulled because they can't cover substitutes. Teachers are having to do so much more with not enough and giving private schools money will slowly continue to pull teachers and more funds. The private schools in our area would not participate so right off the bat, our entire district would not benefit. Parents nor educators want this to pass. Only those that will profit in already profitable private schools. Please don't pass this bill!

Shannon KH Smith

Self

Richardson, TX

Hello, I'm writing to disagree in the strongest terms possible with HB 3. It increases the size of the TEA by putting even more state administration in place to run the dispensing of the different programs this bill proposes, as well as whatever bureaucratic waste will be needed to administer a sham lotto for rich kids going to private schools. There is nothing in this bill that distinguishes it from other bills that are blowing up other states budgets. Arizona and Oklahoma both recently passed versions of these bills and they are struggling with huge shortfalls in their education budgets. Oklahoma has some version of this and it's done the same. We're Texas, we are better than Oklahoma. Thanks for your time.

Ruje Clark

Self

Conroe, TX

What would this mean to public school fundings ? It seems that it would be unfairly cut.

Meggan Fletcher
self/stay at home mom
Mansfield, TX

I am adamantly opposed to the school voucher/ESA bill. Public school dollars belong in public schools and public schools need to be fully funded. These scheme doesn't even benefit ALL Texas children yet it will impact every single one of them. Do not let billionaires influence what happens in our school system!! Stand up for our kids and for what is right. This is not a partisan issue - neither side wants this!! Stand up for public schools!!

Jennifer Holland
Self
Austin, TX

I do not support using public dollars to pay for private school. I am so grateful for my neighborhood public school and do not want it to lose funding. I live in a metropolitan area, but I especially fear what educational savings account would do to rural schools.

SHIRISHA REDDY
self
CEDAR PARK, TX

Please do not pass this bill. Vouchers will only hurt public education. I am the product of public schools and have a successful career as a physician. My kids have had incredible opportunities to excel because of what their public school offers. Please do not pass this bill.

Ronda Lindsay
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I'm writing to oppose HB 3 and request that the committee do so, as well. Passage of this bill will only increase the disparity in Texas children's education and opportunities. This bill only assists families who can already afford some level of private education, yet our public schools continue to suffer from lack of funding. I respectfully request that the committee vote no on HB 3 and instead focus on things that will make life better for every child in Texas (which will, in fact, make life better for Texans all around), like increasing teacher pay and providing public schools with the funding they so desperately need.

Kelli Kirk, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

Vouchers are undemocratic and a targeted undermining of public education. Vote NO on vouchers, and truly represent your constituents views. Most Texans do NOT want bouncers, and DO want to fortify our public school system.

Deena Minter
Self
Dallas, TX

I fully support the education saving account program as a homeschool mother in Texas.

Melody Bokmeyer
Self
McKinney, TX

AGAINST HB3 My children are in public schools and your stranglehold on finding them properly is causing closures, reduction in staff, and programs. Since schools are no longer hiring teachers, how will you retain the best and recruit the best? This bill is a disgrace to public education. The Texas constitution Article VII Section 1 requires the legislature to establish and maintain a system of public free schools. I'd argue that the legislature is doing a poor job of maintaining public schools!

Martha Spetseris
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

This bill has no purpose but to gut public education. It is a disgrace that the legislature seems poised to shove it down the throat of regular Texans. I want to voice my complete disapproval of it.

Katie Jeffreys
Self / Former Texas Teacher now Stay at home mom
Frisco, TX

Public schools are the backbone of our society. Please do not give away funds that our public schools desperately need. Families certainly do have the choice of private or homeschooling in Texas. Those choices should not be funded by taxpayer dollars when our public schools still have needs. Especially for such a small minority of children this private school choice bill is going to provide for vs the number of children total living in the state of Texas. Thank you.

Jeff Easley, GM
Responsible AI Institute
San Antonio, TX

Public funds should stay in public schools, and should always be transparent

Hunter Bonner, Mr.
self
Lone Star, TX

My name is Hunter Bonner, and I am in opposition of HB3. My reasons for being in opposition to this bill are that this creates more government bureaucracy, which is against conservative principles of limited government. This bill will create a number of paid government positions, thus increasing the size of government itself.

Second, the delegates to the RPT convention made it clear that any school choice bill must have "no strings attached." There are requirements for standardized testing, reporting back to the state the use of funds, and even intrusion into homeschooling to be regulated by the state government. All of this is a requirement for receiving funding under this bill, and thus are "strings." This is a violation of our platform, and as such, this bill is not consistent with what primary voters and delegates have stated over the course of the last 4 years.

Finally, this bill in essence provides a subsidy for those already sending their children to private schools. Subsidies are not conservative and are inconsistent with the Republican political philosophy of limited government. Please consider rejecting this bill for these reasons. Thank you!

Jaime Rocha
Self
Sweeny, TX

The majority of residents of TX are NOT for this bill. You need to listen to your constituents.

Susan Kacines
Self / pharmacist
Allen, TX

As a long-time resident of Allen, Texas
I strongly oppose HB 3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education. Oppose HB 3.
Thank You,
Susan Kacines

Catalina Johnson

Self and kids

Austin, TX

I urge you to NOT pass HB 3. My 3 children attend public school in Eanes in Austin and it has been the most incredible school experience with the most incredible teachers. They need to make these teachers and all the TX teachers teachers whole so that they stay in this selfless profession that we as a country desperately need in order to create the world's brightest and most innovative future generation. It starts with public school teachers. I have the rare experience to speak as a former private school kid. I attend a private school in Fort Worth my entire K-12 experience and I can tell you that my parents never once thought they should have a break in cost for supporting their neighborhood schools. They wanted the rest of the state to succeed and realized that they made a choice to spend more money elsewhere. If they had a public school in the area that was like the one my children attend, they would have sent us there. We won't get schools like Bridgepoint (where my kids go in Eanes ISD) without putting everything we have behind the teachers and schools. Don't gut public schools. It won't make our communities stronger, it will make us less prepared for the future. I implore you to truly think about the children, my children, my neighbors children, all the children who chose to support the public schools of this great state. We are all watching you. If you choose private schools over your own state then we will know there is a motive that is not the children's greatest good. And we will remember when we vote.

Reagan Berry

Self - Principal, Wylie High School, Wylie ISD

Abilene, TX

First, thank you for serving the people of our great state and serving on the Public Education House Committee. Second, I want to tell you that I have thoroughly enjoyed listening to the hearings within your committee. I find the dialogue incredibly insightful as well as clarifying.

As stated in my first sentence, the position you have chosen for yourself and then chosen by others to sit in is one of service. I hope throughout the 89th Legislative Session that you have the people you serve at the forefront of your mind. I hope you have all children, all parents, all teachers, all principals, all taxpayers, all community members, all industry leaders, all farmers, all businessmen, all healthcare workers, all homemakers, and all that you serve at the forefront of your mind.

On Tuesday, as you reflect, dig in, dissect, and listen to public testimony on House Bill 3, I pray that you will consider the voices crying and championing for public education. We're chanting for change. As a product of public education and a public educator now for 17 years, I see the cracks and the flaws. I see the need for improvement and I see the struggles many public schools are facing. What I do not see is how a voucher program will help in any of those areas.

What I see is a state government that has given up on their own public education system, a state government that refuses to see the ways it has failed its own people within that system, and a money-driven run to yet another government system that has not proven successful in any other states. This state does not need yet another bureaucracy-ran system in an area that was created to escape the government bureaucracy. This state needs a targeted focus within its own public education system. This state needs to reflect on the conservative values of "less government", examine how bureaucracies have infiltrated our public schools, untangle the web that has been spun within public education, and work to set new precedents within public education.

Texas has never been a state to follow other states, especially with systems that have proven to fail. Texas is considered great because of how it serves its people. Representatives, I urge you to consider the people you are serving. A school voucher program is not wanted by the people you serve. A school voucher program will not benefit those that are being touted as beneficiaries. A school voucher program will greatly impact the public schools that are called to serve their communities. Prior to voting for any voucher program, I urge you to remember the masses you are serving. I urge you to do better than follow other states' failed attempts. I urge you to innovate and partner with educators to reform our public education system that serves the families you serve. I urge you to remember that families already have school choice, and your duty is to make the choice of public education a better system for all families.

suzy stewart
self retired school teacher
fredericksburg, TX

Please do not pass the HB 3. This state has always been in the lower 40's in education across the nation and yet you will not help the public education in this state. Passing HB 3 will hurt the public education even more. This is a slap in the face of the best teachers and schools and allowing the people who can already afford to send their child to private schools to get more tax payers money that is to go to public education. It is not right to direct these taxes to anything other than public education. I personally oppose this idea, and deffinitely oppose the private money going to law makers to get this passed. Its a bad bad idea.

Jennifer Matus
Self/Public School Educator
Spring, TX

I have been a public educator both as a teacher and school counselor in Klein ISD for 25 years. I have two children who are the product of our Texas public school system, and are now studying at the University of Texas at Austin pursuing college degrees. Public education in the state of Texas is critical to preparing the next generation in order to continue moving our great state forward. It seems vouchers passing is inevitable. At this point as a public educator and parent, I am asking that the public education student be valued equally to that of a student receiving a voucher. I am specifically asking if a voucher student receives \$10,000 that a public school student also receive \$10,000 in state funding. Without an increase in per-pupil funding public schools will be decimated over the next 2 to 3 years. The fact is that public school districts have not seen a per-pupil increase from the \$6160 since 2019. We are paying 2025 prices on a 2019 budget. The headlines are proof all over the state. Great school districts are having to cut programming, cut staff and even close buildings due to not receiving an increase in over five years. I ask that in your deliberations today you consider increasing the amount of per people funding you currently have in HB3 to equal that of what a voucher student will be receiving. I further ask that public schools be funded on an enrollment basis versus an attendance based system. It costs the same amount of money to run and staff a public school classroom whether there are five students or 25 students sitting in the desks. This committee has an amazing opportunity today to equalize the playing field for all students in the state of Texas. I ask that you all reach into your mind and hearts to value every child's future. Thank you for your time today.

Ashley Draughon
Self
Cibolo, TX

Vote no against School Vouchers. It will destroy our public education. We should invest into our public schools to make them better verses giving our money in Vouchers to private education.

Michelle Moses
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose school vouchers. Public funds belong in public schools.

Catherine Garcia
Self
Lubbock, TX

I do not support the voucher program. It leaves students that are at most risk behind by not requiring acceptance of all students, like students with disabilities. Vouchers do not cover the full amount, so only the ones with enough money can afford it. Public education receives funding per student, so only the families that are lucky enough to be able to afford the remaining amount after the discount the voucher program offers, will leave. Public schools will have less and less money remaining for the students at most risk. Our rural communities that are already suffering will be impacted the greatest because those left behind will not have the resources to get the education needed for a better life, like transportation to education that is offered by public schools. Please do not leave children who need you the most behind.

Courtney Shipp

Self

Mineral Wells, TX

No. I do not, nor does my family of educators, support this bill.

jessyca Smith

Self

Roanoke, TX

I am asking our law makers to do the right thing and vote against vouchers. They are a waste of financial resources and have failed in so many other states. Do the right thing for Texas families and vote against vouchers.

Stephanie Webb

Self

Temple, TX

I strongly disagree with this program. Private schools and home schooling are not held to the same standards. Public schools are required to accept ALL students regardless of testing scores or behavioral concerns, they are held to attendance standards that deduct money for absences and private schools are not, the teachers are not required to have the same certifications in private schools, special education needs are not considered when expelling a child in a private school, and the public schools are required to teach a curriculum and pass standardized testing that a private school does not have. I am not opposed to school vouchers, but I am opposed to not having a level playing field. This bill is giving MORE money per student to a private school than a public school. This is a gross misrepresentation of what a school voucher could be.

Sylnovia Rabb

Self

Pflugerville, TX

As a proud product of public education, I stand in firm opposition to Texas House Bill 3 and the establishment of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). This policy will further erode public school funding, disproportionately benefiting wealthy families while diverting critical resources away from the students and communities that need them most.

Our public schools are already struggling due to the detrimental effects of the Robin Hood funding system, which has failed to equitably support all districts. Instead of creating a voucher-style program that redirects taxpayer dollars to private institutions with little accountability, we should focus on fully funding our public schools. When adequately resourced, public education provides every child—regardless of zip code or socioeconomic status—the opportunity to succeed.

HB 3 is not about choice; it is about abandoning our responsibility to the majority of Texas students who rely on public schools. If we truly care about education, we must invest in our schools, pay our teachers competitive salaries, and ensure every child has access to high-quality learning environments. Texas does not need an ESA program—it needs a legislature committed to strengthening, not undermining, public education.

I urge our lawmakers to reject HB 3 and prioritize real solutions that uplift all Texas students, not just a privileged few.

Candice Swanson

Self

Hurst, TX

My husband and I don't have any children, but we have never had objection to paying the line item on our tax bill that specifically says Birdville ISD because we understand it's for the greater good. We paid FWISD taxes for 12 years, and now Birdville ISD for 24 years so lots of our dollars went into the coffers. However, we have objections for our tax dollars going to private schools. Public money = public schools. Save our public schools. My in-laws were elementary and jr high teachers. My cousin is a teacher in Keller. I have another cousin who teaches at a public magnet school in FWISD. We have dozens of friends who are public school teachers and my husband has a teaching degree from North Texas. We are standing with our family and friends who teach at the public schools here in Texas. NO PUBLIC TAXPAYER MONEY FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS. That's simply a money grab for the people who already go to private schools. We've seen the statistics from other states that have tried the voucher system. We are being sold a bunch of baloney by pro-voucher people. Please vote "NO" on vouchers and ESAs. Thank you.

Vicki Scott

Self

Willis, TX

An educated society benefits everyone!! Stop this proposed SCAM in its tracks!!!

Stacy Roberts

Self

Cedar Park, TX

No matter how you name it, stop trying to gut public education! Only public education has to service all students. Only public education is subject to rules and restrictions of standardized testing and finance laws. A healthy public education system elevated us all. Stop trying to hurt educators and students.

Karen Gilmore

Self - librarian

Pearland, TX

The way I look at this issue is to compare it to a local police department: I am in favor of and certainly appreciate having the local police officers working for my good and for the good of the public in general. But if I felt the need for a constant police presence at my home specifically I would not expect the public to pitch in to pay for that - it would be my responsibility to pay for that privilege. Public education is there for everyone, and it is good. Taking funds away and giving it to people who feel a need for a specific and targeted type of education that is not a right but is a privilege is the epitome of selfishness. No one suggests that private education doesn't have its place but no one should expect the general public to help provide private education to the masses, especially when those private schools have the ability to turn away a student who doesn't fit their agenda. All private schools are not set up for children with disabilities or special needs, but public schools do accept all students with all abilities and needs. Public education is where the focus should be.

Susanna Olivarez

Self

Austin, TX

Do not support/ this is not about educating all our children/ it's about giving more money to the wealthy/ stop already

Alison Thorn

Self/Principal

NACOGDOCHES, TX

I strongly oppose Texas House Bill 3 (HB3) due to its undue burden on educators, the misallocation of resources, and the overreach into school operations without addressing the real needs of students and teachers.

Chelsee Jordan

Self/Children's Pastor & Mother of 5

Lubbock, TX

I am against Vouchers. That money should go to our public education system to pay teachers more and help with our teacher shortage. Classroom sizes are too high and more teachers are needed to lower the teacher to student ratio in the public school system. Public school teachers deserve so much more.

Many private school parents that I have spoken with also do not want vouchers.

Elizabeth Watson

Self

Lacoste, TX

I am opposed!

Anns Berasley

self

Austin, TX

Chair and Members,

I urge you to vote against HB 3 and all bills that will create Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) or other programs that will direct public money to be used for private schools. My K-12 education and that of my children has been a mix of public and private education. I understand why families may choose to send their children to a private school, but public tax dollars should not be used to support that choice. Public schools are already underfunded and diverting more funds will only make this worse. In addition, the fiscal note shows that the administrative cost will be \$6.4 million a year and include hiring an additional 46 employees. Again, I urge you to vote against HB 3 and support public education in Texas.

Dori Reuscher

Self

Wylie, TX

Please vote no to vouchers. No one wants them.

Courtney Abubakar

WFISD

Wichita Falls, TX

I do not support the voucher bill. As a public school teacher I see every day how under funded our schools are, and the direct relationship of this lack of funding to harmful outcomes. This voucher scam is going to further harm our schools and the kids who attend them. Do not pass this bill

Megan Lanning

Self/My Children

Mansfield, TX

The only choice Texas wants is to fully fund schools and pay teachers fairly. Please give Texas the option to vote on school vouchers before ruining the public school system even further. NO VOUCHERS. Thank you!

Rebecca Lorzundi

Self, Crowley ISD, Dyslexia Interventionist

Burleson, TX

Please keep state funding in public schools that are accountable to the state. Private schools generally don't accept students with disabilities because they cannot serve their needs. For my students with dyslexia, public school is the only way they could get dyslexia therapy. Private dyslexia therapy costs hundreds if not thousands a month (if taught to fidelity). Let's use public funds to support public schools!

sarah rodenberg

Self - tech

Austin, TX

Education of our children is the key to a healthy functioning society. The Texas school system is already far underfunded. To take more away from a system that serves ALL children equally when private schools do not is abhorrent and dangerous to the future of our country's success. This bill is nothing more than the elite trying to stay elite. We should be ashamed of ourselves. If this passes, I certainly hope you choose to significantly increase funding for public schools.

Monica Marling

Self/Server

Austin, TX

I am opposed to an ESA or school choice or school voucher system. Our public and charter schools need greater funding, not to have their precious and few dollars diverted to private schools that have fewer academic oversights and that are not required to accommodate students with disabilities. Let's focus on uplifting communities, schools, educators and faculty who work tirelessly to support our Texas children and their families. Educators at my daughter's school are working full time and still struggling with food insecurity. Our educators and school staff should not have to visit food pantries to keep dinner on the table. Funneling money away from public schools to pay for private schools through a voucher program does not benefit Texas school districts. Please vote no on this bill and yes for MORE funding for our students. Texas ranks in the bottom of national education and we can and should be doing better by funding public schools with public dollars! No on vouchers or education savings account programs.

Allison Tater

Self—parent of public school kids

Austin, TX

Please do not impose vouchers on the people of Texas, this is not the way to go about addressing the issues we are facing with our schools.

Vote no on vouchers!

Rachel Smith

My family

Austin, TX

I believe in the public education system. My children deserve the same quality education as wealthier families. I refuse my tax dollars to support private schools that wealthy folks are fully capable of paying for themselves. This is an outrageous scam against our children and dedicated teachers. Do not defund our public school.

Debra Sherrill

Self

College Station, TX

I worked in education for 21 years and this bill is already hurting public education. The schools are having to cut teachers and counselors due to a lack of funding. Vouchers will ruin public schools and it has already started before the bill has passed. Vote no

Tamika Smith

Self

Houston, TX

I do not support this bill. This bill will cause problems for public school attendance, which would decline. I am afraid this bill would be issued out unfairly. I also feel private schools will unfairly pick and choose what students they will accept in their private schools. The only students benefiting from this bill will be the students already enrolled and Caucasian students.

Yolanda Noyola, Mrs

Los Fresnos
Los Fresnos, TX

Stop

Emily Watson

Self
Austin, TX

I do not support this scheme to defund our public schools. As a mom a two kids in public school, I've seen how our schools already struggle to meet funding obligations. My kids have had a wonderful experience in their schools. Public schools are the cornerstone of our democracy; they deserve your full support. Stop trying to give charity to the wealthy with this bill.

Betty Smith

Self
Pasadena, TX

I believe school vouchers is taxation without representation. If my tax money goes to private school I have no voice in what is taught or not taught. Instead of giving our tax money away invested in the kids in public schools by giving them a better education.

Angie Merriman

self
Austin, TX

I am a public school teacher of 20 years, and learning Texas elected officials want to take away from public education and focus on school segregation, that terrifies me! School vouchers will segregate families to those that now can afford private schools and those that can not. This will divide our families through financial means. Our school district has been careful with funds, but with no increase in the Basic Allotment in 6 years and other pressures like inflation and increased needs, we have had to let teachers and other vital staff go, increase class sizes, and discontinue programs that are beneficial to our students. I am angry about this; it will affect my child's school experience. I demand that Gov Abbott stop playing games with my child's future and FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. I also demand that you VOTE NO ON THE VOUCHER SCAM so that our limited money and resources can be put to the best use for our students- and we have full accountability and transparency of that money. This issue matters to me and I vote. Thank you.

Elaine Kinzey

Self
Kingwood, TX

Please vote no on this give away of my tax dollars, as it will hurt public schools and the kids who attend them.

Amanda Braziel-Holleman, Ms.

Self- librarian
Austin, TX

I am writing to OPPOSE the creation of vouchers that would defund Teacher Retirement System and public schools. Our free public schools serve EVERYONE, and our educators bend over backwards and sacrifice untold amounts of energy and opportunity in an effort to educate and create a more informed citizenry. Public school teachers ensure our democracy. Do NOT defund public schools or public school educators' retirement!

Dave Holmgreen

Self, education

Portland, TX

If passed, this bill would open Pandora's box. Not only in education but for all private entities without state oversight to receive funding.

School choice already exists in Texas through open transfers for educational betterment. Please don't cripple the system that is already underfunded.

Boys against ESA's.

Julie Croy, Mrs

self

China Spring, TX

Dear Rep. Buckley and the Education Committee,

I oppose HB3. Parents already have school choice in Texas, however they may not have the funds to pay for a better choice.

Property tax relief or even elimination could empower parents to use that savings for education. It is THEIR responsibility, not the responsibility go EVERY Texas taxpayer to fund savings accounts for private education in addition to public school funding.

Our neighborhood schools are failing despite record funding. Why? HB3 is a bandaid for a system that needs major surgery. I

believe HB3 increases government and decreases liberty and violates GOP core values. It is disappointing to see that this issue

was not on the list of priorities determined by the people but the politicians deemed it so. You work for us and many Texans

oppose this bill. I homeschooled my children AND paid for schools we did not use. Taxation is theft! HB3 will increase property

taxes and eventually drive families out of their homes. Will there be a savings account created for them? Again, I oppose HB3.

Mrs. Julie Croy

K'Leigh Hernandez

Self

Slaton, TX

I opposed HB 3. As a resident of rural West Texas, many schoolage children do not have access to a private school within a reasonable vicinity. Most private schools in Lubbock County are religious private schools. Public funds are not meant to be given to private entities.

Janice Stokes

Self/ certified academic lang therapist

Houston, TX

I realize there are many problems in public schools but I don't believe this voucher is the solution for many reasons. One is I already leave in a district that has been taken over by the state and it mismanagement is sending kids away from the district in droves so it continues to lose more and money morning each year even though Mike Miles (Hisd) was supposed to make the district wonderful again. Not only that but teachers are also leaving the district, I personally know many wonderful teachers who left the district after 35-40 years and even principal of the year have now left. The state was supposed to come in and make this district better and if that was the case students pupils and leaders would not be leaving. As I see it, this is a ploy to get push people to go to charters. This is why I think this bill is not correct at this time. Maybe in the future but now let invest more in public schools . As a triplet mom even though I would have loved for my trips to attend private even with a 10,000 voucher per kid I would have not been able to afford it. Please don't pass this bill.

Jessica Gonzalez, Brownsville ISD Board Member

Brownsville ISD

Brownsville, TX

Public Written Testimony

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

<http://dontdefundmyschool.com>

According to Don't Defund My Schools, implementing a large voucher program would drain \$15,192,173 from Brownsville ISD, diverting critical resources away from public schools to private institutions that lack public accountability. That could mean as many as 283 fewer teachers for students, 303,843 fewer library books, and a projected increase in student-teacher ratio of 7.29%.

HB 3 does not provide for parental choice, because it allows private schools to reject students based on their disability, race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Specifically, Section 29.368 of the bill gives private schools unprecedented autonomy, including the ability to reject any student for any reason. Many private schools will likely turn away students who are already struggling in public schools. All students deserve to have equal access to quality education and the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of their background. Texans would be better served by increasing funding to our community schools, which accept all of our children reg

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Texas already offers school choice through inter-district transfers in BISD and other districts, as well as numerous public charter school options. Vouchers Do Not Equal "Choice."

— Thank you for all you do.

Elaine Golden

Self

Utopia, TX

Respectfully, please preserve small rural schools. School vouchers will be less funding and result in closure at small schools, which many cases is the largest employer in small towns which will effectively have poor outcomes for the small town. If will already add to income loss in the rural areas. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Shafaq Moten, Dr.

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

School Voucher. It is a ridiculous idea to take away money from public school to send less than 2% of students to school of choice. The amount taken away from public school will have a significantly larger negative impact on a public school than the positive impact on the school of choice. As history has shown again and again the vouchers overwhelmingly go to kids already enrolled in private school hence giving the "rich" a basic coupon as opposed to the student who was in the lower income bracket. That student couldn't even afford the difference of tuition to voucher much less any extracurricular activity costs.

I get that people who donated most to Abbot are wanting this as to gut the already lacking in resources public education system and perhaps the added pressure of re-election to the republicans but please do not forget the people who voted for you. History has shown how the vouchers program has gutted the public system in Alabama, Milwaukee and other cities and states. There is NO greater good in this bill. Yes we get \$220 something more basic allotment per student but that is peanuts compared to the 10k voucher per student. Please do not pass this atrocity of a bill.

Odulia Ashby

Self

Cibolo, TX

Vote "NO" on vouchers. Do the right thing for your entire constituent population. Public schools support our future economies and local workforce. Private, Charter and Religious based schools don't adhere to all TEA policies and can willingly discriminate against any student who applies, especially students with disabilities. The schools accepting vouchers are not accessible to ALL students and there are limited or nonexistent in rural areas. Do the right thing and Vote "NO" on this voucher bill.

Melissa Tovar

Self

Marion, TX

Please vote no to school voucher program. Private entities should not receive tax money while being allowed to discriminate against those with disabilities. This program will benefit 1% of Texas students, which won't impact our state wholly at all. Vote no.

Roger Beikmann

Self

Lubbock, TX

I feel strong about education and having it available to everyone. I do not feel that I or we should fund, pay for families that want private education. I believe this is a privilege to attend those organizations and should not be funded by people that already pay taxes to public schools.

Jackie Kloppenburg

Self

Spring, TX

HB3 is a scam. It doesn't serve public school students, it serves only the wealthy. Please fund the public schools and remember the separation of church and state!

Jacquie Benestante, Mrs
Autism Society of Texas
Austin, TX

HB 3 - Against

My name is Jacquie Benestante and I'm the Executive Director at the Autism Society of Texas. Autism Society is the oldest grassroots Autism organization in the country. The CDC Autism prevalence rate is 1 in 36. The Autism Society of Texas, a nonprofit organization, serves families and Autistic adults in over 100 Texas counties through our free Navigating Autism Support Program, and we know what our community needs are. We are opposed to HB 3 and have several concerns regarding Education Savings Accounts, especially as it relates to students with autism and other disabilities.

While vouchers may sound like a great option for families, there are several issues the Autism Society of Texas and many other disability rights organizations have about their effects on students with disabilities.

The biggest issue families of children face when it comes to private schools is discrimination. Private schools are not required to accept students with disabilities, or if they do, they may expel them and keep the tuition.

Private schools are not required to provide disability services as outlined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which can mean a loss of individualized support, modifications and accommodations which are a critical need for students with disabilities to access learning.

Vouchers may only cover a small fraction of the tuition. While there are some private schools that cater only to students with Autism, they can range in price greatly, with some in urban areas ranging from \$20-40,000/year. In addition, these are concentrated in Texas' largest cities, leaving the majority of children around the state unable to access any private school.

Private schools are not required to provide transportation for students. This sets up another burden for families who don't have the extra thousands of dollars needed to pay to get their student to the specialized private school when they also lack transportation.

We urge the Committee to instead, focus on increasing public school funding and changing the Special Education funding formula to an intensity-based formula that would address individual need, and not base funding on the setting where Special Education services are provided. Our Special Education students and their teachers should be fully supported in every school in Texas so that all students in Texas have access to a high quality education and the opportunity to succeed. Thank you.

Point of contact: Jacquie Benestante, Executive Director (jacquie@texasautismsociety.org)

Keithly Presley

self

Austin, TX

I do not support HB3.

Mike Royalty

Self (Self Employed)

Crowley, TX

Bad idea guys. Other states have tried this and failed miserably. I know, I know, because we're Texans "we can git 'er dun". My daughter is an elementary school teacher with a Master Degree. She enjoys teaching kids from all walks of life, all levels of financial security. This bill is designed to let the parents who can afford it, pull their kids from public schools, thus lessening both their kids and the "others" (less well off kids) exposure to all levels of society. HB 3 is NOT ABOUT THE KIDS - its about the parents and it's NOT a real Texas thing. Just say NO! Best Regards, Mike

Brittany Wright, Mrs.

Self-teacher

Lubbock, TX

My name is Brittany Wright and I live in Lubbock, TX. I am one of your concerned constituents and an active voter, asking you to stand up for public education in Texas and vote against Senate Bill 2.

I am included in the majority of Texans who do not support a voucher system and am alarmed at the proposed funding for education. This imbalance between public and private funding will further the gap of opportunity for marginalized students in our state and strip away accountability.

We need a well educated workforce in our great state and that begins by investing in our local communities and neighborhood schools. I am asking you to step up for our future and a fully funded public education system and vote against any voucher measures.

Thank you for your time and I will be watching how you vote on this critical issue.

Carl Blake

Self

Abilene, TX

Respectfully, I am a pastor and a lifelong resident of Texas. I am a strong supporter of public education. One of the promises of a free society has always been free education for everyone. Please strengthen our public schools and keep the promise.

Shamarie Mitchell

self

Littlefield, TX

Please vote no. This bill will hurt the average person. Even with the voucher only wealthy will be able to transport their children to these schools. It will also hurt the public school system.

Megan Parsill

Self

Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Megan Parsill, and I am a constituent in zip code 78735. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3. I urge my Representative and this Committee to vote against it and, instead, prioritize fully funding public education. Texas already offers meaningful school choice, but what is truly needed are the necessary resources to ensure our public schools can provide every child in Texas with the quality education they deserve. This includes the accountability and due process required to ensure that education is effectively delivered.

We should not allocate resources to privatized schools that operate with little to no accountability to the public. I believe proponents of this bill are unable to point to any successful examples of similar laws in other states that have achieved the stated goals of this bill. In fact, voucher systems like the one proposed have proven to be a failed experiment, and if this bill passes, it will likely harm more families than it benefits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shera Welch

Teachers

Alpine, TX

No vouchers pay raise for teachers.

Hallie Garcia
Self
Richardson, TX

I'd like to comment against HB 3. My children go to an amazing magnet school in Richardson ISD. This school is also a title 1 school. The teachers, admin, staff, and principle are amazing and we believe in the quality of education they provide. With funding already short, I know bills like this will further impact wonderful schools like the one my children attend.

If offered a voucher, we still would not be able to afford private school. And quite frankly, I wouldn't want to. Private schools don't have to comply or meet IEP or gifted education standards, both of which my children need. Private schools aren't held to the same Texas standards, and therefore get to choose what they offer, which leaves kids unsupported and falling behind.

I've heard that funding this bill would ease overcrowding. Have any of you been to these community schools? I know my rep has, and they've seen the closing of schools and the district making hard choices because there aren't enough butts in seats. We don't need to loose more Texas children to private schools, when we instead need to be bolstering our Texas schools. Helping the MOST Texans, and not just a wealthy few.

Thank you.

Robert Bayard
Self - Realtor
Lubbock, TX

As a conservative Texan without kids in public schools, I urge you to oppose HB3. If 3% of Texas kids will take advantage of vouchers, then leave 97% of funding with public schools. The future of our Texas society depends on public schools. Gutting our schools of appropriate funding equates to gutting our future economic prosperity.

If you still feel strongly that Texans support vouchers/ESAs, then place it in on the ballot.

The communities that will suffer from this Robin Hood attempt at funding are small and rural communities where they depend on public schools which are the cornerstones of the communities they serve. The are the communities that solidly vote Republican. Imagine if you invest \$1 Billion more into public schools! Texans would surpass educational outcomes of every other state in the country.

Jean Parrish
Self
Magnolia, TX

I do not support this bill for school vouchers. This will hurt our public schools and the future of education in our state. I urge all representatives to vote no.

Erica Mims
Self
Austin, TX

My name is Erica Mims - I am a resident and taxpayer in Austin, Texas, and I strongly oppose HB 3 and the creation of educational savings accounts (ESAs) for private school vouchers. I urge you to reject this bill. Please instead support our public schools to ensure equitable education for all.

Amanda Bailey

Self, teacher, tax payer, voter

Houston, TX

Please vote no to vouchers or any type of educational savings account program. I do not want my taxes going to any private institution that does not have the same regulations and testing requirements that public schools are obligated to follow. Private schools would have no oversight and no guarantee of that child's success. Please focus on fully funded all public schools, ensure there are certified teachers in all classrooms and have enough support staff to serve all students with disabilities. Increase funds for Texas public schools, make our public schools strong so we have a strong educated workforce that will be a benefit future employers. Invest in a strong trades programs in high schools because it's not all about going to college. Put more into elementary education so that all students are reading on level by 3rd grade. That means giving them enough funding to have certified teachers and support staff. Public education is meant to give every child an equal education no matter their parents income. Public education only works if you pour into it not take away from it. It's extremely disappointing that a man from Pennsylvania Jeff Yass can manipulate so many Texans into believing the lie that is school vouchers. Listen to educators, we are the experts we know what is needed and we are tired of being asked to do more with less. Please vote no and fully fund public education!

Cathy Kyle, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

My children received an excellent education and graduated from Texas public schools. My sister and husband taught in Texas public schools. They and their students have suffered from lack of proper funding of public schools for the last few years. Please do not continue to gut Texas schools with public school vouchers by using public dollars for private education which will be a further drain on our public schools. We should be putting more money in public education, not hamstringing students, parents and teachers by continued education cuts.

Carol Riedel

Self

MURCHISON, TX

This bill will destroy Texas public education especially in rural areas. It's not good for our kids! It's not good for our public schools. It's not good for our tax payers. I have not met a single person in the area where I live who is for it and, believe me, as a retired teacher I have asked! Nobody but the people who can already afford it want vouchers. Vote no!

Jenni Herzberg

Self

Mansfield, TX

One of the reasons I moved my family back to Texas was for the public schools. Over the last few years I have been disheartened at the way our schools have been politicized and used to push party agendas. Some public services are not meant to be privatized in public education is one of those things. After years of refusing to appropriately fund our students and teachers, there are many who now wish to pull public dollars away from public schools and make it harder to recruit and retain great teachers. Educational savings accounts are making it more difficult for districts to come up with the money to support the programs that most enrich our students lives — athletics, fine arts, librarians, and other enrichment programs will all be on the chopping block for public schools. Or public schools are expected to serve ALL students, private, and charter schools do not carry that same responsibility. It is difficult to digest that this bill is good for Texans when there are so many standing up and opposition to this legislation. Parent choice is propaganda, sold by our governor and many of you, on the errand of big political donors from outside of our state. The pitch for this program has been deceitful in the way that it's worded. If it was such a great plan, you would be able to speak more clearly and simply on its behalf. This plant is not fiscally responsible, and it is not in the best interest of all the children of Texas. But sadly, the way that you have funded this bill shows us where your priorities are. You have shown us in writing that you find more value in a student who is attending private school than a student who is attending public school

Manuela Tejchma

Self, IT manager

Austin, TX

Hi

I do not want my taxpayer money to go to private schools. I want public schools to be fully funded to give everyone access to a quality education.

Vouchers take away money and predominantly give it to private schools whose clients are already able to afford it. Vouchers will not do anything to improve education access in rural areas, and they won't do anything to improve education for all.

Other states have tried voucher programs and it ends up being more expensive than just funding public education. Example: Arizona. Catastrophic failure.

The best education and test ratings come out of states that fully funded public education. Take a moment to digest that. Texas can, and should be a top state for education. It is not. It is failing our children for the future and vouchers will make this even worse.

Say NO to vouchers!

Amy Roseman

Self

Dallas, TX

This bill will dramatically hurt the education of poor children while helping the wealthy. We need to boost education for ALL. Trxans

Elizabeth Wylie

Self

Weatherford, TX

Texas Residents kindly ask that the HB3 not be passed. This will mostly affect rural public schools who do not have the means with families that do not have an option for Private/Charter schools. Thank you for your time.

Staci Weaver

Self - school-based occupational therapist

Bryan, TX

I strongly oppose the creation of a school voucher system in Texas. I am deeply concerned about our public education system and believe that every resource should be applied to supporting reform within our current system and not creating a public-supported alternative that will drain our resources further. Texas has excellent teachers and school-based professionals who serve our children. The expectations placed on these individuals does not match their compensation or clear data about child development. Education reform is needed, but not at the expense of our public education system. As a parent, and now grandparent, I am extremely concerned about the majority of Texas children, and the state of education we will leave for them. I am also extremely concerned about the impact this system may have on the TRS system. Placing the TRS system in jeopardy, which has clearly been reported as a legitimate concern, is foolish and disrespectful to generations of retired teachers, current Texas teachers, and those to come. We must find a way forward by utilizing the knowledge and experience of those who are actually in our education systems. For too long, decisions about our education system have been placed within the hands of those who have no experience in the classroom or understanding of child development. We do not need outside consultation at a great cost to our state, outside firms creating testing scenarios that cost us billions, or a coupon system for the wealthy that provides supposedly more choices for those who already have the resources to make choices far beyond most Texas families with young children.

Our legislature must take responsibility for addressing the real problems in our school system. Privatizing the system is not the answer. This decision will impact generations to come. Let this moment in time represent a real step toward reform and accountability for our children, instead of representing further foolish decisions that negatively impact all of our futures in our state. We must do better.

Mark Johnson
Self, Mech Engineer
Liberty Hill, TX

I strongly urge any education savings account program treat every student in the state of TX equally, across the board, no exceptions regarding qualifications, location, funding amount [except for Home School funding per student] etc. We must allow ALL parents to make important decisions regarding their tax dollars and their children's education. Let the era of actual competition between all K-12 schools in TX begin. Now is the time.

Jill Adams
Self, mom and engineering project manager
Lewisville, TX

This bill is not school choice. This is a scam to create a larger educational disparity between the rich and poor. I live in a neighborhood which our public elementary school will be shut down in fall due to lack of funding by the state. It's absolutely disgusting that my child can be allocated more state funds going to a private school than our public school would get. If y'all are passionate about true school choice, the allocation per student for public schools should match the state allocation of the voucher. Texas is better than this. Texas children deserve more than this.

Grace Hedrick
Self, client management
Austin, TX

Defunding public schools and putting the few over the many is immoral and unAmerican. You should be ashamed of yourself.

Donna Short
self/public school educator
Wolfforth, TX

I completely disagree with this bill. It takes funding away from public schools. Further, private schools do not have to accept all students. Those with learning disabilities, those that are behind, and the like. I am disappointed that Gov. Abbott has visited schools to show public support, but he has only visited private schools. Not one picture reveals the diversity of our state! I know this because these are specifically stated on private school's websites here where I live. Additionally, there is no STAAR/EOC accountability. I also live in rural west Texas, what do those districts do when, they lose funding, but have no charter/private schools within 100 miles?

How about funding the public or and provide raises for counselors, educators and the like? I am frustrated that our leaders are not listening. Here we wanted, Cal Tepper to have a town hall. Not only did he refuse, but he yelled at constituents, and deleted his facebook account. Basically, revealing he has no desire to listen to the public.

I would hope this does not pass or, if it is so "great", put it back on the ballot!

Sharon Stratman
Self
TEXAS CITY, TX

This program has failed in many states, with clear winners and losers, with the winners being, predictably, the wealthy who already have resources. Before trying something "new" just fix the funding for a system already established to work when funded sufficiently, instead of funding your friends and donors that don't need it! The job of the state is to raise every child up with education, not those already riding high.

Michael Johnson
Self / Teacher-Coach
Granbury, TX

No

Michael Michaleson, Mr.
Self public school administrator
Olton, TX

If this bill is truly to implement a program to help lift the kids with few resources or options who are trapped in a failing public school, why set the qualifying number at 500% of the federal poverty rate? Surely there are enough children in the state of Texas at a number much lower who would qualify and thereby eliminate or significantly reduce the need for a lottery system to select the kids who would receive the assistance. Or you could really help a new set of kids by only allowing those who are currently enrolled in public schools (or better yet, schools on one of TEA's failing lists) the opportunity to receive the assistance. That would be putting the money where the rhetoric is...assuming that you agree with using public money to provide for an education with little to no oversight...which I don't.

Sara Abbas
Self / Marketing
Leander, TX

I am writing as a constituent and the parent of two Texas public schools students to express opposition to school vouchers for multiple reasons:

- * Vouchers defund our public schools: they are a scam encouraged by rich donors and lobbyists to steal public funds we paid for with our tax dollars away from public schools that serve our students. Evidence from other states shows the voucher model is not financially sound and destroys public schools and state budgets. This is in direct conflict with our obligation in the Texas Constitution to provide public schools for all Texas children.?
- * Discrimination: Vouchers drive discrimination against students and allow private schools to pick and choose who they want to admit. Private schools don't accommodate disabled and special-needs students and drive segregation. ?
- * Lack accountability: Private schools that receive voucher funds are unaccountable to taxpayers, with many examples of fraud and abuse of public funds. ?
- * Don't improve student outcomes: There's no reliable evidence that vouchers improve student success. ?
- * Weaken communities: Vouchers weaken local community schools, especially in rural areas where public schools are the main infrastructure for students and families.

As a Texas taxpayer, I demand that you do your jobs and prioritize the interests of Texans over this political scam. Vote NO on school vouchers.

Sara Mariani Abbas
Leander, Texas

Cliffton Karnes, Mr.
Self - PHP Manager
Early, TX

Putting it simply - no. I'm a hardline conservative Republican, and I do not support diverting additional public funds to privatize education. This is a public duty that needs full public support. With the "extra" funds, offset expenses to decrease property tax liability for citizens. There are many more legislative priorities than this. It has taken full legislative focus and shouldn't be this enamoring. In summary, NO!

Joan Carney
self
Lago Vista, TX

I'm a former fifth grade teacher and strongly support public schools.

I am against HB-3 because it will do little to help the groups that the program was meant to help and will drain public schools of badly needed funding.

One of the bill's provisions calls for giving low income families priority in the ESA lottery. Average private school tuition alone is \$11,340, not to mention cost of books, transportation, and so on. For a low-income family, any additional cost over the legislated ESA amount is a burden most may not be able to afford.

The other prioritized group is families of children with disabilities. There are few schools available to them in the first place. And it's made clear in the bill that private schools can reject special needs applicants at will. So most of the families won't be able to find a school that will enroll their special needs child.

With those two groups out of the running, most of the funds will be available to regular students. The result is predictable based on what happened in Arizona. In 2023, 69% of the new Arizona student sign-ups were already enrolled in private schools. It amounted to subsidizing with taxpayer dollars tuition that wealthier families were already paying. Since the kids had never been in public school, it was a brand new cost to the state. I don't want to see that play out in Texas with taxpayer money.

Charitie Whitman
Self
Tyler, TX

Texas House Bill 3 and its inclusion of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) pose a significant threat to public education by diverting taxpayer dollars away from public schools and into private institutions. This voucher-style program would allocate \$10,000 per student for families choosing private education, but the reality is that ESAs disproportionately benefit families who are already financially capable of affording private school tuition while leaving public schools and teachers underfunded.

Public schools serve all students, regardless of background, ability, or financial status. Private schools, on the other hand, are not bound by the same accountability measures, admission requirements, or special education mandates. They can selectively admit students, which raises concerns about equity and access. Furthermore, many rural areas in Texas do not even have private school options, meaning HB 3 will funnel taxpayer money away from local schools with no benefit to the majority of families.

This bill also puts the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) at risk. Public school funding is directly tied to enrollment, and reducing student numbers through ESAs will reduce the financial support for TRS, ultimately harming retired teachers who dedicated their lives to educating Texas children.

Additionally, homeschool families have voiced concerns, as accepting state funds could come with increased government oversight and curriculum regulations—something many homeschoolers strongly oppose.

Despite claims from Governor Abbott and other proponents, ESAs do not provide true school choice for all. The majority of private schools in Texas charge tuition well above \$10,000 per year, meaning this program acts as little more than a discount for wealthier families, not an opportunity for all students.

Public dollars should remain in public schools, ensuring that every child—regardless of zip code, income level, or ability—has access to a quality education. Texas should focus on fully funding our public schools, increasing teacher pay, and supporting the students who rely on our education system rather than implementing a program that will drain resources from the schools that need them most.

I urge lawmakers to reject House Bill 3 and instead prioritize strengthening Texas public education for all students.

Julia Kovach
Self/Caregiver
Austin, TX

Esteemed members of the Public Education Committee, my name is Julia Kovach and I am a Texan, a wife, a mother, and a passionate supporter of public education. I am opposed to HB 3 and all bills trying to force vouchers/ESAs onto myself and other taxpayers here in Texas. Any person with an ounce of sense and a morsel of conscience knows that this is an attempt to strangle the public school system here in Texas. "Education Savings Accounts" and so-called "school choice" IS A SCAM! This scam steals my taxpayer funds and gives it to wealthier families while my children's schools have to make do with the scraps. NO SIR, not on my watch. I'm SICK AND TIRED of this nonsense with vouchers. I'm SICK AND TIRED of our hardworking educators being forced out of a calling that they love because of a handful of elected officials and their well-heeled financial backers. I'm SICK AND TIRED of you, Mr. Chairman, and your fellow ESA supporters wasting time on the dais and letting the wellbeing of Texas children fall to the wayside.

Thank you for your time, and be assured that folks like me are fired up and we aren't going to put up with this blatant attempt to steal from Texas children.

Audrey Allen
Self
LUBBOCK, TX

The people of Texas will not benefit from a voucher program and they don't WANT a voucher program. Instead, we should fund public schools with the aim of equal education across the board. Vouchers will raise the education of a select few while students who don't qualify or there isn't space for will suffer in poorly funded public schools. As public schools fail without funding, I trust our governor will claim they don't function as an excuse to further syphon funds from our students. It's unacceptable.

Jeff Black
Self
Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,
We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

- 1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.
 - 2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.
 - 3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.
 - 4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot. This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.
- Thank you!

Susan Cramer
Self
Georgetown, TX

As a fifth generation my entire family has attended public schools exclusively. I chose to send my 4 children to public schools as well. All tax dollars should go to support public schools that can be regulated and have to take all children. It is criminal to even think of giving tax dollars for private schooling or homeschooling. I do not want my property taxes to go up which will happen because money is being taken from my local district and given to private schools. This shouldn't even be discussion. Keep my tax dollars supporting public schools. And while we are at it let's work it improve public schools! Teachers and student need more support from the State, not less.

Evan Black
Self
Houston, TX

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Thank you!

Julie Lewelling, Teacher
Self I'm a teacher
Lubbock, TX

Please do not pass this bill. You are not helping the students of texas by passing this bill.

Brian Lavelle
Self / Parent
Cedar Park, TX

Texas school vouchers are a deeply concerning policy that threatens the quality and equity of public education. The idea behind school vouchers is that parents can use taxpayer-funded vouchers to send their children to private schools, often religiously affiliated, rather than their local public schools. On the surface, it may seem like a good option for parents who feel their public schools are failing. However, there are several significant reasons why Texas should reject the implementation of school vouchers.

First and foremost, school vouchers divert critical funds away from public schools. Public schools are already underfunded and are struggling with overcrowded classrooms, outdated materials, and low teacher salaries. Taking more money out of public schools to fund private education only exacerbates these problems, leaving public school students with fewer resources. This not only harms students in public schools but also undermines the idea of providing every child with a quality education regardless of their background or financial situation.

Additionally, private schools that accept vouchers are not held to the same standards as public schools. They can discriminate based on academic performance, disability, or religious beliefs. As a result, some students—especially those with disabilities, English language learners, or those who need additional support—may be excluded or face fewer opportunities for success. Public schools are required to follow strict regulations to ensure all students have access to a free and appropriate education, but private schools can often bypass these safeguards.

School vouchers also fail to address the root causes of the problems in public education. Instead of improving the existing system, they simply allow wealthier families to "opt out" of public schools, while leaving behind those who are most in need. By focusing on providing quality education within public schools, Texas can create lasting change that benefits every student, not just a select few.

In conclusion, Texas should reject school vouchers in favor of strengthening public education and ensuring that all students, regardless of income or background, have access to a high-quality education.

Shawntal Brown
Self/Educator
Austin, TX

Vouchers are not useful for the citizens of Austin and our public school children. Do not pass this bill as it doesn't benefit the public education system in Texas or the beneficiaries of public education.

Kaitlin Seymore
self
Splendora, TX

I'm a Texas resident homeschool mother and I am against this bill. PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!!!

Carol Ann Cordell
Self, Mom
Flower Mound, TX

HB3 does not give parents “school choice”, but it absolutely gives private schools a choice in who they pick to attend their school. Parents overwhelmingly are not in favor of HB3 and are prepared to vote out everyone who votes in support of it. This esa doesn’t serve all kids, but especially not the low income parents who still can’t afford private school nor the families with special education kids, who won’t be accepted into a private school. The money that will be removed from public schools comes in the form of 100,000 students leaving our districts will bankrupt many schools and districts that are thriving despite being unfunded and forced to cover many unfunded mandates passed down by the state. This is not about bettering schools, if you wanted that you would have increased the basic allotment in 2023. This is about money and power and the billionaires who support this and have funded Abbotts campaign are the winners and our poor children will be the losers. Public schools are required to accept EVERYONE, they have oversight and are held accountable, they have to provide FAPE for students and ensure students aren’t being left behind. Private schools have no oversight, no accountability in how money is spent, no responsibility to ensure any special education student is given accommodations and any fly by night program could apply as a vendor and start receiving tens of thousands of public tax money with no restrictions or requirements to ensure children are being educated as the constitution requires. A vote for ESAs is a vote against the 5.4 million public school children and will be the demise of each and every one of the house representatives who vote in favor because Texas Parents won’t forget.

Amy Chien
Myself, Mansfield ISD Parent and PTA Board member
Arlington, TX

Thank you for allowing us to leverage technology to submit our statement when logistics restricted us from being present today for this important vote. I have owned a home and two parcels of land in Mansfield ISD where we are happy to pay taxes and support our local, public school. We specifically chose our home and our future home site with the land we purchased in the Mansfield ISD school system. Both of my children are high achieving students with not only advanced scores in academics, but have received awards and accolated for their kindness, generosity, and problem-solving skills. My children are well-rounded and receiving an excellent education in STEM, Arts, and specialized services like Speech therapy. The education and specialized services they have received has been outstanding, and the professionals I have had the private of encountering have been next level. I am so thankful for the resources our school district has had in the past, and I fear a severe lack in ability to retain the level of excellency if public school funds are redirected to private organizations that are already self-sufficient or other alternative means of education, like homeschooling, that would be logistically impossible to hold to the same level of excellence and standard expectation.

Jennifer Wedemeier
Self - marketing
Westworth Village, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools. I fully support our public schools!

Brandon Sprinkel, Mr
Self: Sales
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3!

Tori Holder
Self - Mom
Houston, TX

I oppose our tax dollars going to private institutions. This bill is not fiscally responsible nor will it improve education outcomes for our state.

Cynthia Lopez

Self

Houston, TX

I will only vote for representatives who have opposed HB 3. I do not support this bill nor those who vote yes to HB 3. Hear the voice of the majority. Vote your conscience.

Elizabeth Moore

Self

Austin, TX

I could not be more disappointed in what I heard from you yesterday, as you argued for this bill to be passed. The travesty of appropriating this money to the wealthiest bracket of Texans is deplorable. And please do not say yet again that this is for parents to have better or more choices for their kids, because we both know that that is not the issue at hand. Parents already have that choice. The question is whether or not they have the means, and \$10,000 will do absolutely nothing for a family who *wants* to send their child to a private school, but that school costs \$30,000/year. On top of that, for you to say that Special Education is readily available in private schools is a blatant lie. Very few private schools can admit children with special needs and even if they can, the parents have to pay an additional expense to receive the offering. The worst part of this whole debacle watching you try to defend this is that you KNOW this is not the right decision for Texas and yet you appear to be advocating for it for personal reasons. I am disheartened on behalf of my children and all of the other children in public schools who will be affected by this unfortunate decision

James Strickland

Katy Council of PTAs

Katy, TX

I would like to voice my position AGAINST HB3, and urge you to do the same.

Respectfully,

Nicole Ivey

Self teacher

Wylie, TX

Nobody wants vouchers. Public schools are already under funded.

Ashley Johnson

Self

Wylie, TX

We do not want vouchers. Public education is vital for all children. Anything that changes or alters public education going forward only hurts our future. The children are the future. Please stop playing with these kids and their education. Stop and think about how this will hurt more than it helps. Keep the funds in public education. These are the kids who grow up to change the world. Or is that the issue? You don't want world changers or leaders you want compliance?

Robin Reyes

Self

San Antonio, TX

I strongly disagree with HB3 and school vouchers for private schools. Why can't every child in any school receive \$10,000 for their education in public, private or charter school? Texas often has tax funds leftover so why not fund education for all children.

William Hanf
Self
San Marcos, TX

The taxpayers should not ever be expected to provide public money for private purposes. Vouchers are never the solution to ensuring every child in the state receives a quality education. As always, any program giving public tax dollars to private entities will be open to significant fraud and should be voted down.

Amanda Everly
self/ CPA
North Richland Hills, TX

Dear Legislators,

I urge you to vote "NO" to this bill. This bill has been advertised about school choice, but the truth is we already have a choice in where to send our kids. This bill is about taxpayers subsidizing private schools that are not held to the same rigor and standards as public schools. The majority of Texas taxpayers DO NOT support this bill. How in good conscience, can anyone vote to send taxpayer money to a private school when they aren't subject to the same mandates as our public schools? Put us all on a level playing field if that's the goal. Our kids in public school deserve better than legislators beholden to special interest groups. I urge you to stand for public schools and the millions of kids that benefit from taxpayer investment in their education. My 3 kids in public schools have seen the ill effects of our public education funds shrinking in our school district. Loss of programs, teachers with very low if any raises each year and being asked to do more, loss of coaches for our athletics programs and the list goes on. It is so frustrating to realize money for education is available in Austin and not being sent to our public schools. Do what is best for ALL children in the state of Texas, not just a select few (the majority of which are ALREADY paying for private school) and vote NO to HB 3.

Ralph Whitlow
self
Garland, TX

I usually stand firm with most Republican issues but this voucher program is just idiotic. I have no idea what Abbott is thinking here. First of all if these private schools accept public dollars then they must enter into the states school accountability system. That means they need to enact STAAR. Additionally these many of these private schools do not have the resources to provide services for programs such as dyslexia, etc. If you study how this has worked in other states it has NOT worked. What is not clear is if a student enters into a private school, that school is given up to \$10,000 of public funds. In many cases the student does not stay in that school. That money should be automatically re-allocated back to public schools but I don't see a safety mechanism that ensures that happens. If you are going to setup these funds, and the students do not go to private school, then those funds should not be held, they should be sent to the public schools where those students attend, period. This will have to be reviewed yearly and cost the TEA a ton of work to administer. The only benefit this seems to serve is for the very wealthy, who's children already attend very prestigious schools where the tuition is way more than these education accounts will provide for, so the only real advantage is this will give wealthy schools a boost that the parents who can afford to send their kids there in the first place don't need that money. IDIOTIC! Don't even get me started on rural districts. If the closest school is 100 miles away how many students will take this up? If you really want to help pour that money into teacher salaries making the job highly desirable, which right now, it's not. Thank you for your time.

Rachael Metcalf
Texas PTA
bedford, TX

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Texas House Bill 3 (HB3), which I believe will have a harmful impact on the education system in our state, particularly on the future of public schools, students, and teachers.

HB3, as proposed, includes provisions that I find troubling, including budget cuts, restrictions on curriculum, funding mechanisms, and testing requirements. This bill seems to undermine the goal of providing equitable and high-quality education for all students, regardless of their socio-economic status or background.

As a concerned parent, I believe that any changes to the education system should focus on increasing funding for public schools, supporting educators, and ensuring that all students have access to the resources they need to succeed. Instead, HB3 appears to prioritize revenue cuts, over-testing, etc., which will ultimately lead to overcrowded classrooms, fewer educational opportunities, and a decline in the quality of education.

I urge you to vote against HB3 and work towards policies that will benefit all Texans by strengthening our public education system. Our students deserve better than what this bill offers, and our teachers deserve the support they need to succeed in the classroom.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will stand with the students and teachers of Texas by opposing HB3.

Sincerely,
Rachael Metcalf

Britt Darwin
Self
Aledo, TX

"I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools."

Christy O'Brien, DISD Parent
Self
Dallas, TX

I am opposed to HB 3! Establishing a savings account (I.e, voucher program) for private schools only unfairly disadvantages public school children. Considering private schools are not held to the same testing and admissions standards as public schools, underserved children may be turned away from admissions for no reason, thus being enrolled in their public school that is now more underfunded than before. This is a scheme to financially support the tuition of students who are already attending these private schools and whose parents can afford the tuition. I adamantly oppose this bill!

Liz Stevens
self
Fort Worth, TX

This bill, if passed, will undermine the already precarious funding environment that our public schools find themselves in—and our children and society will pay the price, both now and in the decades to come. Public schools are the bedrock of this nation’s democracy. Don’t like them? Then fund them. Raise teacher salaries to draw the best and brightest to the field. Don’t just abandon public schools. Vouchers disproportionately hurt the poorest kids from the poorest families in our state. Why? Those families can’t afford the additional dollars it takes to pay a private school tuition, and they don’t have the flexibility (time) or means to get their children to and from school. Are private schools going to offer free and reduced price lunches? Busing? IEP and 504 plans for children who learn differently and require those interventions? No, no, and no. The governor’s voucher program is meant to saddle public education with the toughest kids, strangle it with less funding, and then point to the inevitable outcomes as more reason for “parent choice.” It’s at the very least unethical and cynical; and at the most just plain immoral.

Poor families don’t have the

Kristen Hudgens
Self
Austin, TX

Tell your representatives to stand with Texas families, not special interests. This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. It comes with a hefty price tag and zero accountability to the state or taxpayers!

Jessica Wood
Myself
Lubbock, TX

This bill will only do harm to the education of majority of Texas students. It is designed to help those who are already choosing to attend private schools. The financial blow that public schools will endure will only do harm. Our children deserve better.

Melissa Palma, CPA
Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX

No vouchers for Texas. Our kids deserve equal opportunity and a sense of community. Vouchers are a means for fraud and abuse of tax payer funds. It creates division in communities by not keeping kids together and waters down ALL schools except those who opt for private. Voucher schools do not have the same standards and even less accountability. Grow a spine.

NO TO HB3!

Christi Rudolph, Mrs
Self
Frisco, TX

Please do NOT pass this. Our schools need us to support them

Matt McGhee
Self/Maintenance
Denton, TX

I oppose. No vouchers by any name. I had to move because our public school couldn't even keep the AC on and now you want to give it less money.

Pedro Requejo
Self
San Antonio, TX

I don't support vouchers. We need to keep the funds in public schools

Melinda Northcutt
Myself as a taxpayer
Porter, TX

Please vote against vouchers! Don't use the public's money for private schools!

Aditi Chakraborty
Self
Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS & "NO TO HB3"

Sonya Boyle
Self
Hurst, TX

I oppose this bill because it would take away from the families who don't pay taxes on homes or military families that send their children to public schools. This bill would only benefit the wealthy that already send their children to private school. And what about the children in rural communities that don't have access or choice to use private school. This is a scam bill. Please do not pass it.

Rocio Martin
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Taylor Drake
Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX

No to vouchers and no to HB3

Jennifer Perry, Mrs
Self
Highland Village, TX

Please vote no to HB3. I stand with Texas families, not special interests. This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. It comes with a hefty price tag and zero accountability to the state or taxpayers!
As a parent in Lewisville ISD, our schools have to make cuts due to budget constraints. Our middle schools had to cut out block scheduling which allowed double block of ELA class and more planning time for our teachers. Now students and teachers are negatively impacted and more cuts are coming. Please fully fund public education by increasing the basic allotment and focus on that, not ESAs.
Fix the broken public school system before asking tax payers to fund another broken system with ESAs. Our 5.5 million public education students are the future workforce of Texas and deserve better.

Cassie Knapp, Advocacy Chair
Hays CISD Council of PTAs
Buda, TX

Mr Buckley-

I am one of very concerned constituents and an active voter, asking you to stand up for public education in Texas and vote against House Bill 3. I am included in the majority of Texans who do not support a voucher system and am alarmed at the proposed funding for education. This imbalance between public and private funding will further the gap of opportunity for marginalized students in our state and strip away accountability. We need a well educated workforce in our great state and that begins by investing in our local communities and neighborhood schools. I am asking you to step up for our future and a fully funded public education system and vote against any voucher measures. Thank you for your time and I will be watching how you vote on this critical issue.

Terri Guintivano
Paloma Creek Elementary PTA
Aubrey, TX

While this bill might seem like a benefit at first glance, all it does is reduce educational accountability and diminish the likelihood that lower income public schools will be able to keep qualified teachers, thus putting students even further behind. Focus should be on state funding to public education that actually makes sense. Stop continuing to hoard money in the rainy day fund; we are in a torrential downpour.

Brittne Bell
Plano ISD Parent
Plano, TX

I am not in favor of passing the bill in support of funding private school vouchers. It is not beneficial to all Texas students, as it claims to do, and will ultimately end up only benefiting those already in private schools. The focus needs to be on providing...NOT CUTTING...funding in support of public schools. Public school teachers deserve more, and they deserve better!

Dwayne Pavelock
Self; retired teacher educator and high school teacher
Huntsville, TX

I respectfully request you vote against school vouchers/ESAs. They will ultimately only help those who can already afford private schools and do significant harm to public schools. The legislature should make sure public schools are adequately funded first as they have had no state increases in more than 6 years in spite of the high inflation of the last 4 years. Public school teachers deserve a huge raise above all. I am especially appalled that the governor held hostage any help for public schools until he got his way with vouchers. But at the very least, please ensure public schools get the same dollar amount from the state as those who choose private schools. Please ensure funding is based on attendance for both. Please ensure it really is for lower income and special needs students. Please ensure that accountability is the same if standardized testing is the measuring stick (though I implore you to stop the standardized testing farce). I've been in public education for 38 years, as a high school teacher, principal, and as one who trained future teachers at the university level. The way that HB3 is written will do severe harm to public schools. I'd welcome a conversation, but for now, please vote against school vouchers, or at the very very very least, make the playing fields equal as I've discussed. Thank you, and God bless.

Madison Stripling, Ms.
Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS

James Shephard

Self

Lancaster, TX

This Bill will take away from public schools. Public schools have there problems, so fix the problems and fund public schools! Governor you haven't given public schools funding or a pay increase in 3 yrs .. Private School is not the solution! Same teachers Same result.. Please fix or save public schools.. I say no to tax payers money for Private School. Don't give up spend more . Don't destroy Public schools.

Sara King

Self/Public Education Teacher

Oak Point, TX

While I'm a public school teacher, I firmly believe that parents should have a choice in their child's education. While we have marvelous public schools, we also have some that aren't - the needs of the student should always be considered first. In my personal experience my sister and I were zoned for a public high school that would have been not only unsafe but would not have met our educational needs to pursue a college education. My parents made the financial decision to enroll us into a private school, thus allowing us to thrive in a safe and supportive environment. Public education has its place for many, but if it's not healthy or supportive, no one should be "stuck" with it. Thank you so much for your consideration of my views.

Claire Wrigley

Self / Parent

Houston, TX

As a parent of a child in public education, I cannot support any bill which would take funds away from our public schools and divert funds instead to private schools which do not have to accommodate all students or accountability standards. Other states which have similar educational vouchers have seen the systems abused, with upwards of 75% of the funds going to wealthy families already attending private schools which are often associated with religious institutions. The program will be run by for profit companies who will take 3-5% in overhead costs and there are no restrictions or limitations on who will be collecting this money, which will equal hundreds of millions over time. Instead of ramming through legislation which can only benefit a tiny percentage of children, instead invest in our public schools. Republicans have been in charge in Texas for 30 years, there are no excuses for state of education in this state. Please do not bow down to a small number of wealthy donors and instead listen to the parents and teachers who say vote no to this bill.

Tara Vu

Self

Allen, TX

I do NOT want school vouchers. Please vote against school vouchers.

Sarah Eaves

self/ parent

League City, TX

as a life long Texas resident, a former private school parent & student, and a former public school student & parent. I do NOT support ESA's. My tax dollars should not go to private entities but rather be used efficiently but public schools. I do not believe that taxes should be used to fund private citizens needs but rather the public good. I also believe in the separation of church and state, don't bring church into public schools and don't bring government into private/ home schools. Fully fund our public school students & programs!!!

Christopher Reck

Self aircraft dispatcher american airlines

Fort worth, TX

I am against this bill. Let's fund public schools and make them better so everyone can get equal access to education where they live.

Hilaree Casada

Richardson High School PTA and self

Dallas, TX

I am against HB 3 and SB 2 school vouchers bills. These bills will harm public schools throughout Texas and will not actually provide low income families with school choice. Our public schools should be fully funded, at higher levels than the current levels, before any school voucher or school choice program is enacted or funded. My son has received a top notch education in the Richardson ISD, while also receiving excellent support services from the district to remediate his dyslexia, improve his pragmatic language deficits, and accommodate his needs associated with those issues as well as ADHD and anxiety. He is a thriving 10th grader at Richardson High School who has excelled in AP classes, advanced classes, and the RHS Communication Magnet, is a student leader in the marching band, actively participated in public service activities, and is a member of the Latin Club. The private school he attended in kindergarten and first grade just set him aside and wrote him off when he was diagnosed with dyslexia. Attending RISD thereafter is a critical component in his success today. School choice and school vouchers will not help students like him because the private schools will either not enroll those students or simply fail to provide necessary support and accommodations. The only people who may benefit from such plans are the rich who already pay for private school education and people who are financially rewarded from investing in for profit schools. Please do not pass HB 3 or SB 2.

Sarah Kaushik

Self

Richardson, TX

Public funds should stay with public schools. Texas public schools are already underfunded and taking money away from them will only hurt our children. Private schools are not an option for every child in Texas so these voucher programs are inherently inequitable.

Benjamin Mancil, Mr.

self

Cedar Park, TX

I live in Cedar Park, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools.

ESAs (vouchers) directly hurt students with disabilities who receive Special Education services in Public Schools in the State of Texas. Diverting \$1 Billion of my PUBLIC taxpayer money to private schools who do not even acknowledge IDEA, do not follow IEPs and only provide services when they are negotiated, compromised and then charged back to parents at exorbitant rates well above typical tuition rates it is theft of services and money to the most vulnerable population in Texas.

14% of the 5.5 million public school students in Texas receive special education services. That's 760,000 students at a minimum. These ESAs are completely inaccessible to at least 90% of our disabled students, and that is before they have a chance at any lottery or know if a private school will accept, serve, or retain them. There's no accountability. Not of services, not of the \$1 Billion of public taxpayer money this legislature wants to pour into private schools and not of impact or outcomes of our disabled students.

Even if we say ALL of the ESAs go to disabled kids receiving special education services, that still leaves a minimum of 700,000 students receiving special education services in underfunded understaffed Public Schools that this state put in this situation. This causes direct harm to these students with disabilities, the most vulnerable individuals in society, and it's at the hands of those who are supposed to represent us.

This is unacceptable. I want this legislature to take accountability, listen to the parent voice (and students), and have the courage to do the right thing: say No to ESA/Vouchers and Fund our Public Schools properly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Mancil

Jordyn Combs
self - PTA VP & SAHM
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3 and I say NO TO VOUCHERS!!!!!!!!!!

Michelle Gemar Ortiz
Self
Buda, TX

Please say NO to HB 3. It does NOT put choice in the hands of parents. It offers no accountability for taxpayers or the state. It is fiscally irresponsible and is not sustainable. We all want smaller classes, neighborhood schools, better enrichment opportunities, highly skilled teachers, and parent engagement opportunities, so PLEASE do these two things: 1) invest whatever you were going to spend on ESAs (or vouchers) into our public schools, and 2) start trusting our public school educators by giving them the same freedoms you are so willingly handing over to unknow private entities. Thank you!

Wesley Baker
Self-teacher
Carrollton, TX

Texas House Bill 3, which seeks to establish an educational savings account (ESA) program, is yet another attempt to divert public funds into private interests under the guise of "school choice." Voucher programs have consistently been shown to be drivers of corruption, inequality, and the demise of public schools. Rather than strengthening Texas' public education system, HB3 threatens to undermine it by siphoning taxpayer dollars away from schools that serve the vast majority of students.

Across the country, voucher programs have been plagued by fraud and financial mismanagement. States with similar programs, such as Arizona and Wisconsin, have seen millions of taxpayer dollars funneled into unaccountable private institutions with little oversight. These programs often fail to deliver better educational outcomes while exacerbating disparities. Wealthier families benefit disproportionately, as vouchers rarely cover the full cost of private school tuition, leaving lower-income students behind. Additionally, many private schools receiving vouchers are not subject to the same academic and transparency standards as public schools, further widening the gap in educational quality and access.

HB3 also comes at a time when Texas has demonstrated a reckless approach to fiscal responsibility. The state has poured billions into Operation Lone Star—an initiative riddled with waste and inefficiency—while failing to adequately fund its public education system. Instead of misdirecting surplus funds toward an ESA program that benefits a select few, Texas should focus on strengthening its public schools by increasing teacher pay, reducing classroom sizes, expanding special education services, and investing in modern facilities. These measures would benefit all Texas students, rather than diverting public resources to private and often religious institutions with minimal accountability.

Texas' public schools serve over five million students, and they remain the backbone of the state's future. Instead of embracing failed voucher schemes that erode the integrity of public education, lawmakers should commit to ensuring that every child—regardless of zip code or economic status—has access to a fully funded, high-quality education. The state's responsibility is to invest in its children, not to subsidize private interests at the expense of public schools. HB3 is a step in the wrong direction and should be rejected in favor of policies that genuinely uplift Texas students.

Amber de la Rosa
Elgin Elementary School PTA
Elgin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 and the expansion of Education Savings Accounts (ESA), which continue to make private schools unattainable for most families while diverting much-needed funding away from public schools. In communities like Elgin, where no private schools even exist, ESA provides no real benefit to students. Instead, we see growing class sizes and essential programs being cut due to inadequate funding. Middle- and lower-income families will still face barriers like transportation and additional enrollment costs, making private school an unrealistic option for many. Rather than prioritizing ESA, we should focus on increasing public school funding based on enrollment, not attendance, to ensure all students have access to a quality education.

Rachael Vorberg Rugh, Ms

Self

Fort Worth, TX

The majority of Texans want well-funded, high quality public schools. Education savings accounts draw public money away from public education and, as enacted in other states, disproportionately benefit wealthier families and do nothing to address the needs of students with disabilities and other children that private schools have no obligation to admit. The best way to support Texas public schools is by properly funding them - teachers, support staff, and students - not diverting resources they so desperately need. I urge members to listen to their constituents and vote against HB3.

Mohammad Abid

Self

Wylie, TX

'NO TO VOUCHERS' & "NO TO HB3"

Carolyn Feese

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Vouchers are NOT what we want here in Texas. It will defund our public schools, use public funds to support private schools. There are already many options for school choice. Please vote against school vouchers for Texas.

Raegan Perry

self/ Custom Network Liaison

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Roma Giordano

self

St Paul, TX

I oppose HB3

Adrien Weeks

self - teacher

Farmersville, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Mohammad Abid

Self

Wylie, TX

'NO TO VOUCHERS' & "NO TO SB3"

Jacob Wall

Self

arlington, TX

No one wants our tax dollars to go to private schools. This will add to the inequity of students. As a new teacher I would hate to see students receive less funding while for profit schools get richer. Do NOT pass this bill. I challenge you to do what is best for the students, not wealthy donors.

Public education is a right in the State Constitution. MAKE PUBLIC EDUCATION GREAT AGAIN!!

Amy Conine
Self
Corinth, TX

I oppose HB 3. The bill is fiscally irresponsible, and has too many questions and discrepancies in use and regulation.

Hannah Hebert
Self
Garland, TX

As a Texas mom, I am deeply concerned about HB-3 and its attempt to funnel public tax dollars into private school vouchers. My child, like millions of others across our state, depends on a strong public education system—one that should be fully funded, not systematically undermined.

A voucher program does not “expand choices” for families like mine. It drains critical funding from our already underfunded public schools, leaving the vast majority of Texas children with fewer resources, larger class sizes, and less support. Vouchers benefit private schools that are not held to the same standards, do not have to accept all students, and are not accountable to taxpayers. Public dollars should remain in public schools, serving all children—not subsidizing private institutions that can discriminate based on income, ability, or background.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing not just education but meals, special education services, and essential programs that support children from all walks of life. If lawmakers truly want to improve education in Texas, they should focus on fully funding our public schools, increasing teacher pay, and providing the resources students need to thrive—not diverting funds to a program that primarily benefits wealthy families and special interests.

I urge Texas legislators to reject HB-3 and any effort to implement a school voucher system. Parents like me are counting on them to protect public education—not dismantle it.

Geneva Feldman
self
Fort Worth, TX

"I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools."

Meghan Richey, Mrs
TCASE
Orange, TX

I disagree with Texas giving public tax dollars to parents for homeschooling and private school tuition, with no accountability or transparency.

For every student that leaves public school, already underfunded public schools will have less resources to provide services to all students. Meanwhile, students with disabilities and their families will have no special education rights guaranteed in a private school.

Katherine Schwind
Self
Burleson, TX

I do not support vouchers for public education. Improving public education in the public schools will allow the best education for everyone. Students in rural areas, students without transportation to a private school or students who can not afford the balance of a private school tuition will only be further disadvantaged by this bill. My family and I do not support vouchers.

Stacy Dodson

Self/Mother of Special Needs Children

Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS!

Parents by and large **DO NOT WANT THIS BILL TO PASS**. If you pass this bill your name will forever be tied to ruining public education for the State of Texas. Wouldn't you rather be part of saving it from ruin? Making it better? Please stop forcing vouchers upon us.

Melanie Pratt

Self

Georgetown, TX

Please vote no—Gov. Abbott believes everyone who disagrees with him is a leftist in this issue. This is offensive—I am conservative and have voted Republican my entire life. This bill is simply wrong for Texas students and families.

Nydia Hernandez, Mrs.

Self

Arlington, TX

We attend a title one school in Arlington Texas. We are beyond happy where we are. My oldest is graduating to 6th grade from elementary but my youngest remains. Please do not strip us of this wonderful school that has given a beacon of hope in Arlington Texas. Title one schools matter for the little people. We absolutely need our schools our teachers. No one has any interest in going private not do we have thousands of dollars laying around to cover our half of public schools. Leave the title one schools and teachers alone. Us parents are extremely happy with the way things are. Title one schools matter without them there would be no free quality education.

Challie Sherrill

Self

Houston, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you **OPPOSE HB3** because:

Numerous studies show that vouchers do **NOT** equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

HB3 is **NOT** a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that **PRIVATE SCHOOLS** decide who to accept and who not to accept — **NOT** parents.

Public money should have the **SAME** accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does **NOT** give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Challie Sherrill

Margaret Orgain

Self

Dallas, TX

I am opposed to HB3. My son goes to public school in Dallas and I am on the PTA board. I see how hard our teachers and staff work to give the kids everything they need even though our school district has been grossly underfunded for years. I also see the PTA raise money to fill the holes that we can. But there is only some much we can do. If this bill becomes law, our public school system will be gutted even more than it already is. If the bill works as you intend, and lots of students opt to attend private schools, the public school system will be pushed past the breaking point. There will always be students who can't afford to, do not want to, or cannot attend private school. What will happen to those students who rely on the public school system? What choice do they get in this "school choice" law? If the state of Texas can afford to give every student who wishes to attend a private school \$10,000, they can afford to fully fund our public school system. Fund schools first. Then if the public wants a school savings account program, you can enact it then. Because there will actually be choices. Public school would be a legitimate option. At the very least, we need to have some sort of accountability for these public funds going to private institutions. Public schools are subject to rigorous and constant scrutiny. The same should be applied to any institution that receives public funds. To do otherwise would be unethical and corrupt. Our kids deserve better. Texas deserves better. Fund our public schools and vote no on HB3.

Cheryl Glasser

TRTA, PTA, Self

Katy, TX

I strongly oppose vouchers. I'm a retired school educator and president of the Katy chapter of trta. All three of my children have graduated from Katy ISD. I am an active volunteer in the Katy ISD schools. I believe vouchers are detrimental for public schools. I also believe vouchers will be detrimental to the TRS pension. As I watch news and social media, it is strongly evident that the public does not support vouchers. I feel representatives should be listening to their constituents.

Mahendra Mehta

Springbranch ISD

Richmond, TX

I oppose HB3

Magan Gentry

self billing specialist

WYLIE, TX

NO to vouchers!!

I OPPOSE HB3!!!

Pamela Pounds

Self

Rockwall, TX

As a Texan, I want to ensure my voice is heard on this bill. I am Against any voucher plan for schools. Our tax dollars should fund our public education system. If parents choose not to put their children in public schools that is their choice but it should not be funded by tax dollars especially when the standards are not the same as public schools i.e transportation, STARR Testing, ability to not accept students of the private school decision. Public schools need to be fully funded. Do not demonize our public school teachers. Give teachers the tools they need to be successful, don't criticize them when tax dollars are not given to them. My parents were teachers and I saw exactly how much of their own time and money was spent on/in their classrooms. Texas Congress needs to do better and support public schools in Texas.

Ashlynn Daniel

Self

Idalou, TX

I oppose HB3 and I do not support ESAs

Tamara Bell, Ms.

Self

San antonio, TX

I oppose school voucher in Texas.

Thalia Sanchez, Ms.

Self / NEISD PTA

San Antonio, TX

Vote No on HB 3. This bill takes money away from Public schools and extracurricular/sports that benefit all Texas children. The voucher program is designed to only benefit those that can already afford a private school education and not students in need. Public schools provide a place for all students in all communities.

Jillian Copeland

Self

Austin, TX

I firmly reject HB 3 - providing vouchers will NOT solve the inequities we already have in the education of our students, it will only broaden the gap. Students will not get the services they need in private schools or if they do there will be extra costs that are incurred and then who will pay those? The state? Please fund our public schools they way they need to educate all students without discriminations - fund our schools by allotment not by attendance. The lights need to be on whether there is 15 students in a classroom or 5, the teacher still needs to be paid, the cafeteria staff/admin teams - public moneys should fund public schools NOT private schools.

Allison Siglock, VP of Membership PTA

Fossil Hill Middle School PTA

Fort Worth, TX

Please do NOT use the voucher system for our public schools! We need a more fair system that will allow Public Schools to be fully funded the way they deserve to be!!!

Brandi Helm

Kimberlin Academy PTA

Rowlett, TX

As our public schools are already underfunded, I do not agree with anything that will take more money from our public school classrooms. Furthermore, I believe this move will negatively impact children with special needs who are unable to attain the services they need at private schools. I strongly believe that we should keep public funds public for the good of all students in our state.

Claudia Bell

Self

Grand Saline, TX

Please reconsider the ESA program. Taxpayer dollars should stay in public schools! Giving a larger dollar amount to go to private schools over public is NOT fair and equitable and does anything BUT level the playing field. You are hurting the vast majority of Texas school children and that hurts everyone!

April Hawthorne
Self
Canyon Lake, TX

My name is April Hawthorne. I am a rural, economically disadvantaged, single, disabled parent of disabled children and a homeschool educator. I am registering my opposition to House Bill 3. Although this bill falls short for many reasons, for the sake of time, I will only comment on the most important one.

HB3 puts a preference on disabled students; however, it takes no action to protect students of this demographic and the rights they are entitled to in taxpayer-funded public schools.

Although receiving taxpayer funds, there is a section in the bill that allows private schools to keep autonomy in their admissions preferences. This allows disabled children to be discriminated against immediately upon application. Private schools also get to keep their own discipline measures. In contrast, public schools are required to have alternate discipline procedures if a campus rule is broken due to the nature of a disability. Restraint and seclusion are already serious and detrimental issues in Texas schools. Zeroing out regulations meant to protect disabled students will only lead to harm and cause irreparable trauma. Further, public schools are not required to accommodate for disabilities, including in the required testing. In other words, this bill targets disabled students and *encourages* vendors and providers to offer no protection from discrimination, no assurance that they can access the curriculum, and refuse to provide reasonable accommodations.

I worked in a private preschool. We received government funds from USDA's food program. As a condition of participation in the food program, we were required by law to *not discriminate* against disabled children and to provide accommodations. Why are we asking anyone to give up their federal and state rights and concealing this as "choice"? I absolutely refuse to lose my tax dollars to a system that is, at its core, designed to prey on and abuse the disabled community.

Stephen Nichols
Self. Retired Attorney
Flower Mound, TX

“Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) is a direct attack on education, disguised as “school choice.” It diverts taxpayer money from public schools to private institutions that lack public accountability, can discriminate, and do not meet the same standards as public schools. This violates the Texas Constitution’s mandate to provide a free, public education for all children. Proponents claim Texas can afford HB 3 due to a budget surplus, but this is shortsighted. The state is also pushing teacher pay raises and property tax reductions, all of which rely on temporary funds. Economic downturns or declining oil revenues could erase the surplus, forcing cuts to public school funding, teacher pay, or tax hikes to sustain the voucher program. Once public money is committed, it is difficult to reverse without harming schools.

Kayce McDade
Self
Cross Roads, TX

Please vote NO to HB 3. I am a public school educator and also the parent of a student with a learning disability. I am against giving more money to private schools while our public schools are extremely under funded. It is unethical and immoral to continue to not give proper funding to ALL Texas children, especially our most vulnerable. The wealthy do not need a discount on their childrens' schooling. However, we need to significantly raise the basic allotment to properly fund our public schools. We are drowning in our public schools because our Texas legislators refuse to listen to it's constituents and it's public educators. Vote NO to HB 3!!

Allyson Quigley
Self
Friendswood, TX

No vouchers.

Linda Smith
Self
Rosenberg, TX

Say no to ESA's, not 10k worth. Parents already have school choice. Public money do for public schools just like article 2 of the Texas constitution states.

Erin Hill
Self/ homemaker
San Antonio, TX

Keep public funds in public schools! Hold private schools accountable.

Crystal Sharp, Mrs.

Self - Stay at home parent to an elementary and intermediate student and active PTA Board Member, Booster Clubs member, Council PTA Delegate, Officer
League City, TX

I am a proud parent of a first grader in elementary school and a seventh grader in intermediate school, as well as an active member of our school community through the PTA Executive Board, Council PTA, and Booster Clubs. I recently attended Rally Day and listened to Senator Buckley's speech, and I want to express my deep concerns about HB 3 and its potential harm to public schools.

From my understanding, HB 3 would divert public funds to private schools, directly impacting the resources available to our students and teachers. My family chose to relocate to this district from North Carolina specifically for the high-quality education and opportunities provided by our public schools. My son, identified as Gifted and Talented (GT), has benefited greatly from Clear Creek ISD's exceptional programs, including the WAVE Program, designed exclusively for GT students. His school offers highly specialized educators, many with advanced degrees, who are dedicated to fostering academic excellence. I fear that under HB 3, critical funding could be lost, forcing schools to reduce or eliminate specialized programs like these—limiting, rather than expanding, choices for families.

Additionally, as a secular parent, I strongly oppose public funds being allocated to religious schools. Families who choose private or religious education do so as a personal decision and should bear that financial responsibility. Taxpayer dollars should be used to strengthen public education for all students, not subsidize private institutions.

I've also witnessed firsthand how underfunding impacts special education. A close friend had to move her child to a private school due to unmet needs in public school—only to find that private schools also lack the necessary resources. Instead of diverting funds away, we should be investing in improving special education programs, retaining qualified teachers, and ensuring that all students—regardless of ability—receive the support they deserve.

Ultimately, HB 3 claims to offer "school choice" but instead shifts resources away from the majority of students, teachers, and staff. Who truly benefits? In my view, the winners will be private schools, wealthy families already enrolled in them, and new microschool businesses. The losers? Public school students, teachers, and communities that rely on well-funded, inclusive education.

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and instead focus on policies that strengthen and properly fund our public schools—where every child deserves a quality education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

JoAnne Scalf

Self

Allen, TX

The overwhelming majority of Texans do not want school vouchers!!

We are your constituents and we are speaking directly to you when we say NO VOUCHERS!!

This is why...

This bill only makes a very small increase to the basic allotment.

It doesn't even cover an increase equal to the rate of inflation.

Vouchers would provide 10k for private schools that are not held to the same standards as our public schools.

Public schools have mandates for things like security yet that's not covered?! You are leaving our children vulnerable to another tragedy like Uvalde.

SPED reimbursements do not cover the actual costs, any bill should cover the actual costs of those services.

If this bill passes then my school district will be further and grossly underfunded losing another over \$1,600,000 + annually!!!

Lori Rutledge

Self- Educator/grandparent

Sugar Land, TX

Vote NO. As a 27 year public educator, parent and grandparent, this will be detrimental to our public school system and especially to lower income and disadvantaged students. Instead, use this money to fully fund public schools so that we may implement the services and programs needed by ALL students AND pay our teachers a competitive professional-level salary. VOTE NO to HB3

Mitchell Sickler

self

Wylie, TX

YES TO SCHOOL CHOICE & YES TO HB3!

Amy Dole

Self/nonprofit worker

Austin, TX

As a product of public schools in a time and place where funding was largely sufficient, and the parent of public school children, I urge you to vote against this bill which amounts to vouchers for the few. It pulls funds from public schools which are integral institutions of learning, employment and community building throughout the state. I fear the result of vouchers will be fewer of my tax dollars going to public schools, while private schools are likely to see an opportunity to raise tuition.

The focus on funds for schools should be on updating and revising the algorithm to more equitably fund all public schools in the state. That change is woefully overdue.

Brittni Austin

Self

Friendswood, TX

Please do not vote in support of HB3. I am a constituent in Galveston County, whose children attend Friendswood ISD. Our district is already underfunded and we cannot afford to lose more money for our government to fund private equities. We do not want the voucher bill to pass.

Anthony Spencer

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose hb3

Carol Hebert

Self

Garland, TX

As a Texas mom, I am deeply concerned about HB-3 and its attempt to funnel public tax dollars into private school vouchers. My child, like millions of others across our state, depends on a strong public education system—one that should be fully funded, not systematically undermined.

A voucher program does not “expand choices” for families like mine. It drains critical funding from our already underfunded public schools, leaving the vast majority of Texas children with fewer resources, larger class sizes, and less support. Vouchers benefit private schools that are not held to the same standards, do not have to accept all students, and are not accountable to taxpayers. Public dollars should remain in public schools, serving all children—not subsidizing private institutions that can discriminate based on income, ability, or background.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing not just education but meals, special education services, and essential programs that support children from all walks of life. If lawmakers truly want to improve education in Texas, they should focus on fully funding our public schools, increasing teacher pay, and providing the resources students need to thrive—not diverting funds to a program that primarily benefits wealthy families and special interests.

I urge Texas legislators to reject HB-3 and any effort to implement a school voucher system. Parents like me are counting on them to protect public education—not dismantle it.

Amy Beerwinkle

Self — SAHM and adjunct English teacher

Weatherford, TX

Texas already has school choice. What we need is a fully funded public school system for the 5+ million school children that will still be in public school even if ESAs pass. Diverting public tax dollars to private institutions with no accountability is not fiscally responsible or conservative, especially when it will only benefit less than 2% of students. The ballot “proposition” pointed to as proof of what Texas voters want is not valid because it combined 2 issues — school choice and public dollars following students. Our elected officials are not listening to their constituents: this should be voted on by Texas voters not decided behind closed doors by politicians clearly influenced by deep-pocketed donors.

Raphaelle lebourg

Self, Human Resources

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose this bill; the data is clear in the states who have done this and it does NOT help families of little means make better choices for their children. What it does do, is take away more than the federal funding spent per child and funnel it to schools who 1) don't need it 2) teach a religious doctrine 3) do not need to accommodate special needs. This would be disastrous for rural communities. I sincerely hope our reps can ACTUALLY think of our Texas children vs lining their own campaign coffers to appease wealthy donors.

Renee Kelley

Self/Dyslexia Therapist

Wylie, TX

Please vote NO for vouchers and HB 3. Vouchers will take funds away from already struggling public schools. Please consider a way to give more funds to public schools in order to make them better. Lower income families will be hurt by vouchers, as they will still not be able to afford private school and public schools will get worse. Classrooms will be overcrowded because there won't be enough money to pay extra teachers. When classrooms are overcrowded, students learn less, and it just becomes crowd control.

MARISA DUNAGAN

Self

Allen, TX

Public education is at a crossroads in Texas. You have the option now to take us to the next level and make Texas a great state for all students, or to send us down a path that allows for private companies to profit at the detriment of our children. While I am fortunate to live in what some may consider a "wealthier" school district, we still struggle with the lack of funds for educational programs, teachers, and every day necessities (like Lysol wipes during cold/flu season). Public schools are the foundation of education for the majority of Texas children. While it may not be perfect, we can do better. Better, however, is not vouchers or an ESA. Better is releasing the funds held hostage by our governor. Many of the school districts have already begun planning for the shortfall in funds for the upcoming school years. Within Allen ISD, we will have classes hitting max capacity, the lack of paraprofessionals to assist teachers and special education teachers, and a decrease in overall services for children. Quite simply, it is ludicrous to think that the amount I pay in taxes will not go to my school district or public schools, but instead to fund private education. What about those of us that live in areas with good schools? We have no need for ESAs or vouchers as the school districts are performing well. Instead, we will see more of our tax dollars siphoned away from our schools at the expense of our children. Who is going to pick up the slack? Who is going to pay for the computer programs the teachers use day in and day out? The vast majority of Texans do not want vouchers. People from other states with a voucher program have shared their personal stories of how vouchers caused the educational standards to go down. Private school prices will go up. The rich will get richer. I can only imagine the devastating effect this will have on rural communities. I attended public school from K - 12. I then went to The University of Texas for undergrad and Texas Tech School of Law. I have always been a part of the public education system. Do not let millionaires from out of State dictate how Texas children should be educated. The people of Texas are overwhelmingly telling the Legislature that we do not want vouchers/ESA. We want our schools to be funded sufficiently. What is happening right now is a tragedy. It is said that the children are our future. If the Texas Legislature passes this bill, our children will not have the future they deserve. I urge you to vote No.

Whitney Pisani

Self and family Professor

Carrollton, TX

Please reject the bill to bring vouchers to Texas and instead support and protect our public schools. Teachers, students and families need support.

Gina Dobbins, Texas citizen and tax payer

Myself

Chester, TX

I am against tax vouchers. I do not the government should interject itself into private education.

Barbara Williams

self

Round Rock, TX

I do not agree with private school vouchers for all. A majority of the money is going to go directly to those who can already afford private education. I believe we should be directly funding disability programs, councilors and other personnel to help those with disabilities already within the public school setting. Our local districts are switching to 4 day weeks for school because the state has not increased their operating budget in 6 years - what other industry in Texas has had no funding increase in 6 years? Certainly not your salaries. How are parents supposed to keep their jobs when the school is only open 4 days a week and all offices are requiring employees to return to office? With no requirement for private schools to accept these individuals with disabilities, how does this really help them? And with no standardized testing, how are parents supposed to compare and vet schools? Public education exists for a reason. If you claim it is broken, it is you who is in charge, then you should fix it. Fund it. Help it. Don't throw it in the trash. Hurting the many to help the few is not the Texas way I was taught, no sir. Boo to you.

Jennifer Nichols

Self

Lewisville, TX

“Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) is a direct attack on education, disguised as “school choice.” It diverts taxpayer money from public schools to private institutions that lack public accountability, can discriminate, and do not meet the same standards as public schools. This violates the Texas Constitution’s mandate to provide a free, public education for all children.

Proponents claim Texas can afford HB 3 due to a budget surplus, but this is shortsighted. The state is also pushing teacher pay raises and property tax reductions, all of which rely on temporary funds. Economic downturns or declining oil revenues could erase the surplus, forcing cuts to public school funding, teacher pay, or tax hikes to sustain the voucher program. Once public money is committed, it is difficult to reverse without harming schools.

Other states show the risks. Arizona’s voucher expansion cost taxpayers hundreds of millions more than expected. Florida and Wisconsin saw ballooning expenses that benefited wealthier families while draining public school resources. If Texas follows suit, the result will be underfunded public schools, larger class sizes, and fewer resources for students who rely on them most. HB 3 will not help the majority of Texas students. Vouchers disproportionately benefit families already in private schools. In Ohio, 88% of voucher users never attended public school. In Florida, most were already enrolled in private education. Vouchers do not create opportunities for most students—they subsidize private tuition for families who can already afford it.

Texans have rejected vouchers before. Proposition 2 in 1997, which sought to use public funds for private tuition, was overwhelmingly voted down. More recent efforts have failed due to bipartisan opposition, particularly from rural Republicans who understand that taking money from public schools will devastate their communities.

Yet HB 3 is being pushed through, fueled by out-of-state billionaires like Jeff Yass and Texas billionaires Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks. These donors have spent millions to unseat GOP legislators who opposed vouchers, proving this is a scheme driven by big money, not public demand.

If HB 3 is such a great idea, why not let Texans vote on it? This bill effectively amends Article VII of the Texas Constitution, which guarantees public education. The fact that its supporters are avoiding a direct vote shows they know Texans would reject it again.

HB 3 is reckless, fiscally unsound, and deeply unpopular. It undermines public schools while benefiting a privileged few. Lawmakers must reject this bill and defend Texas students, teachers, and communities. Public funds should support public education—period.”

Mary Kristen Valentine

Self

Houston, TX

I am a mom of two children attending spring branch ISD schools. While I attended private school as a child and my husband attended the same public schools as my daughters, I have been so happy with the public schools we are zoned too and love the sense of community it creates, which is so needed in this time of divide politics and ugly public discord. I am very concerned and confident that dollars siphoned away from public schools, which desperately need them to just keep up with inflation and retain teacher talent, will significantly hurt our schools and the majority of Texas children who attend them. To me, this isn’t school choice. School choice would be giving the same level of funding to public schools as what you are looking to do for private schools in the form of. Vouchers. Why not make public schools as competitive schools just as well funded so that students have a real choice? Please don’t choke our public schools, we need them now more than ever. Make Texas proud and do the right thing and give kids and their parents a real choice!

Beth Timmerman

Self/PTA Parent

Fort Worth, TX

PLEASE reject HB 3 - the only families that this truly benefits are those that ultimately don't need the help. We desperately need the funds in our PUBLIC SCHOOLS which serve ALL students. Stand with the students of Texas and REJECT this bill!

Geoffrey Hyder
Cowtown Democrats, President
Fort Worth, TX

This program will strip millions of Texans' right to a good and fair education with the explicit purpose of siphoning money from public to private schools. It is a naked effort to erode public education and close public primary and secondary schools. It is entirely for the benefit of Governor Abbott's political donors, not the people of Texas.

Please oppose HB3. It is your solemn duty to the people of this great state.

Kathryn Stendebach
self
Mansfield, TX

Strongly Opposed to this bill

Selina Keilani
self, Director of Business and Finance
Austin, TX

I am strongly against this bill. Taxpayer funds shouldn't be used to support private schools of any kind. Furthermore, in the case of religious schools, this constitutes violating the separation of church and state. There is no oversight of any private schools; they can set their own standards, select the students they want and not admit others, and discriminate against children and families in terms of race, religion, gender identity, disabilities, and other categories. These vouchers would take funds away from public schools which are already severely under funded. I am especially concerned about the children who have learning difficulties or disabilities. Many private schools won't accept children with learning challenges, which will leave children and parents to flounder. We should be putting more money and support into our public schools instead of taking away from them. This will especially hurt low income families who won't be able to afford most private schools even with the vouchers. I implore you to consider what most Texans want; to support our public schools and not fund private schools. Thank you for time.

Barbara Crow
Self retired
Edom, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill. It undermines public education while doing extremely little to help any student who actually needs help. Even those who are prioritized will not have the means to use the ESA account due to other costs incurred by attending a private school. The private schools have ALL the say on who gets in. Also there is nothing in the bill to prevent wealthy families with children already in private school from getting the ESA dollars. The cost of administering the program is too high. The idea of the 'money should follow the child' is flawed. If people whose taxes go to the local public school are only those with children enrolled there we no longer have free public education for all. There has never been an accurate non- partisan poll that says that most Texans want this.

Adrienne Buchanan
Self / Hr Executive and Mom
Rockwall, TX

Please represent what your constituents want. We don't want school vouchers. We want you to fund our under-funded public schools. How can we attract more corporate headquarters to Texas with abysmal schools for their employees children? How can we use public dollars for PRIVATE schools full of people who can already afford those schools? How are we okay with abandoning rural areas who have ZERO private schools? Texans do not want this. If you doubt that, please put it to a public vote. We will remember this when it comes time for your re-election. We will remember how you sold out our schools, teachers and children to the highest bidders.

Rebecca Teran, Mrs.

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I support school choice for the parents of Texas.

Pamela Denney

Myself

Clifton, TX

I live in Will Texas and done so for the last 30+ years. We need well funded public schools. I am against school vouchers! NO SCHOOL VOUCHERS WITH MY TAX DOLLARS! I am for public schools!

Stephen Smith

SELF

Wylie, TX

I am against the vouchers.

Debby Kratky

Self

Crowley, TX

@everyone

ALL HANDS ON DECK-

Yesterday, I spent 14 hours waiting to testify on HB3 in front of the Texas Education Committee. Unfortunately, I left in tears. 396 people signed up to testify. They did not get to public comment until 7 pm.

Warning: these videos are longer than 20 minutes but VERY informative. If you just have time for action today, skip to the bottom, bec the action has to happen before 5PM. But please come back and watch/listen to the videos. They will help you understand the problem. I truly feel like the GOP has moved beyond their party politics of being fiscally responsible. This is dangerous territory, but in this we have the opportunity to make change.

I'll put three links in the comments:

1. local Tarrant County GOP Precinct Chair Hollie Plemmons testifying on HB3, in opposition. Hollie is my known adversary at school board meetings. We disagree on just about everything, but this! (we have GOP friends!)
2. a clip from 11:30pm, when a former budget chair for that very committee testified in opposition based on the FISCAL note for the bill.

Y'all, I'm so disappointed. At midnight, they announced there was 267 people left. I asked the clerk where I was on the list and he couldn't tell me if I was even on it. The next 6 people that were called were not ME! So I had to drive home in tears at midnight. I do know that around 2AM, they called my name and registered my opposition. The hearing went until 6:30AM

BUT, there was so much opposition to this bill that they left the portal for comment open. They want to gather more SUPPORT for the bill, so we need to flood it with more OPPOSITION.

Please ask everyone to submit opposition to the bill TODAY BEFORE 5PM.

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note listed. This is unfair to the children of Texas and will have a lasting impact on workforce development in our state. We need to spend more on public education because the majority of the students in Texas will always go to public schools.

Jennifer Marz, Mrs.

Self, Principal

Pearland, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 and the establishment of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). Proponents claim these programs expand educational opportunities, but large-scale, independent research does not support their effectiveness. Instead, ESAs will further weaken our public education system, create greater inequities, and fail to address the root causes of educational decline in Texas.

First, there is no significant, independent research proving that ESAs or school vouchers improve student outcomes. Studies from states with similar programs, including Indiana, Louisiana, and Ohio, show mixed or negative results, with some students experiencing declines in academic performance. Public education policy should be based on proven strategies, not untested programs that may do more harm than good.

Second, private schools receiving ESA funds operate with little oversight and are not held to the same standards as public schools. Public schools must meet strict accountability measures, including curriculum requirements, standardized testing, and teacher certification. Private schools, however, are not obligated to meet these standards, raising concerns about transparency and educational quality. Texas taxpayers should not be funding schools that are not held to the same level of accountability as public institutions.

Third, private schools have the ability to pick and choose which students they accept. Unlike public schools, which serve all students regardless of background, private schools can deny admission based on academic performance, disabilities, disciplinary history, or religious beliefs. This means that ESAs will primarily benefit families who already have access to private education, while lower-income students and those with special needs will remain at a disadvantage. Instead of expanding opportunity, ESAs will create deeper divisions in our education system.

School vouchers and ESAs will not solve the real challenges facing Texas public education. Our schools are struggling due to inadequate funding, teacher shortages, and resource disparities—not because of a lack of school choice. When people talk about how strong our education system used to be, it's important to note that we didn't have school vouchers then. Our public schools thrived when they received the funding and support necessary to serve all students.

Instead of diverting resources to private institutions, we should focus on strengthening our public schools—raising teacher pay, reducing class sizes, improving school infrastructure, and ensuring all students have access to quality education. The solution to our education crisis is not to dismantle public schools but to invest in them.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to reject HB3 and any effort to establish ESAs in Texas. We must prioritize strengthening our public education system, not undermining it.

It is also doesn't take a lot to follow the money/people backing school vouchers to figure out who will benefit the most.

Lauren PeCoy

Self

Wylie, TX

I do not support ESAs and HB3. Do not let this bill leave committee.

Cally Murray

Self

Austin, TX

Please set our state straight and give public education a chance to allow young ones to thrive which means funding increases to support opportunities in the classroom, teachers, programs and maintaining that support for years to come.

Whitney Wood Juarez
Fort Worth Focused Real Estate
Fort Worth, TX

Oppose!!!!

Gretchen Rossington
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I don't believe vouchers are right for Texas. Vouchers will hurt public schools. Please vote NO.

Cynthia Padin
Self, Texas PTA, Tom Hicks elementary, Lewisville ISD
Carrollton, TX

Stand with Texas families, not special interests. This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. It comes with a hefty price tag and zero accountability to the state or taxpayers!

Nancy R Stallings, Dr.
self/scientist, parent
Carrollton, TX

I do not believe that ESA/vouchers are in the best interest of ALL of the children of Texas. We should be working on strengthening public school which are the main path of education for 94% of students in Texas. Please do not use taxpayer dollars to fund ESAs. Vote No on HB3.

Cassandra Parish
Self
Wylie, TX

ABSOLUTELY NO to SB3 and HB3! This is a scourge on our state and nobody wants this. Every single constituency rejects this, has rejected it, and will continue to reject it.

Jennifer Ferguson
Self
Iowa Park, TX

This bill will KILL public education!! I'm an educator for almost 25 years.. Public schools take ALL students.. Private schools do NOT.. Keep that in mind when there isn't enough funding in public schools for the students who are turned away from private schools!!

Angelene Cisneros, Mrs
Self- TTUHSC SR PURCHASER
Lubbock, TX

Public schools are a blessing to kids of all kinds. I have two children who are dyslexic and one who also has ADHD and the public school system has been able to address these issues. They've given my children more one on one time with specialists and given my husband and I tools to help our children at home. I was worried my 6 year old daughter would never be able to read and here she is now being able to get through a book with little help all thanks to public educators and their time and effort with her. A voucher plan will take these specialists and educators from truly helping the children who need it most. Our teachers are already severely underpaid and this is only making it harder for us to keep quality educators who truly do this for the love of it. By putting this savings account program which is only available for people who are already able to fund a private school(they did not need help to get their kids in and now we are taking away from those who can not and will not ever be able to afford this type of schooling even with a voucher) and taking away a free school that needs all the funding they can get. I want my kids to succeed and I feel like this bill will only lead to my children not be able to learn to their full potential. This should be about the bigger picture. This should be about all children and how we want their future to be big and bright and not about pocket books.

Tabitha Hrynyk, Mrs.
Self
Justin, TX

No to vouchers. Public schools need more funding

Chelsea Walker
Self, Accountant
Dallas, TX

This bill is a nightmare disguised as 'choice' but it offers nothing of the sort. It contains no accountability and robs public schools of the funds they so desperately need. Raise the basic allotment for public schools before you spend any of our tax dollars on private schools! Parents already have a choice in where they send their children; homeschool, private, public, or charter. Raise the basic allotment to the \$10k you propose for ESAs and give parents truly robust, fully functioning options for which they can decide what is best.

Velma Vargas, Mrs.
Self
Kyle, TX

I do not agree

Patrick Reed
Fwisd
Fort worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools

Melinda Webb
Northwest ISD
Trophy Club, TX

I am not in favor of an education savings accounts in the way that is has been presented. Why can't a homeowner receive a deduction on their property tax liability since property tax is how schools are funded by the community. I could have 15 school age children living in my home and I would still pay the same amount of property tax. Giving 10k or more per head for a school voucher seems out of line with the above statement. Governor, please stop holding teacher pay hostage with this plan. Texans just don't want it. I was born and raised a Republican conservative but... you are really disappointing me on this one. This is about our kids and you will go down if you continue on this road.

Sara Ortiz-Romero, Dr.

Self

San Antonio, TX

I oppose taking money away from public schools with vouchers. It will hurt Texas education.

Ana Miller

Self

Coppell, TX

I'm strongly opposed to HB 3. I live in a great public school that offered great programs free of charge and now we parents have to pay if we want our kids to be part of it!!! We need more money for our public schools. Great teachers are leaving! Classroom sizes of +30 children with only 1 teacher ??

Juliet Jennings

self and marketing director

Richardson, TX

I am opposed to the school voucher program. Children in Texas deserve the right to the best free, public education we can give them. The voucher program supports those that have the most versus those that need the most.

Public schools are the safety net that catch the kids that need the most support to reach their fullest potential. It is also a magical place that builds a sense of community. Supporting our neighborhood public schools means kids in the same streets and neighborhoods get to know each other, play and grow together. It means they grow up with a sense of belonging. It means that kids who don't have the support we would like them to have at home have a place to belong.

Please vote NO to vouchers and keep our tax dollars in the public schools that our kids deserve the most!

Clay Williams, Mr.

Self

Wylie, TX

No to vouchers. No to HB 3

Lindy McMahan

Self

Sachse, TX

I oppose school vouchers. It only gives those who can already afford private school a discount on their private educations. Please think about the public schools and use your power to support ALL students in Texas.

Stephanie Fitzpatrick

Self

Cypress, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB3 and would like all Texas State Representative to vote NO. This bill harms the majority of the state and takes funds away from the public education system, the children, the teachers, and the staff. This bill is being misled as "school choice", which isn't an issue. There has always been school choice, whether public, private, or homeschooling. Every family has the choice to participate in the education of their choice. Tax dollars are allotted for public education to ensure that EVERY CHILD, no matter financial situation or economic standing has equal access to education. If a family chooses to send their child to a private school that is a choice, and with that choice comes a cost. The limitations in private schools mean that not every child will get in or every child will get an opportunity for equal education like they would in public education, because they do not have to allow children with learning disabilities or special needs in, or allow lower income families in. Private schools are not regulated, therefore it's not an option for every child. But public education is. It's available EVERYWHERE and to EVERY ECONOMIC LEVEL and to EVERY LEARNING LEVEL, no exclusions.

This is the only option for fair opportunity to a rightful education. Taking tax payer money and allowing it to go to private or homeschooling education takes funds from every community. It limits the FREE educational opportunity that is a right to every child in this state. Programs will not be shoe up be funded, teachers will not earn raises that are well deserved, and the community will suffer!

VOTE NO!!! Do the right thing for the future of Texas!

Laura Hermes

self

Sachse, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS - NO TO HB3 - Texas does not want vouchers. Vouchers will not help the majority of Texans. Only Texans that can already afford private school. Private schools can deny my children entry solely based on their educational needs and 504 plans. All Texan children deserve a quality education. Release public funds to fund our PUBLIC schools. That's what we pay property taxes for!!!

Andrea Tyler

self librarian

Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS' & "NO TO HB3 and SB3

DeAnn Wilson

Sudan Elementary

Sudan, TX

Public school Principal here. No to vouchers!!!!

Sarah Allen, Rev. Dr.

self/clergy

Austin, TX

I urge the committee to vote against this voucher bill. It is detrimental for our public schools; public funding needs to remain in public schools.

Shannon Muldoon

Self

St Paul, TX

I do NOT want vouchers. I want you to fund public education fully and properly. I want you to care about the people who live in TX and support this economy. Most Texans are not wealthy. Your choices are showing us that only the wealthy matter. It is shameful!

Rachel Sossamon

Self / stay at home mom

Wylie, TX

NO SCHOOL VOUCHERS!

Our public schools struggle enough without the proper funds from the state. Support our public schools first!

Ruben Hernandez Jr.

Taxpayer

Corpus Christi, TX

Allocate thethe for teacher raises, improved music & arts. Improved technology & traing. Private education should be paid by private sector.

Gwendolyn Williams

Self/Advertising

Rockwall, TX

NO VOUCHERS!!!!

Chanel Gray

Self- Animal Behavior Specialist

Carrollton, TX

Texas House Bill 3 is a direct attack on public schools and will have devastating consequences for our education system. By pushing for school vouchers, this bill takes critical funding away from public schools, which are already underfunded and struggling to meet the needs of all students. Vouchers are not the answer — they divert resources away from the schools that serve the majority of Texas children and give tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

It's clear that Governor Greg Abbott is forcing this harmful agenda on the people of Texas, despite bipartisan opposition. A growing number of Texans, including both Democrats and Republicans, have voiced their concern and opposition to vouchers. Abbott's attempt to ignore the will of the public is a blatant disregard for what's best for our children, our teachers, and our communities. Public schools need more support, not less. If this bill passes, it will only widen the gap in educational equity and further harm the students who need it most.

We need to focus on strengthening our public schools, increasing funding, and ensuring every child has access to a quality education, not undermining the very system that serves the majority of Texas families.

Jessenia Curry

Self

Grapevine, TX

I am whole heartedly opposed to this proposal. There has not been any data provided upon the statewide benefit this has shown in the states that have approved this. This bill is not the solution to our state of education. We need to study places that have successful educational systems and high literacy rates and follow those procedures. This bill would also put the Texas teacher retirement system at risk which would also increase the teacher shortage. Please do not approve this bill at this time.

Jamie Dorobek

Self

Austin, TX

As a parent of 2 kids in public schools, I am against vouchers. Vouchers take money away from public schools. Private schools do not have to meet the same standards, can deny kids for any reason, not to mention, rural areas in Texas don't even have access to private schools. I do not support vouches.

Ann Zadeh, Hon.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Kathy Minor Schneider

Women of Dallas United for Action

Dallas, TX

My two children are the products of Richardson Independent School District and are thriving, contributing members of our society. I am also a product of Texas public schools and I believe our schools should be fully funded, teachers paid a living wage and students given the best opportunity to learn facts and figures that are afforded them as the constitution provides. My tax dollars should go to public schools not private schools that are owned by churches and private entities that I may not support. Give my tax dollars to public schools. That is where they belong and that is where I want them to go. Put this to a vote if you truly want to represent the population of Texas.

Jasmin Brown

Hartman elementary PTA wylie tx

Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS and NO TO SB3

Bonnie Norman

Self pastry chef

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Carol Bowles

Self- public school teacher

Adrian, TX

I oppose HB 3. I oppose vouchers. Public schools need to be FULLY FUNDED! You are not going to be able to provide CHOICE for ALL Texas school children. In my rural area - and ALL rural areas across the state - there will be NO CHOICE! These children are 60 + miles from ANY private or charter school! There parents are not capable of homeschool! YOU need to do what is right for PUBLIC SCHOOLS and FULLY FUND them! I WILL NOT support ANYONE who supports vouchers in the next election. TEXANS Do NOT support this! You are lining vendor pockets! NO VOUCHERS in TEXAS!!

Crystal Nguyen

Self / Financial Advisor

Houston, TX

I am against vouchers and for increasing the basic allotment per student by at least \$500. I have two children currently attending a public school and in gifted and talented programs. They have suffered tremendously the last two years due to the budget cuts caused by lack of funding. Vouchers do not give parents a choice and will not help students truly in need. My taxpayer dollars are not going to the students in my district and we have lost teachers, librarians, school counselors, and programs due to the lack of funding. I urge you to vote no on HB3. There is no accountability for private schools and as such our public tax dollars should not fund private school.

Kimberly Lawrence

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Holly Ray

Self/ retired

Fort Worth, TX

I strongly reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal notes on same. As far as I can tell this is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools. Please reject

Jennifer Doherty

Spring branch isd, self

Houston, TX

I am OPPOSED to school vouchers. This does nothing to support our PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Former educator. Current public school parent and PTA President.

John Polidore

self

Austin, TX

For many reasons, we oppose HB3. No public dollars for private schools. Our lawmakers need to focus on funding PUBLIC schools. Public schools have been starved of proper funding for far too long. The Texas Legislature is continuing to hold back support and the basic needs of public school districts and then pointing the finger at the public schools for not improving. Fix the funding for public schools BEFORE you start funding private schools and home school options. Especially since this bill doesn't even require all special needs children to be served and standardized testing to be applied.

Texans do not want HB3. Fully fund PUBLIC schools.

Deborah Lockley Wilkes

Self

Houston, TX

I opposed any form of vouchers, educational saving accounts, etc or use of public funds for private school use.

Fabiola Lujan

Mother

Wylie, TX

F

Kristin Benton

Self

Frisco, TX

Please stand with Texas families, not special interests. This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. It comes with a hefty price tag and zero accountability to the state or taxpayers! By providing great quality public education to everyone, we are lifting up our entire state for the better. Why stop that for nonsense vouchers?? Say YES to supporting Texas public education and the teachers who serve to create a better future for our children. NO VOUCHERS!!!

Samantha Collins

Self

Wylie, TX

No to Vouchers and No to HB3

Roderick Zeman, Retired teacher

Retired teachers

Amarillo, TX

You are taking money from poor kids to give a payment to rich kids for their private school. As soon as you pass this private schools will raise their tuition! Also, you are putting my pension at risk, and that is so wrong!

Monica Muñoz

Wylie ISD Council of PTAs

Wylie, TX

PLEASE take care of our children by taking the monies allocated for these ESAs and pour those into our public schools! Now, more than ever, WE NEED more support for ALL children and not just for a small few!!

Carla Carter

self/principal

New Braunfels, TX

I am sharing my opinion to oppose HB 3 due to the anticipated cost that would impact my school district. Specifically, If a large? voucher program is implemented in Comal ISD, it would drain \$11,994,683 from our neighborhood school district to unaccountable private schools. That could mean as many as 223 fewer teachers for students, 239,893 fewer library books, and a projected increase in student-teacher ratio of 7.25%.

Amu Abbett

Self, admin

Wylie, TX

I do not want the voucher system for my kids.

DONALD MCADAMS

self, retired

Bellaire, TX

After my 12 years on the Houston ISD board, I founded the Center for Reform of School Systems for the purpose of training school boards in good governance and reform leadership. I have trained over 100 school boards, mostly large urban districts, but also about 30 boards in Texas. I have also written four books on urban school governance. During this period I observed almost every reform effort advocated by education reformers and funded, sometimes lavishly, by major foundations. None were sustainable. The only strategy that will lead to sustainable improvement of public education is competition. School choice not only benefits the students who escape failing public schools for a non-public school of their choice, it also prompts school districts to improve. As they lose students, some of their best teachers and school administrators, and funding, school districts will be willing to take the sometimes painful steps to improve instruction, school climate, and student success. Placing public school districts into the market place is the only way to get their attention. Otherwise they get a burst of success with a good board and superintendent, but board elections and superintendent turnover inevitably bring these short golden periods to an end. The establishment reasserts itself. Universal school choice will benefit all students. And it will not drain money from the public schools. This is the big myth sold by the establishment. Indeed districts that lose students will lose funding. They will also lose the responsibility for educating the students they have lost. The argument that their fixed costs remain the same is not valid. All organizations have to manage variable and fixed costs—hospitals, supermarkets, and large manufacturing plants. School districts do this all the time as enrollments grow or decline. Also, have you ever known a school districts that said “we don’t need more money for increasing enrollment because it has a minimal effect on our fixed costs. Finally small town and rural districts need not fear that school choice will drain away students. Very few private schools exist in rural Texas, and where they do they are too small to compete even with small districts in curriculum and extra curricula activities. The big impact of school choice will be in large urban areas, and that is precisely where public schools are not adequately meeting the needs of their students.

Jesse Daly
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I am providing comments with respect to the current proposal regarding public education funding. I am opposed to the introduction of education savings accounts (ESA) in Texas and implore the House to vote against any such proposal currently under consideration.

In 2021, my wife and I made the choice to move our family from Missouri to Texas in large part due to the quality of Texas public schools. In Missouri, our children were enrolled in a French immersion charter school; one of the top performing schools in the state. We were selected via lottery to be able to enroll in the school and our children had a good experience while attending this charter school. So, we are familiar with school choice in some sense. And we made our choice. You could say we are Missourians by birth and Texans by choice. We are proud to be here and our choice has been absolutely the right decision from day one. Our children have flourished here and we continue to be impressed by the quality of the educational opportunities here in Texas, along with the parental and teacher support. We believe they will continue to flourish in the current public education system provided the state of Texas adequately funds public schools.

Therefore, we believe the current proposal to introduce ESAs is flawed and should be rejected for the following reasons:

- 1) There is limited oversight of the schools operating outside the current public school system who would be the beneficiaries of the ESA program. Additionally, public education is available to all children while private schools can choose which students to accept.
- 2) The ESA model negatively impacts rural school districts where existing public schools are critical to students' development and educational attainment in addition to being central to the local economy.
- 3) The preponderance of research in this area over the past decade on traditional vouchers strongly suggests they actually lower academic achievement according to the Brookings Institution.
- 4) Studies into a similar program in Arizona found that a disproportionate share of program beneficiaries appeared to be affluent.
- 5) Several studies have shown that both high exit rates from private schools funded with vouchers and/or ESA, as well as higher educational attainment upon returning to a traditional public school.

Our public schools here in Texas work. They need our continued support. Please reject the current proposal to introduce education savings accounts in Texas. Thank you for your consideration.

Abigal Rios
Self / Chef
Liberty Hill, TX

I am in opposition to HB 3. I oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

If the reason for vouchers is truly schools choice, then additional accountability measures must be added to the bill.

Measures such as:

1. No elected official past, present or future nor any family member by blood or marriage may financially benefit from the ESA program in any way, direct or indirect.
2. No family with a child currently enrolled in an education entity other than a Texas public school may use an ESA. They already have choice and they use it.
3. No education entity may deny admittance to a child choosing to use an ESA
4. No education entity admitting a child via an ESA may dismiss the child during the current school year
5. Any education entity that dismisses or denies continued enrollment to a child using an ESA before 5 years or graduation must fully refund the state plus a 25% penalty
6. Any education entity that accepts a child via an ESA must abide by the same rules, policies and procedures as every public school.

I oppose HB 3.

Stefan Terry
self, web developer and former academic support worker; spouse, educator
Del Valle, TX

Hello,

I write to express concern over the proposed education savings account program. Though well-intentioned, the results of similar programs in other states like Arizona show that it will do very little to improve school choice for those who want it, but will certainly max out its budget. It will almost certainly pull resources away from our already under-resourced public school systems, and will only succeed in funneling tax dollars into already-well-funded private operations.

Private and Charter schools on average only perform as well as the public options around them. If we really want to improve education outcomes and support school choice, we would focus our efforts on ensuring our public schools are sufficiently funded and work to push the cost of private options down, rather than give them the means to charge more knowing our tax dollars can pad the numbers.

Thank you.

H H

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Lawmakers,

My name is H.H., and I attended Austin ISD from pre-K through 12th grade. I graduated from Bowie High School in 2024 and now attend college in Texas, where I participate in sports and other extracurricular activities. I love college, but it is extremely hard for me. I have dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities that were never properly remediated during my time in Austin ISD.

My mom fought so hard for me for so many years, but when students do not get the help they need to be on grade level, schools do not have the resources to catch them up. Too often, students are just passed along without being truly college, career, or life ready. I am smart. I am capable. I have a better-than-average IQ and a strong desire to learn. But I did not receive the support I needed to be successful.

Schools do not have adequate dyslexia (and other) programs in secondary schools because of a lack of funding. That needs to change. Please increase the basic allotment to at least \$1,300 per student so Texas kids can get the support they need to succeed. I am working to obtain a degree so I can help students with disabilities get the help I never could.

Texas students deserve better. Please fund our public schools.

Thank you.

B F

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Lawmakers,

My name is Berkeley, and I'm a middle school student in an academy program in Austin ISD. I'm twice exceptional, and I love math, writing, and history. I love my school and my teachers, and I want them to have the resources (MONEY) they need—and to be paid what they deserve.

A \$220 increase to the basic allotment does not get us there. Schools are struggling, teachers are underpaid, and students are missing out on opportunities because there simply isn't enough funding.

Please provide more special education funding and increase the basic allotment by more than \$1,300 per student to support kids like me—the future of Texas.

Thank you.

David Derry
self - rancher
Medina, TX

I am a strong conservative that holds to the values of limited government and fiscal responsibility. My view is that ESAs/Vouchers in general and specifically as outlined in SB2 and HB3 do not hold consistent with either of those values. Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution states: "SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM OF PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS. A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools." Anything outside of the public school system is a growth of government. It will require new staff to oversee the program, funding to various vendors and little oversight of public funds. Any public funds should come with accountability just as public schools do with publicly available audits, access to board meetings, access to curriculum and so on. It is imperative that public funds (tax money) are not expended with strict controls. Who is going to ensure that our public funds are not going to private education systems that indoctrinate or teach values inconsistent with other tax payers. Thus, such oversight counteracts what many who choose private education or homeschooling really want.

I think we all agree that there are issues that need to be addressed in our public schools. This proposal does nothing to address the issues. These issues need to be tackled head on, not by funding a few that wish to seek alternative educational opportunities. As we are taught in economics, all choices come with costs. The debate now is who funds the cost associated with the choices of a few. Using public money to fund the choice of a few is not consistent with conservative ideals.

I am all for educational freedom. We have that freedom in Texas now. A parent can send their child to any school that will accept them or homeschool them. If those are not an option then that parent can always utilize the public school system. The people of Texas should not be forced to fund two school systems and the free will choices of others. I implore you to take the fiscally conservative, limited government stand and vote against HB3.

Elizabeth Wilson, FNP
Self
Abilene, TX

I am strongly opposed to implementation of a voucher program in the state.

Alyssa Rios
Self, teacher
Liberty Hill, TX

I am in opposition to HB 3. I oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

If the reason for vouchers is truly schools choice, then additional accountability measures must be added to the bill.

Measures such as:

1. No elected official past, present or future nor any family member by blood or marriage may financially benefit from the ESA program in any way, direct or indirect.
2. No family with a child currently enrolled in an education entity other than a Texas public school may use an ESA. They already have choice and they use it.
3. No education entity may deny admittance to a child choosing to use an ESA
4. No education entity admitting a child via an ESA may dismiss the child during the current school year
5. Any education entity that dismisses or denies continued enrollment to a child using an ESA before 5 years or graduation must fully refund the state plus a 25% penalty
6. Any education entity that accepts a child via an ESA must abide by the same rules, policies and procedures as every public school.

Tonya Wilson
McMillian Junior High
Wylie, TX

As a child with an IEP that desperately needs the accommodations that private schools do not offer, I oppose school vouchers.

Michele Rutherford
Parent/tax payer
Smithville, TX

As a rural constituent, I oppose school vouchers. Not only will these vouchers strip our local public schools of much needed funding, they will put more of a burden on rural home owners to make up budget shortfalls by raising our local taxes. Most rural communities do not have private schools to even send kids to. Even if private /for profit schools open, they are not held accountable to taxpayers. No to vouchers!

Denise Mitchell
Self
Richardson, TX

I am asking you to vote no to the school vouchers bill. Our tax dollars should stay in our public school systems that serve all Texas children, including the kids that need it the most. It ensures they have access to the kind of education that grows the Texans of the future. Neighborhood public schools are the glue that helps hold our communities together and funding them only serves all of us versus the select few.

KIMBERY ELLIS
ROCKWALL HIGH SCHOOL PTO
ROCKWALL, TX

We are not in favor of HB3 and education ESA's. We believe that ESAs will hurt our school districts and only continue to contribute to larger classroom sizes, reduction in school programs and continue to not allow our district to have the buying power we need. School choice does not help RISD, it only helps private schools and the wealthy. This will also impact special education programs and IEP programs. Please deny HB 3 and increase the basic allotment to at least \$7,655 to ensure we have what we need to be a successful district.

julie crowell
Self - Claims Manager
Houston, TX

School vouchers are a scam that redistributes tax payer dollars to wealthy Texans and I do not support this bill. Our public schools should be fully funded using these funds, not to create an even further unbalanced distribution of wealth. Education should be for everyone and you only achieve that by fully funding public schools. Representatives who vote otherwise are voting against the best interest of our state - an action that will be remembered at the polls.

Monica Gibson
Self
San Antonio, TX

As a parent and a foster parent, I do not support ESAs or vouchers. Our public funds should continue to support or public schools. They were instrumental in getting services for one of foster children who had additional needs. Please stand up for our public schools that provide education for all. No ESAs

Cathrine McMahan

Texas Public School Educator / Parent

Levelland, TX

I absolutely oppose tax-payer funded vouchers in any form or fashion for the state of Texas. As a rural resident, teacher, and parent there is no benefit of voucher funding for students in our communities. There are no alternatives in rural west Texas-- so the idea of "choice" does not apply to rural students. Furthermore, in more densely populated regions of the state, vouchers will fund a wave of self-segregation based on a variety of motives under the guise of "school choice." Representatives that vote in favor of this action are writing their legacy of public service and signing their name to "Jim Crow 2.0." What a shame and embarrassment to know that one's public service used the money of the many to provide for the few. Our state has a long history of promoting free and accessible public education, this is completely opposed to those foundational principles. As an active voter, I refuse to vote for any candidate in future elections that votes in favor of these actions.

Chelsey Rictor

Self/instructional designer

Denton, TX

This bill is disguised as a positive when it is just another way to take money away from public schools. Do not pass this bill. We won't accept anything less than public schools remaining accountable to the tax paying public. This bill would only lend itself to waste and fraud.

Heather Kay

Self

Denton, TX

HB 3 will cripple an already struggling public school system. I have two kids in public schools, one of which receives services that I do not know that a private school can provide. Even if a private school can provide the services my child needs, the tuition (even considering a voucher amount) is not feasible for my family. As a result, my children will remain in a public school setting that lacks sufficient funding. I worry what programs and tools will be eliminated from public schools due to a decline in funding. Additionally, this bill is not needed because parents already have school choice in Texas. Parents can choose whether or not to send their children to public schools, private schools, or home school. Within the public school system, parents have the right to transfer to schools outside their zone.

Meredith Culp

Self

Carrollton, TX

School vouchers weaken the public education system, disproportionately benefit wealthier families, lack accountability, and do not consistently lead to better educational outcomes. Instead of funding private schools, many believe that resources should be invested in improving public education for all students. Public schools still have fixed costs (buildings, teachers, programs) that don't decrease proportionally when students leave, worsening financial strains. Wealthier families, who can afford the remaining costs, benefit more, while low-income students are left in struggling public schools. Private schools are not required to provide transportation, further limiting access for lower-income students. Private schools receiving voucher funds are not held to the same academic and financial transparency standards. They are not always required to follow standardized testing or curriculum guidelines, making it difficult to assess student performance. Many private schools can reject students based on religious beliefs, disabilities, academic performance, or other criteria. Public schools are required to serve all students, including those with disabilities and behavioral challenges, while private schools can refuse to accommodate them. Please stop destroying our public schools to line the pockets of your friends. You are already destroying this state in so many other ways.

Katie Haydin
Argyle ISD
Justin, TX

As an assistant principal in Argyle ISD, I see firsthand the challenges our public schools face due to inadequate funding. Our district has not seen an increase in the basic allotment, despite rising costs and growing student needs. Now, HB3's Education Savings Account (ESA) program threatens to divert even more public dollars away from our schools and into private institutions that lack accountability and accessibility. While this program is being marketed as a benefit for lower-income families, the reality is that it does not cover the full cost of many private schools, leaving those families without real access while still draining resources from public education.

Our schools are already in a funding crisis, creating an unsustainable environment for our teachers and staff. Instead of funneling taxpayer dollars into unregulated private education, we need to invest in our public schools to provide competitive salaries, resources, and support for the educators who serve the vast majority of Texas students. Public dollars should remain in public schools, where they benefit all children—not just a select few. We had the opportunity to meet and I am so thankful for the productive conversations we had. It is crucial that this bill is looked at through the lens of what people really want and it doesn't seem like education savings account is it. We have amazing teachers and students in our district that deserve the care, resources, and compensation they deserve.

Rachel Shipp
Self
Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS' & "NO TO HB3"

Please release funds to our public schools to help the students and staff there. We don't need vouchers for private schools. We need public school funding.

Connie Daniels
Self
Little Elm, TX

We do NOT want vouchers!!

Claire Early
Self, CPA
Allen, TX

My husband and I are both products of the Texas public school system - two proud CPA's working hard to support our family. We chose Allen as our home for its wonderful public school reputation. Our two children are in public elementary school and we hope to proudly continue their education in the public school system. We plead with Congress to oppose the vouchers or education savings accounts of any kind and to please keep our public tax dollars in our public schools. The proposals for current public school increased funding are welcome, but are still not enough. We have \$30 billion surplus and are choosing not to fully fund our public school system. It makes no sense. A well-educated population benefits all Texans, and I beg you to please fully fund the public schools and keep special interests out of it.

Jacqueline Flesher
Kealing Middle School PTA
Austin, TX

Several studies have found that students who used vouchers to attend private schools often performed worse on standardized tests than their peers in public schools. A key reason for this failure is that vouchers often don't address the fundamental issues facing students in low-income communities—issues that private schools often do not address, such as transportation, limited special education services, or the support systems needed for struggling students.

Instead of relying on vouchers, focusing on increasing funding per student in public schools is a proven way to improve educational outcomes. In East Coast states, where many large urban school districts face significant challenges, higher funding can make a substantial difference in addressing educational inequities. States like New Jersey, Maryland, and Massachusetts have demonstrated the positive effects of strong public school funding, with increased investment leading to better educational outcomes for students.

In New Jersey, for example, the state has made significant investments in its public schools, particularly in low-income districts, resulting in higher graduation rates and stronger academic performance. Similarly, Massachusetts has one of the highest per-pupil spending rates in the nation, and its students consistently perform well in national assessments, particularly in areas like math and science. These outcomes show that when schools have adequate funding, they can provide better resources, support services, and quality teachers, all of which contribute to improved educational achievement.

As a parent of middle schoolers, Henry (8th) and George (7th), who attend an Austin magnet school, I understand the importance of school choice. However, I believe that school vouchers are not the solution. Rather than diverting funds away from public schools, we should focus on improving and adequately funding the schools that serve the majority of students, ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has access to high-quality education. Our magnet school is a fantastic option for my children, but they've had to make staff cuts, decreasing the rigor of classes, forcing larger core classes, and stretching the administrators and teachers thin.

We need to ensure all public schools have the resources they need to provide exceptional education for all students. Let's invest in our teachers and public schools, not in voucher programs that undermine them.

I've worked on PTA boards for years to help strengthen our schools, raising funds to make up for government shortfalls. Our family strongly supports increasing funding for Texas teachers to ensure they are among the highest-paid in the nation. Teachers play a crucial role in shaping the future of our children and our state, and it's time we prioritize their compensation to reflect the immense value they bring to our communities.

Investing in teachers will have a lasting positive impact on our education system and Texas economy.

Melissa Jacobson
Self / Mom
Hurst, TX

Texans do not benefit from this bill. We do not want to take any money away from Public schools that are already struggling with the paltry amount left over for them from state funding. Please keep vouchers and alternative funding out of the State of Texas! Stand with our kids, educators and tax payers!

Erin Sears
Self/pharmacist
Plano, TX

Daughter of educators, sibling of educators, mother of 3 public school children (includes one with dwarfism that has 504), active PTA volunteer and community leader. Public education is the crux of our society. Choice already exists- vouchers will remove the choice of a healthy, thriving public school system by depriving of needed funds. Please vote no! My son with a 504 will certainly be deprived of options because schools that are not public will choose against an individual with any needs above average. All of my children are active in extracurricular and are high performing within the public education we have. There are needed solutions to improve public school like fully funding Plano ISD, but vouchers will do quite the opposite. Vote a resounding no!

Jim Chadwell, Dr.

Self - Retired

Fort Worth, TX

Texas is on the verge of creating a statewide vouchers program. Elected officials and the public school should consider the impact fully before it is too late. I am proud that Texas is fiscally conservative and I am very concerned that the implementation of vouchers is a sharp departure from the fiscally conservative leadership of Texas that has led us to so much economic success. Vouchers are being promoted as a parent/student choice initiative. Choice is not free and the costs of this program and its effect on the entire public education system must be considered.

While the deregulation of public education is deemed by some as fiscally conservative, by definition it is clearly not. Similar to the military, police, and fire, the deregulation of essential services, such as K-12 education, will have a detrimental effect. Elected school boards with oversight by the TEA ensure that school districts are managed appropriately. The deregulation of public education to private entities with no transparent accountability is fraught with potentially negative consequences.

Measuring vouchers by the litmus test of fiscal conservatism will reveal that it is fiscally progressive, because of its redistribution of resources through governmental intervention. Fiscal conservatism is based on the control of public spending, lower taxation, avoiding deficits, and in supporting an efficient government. Vouchers will cost more money, create budgetary deficits, and represent a duplication of services. They create a redistribution of wealth.

Is it fiscally conservative to:

- Create more governmental bureaucracy?
- Spend more money without transparent oversight?
- Construct the largest entitlement program Texas has ever created, which will redistribute tax dollars to fund a private, preference-driven educational system?
- Create an ongoing structural deficit because of the additional cost of vouchers?
- Provide public funds for private purposes without oversight, specific expectations of financial or performance-related accountability?
- Create a system in which private school/homeschool competition will result in the need for fewer public school buildings, but will not reduce the debt service payments to pay off the school bonds for these buildings?
- Funding private schools with no elected school board and little to no organizational transparency?
- Redirect financial support for the public education system to a private education system?
- Create a system to fund parent and student preferences versus needs?
- Redistribution of wealth by using property taxes to fund private schools and homeschools?

The answer to each of these questions is a clear “no.” There is nothing fiscally conservative about the implementation of vouchers, but rather it is a ruse to use taxpayer dollars to create the largest entitlement program that has ever been passed by a Texas Legislature.

Jennifer Binsley

Self

Carrollton, TX

Most of the people in Texas do not want vouchers. My children's elementary school is being retired at the end of this year, along with 4 others in our district and countless others across the state, due to issues with underfunding. My family, along with so many others, couldn't afford public school even with the vouchers. They aren't benefitting anyone but the wealthy. Public schools are beneficial and need to be fully funded. My husband is a public school teacher and I know how they are underpaid, overworked, and are having way too many children in classrooms because of the public schools being closed. Vouchers do not benefit the regular working class members of this state. You are literally driving people OUT of the state and pushing them to move.

Stacie Gooch

Self

Wylie, TX

no to vouchers and no to HB#

Jessica Castillo
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

All Texas Families deserve better.

Daniella Torres
Self
Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS. NO TO SB3.

Marina Rodriguez
Self
San Antonio, TX

Public School Educator against vouchers! What happens to our low-income students that cannot afford the other part of tuition? "Scholarships" are not available for everyone. Also, students without transportation to a "better" school. So all these vouchers are doing is further widening the gap. Adequately fund public schools, give teachers AND instructional assistants a raise. Figure out a way for improved parent involvement. Then, we can begin to fix the public education system.

Melanie Devora
All Children
San Antonio, TX

As an advocate for public education and a concerned citizen, I strongly oppose House Bill 3 (HB3) in its current form. While the intention behind the bill may be to increase parental choice and improve educational opportunities, it fundamentally misguides the direction of educational funding and resources in Texas, potentially undermining the very institutions that serve the vast majority of our students.

Lani Caffey
Self/Public school teacher
Olney, TX

I am asking that, if you are going to pass this voucher bill, you hold private and home schools to the same accountability standards as public schools. I really ask that you NOT pass it and give fully funding public Ed a try. I saw that the latest version of the bill gives \$30k for a disabled student. Did you know public schools lose money on most disabled or sped students bc we aren't getting enough funding for each of them? If leaders in TX are unhappy with public schools, you have only yourselves to blame. Abbott has been in power for 10 years. Why isn't he being held accountable?

I am a public school teacher and parent and I am exhausted. The constant disrespect from our state officials is demoralizing, but I keep showing up because I know that what I do provides generation-changing opportunities for kids.

The final concern I have is for TRS. The Senate Bill showed that TRS would be insolvent in a few years in an attempt to fund vouchers. My husband I are both educators. What are we supposed to do if our state officials are irresponsible with that money? Our livelihoods and retirements are in your hands right now. I know this decision is being made because of some billionaires. What about the regular people who make the state run every day? Please don't forget us.

Natalie Weimer

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools

Susan Van Sickle

Self, teacher

Frisco, TX

I am a 5th generation Texan and a 2nd generation public school educator. I have a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Houston. I have 3 kids all in Texas public schools. I believe in public schools and the quality of education being delivered by our school districts. If vouchers pass, the future of public education in Texas is at stake. We need the funding to stay with the public schools is level the playing field for all children. We need the funding in order to retain the best teachers and administration. Say no to SB2!

Eunice Navarro Garcia, Mrs.

Self/homemaker/PTA member

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3, Vouchers are not the solution. The amount of money attached to each student does not cover a fraction of the funding needed to sustain an equitable learning environment for the growing number of children with learning disabilities and special needs. This is the biggest disservice to our most vulnerable. Vouchers will also create an instability in our communities. Many teachers, paraprofessionals, and specialized professionals like dyslexia educators, speech therapists, occupational therapists, and behavioral interventionists will be affected to name a few.

Another concern is that vouchers will likely create dangerous pop up campuses everywhere seeking payout but not providing adequate or even safe services for children. Law makers should anticipate schools with radical views to pop up as well.

As a parent of five kids, four who attend the public school system and one with special needs who homeschools, and only attends a public school campus for speech therapy, I do not support vouchers. I wholeheartedly hope my voice along with so many other parents will be represented against HB3.

Scott Matula

Self

Grapevine, TX

I and my family are against the idea of vouchers.

Cody Arthur

Self

Houston, TX

I stand proudly against HB3 and vouchers. Support public schools!

Nolan Navarrete

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 3!!

Ale Babino, Dr.

Self

Princeton, TX

I wholeheartedly reject vouchers and encourage the state to focus on fully funding our public schools.

Rebecca Welch

Self

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3! Abbott doesn't care for our students or teachers.

Rose Shiner, MS RDN LD

Self

Murphy, TX

I oppose HB 3

Stacie Smith

Self - Mother

Sachse, TX

I oppose HB3. Please do what is right for all Texas students. Fully fund public ed and ensure every child receives an excellent education. No vouchers, no ESAs.

Katharine Lachance

Self

Taylor, TX

Public funds MUST stay in public schools!! Eliminate standardized testing and use the funds where they will help most!!

Kristy Havard

self teacher

Laporte, TX

Texas House Bill 3 is an outrageous attack on public education and the children who rely on it. This bill would divert up to \$500 million per year in taxpayer dollars from public schools to fund education savings accounts (ESAs), primarily benefiting private institutions that often operate with minimal oversight. The Texas public school system, which serves over 5 million students, already faces a massive funding gap—currently, the state is spending about \$2,000 less per student than the national average. Diverting funds to private schools through ESAs will only exacerbate these disparities, leaving districts with fewer resources to address critical issues such as overcrowded classrooms and teacher shortages. Furthermore, this bill is a direct disservice to special needs students, who rely heavily on the specialized services, individualized education plans (IEPs), and support systems provided by public schools. Private institutions are not required to offer the same level of services or accommodations, meaning that many special needs students would be left without the support they need to succeed. The Texas public school system is already facing a shortage of resources for special education, and ESAs would only worsen this crisis.

Additionally, studies have shown that voucher programs, similar to ESAs, have failed to deliver improved student outcomes by gaining resources from public schools. In 2021, a Texas House Public Education Committee report revealed that many charter schools receiving public funds do not even outperform traditional public schools, raising serious concerns about the lack of accountability. Instead of addressing the real problems—such as inadequate teacher pay (Texas teachers are ranked 38th in the nation for average salary)—lawmakers are pursuing an ideologically-driven scheme that will only deepen educational inequality and harm the most vulnerable students. This is a disgrace and a blatant disservice to the future of Texas' children, especially those with special needs.

Paola Huerta

Wylie ISD

Sachse, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Christina Rigby
WHS PTSA
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3! I am a conservative republican who votes in the primary and general election. I voted the people in who are currently there. If HB 3 goes through I will not be voting for any of them again!

Amanda Moreno, Ms.
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

School voucher/savings are not needed. Texas parents already have choices. Public schools that are fully funded are necessary.

Julie Tran
Lakeview Elementary PTA
Sugar Land, TX

We need more funding for public schools, not less. This bill will reduce the financial support that public schools receive. As the Fundraising Chair on the PTA for the past three years, my primary goal has been to raise funds to cover the gaps that the school cannot address. These expenses include class field trips, teacher appreciation, programs like Healthy Minds, classroom support (including supplies and educational materials for teachers), library and PE programs, and more. Reducing funds for public schools will further widen this gap, and ultimately, it is the students, school administration, and staff who will suffer. Typically, school enrichment programs are the first to be cut, and all students should have access to art, music, and other enrichment programs. Public education is crucial for families, and our school should not receive less funding.

We must prioritize our children's education and ensure that every student has the resources and opportunities they deserve. Let's stand together and advocate for the future of our public schools.

Sabrina Lowther
Self
Round rock, TX

Please vote against this and fully fund our public schools.

Jack Wehner
PTA, Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Madeleine Johnson
Self educator
Forney, TX

Please vote NO.

Elizabeth Griffin
Self
Dallas, TX

Increase the basic allotment for public school students to \$10000. There is no reason it should be lower than your proposed voucher amount. This should also be enrollment based, not attendance based. We benefit from having a well-educated electorate, and thriving public schools are vital to achieving that end.

Please also give our teachers a raise. They haven't had one since 2019 and we all have experienced the significant inflation in cost of living over the past 6 years.

Carlos Saucedo, Teacher

Self

EL Paso, TX

Please STOP holding public schools hostage by holding back funding and teacher pay raises. Charter schools are not the answer! Privatizing education in order to make the wealthy wealthier undermines everything public school teachers and public education principles. STOP, stop, stop! Governor Abbott do the right thing and remember the great education you or some of your family members obtained through Public education, it got you and most people in government where you are now. Yours in Public Education, Mr. Saucedo.

Ava Wehner

PTA, Wylie ISD

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Ronald Hughes

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Amanda Miyamoto

Self

Austin, TX

I am absolutely against the establishment of an education savings account program. This bill is not about parent choice, it's about private school and vendor choice. It comes with a hefty price tag and zero accountability to the state or taxpayers! Please prioritize fully funding public schools first as required by the Texas Constitution before enacting a program that is both costly, has little data to back up that it ends in better outcomes for students, and does not help all children equally. My two daughters have attended excellent public schools (2022 Graduate and 2026 Graduate) most of their lives here in Dripping Springs and I fear that my neighbors and future residents will not have the same services or opportunities mine have had. My family also is an example of a family that an ESA would not help us fully cover anywhere near as a program as Dripping Springs HS and we would not be able to cover the remainder even if we wanted to. My oldest daughter also received FOCUS services through the Special Education program at her school that would not have been available to her any area private school. These services were instrumental in her success. Thank you.

Matt Write

Self

Ft worth, TX

Vote no on this bill it will destroy public schools and reward the rich

Alicia Guerra

Representing students and their families!

Mesquite, TX

No to HB 3.

Joshua Simkulet

Self

Wylie, TX

No to vouchers

Susan Link
PTA
Missouri City, TX
I oppose HB 3.

Patricia Green, Retired
Self
Bastrop, TX
Horrible idea. Absolutely no to ESA's/ Bouchers!

Arthur Liening
Self, Public School Music Teacher
Arlington, TX

As a Public School teacher for 10 years now, I urge you to oppose HB 3 and prioritize adequate funding for public school children. Studies show voucher programs do not equate to improved academic outcomes. HB 3 is NOT a parent choice bill – This bill funds private school selectivity with public money. Texas families already have school choice. They do not need an incentive to take them out of public school. Public school funding is directly tied to public school attendance, which means, this bill will directly, and negatively impact our public school system. Public money should also require public accountability—any school or entity receiving taxpayer dollars must meet the same standards, mandates, testing, and accountability requirements as public schools. If you start giving money to private schools, will you require them the same the same standards, mandates, testing, and accountability requirements as public schools? The answer is no. I also urge you to let Texans decide! Vouchers would use public dollars for private education, and Texans deserve a voice in this decision. Urge lawmakers to put the measure on a statewide ballot, in CLEAR and SIMPLE terms, for the average voter to understand, and let the people vote. Thank you for allowing me to make this public comment and voice my disapproval of HB3.

Pamela Boyer
Self
Kerrville, TX

NO to school vouchers! Fund our public schools instead of holding them hostage to pass this bill. Our public schools are suffering because our governor is not getting his way. Our students deserve the best public schools funded properly. I am a public school special education teacher and it breaks my heart to see our programs underfunded. Texas children deserve better, and school choice isn't the answer.

Kathryn O'Connor
Janie Stark Elementary PTA
Farmers Branch, TX

This bill does not create choice. Vouchers create inequality, undermine public education, and leave our most vulnerable communities with fewer resources and fewer options.

Nelson Negron, Mrs
Self
League City, TX

I support school choice vouchers!! As a mom of a special-needs child who never had this available, it would have been life changing!! I gave up my career and we went to a one income house after our public school lost our son multiple times!! They dropped him off at a strangers apartment who didn't speak English and he wasn't verbal at the time!! I became a homeschooling mom that day!! My husband worked multiple jobs with no sleep for years while we transitioned. That young man graduates this year and I am so grateful but imagine what could have been if we had the option to send him to a private school tailored to him! Lofe changing!!!

Roberta Love, Mrs

Self

San Antonio, TX

While passing this bill probably appeals to parents who choose to send their children to private schools, it is not in the best interest of those who attend public schools. Public education is provided, free of charge, through these schools to everyone who resides in the District. If parents decides to send their children to a tuition school, they have made the decision to personally fund their education.

Cynthia Williams

Self

Marshall, TX

I do not support this bill.

Victor Boswell, Mr.

Self - Public School Teacher Waco ISD

China Spring, TX

This bill will absolutely DESTROY not only public education for years to come but will also increase the strain on rural and middle class families across the state of Texas. I VEHEMENTLY ask our representatives to vote against this bill!

Brent Wehner, Dr.

PTA, Wylie ISD

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Yvonne Darrah Steckel

Self

Austin, TX

As a former school teacher, school librarian, volunteer, and parent, I strongly oppose the use of state money for private school vouchers. Our public schools are already grossly underfunded and our state should increase funding for public schools, which are the bedrock for most Texas communities in urban, rural, and suburban areas.

Rogelio Alfaro

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am a school teacher and oppose this bill. I paid for private for my children. My taxes of for public school education not private schools.

Abigail Johnson

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Galen Monroe

Concerned Citizen

Katy, TX

This bill is not to be passed because it does nothing to help educate the children of Texas, but to give tax money to people who do not need it. This entire issue is politically driven by people who want to destroy public education, not a concern for parental choice.

Raquel Goranson

Self

Dallas, TX

As an educator and parent of students in public schools, I STRONGLY, oppose the implementation of vouchers in our system. Public schools should be fully funded and supported but the state. A educated populace only helps elevate our state

No public dollars should be used for religious education as it blurs the line between church as state. Additionally, allowing public dollars to go to private schools does address accountability or our tax payer dollars.

Lastly, in my area, private schools should tuition varies from 20k to 36k. Not only is the voucher amount more than my public school students and children are allotted per year, they are also not enough to cover tuition for middle and low income families. Allowing people to withdraw tax dollars for private education will only hurt the most vulnerable and subsequently destroy our schools.

Akeena McDonald

Self

Missouri City, TX

Vouchers are not for all students. How will students who need special services be educated?

Nikki Prater

Self

Canadian, TX

Iam opposed to HB3 and I will be opposed to any bill that supports vouchers in Texas. Instead, fully fund Texas education as outlined in the Texas constitution so that ALL students will have equitable resources to learn.

Berthine Mason

Self

Spring, TX

I am well aware that your plan is to create a permanent underclass of workers who will not have options because they will be uneducated. If you removed significant funding from public schools what are other constituents supposed to do? Those folks who wish to send their children to private schools left them do. If they want to make that sacrifice, let them do what other parents have had to do. I did!

Frances Mott, Dr.

self/retired

Malone, TX

Private school vouchers are an attack on Public Education, our freedoms, and our democracy; stripping resources from our communities, silencing educators, and funneling wealth and power upward. Texas legislators must act now to stop Private School Vouchers.

Amy Frank
Self
Wylie, TX

This bill would not be good for Texas. I am a conservative voters and I am sending this to tell you that I OPPOSE HB3 and SB2. Vouchers have been proven to only help the wealthy. Low and middle class families still cannot afford to send their kids to a private school even with a voucher, leaving us to attend public schools that are now receiving even less funding. Make no mistake, this will pull funding from public education. All you have to do is look at every other state that has implemented them. What options, may I ask, are the 150+ counties that have no private school options supposed to do? Where is their choice? I had always thought that Republicans stood on the principle of less government regulation over private businesses and yet this bill allows public tax money to be given to a private business that the government now says it will regulate.

Also, how is it constitutional for public tax dollars to go to private businesses that can cherry pick the students they will admit? How is it that these parents who accept this voucher money have to acknowledge that these private businesses don't have to follow federal and state disability laws? They receive state money but aren't forced to follow state laws protecting students with disabilities? That is horrendous.

As a conservative voters, I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB3 and SB2. I am so disappointed in our elected officials. This is not setting up a bright future for our children.

Florence Gray
self/retired
Argyle, TX

I say NO to vouchers. Don't ruin the Great State of Texas. Our public schools need to be fully funded.

Sara Steinbrueck
Self
Tyler, TX

Our community is so proud of Tyler ISD. It accomplishes amazing things for the children of our community as well as for the community itself. Reducing funding for such a valuable service would only serve to hurt this community. Public schools serve all children, which benefits everyone through a better educated and better skilled citizenry. Please do not redirect public funds to private schools, who do not have the mandate to serve all. Public funds for public schools!

Lisa Bobo
Self
Lake Dallas, TX

No vouchers. No inequity. Accountability for all.

Gloria Alfaro
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose this bill. If you want to send your child to private school pay for it yourself. I sent my kids to private school and paid for it myself. My tax dollars are for funding public schools not private school.

Sienna Gemar

Self

Buda, TX

NO to HB 3 - it is not about choice—it's about shifting public funds into private hands without accountability. This approach is fiscally irresponsible and unsustainable. Strong public schools benefit every child, and we all want the best for our students: smaller classes, well-funded neighborhood schools, excellent teachers, and meaningful parent engagement. Instead of diverting resources, let's strengthen our public schools by: 1) Investing ESA/voucher funds where they belong—in public education, and 2) Empowering our teachers with the same trust given to private institutions. Stand with public schools. Say NO to HB 3.

Heather Foster

self, homemaker

Sugar Land, TX

Please vote NO on HB 3. Any money earmarked for education needs to be given to public schools. A voucher system is not equitable and will not produce the quality education with quantifiable success Texas families want. Families on a tight budget like me would not be able to afford a private school anyway, so a voucher just takes money away from my child's public school. My child has an IEP, and I know that not all private schools would be able to provide the services my public school does. Most of the private schools in my area are religious—those schools should not be given tax-payer money because the Constitution guarantees the separation of church and state. Teachers, administrators, and staff at public schools in Texas are underpaid! They are heroes!! They work with every child to provide a good education, even though some of the children are lacking even a basic social safety net due to the choices of our legislature. Obviously an uneducated public is preferred by MAGA Republicans, which sadly, seems to be the majority in the Texas GOP. We already know you don't care about children—they are too young to vote! But think selfishly of the future of our state--do you think businesses will excel here without an educated work force? Do you think we will be innovative and profitable? Not if you weaken the public school system!! I hope you realize that parents are finally understanding that these voucher bills are the worst choice that could be made. Vote NO!!

Allison Autry

Texas public educators

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3!!!!

This is not good for kids!!

Lisha Tompsett

self, teacher

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

I support the public school system, and want all children in it to get the best opportunities. These accounts will NOT benefit ALL children.

Robin Lightstone

Self

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose this bill which will defund public schools and benefit wealthy families with my tax money

Patricia Sobhani
Self
San Antonio, TX

Do not pass this. I am a parent of a public school child and I am very concerned about his future. He and many other students will lose out as their schools lose funding. It will cause severe inequity and will not help the future of TX. Paying for private schools goes against our fundamental rights to keep church and state separate. I urge you to vote against this. We already have school choice in place. I have chosen to send my son to a public magnet school. My neighbors have chosen to send their kids to a public charter. My brother chose to send his child to private school. This bill does nothing to help keep schools on a level field. Parents who live far from private schools with no transportation and not enough money to make up the difference will still be shut out. We need to keep the public funds in public schools. Thank you.

Jayme King
self
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Amy Olles, Ms.
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I'm a life long Texas resident who has many friends, and nieces and nephews in the Texas public schools. I have seen these kids I know and am related to really thrive at public school. I work with children in the foster care system. Often public school is a place of stability for those children in foster care.

This voucher bill would further erode funding from an already unequally funded public school system and further starve public schools of much needed funding. This will have detrimental affects to the every day lives of students and damage their future prospects. It will lower the quality and availability of education for the majority of children across Texas as so many families cannot afford private school tuition even with the proposed voucher plan. Some families don't even have access to private schools to begin with. I fear the voucher bill would completely strand children in the foster care system and hinder them from school attendance at all.

We need the TX Ledge to focus on the bills that will fully fund the classrooms and teachers salaries of our public schools. We need to ensure that public schools are good options for the working class families of Texas, and not just dying institutions people have no choice but to attend as the rich funnel all the money out of them.

I say no to vouchers. I hope the TX ledge has the courage to do the the right thing and reject this disastrous bill. Fully fund Texas public schools instead of foisting this voucher scam on Texans.

Stephanie Eda
Self - retired
Houston, TX

I am against providing funds for private education. Texas should put more funds into supporting public education. Teachers and other school staff members deserve a raise. More funds should be spent improving school buildings and other school facilities. Provide funds for more school nurses, counselors, and librarians. I do not support sending tax dollars to support private schools..

Tasha Yarbrough
Self
Channing, TX

Vote NO to HB3. Public schools are the backbone of rural communities. Fund public schools completely instead of lining schools for profit with no accountability. Champion public schools and have the backbone against the billionaire donors' interest but instead for the future of students. Texas could have the best public education system in the country if the amount of money and effort was put into solving the problems faced by public schools that has been put into diverting public money to privatization and tearing down our public schools.

Dorothy Robinson, Ms.

Self, retired

Dallas, TX

This bill will only destroy public education. If parents cannot afford to pay the difference in the tuition, what happens to the student? If the student is kicked out of the private school, where will he go? Stop wasting our tax dollars on testing and go back to educating our children.

Mario Rios, Educator

Self

Helotes, TX

I strongly oppose vouchers. Public schools have not received any financial increase since 2019 in Texas. Public school teachers in Texas rank near the bottom in pay in national rankings. Our public schools deserve support from the state of Texas. Our students are the state's future. Please support Texas public schools.

Vernagene Mott, Ms.

self

Pflugerville, TX

Against-As a life long Texas public-school educator, as a community leader/builder, as an elected official I cannot support public funds in private schools without the transparency, accountability and oversight of student outcomes. In the conservative State of Texas, laws should be base on serving the common good. Our local public schools are the heart of our community, Let's make them stronger, more efficient with improved results.

Katy Parish

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Justin Parish

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Laci Strickland

Self

Josephine, TX

I oppose HB 3

Jennifer Basich

Self-food service

League City, TX

Very sad to see our elected officials abandon public schools for what is being called "parental choice". Not really. And all the states that have already implemented this biased plan have seen costs skyrocket. Why not invest fully in what is already in place and starving? Do you think disenfranchising millions of Texas school children and giving them second rate educations is good for the future of our great State? Have you looked at those states that have already implemented this plan? NO voters have ever approved these plans on their own. The votes are bought by wealthy investors. So sad. Wake up and DO THE RIGHT THING. You know what it is. Stop capitulating to those with an alternate agenda.

Joel McElhany

Self

Fort worth, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 because school vouchers would take funding away from public schools, weakening the foundation of our education system and, in turn, our democracy. Public schools serve all children, regardless of background, and are essential to providing equal opportunities for success. By diverting taxpayer dollars to private institutions, HB 3 would reduce resources for public schools, making it harder to retain quality teachers, support vital programs, and ensure all students receive a strong education. Instead of undermining public education, we should invest in strengthening our schools to benefit every child in Texas.

Jon-Michael Parker

self, Chief Nursing Officer, School Board member

Eldorado, TX

I am firmly in opposition to school vouchers. Texans are not in favor of them and it will only further cripple funding to public schools. Texans should actually have a voice and make a referendum and let's vote on it.

Lois Jumper

Self

Carrollton, TX

As a parent of two school age children, I am deeply invested in the outcome of this bill. My husband and I are both products of the Texas Public Education system. My husband grew up in a suburban DFW neighborhood and I grew up in a rural West Texas 1A district. I graduated in a Senior class of 7 in my small town and was one of only 3 in the class to pursue higher education. So I will be the first to acknowledge a great disparity in Texas public education. Acknowledging problems and seeking data-supported solutions is a necessary path forward to improve our shamefully poor education system in the state of Texas. The data does not support vouchers as being an efficient and effective solution to improving education. Higher teacher salaries, higher per-student funding in the district, adapting educational objectives to limit the need for educators to "teach to the test" while inspiring and equipping students for real-life world experience and career development. These things show greater results in educational studies.

Vouchers cannot and will not serve the broader educational climate in the state of Texas. Where I grew up, the nearest private school was an hour away. This is nothing more a thinly veiled effort to privatize education and further drive a gap between the upper lower classes under the guise of lifting families out of poverty.

If this truly is what you claim for it to be, a limit of no access to these funds above a \$500,000 household salary should be a minimum requirement for ensuring that funds are accessed by the poorest Texans looking for a pathway out of poverty. This should also be tied to a per-student pending increase to insure that funding is received and students are supported in the most rural areas such as my hometown in Shackelford County. This would ensure that the absence of access to a private education would not limit the investment in a student's funding.

Public school matters. Investment is necessary to improve the quality of student experience. Privatization does not solve this problem, it incentivizes the wealthy, burdens the poor with the gap in private education costs, and opens the door for fraud and misuse of valuable education funds. Families vote no against HB 3, we ask that our representatives hear our cry.

My daughter's A+ rated STEM Elementary was closed this year due to funding. Our SCHOOL OF CHOICE was closed because funds were being held hostage in the name of vouchers and "school choice". We cried many tears watching the Texas surplus sit in an account in Austin as our ISD leadership explained that they had reached the end of their fiscal rope. Please stop sacrificing our children on the altar of politics. Do what is right. Vote No on HB3 and vote yes to funding our precious public institutions.

Amanda Schumann
Self/retired teacher
Arlington, TX

I am proud to be a retired Texas public school, Special Education Teacher, the mom of a Texas public school student, and a product of Texas public schools. . I have many concerns for students with special needs, but today I speak to you as the mother of a typical 13 year old daughter. My daughter attends 8th grade at Central Jr High in HEB isd. I cannot imagine her getting a better education than the one she is receiving through our underfunded public school. She is learning mandarin, she is part of a wonderful band program and she is receiving advanced academics. She has teachers that go above and beyond to meet their student's needs. Instead of setting up education savings accounts, which most underprivileged students will not be able to use, that money should go towards our hard working public schools! As a former teacher it is an insult to hear Governor Abbott say public school are indoctrinating our students. Have you seen the requirements placed on public school teachers? There is no time for indoctrinating students. The list of falsehoods claimed to try to push this bill through is sad and alarming. I ask that you please keep our taxpayer money in our public schools and support our public school students and staff.

Joi Lunsford
Self
Canyon, TX

This bill does NOT prioritize public education nor will it help many of the families that it is saying it will. The lack of funding for public education is disgraceful, and this bill will benefit mainly current private school families who can already afford private school. If private schools are to be given vouchers, they should have the SAME accountability and requirements that public schools have. They need to take the STAAR test, and provide special education testing and IEP writing. The way that public school educators are being treated is embarrassing. I am highly concerned that we will not have enough willing employees to continue education for all at this point. We are making it harder and more time-consuming every single year, not funding it or even caring about parents that are unable to support their families with the low-paying income they receive. THINGS NEED TO CHANGE AND HOUSEBILL 3 is the MOST DISGRACEFUL AND POLITICALLY FILLED AGENDA WE COULD EVER PROPOSE!!

Make public education (that will always be available to ALL) the priority!! Listen to educators that are living the job every single day with any kid that walks in the building. We aren't able to turn anyone away, and we continue to love and educate kids NO MATTER WHAT! This bi needs to be thrown out and our focus should be on listening to those in education and helping improve our public schools!

Joe Berneathy
Self
LaMarque, TX

No vouchers! Public education needs the funding!

Carly Murray
self; attorney; parent of school-aged children in Texas
Leander, TX

After having listened to testimony in support of HB 3 on March 11, 2025, I am infuriated by the blatant lack of transparency exhibited by supporters of HB 3. It is ABUNDANTLY clear that this is a financially-motivated agenda and has ZERO to do with special needs children or children in impoverished areas. Thank goodness for Representative Talarico for calling failure to respond what it is -- when a witness cannot definitively tell the questioner "yes" or "no" that is not because the issue is complex. It's because they cannot truthfully give the answer the question requires; so, they dance around it. There were a LOT of parents watching that broadcast yesterday (both in the room, in overflow rooms, and at personal computers all over the state), and we all see it for EXACTLY what it is -- a sham, a con, a grift. If this passes, you are condemning Texas schoolchildren to subpar education while putting taxpayer funds into the already overstuffed hands of the richest members of society. OUR CHILDREN DESERVE BETTER.

Robin Scheafnocker

self

Copperas Cove, TX

Reject vouchers and focus on fully funding our public schools. Privatizing education is detrimental to our students. Those who require additional support will be left without the guidance and accommodations necessary for their learning. Rather than providing monies for private schools and homeschooling without accountability, the legislature should fund public education by providing salaries that draw qualified educators and resources with which to teach 21st-century students.

Jeremy Thompson, Mr

Self - Public School Teacher

Temple, TX

I am a REPUBLICAN as are virtually ALL of the public school teachers that I teach with. We are devastated by the conservative leadership and our governor here in the great state of Texas who are pushing for HB 3. We serve the public schoolchildren of Texas, who are the vast majority of Texas schoolchildren. Do you not see what this bill will do to our students? Do you not see that it will take funding away from THE VAST MAJORITY of Texas students? Do you not see that it will put money in the hands of parents who can already afford private school? Do you NOT see that it will NOT provide enough funding to parents who wouldn't and couldn't send their kids to a private school anyway? We serve ALL Texas students. I. Texas public schools, regardless of behavior, socioeconomic status, and special needs requirements Private schools don't have to do so. Many of them choose not to. Not all, I realize that, but many do. I have taught in private schools. They are phenomenal options for some families. But not at the expense of public school funding. When the government holds a stake in private schools then they aren't really private schools anymore. They don't have to meet standardized testing requirements. They don't have to accept all students. Gov Abbot compared Texas to other "SEC" states with vouchers. That goes to show how little whoever actually made that Facebook post knows. The other "SEC" state public school systems are AWFUL. Much of it due to poor infrastructure thanks to lack of funding and poor teachers due to horrid learning environments and terrible pay. And, if you could hear the conversations among public school teachers - CONSERVATIVE public school teachers like myself...our votes will go to the candidates who support our public schools and their teachers and students. I, along with virtually all of my colleagues across many Texas districts, will vote against ANYONE who pushes this bill in the next election - gubernatorial or otherwise. I'm just one person. But there are many MANY who think like I do. If you want to see conservatives vote for democrats or anti HB3 republicans, then pass this bill. But I would hope that you don't for all our sakes.

Hannah Kania

self, PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER

Round Rock, TX

NO VOUCHERS FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

Joshua Billingsley

self / Data Analyst

Round Rock, TX

Please Vote NO on HB3

Kimberly Hoyle

Self

Houston, TX

I OPPOSE SCHOOL VOUCHERS.

I oppose so-called "school choice". I have 2 children in public schools and believe access to quality public school education is essential for all children in Texas.

Diane Hudson

Self

Spring, TX

As a certified teacher, I am not afraid of competition, but the state must hold voucher schools to standards and they must rate them in a way that helps parents make informed choices. If state money funds any part of a student's education, the state must ensure the student really is being educated. The state must also require transparency of how state funds are used at ALL schools, including public, charter and voucher schools. I have yet to see any legislation that offers parents a way to compare the voucher schools to public schools. Just because they say they offer a quality education, are we to trust them? If Texas goes with vouchers, I expect Texas to learn from the mistakes of other states and build a better program for our children. Without standard enforcement or a rating system, I vehemently oppose vouchers.

Diana Freeman

Self—consultant

Hamilton, TX

I do NOT support vouchers—nor do the majority of Texans. Vouchers are not good for students—parents already have choice within our public schools. Fully fund public schools before you call them a failure. Rural students will suffer from money funneled to private schools in more populated areas. The governor touts how many states have vouchers but not the lack of success in many states. There is no local oversight or representation on the boards of charter and private schools to give parents a say in what happens to them.

Our representatives have stopped representing us and are answering to big dollars and a Governor that's lost sight of his constituents. If reps really want to know how Texans feel, put it on a ballot. This would give Texans a choice.

Please support our local public schools by voting down vouchers. Keep our public schools!

Cody Fonseca

Self

McAllen, TX

I am a teacher with 3 children. 2 attend a charter school and 1 my wife homeschools. We already have school choice. I don't want vouchers. Even if we receive money for our child we homeschool, that comes at a great cost to my other 2 whose school may lose funding. It's a small school, perfect for our needs. They've already been through a charter school closing for a lack of funds last year. That was a big setback for us. My kids also receive different therapies and IEPs. They would be in danger losing those services, or at least have them drastically cut. Vouchers are not fair to our kids. As a teacher, they are dangling a pay raise to pass this bill. I would have to be a selfish person to accept the payoff only for my fellow teachers in rural schools to lose their jobs. Our public schools are underfunded. There is no justification to take money away from underprivileged kids and give it to the well off. If we do not pass vouchers, we can fully fund our public schools and provide the necessary resources our students need to thrive, while it'll be business as usual for private schools. If we pass vouchers, public schools will be underfunded, risk closures, and drastically affect testing performance (which private schools don't have to worry about). Meanwhile, private schools will be business as usual, but at a discount for the well off. This bill does not leave any guarantees in writing to protect the most vulnerable students. On its face; it only serves to line the pockets of the already well off. I live in a community that where most students are considered "at-risk." Taking funds from them will surely guarantee their failure. The benefits of this bill DO NOT outweigh the risks. Please reconsider.

Lisa Walters

Self

Anna, TX

I oppose HB3

Elisabeth Koonz

Self

Shiner, TX

Vite against the school voucher bill. Public funds should be benefitting public schools and public schools only

Elizabeth Tovar

Self

Sachse, TX

NO VOUCHERS. PLEASE.

Wendolyn Ulrich

Self

Melissa, TX

I vehemently oppose school voucher programs. As an educator in both public and private education, I can tell you that all children are not treated equally and those that need the most are not serviced in private education. If a child does have specific academic, behavioral, or health needs, the stipend offered by the state won't even come close to paying for private education. Send the money to public education where programs are already in place but desperately underfunded. We should be investing in the single greatest asset that produces the best outcomes over time - education. Please. I implore you- say no to school vouchers.

Broderick Mondy

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Cynthia Nwosa

Self/ teaching

Sugarland, TX

NO, TO PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION. SPEND MONEY ON MAKING OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS BETTER FOR OUR CHILDREN NOT ON PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS!!

Meredith Longino, Pediatric nurse practitioner

Self

Sulphur Springs, TX

I oppose this bill completely. Want full funding for public schools.

Shyamal Pidaparthi

Self

Plano, TX

I DO NOT support this bill and any idea of School voucher program. This is clearly an idea to dilute the public school systems and help special interest groups make money. State after state have shown that vouchers systems don't work. This is clearly a way to rip taxpayers and make education expensive for everyone and unaffordable for many.

Texas good public school systems is why we live in this state and area. If that is weakened then it will take away a big reason for good talented people to move to Texas or worse you will see an exodus of talented and hard working Texans.

Please do not support passage of this bill or you would have lost a vote on next election cycle.

Susan Snead
Self
Lubbock, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3. I feel it will be incredibly detrimental to public education in the state of Texas and only truly serves those parents who already have children enrolled in private schools. It will essentially become a tax subsidy for those who can already afford private school. The Texas legislature MUST fully and adequately fund public education and this proposed bill will make that difficult. It will also leave special education students behind. It will NOT be school choice, as it is advertised to be. I vote and will not vote for any of my elected representatives that vote for this bill.

Belton Tovar
Self
Sachse, TX

NO VOUCHERS

Gillian Brody-Wilcox
self
Austin, TX

I do not support HB3 and what it will do to our public school system and how it will impact the most vulnerable kids in Texas. I do support putting more money into public education in the state of Texas. Let's do the right thing.

Gabriel Alatorre, Mr.
Texas Public School Parent
San Antonio, TX

When public education is adequately funding then we can start allowing tax breaks for the elite. Every school must have certified teachers and adequate class sizes. Public school schools also require equity in resources and educational material. Fund Schools! Hell no to Texas Vouchers!

Adrian Munoz, Mr.
Self
Ysleta Del Sur Purblo, TX

No vouchers. No school choice

Justin York York
Self
Georgetown, TX

HELL NO!

Tim Anderson
self
Denton, TX

We educate our six children at home. I currently pay the usual property taxes while receiving no benefit from the public school system. All our school supplies, materials, curriculum, field trips, and any potential dual credit or extra curricular programs are purchased at our own expense with after tax dollars. This adds up to thousands of dollars per year. This is the price I am willing to pay, and will continue to pay, for my kids to be under the care of their mother who loves them, to prioritize family relationships over peer-to-peer relationships, to emphasis learning over grades/tests, and to be able to teach my children the virtues that have been lost in the public school system. I would very much appreciate a small portion of my tax dollars to be put toward my own children's education through an ESA.

Linda Hanratty
LWV Tarrant County Texas
Fort Worth, TX

Please oppose HB 3, which would siphon off funding from public schools and subsidize religious schools in opposition to the US Constitution's separation of church and state. The \$10,000 payments are grossly inadequate to support a quality private school education meaning that most of the subsidy will go to higher income families, not the low income families the bill claims to support. A \$162,000 family income is clearly not low income. And if nothing else put in guard rails to avoid waste and fraud and to assure voucher holders receive a quality education.

Shelly Burns
self
Donie, TX
Vote NO

Mariah Hildebrand
Self
Plano, TX

No school vouchers. They do not help students or families. We already have school choice, we do not need or want vouchers.

Kimberly Handy
Self - Associate Product Owner
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Amber Newsom
PTA
Wylie, TX

I oppose bill HB3! We need more funding to go to public schools. My daughter is dyslexic and she would never even be able to go to a public school. Quit cutting off the legs of an already crippled public school system!

Elizabeth Kernan
Self
Austin, TX

I am a longtime Republican and I am disgusted by the party's plan to defund public schools. States, such as Mississippi, that resisted the school choice lobby and kept those funds with public schools have seen their national ranking soar. Whereas States that embraced school vouchers have shown that children who use vouchers to leave public schools have persistent learning loss. Choice states, such as Florida, once a national leader in literacy, have seen their scores plummet. Private schools do not have to follow the same regulations as public schools. My daughter was expelled from private school, at a very young age, due to issues with her brain development. The Private School Director or her staff did not suggest what kind of help or support my daughter needed, they just wanted her gone. Oh, and I did not get a refund for her tuition. Luckily, I was able to get my daughter into a program at UT Austin, and later an amazing public school, where she received services to support her development. Long story short, she is a straight A student this year, at a public middle school, already taking high school courses. Allowing my taxes to be used as someone's tax credit to send their kid to private school, rather than being used to serve my daughter's public-school education makes me furious. Public School funding is an investment into our future workforce, our future society. These students, you are planning to rob, will enter our workforce, become EMS responders, Police Officers, Nurses, electricians. I want the person I reach out to in 10-20 years from now to have a firm educational foundation. If this bill passes in Texas, it sets a dangerous precedent. What stops future legislation using vouchers for individuals to hire their own emergency medical care and private security firms. Honestly, this bill is just as bad as defund the police legislation. Do not use school vouchers to fix the educational mess, the Texas legislature has made of Texas public schools.

Shana Bentson

Self

Allen, TX

Parents who are paying attention know that the vouchers are a bad idea. You need to listen to the people and vote against the vouchers. Many might not speak up, but I haven't met one person in my community that thinks this is a good idea and your power will only last so long when you go against the will of the people.

I can put my kids in private school if I want to and I don't need other people's tax money to do it. You all know giving "some" money to people to go to private is not enough for a "choice"

Leslie Morse

Self

Dallas, TX

I am strongly opposed to public funds being used for private education. School vouchers will only continue to deteriorate the educational system in the state. The better move would be to properly fund the public schools we have and quit withholding school funding as an ace in the whole to force through unpopular legislation.

Janet Marcum

Self - Real Estate Broker

Dallas, TX

Please don't weaken our public school system by incentivizing parents to leave. If we could fully fund our existing public schools and fairly compensate our teachers, our neighborhood gems could grow stronger and provide more quality education and serve ALL students. We don't need to shift to for-profit education, which only serves to discriminate against the poorest children and make outside parties wealthier. Stand with Texas parents. Listen to us.

Vanessa Vidal

Self

Garland, TX

As a Texas mom, I am deeply concerned about HB-3 and its attempt to funnel public tax dollars into private school vouchers. My child, like millions of others across our state, depends on a strong public education system—one that should be fully funded, not systematically undermined.

A voucher program does not "expand choices" for families like mine. It drains critical funding from our already underfunded public schools, leaving the vast majority of Texas children with fewer resources, larger class sizes, and less support. Vouchers benefit private schools that are not held to the same standards, do not have to accept all students, and are not accountable to taxpayers. Public dollars should remain in public schools, serving all children—not subsidizing private institutions that can discriminate based on income, ability, or background.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, providing not just education but meals, special education services, and essential programs that support children from all walks of life. If lawmakers truly want to improve education in Texas, they should focus on fully funding our public schools, increasing teacher pay, and providing the resources students need to thrive—not diverting funds to a program that primarily benefits wealthy families and special interests.

I urge Texas legislators to reject HB-3 and any effort to implement a school voucher system. Parents like me are counting on them to protect public education—not dismantle it.

Rebecca O'Neill Gemar

Self, teacher

Cedar Park, TX

Please say NO to HB 3! It shifts taxpayer money to private entities with no accountability. This isn't real choice; it's a reckless use of public funds that weakens our schools. Every child deserves access to strong neighborhood schools, smaller class sizes, enriching programs, and well-supported teachers. Let's invest in solutions that work: 1) Use ESA/voucher funds to strengthen public schools, and 2) Trust our educators the same way private institutions are being trusted. Say NO to HB 3 and YES to real public education support!

Robin Stokes

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3! Fund public schools already!

Colleen Olson

self

San Antonio, TX

Public funds should be used to fund public institutions, not private ones. Redirecting taxpayers dollars away from public schools undermines their ability to serve all students equitably and transparently. Private institutions are not held to the same accountability standards and can exclude students based on income, religion, and other factors. Our priority should be to strengthen public education, not diverting resources to institutions that do not serve the entire community.

Emily Weatherall

Self, mother

Richardson, TX

Please vote NO on the school vouchers bill. Local schools are the glue that holds neighborhoods together and they deserve to have more funding, not less. I want my tax dollars to support my local district schools, not vouchers. Vouchers will not benefit every student but continuing to fund public schools does benefit every student.

Cristie Avant

McMillan

Wylie, TX

Oppose

Mary Duffy

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no for this, please prioritize our children and our public schools.

Tiffany Purcell

Self

Houston, TX

Say NO to school vouchers!!!

Ann Piano-Frosch, Mrs.
Tax payer / self (admin asst)
Coppell, TX

Texans DO NOT want vouchers. Diverting funds will hurt public schools. It will not give choice to families who cannot afford private schools. In our area, tuition to reputable private schools is almost triple the voucher, and even if that cost is covered, transportation would be a barrier for disadvantaged families to use ESA.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Rebecca Pollard
Self/Self-Employed
Wylie, TX

Please say NO to vouchers and HB3. This is not good for our education system.

Carrie Butler
Texas PTA
ANNA, TX

I live in a smaller school district and the overwhelming census is that we do not want our taxpayer money to fund private school tuition for anyone, we would like it to stay in public schools. With a billion extra dollars that is slated for this program, you could use that to raise the basic allotment higher than the proposed 220 for each student. We are at a \$1300 shortfall with inflation and you are only proposing \$220. Why not make it \$400 with the money you want to put towards the ESA program? Studies have shown these do not work for the mass amount of students in a state and you could barely even begin to give the 5.5 million students in our state a chance at using one of these ESAs. We don't have the money to waste on this, you are throwing it away and WE DON'T WANT IT.

Kimberly Eisma, Ms.
Self - Parent and Legal Assistant
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3.

Morgan Louvier
Parent
Elgin, TX

Our tax dollars need to stay in our public schools to support providing the best education we possibly can to our communities. Private schools should not be paid for with our tax dollars.

Abigail Johnson
Self
Wylie, TX

No HB3 and no SB3!

Kathleen McKenna
Self
Austin, TX

NO VOUCHERS

Jennifer Khorchani
Lakeview Elementary PTA
Sugar Land, TX

Public schools need more funding and vouchers will diminish their current funding. Most citizens strongly oppose vouchers!

Sarah Evascu
Self, homeschool parent
Austin, TX

I don't know that I can say or write anything more effectively than what several hours of public testimony have already committed to the record. My family has experienced public, private, and homeschool education in Texas. We have benefited from parental choice. We are against HB 3 and ESAs. Taxpayer dollars should be committed to the upkeep and improvement of public education, not private/religious education or homeschooling. Public special education should be funded more adequately at the state level. General education should be funded to surpass inflation (more than an additional \$1,300 per student). HB 3 is a drain on resources. It enables large financial transfers to the Comptroller without defined fiscal formulas, guardrails, and oversight. It creates a large administrative infrastructure that will require \$80+ million annually. It's a handout to families already private schooling and a small percentage of additional students who might have access and privilege to exit public education. ESAs have busted other states' budgets while not improving outcomes. We can do better with the system we have.

Meg Hetherington
Self/self employed
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3.

Rebecca O'Donovan
Self
Lewisville, TX

I am adamantly opposed to this bill, educational savings accounts, and school vouchers in any form. Our public schools are not adequately funded, and this bill does not solve the issue in an equitable manner. Please support Texas educators and students by NOT supporting this bill.

Mary Olson
Self
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

THERESA SPECK

Self

Brownsville, TX

to Texas HB3. This bill represents an unnecessary overreach of government authority, places undue burdens on local school districts, and fails to address the real issues facing Texas communities.

HB3's provisions, particularly those related to increased security mandates, threaten to divert crucial funding away from educational resources that directly benefit students. Our schools are already struggling with underfunding, teacher shortages, and inadequate mental health support—yet this bill forces them to prioritize costly security measures without providing adequate state funding.

Furthermore, HB3 raises serious concerns about individual freedoms and local control. By imposing one-size-fits-all mandates, it disregards the unique needs of different communities. Local school districts, not the state, are best positioned to determine how to keep their students safe.

Instead of enacting reactionary policies that fail to address the root causes of violence, Texas should invest in proven strategies such as mental health support, smaller class sizes, and community-based intervention programs. HB3 does not provide real solutions—it simply burdens our schools, restricts local decision-making, and fuels unnecessary fear.

I urge you to oppose HB3 and instead focus on policies that truly enhance safety and educational opportunities for Texas students.

Patricia Perez

Self- Structural engineer and mother

Fort Worth, TX

I strongly reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Brandy Watkins

self - retired

Houston, TX

I am a lifelong resident of Texas and an avid supporter of Public Schools. Public school dollars should go to public schools. We pay our public school taxes to insure that all children receive a good education. School Choice should be called School's Choice because private schools can refuse to service any child they choose. Public schools service all children and all children have a right to an education. Please leave public school funds where they should be...in our public schools where all Texas children will have a chance to learn and succeed.

Lara Bennett

Self Homemaker

Richardson, TX

I do not support HB 3. This idea disproportionately serves the wealthiest families in the state who have the means to send their kids to private schools. Tax money needs to stay in the public school system which serves all students in the state especially kids with special needs.

Laura Echols-Richter, Rev

Grace Avenue United Methodist Church

Frisco, TX

I oppose vouchers or "education savings accounts" that use tax payer dollars to benefit choice for the wealthy and continue to defund public education. These "savings" programs have no accountability while our state continues to place higher accountability and requirements on public education. The State of Texas continues to hold funds hostage with little support for public education.

Kathryn Nance Kathryn Nance

Self. Retired Texas Educator

Lubbock, TX

This is a bad bill. Taxpayers money (public money) must go to public schools. Any other use of our tax dollars will just wind up giving wealthy parents who can afford private schools a tax break or kickback. Rural, disabled, and poorer students will suffer as money is drawn away from their public schools. Tax dollars should support all public schools and no private schools who don't play by the same rules. They don't state test, they don't provide for children with disabilities, and they don't accept all students. Support public education and teachers!

Stephanie Tsapakis

Self, San Antonio resident

San Antonio, TX

I do not support any legislation that has any kind of school voucher program. I respectfully and urgently request that the state of Texas focus on adequately funding our public education system. I detest the fact that school funding was withheld, and do not support any form of school vouchers that take public money and allow it to be used for private educational services.

Whitney Jones

Self. Teacher

Canadian, TX

I am against any form of vouchers in Texas. The state has already made it clear that it doesn't value teachers or students. They only priority is giving a coupon to the wealthy. You know how few students will actually be able to benefit from this bill. A better option would be to fully fund Texas public education and pay teachers what they're worth. We would have smaller class sizes, many of the teachers who left would come back. Students would have better access to technology and resources and we'd all be better off. Please talk, and listen, to Texas teachers. We have a lot to share and would love to discuss this with you.

Jason Valentine

Self

Wimberley, TX

Dear House Public Education Committee Members,

I do NOT support Education Savings Accounts or vouchers. After listening to testimony this week, I am convinced more than ever that it is not what is best for Texas or Texans. Providing thousands of dollars with zero accountability to families contradicts Republican principles and as a taxpayer, I cannot support a program that does just that. The ONLY way a voucher should even be considered would be one that is used in a private institution that has to follow all of the mandates and laws of public schools. When they all follow the same rules, then you can truly call it competition. To summarize, I do NOT support vouchers or education savings accounts in Texas. That money is better spent adjusting funding for public school students and teachers. It is past time to offer inflation adjustments to public education. Thank you for your time.

Sarah Watson

Self

Wylie, TX

We do NOT want school vouchers!!

Stephanie Arneil

Texas PTA

San Antonio, TX

Our public education system needs help - but school vouchers are NOT the answer. Private schools will still raise tuition or reject the students they don't want! We need to infuse our public schools with more funding to level the playing field across the board. While I do not have the right answer, I know vouchers will not do anything but take money away from our public schools and students. Please please vote no on HB 3! Our kids and their future are worth spending more time researching an answer!

Tamara Hembree

Self

Temple, TX

Texas' support public education & have rejected any form of voucher for educating our children. Politicians need to be attentive to the direction the public seeks versus special interest. Continued working to work toward safe, comprehensive, public education for all Texas children.

Brenda Deneault

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose hb 3

Amanda Carter

Self

Frisco, TX

I beg of you to support public education and not vote for the vouchers. They will only make the rich richer and there is no guarantee that the private schools will even keep their prices the same. Public education is a basic right for the children of Texas and every child will need the opportunity to have a great education. Public education is so important and they need proper funding to continue to operate.

Ashley Tucker

self, Executive Vice President

League City, TX

Protect our public school funding. Vouchers are, historically, a disappointment at best and usually the beginning of a huge downturn in educational outcomes. Citizens are counting on the rich history of Texas public schools, that is why we live here and invest our lives and choose to establish our roots (and business with huge tax bills) here in Texas. It is in the best interest of the entire community to vote NO to vouchers.

Jill Cullinan

Self

San Antonio, TX

As someone who has had my children in both public and private schools with a household income, putting me in the top 5%, I oppose the use of taxpayer funds for this purpose. School choice isn't giving people who can afford private tuition taxpayer funds. Using the money to assist low income and at risk students to better afford college education and trade school is true school choice, not to mention would break the cycles of poverty, abuse, unemployment, crime, and unplanned pregnancies while saving billions in government assisted programs. School choice is education breaking the chains of poverty and inequality. Beyond my personal beliefs, it's worth noting that while various people have spoken on behalf of a successful voucher program in Arizona during these hearings, not only has Gov Katie Hobbs had repeatedly voiced her opposition to the universal expansion of ESA vouchers, aiming to return to the days when public funding was used for special needs children or children in failing schools, but that the expansion of the Arizona program has led to a financial strain on the state budget, forcing cuts to other critical programs and projects, such as water infrastructure and community colleges. The program cost has also tripled in the last year alone, from \$332 million to \$964 million, due to the state creating a "bottomless program" without caps.

Sheri Walston

Self

Maud, TX

I am asking my representative to vote NO on HB 3. I want fully funded education, not welfare for the wealthy.

Erica Bekerman
Self-travel advisor (former teacher)
Mansfield, TX

Please do not approve vouchers! We don't want it. It will ruin public education that is already grossly underfunded and all of the good teachers are fleeing education and it's hurting our kids.

Diann Davenport, Dyslexia Therapist
Wichita Falls ISD
Wichita Falls, TX

This would be detrimental to public schools. It is a persons right to attend private school but it's a choice you pay for. I hope our elected officials listen to those that elected them and vote no. This is one thing I am highly disappointed in our governor about. Do what is right and vote no!

Kim Goad
Self
Wheeler, TX

Parents already have the rights for school choice - public or private school. The public education system needs an overhaul, no question. So, taking money away to fund a private sector is the answer? I do not understand. Why is our governor so against public school? He should be all about fixing it.

Merrill Helms
self, stay at home mom
McKinney, TX

Please make sure that all taxpayer money STAYS in public schools. Texans have no need for a voucher program to take money away from our public schools and funnel the funds to private schools with zero accountability. Our teachers, students, and future leaders of our community need a solid education through our public schools by using our taxpayer dollars for public schools. We do not need to listen to out of state donors who want this voucher system to undermine what makes Texas great!

Kristen Barnes
Self - Project Manager
Garland, TX

NO!! I absolutely DO NOT want a voucher program in our state. Shore up our public education system and keep our dollars where they are needed. None of us want this and if you vote this in we WILL vote you out.

Casey Bowles
Self
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

John DeBaun, II
Garland ISD
Garland, TX

It is unconscionable that you intend to use public funds to supplement private education. A free and accessible public education is one of the hallmarks of a free society. How dare an elected official, one who has lost the public fight for vouchers, go against the clear will of the people of the state of Texas. You should be ashamed that you care so little about your constituents. Follow the law, follow the will of the people.

Ashley Coffey

Self, mother and nonprofit fundraiser

McAllen, TX

I'm writing to voice dissent against HB3. I am a proud, successful product of the Texas public education system (Kindergarten in Bryan ISD thru my undergraduate degree at the University of Houston). Vouchers, which have failed students and families in every state in which they've been implemented, will cause further harm to our already-struggling public schools by decreasing funding even further and burdening property taxpayers more. This bill is unpopular on both sides of the political aisle and should be stopped immediately. The amount of time and money spent trying to push it through is wasteful and unproductive. Use the vast state surplus to fully fund our public schools and give every young Texan the education they deserve.

Marissa Marciel

Self

Elgin, TX

Valarie, who do I tell people to email this:

As a Texas voter and taxpayer, I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 2 and any legislation supporting school vouchers in Texas. Public tax dollars should be used exclusively for the public good, and that means fully funding our public schools—not diverting critical resources to private entities that are not held to the same standards of transparency or accountability. Texas public schools educate the vast majority of our children, serving as the backbone of our communities and economy. Instead of vouchers, I ask you to prioritize robust funding for public education to ensure every child—regardless of zip code—has access to a quality education. I implore you to use all your influence and resources in helping to release the over \$4.5 billion that has been set aside for our schools without tying it to a voucher system the majority of Texans do not want. Please stand with Texas families and vote against any proposals that weaken our public school system. Your leadership on this issue will help secure a brighter future for all Texans. Thank you for your time and commitment to serving our community.

Dolores Piklewski

CCISD

Corpus Christi, TX

We need our public schools, not everyone has money to send their child to another school. I want to protect that public schools have made really good students and good people in our society. Do Not Let A Voucher Take Away From Our Students.

Jeena Stephen

Self

Grapevine, TX

School vouchers or ESAs will be disastrous to our Texas public schools. Our public schools are already underfunded and now with the dismantled Department of Education, we will no longer receive federal money either. HB 3 will not benefit the vast majority of Texas students. Instead, it will drop our education system further down in national ranking. To claim HB 3 gives parents choice is a farce. Texas families already have school choice. Please oppose HB 3.

Susan Skipp

Self

Houston, TX

HB 3- Vouchers are welfare for the wealthy. What is happening in Education, especially in Houston, is a rebranding of the prison pipeline, and targets the children of color.

Jay Hokett
self
Pearland, TX

I'm against this proposal. There is much more research needed and the history of this type of voucher program in other states has been a nightmare. If you want Public Education off the books, a better solution can be found. I'm also against listening to big money out of state contributors who are looking out for there cause and not for Texans having this much sway in a Texas Bill

Tamara West-Bray, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

I AM AGAINST THIS BILL.

It will take funds from our already UNDERFUNDED public schools, and IT COULD (MOST LIKELY WILL) impact TEACHER RETIREMENT PENSIONS.

Jacalyn Dielmann
self
Austin, TX

I am a retired Round Rock ISD public school teacher. I am very opposed to vouchers because I see this as a way of supporting rich families and taking away much needed money from public school children. Public schools are already underfunded by Gov. Abbott and vouchers support more underfunding. Abbott's wife may be attached to private Catholic schools but that should not determine the fate of the rest of the population that supports the incredible work done at public schools by devoted and talented public school teachers.

I was a practicing civil engineer for 10 years before I became a teacher. I choose to change careers because I wanted to make a difference every day. It was the best and more rewarding decision I ever made.

Please consider our children before pushing this bill forward. Thank you.

Lindsay Judy

Self

Wacto, TX

\$4.5 billion was initially slated for Texas public schools in the 88th legislative session but was not allocated because some elected officials tied this funding to the passage of Education Saving Accounts (ESA), otherwise known as voucher programs. Public schools across Texas have been working on deficit budgets because Greg Abbott has dug his heels into school vouchers. Rich men like Jeff Yass, Tim Dunn, and Richard Uihlein have put millions of dollars into politicians who support school vouchers and will pass it into law. Nebraska, Colorado, and Kentucky let the voters decide and they all said “no” to school vouchers. Some of the states with school vouchers and their K-12 public school rankings: Arkansas (ranked #35), Alabama (ranked #43), Arizona (ranked #47), and Oklahoma (ranked #49).

Arizona’s universal school voucher program, which was estimated to cost \$65 million, cost over \$700 million. As funding for voucher programs has expanded in other states, the overall portion of state funding for public schools has decreased. While Florida increased its spending on three voucher programs by 313% from fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2019, the state decreased its per-pupil funding for public education over this time period by 12%.

As of Q3 2024, Texas's GDP was \$2,727 billion, making it the second-largest economy in the United States. Texas's economy is the eighth-largest in the world, but yet, Texas spends less per student on public schools than many other countries, including the national average. Texas ranks in the bottom 10 states for per-student funding. Additionally, when accounting for the actual per-pupil spending in each state compared to the amount needed to achieve the modest goal of U.S. average test scores, Texas comes in 44th place. Just over 91% of Texas public school students are attending inadequately funded schools. Why do politicians in Texas' government not want to properly fund Texas public schools?

A state's economic success can only be improved by a public school system that benefits every single Texas child. Please think of bills and laws that will benefit every single child in Texas. A good public education provides students with the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking abilities needed to become productive members of society, fostering an informed citizenry, developing a skilled workforce, promoting social mobility, and creating a more inclusive community by providing equal access to quality education regardless of background; essentially, it prepares individuals to contribute positively to their communities and the economy while cultivating responsible citizens.

Ashley Hermann

Self

Anna, TX

Vouchers or ESAs do not belong in Texas. The best way to improve education for ALL Texas students is to fully fund education, not a lottery system that only benefits some. The best way to improve Texas education is listening to constituents, public school families and teachers. NOT listening to your big donors like Jeff Yass, who DOESNT EVEN LIVE IN TEXAS.

Stop offering us bills with strings attached. NO TO VOUCHERS AND ESAs

Leticia Salazar

Lovejoy ISD

Allen, TX

I am a parent in Lovejoy ISD. Our district is known for excellence—exceptional teachers, innovative programs, and a strong sense of community. But year after year, we have been forced to chip away at what makes Lovejoy special due to inadequate state funding.

The \$220 increase in the basic allotment is simply not enough. Inflation has outpaced school funding for years, and without a meaningful increase, districts like Lovejoy are left making impossible choices—cutting programs, increasing class sizes, and struggling to offer competitive salaries.

Lovejoy has worked hard to stretch every dollar, but we are now at a point where we can no longer sustain the quality of education our community values without more support. HB 2 must include a significant basic allotment increase to ensure our students continue to receive the exceptional education they deserve.

Kay Coonrod, Ms

Self, Retired

Austin, TX

I oppose school vouchers. I

Eva Noyola, Dr

self

Austin, TX

As a parent of two Public school students, I beg our representatives to reject the school vouchers. It has been implemented in other states and the consequences are clear. Only the afluyente families use it because the amount is not enough to cover the actual cost of private school. It ends up being a subsidy for well to do people. It puts strain in public finances for no gain and it weakens public education.

This will be particularly harmful for families in rural communities, but it will harm all of the state.

Molly Frisinger

Self

Austin, TX

Please do not fund private education with public tax dollars. I am a proud Texas public school graduate and have picked the same for my child. Strong public education is the backbone of America. And this bill will take money from public education. Please vote against it.

Lisa Healy

Self

Midlothian, TX

I am a huge proponent of school choice, but not of this bill. This bill is adding to our government size. This is not what is needed for school choice. Keep it simple offer those who have chosen not to put their children in the public school system, the opportunity to have a rebate on their taxes. Let them use that money the way they would like to for their children.

Richard K
Self, COO
Austin, TX

I am a Christian, a conservative, and a retired air-force veteran. My daughter is four years old. She has autism and complex medical needs. She attends public school because, despite my best efforts, there is simply nowhere else for her to go.

Yesterday, I called every private school program in and around Austin—something I've now done three times in her short life. I wanted to be absolutely sure of the facts before I shared them with you today.

Here's what I found:

- Most private schools charge between \$35,000 and over \$40,000 per year, plus fees.
- Two religious schools charge just under \$30,000, but they have no space—and they do not accept children with disabilities.
- Not one private school will accept my daughter, except for a single autism-specific school.

That one school? It costs nearly \$50,000 plus fees. It has a long waitlist and it's an hour away in traffic.

A voucher will not cover any private school for my child nor will it help my child get into any other school.

In contrast, my Austin ISD public school is three miles from home. It provides transportation, a certified special education teacher, a trained TA, and a small class size. This is the only option for my child—and for so many children like her.

Public schools are not just a choice; they are a lifeline. I urge you to fund them properly—starting with at least a \$1,340 per-student increase to the basic allotment and additional special education funding. Our children's futures depend on it.

Dipti Schraegle
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose the school voucher programs as it can divert essential funds away from our public schools. We need more funding in our schools to provide equal opportunities to our children. Please, please oppose the voucher program as it will hurt schools, families, and mostly, children.

Joanna Graham
Self/ Sr. HR Director
Houston, TX

Dear Legislators, I am Joanna Graham. I am a parent of two SBISD students. I want to write to express that I am Republican and I do not support for vouchers. I am a parent of students in high school. We are in Spring Branch ISD. We have the best educators and staff and strong community support for our schools. I'm highly involved in our school finances and can see how far our districts stretch too few dollars to provide for students. It is not enough. Our parents and community raise funds to personally fill in gaps. I have been an auction chair for our elementary school three times raising over \$1,000,000 to help our school make up the gap. We directly pay for specialists in reading and math to support students that fail a quiz or test so they don't fall behind. Our class sizes are too big for a teacher to meet all needs. We pay for music instruments and art and field trips to nurture the whole child. As a result, we saw that our students are thriving. If we didn't pay for those interventions, our staar score would not be as high as it is. Our school is not wasting resources. Our school doesn't have enough. That is a failure on our state. The proof is that Texas sits in the bottom 5 of the nation in funding.

My efforts have shown what proper funding and support give. We're fortunate that we have the means, but it's not something others have. We were able to raise the success of 500 students each year just in one school. That is a massive impact.

With vouchers, most will go to those in private schools. We all know that and we've all seen that. The bill provides a clear loophole. I do acknowledge that a very small few will get a discount and they will have potential to better their education. On an individual level, I applaud that. However, that's a poor use of funds. It is better to take those funds and provide the better support to our public schools, which will allow improvement of millions. That will make Texas great again! Vouchers will denigrate Texas!

Greg Hluchan
Sealy
Sealy, TX

I am strongly against the creation of education savings accounts. This bill would essentially kill all rural schools, just like the one that my children currently attend. As a graduate of a rural public school, there are many other ways to better increase the efficiency and education within public schools that to allow for citizen tax dollars to be funneled to private schools. This bill should have never been reintroduced after it failed last year. This does no good for any Texas children and realistically gives no additional school choice to the vast majority of parents in this state.

Sarah Deller
Self/Educational Admin
Longview, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3. As a conservative citizen of Texas I believe the Education Savings Account bill is bad for our society as it will result in funds being diverted from our rural public schools. Parents, like me, already have school choice. I want to live in an educated society that allows ALL students access to a quality education not just those in metro areas and not just the ones who can afford it. Invest 1 billion in Texas Public schools, let's make them great.

Debi Buchanan, Dr.
Self
Heath, TX

As a former special education director for over 20 years and two Texas, public school districts, I saw school district struggle with providing adequate services that are federally mandated, according to student IEP's. Also as a parent and grandparent of children who attended public schools, I do not support how to spell three. The bill does not provide choice to all students because the amount of money allocated would not even come close to paying for private school tuition. Therefore, the students who would be receiving these funds are primarily students who are ready have a choice of going to a private school. Additionally, there's nothing in the bill that requires accountability for the private schools to provide "better" education. This is not a good use of state funds if there is no accountability for the receiving schools to be better or even as good as the public schools that are losing funding. This is not how I want my tax dollars to be used. I am asking that HB3 be rejected.

Yvette Cantu, Dr.

Self

La Feria, TX

Parents already have school choice! Open enrollment public schools and charter schools and the option to homeschool already exists! Despite this 5.5 million school children attend public schools so I ask which children will benefit from these Education Savings Account Program? Research shows that this has been a disaster in states that have implemented this. Plus how fair is it that these institutions don't have the same accountability or requirements that public schools do? This is wasteful and unnecessary! Instead is this money towards public schools! Increase that basic allotment for students, increase teacher pay, change the retirement plan to ERS like all state employees, and change the horrible healthcare offering to that of state employees! That would change outcomes for students, not this!

Sarah Daly

Self

AUSTIN, TX

Public school has a significant impact on the lives of so many families and taking away the opportunity to have funds going into the schools within the community would be a tragic failure. As a product of public schools, I know the impact quality public schools can make and the essential function of public funding on schools and educational quality provided to our children. This is why I am opposed to the introduction of education savings accounts (ESA) in Texas and implore the House to vote against any such proposal currently under consideration.

Growing up, my parents taught us the value of a quality public education. They showed us the value of giving back to our community. My mom was a public school teacher for over 35 years who poured her soul into her work. As a child, I saw the sacrifices she made to help her students to learn, feel safe, and make memories. Many former students come back years later to remind her of these moments when she was teaching their kids. Often, she took her own money to help provide students with supplies they didn't have or even clothes when maybe their jeans were full of holes. My father also worked for the public schools as the Director of Food Service and worked sometimes 14 hour days to ensure all the children were fed good nutritional meals. He worked weekends to ensure refrigerators and walk-in freezers stay online and food was safe to eat when the kids came to school. When the schools struggled to pay them or the school lacked things they needed, my parents did all they could to make things better, even when the state funding was light. So you could say, public education was very important to our family as it put food on our table and my parents worked during their careers to make an impact on generations of students.

Based on my parents' example, it was paramount that when I had children that they receive the best possible education. That's why we moved from our home state of Missouri to put our children in Texas public schools; schools known as top-notch nationwide. And now, the sacrifices our family has made (leaving our home state, moving away from family and friends, and leaving secure jobs to find new ones) seem to be all for naught with the proposed education savings accounts. We can do better. So, I urge you to vote against HB3 and any other proposal that introduces education savings accounts in Texas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Daly

Concerned Texas Citizen

Paige Heitzman

Self

Cypress, TX

I am opposed to school vouchers and an education savings account. Please fully fund public education in the state of TX.

Vince Jackson, Mr.

self teacher

Fort Worth, TX

I think this is a terrible idea. How does taking money from public schools to pay for wealthy students to go to private schools help Texas public school children? The other places this has been tried have not led to positive outcomes and instead have led to weakened public schools. Please do not do this.

Haley Garth

Self, children's mental health clinician

Houston, TX

Please vote NO to vouchers! This will irreparably harm public education in our state. Why can we not look to the states in our country leading education and emulate their methods? I sincerely fear vouchers are disenfranchisement in disguise.

Elaina Garcia

Self

Cypress, TX

Texas public schools are struggling to recover from the pandemic, which resulted in the need for additional funding to combat learning loss and provide wrap-around services. Schools are also grappling with unprecedented staffing shortages.

Vouchers have been shown to decrease, not increase, student academic achievement.

Despite claims that school voucher programs lead to gains in student success, there has been no credible research to suggest that vouchers improve academic performance. According to a report by the Center for American Progress, an independent, nonpartisan policy institute, the use of school vouchers is equivalent to missing out on more than one-third of a year of classroom learning.

Vouchers allow public funds to be spent without any accountability.

Texas public schools are held to rigorous accountability standards, so lawmakers should not allow public, taxpayer dollars to be spent at private or religious schools that do not have to meet the same standards. Private schools do not have to report student achievement data to the state, and they do not have to meet the same standards for hiring teachers.

Vouchers could be expensive to the state.

Depending on the limitations set in the specific voucher legislation, hundreds of thousands of students who are currently attending private schools or being home-schooled could begin to receive vouchers, requiring the state to spend much more on education than it does now.

The amount of a voucher would not be enough to cover tuition at most private schools.

The amount of a voucher would not be enough to cover tuition at most private schools. Only more affluent families with the means to pay the balance of their children's tuition would truly benefit. This would leave the very children vouchers are supposed to help left behind in schools with even less funding than before.

Most Texas public school students are economically disadvantaged.

Six out of 10 Texas public school students are economically disadvantaged, and economically disadvantaged students are the ones who would most likely be left behind in underfunded public schools should a voucher program be established.

Historically, economically disadvantaged are more expensive to educate than more affluent students because they don't have as many external educational opportunities. Also, districts often provide them with more services. Schools need more, not less, money to educate these students.

Private schools are not an option for most students.

Private schools do not exist in every part of Texas, especially in rural areas. If a voucher program is created, fly-by-night private schools could pop up across the state, offering "choice" while profiting from public tax dollars.

School choice is already offered in Texas.

School choice is already offered in Texas in such a way that preserves accountability and local control. Many districts offer

multiple school options through magnets, academies, and transfers.

Donna Bahlinger, Mrs.

Self. Retired teacher

San Antonio, TX

As a parent, retired teacher, and Texas taxpayer, I am opposed to school vouchers. Basically, public tax funds need to stay in public schools. Public schools educate all children, while private schools are allowed to choose the students who attend. Our Texas legislators need only to look at other states such as Florida and Arizona to see the negative impacts of vouchers on public schools and state budgets. Voucher programs in other states have shown that the costs have been much higher than original estimates. At the same time, states that have implemented voucher programs have decreased the per-student funding. It is imperative that the Texas legislature support all students by increasing funding to public schools. Texas citizens are strongly in favor of increasing overall funding to public schools. In addition, Texans are in favor of increasing career and technical training programs, providing tutoring, increasing teacher salaries, and providing more mental health supports to students. I appreciate your time and attention to our children.

Karen Wyatt

self/ education

Booker, TX

1. How is it fair that student savings fund students/ families get \$10,000+ and public school students only get \$6100+? Those parents chose the private school option as the source of education for their children. They chose to pay that money.
2. Where is the accountability in the choices available? Who is going to check and hold these families responsible and accountable for where the money is truly going?
3. As a person who works in education, the funding hasn't kept up with inflation, with some districts seeing costs rise by as much as 22% in the past few years. I purchase items that were \$150 last school year and are now \$350 this school year. My budget doesn't even cover the items that I need on a yearly basis due to the fact that our funding has not increased to cover the costs.
3. I do not like the idea that Gov. Abbott put out there that teachers get a raise if the voucher system passes. I would call that bullying! We don't need that! I used to be a Gov. Abbott fan until this!

Lorena Sublasky

Teachers AFT

El Paso, TX

This bill would be a huge blow to public education. Please stand for the children of Texas! The funding is unfair to rural communities as well!

Carolina Gallardo

Self

Hondo, TX

I vote No to vouchers!

Jennifer rike

Self

Mansfield, TX

No vouchers public schools already offer choices. The schools need funding which hasn't been addressed since the late 1990's. If tax dollars are used to fund vouchers all accountability measures public schools are held to private/charter schools should also be held to.

NO VOUCHERS

Deborah Beck

self

Austin, TX

Vouchers are not good for kids, for education, or for communities. They are only good for private school operators and their supporters.

The real problem for our schools is lack of state investment. The proposed voucher amount of \$10,000 per child is more than the average public expenditure per student (\$9871) and much more than the state's basic allotment per student (\$6160), which is unchanged since 2019. The \$10,000 per student figure shows that the state doesn't spend enough money to educate our students.

Vouchers will do nothing to address that problem. More state money for public schools will.

Rural school districts largely oppose school vouchers because they are useless in rural areas. The typical rural community does not have private schools where vouchers could be used. Moreover, the public school often serves as a linchpin of such a community. The local school matters to everyone in a small town, not just its children.

Despite the higher allotment for children with disabilities (\$11,500), school vouchers are a crap shoot for them. Public schools must admit all children, but non-public schools can reject any student they please. An Austin parent at a rally against school vouchers wept as they described having their special needs child turned down by 12 private schools. "Where am I going to use a voucher?" the parent sobbed.

For both rural communities and special education students, access to state money to pay for private school does not mean there is a private school that will educate a child.

Parents may think vouchers will get them a free or nearly-free private school education, but generally that is not so. Most private schools' tuition exceeds the school voucher allocation by a few hundred dollars to more than \$25,000. Some parents will find a private school whose tuition is covered by the voucher allocation, but many will get serious tuition sticker shock.

Parents who homeschool are eligible for \$2000 per child. That sounds fine, except that there is no state oversight of home schooling to ensure that homeschooled kids are meeting benchmarks like those required for public schools. There is no way to know what taxpayers are getting for our \$2000. It might simply be a gift of public funds.

Perhaps most important, school vouchers do nothing for the millions of kids across Texas who are thriving in their public schools. Many kids are doing great would be doing even better if their schools were not being starved of funds by the state.

Texas ranks 43rd nationally in per-student funding for K-12 education. The state has done nothing to keep pace with inflation since the basic allotment was last increased, let alone to help teachers cope with the unprecedented challenges of teaching in pandemic and post-pandemic conditions.

Before giving away our tax dollars, the state should try investing in public education. We'd all be better off, not just private school operators.

Jill Lamping
Self / Actuary and Benefits Manager
Wylie, TX

It is beyond disappointing to see a \$1 billion ESA bill put to the forefront before public education is funded by this legislature. With a mere \$220 on the table as an increase to the basic allotment, it is insulting to Texans to suggest there is \$1 billion, in year one alone, for a "nice to have" ESA program when we cannot properly fund the constitutionally mandated public schools.

Public schools need a fully inflation-adjusted basic allotment. That means over \$1,300 for each public school student in Texas to get back to 2019 spending levels, plus an automatic escalator each year so we don't end up with 6 years of flat funding ever again. Our ISDs need to be able to adjust teacher and staff compensation significantly in order to keep the best and brightest in our schools, already a very tough task in the current environment with so many citizens and politicians demonizing our public schools and our educators. They also need to be able to keep up with the increased cost of operating the facilities due to inflation since 2019. Our small ISD spends approximately 80% of our budget on payroll, and we run a lean operation at the admin level. This is in part why it's so important to inflation-adjust the basic allotment: so we can inflation-adjust our beloved teachers' salaries. We don't need a one-time stipend, we need a sustainable and significant increase to the basic allotment.

While I realize HB3 does not directly address the basic allotment, it should be tied to it. To emphasize my point: if the legislature cannot budget for a full inflation-adjustment of over \$1,300 to the basic allotment, then we simply do not have the means to add billions more in liability in the form of ESAs.

Sincerely,
Jill Lamping

Kaidan Nguyen
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please do not take away more monies from our public schools. Our public schools are already in dire straights regarding lack of funding. Not everyone has the means for school choice as many kids don't really have a choice. Only the well off families who have the ability to transport their kids to and from schools or parents who have the luxury of taking time off to transport their kids to school have a choice. School vouchers disproportionately reward wealthier families and harm lower income families. It punishes kids by taking away the dollars their school desperately needs. This is the opposite of what Jesus would do. Thank you.

Mathew Bartley
Self-teacher
Leander, TX

Putting public money into unregulated schools is just a boondoggle for people that already have their kids in private schools. No poor kid is going to be able to afford private schools because of this bill. We need to be putting money and resources into educational opportunities for all- public schools. I don't want my hard earned dollars helping a rich family pay less for their private school.

Stephanie Wehner
PTA, Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Stephania Bautista
self, disabled
McKinney, TX

Fully fund our public schools & teachers! Public education is vital to our communities & they have been under attack for far too long. Hell NO to privatization!

Kinsey Burrus

Self

Higgins, TX

I absolutely oppose school vouchers. I've done my research with an open mind and cannot see how it benefits 99% of Texas students. I've also researched who does benefit and who has funded the propaganda behind the bill. I cannot fathom how anyone with common sense can pursue this bill. Please come visit a rural school and look the teachers and parents and kids in the eye and say this is what is best for them. I'm a life long republican but I will not vote for a single representative who votes yes for this bill. Teachers will be fleeing our schools unless they are properly and fully funded.

Michelle Kaminski

Self, musician and music educator

Mckinney, TX

I will not vote in the future for anyone who supports vouchers. It will be the demise of the public school system.

Andrew Wrigley

Self / Parent

Houston, TX

As a proud native Texan who attended public schools and universities and as a parent of an elementary aged child in public school in Texas, I strongly oppose this bill. Instead of sending our tax dollars to benefit only a very small percentage of children, instead use the estimated \$1+ billion to property fund our public schools.

Carol Bryant, Mrs.

Retired educator

Cypress, TX

No public funds for private schools!! Texas needs to fully fund our schools. Shameful that Republicans have been in charge for 30 years and we rank 45th in the nation for education success! Vouchers will not fix that!

Julianne Zuniga

Self- Teacher

Lavon, TX

I oppose HB3. I have a child that has learning disabilities that would be denied by private schools. Private schools only serve students they CHOOSE to, while public schools serve ALL students in their boundaries. Having grown up in a rural Texas town, private schools were over 55 miles away from my hometown of McCamey, Texas. Most Texan families are dual income families that cannot forgo the secondary income to homeschool or meet strict private school expectations. This bill does not serve most of Texas nor are more Texans in support of this. Listen to Texans, not private school representatives who only serve themselves to gain additional funding. I guarantee if this is a proposition put to Texans, it would overwhelmingly be shut down.

Ashley Mota

Self

El Paso, TX

As a parent and a teacher in the public school setting. Our public schools need to be fully funded to be able to give our students the education they should be receiving. Class sizes are too big and due to that students are not progressing the way they should be. Resources are too scarce to be able to fund a classroom

Pamela Souder
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am strongly opposed to educational savings accounts because I do not want my tax dollars funding private schools that do not have any accountability. The public schools that will suffer the most are rural schools. Texas needs to invest in public education and not divert our tax dollars to help the wealthy defray the cost of private school tuition.

Laura Kaarlsen, Teacher, Homeowner, Parent
Self
San Antonio, TX

Education is a gift from today's society to future societies, and it should remain "free" to K-12 students. Texas has this system in its public schools. If families are feeling the need to find other opportunities for the education of their children, then Texas needs to adequately fund public schools.

Texas works hard to appear to support public schooling while doing just the opposite.

Any bill that supports private or charter schools should support public schools in kind. All requirements placed on public schools must also be placed on any alternate form of schooling.

Anything different is undermining the very system Texas claims to support.

Jessica Shafer
Self, parent
Pearland, TX

I do not want my taxes paying for private schools. We need all the money we can get for the public schools, which are underfunded. Real texans don't want this!

Jessica Miller
Self Speech-Language Pathologist
Austin, TX

I want to express my concerns about the implementation of the school voucher program, which I believe could have significant negative consequences for our education system and the students it serves. By diverting public funds to private institutions, these programs create inequities in access to quality education, leaving public schools with fewer resources to support the majority of students who remain in them. This can result in larger class sizes, reduced educational opportunities, and less support for students who need it most. Instead of diverting funds to private schools, we should focus on strengthening and adequately funding our public education system, ensuring that our students have access to high-quality education and the support they need to succeed.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Kim Beens
None
Helotes, TX

I am firmly opposed to HB 3 and the use of public school funds for private school tuition. We need to improve funding and support of our public systems, not take it away.

Widad Kinard

Self

Denton, TX

After watching 20+ hours of testimony in the HB 3 hearing, it is crystal clear that parents do not and will never have choice under this bill. HB 3 empowers private schools to cherry pick their students and deny enrollment to those with disabilities, like Felicita. Please, vote against HB 3 and fully fund our public schools.

Cooper Hilton

Self

Denton, TX

I am respectfully advocating AGAINST the proposed HB3. As a proud product of Texas public schools and a father of three children currently attending Denton ISD schools, I believe public dollars should remain in public schools.

HB3 would send public dollars to private institutions without sufficient accountability or oversight.

Texas public schools currently educate over 5 million kids. We must take steps to support these children rather than diverting funds away to provide scholarships for wealthy families.

Shelly Dittmar

Self - Foreign Service Officer

San Antonio, TX

I would like to register my opposition to the school voucher choice program. If individuals would like to send their children to private school that's their choice but I don't see how this will help change the gap between lower and higher achievers. It will drain resources from public schools and give private schools more money than public schools would receive for the same student. Those resources would be better used to improve public schools and expand access to charters within the public system. A better change to improve performance would be early intervention programs, additional student support, and a change to standards based grading that graded children on how well they master knowledge and skills instead of endless homework assignments. Let's put money towards that instead.

Marian Moore

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and policy idea.

Ashley Kolb

Self

Houston, TX

Please keep our public dollars in public schools. Sending crucial funding out of our public schools when it is already so thin and giving it to schools that do not have to meet our standards is not the Texan thing to do.

Please keep our public dollars in public schools, and fight to make them better.

Signed, a public educator and mom of two public school children in Houston.

Sebrina Winger

Beaumont Teachers Association

Silsbee, TX

Vouchers divert public tax dollars from public schools to private/ charter schools. But Private/ charter schools do not service all Texas students. They do not have special services for students who require special education. They do not provide transportation or nutrition to their students. Using public funds for private schools is a travesty against all Texas students.

Bettye Turney

Self

Jacksonville, TX

I live in rural East Texas. I am against School vouchers for the following reasons: There are not many private schools to use the vouchers. Transportation is not available to private schools and there are many parents who work and cannot take their children to a private school. This does not make sense in the rural areas which rely on public education and the transportation they supply for the students. I do not agree on spending public tax dollars for students to go to private schools. This takes away from the public schools. Cody Harris is my representative. I am a Republican and I did not vote for him in the Primaries because I knew he supported vouchers. In my opinion this law should be voted on by the people of Texas and not by lawmakers who are not listening to their constituents.

Bettie Millikan

Self

Austin, TX

This is a money grabbing scam by the ultra rich to their lap dogs Abbot and Patrick. We already have school choice, they just have to pay for it. Fund our public schools and do what's best for the state of Texas not just your rich benefactors. DO Your job.

John Brantley, Reverend

Self

Marble Falls, TX

Please find another way to do this. Or at least provide some protections for public schools. Please add that any private school entity must accept any student and provide for any and all accommodations that public schools are required to do. Additionally ensure that parents who take this program waive any and all rights to having their children attend public schools. Or if a child leaves a private entity the school must return monies to affected public school district.

Rena Honea, Mrs.

Self

Dallas, TX

As a graduate of public schools, former public school teacher, parent of public school students, taxpayer, and public school advocate, it is with the utmost respect that I vehemently urge you to VOTE NO on HB3! Passing this bill creates a third educational system that Texas funds will pay for and cannot afford. The largest number of students belong to the public schools in our great state with 5.5 million + students who are being neglected by the lawmakers not meeting their responsibilities to adequately fund our public schools which is the students' constitutional right. Texas public school funding has declined in the past 20 years to an amount that many find embarrassing. It is my hope that each voting member would put the political antics aside and treat the Texas students with the respect and dignity they deserve as they prepare to lead our communities, cities, and state. Ultimately, these are the people that will make decisions for us as we age and depend on their skills to take care of us and our quality of life.

Thank you for your service, consideration, and time!

Heather Horton

Yantis

Yantis, TX

Disappointed 27 year veteran public school teacher here. I'm a Christian and teach in a rural area. I am the aunt of a child with autism that depends on IDEA and my niece and nephew go to private school. I am mortified at the disregard our Republican governor and members of Congress have for our rural students, our special education students, our Head Start students -- and the way they speak about teachers. Vote no to sending public money to private entities. Following the trail of Abbott's funding from out of state financial backers is just disappointing. Let's make public schools better. There's got to be a better option than paying private groups with little to no accountability for them.

April Beeson, Mrs.

Self

Stamford, TX

PLEASE VOTE NO TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS!! It will do more harm than good to public education. Our students deserve better!!!

Christi Johnson, MS

Self

Burnet, TX

I am opposed to education savings accounts. I pay taxes to support public schools. I do not want my money to support private schools that have no accountability. The Legislature has underfunded public schools for years. It's time for the Legislature to step and do their job by fully funding public schools and providing teachers with much needed and deserved pay raises. NO SCHOOL VOUCHERS!

Cori Pratt

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Stacy Castillo, Ms

self / attorney

San Antonio, TX

As a 5th generation Texan and a product of Texas public education (as are my parents, grandparents, and children), I strongly oppose the proposed ESA program for multiple reasons. The public schools in Texas are already grossly underfunded; our public school educators deserve substantial pay raises as well as increases in the retirement pension for retired educators. We should not be spending money on private schools. Any entity receiving public monies should be held to the same accountability (in testing, transparency, student performance, and spending). Some of the private schools I know take their students on annual trips (to London, Hawaii, NYC, etc) that are fully covered by the school. It is ridiculous to think that our tax payer money will essentially be subsidizing these kinds of trips for the private school students while the public school student is having programs cut! The other reason I oppose these ESAs is that the private schools are allowed to choose who they accept into their school. They are not required to take the disabled students, special education students, etc. Indeed, they can even choose to take only students who meet certain testing scores (ie only take high scorers/high achievers). That would skew any metrics when comparing private v. public school performance.

Public education is a public service, intended to provide our state with an educated citizenry - so that no one is left behind; it is not intended to be a business or run like a business. This voucher type program is the equivalent of me saying I don't like how the police department is run - please give me the equivalent of my portion of taxes spent on police so I can use that money for private security. Or give me my portion of taxes supporting the library so I can go to Barnes and Noble instead. Or give me the tax money spent on public/state parks so I can join a country club. See how that works? The taxes are meant to be spent on PUBLIC SERVICES which benefit EVERYONE, not a select few. If a parent wants to sent their child to private school, that is certainly their right (school choice has always been available), but it should not be subsidized by the Texas tax payer, especially when those private schools have no accountability or transparency and can pick and choose which students they admit. Our public schools deserve our unwavering support. Our public schools have been doing a fantastic job, despite the financial hardships that have been forced upon them. I expect our Texas representatives to support our hard working public educators and stop making it difficult for them to do their jobs and stop making them feel unappreciated. Our teachers and school personnel are providing essential public services to our littlest Texans. It is time you stand up for that.

De Anna Mondy
Dodd Elementary PTA
Wylie, TX

I oppose school vouchers in Texas. Public schools need more funding not less! This is an injustice to educators and school administrations across the state of Texas.

Rachel Allen
Self
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE VOUCHERS AND SB3. Why would we funnel public funds to private schools before we fund public schools? Most areas in Texas do not have access to private schools. Texas state Legislature makes public schools jump through hoops just to get the funding they are already owed. Public schools have to prove attendance in order to receive funding instead of basing it off of enrollment and you require public schools to take the STAAR test for funding as well. But you are willing to hand over money to private school children, not track their attendance and not require them to take standardized testing. How does that make sense? Why are you holding public school money hostage, so you can get this voucher scam passed. I personally know multiple multi-millionaires in the Tulsa, Oklahoma area that now use the voucher system, because why-not, it's available. They take \$10,000 per private school kid in a state that is already ranked 50th in public school education. How is that not a scam? Why do you really want Texas to follow suit?

Erin Smith
self - volunteer in public schools
Friendswood, TX

The great thing about the content of HB 3 is we have the benefit of not being the first state to look into this type of program. Several others have already implemented similar bills, with dismal results. The vast majority of families who utilize vouchers are ones that did not need them - they could already afford private schools. The poorer that would most benefit from school choice cannot afford most private schools even with vouchers as the balance after vouchers is still too high - not taking into account that many of those poor families do not have the support to know how to even get vouchers nor would they be able to get their kids to "the other side of town" to where the desired private schools are typically located.

The ones who most benefit from school choice/vouchers are the business people who are willing to open up private schools for profit - not because they care deeply about educating our nation's future leaders, but because they are looking at the opportunity to make more money. These schools often fail the students as the focus is on the profit and not the education.

Our state has purposely been withholding proper funding since at least 2019 (really longer than that if we want to get into how low Texas is on funding education) so that now representatives that want to line their pockets with money saved paying for their own kids' private schools, Mrs. Abbott can enjoy perks while sitting on the Board of a private school, and buddies earning money opening private schools, can say our public schools are suffering and we the public should be offered choices. We don't want new choices. We want our public schools properly funded. Every representative and senator in Texas (and our hypocritical leader, Abbott) knows the majority of Texans don't want this, that's why it was never put to a public vote. Those we have elected are no longer representing us. Fully and properly fund our public schools first.

Add on to this that the plan is to give more money per student to private schools than to public schools. There is no sound logic for this than to reduce the ability of public schools to do their job well and to help create an environment that sets private schools up for better success. In addition to this, will private schools accept children with IEPs and serve them properly? No, they don't have to. Those kids and their money can go to the private school, but then technically the public school system will still have to serve these children if called upon. This is so backwards. No one in their right mind truly thinks any of this is the right thing to do.

What happened to serving "we the people"? We the people did not ask for this. We do not want this. DO YOUR JOB. Do the right thing. As a Republican, I am embarrassed for this party. As a Christian, I am ashamed of this party - taking from children for years to build up wealthy adults' bank accounts.

I personally can afford private schools. I don't want your tainted dirty money.

Lynette Motte-Peters
AFT -Retired Public School Educator
Humble, TX

NO. We need public schools to serve all children. Public schools are regulated. Improvement can be made with support.

Casey Snyder
Household
Dallas, TX

Vote NO. Texas needs to fully invest and fund PUBLIC education. We consistently rank very low nationally for public education and this is unacceptable. Do NOT pass a bill to establish an education savings account. This primarily benefits wealthier Texans. Fully fund Texas public education now for a better tomorrow for all Texans. VOTE NO.

Michael Wilkins, Retired Teacher
Self
Goldthwaite, TX

I am against vouchers. It is not good for rural schools. You have done nothing significant to fix Public education.

Preston Horn
Mansfield ISD
Mansfield, TX

We've tried to pass ESAs in some form or another since 1957. It wasn't good for all Texans then, and it's not now. If you really care about helping the marginalized, put income limits in this bill, and then find a way to release more funds to public schools in some other way. Mansfield ISD approved it's first-ever deficit budget this year. It will get worse. David Cook co-authored this bill. Please ask him if he is happy defunding his hometown district.

Geri Brettmann
Self
Mansfield, TX

We need our schools to remain public.

Karen Porter
Self/Retired teacher
Azle, Tx, TX

Please vote no for school vouchers. We need a education that is available to all children in the state. We do not need to pull away from our public education funding. Texas already has school choice. Parents can choose any type of school they want for their children. If they choose private, then they pay for it. Taxes are to help Everyone go to school. That is why our educational system is better than any other country. We educate everyone. Other countries only educate their top level children. Follow the Texas constitution and fund public education we the people of Texas are against school vouchers governor Abbet quit trying to push what no one wants. You were supposed to represent us the people of Texas as are the representatives in the Texas house Represent your constituents. We do not want school vouchers.

Linda Way
Self
Georgetown, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 because it unfairly favors wealthy individuals and steals funds for public education.

Stephanie Wehner

PTA, Wylie ISD

Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS/ESAs.

Marilyn Cobb, Retired teacher

Self

Lakeway, TX

Public money should be distributed ONLY to not-for-profit public schools! Withholding funds for several years now as a ransom for approving vouchers is unconscionable! And the future cost of these vouchers (& their administration) is an unknown (but predictably devastating) to taxpayers. GIVE IT UP! Stop wasting time & money trying to get this approved over the objections of the majority of Texans! Say NO to HB3 and any other attempt to take taxpayer funds from public schools!

Jessica Hillin

Self

Austin, TX

Reject this voucher system and supply our public schools better funding instead! This voucher system will dissolve our public education system and create unfair advantages to those who already have a leg up and can afford private institutions. We should be trying to bring everyone up instead of keeping the disadvantaged down. These kids are our future and we should invest in our public education system to help our future country have the best stewards. Taxpayers deserve excellent public education for all children! What about those kids who fall under section 504 and need IEPs, private institutions don't have to provide protections or equal opportunities for these children. Being forced into private institutions would leave so many children behind. REJECT THIS BILL!

CHRISTIAN-BELL LOUISA

Self

Houston, TX

This expands government, robs from public education, and will not create better educational outcomes (as it has not in other states implementing vouchers). Do not give more money to people leaving public schools than Texas currently does to children in public education seats. Please, please, decide to make Texas pickup education the best in the nation through investment, serious and experienced minds, and more appropriate relationships with testing companies. Texas is not made better by paying folks to further splinter the neighborhood, community school. Please don't do this - it's the one plank that urban and rural voters agree on.

Tracy Ryan

Self

Liberty Hill, TX

Vouchers are not right, I do not support private school vouchers

Gary PROFFITT

Self

Goldthwaite, TX

Please vote NO to school choice/vouchers and fully fund public education.

John Richardson

Self

The Colony, TX

If a parent wants to send their child to another school, the costs should be their financial responsibility and should not be subsidized by the state. Any voucher or savings program should be the same cost for educating a student and not depend on private school or public school status. Public school funding from the state should not penalize the local public schools if a parent chooses to send their student to another school. Property taxes should fund local school districts and not fund schools in other districts which penalizes the local school districts.

Vicki Cleland

Self

ALVIN, TX

Read the Texas Constitution

Mona Montgomery

Self

San Antonio, TX

No school vouchers. Public education must be equitable. No tax dollars should be used in private education.

Kenneth Langford

Self

Cypress, TX

Do not allow the voucher system.

Tonya Lambright

Self/Texas Teacher

Trenton, TX

Texas Teachers deserve a pay raise whether vouchers pass or not. I am finishing up my 12th year of teaching and I still do not make \$60,000 a year. How is this possible? I'll tell you how; because Texas teachers are not a concern for our Texas Governor. How is it possible that someone who has a bachelor's degree and been in a job for almost 13 years still makes under \$60,000 a year? Why are Texas teachers regarded by our state to be of such little value? I get to work every morning by 7:00. MANY evenings I don't leave work until well after 6 pm, then I go home and take care of my family. After that's done, I then grade papers and create lessons ON MY OWN TIME. I don't get paid for that. Regarding vouchers, you seriously cannot believe that a public school child is worth less money than a private school child, can you? Public school districts only get a little over \$6,000 a school year per child to run their district. (Your numbers you have put out to the public are lies, and you know it.). However, you believe parents who want to send their kids to private schools should get over \$10,000. HOW is a private school child worth more than a public school child? Also, public funds should NOT EVER pay for private school. Private school is a choice. If parents want their child to attend private school then those parents should find a way to pay for it. If I want my child to have private baseball or football lessons, I pay for that. The government doesn't help me. Why should parents (rich parents no doubt) be helped by the government to send their child to private school? Do the right thing Austin and vote to give Texas teachers a huge pay raise, but vote no for private school vouchers. DO BETTER GOVERNOR ABBOTT!

Krystal Sutton, Mrs.

Self/ educator

Garland, TX

HB 3 doesn't do enough to address the unique needs of special education students, particularly in underfunded districts. Special education programs often require additional funding, training, and resources, and if HB 3 does not sufficiently allocate resources to these areas, it could exacerbate inequities in education for students with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Krystal Sutton

Persephone Barnett

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose school vouchers or saving accounts or anything other than supporting our public schools with more funding. Leave homeschoolers out of this. We choose to homeschool to keep the government out not to have more government involvement.

Sandal Stephenson

Self

Franklin, TX

I am very much opposed to the passage of HB 3. I am against sending public money, my tax money, to private schools. This bill is a voucher scam that will greatly hurt Texas public schools. Please vote down this bill.

Sharla Boyd, Dr.

Self

Lubbock, TX

Please vote against the education savings account program and protect public schools! The voucher program disproportionately harms lower income children, rural children, and kids with special needs. We need increased funding to strength public schools rather than lower amounts of funding for kids in public education.

Brenda Henricks

self - Librarian

Wolfforth, TX

Vouchers do not benefit the underserved or individuals with disabilities. From everything I have read and experienced in public education, this HB 3 takes resources from the poor and gives them to the wealthy. Abbott makes it sound appealing by offering money for private school tuition, but that amount will not cover the full cost of attendance. Consequently, many families who cannot afford to subsidize the remaining expenses will still have to send their children to public schools. These families pay taxes, but those funds are not being allocated to support their students adequately. Public schools were established and funded through tax contributions from all, and they are meant to serve all students/children in Texas, not just the wealthy. These funds are essential for hiring the best teachers, who often are not compensated fairly for their hard work. Public school students and teachers deserve better!

Amanda Killingsworth

Self

Brookston, TX

As a public educator and mother of public students it is disheartening how elected officials are ignoring the public and are trying to twist what should be common sense to fit their narrative. Any funding to put forth another education lane or however you want to say it is going to result unless funding for already underfunded schools. The schools have been targeted by the governor for one withholding any of the funding that could have benefited us unless we agreed with his agenda. It is common sense to open another lane means reducing funding for the majority of Texas students. The majority of Texas students and the future of Texas lies in public education. The public overwhelmingly says no to vouchers they see that this is not benefiting the majority of Texans. We see who this is benefiting. It is not to close any gap it is not out of the goodness of anyone's heart take a hard look because the public has at who this is actually benefiting it is not our students it is not the state of Texas. Any any voucher program is not for the benefit of the state of Texas. It saddens and sickens me every time I see common sense be cut off and talked down to by an elected official who the public can see and knows has an agenda and that agenda is not to benefit the majority of Texas it's not to benefit all Texas students as claimed we can see that we can run the numbers we know what's happening. Listen to your constituents listen to what is right and do what is right no matter what private agenda has been brought to you or what funding you have received do the right thing for all of Texas.

Pamala Sampert

TRTA

Whitesboro, TX

HB 3 needs to go to a vote of the citizen taxpayers of TEXAS!! NOT everyone wants vouchers, contrary to what the governor spins. NO VOUCHERS!!! Do NOT destroy public education!! Vouchers only help the rich, and hurt our rural schools. NO VOUCHERS!!

Wanda Wilkins

Self & all my retired co workers and family with public ed.

Goldthwaite, TX

I oppose vouchers and what people are trying to do against public education. As a retired paraprofessional, I have husband as retired coach, children who are in the professional. Hate it ruin it for them and the students nowadays. We live on our retirement and social security, what little we get, and hate to see it take away from us all. Please help save our professionals, public schools, retirees.

Kathy Major

Children and schools

Liberty Hill, TX

Please fight for public schools and against ESAs. This bill doesn't provide equitable choice and processes to achieve ESAs has hurt public schools at each step. Over 80% of public schools districts are having to drastically cut services and programs, not because of their inefficiency but because of unfunded mandates, arbitrary tax compression, and no new m/o funding over the last 6 years.

Additionally, information coming out of TEA on public school funding has been misleading. It illustrates all funding sources without clearly illustrating what cannot be used in any way other than line item application. Bonds cannot pay teacher salaries. PREK funds can't buy gas. It also includes ESSAR FUNDING that are no longer available. What it does not include are cuts to SHARS, fast growth funds, the lack of hold harmless due to tax compressions, and on going rules changes that take M AND O monies away.

In essence, the bills are NOT being paid for services rendered.

In addition, private school vendors are paying millions and pushing for ESAs which in turn benefit those businesses.

Parent choice is already available. If a parent does not choice a free, appropriate public education, they can choose a delivery system that fits their family;however, if they do not choice to engage my services, my choice is not to contribute to their choice elsewhere.

Fund Public schools first. It is your constitutional requirement.

Lori Alexander
Self - Teacher
Mont Belvieu, TX

As a Texas educator with 19 years of experience, I strongly oppose HB 3, which seeks to create an Education Savings Account (ESA) program. This bill is nothing more than a voucher scheme that will take taxpayer dollars away from public schools and redirect them to private and unregulated institutions. Public funds should support public schools—not private interests.

Texas public schools serve all students, regardless of income level, ability, or background. Private schools, on the other hand, are not required to accept all students, provide special education services, or follow the same academic and financial accountability standards. Yet HB 3 would allow taxpayer dollars to be used for private school tuition without ensuring those schools meet the same expectations as public institutions.

At a time when Texas ranks near the bottom in per-student funding, it is unacceptable to divert resources away from our public schools. Teachers are leaving the profession due to low salaries and overwhelming workloads. Schools are struggling with overcrowded classrooms, outdated materials, and a lack of essential student services. Instead of addressing these pressing issues, HB 3 would drain even more funding from the schools that serve the vast majority of Texas students.

Additionally, ESAs do not truly provide “school choice” for all families. They disproportionately benefit wealthier families who can already afford private school tuition, while lower-income families are left behind. Rural communities, where private school options are scarce or nonexistent, would suffer the most. The reality is that vouchers and ESAs do not expand opportunities—they widen inequities.

If Texas legislators truly care about education, they should be focused on fully funding public schools, raising teacher pay, and providing the resources students need to succeed. HB 3 fails to do any of these things. I strongly urge lawmakers to reject this harmful bill and prioritize real solutions that strengthen our public education system rather than dismantling it.

Desiree McAuley
Self
Plano, TX

I oppose bill HB 3, I have two children and am a 6th generation Texan. Voucher programs have been ineffective in other states. My tax dollars are meant for public services, not private companies. I want public schools fully funded, teachers pay increased and student lunches to be included. If someone wants their student to attend a private school, they already have a choice to send them there. Tax dollars should not be used towards private institutions. Im concerned this is the six or seventh hearing and it has been said 12 million dollars has been paid from outside our state to influence implementation of vouchers. Why is our elected governor still working towards something it's obvious his constituents are against? Is it the \$12,000,000 paycheck he received? Is that what the millions of children's lives in our state is worth to him? Public taxes for public services. Say no to vouchers.

Heather Hullum
self
Fort Worth, TX

It is stated, “the bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.” Provide all legal basis for which an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of this bill are applicable and the legal authority responsible for deciding the legal basis. In addition, provide how the appropriation of funds would be determined. I oppose HB3.

Erin Buchanan

My CHILD

Plano, TX

I am significantly opposed this program for the following reasons:

It pulls funding out of public education.

Private institutions (and therefore MY public dollars) are not held up to the same public scrutiny as public education.

Private institutions are not required to take the starr—accountability standards are different.

Public institutions are required to accept ALL students. Private are not.

ESA programs are not equitable. Countless small towns across Texas have NO access to private education, yet their schools will be the first penalized by this unconscionable funding pull.

Over time, in every state ESA programs have been attempted, they have proven unsuccessful.

The funders of this bill are not Texans. Texans DO NOT WANT THIS BILL.

Until the state can fully fund public education without strings attached, they should, in no way, shape, or form, be attempting to pull even more money from public education to benefit donors from outside the state and a precious few people who could already afford private education without an ESA program.

Shame on every single one of the legislators that votes for this bill. You're voting on our children's future and we won't forget.

Kathleen Smith

Self

McKinney, TX

My children thrived in public school. This bill presents a clear and present danger to our already struggling public school system. As proud Texans we should be pumping money into our public schools ensuring that EVERY student in the state receives the highest quality education money can buy! Every child in Texas deserves this and so much more! I want my tax dollars going to public schools for every child-not a fortunate few! Do the right thing by the children of this beautiful state-do not pass this bill!

Veronica Flaherty

Self

Flower Mound, TX

Do not pass! Public schools need funding

Matt Smith

Self

Mansfield, TX

Do not support school vouchers to pay for private schools. People have the choice to pick whatever school they want to send their kids to. Tax dollars should be used for public schools only.

Dawn Bennett

Self

Tioga, TX

I do not support HB 3. I only support public funds for public education!

Mary Shaddox, Ms.

Self/retired teacher

Wylie, TX

I taught in special education for 33 years. This bill will hurt all public school students but it will affect special education students even more. It will also affect students who are in low socioeconomic areas. The stipend won't help these students attend a public school. It won't be enough. The majority of counties within the state don't have a private school option. Public schools are already under funded. Teachers stay in education for the students but should be better paid. All students deserve a better education through public schools. Wealthy parents don't need to get a subsidy or stipend to attend a private school. Students in poor areas deserve an education just as much as those who live in affluent areas. If Texas wants a better workforce then Texas needs to fund public schools.

Larry Payne, Rev. Dr.

Self

Wolfforth, TX

The freedom of parents to choose their child's school does not require taxpayer money. Parents may change schools with a district, change districts, or vote out the school board. Public money should support public schools whose leaders are elected, not controlled by a corporation.

Joni Patterson, Teacher

Self

Stamford, TX

I have been an educator for 29 years. I believe in public school education, and I believe in the future of Texas. NO TO VOUCHERS!

Allyson Riley

Self

Lumberton, TX

I am a parent of an autistic student served by our local public school, and I am against HB 3. School districts in Texas have been underfunded since before the pandemic, and sending public taxpayer funds to private schools is not the answer to the issues public schools are facing.

My son receives services guaranteed to him by IDEA including instruction accommodations and speech and occupational therapy. Students like my son would not be accepted at private schools, because they are not required to meet his needs. Because we are in a rural area, there are no private schools within an hour drive that would accommodate his learning needs. This bill would only detract from an already struggling school budget, leading to more children like my son being underserved.

Texas children deserve the free, appropriate public education they are entitled to. That is not accomplished with this bill. Rural communities and already struggling students will suffer if this bill is passed. Republican legislators have had control of the Texas education system for 20 years, and have only themselves to blame for its faults. Fully fund the public education system so that schools can provide the services that are needed in their communities, instead of shuffling public taxpayer funds to private corporations who do not have to be accountable to your constituents.

Paula Wilder, Mrs.

Self retired teacher

Dickinson, TX

No vouchers!! Listen to the voters of Texas. Are we a state that can be bought by millionaires? No to both!!!

Lance Harris
Self
Kingwood, TX

This bill does NOT benefit ALL FAMILIES... only the ones deemed superior. Voucher schools will still be allowed to reject any student they deem inferior. How is that PARENT choice? Vouchers are about paying back the billionaires who bought all those Republican primary elections last year... See Jeff Yass! Do you think he gave Abbott all those millions because he loves Texas kids? This is about robbing taxpayers... NOT parent choice.

Gina Brustie, Dr
Self
Wylie, TX

I do not support school vouchers

Kathy Scott
Self - District school Administrator
Snyder, TX

I do not agree with this bill. We should not be using tax dollars for private education. If schools were funded adequately, we would not have many of the problems that we have. If parents want to take their children to a private school or home school them, that should be at their own personal expense not funded by taxpayers.

Roberta Gonzalez, CPNP, Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
Self, Health advocate for children
San Antonio, Tx, TX

I am a concerned citizen, taxpayer and a health advocate for children as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. I am against HB3 School Vouchers for many reasons but will only discuss a few most important issues: 1.) lack of accessible private schools in low income and rural areas around Texas leaving those children out of the option; 2.) teachers are not required to be certified in charter schools; 3.) lack of assistance for children who require services protected by federal law (disabled, 504 plans, etc.) This does not align with Christian values of caring for those who can not care for themselves. I have many patients who require those services and cutting funding or taking funding from schools to support the wealthiest families who CAN afford private school is a disgrace.

Lezlee Moore, Teacher
Self
Knox City, TX

Please support Texas public schools and vote no to vouchers. All children deserve education they can count on.

Denise Klein
Myself
Danbury, TX

I am opposed to the idea of taking money from the public schools and providing vouchers. Instead, fund the public schools where they can meet the needs of the students. Public schools have not been given the funds needed to keep up with inflation, and teachers are tired of taking money out of their pockets to meet the needs of their students. As a teacher of 23+ years, I am also worried how this will affect my retirement.

I have not seen any evidence of vouchers working effectively in other states, so why do our political officials feel it will work in Texas.

Lawra Duy
Self
Dallas, TX

This is the worst idea for all Texas as it is for the entire country. Vouchers ARE NOT THE ANSWER for our kids!

Anita Knouse
Self - Retired Teacher
Livingston, TX

Private schools in our area do not help their students realize the mastery of education they need. Public education, the bedrock of our democracy, is undermined by the voucher system.

Tina Vanderburg
Self
PARIS, TX

PLEASE vote no to HB 3 and to support public education! Please take in to consideration ALL children. Children with disabilities, whether they are physical, mental, emotional, deserve to receive an education. HB3 puts programs for special needs children at risk of being lost. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE VOTE NO TO HB3.

Paul-Anthony Middleton
TSTA
Del Valle, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House Committee on Public Education,

I urge you to oppose any form of school vouchers, no matter what they are called. Vouchers divert state tax dollars away from our neighborhood public schools and into private businesses, weakening the public education system that serves the vast majority of Texas students. Public funds should remain in public schools, where they benefit all children, not just a select few.

Please stand with Texas families and protect our public schools.

Adamaris Jimenez
Self
Paris, TX
Vote No!

Lynda Bauer
Self
Bellville, TX

I am adamantly opposed to this bill. I don't believe we should fund private school vouchers. We should fund publicly only public schools with tax dollars. Please listen to your constituents!!!!

Sharon Evans
Self
Early, TX
Vote NO on HB 3

Jayanthi Rapp

Self

Dallas, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Amanda Brummitt

self

Austin, TX

Please vote to oppose vouchers.

Amy Grubbs

Self, small business owner- LPC

Mansfield, TX

Governor Abbott, I urge you to reconsider HB 3, the Education Savings Account (ESA) bill, as it threatens the strength of Texas' public education system. Rather than expanding choices, HB 3 weakens public schools, lacks accountability, and diverts resources from those who need them most.

1. HB 3 Hurts Rural and Low-Income Communities

Texas' public schools serve all students, including those in rural areas where private schools do not exist. HB 3 diverts critical funding, leading to:

- School closures, forcing students to travel long distances.
- Teacher shortages, reducing educational quality.
- Cuts to special education, leaving vulnerable students without services.

Private school tuition often exceeds ESA amounts, meaning low-income families won't benefit—instead, HB 3 subsidizes wealthy families who already afford private schooling.

2. Lack of Oversight Leads to Waste and Fraud

States with similar programs, like Arizona, have reported widespread fraud, with funds spent on luxury goods, vacations, and non-educational expenses. HB 3 lacks safeguards, risking:

- Public funds being misused on unregulated services.
- Families exploiting loopholes, using tax dollars for non-education expenses.
- A two-tier education system, where well-off families benefit while public schools deteriorate.

Unlike public schools, private schools receiving ESA funds have no financial transparency requirements. Taxpayers should not fund a system without oversight.

3. Private Schools Can Discriminate

Texas public schools must serve every child, regardless of ability or background. Private schools, however, can reject students based on:

- Religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
- Disabilities, leaving special-needs students without options.
- Income level, favoring wealthier families.

Public dollars should not fund exclusionary institutions. HB 3 creates a system of discrimination, not choice.

4. Texans Oppose ESA-Style Vouchers

Texans have repeatedly rejected school voucher programs. In 2023, 21 Republican lawmakers joined Democrats to block a similar bill. Voters prioritize investing in public education, not diverting funds to private schools.

Even in conservative areas, parents support higher teacher salaries, safer schools, and better resources—not vouchers. Pushing HB 3 forward risks alienating rural voters, public school advocates, and moderate conservatives.

5. Strengthen Public Schools Instead of Weakening Them

If the goal is educational freedom, we should improve public education, not defund it. A better plan would:

- Raise teacher pay to recruit and retain quality educators.
- Expand Career & Technical Education (CTE) to give students real-world skills.
- Increase special education funding, ensuring every child gets the support they need.
- Invest in school safety and mental health services, addressing real parental concerns.

Real reform supports all students, not just those who can afford private education. HB 3 distracts

Martha Clay

Self/very concerned and rational parent

Austin, TX

This scam fits right in with efforts to make public school as terrible as possible. You are paid to represent all the people, not the three billionaires lining your pockets. Stop the lies - vouchers are not savings accounts; they are checks written to unqualified schools with terrible agendas

Sarah McElvain, LMSW

Self- private practice mental health clinician

Austin, TX

As a public school educator turned therapist, as well as a parent to two Texas children, I would like to urge the committee to vote NO to educational savings accounts. These vouchers are in support of a few privileged and come with irreversible deficits for the vast majority of families who cannot afford private schools, even with vouchers. What should be happening in this committee is the allocation of funds to public schools (as there is a surplus and school children's futures shouldn't be jeopardized). Increase the per student allotment, change funding to enrollment rather than daily attendance, and increase funding to be on par with the rising costs of inflation. Support public schools and the future of ALL Texas children by voting no to vouchers! Our communities depend on public schools.

Glenn Foster

Self and entire family

Alvin, TX

I believe this bill is embarrassing for ALL Texans. It just puts more money into the hands of a few privileged people, and sticks it to everyone else.

tamara blevins

Self

Houston, TX

Please support public education. NOT vouchers

Ronald Chalaire

Self

Paris, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. Please listen to the people and vote no to vouchers!!!

Miriam Kuznets

self, Psychotherapist

Austin, TX

This bill will not help impoverished or middle-classTexans; the state should be spending the money on improving public schools. I don't approve of my tax dollars or state congress supporting a bogus fund.

Tiffany Edwards, Mrs

Self

Runaway Bay, TX

No to vouchers

Carla Reasoner

Self

Grapevine, TX

Do the simple 5th grade math- \$200divided by 8 classes= \$25 per class divided by 187 days =.133689

That's a substantial funding increase!

No, that's moronic.

Linda Farral

Sekf

Watauga, TX

Voucher for private school education. So wrong!!!! I am sure it will pass. But don't short the public schools to fund. The cost of living since 2019 should be the amount of increase per student for funding public schools. And it should be more than that. Private schools don't have to admit disabled or special needs students or minorities or anyone that doesn't meet their standards. Don't leave the smaller schools floundering and having to close schools due to lack of funding. School size at public schools classes shouldn't have increase to make their budgets work. All Texas students should get a good education. Do not treat students in rural areas under these conditions. Give the school districts adequate funds to maintain their schools and provide necessary support, security and higher utility bills due to higher Oncor rates. Give the public schools a lot more funding. \$220 more is a joke!!!! The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Secretary of State obviously don't care about all of the children in the state for education or the State of Texas wouldn't be in the bottom 10% of funding for the entire country of the U.S.. All Texas children need to have access to a better education. NOT JUST THOSE THAT GO TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

The legislators need to do better for all Texas citizens!

Justin Nuckols

Self

Amarillo, TX

I believe vouchers will perpetuate the lack of equity in our education system. They will no benefit students of low socioeconomic status or students in rural areas. Further, I believe better funding should be provided to our current public school system.

Sandi Newmon

Self

Garland, TX

School vouchers is not a good plan. Any plan that takes public tax dollars and hands it over to a private schools is wrong. Public dollars belong in public schools. Parents have a choice. It is a lie to say they don't have a choice.

I want my tax dollars to go to public schools. That is where public tax dollars belong---in public schools.

Elizabeth Turk

Self

Austin, TX

I do not support tax payer funded vouchers.

Rachael Shebeck Tonn

My 4 children

Wylie, TX

We do not want the voucher program. Keep the money in a public schools where it belong

Laura Arellano-Davis, Rev.

Self. Chaplain

Missouri City, TX

This state does not need a voucher program! It will hurt public schools, and send our public taxes to fund what is a PRIVATE choice and should therefore be privately funded.

Julie Germanio

Self

San Marcos, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose all efforts to implement school voucher programs in our state. School vouchers divert critical public school funds that are necessary to the success of our public schools in Texas.

It does not seem ethical that private schools would receive state money without being held to the same standards as our state public schools.

There is little evidence to show that voucher programs improve educational outcomes. If educating our children in Texas is the goal then we should invest that money back into public education, a system that benefits the majority of school age children in the state of Texas.

As a person who has had taught in a Texas public school for several years, I see first hand that these schools are more than just a place for an academic education. It is a place to not only learn new skills but gain confidence, get support from outside the home, and gain a community. As a teacher I am dedicated to my students, but I need the support of strong policies that prioritize education, not weaken or threaten it.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Julie Germanio

sue desai

self

Dallas, TX

I am against school vouchers for private school. This is not an education savings program. It's taxpayer dollars being given to parents to pay for private school. What if you don't live by a private school, as most Texas don't?? This is not giving families a choice! It's everyone paying for a small group of people to go to private school.

Arlene Tyndall

Self

Houston, TX

As a mother and teacher in a public school. I am against school vouchers. The program has not been successful in Colorado, Oklahoma and other states. It is not sustainable for public schools and equal education access. Many parents are two income households and to have them travel farther rather than ensuring safe transportation to their local school that has the funds to provide a safe learning environment and quality education, it's clear which would be better. Funding public schools especially those that fall under title 1 is more sustainable than the voucher system. Please please do not vote for this

Nikolas Fenster

self/property maintenance

Denton, TX

I oppose HB 3

Elizabeth Harris

Self

Kingwood, TX

Please do not pass this bill. Public funds belong in public schools. If a family wants to send their child to a private school, then the family should pay for it! Private schools are not help to the same accountability of public schools nor do they have to accept everyone. If private schools are going to receive public funding then they should be held to the same standards. Since that will never happen, please vote NO!

James Behlen

Self

Coppell, TX

Strong education has so many ripple effects. From the economy to crime. Passing vouchers while our schools are severely underfunded cannot be the solution. I know you've all the great reasons to fund public schools and not pass vouchers. Please do the right thing. Our children should not be a for profit product. Thank you.

Susan Scruggs

Famiies Engaged

Spring, TX

I'm a Republican from Montgomery County and I'm asking you to VOTE NO on HB3!

Republicans have always embraced the principles of limited government and 2ndly that Texans should make decisions on a local basis, because each community knows what's best for their area.

What's happened to these Republican principles? Have you all turned into Rinos?

With you folks voting in HB1605 last year, which places all curriculum in Texas under a newly created gov entity within the TEA, "We the People" and our steadfast Republican principles have been disregarded.

Now with HB3, the ESA bill, you want to take over all the schools in Texas, both private and home school with your exorbitantly expensive Voucher Scam.

These vouchers create Universal School Choice in Texas, whereby government chooses the student and school that qualifies for ESA's under the state's rules & regulations

Even Col. Allen West has taken a stand against HB3 and this new bloated gov entity, which ushers in control and money of government over Texas education. He states that School Choice and ESA's are against Plank 84 of the Republican Platform, which states parents are the decision makers of their child's education.

So my question to you is "Are you a Republican or NOT"? If you are a real Republican and not an Abbott Republican, you will vote NO on HB3.

Trudy Baggett

Self

Trenton, TX

This is not a good bill. Public funds should not be used for private schools. Also, it is not equitable fie to the lack of availability to our Rural students. Private schools not having the same requirements makes the system not fair / Equitable.

Heather Fuentes

Self- Medical Device Clinical Rep/R.N.

Ballinger, TX

HB3 should not pass as it will cripple the public school system further. If the intent is to elevate our education options as parents, then slash the extravagant money spent on the STAAR test for starters and allow teachers to teach. College professors comment how our children know how to take a test and that's about it. Why should they wait until college to actually begin to catch up to competitive nations? Vouchers for private schools will only allow those of higher income to attend private schools. The average Texan will not be able to pay additional tuition for private school. Yes, there should be a choice for parents on where their children attend- but could we not consider a way to achieve this without taking funds from the public education system? Education should be a top priority for all Texans - no matter where they attend. We can do better and this must be a priority for our future leaders.

Rebecca Welch
Wylie ISD Council of PTAs
Wylie, TX

This bill is robbing our public schools! Vouchers will destroy Texas! This bill is a spit in the face of our children and teachers!

Barbara Mainz
Retired Educator and Tax Payer
New Braunfels, TX

I am trying to comprehend how the most conservative republican could even consider establishing an Education Savings Plan while public school funding has not changed since 1997. Clearly the Texas people voted against vouchers, yet the Texas Republicans keep shoving down the tax payers throat! I listened to a former School Finance Director systematically explain where the tax payers throat! Fund public schools first!!! I do not want my tax payers dollars paid into a voucher system! Quit blaming school failure on Educators! The legislators pass the requirements for testing, non funded mandates, curriculum and “what” teachers should teach! It is the legislators and the Governors fault for NEVER listening to highly trained Educators “boots on the ground approach”. It is very clear that public education and private education have become the next Monopoly for the rich. It isn't designed for the best interest of families/child. If that were the case, public school would be a legislative priority! Children need funded programs in the public schools for extra curricular, special needs, free lunches for all, M&O for building in disrepair. God bless the rural schools that can't repair their schools, offer training for teachers, provide teacher pay incentives and function due to low ADA or lack of State funding. The marginalized children will be affected the most! There is an underlying reason why conservative Republicans want this finding for vouchers! We get it... but it is not for the families or children. We are losing teachers in the profession not only due to low teacher wages but, the demands put on them by Texas legislators that have not stepped into a public schools for classroom for decades. I want to let you know... yes we say the pledge every morning, yes we celebrate all the patriotic events, yes we stand by the raising flag for veterans day and most of all we force small children to learn how to bubble in test sheets to prepare for the mandatory testing legislators make children take while educators and parents say NO to testing! Will vouchers be the same way... a complete failure at the expense of tax payer dollars. In five years we will be spending from our tax dollars 5 M for a failed system. We dont need privatization of our public schools... we need the Texas Governor support for full funding of public schools!!! Property taxes are exuberant in Texas..... my dollars should go to public schools. Remember one thing... politicians have a job for the people. It is time for the career politicians to start listening to their constituents. No vouchers.... The fight has just begun .

Brenda Deneault
Public school mom
Wylie, TX

No vouchers!!! Keep our tax money in our public school system!!!

Jennifer Foley
Self
Arlington, TX

All money allocated for public schools should remain as such. No one wants vouchers and no one wants money taken from public systems and given to private. To do so would be a huge blow to our already low rated school systems.

Darla Holmberg-Abel, Dr.

Self, retired TRS school teacher & counselor; acting Tx public university faculty and LPC

Victoria, TX

Vouchers are a scam to take money away from our public schools and privatize them by large corporations who don't care about our children's education. All they care about is making money off the backs of the taxpayers. The voucher scam provides over \$3,000 more per student than what the state is down allotting for each public school student. There are no or few private schools in rural areas and the public schools will be impacted the most. Furthermore, from my research, most private schools are about 20,000 a year consequently, only the wealthy who currently have their children to private school will benefit from this bill. Private schools are not required to follow strict guidelines such as providing education for students with disabilities, hiring only certified teachers, an educating all students regardless of who they are. Make public education better by finding it appropriately instead of taking more money away.

Amy Burrer

Self

Navasota, TX

Until public education is fully funded and supported, we cannot allow public dollars to support private entities. I am against this bill and any education bill that leaves out proper funding for public education.

Madisen Tucker

Self

Houston, TX

Thank you for serving on the public education committee. I ask that you vote no to HB3, SB2, or any voucher/ESA bill and instead prioritize fully funding public schools first by enrollment rather than attendance, increase the basic allotment by \$1300 to catch up with inflation, and support strong teacher and staff pay raises. This bill allows people making above \$160,000 to apply such that the richest families may benefit. Our tax dollars should support all students, not just a select few. Please prioritize strong public schools for all Texas children. Thank you for your time

Stacy Ramirez

Self

Kerrville, TX

NO to vouchers, this is welfare for the rich!

Heidi Reed, RN

Self-Registered Nurse

Helotes, TX

I have worked as a Registered Nurse for the last 19 years in public schools. I strongly suggest that before you spend millions of dollars on this voucher program that has a very LARGE opposition, you spend time in public schools. If public schools are failing, how about you listen to the people that work in public schools? How about you spend more money on materials for the classroom instead of spending millions on the STAAR assessment, which does NOT tell educators information they don't already know. Teachers spend countless hours with students every single day and 100% know the students that are low or high. Instead, you have chosen to not fund public schools effectively, and sadly you are now seeing the results of the gross mishandling of funds. In my district alone, in the last few years, nurses, art teachers, music teachers, STEM teachers, etc are being "split" between campuses. The very things proven to help students have been stripped and we wonder why public schools are failing??? We take away counselors and the one counselor we do have spends half of her time on testing instead of mental health counseling, which our students are in dire need of. Moving the "high" students with wealthy families to private schools will NOT help anyone. If public schools only accepted students who are high with no disabilities, no behavior issues, no learning disorders, etc, they would have just as high of scores as private schools. It is NOT the teachers or staff, this is a nation-wide issue. Every year, schools have more students with behavior issues, Autism, poor family dynamics, lack of housing and basic needs being met, lack of healthcare, increased single-parent families, and the list goes on and on. These challenges will not be solved by taking money away from public schools. Please consider the future of our children before you vote for this bill.

Heather Kelley, Mrs.

Self

Howe, TX

First, I appreciate that our government wants to help public education. I believe, after 24 years as a Texas educator and 13 years as a Texas public school student, that this is an imperative issue. However, as a lifelong Republican, I also disagree with the way this bill has been proposed.

Parents in our state DO have choice, though that choice may cause inconveniences. However, that is the reality of life sometimes. I do not believe that using money that could be helping to properly fund public education for private schools is fiscally responsible. It seems like more government, to which Republicans are supposed to be opposed.

I recognize that there are many issues with public education; however, those issues are not the norm in every single district. I've been in three districts: Two are excellent, one struggles, as a whole, to make decisions which are, in my opinion, best for students. I don't know how to fix that, but a blanket statement that "Texas public education is failing" is unjustified. I would really like to see some other options.

For example, could we offer tax cuts for parents who show evidence of payments made to an accredited private school? That way, money is still coming in to benefit public students, but parents are receiving a benefit for their child/children not utilizing public funds. Additionally, that would be a help for even those who are renters.

Or, could we cut property taxes? All parents will have more money in their pockets and can make the choice to utilize that money in the private schools of their choice without tying said private schools to the government. Many parents homeschool or use private schools specifically to avoid the government, yet this bill does the opposite of that.

As an example: If I feel that the public park does not meet my child's needs, does that mean I should qualify for using Park and Rec funds to build my own playground? No, sir. If the park is failing my child, there should be modifications to make it more inclusive. If those modifications are not met, there should be an investigation into the caretakers of that particular park and why they are failing. And, at its core, I believe that's essence of the issue being addressed right now.

I know this may sound harsh, but the money should NOT follow the child... Our entire society benefits from an educated public, therefore our whole society contributes to said public education. What about people like me who have never had children? If the money should follow the child, and there is no child for it to follow, then I should not have to pay taxes... But that's not rational, and I know that. I benefit from an educated public, whether I've given birth or not, and therefore I, like every other citizen, should be obligated to contribute to that public education.

Kim Johnson

Self - retired educator/ grandparent

Kemp, TX

I am in opposition to this bill. Keep public dollars in public schools.

Melinda Cox

Self

San Antonio, TX

Inflation in the United States has increased by 23.45% since 2019, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This means that the prices of goods and services are 1.23 times higher today than they were in 2019.

This also includes public education.. As a new public education trustee I am tasked with balancing the budget .. there is no balance when your expenses are higher than your input ..\$220 is not going to offset inflation .. yes we are funded somewhere between \$6100 and \$10,000.. depending on the multiplier.. but again inflation!! As was mentioned yesterday, private schools raise tuition to account for inflation.. we need the Foundation Fund to do the same !

Sadie Wehner
PTA, Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX

OPPOSE VOUCHERS, ESAs

Amanda Melton
TXPTA
San Antonio, TX

Our tax dollars should NEVER be used to fund private schools! Stop stealing from our children to fund private schools that are not held to the same standards and stipulations that public schools are. Public education should be supported and celebrated, not starved to line your donors' pockets!

Tawana Ford
Self
Spring, TX

Public tax dollars are scarce and should NEVER be given to private schools. I DO NOT support this voucher program. Texas can make public schools better by funding them properly and utilizing my tax dollars for public schools only. Private school parents do not want their students educated with public school students. As soon as this bill is passed, private schools will increase tuition and my tax dollars will be used to support families who are already sending their students to private school. Additionally, this bill is nothing more than a transfer of wealth from poor/middle class to the wealthy. Our education system should be the best in the world, but it's not. Our investment should include ALL students not only those with money. Please fund our public schools with tax dollars. Do not fund this bill.

Jimmy Martinez
Self
Richardson, TX

YOU'RE NOT LISTENING. This isn't what the vast majority of your constituents want. We want public schools to be fully funded and supported so ALL students, including those with special needs, those who require accommodations and those who live in rural areas without private schools, have access to quality education that prepares them for their futures. Quit ignoring us. This needs to be on a public ballot. Period. You will see for yourself how many are opposed to this.

Mary Marshall Martinez
Self
Richardson, TX

YOU'RE NOT LISTENING. This isn't what the vast majority of your constituents want. We want public schools to be fully funded and supported so ALL students, including those with special needs, those who require accommodations and those who live in rural areas without private schools, have access to quality education that prepares them for their futures. Quit ignoring us. This needs to be on a public ballot. Period. You will see for yourself how many are opposed to this.

Brent Wehner, Dr.
PTA, Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX

OPPOSE BALLOTS

Dave Mason
self/retired
LEXINGTON, TX

Just say NO to vouchers and esa's..PUBLIC MONEY BELONGS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Beverly Riviello

Self
Buda, TX
Keep public dollars in public schools. ALL children have the right to an education!

Janet Railsback

Self
Nemo, TX
I am opposed to HB 3. I am from a small town and this bill will hurt our public school.
There are no requirements for private school testing unlike public schools. Private schools can select which students they want to accept unlike public schools.
And mostly I do not want my tax dollars to pay for private schools.
Parents have a choice where their child goes to school now.
Please vote against HB 3
Janet Railsback

Joyce Robinson

Self
Sour Lake, TX
No voucher. Put it on a fair ballot and let voters decide. Get the out of state money out of Texas.

Donna Scales

Self
Bridge City, TX
I whole-heartedly OPPOSE HB 3!
Public funds should NOT go to private entities to fund education any way or for any reason!

Jenny Box, RN

Self as parent
Grand Prairie, TX
This is nothing wanted by the people of Texas. Nothing is gained but much is lost. Fund Public Schools and leave the Private ones alone.

Christie Perkins

Self
San Antonio, TX
Keep public money in public schools.

Carol Fernandez

Self/Teacher retiring this year because of what my party has done to education in Texas
Spring, TX
As a 3rd generation Texan, I say NO to Vouchers! Public dollars belong in public schools. If HB3 passes, you are allowing our tax dollars to fund any form of schooling: radical Islamic schools, schools run by the Satanic Temple and homeschoolers like the Turpin family. Are you ready to open that Pandora's box and the dangerous consequences that will reverberate through Texas? 5 or 6 special sessions for something that no one wants, except the billionaire backers. Voting yes is a total misrepresentation of Article VII of our Texas Constitution.

Paul Benson, Dr
Self
Mansfield, TX

I strongly oppose any such bill that would be taking money from public education and placing it into the hands of private education. At a time when the current administration is dismantling the education department there's no explanation for taking money from public schools. Charter and private schools are attended by people with financial means to do so, and you would only be marginalizing public education even greater. I strongly oppose this bill.

Richard Pressman, Dr.
self, retired teacher
San Antonio, TX

I believe that the premise from which the pro-voucher folks are working is that offering "school choice" (even though there is plenty of choice within the public system) will create competition, which, in turn, will make public schools better. As a professional teacher, I never felt any pressure to work harder--because, like almost all teachers--I just wanted to do the best I could. If competition makes everything better, why do we not have two militaries, so they can compete with each other? Why not have two governments so THEY can compete with each other? The truth is that professional people overwhelmingly--of course with exceptions, as there are in any field. So the result is draining money away from the public schools is to make them worse, while giving a bonus to those families that can easily afford private-school tuition., Studies show that most charter schools do NOT do a better job than standard public schools, but mostly do worse. Private schools, even with vouchers, will be out of the reach of most people. Was it not the public-school system that allowed this country to take off, to be the most productive society in the world? We're just going backwards now!

Chris Melton
Self
San Antonio, TX

Stop sending our tax dollars to millionaire owners of private schools. Stop stealing public money from children.

Andra Villegas
Self
N Richlnd Hls, TX

No Vouchers!
How many Texans want this??
Not many.
Fund public schools-fully!!!
Do what is right!! Do you remember what is right????

Curtis Hodge
Self
Bastrop, TX

I do not think this is good for, teachers, parents and especially school children. I feel this will only bring division. Also if you can afford to send your children to a private school then why do they get additional money is not a fair deal. My wife worked in schools for years and she feels same way.. It will cause division as private schools can pick and choose who goes there. It's a disadvantage to lower income families.

Teri Payne
Swlf
Wolfforth, TX

I am strongly against the Texas school voucher program. This program diverts crucial public funds away from already underfunded public schools, worsening educational disparities and leaving the most vulnerable students behind. Instead of improving outcomes, vouchers primarily benefit wealthier families who can already afford private education, while rural and lower-income students—who often lack access to private schools—suffer from reduced resources, larger class sizes, and fewer educational opportunities. This system drains public education while failing to ensure accountability in private institutions, ultimately undermining the quality and accessibility of education for the majority of Texas children.

Samantha Cardenas
My child
Palestine, TX

NO VOTE NOOOO

Kayla Burns
SELF/ TEACHER
Kerrville, TX

Parents already have school choice. This bill is to provide for the parents that already send their students to private schools. Meanwhile, you will take money away from the public system. Texas already ranks in the bottom 10 in per-student public education funding. Lawmakers should focus on improving the funding disparities in our current system before implementing a new, private system. If a voucher is passed, our district will lose \$532,915, meaning we would have to cut nine teachers, raising the student teacher ratio by almost 6%. As a 40 year Texas administrator/educator, I have watched students leave the public school system for private settings and, in most cases, returned to the public system farther behind. Our church currently has a private school in the church facility. The rigor and expectations of that school are minimal. Many times, I witness students napping on couches throughout the day in that setting. State standards are not being taught. One particular student's mother said they were returning to public schools because they only focused on RLA in the private setting. Recently, I tested a very young student for GT that came to us from a private setting. His parents stated that the move was to get him in a more challenging setting. He scored an 8 or 9 on every subtest of the CogAT and IOWA! The schools I have had the privilege of leading have been very successful and all have been Title 1. Our staff members meet students where they are and work hard to grow everyone. We have already lost staff members because funds have been withheld from the public setting. What a shame for kids?! Please do not vote for the voucher.

Stephanie Wehner

PTA

Wylie, TX

Committee Chair Buckley,

I heard you were shocked that you were boo-ed by PTA parents at the PTA rally day. I wasn't there, but I also was not shocked that they received you that way. Why? BECAUSE I AM A PARENT IN THE PUBLIC EDUCATION TRENCHES that you politicians refuse to listen to or talk to. Hi!

1. No to vouchers. Parents already have school choice between choosing public or private schools and PUBLIC TAX DOLLARS SHOULD STAY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Why this even needs to be said by tax paying citizens shows how RIDICULOUSLY out of touch the politicians are with the average voter. And I am a conservative Republican for the love.
2. FULLY FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS. I am a part of Wylie ISD in Wylie (not Abilene Wylie ISD), and Commissioner Morath just praised Wylie ISD (while testifying) for how much our educators accomplish with below average finances. IMAGINE what our educators could accomplish with FULL FUNDING in PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Again, why this needs to be stated is ridiculously asinine. Give public tax dollars ONLY to public schools and FULLY FUND them. Tomorrow.
3. Why on Earth are out of state organizations with political ties to Abbott giving money to campaigns and other things and trying to support/dictate what TEXANS do with TEXAS tax payer dollars?? Obscene.
4. If you lived in my House district, I would vote against you when you run again, just as I voted against Candy Noble this past election. Also? Be careful aligning yourself closely w Abbott if you want to be re-elected.
5. Last thing, I'm not sure how you sleep at night, especially being married to a public school educator. If she is a private school educator, then that tells me all I need to know about your character - meaning it's even worse than I thought because your family could personally benefit from these vouchers. Shame on you regardless.

Olivia Mayberry

Self, Spring Creek Texas Congress PTA 7764

Dallas, TX

I/we oppose House Bill 3 and its proposal to implement school vouchers in Texas. Public education is the foundation of a strong society, and it must remain fully funded and accessible to all children. Instead of diverting resources away from public schools, we should be working to strengthen and improve the system we already have. We need to ensure that every child in Texas has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background.

Joann Wardlow

Self

Lavon, TX

Public funds should not be used for private schools. I am not in favor of vouchers. Public school need to be adequately funded. At this time they are not.

Irma Annillo, Ms

Lopez MS PTA

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will HURT our public schools -

Gayland Taylor, Mr.

25's H.O.P.E

Mansfield, TX

Keep public funds for public schools and private funds for private schools.

Tammy Ventimiglia

Self - substitute teacher and mom

Mansfield, TX

Please do not do a disservice to the students of Texas and take money away from public schools!

Karen Nylec, Ms

Self retired

Van Alstyne, TX

Representing the people of Texas, was why you were voted in! Not to help the governor scam the people! The public schools need your help, no vouchers! Fund our public schools! Not the governor's pocket scam! We need a governor that is for the people of Texas, not just there to fill his own pockets!

Alexa Roser

Self

San Antonio, TX

School Vouchers will bankrupt our public schools. School Vouchers allow private schools to benefit from tax payer money where wealthy parents already send their kids to school and can afford it. Public schools will lose even more money than they already do. Special Education students are guaranteed a place in public schools and need that funding you help with their special needs where as private schools do not have to guarantee a place for special education students. Other states that have adopted the school voucher bill have stated that the private schools just raise their tuition the same amount if not more to keep their attendance with the wealthy families and not allow other families in, so who does this really benefit. I do not want School Vouchers. Both my school age children attend public schools and have been able to "choose" their school due to magney schools. If it is truly about having a choice where your kids get their education fund more of these programs. Thank you!

Shannon Anderson

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers have failed public education in every state they have been implemented. Proving to increase divide among the educated and uneducated. School choice already exists! You can choose where your child gets their education and go private or charter if you want, but those that c a not choose because of cost or transportation still deserve an amazing Texas education! Texas can be the best in the education arena as well, don't we want to be the best everywhere? Say no to vouchers, this is not what your constituents want or need. Help make Texas public education the best in the United States.

Brian Mills

Self, former employee in higher education

Spring, TX

I was born and raised in Texas and both parents were public educators for 30+ years. This bill is one of the most shameful attempts by republicans to destroy public education and enrich wealthy donors at the same time that I have ever witnessed. Those supporting this bill are nothing more than glorified carpet baggers. Every state that has implemented this "choice program" has the same results of negatively impacted public education but it doesn't matter because it has never been about public education. The corruption around this bill is outright criminal. This bill is about removing as educated voters from the state as possible while removing many opportunities for advancement of the poor and people of color or those with disabilities. It is disgusting and shame on all of you. You support this bill knowing full well it is wrong both morally and ethically but that is not surprising anymore. Your contempt for the people is as bright as day and it is just heartbreaking that so many people ignore your blatant classism/racism/sexism/ableism and continue to vote for you. Just absolutely pathetic state "leadership."

Shanti Day
Self attorney
San Antonio, TX

I am a product of public school in Texas. My children are currently attending public school in Texas. We can afford private school and choose public. We are very much against school vouchers as they would ultimately hurt education for all children in Texas. Doesn't every kid deserve a good education?

Charles Moffatt, Mr.
Self
Austin, Tx 78737 Usa, TX

As a retired Educator of 35+ years at all levels from 5th grade to Graduate School, I am expressing my opposition to this bill. Vote NO! This piece of legislation has been put forward, in one form or another at least 10 times in multiple sessions. So far the Governor and his supporters receive an "F" in learning the lesson and in critical thinking. "We the people" have spoken! Now listen before you are served remedial discipline. The children of our state deserve the guarantee of an equal education. The public school teachers deserve a living wage. And to be Frank, retired teachers are suffering because of a paltry 2-4% COL raise last year after 18 years of no adjustment. Frankly this is criminal.

Deanna Mazzocco
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please leave public dollars in public schools! Parents already have choices. Don't forget separation of church and state!

Andrea Schwartz
Self Retired Librarian
Austin, TX

Please vote no on this bill. Public dollars belong in public schools.

Marianne Whitehouse
Self
Clarksville, TX

I've been in public Ed in Texas since 1977. I've seen a lot of things come to pass that weren't in the best interest of all students, but I've never seen anything as grossly unfair as using public funds for private entities. It's so obvious that this is a crony vendor money grab. Please, for all that is good and right, vote no on this disastrous bill and fully fund public education with public taxpayer funds.

GLENNA Howell
The majority of Texans who are against school vouchers.
TAYLOR, TX

Once again, it's geared for the rich. Who us going to own the private schools? Churches? Texas billionaires? Large corporations? All the money pulled from the public school systems will hinder public schools. Unless the private schools are in minority neighborhoods they aren't helping the poor. Most will have no way to get to them. What will happen to the public schools? Well, with less students comes less money. With less money teachers will be fired. Supplies will dwindle and become obsolete. Schools will have to close and combine. Students are no longer getting a decent education. Without a higher education, it will be hard for them to succeed post education. And what does that do? It will turn the clock back to the 1800s. You want the poor, immigrants, and women to bow down and kiss your boots while thanking you for letting you rule over them. It's supposed to work the other way. **YOU WORK FOR US AND THE MAJORITY DOES NOT WANT SCHOOL VOUCHERS.**

Kay Irlas
Self/Retired Texas Educator
Krugerville, TX

As a Texas Public Educator, with 35 years experience, I am OPPOSED to this Bill establishing vouchers.

Brittany Bethea, Registered Pharmacist
Self
Beaumont, TX

As a parent of a 9th grader a 6th grader at Legacy Christian Academy in Beaumont, I'm all FOR the school vouchers. Transferring my 2 children from the public school system in Houston to the private school in which they're now enrolled has been life changing in a very positive way. My children have excelled tremendously and I must say it was the best decision I've ever made regarding their educations. My mother was heavy on getting an excellent education and I too am a product of having received a private, Christian education. I know firsthand what a private education did for myself and I know that I want better for my children (just as my mother did for me). I've been a Certified Special Education Teacher in Texas in the past and I too know firsthand what goes on and what does not go on in the public school systems. I work my behind off daily as a single parent so that I can send my kids to Legacy Christian Academy and I strongly feel that if any great parent truly wants their child/children to be successful, one must do what one has to do in order to make it happen. The school vouchers are definitely needed in Texas to assist any and every parent that wants their child/children to succeed in life.

Andrew Stone
Self. Retired military officer/ veteran
LINDALE, TX

VOTE NO on HB 3. Under-funding the public education system via the Educational Savings Account programs/ vouchers in Texas is a threat to the next generation of Texas residents. A quality public education system is the great equalizer in our State and the Nation— diversity in economic, family, and ideological backgrounds enriches students' lives and makes them more productive members of society at large. Polarization harms children. The ESAs/ vouchers threatens public school funding by forcing public schools to choose where to cut programs. Should the public schools restrict UIL extracurricular activities or protect vocational training programs? Do they reduce the number of busses or cut special needs support? Hire fewer teachers or raise property taxes to accommodate population growth? Contrary to popular sound bites stating that ESAs will hurt the most vulnerable students (whose programs are mandated by and funded in part via Federal or State funds), I think it is more likely that the majority of students—many of them the highest-performing—will suffer consequences of public school defunding through ESAs. They will have fewer educational, academic, STEAM, and vocational programs available for them. They will still have school lunches; will still have special needs programs; will still have sports. Football will be protected. Low-income families desiring to use ESAs for private education will be forced to either increase spending on transportation to/from school or accept attendance at closer/ under-funded schools with school busses; the same will apply to those with special needs, since private schools are not required to provide these programs even with the ESAs. Vote no on HB3.

Amy Cobb
Travis County
Pflugerville, TX

Public funds belong to public schools. The wealthy will be fine. Please give everyone a shot at success.

Dawn Lewis
Self
San Marcos, TX

NO SCHOOL VOUCHERS!
SCAM!!!!!!!!!!

Jennifer Strich

Self

Katy, TX

I do NOT support the voucher bill which will negatively impact our public schools. Please think about the children. We do not need to subsidize private school, we need to invest in education for all in public school

Karen Schneider

Self

San Angelo, TX

This bill doesn't offer choice - it sets up a new bureaucracy to funnel tax money to placement agencies, while selecting fewer than 2% of Texas students to participate.

Pavla Guggenheim

self

Lakeway, TX

I strongly oppose SB2 and HB3, which would divert public funds to private schools through education savings accounts. These bills threaten to undermine Texas' already underfunded public schools, taking away critical resources from the majority of students who rely on them.

Taxpayer dollars should be used to strengthen our public education system, ensuring every child has access to quality teachers, well-funded classrooms, and necessary support services, not subsidizing private institutions that lack accountability and can selectively admit students.

Rather than funneling money into a program that benefits a select few, Texas should focus on increasing teacher pay, improving school infrastructure, and expanding educational opportunities within public schools. Our priority should be to invest in the success of all Texas students, not just those who can afford private tuition.

I urge lawmakers to reject these voucher programs and instead commit to fully funding public education for every child in our state. - Pavla Guggenheim

Andrea Solka

Self

Coppell, TX

Oppose this bill and vouchers

Brenda Spradling

Self

San Antonio, TX

Calling vouchers or ESA's "school choice" is preying on the uninformed parent. Parents already have choices, lots of choices. Funding some students or educational institutions more than others sends the message that not all students are equal. As a country working daily to unite why would the State of Texas pass legislation that doesn't treat all students as equal by funding them the same. As someone who volunteers, substitutes in schools and now works for a youth mentoring organization it is clear that the current education system and lack of funding is targeting certain groups. Not everyone can afford or has the ability to send their students to anything other than their neighborhood public school. Neighborhood public school, what a brilliant concept that should be preserved with equal funding for all the receive educational tax dollars. Private and homeschool are personal choices that have no business taking public funds, they choose that path because they've always had school choice. I will never understand why my children's educational institution, public schools, are valued less than all others. Please vote to support all students and children equally because they deserve it.

Karen Jurgensen
AFT
Lockhart, TX

Please do not pass a voucher system. Instead invest more money in public schools.

Jamie messner
Self /parent
Canadian, TX

I oppose the HB 3 Bill
Please fully & adequately fund public education.

Rachel Davis
Self
Arlington, TX

Please record my OPPOSITION to HB3.

I am a 10 year homeschooling mom of five. Texas Homeschool Coalition DOES NOT represent me or any homeschooling families in my extensive homeschool community consisting of families all across the state of Texas. Not only that, but my network also consists of many highly involved public school parents - some even on school boards - teachers, and coaches who are also vehemently opposed to this bill. My heart breaks for my many close friends who are special needs parents who already desperately fight through needless red tape to gain access to state assistance programs for their children as they now watch the public school special needs programs they rely on put in danger.

When you have homeschooling parents, who are traditionally a very religious and conservative group, siding with Texas democrats on an issue, you might want to take notice.

As a child, I was homeschooled, I attended public school, and I attended private school. The majority of that time, my family was a one income family. Yet my parents never met any barriers they couldn't overcome when making decisions about the place of my education. They could FREELY CHOOSE, as I and every other Texan can now, where and how their children were educated.

I have listened to horror stories from homeschooling families in other states where school choice programs have been implemented causing them to be subjected to excessive state intrusion despite promises that would never be the case (as we are being promised here). Texas boasts the most freedom for homeschoolers of any state in the country and our children thrive because of it.

HB3 will create a mountain of problems for homeschoolers, public schools, private schools, special needs parents, teachers, students, and the list goes on.

Texans are overwhelmingly opposed to this bill and on behalf of myself, fellow homeschoolers, my public school friends, and my private school friends, so am I.

If it is thought to be such a popular idea, put it on a ballot. Otherwise, HB3 needs to die in committee.

Vote NO on HB3

Janet Anders
Self
Mckinney, TX

As a taxpayer and registered voter in the state of Texas, I OPPOSE HB3. Tax dollars should not be used to fund vouchers, which will mostly benefit the wealthy. Having taught inner city for years, I know that the poor cannot afford to pay the extra costs above a voucher amount. This has been sold as "school choice" but it is a handout for the wealthy. Private schools do not have to take all kids and will select those who fit into their school culture and will match their clientele. Again, I OPPOSE HB3 and any other legislation to provide vouchers for private schools. I will not vote for any Republican in the future who supports these voucher schemes.

Marie Crawford
Self
San Antonio, TX

You should be fully funding public schools. This charter shit and education savings account shit is ridiculous. I work at a school in n the registration office. I see these kids that leave to try charter schools. They always come back. They come back saying how the charter promises to help their kids, but never do.

All y'all are doing is failing more kids.

Brian Lott
self - real estate agent
Benbrook, TX

Do not jeopardize my TRS retirement account.
Tax funds should not be used for private education - SEPARATE is SEPARATE.
Tax funds are for a PUBLIC Fair and Appropriate Education.

Amy Herrin
Self - independent contractor
Flower Mound, TX

My name is Amy Herrin and I am a stakeholder of Lewisville ISD and mother to two school-age children. I am advocating for educational equity amongst traditional public schools, charter schools or vouchers where entities and/or individuals receive public funds, and against the diversion of taxpayer dollars to private entities who are not required to comply with Texas Education Code, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Public dollars require public accountability. Texas public schools are held to rigorous accountability standards. Ensure any diversion of public funds to a non-publicly accountable individual and/or institution will require compliance to all state accountability measures and state requirements already placed on public schools.

Vouchers remove dollars from public schools that are already underfunded by the state - Texas ranks in the bottom 10 nationally for per-pupil spending - \$4,000 per student below the national average. The cost of voucher programs accelerates quickly - Texas budget officials estimated that costs for the voucher plan proposed earlier this year would double in three years.

Please do not establish a voucher program that will not only remove more dollars from our severely underfunded public schools, but will also primarily benefit those who can afford private education. Please do what is right and properly fund public education. Strong public schools are the bedrock of our communities and Texas schoolchildren such as mine deserve to have well-funded schools. Please prove self-serving interests of a few wealthy individuals are not the only motivating force in the Texas legislature. Do what is right and what makes sense for our public schools and do not vote to establish this program.

Caitlin Dougherty, Dr.
Self/Teacher Education Scholar
Dallas, TX

As a teacher educator, researcher, and former middle school teacher, I am writing to urge you to oppose the inclusion of educational savings accounts (ESAs) in House Bill 3. Voucher-style programs like ESAs have been implemented in other states, and research shows they fail to deliver the promised benefits while draining critical funding from public schools. Texas should not follow this failed model.

For example, Indiana's voucher program, one of the largest in the country, has been widely studied, and the results are concerning. A study conducted by the University of Notre Dame found that students who used vouchers to transfer to private schools experienced significant declines in math achievement and no improvement in English scores. The study also highlighted how vouchers disproportionately benefited wealthier families, despite being marketed as a program for low-income students. Similarly, research on Ohio's voucher program found that students who participated in the program performed worse academically than their public school peers.

Beyond academic outcomes, ESAs pose serious financial risks to Texas' public education system. Public schools rely on consistent funding to pay for teachers, classroom resources, and special education services. When funds are diverted to private institutions—many of which are not required to accept all students, follow the same curriculum standards, or provide the same level of accountability—our public schools suffer. A 2023 report from the National Bureau of Economic Research concluded that large-scale voucher programs often exacerbate inequality and increase segregation, further undermining public education. Rather than adopting a program that has been shown to weaken public schools and produce poor academic outcomes, I urge you to invest in policies that strengthen our public education system. Increasing funding for teacher salaries, reducing classroom sizes, and expanding resources for special education would have a far greater impact on student success than diverting taxpayer dollars to unaccountable private institutions.

I respectfully ask that you vote to remove the ESA provisions from House Bill 3 and support legislation that truly benefits all Texas students. Thank you for your time and service to our community.

Sincerely,
Caitie Dougherty, Ph.D.

Maria Garcia
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Vote no! Texas public schools need the money to make Texans smarter! Our educational system can seriously use funds to improve curriculum and scores. The rich already pay for private schools. They already made a choice. Do what is best for our average citizens and their kids. Education over political dollars!!

Brendy Corley
Self
Dallas, TX

Do not do this. Most Texans do not support this. This will only benefit the wealthy. Keep the funding in our public schools.

Kim Klataske
Self / Admin Manager
Austin, TX

I am opposed to an education savings account because it would disproportionately benefit the wealthy at the expense of the less privileged constituents, and those with special needs. Private schools that can select which students they would like to serve should not receive public funding. This will also strain public schools even further, making life harder for teachers and those left behind. It will also negatively affect those in rural areas who do not have private school options.

Amanda Johnston
Self
Houston, TX

Reject this bill. Support public schools.

Derinda Nickel

Self/teacher

Saginaw, TX

NO to vouchers and ESA's! Listen to the people!

Danielle Pothoff

Self

Austin, TX

Vote no to school vouchers. It will defund public schools and harm our children.

Heather Chesney

self, I am a mom and community volunteer

Austin, TX

As a public school mom, a graduate of public schools and committed school and community volunteer, I strongly encourage you to reject the education savings account program and instead fully-fund our public school system and increase the per student allotment. I have seen first hand the good work being done in our state's public schools, and I know the hard budget choices already being made. Please do what is best for ALL students in Texas by assuring that our school system is strong.

Mandie Sanchez

Self

Round Rock, TX

Vouchers will only benefit families who can already afford private education while siphoning funds from desperately underfunded public schools. As a Texan, whose entire family are products of the public education system, I implore you all to vote against the establishment of a voucher program. Please fund public education for our children and our future in accordance with the Texas constitution.

Kimberly Eisma, Ms.

Self - legal assistant

Wylie, TX

I think this should be voted on by the citizens of Texas and not decided by lawmakers

Rebecca Forchione

self, photo producer

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose diverting public funds to private schools, period. I am a Texas voter and I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates, not divert funds to unaccountable private and religious schools, under the guise of "school choice". The "choice" is not equitable, and many children in rural areas with no private school, and special needs children needing accommodations will have money taken from them - money so direly needed by our public education system in Texas. Virtually every other state that has created a voucher system with the limited guardrails you are proposing has seen a decimation of their public school systems and increasing burden to their state budgets. We don't want any of that here in Texas. As you overwhelmingly heard yesterday in the session from so many testimonies, PLEASE fund our public schools and do not pass the voucher bill out of committee.

Jaime Cutler
Self / Wealth management client service
Irving, TX

Bad ideas come from both sides of the aisle and this is one of them. Take 30 seconds to scroll comments on this issue on social media (Facebook) and Texans are not fooled and do not support this. I hail from a small rural Texas community (Colorado County) where every dollar counts of federal funding for our schools. There is not a private school option, nor would many of the residents be able to afford the rates of the average private school. As a mom of two children in Dallas county presently, we can afford private school and we do not expect a handout from the state. Again, this is something we have in our family budget and I would rather see taxpayer dollars go where they are NEEDED. That is communities like my hometown. Please listen to your constituents.

Blake Benson
Self social worker
Mansfield, TX

As a parent with two children that need specialized dyslexia instruction provided graciously by the public school system, I ask that you not remove ANY funds from public education. Private schools most often do not provide specialized and crucial instruction to students with learning disabilities. This specialized instruction is extremely expensive and not accessible to so many families whose children must have this instruction to succeed and graduate high school. Removing any funding from public schools threatens the availability of these critical programs and specially trained teachers. One in every five school aged children have been proven to struggle with a learning difference that effects their ability to learn to read and succeed in school and life as an adult. Please do not cut or move any funds from public education. Education is a human right that needs to be able to be accessed equally to all citizens. Do not increase the education gap by removing funds from public education that provide all students with equal access to countless educational and artistic opportunities that they otherwise would not have access to. Thank you

Larry Landusky
Retired
Lubbock, TX

I see absolutely no reason for my tax dollars to go towards vouchers. No other state that has them has seen any increase in private education mainly because the 98% of public school students cannot afford private schools even with vouchers. And there is no requirement of private schools to accommodate children with learning disabilities of all kinds. I know a man who went through public education in Slaton ISD who has dyslexia. Were it not for teachers that patiently helped him through school, we would not now be benefitting from his 12 patents. He is working on one now that when finished will absolutely change the world as we know it. Instead of vouchers, we need to definitely pour as much money as possible into our public schools. Some overlooked child who has no money has a natural curiosity for genes and might be the one that can create an absolute cure for cancer. Why benefit the wealthy even more than they already are?

Brandon Sprinkel, Mr
Wylie PTA
Wylie, TX

We do NOT want your vouchers!!!!

Cynthia Weber, Educator - Retired
AFT Retirees
Corpus Christi, TX

I stand with Public Education and I say NO to vouchers! You should too! The Texas Public Schools are already underfunded! Vouchers will take money from the public schools just like reducing the property taxes! The basic allotment for our students is only around \$6500 while the private school students will get \$10,000 at our children's & tax payers expense! How does that make sense? If the wealthy want to send their children to a religious private school- that's great but at their own cost! The voucher is merely a huge discount coupon for them!! Please stand up for the 5.5 million students and not your donors! Back off from your vouchers, Governor!

Teresa Rios, Mrs.

Self/Family

Liberty Hill, TX

I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools, which serve 5.4 million Texas students.

ESAs divert vital funding from public schools, worsen budget shortfalls, and increase disparities, particularly in low-income areas. Private schools funded by ESAs lack transparency and accountability, risking misuse of taxpayer money. ESAs primarily benefit wealthier families, leaving low-income, rural and disabled students in underfunded public schools. They also risk increasing segregation by allowing private schools to exclude marginalized groups including disability populations.

Please prioritize funding public education for the benefit of all Texas students.

If the reason for vouchers is truly schools choice, then additional accountability measures must be added to the bill.

Measures such as:

1. No elected official past, present or future nor any family member by blood or marriage may financially benefit from the ESA program in any way, direct or indirect.
2. No family with a child currently enrolled in an education entity other than a Texas public school may use an ESA. They already have choice and they use it.
3. No education entity may deny admittance to a child choosing to use an ESA
4. No education entity admitting a child via an ESA may dismiss the child during the current school year
5. Any education entity that dismisses or denies continued enrollment to a child using an ESA before 5 years or graduation must fully refund the state plus a 25% penalty
6. Any education entity that accepts a child via an ESA must abide by the same rules, policies and procedures as every public school.

Autumn Sutherlin, Dr.

Self

ABILENE, TX

I do not support tax payer dollars going to private schools or home school education. I believe public education and the opportunities provided are the key to American success. I believe that many of the schools that the funds would go to are not a good educational choice for Texas's future success.

Alyssa Rios
self, teacher
Liberty Hill, TX

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L. Marie Lebron
Self, COO
Austin, TX

I am a mother of four children in Austin ISD—each of whom receives special education services. I am a public school volunteer, advocate, and child advocate. And I am furious.

Every single lawmaker in Texas should be ashamed. Our wonderful and beloved Texas public schools have become The Hunger Games, with our children and their futures held hostage and used as political pawns. I watched yesterday's HB2 testimony, where intelligent, dedicated people stood before you like Oliver Twist: "Please sir, can we have some more?" Meanwhile, lawmakers seemingly expect gratitude for a measly \$220 increase to the basic allotment—a number so out of touch with inflation and actual district needs that it's insulting.

Let me be clear: We need and demand better.

- A minimum \$1,300 increase to the basic allotment—because anything less keeps districts in crisis. **Our districts need more than \$1,300 increase to the basic allotment.
- A transportation funding increase that reflects actual costs—because the last adjustment was made when gas was \$1.00 and bus drivers made \$6.50/hour. Today, districts pay drivers \$24/hour minimum, and we all know gas prices are not a dollar.
- An increase in special education funding—because our kids deserve the services and supports they are legally entitled to.
- Higher teacher pay—because we cannot retain educators when they're underpaid and overworked.
- Reimbursement for special education evaluations—because districts shouldn't have to fight for what they're required by law to provide.
- Full funding for Dual Language programs—because our multilingual students deserve access to a high-quality education.
- A complete revamp of recapture—because Austin ISD is paying over \$900 million annually while unable to afford to educate its own students.

You were elected to lead. Start acting like it. Do your jobs and fully fund our schools.

Benjamin Holder

Self - Consultant

Dallas, TX

Vouchers or ESAs to allow for private school funding is a harm to our state and my children. There's no conclusive evidence that vouchers improve the achievement of students who use them to attend private school. Nor is there any validity to claims that, by creating a "competitive marketplace" for students, vouchers force public schools to improve. In fact, the most dramatic improvements in student achievement have occurred in places where vouchers do not exist.

Private schools have almost complete autonomy with regard to how they operate: who they teach, what they teach, how they teach, how (if at all) they measure student achievement, how they manage their finances, and what they are required to disclose to parents and the public. You would be handing public money to organizations with no oversight that the parents were able to choose and the management were freely allowed to discriminate in enrollment and education content.

This won't save money. Vouchers / ESAs increase costs, by requiring taxpayers to fund two school systems, one public and one private. If you fund this from something other than the public school budget - that's funds that could go to other much needed areas. Private schools are ungodly expensive, they don't need our money and when you hand them taxpayer money, they're likely to just increase tuition by 10K to pull in more revenue and offer a more exclusive experience.

A private ESA doesn't give me more choice. I live where I live. I can only drive so far to take my kid to school I can't shop around to get the best deal like on a car. This a daily grind issue.

Don't waste taxpayers money providing more handouts to private organizations. Fix and support our public schools. They are the backbone of society.

Chelsea Cardenas

Self

San Angelo, TX

We do not support student vouchers

Marcella Hayden

Self

Cumby, TX

Vote no. This will be disruptive at best to our children's constitutional right to a free and equal education.

Coleman Julian
Self Executive Director Non-profit
Canadian, TX

To the Members of the Texas House Public Education Committee,

My name is Coleman Julian, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3 and to urge you to fully and adequately fund public education. As someone who has spent time as an educator in the private sector, I have seen firsthand the differences in resources, access, and outcomes between private and public schools. While private schools serve an important role for some families, the foundation of a strong and thriving society is built on a well-funded and equitable public education system that serves all students, not just those who can afford tuition or gain access to selective programs.

HB 3 represents a dangerous step toward privatizing a vital public service—our public schools. School vouchers will drain already limited public funds from our public education system, disproportionately harming the most vulnerable students and communities. Rural schools and low-income districts are already operating with limited resources, and diverting public dollars to private schools will only widen the gap between well-funded and underfunded schools. Rural schools in particular are often the heart of their communities, providing not only education but also stability, jobs, and community resources. The loss of funding due to vouchers will be a direct attack on these communities, many of which are already struggling to keep schools open and staffed.

Furthermore, private schools are not held to the same standards of accountability, transparency, or inclusion as public schools. They are not required to accept all students, including those with disabilities, behavioral challenges, or learning differences. Diverting public funds to institutions that are not required to serve all students equally is fundamentally unjust. This will create a two-tiered system of education in Texas—one for the wealthy and privileged, and one for everyone else.

Texas public schools are already underfunded. Our teachers are underpaid, our school buildings are in need of repair, and many students are going without basic resources. Fully and adequately funding public education should be the legislature's top priority—not creating a system that undermines public schools in favor of private interests.

This is not just about education—it's about the future of Texas. Every child in this state, regardless of zip code, family income, or background, deserves the opportunity to succeed. HB 3 represents a targeted attack on rural communities and working-class families. It prioritizes profit over people and threatens the very foundation of equal opportunity in our state.

I urge you to reject HB 3 and commit to fully and adequately funding Texas public schools. Public education is the foundation of a strong democracy and a thriving state. Texas families are counting on you to stand up for our schools, our students, and our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Coleman Julian

Robert Criswell
Self
Mckinney, TX

Bill will hurt education and the children of our state. I was a 40 year educator with the last 20 as a superintendent. This idea is racist. Making education for the elite.

Jennifer Adams
Self - retired teacher
Austin, TX

The voucher program is a gift to wealthy Texans who don't need help. I am opposed to a voucher savings account as it would lead to the collapse of the public schools and the public welfare and the health of the teacher retirement system that my very existence depends on. I oppose HB 3.

Lindsey Cullison

Self

Richmond, TX

Please listen to the majority of your constituents and vote 'No' on HB 3. Using public funds to provide vouchers for private schools will ruin our public school system. I am a proud Texan, product of public Texas schools and a three-time graduate of Texas A&M University. I am also a public school teacher who believes that all students deserve a quality education. Are there ways to improve public schools? Yes. Can we and should we do better? Yes. Is taking funding from already underfunded public schools the answer? No.

Amy Burrer

Self

Navasota, TX

Texas public education isn't been fully supported or funded in over 20 years. Therefore, we cannot look to disperse public funds privately with an expectation of success. I am against this bill and any that provide public funds for private education.

lee Kaplan, Mr

Self

Houston, TX

Support public education, Before you give some rich people my hard earned money

Charlotte Ballard

Self

Tomball, TX

I oppose HB3. The state constitution demands a free public education for all Texans for the benefit of our society. Texas has failed to adequately support public schools for years under Gov. Abbott. Public schools are facing closures and economic failure. Your duty is to reverse this devastation immediately. Do not think we are fooled by semantics calling vouchers "school choice." Do not think that we are unaware this is the donor class of billionaires forcing this. Texans keep telling you not to do this. We know what you are denying: voucher bills are a tax break for the wealthy among us. They will not benefit the poor underclass which actually needs government services best provided through public schools. You have manufactured the lie that public schools are failing through the nefarious STAAR testing mania and the school report card system. You have manipulated your propaganda by openly disparaging public schools and dehumanizing public school teachers. You've had the luxury of running state government for too long to produce a war on public schools. We are very aware. We are angry at the governor, the Lt. governor, and Republican leaders who are waging war on public education. Do your duty to kids who do not have time for you all to fart around and waste their precious school years on your political games. Kids are not political pawns. They deserve better from you.

Denise Rhodes, Mrs.

Self

Hurst, TX

I am a retired but currently working retired public school educator of 40 years. I am a conservative voter however I am NOT in favor of school vouchers. This would crack the foundation of public schools in Texas. Private schools do not play by the same rules public schools must thus it is discriminatory for those "left behind". While the idea of vouchers sounds great on the surface, the children and families left behind will be hurting. Texas underfunds public school needs already compared to other states and to continue stealing from public schools is atrocious. Let's make Texas stronger, not weaker!

Abigail Johnson

Self

Wylie, TX

No vouchers for schools

Gail Hastings
self, business owner
Austin, TX

Public funds should stay with children in Texas public schools. Please vote down any voucher scheme that diverts tax dollars from Texas public schools.

Dory Holzapfel
Slef
Highland Village, TX

Texas needs to fully fund the public school system and day NO to this voucher scam! The proposed bill will do nothing to improve the options and opportunities for the millions of Texas students, it will only deplete the resources needed to fully staff and take care of all students. The people of Texas have repeatedly shown that we do not support this bill, and the governor knows it. Stop pandering to outside funding and instead focus on positively impacted the actual constituents that pay taxes in this state.

Brenda Kleinhans
Self
Richmond, TX
NO VOUCHERS!

Daniel Harper
Self
Burleson, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Alyssa Barbosa
Self. Attorney
Arlington, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools, students that rely on school programs, and teachers.

Gwenette J Kane
Self
San Angelo, TX

Please vote NO on vouchers. Look at the effects on the Arizona education budget. Fully fund public schools.

Miranda Martin
TEPSA
Colleyville, TX

Our schools need funds to improve our materials and training to provide top level instruction. Instead of sending our students away from public schools, fully fund us so all students can get the education they deserve. Public educators have the interest of ALL students at heart, no matter their income, race, IQ, or religion. We love and respect them all, and we need the funding to do so. Vouchers will take away from our mission and ability to attain our goals!

Julie MOYERS

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am very opposed to school vouchers which will undermine the educational system of Texas. The premise that private education is superior to a neighborhood school is a strike against our democratic belief in a strong education for all. If the finances are placed in the local, public schools, the educational opportunities for every child will be raised. If teachers receive significant pay increases, competition for jobs in education will increase the quality of each class. Do not take necessary funding increases from the public schools for the wellbeing of every child in Texas. Vote NO to an educational savings account program now and forever!

Patricia Baust

Self

Northlake, TX

No on school vouchers

Amber Blair

Self HR Specialist

Benbrook, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. This legislation is detrimental to all students who utilize the public school system. This legislation is elitist and privileges only the wealthy citizens of Texas. Everyone deserves equal access to a supported and funded public school system.

Elizabeth Riley

Self

Plano, TX

This would be terrible if passed. I can't believe it is even being considered to make so many Texas students suffer. Don't let this pass!

Jack Simmons

self

Austin, TX

Instituting a voucher program almost exclusively harms public schools. It does not make fiscal sense and it does not make moral sense. Our public schools are already incredibly strained financially, and this will only serve to increase that burden. It is so blatantly a way for rich families to monopolize good education for their children at the detriment to everyone else.

Jenny Stremmer Jackson, Ms.

Texas PTA

Dallas, TX

I lived in Oklahoma when they decided to pass a voucher system in their state and the outcomes have been less than desirable. Teachers have no planning period, because the funding used to hire teachers is being given to individual families. Taking away 10 students from a high school teacher's 150, was enough to lose a whole position. Class sizes are in the 40s in high schools in that state. As a Texas native, I don't want my state falling behind in public education. I want us to continue to have a strong economy with people born and raised here leading the way. Without strong public schools businesses won't want to move in and we won't have the educated workforce we need to be successful. No federal vouchers please!

Henry Simmons

Self - attorney

Austin, TX

I'm a former bill drafter for the legislature.

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools

Carol Crawford Crawford

Self Retired

Round Rock, TX

I am against HB 3. Monies should be spent on public education rather than going towards someone's private education. Our state benefits when our citizens have strong public education system where we're assured of high Academic Standards for everyone.

Maria Solano

self

wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS & NO TO SB3

Jana Taylor

self-attorney

Murphy, TX

NO to Vouchers!!!

Oliver Escobar

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Glenn Hutchinson, Dr

self/professor

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote against this bill. It will have a negative effect upon public education. They are already starting to plan school closings in Fort Worth. Parents are mobilizing, and we are disappointed that Austin is not supporting our public schools enough.

Mary Guerra, Mrs.

Self

McAllen, TX

Please do not pass this bill. It will be devastating to public education. This will impact students, teachers, administrators, custodians, support staff and even retired teachers. It will also devastate our economy. Thank you for your attention

Maria Rodriguez

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Stacey Dehoyos

self

NEWARK, TX

While I understand that HB3 is proposed with the intent of reforming education funding, I believe that its provisions are short-sighted and will ultimately harm the very students it seeks to support. The bill includes measures that could significantly reduce funding for critical school services and programs that benefit students, particularly in lower-income and underserved communities like ours. The financial constraints imposed by this bill will make it harder for our district to maintain vital resources such as special education, counseling services, and extracurricular activities. These programs provide crucial support that helps students grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Moreover, HB3 does not adequately address the growing need for equitable funding across Texas school districts. Many schools, especially those in rural or economically disadvantaged areas, are already facing budget shortfalls. If this bill passes, these schools will be even further disadvantaged, widening the gap in educational opportunities and exacerbating the inequalities that exist within our state's education system.

As a community, we have worked tirelessly to create an environment where every student, regardless of background, has access to quality education. However, HB3's funding model will make it more difficult to achieve this goal. The bill prioritizes certain areas of funding that will not directly benefit classrooms or students, leaving our educators to work with fewer resources, fewer support staff, and fewer opportunities for innovation and improvement.

In addition, HB3 fails to adequately increase teacher compensation, which is critical to attracting and retaining the talented educators who are the backbone of our schools. Without competitive salaries and proper support, Texas will continue to face a teacher shortage that undermines the quality of education and puts additional strain on schools and communities.

I urge you to reconsider the potential consequences of HB3 on our school community and the broader educational landscape in Texas. It is essential that we invest in all students, providing equitable opportunities and resources to help them succeed. Rather than limiting funding, we should be working to expand it, ensuring that every child in Texas has access to the quality education they deserve.

Please stand with students, teachers, and families across Texas by opposing HB3 !

Tamra McKlveen

self

Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS & NO TO SB3

Cristin Stewart

Self

Mansfield, TX

I am against HB3. This is not in the best interest of children.

Alyne Jacob

Self

Wylie, TX

No to HB3. Our tax dollars should go to public schools as not enough is being done. There are areas that aren't receiving the right class room setting for behaviorally challenged children because there isn't enough resources to help with this

Jill Reynolds

Self

Benbrook, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Janice Smith
Self Retired Public School Teacher
Weatherford, TX

I oppose the allocation of public funds to private schools. Schools are already a choice, but private schools should not be paid for with public funds. Please support and fund our public schools.

Barb Schmidt Schmidt
Coppell ISD
Coppell, TX

Vouchers will destroy the public schools. Please increase the per student allowance which has been stagnant since 2019. If vouchers do happen then public school funding needs to be equivalent with \$10,000 per student given to public schools.

STEVEN LEUNG
self
MISSOURI CITY, TX

How can we as Texans be so short sighted? We identify as Texans and we pride ourselves as Texans. But in order to keep our state strong and to raise strong Texans, we cannot take funding away from the public schools that shape our state and country's future. Allowing parents to choose where to send their kids and how to spend their money and make the best choice for themselves is important. But taking money away from public school systems where our state's children rely on is not the right pocket to pull from. By doing so, we will be reducing, eliminating, removing the success stories and potential from each and every one of our kids. Every child needs all the resources that we can provide them to succeed. Please look at this as if they're your own blood... you'd never hamstring your own child from success and potential. We've seen what becomes of this... look at our neighbor Louisiana.

Think about the children with disabilities who do not even have the option to go to a private school that'll suit their needs. Maybe they don't live close to one. Maybe they applied but didn't get in. Maybe... maybe there isn't even a private school that can specialize in what that child needs. The public system may have its flaws, but the system is in place to provide for these kids. The system needs to be improved, bought up... not put down and handcuffed or else we'll be taking away their futures, and their potential.

Don't do this. We need to increase funding for public schools. We need to pay our teachers for their worth. We need to strengthen our future by investing in our children.

This is sad. This is wrong. These are our kids. Don't mess with Texas we say. I plead you to 'Don't mess with our Texan children.'

Jessica Livesay
Self
Tioga, TX

I do not support HB 3. I propose you fund the school system in place and governed by our state elected officials.

Marquee Crandall
Wylie ISD PTA member
Wylie, TX

No vouchers. Our public schools deserve now then what they are given and taking more money from them is not the right thing

Jared Talton
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB3, let's keep tax payer money in public schools.

Diane Juul
Self
Austin, TX

This bill will hurt public schools. It will unfavorably affect Texans who depend on our public school system. I oppose HB 3 by Buckley.

Destiny Barnett
Wylie isd
Wylie, TX

'NO TO VOUCHERS' & "NO TO SB3" please support our public schools and staff

Krista Bennett, Principal
Self--Principal--Rural School District
Lubbock, TX

As a principal of a public school district in a rural community, I have the opportunity to make a difference in lives of students every day. I am blessed with students who come from a wide variety of backgrounds, lifestyles, cultures, and ethnicities. I also represent students who display a wide array of cognitive, social/emotional, and physical abilities including students who are receiving special education, 504, ESL, and GT services. My teachers and staff are truly among some of the highest quality educators possible. I have many concerns about House Bill 3. The public education system is already struggling and instead of investing in the future; the solution that House Bill 3 provides is to strip taxpayer dollars from already-poorly funded public schools. PUBLIC means that it is a service we are provide to ALL students. I continuously hear that it should be a PARENT choice of where to send their students. I couldn't agree more. Parents should get to choose in which case they already do. Parents can choose to send their student to the public school (FREE of charge) or to a private school (if they can afford it), or homeschool. I've also researched into the options of private schools in my area for students (including my own children solely out of curiosity) and as a family making 6 figures, we would struggle significantly to send our students to private school with the remainder of the cost after the application of the "scholarship." My greatest concern and question for politicians proposing and passing this bill is----How is this benefitting society and Texas as a whole over time? Please use my tax dollars to fund public school districts. Increase teacher pay, provide curriculum and materials, increase support staff in areas of SPED, 504, ESL, and GT programs, and allow administrators to make decisions for what is best for their campuses. Invest in the future of Texas---invest in ALL students! Public schools are for everyone and I can tell you that I UNCONDITIONALLY support ALL students who walk through my halls. Regardless of what decisions you make, I will continue to do so, but eventually you will be losing the educators who are compassionate enough to teach through your lack of support. Then what? When this fails---which it will, what will you have gained from it? Think beyond the moment, beyond your personal families or relations, and consider how you can TRULY benefit ALL students in Texas. HB 3 simply is not the answer.

Dani Gerhardt
Self
Paris, TX

I OPPOSE! Please don't take away from our public schools! Oppose oppose oppose!

Robert Spalten
None
Austin, TX

Texans are overwhelmingly opposed to school vouchers. They hurt public schools and over privilege private schools. Do not allow Texas' education system to be destroyed by this!

Jessica Ringgenberg
Self
Dallas, TX

This degrades our public education and the future workforce of our state and country. I DO NOT support this bill.

Ashley Howard
self Elementary Prinicipal Levelland ISD
Lubbock, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to school vouchers, which threaten to divert critical funding away from our already underfunded public schools. As a concerned citizen and advocate for public education, I urge you to reject any legislation that promotes school voucher programs.

For Levelland ISD alone, vouchers will cost an estimated \$1,074,128—a staggering amount that our district cannot afford to lose. Statewide, the cost of vouchers is projected to balloon to \$4 billion by 2030, further exacerbating the financial strain on Texas' public schools. Given that Texas already ranks among the bottom 10 states in per-student public education funding, we cannot afford to experiment with policies that siphon money away from the majority of students who rely on public education.

Levelland ISD, like many Texas districts, is already facing challenges due to inadequate funding. We struggle to retain quality teachers because salaries remain uncompetitive. Our schools need updated technology, additional mental health resources, and infrastructure improvements—yet these needs go unmet due to budget constraints. Taking more money away from our district will only worsen these issues, harming the very students our state should be prioritizing.

Public schools educate over 90% of Texas students and serve as the backbone of our communities. Rather than funneling taxpayer dollars to private and unregulated institutions, we should be investing in our public schools to ensure all students—regardless of their zip code or socioeconomic status—have access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to stand with Texas students, teachers, and families by opposing school vouchers. Please support policies that strengthen public education rather than weaken it. Our students deserve better.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lex-Anne Vogel
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools

Donna Oelfke
Self
Georgetown, TX

As you all know, the majority of Texans do NOT want vouchers. We believe in and want public education and we want better (honest) funding for our public schools. We want teachers to be paid a fair living wage. We want libraries back in schools. (See NES Mike Miles fiasco in Houston). You won't put it to a vote by citizens because you know you won't win. We adamantly disapprove of privatizing our children's education. We adamantly disapprove of the corruption currently at work in our (OUR, we the people's) State House and coming from our corrupt (see billionaires Wilks and Dunn) governor. NO VOUCHERS!

Kaci Brown
Self, Director of Revenue Hilton Hotels
Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS & NO TO SB3

Keep government out of private schools! Fund our public schools! At minimum, make this fair and let Texans vote on it. You are going to turn us blue simply by turning all your voters away from their previous support of the Governor. Is it worth it to line the pockets of your out-of-state billionaire donors?!

Amanda Wiegel
Self, Nurse Practitioner
Houston, TX

Please vote against the school voucher, so called "school choice" bill. Our public schools have already suffered from budget cuts and siphoning funding to private schools will only cause them to deteriorate further. These vouchers will only further the divide between children born to rich versus poor families. Every child deserves equal access to a quality education, and our focus should be on improving all public schools.

Enzo Ussery
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I aka third grade student in FWISD. My school might already close because there is not enough money in the district. If you pass this, what will I do? Please vote no.

Edna Cavazos, Ms.
Self
Sinton, TX

Please vote against it

Tamara Bowles
self - teacher
WYLIE, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS' & "NO TO SB3

Amy Zehnder
Self
Austin, TX

I am firmly opposed to any form of voucher or education savings program that redirects money from public to private schools. I oppose this bill.

Caroline Eaves
Self, Assistant Principal
Gilmer, TX

If this is implemented, my school district will loose \$474,524 to private schools which are not held to the same accountability standards. This could mean 8 fewer teachers for students, 9,510 fewer library books and increase in student-teacher ratio of 5.13%. In addition, this does not address the already starved system. Students are not commodities in a free market place. We must look at real solutions that will solve the real problem in the state of Texas. \$220 as the proposed increase of the basic allotment does not cover the rising costs of inflation. The basic allotment needs to be raised by at least \$1,300. We as Texans say no to vouchers and HB 3.

Ramona Lampley

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vouchers will have a devastating effect on public schools. For years the Republican Party and GW Bush have considered public education as the lifeblood of our civilized democracy. The good work done there paves the way for community, for future jobs and for the opportunity for every American to achieve the American Dream. Economists predict that a voucher program parents can use for unregulated, private schools will have a devastating economic impact on public schools. As a parent with three children, I have witness great teachers leaving school due to underfunding and lack of resources.

Texas should also be concerned about supporting an unregulated educational environment. What standards will these private schools use? How will they be measured? What are the criteria of accountability?

When public schools succeed, community succeeds and the economy grows. Vote against vouchers, vote against defunding public schools.

Robin Manuel

Self- Dallas County College District Employee

Rowlett, TX

Texas House Bill 3 is a direct attack on public schools and will have devastating consequences for our education system. By pushing for school vouchers, this bill takes critical funding away from public schools, which are already underfunded and struggling to meet the needs of all students. Vouchers are not the answer — they divert resources away from the schools that serve the majority of Texas children and give tax dollars to private institutions that are not accountable to the public.

It's clear that Governor Greg Abbott is forcing this harmful agenda on the people of Texas, despite bipartisan opposition. A growing number of Texans, including both Democrats and Republicans, have voiced their concern and opposition to vouchers. Abbott's attempt to ignore the will of the public is a blatant disregard for what's best for our children, our teachers, and our communities. Public schools need more support, not less. If this bill passes, it will only widen the gap in educational equity and further harm the students who need it most.

We need to focus on strengthening our public schools, increasing funding, and ensuring every child has access to a quality education, not undermining the very system that serves the majority of Texas families.

Kacey Depriest

Self

Brenham, TX

Under no circumstance is a voucher good for Texas public education. As a parent with two children and one under the American disabilities act who lived in katyisd while they attended school, the public school system could not even provide what they required to under federal law. Those of us oil industry professionals see the value in public education for an entry into a successful workforce. Gov. Abbott is so out of touch with parents and professionals in his state. Redistributing public dollars for private interests hurts everyone in the long run. Public education will continue to fail and Texas will be met with a generation of Texans unable to support themselves, which leads to 1) poverty 2) crime 3) declining health 4) increased use of state services to ensure every Texan's safety. Without spending the additional funds to correct what vouchers produce will end in a humanitarian nightmare. I have lived in so many places with the oil industry and Texas by far has been the most disappointing, poorly educated, ass backwards state with no regard for the people bringing in the income. I could not wait to have my children fulfill their higher education elsewhere. My daughter receives her doctorate in 2026, she refuses to return to Texas, my son with his tech degree refuses as well. This is what the current administration is doing to education and you haven't even begun to experience the long term consequences. What the legislature does now determines the path for Texas. Explain to Texans how subsidizing private education for people who can already afford to pay for private education (like me) will help raise the test scores, quality of life, employability of a student who relies on a defunded public education. My kids are grown and I'm happy to pay my taxes to ensure intelligent, hard working, WELL ROUNDED students fill the work force locally. I have no doubt the voucher kids will head directly out of state when given the opportunity.

Lynette Schwarz

Self

Plano, TX

I have two grandsons who are in elementary school in Plano ISD. Their school is wonderful. Their school is welcoming. Their school has community. Their school is inclusive. Their school is diverse. I sent my children to private school that I paid for. I never needed or wanted for the state to pay for the private education. I want my public funds to stay in public schools. My daughter is a speech pathologist in the schools. That is where the support is needed. All those funds should be sent to OUR public schools. DO NOT PASS HB 3!

Pat Sarp

Self

Arlington, TX

As a former TX public school employee I know this bill will devastate education for poor and special needs students. I attended private elementary school and my parents paid for it. Private schools should remain private. FUND public schools to the level they deserve. Texas, and her students, deserve no less.

Natalie Requenez

self, coordinator

THE COLONY, TX

Strongly oppose. Do Better

Kristin Rea

Self and teacher

Wylie, TX

No to HB 3; No to vouchers

Brooke Hughes

Self - Student Director

Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS NO TO SB3

Jan Casner

Self

Dallas, TX

PLEASE do not establish education savings accounts. We do not need to send billions of public money to private schools. We need to adequately fund our public schools. This is not an acceptable use of our tax money, funding schools that are open to all children, our public schools, is what our tax money should be used for.

Laura Perry, Dr.

Retired CFISD principal

Cypress, TX

I support public schools! I do not support using public money for private schools. Parents should spend their own money if they insist on sending their children to private schools. My tax dollars should support PUBLIC education. Greg Abbott needs to properly fund public schools instead of taking money away from them for his personal agenda that most Texans do NOT support. Both conservatives and liberals are against school vouchers. They will not serve our schools and students. They will harm public education, even more that Abbott has harmed them by holding public funds hostage to push for his personal agenda. Please adequately fund public education with tax money, so that districts and schools can properly service the diversity of their populations.

Carla Bremer, Ms.

Self-Retired Public School Principal in Texas

Dallas,, TX

As a retired Texas Public School Principal and a product of K-12 Texas public schools myself, I am firmly opposed to the Education Savings Account Program. Instead of passing a bill that would take funding away from public schools (as students who secure a voucher leave their current public school), the Texas Legislature and Gov. Abbott should focus on providing exemplary funding to our Texas public school system in order to prepare our students to be the best prepared for the future that they can be. Texas public schools, their educators , their students and parents deserve the very best. A “voucher” program is not that.

Melanie Burford

Self

McKinney, TX

I strongly oppose the savings account program, which is starving public schools and many, many children and educators.

Brandon McElroy

Self/audit manager

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Justin May

self, manufacturing

Lavon, TX

Vote no on HB3. School vouchers will hurt public schools, which hurts the students, teachers, and families

Lindsay Gibson

Self/Counselor

Wylie, TX

It will not benefit students who receive sped services. They will not get the necessary intervention in a private school and there will a be lack of school funding for intervention services. Private schools will go up and parents will have to pay the remaining balance for their children. Educational salaries may decrease due to lack of funding and there will not be enough educators to teach due to lacking resources.

Marcie Miller

Self, Associate Professor

Lubbock, TX

I oppose HB 3 and hope my representatives will too. Please vote to fully fund public education. Public money should be kept in our public schools. We do not want education savings accounts or vouchers. In my area, public schools are hurting and could greatly benefit from an increase in funding. If money is available for education, it should be put toward public schools. Thank you for your time and service.

Sascha Terry

McMillan Junior High School

Wylie, TX

I am opposed to HB3. I do not want to see public funds set aside to aid private schools. My children go to public schools and I do not want to see my money go to private schools or education programs that my family is not connected with.

Erin Pitts
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 3. As both a public educator and a parent of children in the public education system, I have never been more disappointed in our state's support for the constitutionally established public education system. My husband and I moved to Texas over 16 years ago while I was pursuing my Master's degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. After completing my degree, I chose to work in Texas' public education system, driven by my passion to serve students and my desire to model Christian values that define my life. My calling is to serve the students and families in my community.

We chose to stay in Texas—despite not being native to this state—because of the value and support Texas places on public education. I have consistently shared with friends, family, and colleagues how much I admired Texas' commitment to public schools. However, I can no longer say the same as I watch policies like HB 3 unfold.

Public dollars should not be diverted to private educational institutions. If private citizens choose to support or donate to a private institution and then those institutions choose to use those funds for scholarships, wonderful.

Public schools have long been held to rigorous accountability measures—through assessments like STAAR, student achievement benchmarks, and financial accountability reports required by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). These accountability measures have been outline through HB 22, FIRST, and TAPR. HB 3 ensures that private and homeschool entities are exempt from these same measures. This raises a critical question: Why are public schools subjected to these measures, but private entities are not? How can we ensure true accountability for taxpayer dollars with this bill?

While there has been talk of supporting public schools, we have seen little in the way of substantial funding. This lack of support continues to be evident in the absence of in the failure to adequately adjust student allotments for inflation since 2019.

If we are truly committed to public education, let us start by fully funding our public schools in a way that reflects the constitutional rights of every student in Texas. Once we've done that, we can have a meaningful conversation about equitable accountability for all educational opportunities that receive taxpayer funding which may include an educational savings program.

This legislation represents an opportunity to either continue the harm being done to public education, and Texas students by extension, or to set a new standard of support for Texas students. Public educators are desperately asking for support. We give tirelessly to our students, often at our own expense of both time and money. Texas has not shown the same level of commitment.

I urge you to consider the long-term impact of HB 3 on Texas' public education system and the future of our students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ross Lynds, Dr.
Self/physician
Fort Worth, TX

There were many republicans in opposition but the pro voucher folks are not listening so we have to OBSTRUCT. I will bring you more ways to do that. But today, I just need you to register your opposition.

"I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Candace Ryan
Self
Wylie, TX

No to SB3 and no to vouchers.

Jennifer Torres
Wylie ISD PTA
Wylie, TX

I am writing to voice my opposition to the "education savings account" program. We all know this is to benefit the wealthy who already send their kids to private school. We already have school choice, I choose to send my kids to public school. Our public schools could be SO MUCH BETTER if we fully fund them. This bill will not help the majority of Texas children who go to public school, and will be detrimental to the success of our children and their future. I do not support my public tax dollars funding private school education.

Kimberly English

Self

Wichita Falls, TX

I am totally against any government subsidies or vouchers to support private education. This redirection of public funds will devastate schools in the many remote and rural areas of our state. It will leave students with IEPs throughout the state underserved. And, it will starve the TRS, breaking a promise to every public educator who has served our state.

There is not a person in our state who does not have a friend or relative who is a public school employee. We all know how they and their students will be affected by this bill. And, we are ready to stand with them come election time.

Vote "no" on school vouchers.

Richard Johnson

Self

Wylie, TX

No to SB3 and no to vouchers.

Alyssa Moog

CISD

Coppell, TX

Texas for not want school vouchers, Texas students most benefit from schools being funded. Both my elementary students have dyslexia and have received phenomenal care and intervention from amazing teachers. Please do not allow HB 3 to pass. There will be so many students who fall through the cracks.

Kimberly Davis

self

Port Lavaca, TX

I would highly recommend this bill to not be passed. Being an educator for 26 years there has always been a struggle with money in public education. I have purchased many things for my students out of my own pocket. This is due to the funding in public education never being enough. Our educators give their whole heart in what they do. They want their students to be successful and give them every opportunity to do so. Please consider not passing this bill to make things even harder for educators in public education.

Ava Simkulet

Self

Wylie, TX

We do not want vouchers!!

Cheryl Hargrove

Self

McKinney, TX

I am against this Voucher bill. First fully fund public schools. This bill will leave SPED students and low income students with fewer choices and services. I will vote against anyone who supported this bill in the next election.

K Lioy

Self

Denton, TX

As s former public school teacher. I am vehemently opposed to this bill and all bills related to a school voucher program in Texas. Governor Abbott needs to rethink his support for these bills as most Texans oppose these bills.

Dvora Cristol
self
Fort Worth, TX

URGENT: REJECT HB3 – A DIRECT ATTACK ON TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Texas House Bill 3 (HB3) is not just flawed—it is an unmitigated disaster for public education, a direct assault on our children’s future, and a reckless fiscal blunder that will haunt our state for generations. It is a cruel, calculated, and irresponsible piece of legislation designed to dismantle our public school system under the false pretense of “reform.” We must expose this bill for what it truly is: a weaponized attack on students, teachers, and communities that depend on a strong public education system.

HB3 IS FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE

The fiscal note attached to HB3 makes one thing absolutely clear—this bill is an economic disaster waiting to happen. Rather than providing sustainable, long-term investments in education, it shifts the burden onto local school districts, forcing them to cut essential programs, increase class sizes, and lay off teachers. Instead of securing adequate funding, HB3 funnels resources away from the very schools that need them most, all while failing to provide a transparent, accountable plan for replacing those funds. This is not just bad policy—it is deliberate sabotage.

HB3 WILL CRIPPLE TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

If enacted, HB3 will gut public schools and leave students without the resources they need to succeed. Teachers, already stretched thin and underpaid, will face even greater challenges as districts struggle to maintain operations. Our schools will suffer from teacher shortages, outdated materials, and overcrowded classrooms—all while the state turns a blind eye to the damage it has inflicted.

We cannot allow politicians to sell out our students’ education to special interests and ideological agendas. Texas public schools educate millions of children, and yet this bill treats them as expendable in a cruel political game. Our students deserve better.

HB3 IS A DIRECT THREAT TO EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

This bill is particularly devastating for underserved communities, where public schools serve as lifelines for children in need. HB3 will disproportionately harm low-income students, students of color, and rural communities—those who already face the greatest barriers to success. Instead of addressing systemic inequalities, HB3 exacerbates them, ensuring that only the wealthy and privileged will have access to quality education while the rest are left behind.

This is not just negligence. This is targeted harm. It is an act of legislative cruelty against the children and families who rely on public education the most.

HB3 MUST BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY

There is no justification for passing a bill that deliberately weakens public education, destabilizes school funding, and creates chaos in our classrooms. The experts have spoken. The fiscal note is clear. The consequences are undeniable. To pass HB3 is to betray our children, our teachers, and the very future of Texas.

This bill is not about reform—it is about destruction. It is a reckless, cynical, and

Tianna Saulter
Self
McKinney, TX

I vote NO against HB3 and SB3

Lindsey Ferrell
self/teacher
Wylie, TX

I oppose school vouchers and SB3

Mary McDermott
Self
Carrollton, TX

This bill will kill public education, where we accept EVERY student at our doors, as opposed to the cherry-picking private schools do. Stop this lunatic idea NOW!

Abigail Johnson
Self
Wylie, TX

No school vouchers please!

Tianna Saulter
Self
McKinney, TX

I vote NO to HB 3.

Danielle Marrero
self - program manager
Austin, TX

I OPPOSE HB3. Public money should not be reallocated to private schools in the form of school vouchers. Doing so would be an attack on our most vulnerable population of students who cannot afford to attend private schools. The taxpayers deserve transparency in school funding by keeping funding in PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

McKenna Tooke
Self, former teacher
Fate, TX

I oppose school vouchers. Private schools = private funds.

Natascha Webb
Self
Conroe, TX

I do not support vouchers or ESAs for Texas schools! Those making over 500k should not have access. Put that in the bill, prioritization does NOT= enrollment for lower income nor sped. I am a sped administrator for an ISD in Texas! Instead of stating how many private entities accept sped compare the numbers that don't. When you say sped do they have an actual IEP, what disabilities do they accept? All or a select few with lesser needs? Vote NO

Amy May
self; teacher
Lavon, TX

Vote NO to vouchers and NO to HB3. An "education savings account program" only benefits the wealthy, and will fundamentally harm public schools.

Christopher Barrett

Self / Producer

Austin, TX

Hello, I am writing to express my opposition to voucher bill HB 3. The bill for creating vouchers to fund private school education for students using tax dollars and public funds will significantly impact our local schools, potentially taking millions of dollars from local schools, which are already extremely underfunded. I am an advocate for funding schools using enrollment based per student allotments in alignment with national averages (Texas is currently 42nd in the US in funding, and has a funding deficit of approx \$4,000 per student).

We need to stop trying to line the pockets of Billionaires from out of state, and start educating young Texans, as they are our future. Jeff Yass, Tim Dunn, and Farris Wilkes do not represent us, and should not dictate the education of our children. Say no to HB3, and instead fund Texas public schools appropriately!

Thank you,
Chris Barrett

Abigail Johnson

Self

Wylie, TX

No school vouchers

Grace Gayos

CFISD

Cypress, TX

Please do not vote for HB 3. I am a special education public school teacher. My son goes to public school too. I would always choose to teach at a public school and send my son there too. Public school is where students from all economic backgrounds are given a fair chance. We do not choose whom education should be for. We educate and service even the most challenging students. Please protect and support our public schools.

Sincerely,

Grace Gayos

Kaleena Fenno

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools. Shame on this bill and those who wrote it and champion it for deprioritizing education for Texas children.

Abigail Johnson

Self

Wylie, TX

No school vouchers

Diane Smith-Pinckney

Self

Fort worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Celia Salas
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools

Stephanie Wehner
PTA, Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX

Vote NO to vouchers/ESAs

Julie McCullam
Self
Keller, TX

No to vouchers!

Meredith Watkins
Self
Wylie, TX

Please support our children and the future of Texas education by voting NO TO VOUCHERS and NO TO HB3 and SB3!

Sandra Grannan
Self (retired)
Livingston, TX

I vote no against vouchers.

Marty Kirkland
Self
Dickinson, TX

No

Angela Moss, Dr.
Self, adjunct professor
Prosper, TX

I am writing to voice my concern regarding the negative implications that HB3 will have on our public education system if passed. This bill will pull vital funds away from our public schools. As a result, our teachers, students, and families will suffer, with the greatest burden falling onto those families who cannot afford to send their children to private schools or whose students will not be accepted into private schools for a number of reasons. Please vote against the passage of this bill. Studies have shown that vouchers do little to improve the test scores of low-income students and there is nothing in the bill to ensure that all students will be accepted into private schools should they opt to participate. Additionally, vouchers will siphon funding away from programs designed to benefit special education students, who may not be accepted into private schools since those schools are not required to accept all students. Finally, the voucher program will primarily serve to benefit the students of wealthy families, who already are able to pay for and attend private schools. Our public schools are already underfunded, and the voucher program would only hurt these districts further.

Janie Baker
Texans for Public Education
Seagoville, TX

With regard to education saving accounts:

Public dollars should not be spent on private education. I am a retired public school educator in the State of Texas. I have been witness to families who start the school year in private schools only to decide that they do not provide for the needs of their children. This usually happens around the end of the second six weeks when PEIMS reporting has been submitted. So, classes begin to crowd, creating a disparity in the teacher pupil ratio. Quite often students coming in from private schools have special needs that could not be accommodated at the private school. So, we see disparity in the SpEd rooms, too. Essentially, the money spent by those parents is wasted while the public school goes in need.

Jacob Isom
Self
McKinney, TX

I fully oppose HB 3. As someone who went to public schools and has many loved ones who teach or are administrators at public schools, it is truly a slap in the face to all of them AND students. If you truly cared about students and teachers you would fully fund public schools. Our ranking on the national scale for education shows our state government does not care about public schools. I would also encourage every state representative, senator, and the governor to spend real time in rural, inner city, and suburban schools so they can learn what teachers and administrators are truly up against. Instead you all sit in Austin with little to no real education experience and try to dictate how it should be run. Teachers are already over worked and under paid and you all do not care about that you care about pleasing large donors whose only interest is making money. As a Republican, this issue makes it extremely difficult for me to continue to support candidates who support HB 3.

Lindsey Moser
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. We need to fully fund our public schools and keep public money out of private schools. Vote NO!

Chantel Kastrounis
self- Public School Administrator
Carrollton, TX

Vouchers will cost Coppell ISD over \$5M.

The cost of vouchers is expected to balloon to \$4 billion by 2030. Texas cannot afford to experiment when public schools are underfunded.

Texas ranks in the bottom 10 in per-student public education funding.

My school serves ALL children. We are a high performing district that meets the needs of our 75% of emergent bilingual learners. We serve gifted children, special needs learners and learners with social emotional needs. We can't continue to serve ALL learners with current funding and vouchers. Vouchers would not only rob our incredible school of learners, but also of dollars we NEEDED to continue to do the incredible job we are doing.

Courtney Carpenter, Dr.

Self and Argyle ISD

Argyle, TX

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB3, the proposed Education Savings Account (ESA) bill, for several key reasons that are not in the best interest of Texas taxpayers, students, or public education.

Firstly, this bill is essentially a vendor bill, designed to enrich private entities at the expense of taxpayers. The wide scope of the bill allows just about any resident to qualify, which opens the door for misuse of taxpayer funds. As written, it could allow illegal residents to benefit from state funds intended for legal, tax-paying citizens, further compounding the risks to fiscal responsibility.

Moreover, the bill proposes funneling money away from public education, which undermines the foundation of our public school system. Texas public schools, including those in underfunded districts like ours, have been showing excellence in academic, financial, and attendance performance. In fact, many of our public schools outperform private institutions when it comes to preparing students for the future. Redirecting funding from these schools to unaccountable private options could destabilize public education in the state.

The bill would also create new layers of government oversight and administration, which is far from a conservative approach. Expanding bureaucratic structures goes against the values of fiscal responsibility, limited government, and individual liberty that many of us hold dear. This bill would add more administrative positions and government intervention rather than streamline or improve the system.

In conclusion, HB3 is not written in a way that serves the best interests of conservative Texans. It increases government intervention, misallocates taxpayer money, and does not account for the proven successes of our public schools. For these reasons, I urge you to reject this bill and preserve the integrity of Texas public education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cash Jennings

Self

Sterling City, TX

Fund public education and do away with Vouchers!

Jill Fisher

Self- Texas Public School Teacher & Parent

Highland Village, TX

Say NO to HB 3. You are a PUBLIC SERVANTS and should be fully funding PUBLIC SCHOOLS so that all Texas children have equal opportunities.

Benjamin Paser

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose this bill, as it prioritizes private education over public schools, which serves the majority of our children. Providing \$10,000 to send children to private schools while defunding public schools would further exacerbate inequality and harm our already underfunded public education system. Every child deserves access to high-quality education, and we must focus on improving and investing in our public schools rather than shifting resources to private institutions, in which most will not be able to afford even with the voucher. Public education is the foundation of a fair society, and we cannot allow it to be undermined for the benefit of a few.

Jared Stevenson
Self / public education
Round Rock, TX

Texas is already in a budget crisis in schools. Due to state funding, teacher raises have been dwarfed by rising medical costs as well as the cost of living. Texas already ranks towards the bottom of per pupil funding and it is appalling to think we want our great state to continue to lag behind other states in our country. Texas schools are not failing - dedicated educators do the impossible everyday, serving kids of all needs and all backgrounds and create safe diverse environments. To think that public money would go to an institute that is allowed to deny access to education and not explain why is horrid. Students of color. Students with special education needs. Students with educational gaps. All of these are students who are routinely denied access to programs the vouchers intend to support. Families have school choice already. There are provisions for families to move from underperforming academic schools already. Many public schools have in district and out of district transfer applications. (With rules on who can be denied and why - that is open to open records.). Parents can also choose to participate in private religious schools, or schools geared to specific programs. Those exist outside of vouchers and won't go away. Taking money from our public schools, straining our public schools is only going to hurt the future of our state by hitting the educational experiences and opportunities of our students. I plead with you, do not vote for this measure.

Linda SHARPE
Self
GEORGETOWN, TX

Vote NO to school vouchers. Public school districts need our state's funds and our taxes to provide quality education to ALL our citizens. Send your child to a private school if you wish, but pay with your own money.

Carol Glover
Self/retired
Olney, TX

Public Education HB3
I oppose EducationSavings Accounts, Vouchers, School Choice, Parental Choice, or whatever is the buzzword of the day. I want my tax dollars going to strengthen public schools and not to private/charter schools. We have no private/charter school in my rural town, so this bill only takes from our community that benefits from our public school system. Do not hurt our rural Texas towns.

Moiria Plant
Self/Teacher
Cypress, TX

We moved to Texas 7 years ago for the opportunities my children would have and the surrounding schools were key in our selection of a community. Please continue to support our public schools as they truly are opportunity for ALL. As an educator, I oppose school vouchers.

Georgia Duncan
Self
Boerne, TX

Strongly, no vehemently opposed!!! The damage this bill renders to Texas society will take years to recover and ultimately be the undoing of the Republican party in Texas.

Strongly, no, vehemently opposed to hb3! The damage this will dump on the Texas society will take years to undo, and will ultimately be the undoing of the Republican party in Texas.

James Burkhalter
Self Retired
Lubbock, TX

I do not support passage of HB 3 as a grossly inappropriate use of public fund to support private schools. Contrary statements made by the governor and many legislators there is not a groundswell of support for this bill. The lack of accountability required for private schools is enough alone to invalidate this misuse of tax payer generated revenue.

Melissa Tortorici
Self, communications director
Texas City, TX

Public tax dollars belong in public schools. Vouchers divert critical funding away from our neighborhood schools, undermining accountability and leaving our most vulnerable students behind. Vote NO to protect public education and ensure every child has access to a quality school, not just a privileged few.

Jill Fisher
Self- Texas Public School Teacher & Parent
Highland Vlg, TX

You have been sworn in as PUBLIC SERVANTS, to serve and protect the PUBLIC. Voting for an ESA while still NOT FULLY FUNDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS is a violation of your oath, and sadly, the ones who are most affected are the CHILDREN OF TEXAS. Such a disgrace and travesty if you vote for his bill that DOES NOT SERVE THE PUBLIC!!!

Karen Garza
self, public school administrator
League City, TX

I urge our legislature to oppose school vouchers written in HB3. Our families already have school choice. Our current status provides families with this right. Parents have the right to select a private school, a charter school, or a public school. Parents are given even more choice if they select a public school as most public schools allow out-of-district and in-district transfers. What needs to occur is pure backing of Texas educators and public schools and students. Public schools are not able to "select" who attends their campus and must deal with ALL students who walk through the door. These students and schools need our utmost support! Please represent the majority public voice and not the deep pockets of politicians.

Lindsay Nguyen
Self - sales
Plano, TX

Please help make the public schools thrive, that is what is best for the overall state, we can't force people to not trust the state to educate their children and force them into a private school situation

Kimberly Prescott

Self

Dallas, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you

Micki Rosiles

self

AUSTIN, TX

I pay taxes for the public good, not a bunch of private schools with no oversight. That is taxation without representation. If the public schools are failing, use the funding to improve public schools for all to access. If someone has a child in private school, then they can obviously afford it and don't need a bonus.

Shannon Moore

Self

San Antonio, TX

School vouchers will not benefit the masses. They will take funds away from public schools and from the children and families that need them. They will cause the degradation of the public school systems in Texas as proven in many other states. This bill will only serve to out more money in the hands of the wealthy and will not support the working class.

Darlene Aksoy

self, retired

Coppell, TX

I am in adamant opposition to school vouchers, a/k/a "education savings accounts", as proposed by HB3 or any other House or Senate bill. Public taxpayer dollars are not collected to subsidize private businesses or private schools. Private schools are not regulated schools, they do not have the same or even similar oversight, rules, or requirements. Private schools are most often religious schools; funding them with taxpayer dollars violates the clear Constitutional separation of church and state. Vote an absolute NO on school voucher "education savings accounts" in any form.

Melissa Forey

Self

San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. I strongly oppose the so-called education savings account program because it takes money away from our already underfunded schools.

I believe in public education for all. And as Texans, we should be promoting public education and supporting our schools. This bill would further reduce the amount of public funds to our public schools which would have damaging effects on our children's education. Please oppose this bill.

Trey Beeson, Mr
Self
Stamford, TX

Please vote no to school vouchers! This is not wanted in the state and the people of Texas have voiced their concern!! It is being pushed upon us!!

Karen Anderson
Self
Red Oak, TX

As an educator, product of public education, spouse of school board trustee of 23 years, i adamantly oppose HB 3.

Cassidy Schnoor
self/ college student
Round Rock, TX

I attended private school until 7th grade, then transitioned to a charter school for the remainder of high school. My parents made significant sacrifices to provide me with the education I needed. Every child has unique educational needs, and Texas should support families like mine, who are not only paying for their children's education but also funding a public school system their kids don't attend. I am writing to express my support for HB 3, as it represents an important first step toward universal educational choice.

Rhonda Stratton
Self, Administrative Assistant with an education degree
Crowley, TX

From the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) website:
Public Schools, Not Vouchers, Offer the Most School Choice

Despite the escalating political rhetoric about taxpayer-funded private school vouchers, the truth remains: Texas public schools are the leaders in providing families with the most academic, athletic, career and technical, and extracurricular choices. Claims that vouchers will give Texas families more choices run counter to what is actually happening in public schools across the Lone Star State, where opportunities abound for students to select schools and programs that best fit their needs and interests. Among the state's 1,026 public school districts, families already have the choice to select magnet campuses, public charter schools, public online schools, or a more traditional K-12 option. Within many school district boundaries, families also have the option of open enrollment — or the ability to select a school other than the one in their attendance zone. Neighboring school districts sometimes allow transfers among students to accommodate specific needs, including academic, health, and family issues. That's the big picture for public school choice in Texas. Here are some other key truths to consider when comparing the choices offered by Texas public schools with those promised by voucher proponents. Vouchers Give Private Schools — Not Parents — the Right to Choose When voucher proponents talk about choice, they are essentially advocating for private schools to choose which students to admit — and at what cost to the families. There's little doubt that taxpayer-funded vouchers will pick up only a fraction of private school tuition, leaving Texas parents to dig deep into their pockets for the rest. Those who advocate for vouchers are not advocating for parents' rights. Texas families will have fewer opportunities to find out what's happening inside their child's school because private schools are not required to comply with state accountability and assessment standards, open records laws, special education rules, or curriculum requirements. And among the conversations happening about education today, it's important to remember that public schools give parents a way to be part of the discussions and the decision-making through locally elected school boards that are accountable to voters. Vouchers transfer the power of engaged parents to privately owned organizations and corporations, accountable only to their bottom line or inaccessible board of directors.

Continued in following comment...

Hayden Foster

Self, teacher

Dallas, TX

Our education system is desperate. The voucher system would devastate already struggling communities and individuals. We need to properly fund our public schools for them to serve kids effectively.

Molly Rhodes

Self

Plano, TX

Do NOT support, put those funds toward public school improvements.

Jeffrey Miller

Self

Austin, TX

No school vouchers. Fund public schools. Public schools integral to rural communities.

Stacy Hafernick
Calhoun County ISD
Port Lavaca, TX

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposed voucher system outlined in HB3. While the intention to provide more options for students is understandable, the financial burden it places on our district and on Texas as a whole cannot be ignored.

As proposed, the cost of vouchers could escalate to as much as \$4 billion by 2030. This projection raises serious concerns about the sustainability of such a program, especially given that our public schools are already struggling with insufficient funding. These funds could be better used to directly support our public education system, which is in dire need of resources to meet the diverse needs of our students.

Texas currently ranks in the bottom 10 in per-student funding nationwide, and our district is feeling the effects of this financial shortfall. We are forced to make difficult decisions regarding staff salaries, classroom materials, and essential programs, all of which impact our students' educational experiences. For example, at [Your School], we have had to reduce [specific programs or staff] due to lack of funding, directly affecting the quality of education we are able to provide.

In addition to the general impacts on all students, the voucher program will disproportionately affect our special education students. Special education programs require specialized staff, resources, and funding to meet the unique needs of these students. Diverting funds to vouchers would severely limit our ability to provide individualized support services, such as speech therapy, behavioral interventions, and specialized classroom environments. At [Your School], we have witnessed firsthand how these resources are crucial in ensuring that students with disabilities have equal access to quality education. Without proper funding, these students will be left at a significant disadvantage.

In conclusion, while the idea of expanding school choice is worth exploring, it should not come at the expense of underfunding our public schools further or jeopardizing the educational support that special education students depend on. We cannot afford to experiment with voucher programs when our existing education system is already stretched thin. I respectfully ask that you reconsider the proposed changes in HB3 and focus on addressing the real needs of public education in Texas, especially for our most vulnerable students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Stacy Hafernick
Director of Special Education
Calhoun County ISD

Meghan Powell
Self- homeschooling mom of 4!
ROANOKE, TX

As a homeschooling mother of 4, I am against this bill. There is already choices and freedoms in the education system established in Texas! The public schools deserve to be funded. Voucher systems allow for the opening of charter programs that run as business for-profits and little for the actual academics taught. There is not a voucher system established in the US that has a high level of education. We do not want this! I don't want the state entangled in my homeschooling days and those who go to a public school deserve to have them properly supported

Deborah Williams

Self

Roanoke, TX

I do not support vouchers. If any public funds go to private or charter schools, those institutions must follow all the guidelines as a public school. Ex Same funding amount, no funds when a child is absent, accept everyone who apply, provide special services and transportation , and take all state required testing.

Taxpayers want all entities to be held accountable for using public funds. Blank checks to these schools are not acceptable.

Estrellita Martinez

Self

Leander, TX

I am a Texas native and have lived in Central Texas my entire life. I am the parent to five children that have all benefited from public education. I disapprove of HB 3. If I chose to use this school voucher for my children, I would not be able to afford the remaining balance for my children enrolling in a private school. It is saddening to see the concern of our politicians hyper focused on helping families that are able to pay for private schools. When in fact, their efforts should be used for improving our education system so that our Texan students can improve testing scores. I vote NO for HB 3. If the politicians want this school voucher to be considered by the Texan citizens, then let the people vote on it and let them decide if this is something Texans want.

Thomas Donaldson, Mr.

Self -Retired

Lubbock, TX

I oppose the voucher proposal which provides funds to affluent families for private school education, while reducing state support if public schools which are the only option for most of the 5 million plus school children in our state.

Sarah Wilson

Self, mother

San Antonio, TX

Fund public education. Public tax dollars are not for private use and should not be welfare for the wealthy. Texas has been defunding education for years. Unfunded mandates and unnecessary testing waste dollars. Fully fund our public schools. No system gets better by taking away money that benefits all children and our society as a whole to give to the more privileged. Most Texans are saying NO to ESA/vouchers. I am a parent of three, my youngest is graduating high school this year. They all attended very fine public schools. I want my tax dollars to continue supporting public education for ALL children. My tax dollars are NOT for private gain. I am an active volunteer and understand the financial needs at schools and how state mandates have been working to dismantle public education. I will vote against anyone who supports vouchers. This is my number 1 voting priority. Vouchers are not fiscally conservative. Public education is the backbone of future Texas success. Thus is NOT in line with the Republican platform yet top Republicans are taking lobbyists money and pushing for this. It is clear to the public and will cost votes. Like other states, this system will cost the state exorbitant amount of money, go mostly to those who already can afford private schools, increase private school tuition, and worsen educational outcomes in our state.

Rachel Maldonado

Self

Cedar Hill, TX

My family and I are greatly opposed to this bill. My husband is a public school teacher and I'm a home school mom. We have the choice to do what's perfect for my family and do not wish to have ANY government input or involvement in our decisions.

Cindy Ashmore

Self

Lubbock, TX

NO on HB3. You cannot vote yes in good conscience when the overwhelming majority is against it. We will remember how you vote in the next election. Teachers have a LONG memory.

Jim Hill
Myself. Structural Engineer
Lubbock, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill. As a graduate of Muleshoe High School I was admitted to Texas A & M and Texas Tech. The public school system provided me with the education needed to obtain my engineering degree. We need to strengthen public education for the common good benefiting all of society. This bill benefits only those who are affluent enough to take advantage of it. Forty five percent of the constituents in District 84 have an income less than \$50,000 and can't afford the tuition. It is a return to segregation as well as a scheme to place more power into the hands of the already powerful.

George-Anna McCabe, Retired Educator
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Dash Kotska said it all early this morning in his testimony- vote NO to HB 3. I do not support taking hardworking taxpayer's money away from public schools to so others can use it for private education. Public funds need to stay in public schools PERIOD! What has the Texas legislature done to help public schools in the last 25 years- nothing. Governor Abbott has held public school funding hostage for the last 5 years so he can get vouchers passed. And why- to please the 3 mega billionaire donors who have given him more money than anyone else. Follow the money! It's not being given to help the over 5 million students in public schools. Shame on you if you vote yes to this bill.

Susan Aubry
Self
Wylie, TX

I don't support school vouchers

Caprice Cummings
Self
BOERNE, TX

I oppose school vouchers

Zachary Zeman
Self/student
Austin, TX

It's tough to know where to start on this, but to put it briefly, this bill which purports to provide school choice to students but does nothing of the sort. Not only will the provided funds be insufficient to pay for private tuition, it offers no options to students in rural districts with no private option. In addition, public schools will lose funding. As a former educator I've seen how focused schools are on students turning up to school because their funding depends on it. This will make an already underfunded institution worse while not providing for students. All this does is subsidize wealthy Texans who are already sending their kids to private schools. Please use this money to fully fund public schools not to subsidize wealthy parents and to divert state funds to religious institutions.

Nancy Johnstone, Ms.

Self Retired teacher Ex Texas Public school student

Desoto, TX

This bill would support capitalism and corporations, not students. It is not representative of what Abbott proposed, and it is not representative of what a huge majority of Texas parents want. Texas is too low now on the amount of money spent per student for their academic education. When I was still teaching, most local districts were unable to pay UIL entry fees for the wonderful, diverse academic programs set up for our students. If you will put in the money, Texas students can get back to being well-educated and prepared for college; prepared in all areas, including math and science, as well as music and all fine arts. When I was a student in Dallas ISD starting in the 1950s, I was able to get a great education in a well staffed public school. When we moved to Irving, they were just transitioning from a little town to a little city, and they had some catching up to do--I went to half of junior high and all of High School in Irving, and was a National Merit Finalist. So let's get back to having reasonable class sizes, no exemptions leaving classes of 50 or more and only room for 36 desks, and cut that down to improve personal attention and discipline. Let's make Texas Public Schools something to be proud of, without giving any of the budget to private schools. Charter schools are already fulfilling that need, and they aren't doing such a great job. Don't give this money away.

Jim Dunlap

Self

Longview, TX

I am opposed to HB3 as well as ANY other "Education Savings Account", a so called voucher plan, or any plan using my tax money for any such scheme that does not meet the same accountability required of public schools. Please increase funding to public schools to national average in all areas.

Paul Kinunen

Self

Grapevine, TX

I absolutely oppose HB 3. Do not allow this bill to be passed. As a Texan, I strongly strongly disagree with what HB 3 is trying to accomplish. Vote no to HB 3

Ken Lawrence, Colonel

Education

San Antonio, TX

Stealing from us all.

STASIA HARRIS

SELF - I WORK IN MGMT AT A NATIONAL BANK

Benbrook, TX

I DO NOT SUPPORT HB3, SCHOOL VOUCHER, ESA FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS. I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy. My belief is that the ESA program with indirectly and directly pull money out of the public schools. We are 44th in the nation in per child allotment and have gone 5 years without an increase, during particularly inflationary period. Further, in the current form, the allotment per ESA (up to ~8.5K) exceeds the per child allotment in HB2, even after the measly ~\$200 increase per child. The fact that THERE IS NOT CAP on income is ridiculous. The ESA program indirectly affects the public school system bc of loss of students, public schools will be paid less but will still have to maintain facilities. I DO NOT SUPPORT.

Jan Bean

Self/retired educator

Amarillo, TX

Pubic education, fair, equal and open to all is vital. Work on improving public education and increase teacher pay to attract the best and the brightest to the teaching profession.

Lisa Guajardo

Self

Lufkin, TX

To Members of the House, I ask that you really think about all the children in the State of Texas and not pass HB3. First of all, make ALL public schools great. As a teacher from a great district, I think we could be even better if the state first spent money to provide better curriculum with engaging resources and more money per student. A skeleton of a curricula without resources is what many school districts have to teach children. We spend more time finding resources than having time to plan for delivery of lessons and to study data from students performances. Please help us with this! Also, the state has created nearly unrealistic goals for the average 8 or 9 year old to perform well on the state test. Why would we have children feel they did not master a grade level when the test is actually based on a reading level 2 grades above their own? It makes no sense. Many people want their child in private schools to avoid the state tests. And now... now the State wants to pay money to private schools who do NOT HAVE to take the same end of the year test as public schools? We would all love to simply have students take a Norms Test. Help Texas Public Schools. Provide more money per student so we can have lower teacher student ratio. This is the only advantage the average private school has over public schools.. Help every child in Texas- not the ones who can already pay for private school as we all know this will be who benefits the most from vouchers. The State's duty is to the general public. Help the public schools! Let's help make Texas public schools to be the best in the nation. Stop HB 3. Fund public schools so teacher to student ratio is less, like private schools.

Cheryle Simmans

Self: Retired teacher and school counselor

Victoria, TX

As a retired Texas educator, I want to go on record as opposing HB 3 and any other bills promoting vouchers. Public schools under the current administration have been weakened, underfunded, and sabotaged in order to sway public opinion against Texas public schools. Continuous testing, claims of indoctrination, unfunded mandates, and lack of funding have systematically been employed by our Governor and his wealthy donors to create a schism to champion "his" obsession with vouchers. I ask that our representatives do their homework and study the effects of vouchers and their subsequent runaway costs in other states that now regret their choices.

Public schools are required in our state constitution and are to be fully funded, not held hostage because the Governor of Texas was told "NO" by the previous legislature. If school choice is truly a choice, let the people of Texas vote on the proposal. Governor Abbott is not representing or listening to the people he was elected to lead. Rather, he is representing the wealthy donors who see nothing but dollar signs. Let the people vote or say "NO" to vouchers again.

Steven Prater

Self

Buda, TX

I do not agree with this bill. I do not think it will give lower socioeconomic families, a school choice. I believe it will give free money to wealthy families. Please use this funding to give more funding to public schools. Texas is one of the lowest states in funding public education.

Maria Portales, Mrs

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Katie Braden

Self

Fate, TX

Education Savings Accounts should not become reality until public schools are fully funded to adjust for inflation and increasing needs for security, special education and student mental health. Increasing the allotment by \$220 is insufficient to meet any of those needs fully. Additionally this funding diversion to private school comes with no accountability like the public schools bear. The fact that we don't adequately fund public education, and we run the risk of running even shorter due to vouchers, is abominable. Our district has been cutting costs and shrinking services for years as a fast growth district that is underfunded by our state. This also pits the tax payers against local school because the state is shrinking its responsibility to fund public education appropriately. The narrative of demonizing public schools and saying this program will allow choice is false. The most needy of students will not be able to utilize a voucher. This is a tax grab for the wealthy. As a legislative body, your responsibility and obligation as a representative is to represent your constituents. Your constituents do NOT want education savings accounts!! Properly fund public schools by boosting the allotment to \$7500 per pupil. Then students will have the programming and opportunities they need!

Alinda Maxwell

Self

Sherman, TX

I oppose (vehemently).

Wendy Ashley, Principal

Springtown ISD

Springtown, TX

This voucher will kill public school education as well as the educators that pour into lives every day. This voucher program will also continue to run people out of public school education because of the lack of support. The voucher system will also kill TRS & the educators retirement system. I am in the midst of my 24th year of dedicated service to our students & the community. We need to fund our schools & staff to be able to create a successful future.

Debbie Wise

Self. Retired teacher.

Nacogdoches, TX

I am strongly against vouchers/ ie education savings accounts. Public schools need more financial and positive reinforcement. My own child has cerebral palsy and requires special education protections and supports. These are not available in private or charter schools. I believe tax dollars are to be used for public education. Period!

Leslie Truelove

Self/Marketing

Dallas, TX

Taking \$1 billion dollars out of public schools is a terrible idea. This argument about parents having a choice is a false narrative. Make Texas public schools the best they can be and there will be no need for private schools. Rural area if Texas don't even have private school options and private schools in big cities are so expensive this credit won't make a difference for the families that can afford it. Against.

Erin Lynds

Self/homemaker

Fort Worth, TX

This bill will cause irreparable harm to public schools. I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal impact presented. This is not a sound fiscal policy and will hurt already struggling public schools.

salvatory ndytabula

self

Wylie, TX

No to vouchers and no to SB3

Lydia Carrillo-Valdez

Retiree AFT

Leon Valley, TX

First, teachers pay needs to be separate and given automatically. It's actually backpay for missing those years from 2019 to now. When legislators come up with bills, they need to include all. HB3 only helps those who don't really need a school choice. They've already made their choice. It doesn't help children in rural areas. Be transparent and show taxpayers where their money really goes. You were voted to help your constituents, all of your constituents. Hold a Townhall meeting and see if this is what they want. Better yet, put it to a public vote like you all did with the TRS COLA.

Christy Tabor

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose vouchers. This bill does not serve all students, as not all kids will have access to private schools. Private schools do not have to accept students, and rural students do not have access to quality private education. This is effectively a handout to the wealthy already attending private schools. In addition, vouchers will negatively impact those students who stay in public schools by taking dollars from them. Instead of shifting dollars to private schools, fund our public schools and work on making them better for everyone. Vote no on SB 3 and fully fund public education.

Crystal Adams

Self

Teague, TX

Submission Against School Vouchers and HB3 in Texas

House Bill 3 (HB3), which proposes a voucher-like program to divert public funds to private schools, poses significant risks to Texas' public education system. Here's why we oppose it:

****1. Financial Impact on Public Schools****

- Texas already ranks among the bottom 10 states in per-student public education funding, with 91% of students attending underfunded schools[10].
- The voucher program is projected to cost \$4 billion by 2030, draining resources from public schools that rely on state funding based on attendance[9][10].
- In our district, where public schools are already struggling with budget deficits and teacher shortages, losing even a fraction of students to vouchers could result in severe financial setbacks.

****Example:**** If 100 students leave our district for private schools using vouchers, we could lose over \$1 million annually in funding, further straining resources for the remaining students.

****2. Disproportionate Benefits****

- Evidence from other states shows that voucher programs primarily benefit wealthier families already sending children to private schools[1][3].
- HB3 lacks income caps, meaning high-income families could disproportionately access these funds while lower-income families may still find private tuition unaffordable[2].

****3. Public Accountability and Equity****

- Private schools are not required to accept all students or adhere to the same accountability standards as public schools. This creates inequities and leaves vulnerable populations underserved[2][6].
- Our district serves a diverse student body, including special education and low-income students who would be left behind if public funds are diverted.

****4. Misplaced Priorities****

- While HB3 allocates billions for vouchers, proposals to increase per-student funding for public schools fall short of what is needed to address inflation and rising costs[4].
- Instead of experimenting with vouchers, Texas should focus on fully funding its public schools to ensure equitable education for all students.

****Conclusion****

HB3 undermines the foundation of public education in Texas by prioritizing private interests over the needs of the majority. We urge lawmakers to reject this bill and invest in strengthening our public school system.

Kaytee Shelburn

Self

Mansfield, TX

My child is a brain tumor survivor. Though she is alive, the tumor left her with physical and learning disabilities. She receives vision, orientation and mobility services, dyslexia services among a modified curriculum in the public high school. Vouchers will not provide the same free and appropriate education that the public school will. Stop funding private schools and start funding public schools. Allow my baby to be her best.

Kathy Mattox

Self, retired public school teacher

Cypress, TX

As a retired public school teacher, I vehemently oppose ESA or vouchers or whatever name you want to give it where our tax dollars pay for private schools. Properly fund public schools which serve 90% of students. Many rural areas do not have private schools nearby to choose from. Where are the accountability standards for private schools which are imposed on the underfunded public schools? This bill markets vouchers to help the poor and students with disabilities but tuition can be up to \$40,000 and often lack resources for special education. I say NO to any form of ESA or vouchers !

Amanda Thomas

Self, cyber security senior analyst

Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS & NO TO SB3

Thomas Russell

Self- engineer

McKinney, TX

I strongly do not support HB3. I want all Texas students to succeed, not a portion of schools. Vouchers are not the solution.

Sara Ross

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose school vouchers. Totally, completely, with my whole heart and soul. I OPPOSE school vouchers. Do NOT vote for school vouchers. Please vote AGAINST school vouchers. Thank you.

Sara Ross

Amber Carnell
Self, public educator
Palestine, TX
No HB3

My name is Amber Carnell, and I'm a resident and educator of Palestine, TX. I'm messaging you today to express my profound concerns about House Bill 3, which would create an Education Savings Account program and effectively divert public funds away from our public schools. HB3's promise of expanded school choice sounds appealing, but I fear it could lead to significant harm to our public education system, the bedrock of our community. We know that Palestine schools face budget challenges. HB3 will siphon off precious state funding, leaving our teachers, classrooms, and essential programs with less to work with. We need to support our public schools, not undermine them. Texas already has disparities in educational resources. HB3 will exacerbate this inequality by potentially enriching those who can afford private education, while leaving struggling families and students with fewer options. Public schools are accountable to our community. What assurances will we have for the use of public funds in the private sector if HB3 passes? We need transparency and accountability for these dollars to ensure that our public money isn't misused. Public schools are the heart of our town, bringing together families from diverse backgrounds and creating a strong sense of community. We need to invest in these institutions, not rip them apart. I urge you to think long and hard about the implications of HB3. Don't jeopardize the future of our public schools and the education of our children. Vote 'No' to House Bill 3.

Tammie Hartgroves
Texas NonUrban Rural Caucus and Democrats with Disabilities
Mcgregor, TX

My concern is how these bills will influence smaller, rural, and schools in economically disadvantaged communities/counties in Texas. Also, students with disabilities and special needs will be negatively affected by these bills. Lastly, qualified teachers will be leaving the field because funding to public schools will decrease.

Courtney Summers
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 (HB3), which is currently under consideration in the Texas House of Representatives. As a concerned citizen of Texas, I believe that the proposed legislation poses significant risks to the future of public education in our state and would have long-lasting, negative effects on both students and educators. One of my primary concerns with HB3 is its potential to reduce funding for our already under-resourced public schools. Education is the cornerstone of a prosperous society, and our state must invest in our schools to ensure that all students have access to high-quality education, regardless of their background or location. Reducing funding for public education under the guise of "reform" will only exacerbate the inequalities that exist between wealthy and low-income school districts. It will hurt the students who need the most support, especially those in marginalized communities. Additionally, I am deeply troubled by the lack of sufficient investment in teachers and school staff. Teachers are the backbone of our education system, yet many of them are already underpaid and overworked. HB3 fails to address the critical need for fair compensation, professional development, and improved working conditions for educators. By not adequately supporting teachers, we risk driving talented professionals out of the field, further harming the quality of education for our children. Furthermore, HB3's approach to funding and accountability could undermine the autonomy of local school districts, further centralizing decision-making in Austin. It is crucial that we allow local communities to determine the best course of action for their schools, based on their unique needs and challenges. Statewide mandates and funding restrictions limit the flexibility and innovation that local school districts should have in addressing the diverse needs of their students. I urge you to reconsider your support for HB3 and to advocate for policies that will genuinely invest in the future of our children, educators, and communities. Texas should prioritize equitable funding for all schools, fair compensation for teachers, and an education system that values and supports every student. Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will take my concerns seriously and consider the long-term impact of this legislation on our education system.

Lisa Mongoven, Dr.
Psychologist and self/parent
Flower Mound, TX

I am a parent and a psychologist in this state. I have had a large number of clients who have needed both special education and special accommodations through 504. To reallocate money in a way that harms access to these services is detrimental to the state and our children. Please reconsider.

Katiuska Herrador
self, Elementary School Principal
Hurst, TX

As a principal of a public school of choice in Arlington ISD, I strongly oppose HB 3, which establishes Educational Savings Accounts that divert taxpayer dollars to fund private education. These funds, which should be used to strengthen and support our public schools in Texas, are being redirected to private institutions that are not accountable to taxpayers and do not even accept all students and can turn away students with special needs. That is unacceptable. Public funds should stay in public schools, where they can benefit all students and help us continue to provide a high-quality education for every child. Strengthening public schools, which accept all children and are held to the highest standards, should be the norm and lifts an entire community up—stronger public schools=stronger communities. This bill, if passed, could severely impact schools like ours—highly popular public school choices that parents already rely on. It undermines the principles of equity, accountability, and accessibility that are central to the success of public education.

Krista Erbe
Self, self employed
Fort Worth, TX

As a Texas voter and taxpayer, I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 3 and any legislation supporting school vouchers in Texas. Public tax dollars should be used exclusively for the public good, and that means fully funding our public schools—not diverting critical resources to private entities that are not held to the same standards of transparency or accountability.

Texas public schools educate the vast majority of our children, serving as the backbone of our communities and economy. Instead of vouchers, I ask you to prioritize robust funding for public education to ensure every child—regardless of zip code—has access to a quality education. I implore you to use all your influence and resources in helping to release the over \$4.5 billion that has been set aside for our schools without tying it to a voucher system the majority of Texans do not want.

Please stand with Texas families and vote against any proposals that weaken our public school system. Your leadership on this issue will help secure a brighter future for all Texans.

Thank you for your time and commitment to serving our community.

Sherry York
Self Retired Teacher/Librarian
Norton, TX

I absolutely oppose this bill which will destroy education in the rural communities of Texas.

Julie Wilganowski
Self- public school teacher
Waller, TX

I am a current public school teacher at a Title 1 school in Waller. I have been teaching in public school for 20 years and also spent a few years teaching at a private school. This voucher program will negatively impact every public school student and teacher in this entire state. How can you morally say that a private school student deserves more funding than a public school student? The majority of the families that will benefit from this are already sending their kids to private school. They can clearly afford to pay for school already and this bill basically just gives them \$10,000 extra while the students that need it the most are not being helped. Texas needs to do better. The funds have been held hostage for long enough. We are losing teachers every year due to lack of pay and support. We are in the middle of an educational crisis and this will only exacerbate the situation. Please do NOT pass this bill. Our public schools, students and teacher cannot survive this. We deserve better. Every child deserves adequate funding. Fund your public schools now!

Brittany Lehning
McMillan Junior High School PTA
Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS' & "NO TO SB3

Matthew McCullough
Self
Red Oak, TX

As an educator for 15+ years, I am on the front lines. We, one of the wealthiest states in the country, have been underfunding public education my entire career. As of late, we have been held hostage in efforts to pass this voucher scam. Yet, we are still trying to do what is best for kids. Imagine if we invested in public education? Spent the money necessary to put us in the top ten in the nation. We could knock down so many barriers for these kids. Lower class sizes. You name it. And then the second is investing in teachers, retaining teachers, and recruiting teachers. Nobody wants to be a teacher any more and who could blame them!?! The way no one wants to listen to our opinion (when we are the experts in the field) but then blame us with the results they get. Yet there are some of us holding the torch in the darkness waiting for the state to come to its senses. Texas already has school choice. Fund public education. Invest in teachers. Don't provide welfare to the wealthy.

Zachariah Morford
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I could not be more opposed to this bill and the thought of taking money from public schools. Public schools are the very heart of the American dream and sacrificing that funding for the unregulated use of private schools is a travesty to the hard working people of Texas.

Audrey Desjardins
self
Cedar Park, TX

I urge you to oppose school vouchers in Texas, as they divert crucial public funds away from our already underfunded public schools, weakening the education system for the majority of students. Instead of improving education, vouchers primarily benefit private institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards, leaving students and taxpayers vulnerable. Public dollars should remain in public schools, ensuring that every child—regardless of background or zip code—receives a quality education. Please stand with Texas families and educators by rejecting school vouchers and investing in our public school system.

Lorilee Bland

Self

Eules, TX

NO to vouchers or educational savings accounts. This ploy to slowly demolish public schools, for God knows what end, has got to stop. No tax dollars to private schools or to homeschoolers make public schools better by spending an adequate amount of money on our children and our future.

Lonnie Link

Self, self employed

Sugar Land, TX

Absolutely NOT!!!

Virginia Teguns

Texas Parent

Dallas, TX

Please help our public schools to receive the funds they need to help mold our future generation!

Lourdes Gonzalez

Self

Fort Worth, TX

No, no, and absolutely no to school vouchers, HB 3. I am a taxpayer and lifelong Texas resident. I strongly oppose school vouchers in any form. I oppose them now and always. Do not defund our public school system!

Blair Johnson

Myself and public schools

Katy, TX

I would like to express my concerns regarding the proposed School Choice bill. This legislation is not in the best interest of my children, or any child attending public schools. In fact, I believe it has the potential to severely undermine the public school system, which seems to be the intended goal of Governor Greg Abbott.

It is important to consider the impact on less fortunate families. How is it equitable to divert resources away from public schools, which serve the majority of children, to private institutions? This bill fails to address the lack of accountability in private schools, where standards and oversight are often limited compared to the public education system.

As a taxpayer, I strongly oppose my tax dollars being redirected to benefit the wealthy, particularly when our public education system is in dire need of more investment. All children, regardless of their background, deserve a quality education. Governor Abbott's approach does not reflect the needs or interests of all Texas children.

The best option for the future of Texas is to prioritize equitable funding for public schools and to hold private institutions to the same standards of accountability. Statistically, the proposed legislation is a misguided move, and it appears to serve the interests of the wealthy elite rather than the broader community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind Regards,

Blair Johnson

Lex-Anne Vogel

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Oppose

Charlene Rodriguez Lane

self

Cypress, TX

Please do NOT support/vote for vouchers and politicize Texas children and their education. Help fund PUBLIC education in Texas instead. Support Texas public educators, administrators, and school districts with the funding needed to keep up with ever increasing demands. The children are OUR future and they deserve a free, safe, and high quality education. The current governor has had YEARS and YEARS to better and take action to improve our public schools but hasn't. Do NOT vote vouchers for the sake of our Texas public educators, admins, school districts, and CHILDREN.

Laure Owens

Retired Teachers

Spring Branch, TX

Vote AGAINST sending my tax dollars to private schools.

Kelsey Johnson

Self, graphic designer

Sugar Land, TX

I realize there is tremendous pressure to pass this bill, but do not compromise your integrity and duty to properly fund public education. This bill is antithetical to fair access to education for our children. For over 40 years, I've lived in both rural and urban communities in Texas. My family chose to homeschool when I was in elementary, then one year of private Christian school and the remaining years in public school. As a mom, my children have attended magnet public school and also participated in GT programs. I believe that the state of Texas should continue to uphold the strength of its public schools and invest wholeheartedly in their future. The government's long-term strategy for our state's economic and academic success ought to be the bolstering of public education. As a taxpayer, I do not want to subsidize wealthy residents' private school tuition. Quality education at every public school in Texas is possible and should be what we are all striving to provide. Expend your energies on that effort rather than forfeiting public dollars to the pockets of private schools with little oversight. How is that fiscally responsible and in the public's interest? Thank you for your wisdom and attention to this pivotal vote.

Donna Hill

Self

Amarillo, TX

It concerns me greatly that we're not learning from others mistakes when it comes to ESAs (vouchers). Texas could be at the forefront of education, but instead we're going to have a citizenry of poorly educated individuals who will be a strain on the systems of Texas government. Why would any Texan want this? With this plan, parents will be pulling their children in and out of schooling throughout the year. As a former teacher now retired, I've seen it happen. Parents don't like what's happening at their public school so they put their child in private school until the "three strikes you're out" takes affect. They then homeschool them until they see that isn't working and they again enroll them back in public school. The public schools then take the blame for these students being so far behind. State governments never look at these types of scenarios that are so often the case. Public schools see this all the time, and it will continue to happen under this plan. The only difference will be the loss of funding. Private schools will benefit greatly! They will lose nothing! After they dismiss students, they keep the funds, and who cares where they go from there. And homeschooling, how are you truly going to determine the funds are being used appropriately in that case? The numbers of children we currently see roaming the streets and parks during the day is disturbing. And yes, I've asked enough to know they're supposedly being homeschooled. Oh why is the government of Texas being so unkind to the children of Texas when it comes to their education and future?

We need someone to be brave enough to say, this isn't the way, and your money will not sway me.

Anastasia Armstreet

Self

Canton, TX

As a 16 year educator I cannot oppose vouchers enough. Instead of stripping away public education we should be pouring into it. We've been begging for years for changes to testing, better pay, and better support to be successful. If those things would finally be met we could push public education in the right direction.

All students, regardlessly of where they live or their socioeconomic status should be able to receive quality education. Not putting more money into title 1, rural schools will leave more students behind and widen the gap in academic achievement between the "haves and have-nots."

As someone who works with low socioeconomic students daily, I urge you to rethink the best way to spend this money. Should it really go to the already wealthy or could it be better used being allocated to those who cannot control their living environments and need more support from their neighborhood school.

Jessica Kingman

Self, self-employed

AUSTIN, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers in Texas.

Melanie Williamson

Self - accountant

Austin, TX

I'm opposed to this bill and to using public money in the form of vouchers for private school. Public education is a community good and should be fully funded, not impoverished for the benefit of the wealthy.

Ed Garza

Self

San Antonio, TX

I'm opposed to HB 3.

Public funds should only fund Public Schools. Any school receiving Public fund should be held accountable under the same enrollment and accountability standards.

Any diversion of public funds to private schools should require a public state wide referendum with 2/3 voter approval.

Scott Donald, Dr

Self

Austin, TX

No. This is total bullshit to spend our taxpayer dollars on a voucher system. I and everyone I know is against this bill.

Deborah Chavez

self; retired

Buda, TX

The voucher plan laid out in HB3 will funnel taxpayer dollars to private schools. State tax dollars must not be diverted from public to private schools - period. I oppose this bill and any plan that will use tax dollars to pay private school tuition. This is clearly a give away to people who can already afford to send their children to private schools. With this bill they get to do so at a discount. Meanwhile, the vast majority of children who attend public schools suffer. Low income families, even with vouchers, will not be able to afford private school tuition and all the other expenses involved - uniforms, fees, transportation, etc. I urge to to vote NO to vouchers. Not NO on HB 3.

Mari Ward

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote against this bill. It creates the illusion of choice but does nothing to guarantee that a parent's choice for their child will be fulfilled. It offers a chance, not a choice. Ultimately, the true decision-maker in this system is not the parent, but the private school.

Caroline Saucedo

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please provide more funding for public schools. We need a more equitable system and school vouchers are not it.

Catherine Casey

Self

Georgetown, TX

i am writing to express my firm opposition to any funding for school vouchers. Taxpayer dollars need to go toward adequately funding PUBLIC schools, not private schools. Vouchers hurt our neighborhood schools and our rural communities.

Marieta Hutchison, Mrs.

Self - Retired Teacher

San Marcos, TX

I implore you to vote NO on HB 3. HB 3 will damage public school financing and most of the children in Texas will suffer for it, as well as our public school teachers and staff. As a retired public school teacher who supports public schools, please do what is right for the right to be educated. Support our public schools. Vote NO on HB 3. Marieta Hutchison, MEd

Martha Enns

Self/ homeschool mom

Seminole, TX

Hello, my name is Martha. I am writing regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to ask you as committee to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing school choice legislation like HB 3. Thank you!

Nancy Nicolas

self - attorney and PTA volunteer

Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Nancy Nicolas and I am a constituent in zip code 78735. I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 3. I am asking my Representative and this Committee to vote no and to instead fully fund public education. We already have meaningful school choice in Texas - what we need are resources so that our public schools can deliver the education that each child in Texas deserves, and that which has already been mandated, with accountability and due process ensuring that delivery. We do not need resources for privatized schools to thrive with no or little accountability to the public. I don't believe proponents of this bill can point to any examples of similar laws in other states achieving any of the objectives that are the supposed motivation for this bill. To the contrary, voucher systems like this are a failed experiment, and if this bill moves forward, this will predictably harm more families than it helps. Thank you.

Abigail Baiza
Teacher
San Antonio, TX

As a teacher in Texas, I strongly oppose public school vouchers for several key reasons:

1. Diverts Funding from Public Schools

Public school vouchers take taxpayer money that should be used to improve public schools and redirect it to private schools. Texas public schools already struggle with underfunding, and vouchers would further reduce resources for students who remain in public schools.

2. Lack of Accountability

Public schools are subject to strict state standards, testing, and accountability measures to ensure quality education. Private schools that accept vouchers are not held to the same standards, meaning taxpayer money could fund schools that do not meet public education requirements.

3. Benefits the Few at the Expense of the Many

Vouchers often do not cover the full cost of private school tuition, making them inaccessible for many low-income families. Instead, they primarily benefit families who can already afford private school, while leaving most students behind in struggling public schools.

4. Weakens Rural Schools

Rural areas in Texas often lack private school options, meaning vouchers would not benefit most rural students. Instead, they would drain resources from public schools that are the only educational option in many communities.

5. Violates the Principle of Separation of Church and State

Many private schools receiving voucher funds are religiously affiliated, raising concerns about public tax dollars funding religious education. This blurs the line between church and state, which is protected under the U.S. Constitution.

6. Fails to Improve Educational Outcomes

Research shows that voucher programs do not lead to better academic outcomes. In states with established voucher systems, students who use vouchers often perform worse or no better than their public school peers. Public education should focus on strengthening public schools, not funding alternatives that don't work.

7. Increases Inequities in Education

Vouchers allow private schools to select students, which can lead to discrimination against students with special needs, disabilities, or language barriers. Public schools must serve all students, while private schools can reject those who don't meet their criteria.

Conclusion: Invest in Public Schools, Not Vouchers

Rather than diverting funds to a system that lacks accountability and increases inequality, Texas should invest in public education—raising teacher salaries, funding special education, reducing class sizes, and improving school infrastructure. Our focus should be on making public schools the best choice for all Texas children, rather than funding a system that only helps a select few.

Abigail Baiza, Teacher from a Title 1 school, 11 years. Mother of 2 public school children. Wife of public school teacher. Keep funding the schools that take in every kid, any circumstance. Education is the stepping stone out of poverty!!

Susan Hurta, Mrs

Self

Houston, TX

To whom it may concern,

I am fundamentally against the current proposal for the education savings account program. As a retired special education teacher and administrator, there are some major red flags that pop up concerning students with disabilities.

1. The savings amount granted per student is more than the allocated amount given per student to the public schools- this is not equitable or fair.
2. Private institutions do not have to accept these students, or keep these students if they have difficulties after acceptance. If a student starts at a private school, and then is asked to leave, does the money then move with them, or does the private school absorb it all? When students aren't accepted, do the public schools then get the full savings amount or just the allocated public school per student amount?
3. In my professional capacity, working with parents, students, other administrators, teachers, advocates and attorneys, I often saw students return to the public schools from the private sector further behind than when they left. This can be attributed to different scenarios, including: a. Private schools are not required to follow individual education plans; b. Private schools often do not and/or cannot accommodate to meet the individual needs of a student with disabilities; c. The private schools were not able to provide additional staff to meet the needs of the students, including as an example- occupational therapy, speech therapy or assistive technology devices.
4. The private schools do not have all of the resources that school districts provide.

Whereas; some specialty schools may work well for this population, most private schools do not fall into this category. After 36 years advocating for this community, and working closely to accelerate the learning process so that these students could lead productive lives, my concerns are not political but genuine based on my many years of experience in the field. Please take the time to consider my concerns. I am a proud native Houstonian and Texan, and would like to ensure a successful future for all of our students, including students with disabilities. Please do not fail them.

Sincerely,

Susan Joachim Hurta

Erin Bendlin

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Please vote AGAINST school vouchers. This will not help public education. Students will see larger class sizes. Teachers will be even more stressed out with what they have going on. This will not help Texas as a whole. Vote No to Vouchers

Heidi Shanklin-Spock

self, retired, and have grandchildren in public school system

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3. I am a long-time taxpayer in the State of Texas, and I do not want taxpayer dollars to be used to fund private school vouchers, which will only support the wealthy children who attend private schools. Texas public schools should be fully funded -- it is the right thing to do! I support an increase to funding public schools at the amount of \$1300/student, or more, if possible. It is past time to totally fund Texas public schools and funding can be accomplished by using a portion of the Rainy Day Fund. Please fully fund Texas public schools!

Ashlee Neumann

Self

Austin, TX

As a soon-to-be parent in Texas, I once felt immense pride in raising my children here. However, after eight years of watching the systematic underfunding of our public schools, I am deeply concerned about the direction of education policy in our state. House Bill 3, the latest push for a private school voucher program, is yet another attempt to dismantle public education in favor of private interests—and I strongly oppose it.

Texas has the resources to lead the nation in education, yet our leaders refuse to fully fund our public schools, even while sitting on one of the largest rainy day funds in the country. Instead of strengthening our public education system, HB 3 would divert critical taxpayer dollars to private and charter schools that are not held to the same accountability standards. These schools are not required to serve all students, including those with special needs, and they do not have to hire certified teachers. Meanwhile, public school districts, like Austin ISD, are being forced to make devastating cuts—\$92 million over three years—just to keep their doors open.

The Texas Legislature must take real action to support our public schools:

Reject HB 3 and any future voucher programs that siphon public funds into private and charter schools.

Fully fund public education by using available state resources to ensure schools can provide high-quality instruction and support for all students.

Prioritize teacher certification and accountability to maintain high standards in every Texas classroom, ensuring all students receive the education they deserve.

End the financial strain on public schools by revising the school funding formula and addressing the recapture system that forces districts to make drastic budget cuts.

Texas students deserve a well-funded, high-quality public education—not a system that prioritizes private interests over public good. I urge you to stand against HB 3 and commit to strengthening our public schools.

Becki Robledo

Self

Buda, TX

School vouchers will hurt our public schools, our communities, and ultimately, our entire state. Instead of investing in the public education system that serves the vast majority of Texas children, vouchers divert critical funding away, weakening our schools and shortchanging our students.

If Governor Abbott continues to underfund public education, Texas will face long-term consequences—lower economic productivity, higher poverty and crime rates, and reduced civic engagement. A strong public education system benefits everyone, driving a prosperous economy and a more informed, engaged society.

I urge you to stand against school vouchers and fight for full funding of our public schools. Texas students deserve better!

Aubrey Johnson

Self

Cedar Hill, TX

Dear Representative,

As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want an Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) Program. I pay my public tax dollars and, therefore, want my money to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Public school funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had inflation of over 20%. Our children and all the educators, and staff, deserve to have the funding. To be clear, I want to reiterate the following:

- I do NOT want vouchers/ESAs.
- I support an Increase of the Basic Allotment.
- I support Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Again, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Aubrey S. Johnson

Kerrigan Manganaro

Self

Cedar park, TX

NO

Meredith Bell, Mrs

self

Pearland, TX

My name is Meredith Bell and I have been an educator in Texas for 24 years. 23 of those have been in the same district, a Title 1 district in east Harris County. I want to address HB 3 with a very honest question. Who does it benefit? Because it won't benefit me. My family and I are middle class Texans. My husband is a plumber and I work in education and \$10,000 for each one of my kids would do nothing for us. In Houston, there are very few affordable private schools. Most start over \$20,000. Even with the ESA, we still would not be able to afford private school for our kids. We also wouldn't be able to transport our kids to and from school, because we work, nor would we be able to afford all of the extras that lie outside of tuition. I have exceptional children, athletic, smart, musically talented, etc. but there is also no guarantee that they would be admitted to one of the very exclusive private schools in the Houston area. So, once again, who does this benefit?

On the east side of Houston, there are not any quality private schools. So, if \$10,000 can't help me, how will a low-income family really afford private school? I predict a number of 'questionable' private schools will pop up in places like deserted grocery stores and old churches. They will prey on families with kids who want an easy way out and don't want to take tests or abide by certain public school rules. They will take these families money and give their kids a diploma. They won't teach them anything since they aren't bound by any rules or expectations set by the state. They will take money from our public schools, where students are getting a true education, and give them to someone who only does it for profit. Real educators aren't in it for the money. Next year, the district where I work will close an elementary school. This is a community school that is being shuttered due to decreasing enrollment and a lack of funding. This will be commonplace if money continues to be withheld or given away.

As opposed to this bill as I am, I think I could live with it if my public school kids were worth the same amount as a private school kid. Why does the state deem them less worthy? I have listened to hearings on finances and I know you all want us to hear that the funding comes in different ways but why does it need to be hidden? Give us \$10,000 per student, whether they are present that day or not, and let us do our jobs. Hold the private schools accountable to the same rules that we abide by - certified teachers, educate EVERY student, standardized testing, funding based on attendance, Special Education laws, etc. Give us all the same amount of money and require the same things.

I sincerely hope that you really listen to educators and Texans on this issue. We know what we're doing and we know how this will effect our students, communities, and schools. The only thing we don't know is who does this really benefit?

Tanya Johnson

Self

Cedar Hill, TX

Dear Representative,

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- I support an Increase of the Basic Allotment.
- I support Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Again, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Tanya J Johnson

Nancy Mossman, Rev.

self

Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of an education savings account program.

Tasnim Lat, Dr.

Self/physician

Temple, TX

I do not support the public school voucher program; I live in a rural area that will be severely impacted

Anna Peters

self

The Colony, TX

ESA program is set to cost \$4.2 billion in a few years and it may help 100K kids. The average funding amount per student will be \$42,000 vs. public schools that serve 5.5 million students would get \$17,454 per child on average. It's not equitable.

Just like we pay public tax dollars to our cities, if we chose to not use the city rec centers, we don't get a coupon from them for a country club. Or if we decide to order books on Amazon instead of borrowing them from the Public Library, we don't get a refund. Our public dollars should not be going to private entities, especially when those entities are not required to follow the same standards and unfunded regulations the legislature has placed on public schools.

Furthermore, it's difficult to support this when there is no state assessment or requirements, no special ed programs offered, no free transportation, free breakfast or lunch. These would be only high achieving, high and high middle-class students whose education outcomes would naturally be higher than those of other income levels.

It's a fiscally irresponsible program.

Deborah Phillips

Self, retired

Amarillo, TX

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my opinion and thoughts on school vouchers. I raised 3 children that attended public school in Texas. They received good education here. I am concerned that a voucher program will take funds from public schools and seriously weaken the education system. Policy changes like vouchers will diminish public education in rural areas, especially those where there are few private school options. Many parents cannot afford to supplement the voucher for expensive private schools. A weaker public education system means a less capable Texas. Please do not establish a voucher system. Thank you.

Leslie Milford
Self, Educator
Levelland, TX

As a public education advocate, teacher, and parent, I strongly oppose House Bill 3 and its push for an education savings account (ESA) program. This bill threatens to divert essential public funds from our schools, funneling taxpayer dollars into private and unregulated educational institutions. Instead of strengthening public education, HB 3 undermines its foundation by prioritizing a program that benefits a select few while leaving the majority of students behind.

From a public education perspective, the establishment of an ESA program weakens the financial stability of our schools. Public schools rely on consistent funding to maintain quality instruction, support services, and extracurricular programs. By redirecting state education dollars to private and homeschooling options without accountability, HB 3 erodes the resources available to students in public classrooms, especially those in rural and underfunded districts.

As a teacher, I see how policies like this directly harm students. When funding is siphoned away through ESAs, schools face larger class sizes, fewer support staff, and cuts to essential programs. This ultimately hurts the students who need the most support—those with disabilities, English language learners, and children from low-income families. Teachers are already struggling with inadequate resources, and HB 3 would make providing a high-quality education to every child harder.

As a parent, I want my child—and all children—to have access to a well-funded, strong public education system. ESAs prioritize individual choice at the expense of the greater good, leaving public schools to suffer while taxpayer money supports unregulated private institutions with no guarantee of quality or equity. Public education should be a public good, not a system weakened by policies that divert funding without oversight or accountability.

For the sake of our students, teachers, and public education system, I urge lawmakers to oppose House Bill 3 and reject the establishment of an education savings account program. Instead, we must invest in strengthening public schools and ensuring that every child—regardless of background or zip code—has access to a quality education.

Robyn Lynch, Mrs.
Self
Hutto, TX

I'm the mother of 4 Texas public school students, spouse of a Texas public school teacher, and am the PTSA president of a high performing high school in Round Rock ISD. At it's core, if we say this bill is to give PARENTS choice, we need to acknowledge then that this should be given to a popular vote. If you want our opinion, ask us at the polls, not in some House Bill that has been pushed by billionaires with a superiority complex. The problem is, the Texas legislature knows it would simply NOT pass if left to a public vote. The Texas legislature members and the billionaires who are funneling money into the pockets of crooked political leaders to pass this do NOT speak for me. I speak for myself and I speak for the children who have no voice yet. In that, I do NOT support any kind of education savings account program.

It goes without saying that not all parents know what's best for their children, but that doesn't mean that those children shouldn't get a fair shot at a decent life with a basic public education just because their parents are inept, or cruel. And the children of more well-off families do not deserve MORE simply because they were born with more. Private education is NOT held to the same TEKS as public schools are and is not bound to the same hiring constraints for teachers as public schools are.

We will be heard. Education is a RIGHT, not a privilege.

Anna Ousley
Texas Public School Teachers
Orange, TX

As a voting, tax-paying teacher in Texas, I ask you to vote no on any voucher bill, including HB 3: ATPE opposes any voucher program, including a tuition tax credit, education savings account, or any other such program that would direct public funds to private, home, or for-profit virtual schools.

Alan Vorwald

Self, Financial Advisor

Dallas, TX

This is the most important bill the House and Senate will consider this year. One of the most important issues facing Texans today is wealth inequality. This bill begins to solve this issue by ensuring that every child gets an opportunity for a good education, giving them an chance to get a good job to end the cycle of poverty. Additionally, by bringing free market solutions to education, we ensure that out-performing schools and teachers will be rewarded, and that underperformers will have to recognize their faults and improve. This bill will empower parents to choose the best option for their children, rather than being assigned to a chronically underperforming school due to the location of their home.

Detractors will say that this bill might cause their local school to be underfunded in the short term as Charter School competitors spring up around them. But this objection only means that their school was not competitive--it can reverse the trend by becoming competitive again. Ultimately, public school unions fear their monopoly over state-funded schools will be harmed by this bill. Like sunshine, this bill will shed light on both the good and the bad of the school union monopolies. New, innovative local competition will copy the advantages and avoid the disadvantages. Both the incumbent and the start-up will have to improve to survive.

In short, if a Texas legislator considers what is best for the student, and the voting parent, they will vote for this bill. If, instead, the legislator sides with public school unions which fund their re-election campaigns, then they will be giving up on the student and the parent. In the short term, that may help re-election campaigns. But in the long term, it hurts Texas, her growth prospects, and her children.

I urge you to vote for Education Savings Accounts, HB 3, and the future of Texas!

Amy Conine

Self

Corinth, TX

I oppose this bill. The bill does not address funding on attendance versus enrollment, and thus is not equitable to funding for public school options.

Alison Amaro

Self/Teacher

San Antonio, TX

I have been an elementary public school teacher for 13 years. My passion in life is to engage and empower all of my students to reach their academic goals as well as to teach them to be kinder to others each and every day. In my classroom I have students that are truly from all walks of life (some receive free and reduced lunch, some are in the 1% of wealth, some have disabilities) and throughout the year they learn the beauty of community and how to care for one another. We need our community and our leaders to support the important work that is being done in public schools. Our public schools need to be fully funded. Texas ranks in the bottom 10 states in the country for education spending by several measures, including the report by the Albert Shanker Institute, the University of Miami and Rutgers University. The basic allotment should be adjusted to address the inflation that all of us are experiencing as well as the increase safety measures and insurance premiums that have been put on our districts. I attended private schools from kindergarten to college. There are some great private schools, but there are also private schools that are not great. Across the board they do not serve every child. They do not adapt to address the specific needs of individual children. They are not even accessible to most children in Texas. They are therefore not a better option. We need to fully fund public schools that do serve every child before we consider doing anything else. Thank you.

Suzi Kennon
Self
Sachse, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3 because it diverts essential funding away from Texas public schools, which serve 5.4 million children and are already critically underfunded and heavily regulated. Instead of allocating public funds to a select group of students attending private institutions with no state accountability, we should prioritize strengthening and supporting the families and children who rely on Texas public schools.

Our public education system is facing unprecedented challenges. Teachers and students are overburdened and under-supported, and HB 3 exacerbates these issues by directing taxpayer dollars away from public schools. While Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) are presented as a way to expand school choice, the reality is that they leave many students behind, particularly: Students with disabilities, who are not guaranteed access to private schools or the same legal protections they receive in public schools.

Middle- and lower-income students, for whom ESA funds are insufficient to cover private school tuition and additional costs such as transportation, books, and participation fees.

Rural students, who often have little or no access to private schools, rendering ESAs meaningless for their education.

No Texas child should be left behind due to policies that further strain an already underfunded system. ESAs deplete public school resources, limiting the ability of our constitutionally required education system to provide a suitable and equitable education for all students.

The state's priority should be to fully fund public education, ensure teachers receive professional-level compensation, and invest in resources that benefit all students—not to divert funds into a voucher system that disproportionately benefits a few while weakening the foundation of public education. Texans deserve a public school system that is strong, well-funded, and capable of meeting the needs of every child.

Kelly Jarrell
Personal
Austin, TX

I do NOT support vouchers for education. I do NOT support the dismantling of the Department of Education. I DO support quality public education for ALL children. That is the BEST investment for our future.

Anne Williams
RRISD Family
Round Rock, TX

Support the Texas public school system and keep public funds in public schools!

Karen Sterling
"self" "retired"
Cedar Creek, TX

Dear Rep. Gerdes, as you are WELL aware, there IS no charter, private, or parochial school alternative "choice" in either Smithville, or Cedar Creek. Our options are public school, or home school. So please do NOT vote to rob our public schools for your elitist voucher scam. Thank you!

Rebecca Beck

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Education Committee:

Please do not vote HB 3 out of committee. Our students deserve fully funded public schools, not a system that siphons public tax dollars to 1.8% of the student population. It is not fiscally responsible nor does it align with fiscal conservative values. How will the education savings accounts be funded in the future? Why are you ok with spending that much money on so few students?

I am the parent of a child who receives special education services. Our public schools provide services for my child like speech therapy, dyslexia intervention and ADHD accommodations. What private schools in Texas offer these services and would take my child? How many available spots are there for students with disabilities? You need to provide a list as a resource for parents.

Prove your assertion that you want to give students with disabilities a "choice."

A better option is to competitively fund our public schools. Don't let Texas be at the bottom of state funding dollars in this country. Our kids deserve well funded public schools. Texas could be a great driver of innovation if we invested in our students.

Imagine the possibilities if we didn't have to worry about budget deficits!

How would you vote if you were beholden to our kids and no one else? Stop HB 3—Texan students deserve it.

Roger Paulsel

Self - retired

Weatherford, TX

I am against a school voucher program if it would take away funding from public schools - and I feel certain that it would take away funding. If the reason to promote vouchers is to get away from poorly performing schools, a better solution would be to fund school improvements.

Helen Berrott-Timsb

Goose Creek ISD, Board of Trustee

Baytown, TX

All Texas school district's public schools are underfunded. I want my tax dollars to go to the public schools. I oppose private school vouchers.

Amanda Ritchie

Alex Sanger Preparatory PTA

Dallas, TX

As a proud public school parent and a PTA Board member at Alex Sanger Preparatory in Dallas ISD, I urge you to vote NO on HB3 and reject private school vouchers.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, serving all children regardless of background, ability, or income. Texas already underfunds its public schools, ranking near the bottom nationally in per-student spending. Diverting taxpayer dollars to private schools—many of which are not required to serve all students, follow state accountability standards, or provide special education services—will only worsen the challenges facing our public school system.

At a time when our public schools are struggling with teacher shortages, outdated materials, and rising costs, we need to increase the basic allotment by at least \$1,300 per student to cover inflation. Texas schools have not seen a meaningful funding increase since 2019, while costs for teacher salaries, utilities, and classroom resources have skyrocketed. Instead of using public funds for private school vouchers, we must invest in our public schools so they can continue providing high-quality education for all students.

I urge you to stand with Texas families and educators by fully funding public education instead of subsidizing private school tuition. Vote NO on HB3. Our kids, teachers, and communities are counting on you.

Yolanda Bazan, Mrs.

Self

Edinburg, TX

Fully fund and protect public Texas schools! I am a retired Texas public school educator and school counselor who served for 25 years. I can tell you firsthand that Texas and our McAllen School District does an amazing job providing the best professional development (teacher training) for our teachers and staff. Every year, teachers attend a variety of trainings on reading comprehension, math problem solving, creative writing and science inquiry. The teachers are at the top of their game with the latest pedagogy instruction on how to teach students effectively. In the classrooms, students are actively engaged in a variety of learning modes. For examples, kids use their ipads for reading and science, they use manipulatives for math, they collaboratively work in groups and in every classroom there is a Promethean board to facilitate learning. Our school also has a science lab where students attended daily to reinforce science concepts. There is so much learning and excitement in the classrooms! Students also attend library, P.E. and guidance lessons (that's me!) on a weekly schedule. Our librarian reads stories to our kids and plans different centers in addition to checking out their library books. During guidance lessons, I read stories on positive self esteem, identifying and managing emotions, career & college awareness, empathy and social skills. We role-played scenarios, practiced being respectful during conflict, listened with empathy and always encouraged each other. Our public schools, teachers & staff make an impact of our kids' learning and development. Let's continuing improving our public schools! <3

Rebecca Duncan, Mrs.

Self

Tyler, TX

I am against HB3 by Buckley. Tax payer monies and any surplus money should be used to enhance Texas public schools, not private schools.

Cally Murray

Self and public school children

Austin, TX

Funding for our public schools is already completely inefficient and lacking, it is so important to keep funding public education so all children can be educated by qualified professionals. Driving out more families by funding vouchers will cripple our communities in Austin and continue to disparege those at highest risk. Do not support the funding of private school education.

Laurie Marshall

Self/Non-profit Program Manager

El Paso, TX

To My Representatives, I stand firmly against the Education Savings Account program. It sucks resources from public education and is not enough money to serve anyone but the wealthiest people of our state. The average cost of private school in Texas is \$11,000. To make an equitable opportunity, everyone should get that amount in their savings account, which is not happening in this bill. Let us raise the support of children in Texas by paying the teachers more. Finland, Singapore and Japan pay their teachers as much as doctors. Their youth have outstanding success and test way above the United States.

I am against taking \$1 billion from Texas taxpayers and giving it to wealthy families who are already sending their kids to private schools. This will come at the expense of public school education, especially in rural and remote counties (more than 150 Texas counties don't have a private school to send their children to, even if they could afford the difference between what the voucher pays and what tuition costs!).

Thomas Jefferson said that "Education is the handmaiden of democracy." There are too many forces trying to destroy democracy in our country. This bill is another one of the those forces.

Children are our nation's greatest resource. Fund public education.

Cassandra Morris
Self, Medical Coder
Mesquite, TX

I urge you to vote NO on school vouchers, as they would harm our public education system. By diverting taxpayer funds to private institutions, vouchers could lead to public school closures, especially in underserved areas, leaving many children without access to reliable education.

Vouchers also threaten funding for programs supporting students with disabilities, low-income families, and those needing academic assistance, as private schools aren't required to provide such services. This would disadvantage vulnerable students and widen the gap between wealthy and underprivileged children.

Additionally, budget cuts caused by vouchers could lead to layoffs of teachers and staff, further weakening public education. Privatizing education risks turning quality education into a privilege rather than a right, undermining the foundation of equal opportunity.

Public education is vital to our democracy and serves millions of children. Please protect it by voting NO on school vouchers and investing in stronger public schools.

Respectfully, Cassandra

Melissa Balsman
Self
Dallas, TX

Vote NO to vouchers!

Raleigh Hart
Self, attorney
Arlington, TX

I would like to provide a comment against House Bill 3. Taxpayers have felt a steep tax hike when it comes to funding for their independent school districts. This is a price that I, and many of my fellow neighbors and Texas residents, are happy to bear because of our shared belief in contributing to the public good. Texas schools have approximately 5.5 million students enrolled in grades K-12. The proposed "school choice" voucher program aims to give 100,000 students \$10,000 toward private school education. That is \$1 billion in taxpayer funds going toward less than 2% of the students in Texas.

I urge our representatives to not lose sight of the promises and freedoms that are so fundamental in America—liberty, justice, and equality for all. One of the main reasons why America has been viewed as a leader of the free world and as a model of democracy across the globe is because of its strength in its institutions. We are entering an era where people are being urged to look at their government and public institutions with skepticism and distrust. That type of dangerous propaganda threatens to dismantle so many of the things that have made this country one that people are proud to be a part of. We should not lose sight of the importance of education, and the value that public education brings to us as a society. The children sitting in our public schools are our future doctors, attorneys, politicians, teachers, scientists, etc. Each of these children deserve the chance to learn and better themselves. If this bill passes, it will weaken public school institutions, and move money that belongs to all Texas children into the hands of less than 2% of children getting an education in our state.

Let us not pretend that "school choice" has never existed before this. Texas already has school choice. Parents are free to decide if they would like for their children to go to public school, private school, or home school. However, the price that comes with choosing to send a child to private school should not be one that the public bears, nor is it what the public has agreed to be taxed for.

Jessica Harville

Self

Allen, TX

We do not want vouchers we want what is best for our students and school. Texas education is at a low and we are not doing what we need to do in our own schools. Why would we send funds to private?

Renee Shively

self

Austin, TX

I am writing in opposition of HB 3. I am a mother to two young children who will be entering Kindergarten soon. It is essential for a first world country that all of its children have access to a good and free school with low teacher/ student ratios, extracurricular activities, disability services, and happy, well paid teachers. Texas was always known for having well funded, top rated public schools. That has changed since Republicans took over this state and started defunding our schools. Vouchers for private schools will only further defund our public schools and raise our student teacher ratios. The vast majority of our state's children will get an even worse education than they are getting now and many will drop out altogether leading to higher crime. Every year my husband and I talk about whether we should leave Texas altogether. The abortion ban, the rampant gun violence, the unstable electric grid, the hateful laws and lawsuits put forth by Ken Paxton and Greg Abbott, plus the unbearable heat is wearing us down. Texas is not a place you can be proud to live in or be from any longer. If vouchers pass and my local public school is wrecked because of it there will be no reason to continue living in Texas. Is that what Republicans want? For the entire middle class to be so completely miserable here they give up and move to a different state? Texas is a powder keg because there is not one single thing you are doing with our money that makes our lives better. Vouchers is just one more thing that harms more than it helps. Just give us all a freaking break from your let the rich get richer schemes. Do something good that Jesus would actually approve of for once.

Rick Robbins

Carroll ISD

Denton, TX

Vote no. This will kill public education. Our schools can't afford to lose any more money.

Jeffrey Bassett, MR.

Self, I am a public school teacher.

Rowlett, TX

The voucher plan will not help public education and will only benefit those who do not need help. Please help stop the voucher plan. As a 30 year education veteran I am asking you to support the majority of public educators against the voucher plan.

Alexis Henke

Self

Garland, TX

As someone who received most of my education from Texas public schools and someone who is about to send my child to kindergarten at a public school in the state of Texas, I know how important our public schools are. I know the impact they can have on a child's life and future and eventually, the future of our state. Our public schools deserve to be fully funded. All of our children in Texas deserve the highest quality education possible, which is only possible by fully funding Texas public schools.

Therefore, I strongly oppose HB3.

Kathy Shaheen
self/retired teacher
Boerne, TX

As a former teacher, a parent and a grandparent, I am strongly opposed to school vouchers. Having attended and taught in private schools, I know firsthand how private schools operate. I have witnessed students being accepted by private schools based only on their parent's relationship to board members and turned away for minor reasons. Private schools are not held to the highest standards as public schools. Private schools do not have to provide transportation, special education or many of the programs that are available in public schools. They don't have to provide free or reduced price lunches which are sometimes the only meal some students receive in a day. Since the majority of counties in Texas don't even have access to a private school in their area, how are they going to benefit from a voucher program? If working parents can't drive their children to their school of choice, how are they going to benefit? Vouchers will mainly aid those parents who already have children in private schools and don't need the money. There is no solid data that shows that private schools provide a better education. In fact, most incoming data shows just the opposite: they fail at teaching children the basics. Washington D.C., Indiana, Louisiana and Ohio have seen huge test score drops. Arizona's voucher program is a dismal failure and is bankrupting the state. Why would I support a program that threatens to do the same to Texas? I want to keep my tax dollars in the public school system and NOT in a voucher program.

Amanda Davis
Self
Coppell, TX

As currently written, HB 3 looks like welfare for the wealthy. It lacks basic income restrictions that prevent abuse by economically advanced recipients and it lacks use-restrictions on private institutions whose enrollments benefit from these funds.

In order to show that ALL students are equally important to the state of Texas, please consider adding the following conditions to HB 3:

First, please apply the household income restriction of less than 500% of the federal poverty level to 100% of all applicants.

Second, please add restrictions for private institutions accepting HB 3 funds to match those of public schools, including but not limited to all Tier 1 components of the Foundation School Program, plus an average daily attendance minimum, and meeting state assessment requirements.

Lastly, make the per private-school student dollar amount equal to the per public-school student dollar amount.

If all of these conditions cannot be added to HB 3, please do not support this bill.

Jennifer Blumenstock
self
DALLAs, TX

I strongly oppose this legislation that will take money away from our public schools. Redirecting public school funds from public to private schools is not in the interest of the general public or our most vulnerable. Private schools are private and can deny admission to any student. Private school tuition is much more expensive than what the vouchers will provide not allowing low income families to use them. Our public schools are already underfunded and this will lead to even more budgeting issues. My family has gone through the public school systems in Dallas for generations and we are proud to support our public schools with our attendance, volunteer hours and \$. Thank you.

Kara Welch
Self
Dallas, TX

Please protect public education for ALL children in Texas. Say no to vouchers!

Gina Gandy Parry

Self - Teacher

Lewisville, TX

To our Representatives, from your constituents -

We urge you to stand firmly against HB3.

By providing taxpayer dollars for private school vouchers that will exceed the basic allotment for public school students by thousands of dollars, we risk undermining the very foundation of our communities and our state.

By prioritizing private school vouchers, we are effectively placing the interests of a few individuals above the needs of the many. This is a direct contradiction to the values of equity and fairness that our public education system strives to uphold. We must resist any efforts that prioritize profit over the well-being of our children.

The financial burden placed on taxpayers to support private education, without the checks and balances that govern public schools, raises serious concerns. We must ask ourselves: who truly benefits from this legislation? The answer is clear: it is the billionaires and special interest groups who stand to profit from the privatization of education. Their influence has already corrupted the integrity of our political system, as seen in the support of Governor Greg Abbott and others who prioritize profit over the future of our children.

It is imperative that we prioritize public education and the recapture dollars that are being held hostage by Greg Abbott. These funds should be utilized to enhance the quality of our public schools, ensuring that they have the resources needed to thrive. By investing in our public education system, we are investing in the future of Texas—our children, our workforce, and our communities.

I implore you to listen to the voices of your constituents who believe in the value of a strong public education system. LISTEN. NO ONE WANTS THIS. Opposing HB 3 is not just a political stance; it is a commitment to our children's future and to the principles of accountability and transparency that our public schools uphold.

Please stand against HB 3 and ensure that our public schools continue to receive the support they need to provide every child with a quality education.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

Terry LaFon

Myself

Azle, TX

I am opposed to funding private schools at the expense of public education

Many counties in Texas don't even have private schools if you want to attend one. This makes no sense if you can afford to send them then do it but not on the taxpayers back

sara beechner

self/parent

AUSTIN, TX

Texas lawmakers and Governor Abbott - How many times do we have to say this? Do your job and protect our public education. Do NOT shift money to private schools in the form of education savings accounts/vouchers or anything that taxpayers fund. Furthermore, we see what Governor Abbott is doing to threaten and force lawmakers, who oppose the voucher scheme, to comply with his agenda. No means No! Listen to your constituents. We do not want vouchers. We do not want to shift money to private schools at the expense of taxpayers. Let's make our public schools as good as they can be.

Laura Lozano, Mrs.

Self

Manchaca, TX

Do not pass this bill. It does a great disservice to our most vulnerable public school populations.

Danika Meyer

Self

Northlake, TX

I am a Texas constituent and do not agree with this bill! We want public schools funded!

Jeri Hall

Self, pharmacy technician

Aledo, TX

Stop taking money out of the public school system! Not everyone wants to send their child to a private school!

Bonnie LeBlanc, Mrs.

Self

Frisco, TX

I have loved having my children in Frisco ISD public schools. They have received a great education and have access to so many extraordinary services through Frisco ISD to build a bright future. The fine arts programs in Frisco ISD are exceptional and my children have played in the band and danced through these amazing programs. If you take away funding through vouchers these programs will no longer be funded properly and I fear our children will suffer greatly.

In addition, my child is on a 504 plan for anxiety. I am desperately worried that taking away funding for public schools will put children like her in peril that need accommodations to be able to succeed in school. This requires extra funding for the schools to be able to adhere to all of the accommodations necessary.

The most angering thing is that you are telling me my children are worth 3/5 of a private school child. It makes no sense, they are worth equal amounts when it comes to education. It's repulsive that you want to give \$10000 for a private school child and \$6500 for a public school child.

Private school children are already at an advantage as their parents can afford to send them to private school. They don't need us to subsidize them. Not all of us can afford the extra fees associated with private schools beyond the voucher. It's not equal, you are putting many public school children at a disadvantage. Not to mention the private schools already have a long wait list if they are any good, so you are just telling us our children aren't worth what these children are worth because they can't get in anyway.

Having previously been a private school teacher in Sweden I observed the Swedish system where the funding followed the child, so private schools and public schools were funded equally based on attendance and parents paid nothing for private school. The premise may have been nice, but I will tell you it led to many extremist schools that taught no educational curriculum, just religion, as private schools did not have the same overview as public schools.

Do not do this to our Texas children. You will wreck our education system which will lead to a more uneducated, chaotic, crime-ridden society. We don't want that for Texas.

Jessica Grimm

Self, public school parent and pta member

Austin, TX

ESAs are not the answer. Texans don't want this and if they did, it would be on a ballot. Our public schools have been underfunded and undersupported for years. Abbott is accepting millions in out of state contributions to push this down Texans throats AND WE DO NOT WANT IT. We have school choice. What we need is to stop sending public schools dollars away from public schools. Private schools have no means to provide the additional support that public schools offer - my own daughter benefits from seeing a speech language pathologist on campus. Not to mention these ESAs wouldn't help the 5.5 MILLION children in our public schools. If Abbott wants to continually bash our public education system, he should look in the mirror - he has been at the helm for years. Public education is essential for a strong, informed society. Say no to this bogus bill.

Ann Sanders

self - retired

Dallas, TX

I oppose vouchers and ESAs. Vouchers will NOT provide competition for public schools. Competition exists when the same rules apply to the competitors; public schools have hundreds of laws, rules and regulations that must be followed; private schools have none. Fund public education!

Erin Venghaus

Self

Liberty Hill, TX

No to vouchers and less money for public schools.

Patricia Castella, Retired vice principal catholic school

Self. Retired educator

NACOGDOCHES, TX

I sent my children to private schools and I taught in private schools

I paid tuition because this was my choice

Tax payers should not pay for private schools

This bill will only benefit the wealthy and will further damage public education and educators

Another attempt to tax us not for the good of our students but to allow

Money to be given to those that can afford to pay for private school's education

Private schools are a choice made by people who want a different type of education for their children

Please don't delude your voters by telling us it will help the students who need it

Public schools need help

This bill once again ignores the needy student and is only another scam to put our taxes in the pockets of the wealthy

It is elitist It does not have guidelines

Students in very bad situations won't have access to

Money would be better spent on more counseling in the Public schools

Again we are violating separation of church and state

I am weary of a political system that ignores those that need them

I have taught in private and public schools

My children have attended both private and public schools

This bill does not help the students who need it

It takes away the money needed for more resources in our public schools

Patricia Hayden Castella

Allowing tax dollars to pay for private schools is another waste of our tax dollars

It will take money from the public schools

I am a retired catholic school vice principal

I have taught in private and public schools

My children have attended private and public schools

When I choose to send them to a private Catholic school I did not expect the government to pay for it

It was my choice

This bill is vague

It has no guidelines to control how it is distributed

It is just another insult to our public school system

It is a violation of church and state

I've often worked with at risk students

They will not be served by this bill

Hire more counselors in our public schools

Offer tutoring and after school care

Do what is right for everyone not just

A select population

Do what is Right not just obey leaders who will retaliate if you go against them

Pat Castella

Linda Carr

Self

Plano, TX

Distinguished committee members, please Do Not pass vouchers or school choice in Texas. We do not want our tax dollars going to private schools or homeschools. Vouchers are welfare for the rich. They don't need welfare and we don't want to fund their vacations. Public schools have been underfunded for far too long. The Governor's has tied public school funding to his voucher scheme, proof of performance, stalling for years, not paying for public schools. It's shameful that we have \$24 billion in surplus in Texas, while Texas schools are in dire need of funding. Schools are closing, combining with other schools, while some districts consider forming two separate districts. Texas schools have never been this much in need. We need our lawmakers to protect precious resources from being unethically diverted to people who don't need money for private schools! The most important resource we have is our children. Children are our future and we need to protect their education. Do the right thing and block vouchers!

Elizabeth Boyt

Self

Austin, TX

I am firmly opposed to private school vouchers. Studies of other states' efforts at this show vouchers do not help low and middle class families at all. My children attended a rural public school which was the lifeline for our small community. The efforts to destroy public education are not new but are so destructive to our democracy which depends on an educated electorate and to our communities where the schools are the hub of activity. Please do not pass this bad legislation.

Brittany Trinite

Compose Yourself LLC, self, board certified music therapist

Round Rock, TX

Please oppose HB 3. As a product of public education, former public ed music therapist, and disability rights advocate, I must emphasize the need to protect funds used for food security, transportation, and therapies for students, especially disabled students. The ESA allotment is not enough to provide these supports. If we value ALL students, we need to preserve public education. Special education students, in particular, risk rejection from private schools due to lack of protections. They may be discriminated against because private schools do not have accountability to the state or disability rights protections as public education already has in place. Please oppose HB 3.

Mary Gilroy

self, retired Texas high school science teacher

Driftwood, TX

I am COMPLETELY OPPOSED to HB 3, the school voucher bill. My daughter graduated from Wimberley High School in 1996, where she received an exemplary education. I taught high school science for 9 years at Crockett High School (AISD) and saw the benefit of bringing kids of all ethnicities and income levels together in the classroom (and gym, clubs, playing fields, etc). This plan to take my property tax dollars away from these public schools and give it to families for private school tuition makes no sense, because it is obviously grounded in a series of false narratives:

First, that this bill will provide sufficient funds for low and middle income families to pay private school tuition and give them a "choice" if they're in a failing public school. FALSE. The amounts being discussed are nowhere near what private schools cost, so will only provide a subsidy to wealthier families, many of whom already can afford private schools. No middle or low income family has enough disposable income to make up the difference.

Second, that private schools are always "better" than public ones. This has not been the case in many other states, including Ohio, Louisiana, Ohio, and Indiana. These schools are not regulated by the state (thus the "private" designation) so how will we know if our tax dollars are spent wisely??

And finally, there is some strange thought that taking this money away from public schools will not impact the quality of public education, or will somehow incentivize the school to 'improve'. There is no validity in or proof for this statement, and since Texas schools have gone six years without an increase in the basic allotment, our schools are already underfunded. Our public schools NEED MORE FUNDING, NOT LESS!! Neighborhood schools are the lifeblood of many communities, especially rural ones- where the school district is a major employer, whether for teachers, aides, bus drivers or food service staff.

There is evidence that this bill has been supported by out-of- state billionaires, who also supported pro-voucher candidates in the last primary. Please vote your conscience, and show your constituents that you truly care for ALL Texas children. VOTE NO on HB3.

Jennifer Westbrook

self

Nacogdoches, TX

As a Texan, public educator, parent, and concerned citizen for the future of education in our state, I do NOT support HB 3. I will never support any voucher program, including a tuition tax credit, education savings account, or any other such program that would direct public funds to private, home, or for-profit (such as virtual) schools. Tax funds related to education should only be used to better our public school system. It is shameful that anyone in our government would be willing to divert tax funds elsewhere instead of investing more in public education. While there are improvements that can be made to the system, HB 3 is NOT the way.

Ann Heuberger
Self / Retired educator
Austin, TX

I am very opposed HB 3 and to Abbott and the big money behind the voucher scheme to divert public tax dollars to private schools that will not have to follow the same laws, policies, and standards that the traditional private schools have to follow. And for a reminder, private schools get to say no to any student that requests to enroll, unlike the public schools which must enroll any student in their district. There is no parental choice involved in this voucher scheme, the private schools make the decision, not the parents.

HB 3 is a voucher and will funnel taxpayer dollars through education savings accounts to students for private school tuition and related expenses at an initial cost of \$1 billion in state funds for the first two years that should go to our public schools. That amount will increase in subsequent years, at a growing loss to public education and other critical public services. State tax dollars must not be diverted from public to private schools. I oppose vouchers and related schemes - including education savings accounts, tax-credit scholarships and for-profit virtual schools - that use tax dollars to pay private school tuition for selected students while undermining public schools where the vast majority of Texas students are educated. Many counties in Texas do not have any private schools. Will this bill allow anyone to open a private school for the voucher money with no guardrails in place? This happened in the 1960s following the desegregation of the public schools. Voucher schemes across the country have proven to be burdensome on state budgets, and a Texas voucher would eventually add billions of dollars to the state budget without an additional funding mechanism. The universal voucher plan that Gov. Abbott supports has been used in other states to funnel tax-paid subsidies to wealthy parents who already were sending their children to private schools, while many low-income families, even with vouchers, can't afford private school tuition. Protect Texas Public Schools as required by the Texas Constitution. I urge you to vote NO to vouchers! Vote no on HB 3.

Jill Cullinan, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

I have children in both public and private schools and oppose this bill. Giving taxpayer funds to people like my family, which has a household gross income of \$470k per year, does nothing to support school choice. It would be far more beneficial for the state to utilize these funds to assist low income and at risk students in paying for secondary education such as college or trade schools, thus breaking the cycle of poverty and reliance on state and federal resources as well as lowering crime, unplanned pregnancy, and poor health. It would save the state billions of dollars in the long run!

lori kirkpatrick
self, physician assistant
Dallas, TX

I am OPPOSED to HB 3 and vouchers, ESA's of any kind. Vouchers have proven to be very little if any help to the most struggling of students and families, and in fact many students who have attended private schools on vouchers often end up back in public school with HUGE learning losses. The majority (around 2/3rds to 3/4ths) of vouchers end up being utilized by students already in private schools-thus welfare for the wealthy. Please listen to and read peer-reviewed voucher research to understand what a bad public policy program this will be.

Wanda Mead
Self-Retired Texas Teacher
Cedar Park, TX

Public schools are the heart and source of pride for a community. Strong public schools ensure that all students, regardless of their family's financial status, have equal access to a high quality education. Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick are controlled by billionaire mega donors who have no care or concern for the average Texas family. School voucher programs undermine public education, lack proper accountability and fragment communities. Please show your support for public school teachers and neighborhood schools by Voting to Fully Fund our public schools and Vote NO to any Voucher/ESA bill. I vote and this issue matters greatly to me! Thank you.

Carrie Delmare
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am in my 9th year as a public school teacher to children with moderate to severe disabilities. I vehemently oppose SB 3 for the following reasons:

I have spent well over the annual tax deduction of my personal money on the supplies needed to make my classroom run, such as laminating sheets, Velcro, colored printing, and so on. I do my job with the broken and already limited supplies available to me. I watch my students succeed time and time again, though the odds are stacked against them because the state of Texas continues to critically underfund the only school system available to them. I fear that ESA's will make resources far more scarce for our public schools. I fear that I will have to spend more and more of my own money to fund the supplies that are necessary in my classroom.

Next, creating a voucher system will further segregate my students from their peers and their communities. There are incredibly limited private school options for students with moderate to severe disabilities across our state; creating a voucher system without considering the limited educational options of students like mine is irresponsible.

As a future (only 20 more years to go) retired teacher, I fear the impact that a voucher system would have on TRS. A decline in public school teachers within the education system would be detrimental to TRS. Retired teachers deserve a fully-funded retirement system. Current teachers deserve to be safe from an increase in contributions to offset the harm done by a voucher system.

Finally, Texans didn't vote for an entirely new system of educational bureaucracy. We aren't stupid. We know exactly why school choice was put as an emergency item. If Texans had a vote, we would absolutely vote no to ESA's.

Texans know that creating this new sect of educational bureaucracy will be incredibly costly both in the short and long term and once we start ESA's, there is no turning back.

As a teacher, parent, and actively engaged community member, I strongly oppose my tax dollars funding private schools and homeschool families when my community's public schools are consistently and systemically underfunded.

Thank you for your time.

Melissa Keeland, Mrs.
Self
Cypress, TX

I DO NOT support the voucher bill! Schools are already stretched too thin. I am a school teacher, and I know that children will suffer from this bill. No to vouchers! Most of your constituents do not agree with it, as well as other Republicans, and yet you accepted money in donations from a man that does not even live in Texas to go against people in your own party that did not agree with you. It is despicable!

Keith Melvin
Self
El Paso, TX

Many parents want the best education possible for their children. Many find the means to send their children to private schools. But the rest depend on well funded school districts to provide the best education possible. This bill will not support those parents and is a thinly veiled subsidy for families already paying for their children's education. What will happen when districts face budget shortfalls? Especially since we face huge property tax bills in Texas already. As a retired homeowner I have to budget wisely to pay my property taxes each year. But my pockets are only so deep. Thank You.

Carol Hubbard
self
Georgetown, TX

Taxpayer funds need to go to Public NOT Private Schools!

Emad Salem
Self. Realtor
Eules, TX

Chairperson and members of the committee,

My name is Emad Salem, and I am here today as a concerned parent and community member. I strongly oppose the implementation of school voucher programs in Texas.

Public education is foundational to our democracy and community. Diverting taxpayer funds to private institutions through vouchers weakens our public schools, reduces accountability, and undermines equal opportunity. Voucher programs typically benefit families already capable of choosing private education, while disadvantaged students remain in underfunded schools with fewer resources.

Texas public schools educate all children, regardless of background, income, or ability. We must prioritize strengthening these schools by fully funding them, improving teacher pay, and enhancing programs that have proven effective for student success. Public dollars should remain in public schools, ensuring transparency and accountability to taxpayers.

I urge you to oppose school vouchers and instead invest in high-quality public education for every child in Texas.

Thank you.

Teresa Bliss
Self - School Admin Asst
Austin, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS!

Ariel Zimmerman

Self

Leander, TX

NO to ESAs and NO to De-Funding Public Education and Special Education

I live in Leander, Texas and I strongly oppose Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) and urge you to focus on supporting public schools.

ESAs (vouchers) directly hurt students with disabilities who receive Special Education services in Public Schools in the State of Texas. Diverting \$1 Billion of my PUBLIC taxpayer money to private schools who do not even acknowledge IDEA, do not follow IEPs and only provide services when they are negotiated, compromised and then charged back to parents at exorbitant rates well above typical tuition rates it is theft of services and money to the most vulnerable population in Texas.

14% of the 5.4 million public school students in Texas receive special education services. That's 760,000 students at a minimum. These ESAs are completely inaccessible to at least 90% of our disabled students, and that is before they have a chance at any lottery or know if a private school will accept, serve, or retain them. There's no accountability. Not of services, not of the \$1 Billion of public taxpayer money this legislature wants to pour into private schools and not of impact or outcomes of our disabled students.

Even if we say ALL of the ESAs go to disabled kids receiving special education services, that still leaves a minimum of 700,000 students receiving special education services in underfunded understaffed Public Schools that this state put in this situation. This causes direct harm to these students with disabilities, the most vulnerable individuals in society, and it's at the hands of those who are supposed to represent us.

This is unacceptable. I want this legislature to take accountability, listen to the parent voice (and students), and have the courage to do the right thing: say No to ESA/Vouchers and Fund our Public Schools properly.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Ariel Zimmerman

Adam Purnell

Self

Houston, TX

This private school voucher program will devalue public education where it is most needed, I.e. rural and under privileged communities. I would recommend putting this on the ballot for the people of Texas to vote on. I believe you'll be surprised by how unpopular this proposal is.

William Smith

Self - CPA

San Antonio, TX

As a husband to a teacher whose school is already underfunded and unsupported, I vehemently oppose allowing our public tax dollars to be given to private institutions. This will only serve to further undercut the already hurting public school system.

Robert Sherer

Self, systems administrator

Houston, TX

The state should be properly funding public education and not attempting to give public money away to private schools via vouchers. Private, religious, and home schools are not accountable to the state. Studies of similar programs found that voucher money largely goes to students ALREADY in private schools. Private schools are not required to accept poor or disabled students, and are not equipped to help children with special needs. And finally, siphoning public funds away from rural schools will deprive students of education opportunities where public school is the only alternative.

Latasha Melcher

Self

Midland, TX

As a public school teacher and parent of an upcoming kindergarten, I support public education and do not want to see education savings accounts. I will be paying close attention to which representatives back vouchers and they will not be receiving my future support.

Anne Ware

Self

Fort WForth, TX

I am emailing to publicly ask Texas State Representatives to oppose the upcoming school voucher bill for many reasons. Here are but a few:

- My biggest concern is that parents are being misled by an illusion of school choice – or a downright lie. There is no guarantee that each and every parent who wants to choose can actually have that choice fulfilled. The \$10,000.00 proposed by the Senate and the 85% proposed by the House will not help low and even middle-income parents choose private schools in Tarrant County where tuition ranges from 11,900.00 per year to 29,000.00, not to mention other fees and costs. Most tuitions are in the upper end of that range (see Top 20 Best Private Schools in Tarrant County (2025))
- The proposed bill will siphon desperately needed funds from public education. We've seen it happen in other states that have adopted voucher programs – their funding for public schools has decreased. And it will also happen to Texas schools (see 89th Legislative Session: Voucher Loss Analysis - Every Texan) We can't let this happen to Texas schools. Taxpayer dollars should be spent on improving public education for all Texas children.
- The proposed bill also uses taxpayer money to fund private education without the accountability and transparency required of traditional public schools. Taxpayers will not know if their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent efficiently and effectively.

As a professional who has worked in public education and with organizations that serve children and families, I care deeply about this issue. Texas needs to support and fund quality public education for all children, not just those whose parents can afford and access private education.

Anne Walkup, Mrs.

self/former public school educator

Austin, TX

I oppose you House Bill 3 as I believe it diverts unfair funds to private schools. I am a Texas voter and a former teacher depending on TRS retirement, I want you to fully fund existing public school mandates. Please fund our public schools and don't pass the voucher bill out of committee. Our current teacher retirement system depends on current teachers supporting retired teachers. This bill will inevitably cause public schools to close, and fewer teachers will be paying into TRS, destabilizing it for current and future retirees. Thank you.

Spencer Wagley

Self/ teacher

Cypress, TX

Vote no on vouchers that give money to less accountable to the public schools such as private schools and charter schools

Kasey Edwards, Mrs.

Self

Mckinney, TX

Hello. My name is Kasey and I am a mother of 3 school aged children. Twin boys in 5th grade and a daughter in 8th. My children love their public schools. My daughter is involved in the music program and my sons will be as well next year. I would encourage you to VOTE NO on HB 3 . The school vouchers would take money away from programs like music, specials and discourage seasoned teachers to stay in education with HB3 putting their retirement in jeopardy. The public school teachers have been vocal about the terrible cuts coming to school districts because our Governor wants to pad his rich buddies pockets. Keep my children and all the students of public school from suffering from budget cuts and further more seeing the rich get richer.

Thank you for your time.

Kasey Edwards

Stephanie Wong, Mrs.

Parent

San antonio, TX

Vouchers should not be approved unless there is more accountability for those funds and similar standards required for private schools as they are for public.

Sara Pollard

Self, Licensed Master Social Worker

Fort Worth, TX

I strongly oppose school voucher programs like those in SB 2 and HB 3. Decades of research show vouchers harm public education and fail to improve student outcomes.

Lower Student Achievement: Studies on voucher programs in Louisiana, Ohio, and Indiana found students who switched to private schools performed worse in math and reading than their public school peers. Vouchers do not guarantee better education.

Defunding Public Schools: Texas already ranks 43rd in per-student funding. Vouchers divert taxpayer money from public schools to private institutions, worsening underfunding and inequities.

Lack of Accountability: Private schools receiving vouchers are not held to the same standards as public schools. They do not have to follow state curriculum, report academic performance, or hire certified teachers.

Harm to Special Education Students: Public schools are required to serve all students, including those with disabilities. Private schools receiving vouchers are not, leaving students with special needs without adequate services.

Increased Segregation: Voucher programs have been linked to greater racial and economic segregation in schools, further exacerbating inequities in education access.

Limited Access for Low-Income Families: The average cost of private schools far exceeds voucher amounts, meaning wealthier families benefit most while low-income students are left behind.

Texans overwhelmingly support strong public schools. Instead of diverting funds to private institutions with little oversight, we must invest in public education to ensure all students receive quality learning opportunities. I urge you to oppose vouchers and protect public schools. Our state has a surplus in the budget, why are we taking away from marginalized communities when we could just allocate more funding from our surplus. It appears to me that greed has won over our children's education in our state. We can and should do better for all of our children, not just the wealthy. I strongly suggest opposition on this bill.

Sincerely,

Sara Pollard, LMSW and Mother of 2.

Fort Worth, TX

Claudia Hurst
Self
Weatherford, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3. It is a fiscal money pit and jeopardizes the stability of public school funding. Secondly, I do not believe that the Texas Constitution allows for monies to be designated for private school tuition. Thirdly, a few wealthy donors should not supplant the voice of 33 million Texans. Constituents have overwhelmingly said NO to vouchers time and again. This year is no different. Thank you for your consideration of a NO vote on vouchers.

Theresa Teltschik
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I oppose HB 3 because it will benefit only the wealthy. All Texas children deserve a good education. This bill will be especially harmful to small rural schools like the one I attended. Please vote no on HB 3. Thank you for your consideration.

Cyndra Krogen-Morton
Self Social work student
Nacogdoches, TX

As a Texas resident and taxpayer I vehemently oppose HB 3 and the diverting of Texas taxes to be used on any form of education by families with children. If people want private school education for their children they should pay the full cost. Texas public schools should receive all of the tax money that is collected in the state. Our public schools are essential to the well-being of all children and residents in the state and should not be compromised by an attempt to supplement private education. No school vouchers for Texas!

Sarah Lackey
Self, social worker
Leander, TX

Hello Public Education Committee Members,
I am writing to express my deep concern about HB 3.
I have two children in Leander ISD. We are already struggling and the school district just announced massive cuts for the next school year.
It is unacceptable to prioritize funding for private schools when funding for public schools has not increased since 2019. This voucher bill is a scam meant to fill Greg Abbott's pockets and is disregarding the welfare of Texas children. \$10K would not even make private school accessible for most people who cannot afford it at this time. Many counties in Texas do not have private schools. Lastly, I have a son in special education for ADHD and Dyslexia and private schools have no obligation to provide services for him and make the appropriate accommodations. He is one of over 600,000 children who are the most vulnerable in schools and need your full support.
Please do not support this voucher bill. I'm begging you to support the public schools that greatly need your help.
Sincerely,
Sarah Lackey

Teri Zadnichek

Self

Temple, TX

As a recently retired educator with 30 years of service to Texas public education, I would be remiss if I did not reiterate the duration and depth of my journey's experiences that have led me to this conclusion. I served as a teacher, interventionist, coach, curriculum instructor, mentor, current principal certification, assistant principal, data analyst, and many other roles as needed with a Master's in Educational Technology Leadership.

In all my years of service, I had the honor of being led by the best in Central Texas. I have seen everything from the best run schools to the worst. I have seen leaders who lead and experienced terrible leaders, too.

My last assignment was being hired by Priority Charter Schools through a TEA grant-funded position as Director of Data and Strategic Planning. I was super curious about who and why anyone would attend a charter school, when our neighborhood schools were pretty good. My eyes were opened during the two and a half years I spent there.

One size does not fit all, and I get it. I won't run through the many stories I encountered, but will use an event that happened today in Killeen, Texas as a simple example. If it is true that a student was stabbed in the neck and airlifted off the premises, why do I have to send my student there anymore, mandated by law? Or what about the news reports of teachers being arrested for inappropriate actions? What about those students affected? Should they have to walk those same halls knowing everyone in the school "Knows?"

I would instead put that money into an at-home curriculum, go to the nearest private school with strict policies, or create my co-op or school, for that matter.

Most families will likely choose their own neighborhood school because it's a great school, out of convenience, or because it's generally just what people do. However, empowering parents to choose what and how they would like their students educated in the State of Texas sounds like a very solid option for Texas Families. Make it fair, transparent, and VOTE YES for School Choice!

Kerry Peters

Self

Conroe, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3 (HB 3), as I believe it will have a detrimental impact on our community, which has always been a strong supporter of public education. Public schools are the cornerstone of our community, and HB 3, with its proposals, threatens to undermine the quality of education that our children deserve.

Impact on Local Education Funding: Public education in our area is already facing budgetary constraints. Reductions in state funding, which this bill may potentially cause, will only worsen this situation. Our children deserve access to high-quality educators, school resources, and extracurricular programs. The potential cuts or redirection of funds that HB 3 suggests would force our local school districts to make painful decisions that could lead to larger class sizes, reductions in teaching staff, and the elimination of programs that benefit students and help them thrive.

Undermining Community Values: Our community has consistently prioritized the well-being and educational success of our students. HB 3, by reducing the funding and support for public education, reflects a shift away from these values. Many families in our area rely on public schools for not only academic education but also essential services such as free and reduced lunch programs, special education services, and after-school care. Removing or reducing funding for these services would leave vulnerable children and families at risk, further deepening the divide between affluent and underserved communities.

The Long-Term Impact on Students: The long-term consequences of HB 3 are clear: fewer opportunities for students to excel, especially those from lower-income families. By focusing on cuts and redirections of resources, the bill will disproportionately harm students who already face barriers to success. Our students deserve a fair and equitable education, regardless of their zip code or socioeconomic background. HB 3 risks reinforcing systemic inequalities rather than addressing them.

A Call for Investment in Public Education: Instead of reducing funding or reshaping the financial structure in ways that hurt our schools, we should be advocating for increased investment in public education. Public schools are the foundation for a brighter, more prosperous future for Texas. We need to prioritize equitable funding to ensure that every student, regardless of background, has access to the resources and support they need to succeed.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 3 and work towards policies that provide more support and funding for public education, not less. Our community depends on it.

Sarah Baston Skiles

Self

Northlake, TX

My name is Sarah Baston Skiles and I am a constituent in zip code 76247. I am writing to ask my representative to vote NO on HB 3. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy. Thank you.

Bill King, Mr.

Self - retired judge

Austin, TX

State Representatives are created by the Texas Constitution and have duties imposed on them by their oath to the Texas Constitution. The Texas Constitution creates and mandates an efficient public education system for all Texas children. This is a Constitutional requirement. Your duty is to make this happen. .

Your first priority is to fully fund the public education system so that all students can be adequately educated. After you fully fund public education, then you can talk about special programs not required by the Texas Constitution.

Just do your job!

Chris Armstrong

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose any school voucher legislation that diverts public education funds to private schools without transparency, accountability, or measurable outcomes. Our public schools are the backbone of our communities, and they serve all children, not just a select few. Sending tax dollars to private institutions with no oversight is a reckless use of public funds that undermines both fairness and educational quality in Texas.

Lack of Accountability: A Black Hole for Taxpayer Money

Public schools operate under strict standards for accreditation, curriculum, and teacher qualifications. They must meet state testing requirements and are accountable to voters through elected school boards. Private schools, however, are not held to the same standards. Many do not require certified teachers, do not follow state curricula, and do not participate in standardized testing. There is no way to measure whether our tax dollars are leading to better educational outcomes.

Under a voucher system, we would be handing out taxpayer dollars with no strings attached. These funds could go to schools that fail to provide a high-quality education, discriminate in admissions, or close unexpectedly, leaving students stranded and taxpayers footing the bill. Texas cannot afford to pour public funds into a system with no enforceable quality controls.

Public Schools Serve All—Private Schools Choose Who to Accept

Public schools accept every child, regardless of ability, background, or economic status. Private schools can pick and choose students, often leaving behind those with disabilities, English language learners, and students who need extra support. Vouchers do nothing to help those most in need—instead, they create a system where families who can already afford private tuition get a subsidy, while lower-income families still can't cover the full cost of attendance.

Every dollar taken from our public schools weakens them. Texas schools are already underfunded, with teacher shortages, outdated materials, and growing class sizes. Diverting funds to unregulated private schools takes money away from the very schools that serve the majority of our children. Worst of all, public schools, required to comply with special education, IEPs, etc will have the heavy burden of a huge percentage of their students being in these buckets, in numbers never seen before. This further disadvantages public schools.

We should invest in smaller class sizes, better teacher pay - not send taxpayer dollars into an unregulated private system that lacks transparency.

Protect Public Schools, Protect Texas Kids.

This bill does not improve education—it weakens our public school system and redirects funds without accountability. I urge you to reject this bill and instead focus on real solutions to strengthen education. Our children deserve better than a system that gambles with their education. If you really want school choice, make it a fair playing field first and hold spending to standards.

Paul Niles, Chef / instructor

Self

The Colony, TX

I don't want my tax dollars funding any private education. One that doesn't answer to the voters, can teach any curriculum they desire. One that can pick and choose whom they want in.

If you don't want to play with the average kids, don't expect us to pay for your private playground.

Sydney Ellis

Self

Plano, TX

Texas' public schools already face significant challenges in providing quality education, and this bill exacerbates those problems by reducing funding for traditional public schools. Our own elementary school is struggling as it is to make ends meet. This year our PE coaches had a budget of \$200 to replace equipment. Luckily our PTA spent \$2400 to get them the supplies they needed for a 40 year old school that serves 520 children in north Texas.

Soren Henderson

Concerned student from a public texas high school.

Kyle, TX

This bill will be ineffective to support the lower class, only raising the ceiling above the lower class, keeping them lower class. If Abbott truly cared about Texans, he'd realize that this bill only supports an insignificant faction of the populous. But he doesn't care because he's apart of this insignificant portion due to the upper class holding all the power in this great state. 33.76% of the electorate in the state of Texas is considered poor and lower class, while the upper class only makes up fewer than 10% of the Texas electorate. This bill would put a third of Texans at a detriment to aid nearly a ninth. Governor Abbott will tell you that this bill will make the lower class able to access private schools, but it only will add to the already steep bills families face in the modern age. In addition, this bill will only raise our state taxes and defund the schools that support us all. Without education, the US will quickly decline, and the great state of Texas has always set precedents for other states. If we show weakness in the normalization of the decline of education, we only serve to detriment the entire nation.

Danielle Webster

Self; Homemaker

Argyle, TX

As a parent of four children navigating the Texas public school system, I urge you to vote NO on HB 3. I want free and accessible public education for our kids, not welfare for the rich.

Carolyn Kundiger

Self Recent retiree

Houston, TX

Our public schools need more, not less public support. Taking our tax dollars away from public schools and handing them to private schools -- which are free to pick and choose who they admit and who they don't -- is publicly funded discrimination. It is rewarding the privileged and punishing the children who most need our help to live their most quality, productive lives. And it's driving the divide between the two even wider. Our children, all of them, deserve better.

Cherrise Thomas

Tax payers

Vidor, TX

Please vote NO on the voucher bill. This is a disservice for our public schools and teachers. You have seen the actuarial report for TRS that shows it is currently sound, but will be insolvent in 12-14 years the way vouchers are going to be funded. Schools have already been underfunded for several years as blackmail to get vouchers passed. How are schools supposed to be successful if they aren't adequately funded? Schools are being held to an unfair standard! Then you have TEA constantly making more and more mandates that aren't funded either. The TEA mandates have become so laborious that there are literally not enough minutes in a day to do all of them and adequately teach every subject required. This is probably why Abbott appointed a non-education person to be the head of TEA to sabotage our education system to make vouchers look better. We spend millions on STAAR testing on an invalid test. When true scores are in the 40's on many tests and they use a "scoring system" to show those students "passed" there is definitely a problem. The money could be better spent on fixing our school system than on vouchers on a real test. The other thing is private school students should not be valued more than public school students. A private student can't be worth \$10,000 and a public student \$6,200. They should be the same! The private schools should be held accountable. Public money should have the same requirements wherever it goes! That means it is for ALL students! You can't compare the success of a private school that only takes top students without any discipline or educational problems to public schools that are required to take ALL students with any baggage they bring with them. Make it a fair playing field if a comparison is going to be made! As a taxpayer, parent, and grandparent, I am asking each of you to vote against vouchers. Provide for our 5.5million public school children that deserve a great education from our great state of Texas!

Thank You,

Cherrise Thomas

Elizabeth Bowman, Dr.

Self, Research scientist

Round Rock, TX

As a parent of two young children in Round Rock ISD, I am deeply concerned about HB3 and its push for school vouchers, which threaten to divert essential funding from public schools. While Governor Abbott claims education funding is at an all-time high, our schools continue to struggle. The Austin American-Statesman and Round Rock ISD's latest performance report highlight a critical funding gap that is harming students and educators.

Despite increased appropriations, per-student funding—adjusted for inflation—is lower than in 2010-11. With federal pandemic relief funds expiring, districts are forced to make painful cuts, including layoffs and school closures. In Round Rock ISD, teacher turnover has risen sharply from 15.9% in 2021-22 to 23.9% in 2022-23, surpassing the state average. More than 1,400 teachers have resigned in two years, making it harder to retain experienced educators for our children.

The state's failure to increase the basic allotment, stagnant at \$6,160 per student since 2019, further limits districts' ability to offer competitive salaries and maintain quality programs. Meanwhile, unfunded mandates, such as security officer requirements and underfunded special education programs, create additional strain. Local taxpayers now bear a growing share of school funding, despite state leaders touting property tax cuts.

Public education has been the foundation of this country's greatest achievements—from reaching the moon to advancements in medicine and technology. It fosters a stronger democracy, promotes social justice, and builds communities. At a time when public schools are in crisis, HB3's push for school vouchers would only worsen the situation. While Governor Abbott insists vouchers won't directly pull funds from public schools, the reality is that as students leave, per-student funding declines, further destabilizing districts already facing budget shortfalls.

I urge you to support:

- An immediate increase in the basic allotment to reflect inflation.
- Additional funding for special education, school safety, and other state-mandated programs.
- Policies ensuring state funding grows with enrollment rather than shifting the burden to local taxpayers.
- The rejection of school voucher proposals that siphon funds from public schools.

The Texas Legislature has a duty to ensure all children receive a high-quality education, regardless of ZIP code. As a mother of two RRISD students, I want to know my children—and all Texas students—are getting the resources they need to succeed. Please take action in the upcoming legislative session to oppose HB3 and protect public education.

Heidi Lario

self - full time teacher, part-time bakery employee

Melissa, TX

I personally disagree with the voucher program on several fronts, but after watching the state legislature brutally fail public education 2 years ago, I believe we've reached a breaking point. We no longer have the luxury of fighting against every issue that doesn't directly serve our public schools. We now wave our white flags. We surrender.

If vouchers and teacher raises must go hand in hand, so be it. Pass the vouchers. But we are asking for something more important: Increased teacher pay and better funding for our public schools. These are the real needs that cannot be ignored.

Anita Goss, Mrs

Self/ Retired

Arlington, TX

I am against this bill for Vouchers for the private schools it will be giving money to more wealthy people who can already afford the schools and take away services and funding for the public schools. The majority of citizens in this state cannot afford the private schools even with vouchers. Many are in rural areas not even close to private schools. Private schools can decide not to even allow students into their schools. Every child in this state deserves to have the best education available. There is no one less deserving. Governor Abbott is wrong, no question about it. He should not be threatening and and hateful in his anger at people who don't want the vouchers. This whole voucher situation is a scam and harmful to all who are not wealthy. Governor Abbott is fully aware of his intentions. Vote NO on HB3.

Gold Iwe

Self

Sugar Land, TX

This bill is whack and dangerous. How is the governor not seeing the actions of the Bill is going to affect every Texan school in the state? It's madness, I say!

Brigid Wilson, Dr

Self

Houston, TX

I have been a public school teacher in Texas for over 2 decades. I defend public schools and vote no against vouchers. Education is a civil right.

Sally White

Self

Plano, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

I strongly oppose HB3 and urge you to reject any efforts to divert taxpayer dollars away from our public schools through an education voucher program. Public funds should remain dedicated to strengthening our public education system, which serves the vast majority of Texas children.

Texas consistently ranks among the lowest states in education funding and student outcomes. Instead of addressing this crisis by fully funding public schools, HB3 would further undermine them by diverting resources to private schools that lack accountability. The solution to struggling schools is investment, not abandonment.

Vouchers siphon critical resources from already underfunded public schools, exacerbating disparities and leaving students with fewer opportunities. Texas schools need more investment—not less—to address teacher shortages, improve facilities, and ensure every child has access to a quality education.

Unlike public schools, private institutions receiving taxpayer-funded vouchers are not required to follow the same academic, financial, or nondiscrimination standards. They can selectively admit students, leaving many—especially those with disabilities or from marginalized communities—without meaningful access.

Furthermore, HB3 threatens the separation of church and state. Many private schools receiving vouchers are religious institutions, primarily Christian, meaning public tax dollars could fund specific religious teachings. As a taxpayer, I do not want my money subsidizing religious education that does not reflect my beliefs. Public schools exist to serve all students, regardless of faith, and taxpayer funds should remain within that system.

Private schools are a choice, not a right. If a family chooses private education, that is their decision—but taxpayers should not be forced to fund it. Public education is a fundamental right and must be fully funded.

It is also deeply concerning that billionaire Jeff Yass, who doesn't even live in Texas, has spent \$12 million pushing this voucher scheme in our state. Why should an out-of-state billionaire have more influence over our schools than Texas parents, educators, and taxpayers? Our education system should be shaped by those who live, work, and raise families here—not by wealthy outsiders with a privatization agenda.

Rather than funding an unproven voucher system, Texas should focus on fully funding public schools, increasing teacher pay, and expanding resources for students. Public education is the foundation of our democracy and economy and must remain a priority.

Please stand with Texas families and educators by opposing HB3. Our taxpayer dollars should support strong, accountable, and inclusive public schools—not subsidize private education.

Sincerely, Sally White

Plano, TX

Thomas Peoples

Self

Denton, TX

It is not only foolish, but is shortsighted and a misappropriation of tax payers money, to take it from a community and then rather than reinvesting it appropriately in said community giving it to a non state controlled school that is separate from the community that pays for it. We live in an age in which the phrase "We the People" is of great importance, this bill is a modern example of taxation without representation. To take the money from taxpayers and the public schools their children should be able to attend, both safely and with the best education the best state in the union could offer is an affront to the wellbeing of our communities. It is not of benefit to "We the People". If you find that there are no improvements or investments that could be made to our education system in order for it to be one of the top in this great country, you could at the very least invest it in programs that provide security in order to allow children to feel safe enough to focus, work hard, and become the wave of the next generation of Texans that will move our state ever forward. But do not invest it in private institutions or institutions that do not represent the entirety of a community. The children at these private institutions are given the opportunity to attend public schools for free, but if they or their parents feel it necessary to attend an alternative they are welcome to pay. And if they are unable to do so, the public schools in their community should be funded adequately so that they are of the high quality these parents desire. We do not pay our taxes in order to prop up a crowdfunded educational welfare program for some children, this money is for all of our children, here in our communities, with us.

Terri Bertrand

Self

Dripping springs, TX

Our teachers need to be paid more in order to improve our educations system. Allowing vouchers for wealthy. People will eventually take funds from our school districts. Less students in the classroom means less money for the schools. And less money for the schools means poor education.

public schools need

Michele Haram

Self

Austin, TX

This bill hurts rural Texans and as such hurts all Texans. Our resources need to go to fund public education, not to subsidize private schools for rich people. There is no guarantee that private schools will accept ANY student and no oversight on the curriculum. This bill is not good for Texans.

Darlene Aksoy

self, retired

Coppell, TX

Please vote NO on school vouchers by any other name. School vouchers will take yet more money away from public schools. Public schools must be fully funded FIRST. If there is any funding left after that, specially designated funding with strict boundaries around it may be considered with renewed funding requirements each year. Stop sabotaging public education in Texas by withholding needed support and then claiming public education isn't serving our students. Stop the hypocrisy. Fund our public schools. NO to vouchers!

Donna Waddill

School vouchers

Temple, TX

Do not want vouchers for schools. It is a disservice to public schools.

Vote NO on vouchers

Donald Crites
self
Henderson, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House Committee on Education,

I strongly support HB 3 and the expansion of school choice to ensure that families can select the best education for their children. Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) provide much-needed flexibility, allowing parents to tailor their children's education to their needs.

As a grandparent with grandchildren in Texas public schools, I recognize the importance of strengthening education across all sectors—public, private, and homeschool. While HB 3 is a step in the right direction, I urge the committee to consider amendments that preserve educational freedom and prevent unnecessary regulatory burdens on schools.

Concerns and Recommendations

Testing Requirements – While HB 3 does not impose STAAR testing on ESA recipients, the requirement for nationally norm-referenced tests could still be restrictive for private and homeschool families that use alternative assessment methods. I recommend ensuring flexibility, allowing portfolio evaluations or school-chosen assessments to demonstrate student progress.

Regulatory Oversight – The purpose of school choice is to foster competition, encouraging schools to innovate and meet student needs. Private schools and homeschoolers that accept ESA funds should not be subjected to restrictive government oversight, such as curriculum mandates or administrative red tape that could limit their ability to provide a distinct educational experience. HB 3 should explicitly protect the autonomy of these institutions while ensuring proper financial accountability.

Support for Public Schools – While choice is essential, public schools remain a vital part of Texas education and should not be burdened with excessive bureaucracy. Many public school educators are frustrated by the growing administrative demands that take time away from teaching. I encourage the committee to ensure HB 3 does not introduce additional regulatory burdens on public schools and instead promotes a level playing field where schools compete on quality, not compliance.

Conclusion

I appreciate the committee's efforts to improve education in Texas. HB 3 should advance parental choice while ensuring that all schools—public, private, and homeschool—are free to innovate and serve students without unnecessary government interference. A strong, competitive education system will benefit all Texas families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robert Williams
None
ARLINGTON, TX

I believe that giving public money for private schools is nothing but a gift to Greg Abbotts rich friends. It will starve public schools of desperately needed money. That is why I am against this bill.

Nancy Hinojosa

Self

Richardson, TX

Until we are willing to fully fund public schools as required by our own Constitution we should not allow payments to private schools.

My property tax for the school district is higher than my county tax. I am willing to pay it if it all goes to educating Texas children in public schools. Otherwise it is a tax break for wealthy parents.

I agree that tax money for parks shouldn't pay for homeowner's yards. I agree that public road funds should not repave private driveways.

I also believe that any regulation applying to a public school needs to apply to private schools as well.

Offering a pitiful \$220 a year per student to offset is unacceptable.

A good public education for every Texas children should be a right.

Attending a private school should be a privilege.

Katie Hobson

STATE OF TEXAS

AUSTIN, TX

I oppose school vouchers! I grew up in Texas public schools in the DFW area. Access to a public school education enabled me to go on to college and ultimately become a lawyer who now serves the people of Texas working for the State. A voucher program would kill many public schools and this would be especially devastating in parts of the state where there are no private school alternatives. In rural areas, if the local school dies, the town often dies shortly thereafter. Please don't gut our state's great tradition of public education. It is such an important part of our DNA that you can become highly educated in our state even without access to private schools. I went to college in Michigan and met many people from small towns in other states who had an inferior education to mine because their public school system was not as strong. I don't want that outcome for future Texans.

Lauren Curtis

Self

Grapevine, TX

Please do not support the passing of HB3. Public education is already feeling the impacts of the economy. Public schools are so important for the education of our youth and also our communities. I fear education savings account would destroy the quality of our public schools, which are a necessity for the majority of Texas families.

Rajesh Muddasani

Self

Prosper, TX

I do not agree to the vouchers.

Diana Spain

Self

Austin, TX

While I acknowledge that families want more educational choices, this school voucher program does not create real choice for families. There are certainly many issues with our public education system that prevent it from effectively serving students, but funneling money out of this system and into private institutions through vouchers is not the solution to our problems. A strong public education system is integral to our democracy, and vouchers undermine public education. Additionally, these programs as implemented in other states lack proper accountability, exacerbate inequality, engage in exclusionary practices, fragment communities, exacerbate segregation, and decrease academic achievement. Instead of diverting funds to private institutions, perhaps you should focus on strengthening our public schools to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality education. Vouchers will take money from public school districts and will also have a detrimental impact on the Teachers Retirement System. We need to fully fund Texas public schools, so that all Texas children can get a quality education like I got, and parents won't have any reason to think an alternate would be better!

Aleya McGill
Self
Lewisville, TX

My family has already felt the impact of this bill, though it hasn't been passed. We purchased a home in 2023 before my youngest child began kindergarten. Our house was strategically purchased walking distance to the elementary school because my husband and I both have to be at work early and my mother could walk her to school. My mother does not drive. Last fall our district voted to close our elementary school along with 4 others due to the lack of property funding from the state. Our district is large and has a very high tax income, but unfortunately it's capped at what it receives and the rest goes into the general fund. If a district needs that money back for any reason, there is not currently a way for them to access it. That paired with our per student basic allotment being \$6100 (for this district that is the correct amount based on all factors). My family (along with all the others impacted, hundreds if not over a thousand) now have to make serious changes we were not expecting. We have to coordinate with our jobs to ensure we can drive our child to the new zoned school, which is in the opposite direction of where we both need to go for work. We have to uproot our child who feels safe and secure at her current school and force her to move somewhere unfamiliar. We have to deal with the financial impacts to our property value with the loss of a school that is walking distance, something we paid extra for less than 2 years ago. We cannot get our school back, but all around the schools in Texas are struggling unnecessarily due to the lack of funding. I gladly pay property taxes so my local schools can be run at the best level but the state does not seem to care about that. My money should go to my school district, not to a private school, not to a homeschool. The basic allotment needs to be raised to at least \$10k per student and our teachers need to be paid for the amazing work they do. Do not pass a voucher bill, use our funds that we have already paid to fund our public schools fully.

Matthew Sell
self
Fairview, TX

School voucher programs will weaken the public education system taking taxpayer dollars away from schools that serve the majority of students. I'm pleading with you to join me in opposition to the voucher program.

Nina Turley, RN Certified School Nurse
School Nursing and Students
Cedar Park, TX

Public Education is the foundation of democracy and gives ALL students the opportunity to become the best Americans they can be regardless of race, social position or ability. Public education should be the vanguard supporting our student population. Private education should be financed "privately" not with tax dollars draining support from public education. I worked for 26 years in pediatrics and school health in public schools in Texas and Arizona. Many students of all walks came through the health clinic doors at school serviced by nurses and therapists and social services. To take that away would be robbing Texas and America's future. No school voucher program in Texas!

John Sullivan
self/retired
Arlington,, TX

Please explain how this voucher system will aid children in rural areas. Are they expected to get up early and be driven to the nearest school in a metro area? Look at the cost of admission to these schools. The voucher will not cover the tuition costs, and the necessary books and supplies. This plan is nothing more than a subsidy to the rich, who already send their children to private schools.

Why are these schools not held to the same standards as our public schools? Why has funding for our public schools stopped? Are you purposely underfunding our public schools in order to eliminate the public school system in Texas?

I fully support funding our public schools. I do not support any of my tax dollars to be a subsidy for the wealthy. This is another handout to the wealthy and you can not justify it.

Eric Britt
Self
Arlington, TX

Passing this bill is a complete misuse of State funds. We must properly fund Public Schools and appropriately pay Teachers. This State cannot afford a give away to wealthy families while ignoring middle and lower class students education. As a people we will suffer unless we strengthen and support middle class and poor people. Please vote against this Bill, it is bad policy and a blatant give away to for profit schools.

David Edwards, Mr.
Self, Retired Public School Teacher
Arlington, TX

I fully support HB 3 authored by Rep. Buckley to provide TX parents school choice with tax funds given to parents to move their child to whatever school best suits their needs.

Justin Williams
self
Frisco, TX

School voucher programs will inevitably weaken the public education system by diverting public funds to private institutions, effectively transferring taxpayer dollars away from schools that serve the vast majority of students. This shift will have a long-term, cascading negative impact on the quality of education available to middle- and lower-income families, further widening educational disparities across the state. Instead of funneling resources into voucher programs, we should focus on strengthening public schools—improving teacher support, updating curriculum, and ensuring all students have access to high-quality education. Public education exists to serve everyone, and our priority should be making it as strong and effective as possible for all Texas students.

Katie Freeman
Self
Austin, TX

Public schools are not adequately funded and continuing this way only hurts children and teachers and inevitably creating education gaps across the state of Texas. Please seriously consider increasing funding per student by at least \$1300. The State of Texas has these funds and should not hold it back to the detriment of public schools. Title 1 funding has already been cut causing schools to eliminate essential programs and positions, we cannot continue to put public schools and students last. Our state and our country will lose and the legislature will be those to blame. You have e the power to fund our schools! You have the power to make the right decision!

Dora Clutter, Mrs
Self
Passdena, TX

Please support this Bill HB3, to empower parents with school choice

Debra Braun
Self
Plano, TX

I am absolutely against the voucher plan. I strongly suggest you look at Arizona, the first state to adopt it, to see the mess they are in! It only benefits the people who already are in private schools. It does nothing for rural students. This is just one moore plan to help the rich!

Roy Michael Andrew

Self

Lubbock, TX

I support this bill

Lisa Brenskelle

self

Houston, TX

I am firmly opposed to vouchers, paid for with taxpayer dollars, to enable students to attend private schools. This is NOT an appropriate use of my tax dollars. In addition, our public schools need more funding, not less (and not just to increase teacher salaries). Vouchers take funds away from public schools. The funds being proposed for vouchers should instead be directed toward our public schools. Note that the Texas constitution is clear that public dollars may not be directed to religious education. As many private schools are religious in nature, vouchers clearly violate the Texas constitution. Fully funding our public schools benefits all Texans, whereas vouchers would benefit a small minority. Vouchers are therefore NOT an effective use of my tax dollars. And, private schools do not have the same level of accountability/oversight as public schools. This is inappropriate when public funds are being used. Public funds for public schools!!

Thomas Minor

Self

Georgetown, TX

State government has a constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public schools. Let's start doing that! You are in office to represent US...please say NO to VOUCHERS. They hurt neighborhood schools and hurt rural communities as well.

Thrinadh Yalamanchili

Self

Prosper, TX

Not agreeing with this

Ellen Alexandrakis, Dr.

Self/Teacher

Dallas, TX

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Ellen Kimbrough Alexandrakis, and I am a career teacher and administrator with over 25 years of experience in education. I write to you to express my strong opposition to HB 3 and to urge you to reject this harmful legislation.

The introduction of school vouchers will only serve to destabilize the already fragile public school finance system in Texas. Our public schools are already underfunded, and taking taxpayer dollars away from the public system through vouchers will further exacerbate these financial disparities. Every dollar diverted to private institutions is one less dollar available to our students, teachers, and schools.

Unlike public schools, which are subject to rigorous oversight, accountability, and transparency requirements, private schools that accept voucher funds are not held to the same standards. There is no guarantee that these institutions will provide a high-quality education, and taxpayers have no means of ensuring that their hard-earned money is being spent effectively. If we are going to spend public funds, those funds should go toward systems that are accountable to the public, not unregulated private institutions.

Vouchers disproportionately disadvantaged rural and marginalized students. I grew up in Paris, Texas, where there were no private schools. Our town relied on the public schools as a form of community and belonging. Additionally, marginalized students, including low-income students and students with special needs, are less likely to have access to private schools that can meet their unique needs. Vouchers will further entrench inequality and widen the gap in educational opportunities for those who need it most.

Vouchers impose a dangerous form of religious favoritism in our education system. By allowing taxpayer money to fund private schools with religious affiliations, we risk violating the principle of separation between church and state that is fundamental to our democracy.

As a career educator and administrator, I have dedicated my life to ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, has access to a high-quality public education. I believe that public schools should remain the cornerstone of our educational system, and I urge you to stand with our students, teachers, and communities by rejecting HB 3.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ellen Kimbrough Alexandrakis

Dallas, Texas 75248

Alyssa Dadoly

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose the establishment of educational savings accounts in Texas.

Kristen Taylor Smith

Self

Houston, TX

Chairperson & Members of the Committee,

My name is KT Smith, I am a parent in Spring Branch ISD in Houston and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical educational programs that serve our students.

The data from SBISD's state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend—our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

For example:

Special Education: The state allotment for special education in 2023-24 was \$31.5 million, but actual expenditures reached \$53.5 million, leaving a \$22 million shortfall. This gap is projected to be \$20.3 million in 2024-25. Without adequate funding, students with disabilities may not receive the legally mandated services they need to thrive.

Safety & Security: In 2023-24, the state provided only \$0.9 million, but the actual cost was \$8.9 million, creating an \$8 million deficit. For 2024-25, the gap is projected to grow to \$10 million, putting school safety measures at risk.

Transportation: The 2023-24 state allocation was \$1.5 million, while the cost of maintaining transportation services was \$10.4 million, leading to an \$8.9 million shortfall. In 2024-25, the gap is expected to be \$8.3 million, making it difficult to ensure students have reliable and safe transportation to and from school.

Pre-Kindergarten: This critical early childhood education program faced a \$3.7 million funding gap in 2023-24, with an estimated \$3.2 million shortfall in 2024-25. Underfunding pre-K limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities that set children up for future success.

Our educators and administrators are doing their best with limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with the actual costs of running these programs. This includes:

1. Increasing the Basic Allotment at a minimum of \$1,000

Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.

Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.

Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.

Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation for academic success.

I urge you to prioritize our students by closing these funding gaps. Texas schools cannot afford to keep operating with such large deficits, and our children deserve better. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jeff Sharp

Self - SDET

Dripping Springs, TX

The bottom line here is that Texans, including myself, **DO NOT WANT** our tax dollars spent on private schools, especially those affiliated with Christian teachings. If people want to send their kids to private christian schools, it's up to them, not the Texas taxpayers, to fund their choice for their child. **Keep my tax money out of private christian schools!!!!** And tell Defend Texas Liberty, including Strickland, Wilks, and Dunn, to keep their money out of Texas schools and politics. We are not for sale.

Roxana Mendoza

Del Valle ISD

Del Valle, TX

As an educator with over a decade of experience, I currently serve as a school psychologist at Del Valle ISD. I oppose HB 3 proposed by Buckley. Private and charter schools currently have the choice to deny entry and services to our most vulnerable populations. While these schools might be willing to accept students to cash in the check attached to them, this does not guarantee access to a free and appropriate public education. I worry that our most vulnerable populations will suffer because of this piece of legislation. Giving parents access to adequate funding for their children should not come at the expense of defunding the public education system.

Catherine Acker

Self

Austin, TX

Putting our tax dollars into "education savings accounts" should be something the taxpayers should be allowed to vote for either as a referendum or a proposition. It should be the taxpayers' choice whether to put so much of our tax dollars toward something only a small minority of us will be able to use effectively. This money should be going DIRECTLY to our schools, not to individuals' pockets. I pay my significantly high property taxes intentionally for the purpose of improving our local schools, the schools that my children attend. You are wasting my hard-earned money on something my children will not be able to benefit from, nor many of my neighbors' children. Only those with the privilege of already having the money to send their children to private school will benefit from this bill. The wealthy don't deserve my tax dollars while my children go without the school funding they need. Put my tax dollars into my children's schools. Stop this bill!

David Sherrill

Self

Houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is David Sherrill, a parent in Spring Branch ISD in Houston, and I am providing my written testimony to urge you to support legislation that will close the funding gaps in critical education programs that serve our students.

The data from SBISD's state funding allocations highlight a troubling trend -- our schools are significantly underfunded in key areas, forcing them to absorb millions in unfunded costs. Special education, safety and security, transportation, and pre-kindergarten programs are all experiencing funding shortfalls that put immense strain on school districts and, ultimately, harm our students.

For example:

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Our educators and administrators are doing their best with limited resources, but without legislative action, these funding shortfalls will continue to compromise the quality of education and essential services for Texas students. We need a bill that ensures state funding keeps pace with actual costs of running these programs. These includes:

Increasing the Basic Allotment at a minimum of \$500

Fully funding special education services to meet the true cost of providing federally required support for students with disabilities.

Increasing state funding for school safety and security to protect students and staff.

Expanding transportation funding to ensure students have safe and reliable access to school.

Boosting investment in early childhood education to support pre-kindergarten programs that lay the foundation for academic success.

I urge you to prioritize our students by closing these funding gaps. Texas schools cannot afford to keep operating with such large deficits, and our children deserve better. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Debbie Krawl

Self, Public school teacher

Cedar Park, TX

I'm glad our representatives are able to afford private schools and tutors for their children, because most Texans cannot. Public schools need more funding - more than you're considering. The needs of our Texas children are diverse, and it's expensive to differentiate instruction for our heterogeneous learners; I wish all of you would spend a day in a public school to understand why public school teachers are so vocal this session. As Colin Powell said, "Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership." Please show public schools that you care and can help us. Your future in politics may depend on us!

Michael Killalea, Mr
Indivisible 1431
Lago Vista, TX

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on HB3.

Please do not let this bill out of committee. It does not deserve to be brought before the full House.

School vouchers are a scam and a disgrace that should not be visited upon the taxpayers and students of Texas. Funding for a school voucher program will cause the state budget to explode. Arizona's universal voucher program, for example, has had a significant negative impact on the state's budget, causing a budget shortfall of nearly \$1.6 billion through fiscal year 2025. That's more than double the In fiscal year 2024 Arizona's voucher program cost \$738 million spent in FY 2024 on vouchers.

This has led to budget cuts across the state, including for public schools, higher education, water, and transportation.

In Texas, many communities have exactly zero nearby private schools. The Texas "two step" voucher scam would eliminate their choice of a public school.

Further, the vouchers, even at \$10,000, do not come close to covering the cost of any decent school. Consequently, poorer students will struggle to meet tuition.

Consequently, school vouchers will contribute to segregation among our children. The façade of school choice will simply subsidize the children of the wealthy. It will be a big, unnecessary break for kids already in private school.

What accountability must private schools have? Little to none, apparently, which is ok --- but not when we are giving our tax dollars to them.

Further, what happens to special needs children, the blind and deaf? No private school must accept them. Are they cut out of the action.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Peggy Powers
Self-retired teacher
Austin, TX

Hi, I'm asking my representative to vote NO on HB 3. I want fully funded public education, not welfare for the wealthy. Our public schools need your full support. I was lucky enough to teach at an amazing school in the round rock district for 28 years. Our public schools deserve more support, not less!

Terry and Sherri Kinard
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am opposed to vouchers or any other name you might want to call it. This should be voted on by Texans. This is not in the best interest of public education. I am a retired teacher. My husband is also a retired school administrator. The people that voted for you will remember this at election time! You can just as easily be voted out of office. Do the right thing and do cave into the big money.

Christy Whitmore
Citizen
Pearland, TX

This is nothing more than a way to give rich people more money and less to poor! All for the motivation of segregating our schools. Make Texas schools white again! Unconscionable.

Tina Caliga
self
Fort Worth, TX

I am against the voucher system proposed in HB3. It will draw funds from public education, which is already underfunded and not keeping up with inflation. My family has always attended public schools. I support having good public schools. Vouchers will be especially detrimental to education in rural areas.

Holly Leger
Northwest ISD
Fort Worth, TX

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to ask you to please consider our public schools and vote no to HB3.

I volunteer each week at our local elementary school. Teachers and administrators are working hard to educate kids at our school, despite the state's lack of support and funding. It was recently announced that our school district will have to increase class sizes next year to make up for financial deficits. Teachers already have their plates full – I've seen it firsthand when I am volunteering. To increase their class sizes and not have enough money to also increase their salaries is a huge disservice. These men and women are at the front lines, often working after hours, and they deserve support and encouragement from our state leaders.

Not only are you doing a huge disservice to the teachers, but you are taking away needed support for our children as well. For the last three years, our daughter has used the school's speech services to help overcome a speech disorder she has. Because the governor continues to withhold funding for public education, school programs, resources and teachers continue to be cut. Many private schools don't even offer the same special needs services, and they can deny admission to special needs students. Why punish special needs children in the public school system right now? So we can wait for a bill to pass that doesn't offer them equal availability of services?

Bottom Line: We are losing good teachers every year, because they are burned out, underpaid, and unappreciated. At the same time, our students are losing programs, mentors, and services. I realize voucher supporters want to push the image that public education is failing. But at what cost? How many of the 5.5 million Texan children will truly benefit from these vouchers? And where will you find quality teachers to educate the new influx of voucher recipients? Because right now, teachers are leaving the profession in droves, exhausted by the state's standards and lack of support.

I beg you to change the story! Public education is burning to the ground right now, and the majority of Texans (on the right and the left) see our state leaders holding the match. The Texas education system needs more than just a few private school vouchers to put out the fire. It needs leaders who support our teachers and students!

Thank you,
Holly Leger
Mother of a 1st and 3rd grader
Northwest ISD

Jennifer Bartsch-Allen
Self and my children
Dallas, TX

As a Texas voter and parent of two children currently enrolled in Texas public schools, I am very much OPPOSED to school vouchers. Keep public funds in public schools! Please vote no on this bill. Fully fund our Texas public schools. This bill will only hurt our Texas public schools and the children who attend them.

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Northwest ISD
Fort Worth, TX

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Thank you,
Holly Leger
Mother of a 1st and 3rd grader
Northwest ISD

David HALIBURTON
Self
Waco, TX

I believe this bill is a waste of taxpayer money. It should be Texas residents and taxpayers first, not non Texan billionaires. Make Texas Smart Again

Katherine Good
Self, Real Estate Developer
Austin, TX

I am against HB3. We should keep our tax dollars in the public school system.

Leizel Stadler
Self
MCKINNEY, TX

I am against having vouchers in our school system. Public funds should go to public schools, full stop. Those that can afford private schools don't need vouchers.

Kristen Shaheen, Ms.

Self - public school educatorHB

San Antonio, TX

Please vote no on vouchers. Passing vouchers will cause many educators to lose their jobs, including myself. We will see more schools close if this passes. Public schools serve everyone, which is why they receive public money. The best course of action isn't passing a bill to remove money, but to create a bill allowing for more funding to go into public schools. A voucher system is already in place for families to send their children if their school is not up to par.

Texas should be proud of its public education programs, as we set the standard for the US. Having a voucher program would cause chaos and uncertainty with schools, and Texas would no longer be able to brag about the great things our schools have to offer.

Please vote no on vouchers.

As a public educator, I teach everyone that comes through the doors. The private and charters don't do this. We need to be able to say our public dollars are reaching everyone, and not just those with full pocket books. Vouchers are a tax break for the wealthy.

Vote no.

Alison Downs

Self; homemaker

Fort Worth, TX

I want to voice my strong opposition to school vouchers and any attempt to take money from our public schools. We all benefit from a well educated society, and most children in Texas are educated in public schools. As a public school parent with four children, I do worry that many public schools are underperforming, including in Fort Worth where I live. But I don't blame teachers or administrators for that - Republicans have been in charge in Texas for decades and it is within their control to fully fund schools so that all Texas children can thrive. You all know that the majority of Texans do not want vouchers and you know it will cause irreparable harm to our public schools and students - but if you truly believe this is what Texans want, then put it on the ballot and let us all have a vote. I have lived in Texas all of my 40 years - I did my undergrad at TCU and I got my MBA at UT Austin. My Rice-educated husband and I intended to raise our four children in Texas to be near family. My FW-born cowboy father raised me on Bob Wills, doing the three-step around the dance floor to "Miles of Miles of Texas" - him singing "I've seen miles and miles of Texas, gonna live here till I die." My dad means those words when he sings them. But I can tell you with 100% certainty that if you pass vouchers and bankrupt our schools, my family is out of here.

Sarah Flores
Self
Fort Worth, TX

My name is Sarah Flores. I am a first grade teacher in Parker County and I have been teaching 18 years. I graduated and was certified back in 2007 when the recession had just hit, and teaching jobs were scarce. Teachers were needed, but districts had no money to hire the teachers they needed. I worked as a paraprofessional (with a college degree, and teaching certification) in an elementary school for two years, making around \$15,000 a year until a position opened up for me.

The year after I began teaching, my district at the time (Crowley ISD) announced they were in a budget deficit, and had to lay off teachers and staff and move people around through attrition. Fortunately I had worked for the district for three years so I had some "seniority" so I didn't get laid off, but I did get moved to a different grade level and a different school. There were many others that weren't as fortunate as I was, and they lost their jobs.

This, unfortunately, is what we are looking at again if we don't protect and prioritize neighborhood schools and oppose House Bill 3 in Texas. School districts all over the metroplex are in the news about closing dozens of schools I believe Fort Worth ISD said their plan is to close 2 dozen. This is madness.

The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our neighborhood public schools for students, not subsidizing tuition at private and religious schools that pick and choose who they allow to enroll.

This will undoubtedly hurt rural schools. We have school choice currently, and to pretend we don't is asinine. Parents can choose from many of the public charter schools, they may home school their children if they want to be more involved with their child's curriculum, they can choose to go to their neighborhood public school, or many of the open district schools that don't require residence for enrollment. Or they may choose a private or religious school.

We ALREADY have school choice. We both know it. Greg Abbott knows it. To pretend we don't, is ludicrous.

Everyone pays taxes for the betterment of our great state. Just because I pay taxes and some goes to TXDOT, does not give me the right to raid flowerbeds at state funded rest stops for my yard at home. It simply makes no sense. Public dollars should stay in public schools.

As a proud, concerned Texan, I ask you to show some integrity, do the right thing, and vote down House Bill 3 which diverts tax dollars from neighborhood public schools.

Please say NO to vouchers that use tax dollars to fund the tuition at private schools. Your constituents DO NOT WANT THIS.

Do not be bought out. Please do the right thing for thousands of Texas children. They are counting on you and your vote. We all are.

Jennifer Mitchell
Citizen/self
Richmond, TX

I work in the Texas public education system as a school counselor. I see the need for continued growth and the need to continue to invest in public education. I'm a product of both private and public, and I can say that public is what taught me how to be the person I am today. This is just another way to separate people and honestly I feel like it's another form of segregation. Greg Abbott does not have the interest of the average Texan in mind, he's only playing to the elite. I work in the mental health space, and I see the continued need for students of all races and backgrounds to be able to continue to foster their need for mental health education. I'm afraid that this voucher system would take away from the mental health space.

Yazmeen Tuskan

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the Texas school voucher bill (HB 3) for several key reasons that directly impact the future of our public education system. As someone who is a product of a Texas public school, whose mother was a dedicated public school teacher in Texas, and as a parent with children currently attending Austin ISD elementary schools, I have seen firsthand the value and potential of our public schools. Public education is a cornerstone of opportunity, and this bill threatens to undermine that foundation in ways that will harm our children, teachers, and communities.

The governor's strategy of withholding essential funding from our public schools to push this bill forward is not only harmful—it's a betrayal of the teachers, students, and families who rely on these institutions every day. Our public schools have faced years of financial strain, with funding levels stagnating since 2019. Meanwhile, inflation has skyrocketed, increasing the cost of living for families and the cost of supplies and resources for schools. Teachers, who are already underpaid and overworked, have left the profession in droves. It's clear that instead of addressing these issues, the governor's priority has been to promote a voucher program that will do nothing to help the struggling schools that serve the majority of Texas children.

Furthermore, the evidence from other states that have implemented school voucher programs shows that they disproportionately benefit wealthy families who already have the means to send their children to private schools. Rather than creating equitable opportunities for all students, this bill would simply serve as a tax break for the rich, funneling public funds into private institutions that have no obligation to serve the diverse and vulnerable populations that our public schools are committed to educating.

Our schools need more resources, not less. We need to prioritize increasing teacher pay, improving classroom conditions, and ensuring that every child—regardless of their background or zip code—has access to the quality education they deserve. This voucher bill is a step in the wrong direction, and it will only exacerbate the disparities in our education system. I stand firmly against HB 3 and urge all Texans to do the same for the future of our children and our state.

Hannah Jacoby

Self - Oil and Gas

Midland, TX

Vouchers need to be voted no and we need to fund public schools wholly and completely with no less than what you are promising private schools.

Lisa Chavarria

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I went to a public school, attended and graduated from the University of Texas and the University of Texas School of Law and now my son goes to a public school. A strong public school system is essential to ensuring our state has a well-educated work force. School vouchers take away much needed funds from our schools. Please stop this nonsense.

Joan Fregapane

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support better funding for Texas Public Schools. Voucher programs such as this proposal will only siphon money away from our public schools system. Private schools should be privately funded and should not take needed money from public education. This goes too far toward mixing government and religious institutions and appears to be unconstitutional as well. As a citizen and taxpayer of Texas, please stop this bill from passage.

Catherine Creech

self

Austin, TX

I am against the school voucher bill. Please do not defund public schools.

Amelia Irene Patrick

Self

Spring, TX

I am the mother of two private school children. Please keep funding for public schools. We feel it is unethical to take away money from our public education system to feed to those of us who can afford to send our children elsewhere, even if it's difficult to afford it. This will raise tuition at these schools, which we will not be able to afford. Please don't do this to public education. We need a well educated populace to sustain our economy and our society. Don't do away with that. Everyone deserves a robust education, particularly people with little other chance at upward mobility and the American Dream, in both urban areas as well as rural areas.

Raye Mauro

Self

Fair Oaks, TX

I'm opposed to taking money out of public schools in anyway.

Monica Vega

self

Gonzales, TX

I am against HB 3. Public tax dollars should not be used to fund private schools. Private schools do not have to serve everyone, so this is not "school choice" for all. Tax dollars should not be used to provide affluent families with a discount on the private school tuition that they are already paying.

Sandra Parnell, Ms.

Self and School of Education, Baylor University

Waco, TX

I urge you to oppose any form of school vouchers or Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). Vouchers divert taxpayer dollars to private schools with little oversight, hurting Texas public schools that serve the vast majority of students.

Public money should support public schools, not private institutions. Rural communities, in particular, will suffer as resources are siphoned away. Texas families need strong, well-funded neighborhood schools—not a system that picks winners and losers.

In addition, vouchers will hurt educators who have paid into the TRS system and those who are retired. Please remember the oath you took to take care of everyone in the State of Texas and not just the ultra-rich.

Please reject vouchers and fully fund public schools to ensure every child has access to a quality education.

All children deserve a good education.

Miles Bintz

self

Cedar Park, TX

I am staunchly opposed to any form of school voucher program and fully intend to hold accountable every elected official that supports such programs. School choice already exists and always has. Parents are free to send their children to private school on their own dime. Parents are NOT entitled to send their children to private schools with my tax dollars. My tax dollars are for the public schools that support schools across the state. Such programs will do nothing but erode funding from the public school system that the state has already been negligent in providing.

Perry Fleckman
self/retired
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3. Public tax money should used for public school education.

Gale Jarosz
Self
Paradise, TX

I strongly recommend that the school voucher program (education savings account program) be voted down. All children deserve to have a good PUBLIC education. The voucher program takes away funds for PUBLIC schools to then be given to private schools making the states education system totally unfair and unbalanced which only hurts the children, families and the state. Allocating property taxes to private, for profit schools, is a scam. If property taxes, which we all pay and are ridiculously high, now go to help these for profit schools then property owners should not be paying for them. Let the rich that can afford the private/charter schools pay for it all and not those who can not or do not wish to have this shoved down their throats. PUBLIC schools are to be funded by property taxes, which are TOO HIGH now. The school system in Texas rates 43rd in the nation which shows that what has been happening to the money so far for schools is not being used wisely to provide a decent education for those tax dollars. Do the right thing and find ways to make the PUBLIC schools better in providing education to the states children and stop wasting your time on trying to game the system for the rich billionaires. VOTE NO ON THIS DISASTEROUS PROGRAM.

Nancy Nichols
Self/ Educational Diagnostician
Tyler, TX

Vote no to protect public schools, educators, and retirees.

Melissa Gonzalez
Self/ Teacher
San Benito, TX

I am a product of public education. I know serve my community as a public school teacher. I have seen the affects of our district not being fully funding for the past 6 years. These school vouchers will not help our students from the Rio Grande Valley. They will only further hurt the districts ability to provide exemplar education to ALL students. Other states have tried this system and it has failed. Do not continue to fail the 5.5 million students that public education serves. When you invest in our students the investment is returned sevenfold. Vote NO to education savings accounts/school vouchers!

Gerardo Soliz, Mr.
Self Teacher
San Antonio, TX

Good Day, I would like to express as a teacher the need for more funds to help my students. School vouchers takes that money away from my students. Many parents cannot afford the rest of the bill that they will have to pay out of pocket to go to a private school. The more money we get for a child in our public schools the better, we can serve our students. Please vote against school vouchers.

Paul Ahrens
Kids R Kids
Katy, TX

I support HB 3

Janet Fleckman

self/retired

Austin, TX

I oppose HB3. Public tax money should be spent on public education.

Pat Kahn

NCJW

Austin, TX

A portion of our propriety taxes are designated to support Public Education.

No where on the tax statement does it indicate we also support private schools. Parents choose to send their children to private school. I respect the decision to not attend private or charter school. Their choice should not take away more monies from public education! The other argument suggests low income families would be able to take advantage of private education.

This is what is being reported to the general public. When, in fact, there is a hierarchy in play. First, those already participating in private school get the money. Next, IF there is an extra spot, middle class get the next allotment. Finally, low- income families can fill any extra slots.

The Texas Legislature is not forthcoming with information to the general public.

Please do not support setting up vouchers in Texas.

The wealthy will have the advantage, while low income families will still be left without a choice!

Diane Walz

self/retired professor, UTSA

San Antonio, TX

I am strongly opposed to the HB 3 school voucher program! Please vote against HB 3! As students leave public schools to use vouchers for private education, public schools would lose state funding based on attendance, exacerbating existing budget issues and potentially leading to program cuts or closures. Private schools accepting vouchers often have less stringent accountability measures compared to public schools, meaning less transparency regarding curriculum, student performance, and financial practices. Voucher programs could lead to increased segregation leaving certain public schools with a disproportionate number of students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Vouchers cannot fully cover the cost of private school tuition, leaving many low-income families unable to afford private education. A small number of billionaires really, really want this voucher program. A number (not all) of wealthy people want vouchers because it will save them money. But this will seriously harm middle-class, lower-class and rural school districts, and I fear that this will disappoint and anger these voters. I'm a fiscal Republican and I don't want this state to become a Democratic state.

Cody Shaheen
Self / banking
San Antonio, TX

School vouchers have been proven to only benefit the wealthy and keep lower-income families from accessing quality education. The idea that giving thousands of dollars to allow for “choice” is laughable—the private schools they are meant to go towards will simply increase the cost of tuition, keeping it out of reach for those who will be unable to afford it, even after receiving the voucher. The wealthy families who receive it will simply line their pockets and keep their children in the schools they can afford. Additionally, private schools, being unregulated, do not have to abide by the rigorous and needed laws and regulations that public schools are, which results in widespread misinformation and a lack of certified teachers. These are the foundations of the public school system and, once removed, will cause untold harm to students. This issue isn’t about “choice”, it’s about the powers that be stifling and limiting access to public schools, which promote learning and curriculum that explores many facets and perspectives of our society. The implementation of vouchers is meant to remove that diversity and instill a system of learning which obscures facts in favor of religious ideology (specifically Judeo-Christian) which flies in the face of the First Amendment. The GOP is scared of people being educated, since that education is likely to expose the corruption and incompetence of that very party. By passing this legislation, they can ensure that future generations remain ignorant and blind to the realities of the world, thus keeping the GOP in power.

In short, if an actual human being is reading this, I implore you to think not of yourself, but of future generations who will be impacted by this. The rich have held power for too long and the move towards an oligarchy becomes frighteningly more real every day. This is not the America the founding fathers wanted (many of whom were non-aligned deists and NOT Christian); it is the powers that be want to keep them rich and in power. I’m sure this just gets dumped into a mass inbox and marked as “read”, but if anyone is actually reading this, do the state, the teachers, the staff, the administrators, and the students a favor and make the right choice—the one in which all this money the GOP wants to throw at private schools is instead routed to the public schools to make them the better, safer option they can be, if given the right attention and funding.

Don’t be Ted Cruz. Don’t be John Cornyn. Don’t be Greg Abbott. These people couldn’t care less about the people who will be negatively impacted by this, because they are making money on it. This world needs more teachers and less corporate-funded, spineless, uneducated, ignorant, selfish politicians like the ones mentioned above.

We can be better than this. We just have to take the power back from the stooges in power and return it to the people.

Kristen Wiggins
Self
Tyler, TX

I am a life long Texan who can trace my family back to fighting in the Alamo. I am the mother of a public school student. And I love this state from its rich history to its enormous pride. In that spirit I am asking you to please vote no on HB3!! Texans do not want school vouchers we want fully funded public schools where ALL of our students AND teachers are able to thrive. My daughter and many others benefit immensely from services like speech therapy and more through the special education programs. Private schools won’t help kids like my daughter who, while very intelligent, need extra help. Please protect Texas students. We are counting on you to do what is right for US and not what is right for the very wealthy who are backing this. Please do your very important job and listen to your constituents.

Thank you for your service, your time and for your upcoming vote against HB3

Kathryn Edwards
Self
Austin, TX

HB3 for school vouchers is not good for Texas or texas education. Gov Abbott finally admitted it would taking funding away from public schools and move it to private schools. Rural school districts would be adversely affected as would city schools. Not everyone would have the same opportunities . We need to increase funding for public schools and make them better. Not take away from them. I support public schools and teachers.public schools funded by taxpayers all over the state provide services to disabled and disadvantaged students private schools would not. I support public schools. Not school vouchers. .

kathleen born
Self
Richardson, TX

My daughter, son-in law, sister, brother, and father have all been teachers- mostly in the public school system. From experience, this system is very broken. My daughter is not allowed to give high school students homework. My son-in-law sends high schoolers to summer school for not attending school ALL year, and in less than a week, they are able to graduate. He wonders why he tries so hard every day to teach when a student can be passed in less than a week....I could go on. Unless the public school system sheds light on the problems and differences between a private education (which teaches with mostly less funding), a change for our children will never happen. We have to change the system. This bill is a beginning.... Vote YES !!!

Emily Fairbanks
Self
Arlington, TX

I am a retired educator from Arlington Independent School District, where I served as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, and Instructional Coach for over 20 years. I have seen the positive impact that public education has on the lives of our young population, and the way it can break cycles of poverty and ignorance, paving the way for children from diverse backgrounds to thrive and contribute positively to our society in the future. I know the public schools have been criticized for many things, and there is certainly room for improvement, but my fear is that the voucher system will rob our ability to make a good education available to all our citizens. The parents who are not happy with the admirable job our public schools are doing can pay for private education for their children. We should not condone our tax dollars going into their pockets, and away from the effort to upgrade Texas' education system to be more competitive with other systems around the country. I believe that the voucher system will inadvertently promote inequity and widen the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots". This will backfire on the citizens of this great state of Texas, leading to more money being spent on a potential "underclass" in terms of more social services and even more incarcerations. There's a reason we need a good public school program for all! It's good insurance for a better future for all!

Shannon Seidl
Self, homeschool mom
Arlington, TX

I oppose HB 1, 2, and 3 on the grounds that these can be used to enact regulations that will restrict homeschool and private school freedom in the future if Texas's reps become more progressive. In addition, more taxes will be required to fund the extra monies being used to bribe private and homeschool families and give kickbacks to vendors, making this more expensive and restrictive rather than offering more freedom. A bill that focuses on public school accountability or allowing more charter schools would be a better use of funds that benefit those most in need of help.

Michelle Edwards
Self, Associate Professor
Austin, TX

As a parent of two children in Texas, I strongly oppose any school voucher program. This is an obvious attempt at defending public education (which serves all) to subsidize private education for rich people. It is shameful.

Merrill Jones
self - attorney
Fort Worth, TX

I would like to provide a comment AGAINST this proposed bill. The use of public funds for private tuition is counterintuitive, inequitable, and frankly senseless. Parents already have "school choice" and the ability to educate their children how they see fit, whether it be public, private or home schooling. Of these three, only public schooling should receive public funding, as only these schools have state-specific reporting, standards, and admissions like STAAR testing.

Stephanie Bankhead

Self

Pilot Point, TX

Having home schooled my children, I was well aware that I paid taxes toward my local public schools while paying out of my own pocket for our home schooling. I believe in the right to do so, however I do not believe that our taxes should go toward funding private schools. There are a large amount of children who don't live anywhere near a private school. I am against giving parents who already pay for private school a discount by taking funds away from our public schools. Our public school children and teachers deserve better than that.

Bryan White

Self

Afton, TX

I oppose HB 3. I support the funding of public schools. HB3 is still below the amount needed to offset inflation. I oppose vouchers due to it taking away funds from public schools.

Karen Holloway

Self

Katy, TX

As a retired public school teacher in Texas I oppose HB 3 and any attempt to divert public funds for private education. These voucher or ESA programs will divert taxpayer money away from public schools which are already grossly underfunded in Texas. This will further limit important resources for the vast majority who can't access voucher-funded schools. Despite the attempt to prioritize lower-income families it is likely the gap between actual private school costs and funds provided to recipients will limit the number of low-income families who will benefit from this program. In addition, private schools are not required to accept all students or adhere to the strict standards of public schools. Many areas in Texas are rural and offer no private school options. All of these concerns are problematic. Meanwhile, the bulk of Texas students will be in schools that are even more severely underfunded with teachers that are overworked and terribly underpaid. I taught with so many exceptional teachers in Texas for over 30 years. We went above and beyond for any and EVERY student. All Texas students deserve a well-funded public education system. Let's not use our tax dollars to create a divide in educational opportunities. We must do what is best for all Texas students. Properly fund our public schools!

Crista Batt

Self / Parent and Nurse

Austin, TX

As a parent to two elementary school children, I see every day how much our local public schools mean to our community—and to my kids. I enjoy the excitement in their eyes when they learn something new or share a story from class, and it makes me worry that diverting funds to private institutions through school vouchers will take away the resources that help make those moments possible.

When I drop my children off at school each morning, I'm reminded of the dedicated teachers, supportive programs, and the inclusive environment that our public schools provide. I fear that with school vouchers, taxpayer money would be siphoned away from these vital services, leaving our schools with larger class sizes and fewer opportunities for those who need extra help. In my view, investing in our public schools is not just about education—it's about nurturing a community where every child, regardless of background, can thrive.

Donna Ferry

Self

Boerne, TX

One of the unargued negative result of vouchers is the huge impact it will have on the pension system. If the state cannot maintain a healthy pension now, vouchers will make the TRS as bad as social security.

Mary Ragland, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

Vouchers will not improve education for most Texas students. Increase funding for public schools to improve outcomes. Many rural districts have no private schools. Only the rich will benefit.

Sarah Berton

Self, student

San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. If Texas wants to show it supports public education, it will reject vouchers. Vouchers harm urban and rural communities alike, as well as students with disabilities needing special education. Texans across the state have made clear they do not want this bill, and if it passes, it will be the result not of the people's will, but one governor's crusade to substitute the people's will for his own. Abbott does not care about every day Texans—those living in rural districts, those with disabilities, etc. He cares about sucking up to Republicans in Washington. Every day Texans, on the other hand, care about and support our public schools. And we want state funding to go to the state's public schools, not its private schools, which are not accessible to all students.

Margaret Trinidad

self / educator

Brownsville, TX

As a proud public educator and taxpayer, I would like to propose the following questions to those in attendance:

1. How many senators and house representatives actually have a degree in education?
2. How many of you have been to a public school or classroom within the past 5 years to observe a classroom?
3. How many have taken the time to review Texas TEKS and the STAAR test? My 4th and probably most important question: what has been done in the past to help public schools with the many obstacles we are facing? So much effort, research, and time have been put towards vouchers, yet what can be said about public schools? On a daily basis, I am responsible for the needs, wants, and much more for 20+ students. I help students tie their shoes, manage their feelings about their dog that has passed, concerns about their father and mother getting divorced, their stomach hurting, and their academics. These are the daily needs of children that need reassurance that they are cared for and loved. I spend more time with them in the day than some of their own parents. I do this all while trying to prepare them for a state test that is way above their grade level. Of course, it looks like students can't read if you are basing your information on the state test. The test has been proven to be at a readability way above their grade level. Why not put more money into helping students learn to read? This is one of the most difficult objectives in education that greatly affects their future. I do not want my taxpayer money put into vouchers or private schools. I want it to go to public schools and the many men and women working daily to help our future succeed.

Julie Davia, Mother and full time worker

Self

Trophy club, TX

I do not support this bill, and if the house wants it to pass, it should be held to a public vote so we can show you our support or not. I've tthis will greatly hurt my 4th grader who is in the gifted and talented program. Larger class sizes and lack of funding to support extra programs such as gifted and talented will greatly diminish her elementary education. Please do not pass this bill.

Public schools educate more than 90% of students in Texas. Those students deserve full funding for their schools before any discussion of diverting taxpayer money for private school subsidies.

School choice already exists in Texas via public school districts, charter schools, inter- and intra-district transfers, home schools, virtual schools, and private schools.

Emily Kaszczuk

Self/parent

Leander, TX

I am writing to you as a parent and a member of my local PTA. I wish to share my opposition to HB 3 and the Educational Savings Accounts. I am the mother of two children who attend elementary school in Leander, TX. Our district, Leander ISD, has announced a significant budget shortfall. Their remedy is staffing reductions for the upcoming school year. Over 200 district positions would need to be eliminated. In our school, this could mean fewer positions per grade level, increased class sizes and fewer support staff such as counselors, librarians, and aides.

Parents can already choose public school, private school, charter school or home school for their children. I have chosen public school for my children and I support my local school district as a tax payer and property owner. HB 3 and ESAs take away my choice by requiring MY tax money to support private schools. I do not have the choice to elect that \$10,000 of additional funds be given to my local public school. I do not have the choice to opt out of my tax dollars going to fund school vouchers.

This is unacceptable. I want this legislature to take accountability, listen to the parent voice, and have the courage to do the right thing: say NO to ESA/Vouchers and Fund our Public Schools properly.

Thank you.

William Haliburton

Self

Robinson, TX

This bill is not needed in this State. Our Texas Public Schools provide a lifeline in our Texas urban and Rural communities. An Education Saving Account as read, will hurt NOT HELP those folks who benefit from public schools. WacoISD, MidwayISD, RobinsonISD, LaVegaISD, ConnellyISD, MartISD, and ReiselISD are not just institutions in McLennan County, they are Friday night get togethers, Weekly neighbor meetings. Pride they wear everywhere in their communities. TempleISD and BeltonISD, RogersISD, AcademyISD why would Rep. Buckley want to hurt these ISD in their district? Also, as a practicing Catholic, Need I remind you folks what Religious institutions can hamfist accountable when dealing with any type of scandal? This Bill is wrong for Texas and her Public Schools.

Jason Gay

self, IT

Richardson, TX

Please vote against HB 3. I'm strongly opposed to the Texas school voucher bill. My kids went to public school here in Texas, and my wife teaches at public school in Texas, and I don't want public schools defunded in Texas by using money on vouchers that could be used for public education. With school vouchers, money would instead be used for families who can afford private schools to get a subsidy and an entitlement for choosing to send their kids to private school, and doing so on the backs of taxpayers. And those private schools are not held responsible with the same accountability standards as public schools, which further dilutes education levels in the state. I'm all for school choice as long as it's paid for by the families who choose to send their kids to private school. I can't think of any other public-provided service that's subsidized if you decide not to use it. If I were to choose to use a private service to pick up my trash because it serves my needs better, I would never expect the government to subsidize that choice and expense. Please vote against school vouchers and against privileged subsidies.

Laura Wilson

Self

McKinney, TX

I am firmly against public school funds going to pay for private schools. This type of program has bankrupted Arizona public schools and produced education inequalities in Indiana. If a school accepts these funds, they should have to take the STAAR test, accept every student who applies and provide fee transportation. As a registered Rebulucan, I'm very disappointed in this because Rebulucans used to stand for fiscal conservatism. The vouches will be abused and will bleed money. It simply makes no sense.

Janelle Allen-Croxton
Self, Self Employed
Bridgeport, TX

I am NOT OK with HB3

My Money is for MY CHOICE SCHOOL for my child not a Government controlled option. Illegals shouldn't be able to touch Americans money!!! This is not ok.

Annie Wigley
Self / therapist
MCKINNEY, TX

Strongly oppose.

Amy De Rosa, Mrs
Self—grandparent who pays for and oversees grandkids' education
Harker Heights, TX

It appears Texas is not going to reduce the public education budget to fund school choice. Is that accurate?

If that's accurate, where is the money for the ESAs coming from?

Andra Villegas
Self
N Richlnd Hls, TX

No vouchers!

No education savings account program!!!

You need to listen to the citizens of Texas. If this is such a great idea, put it on the ballot for the public to vote on, not just Representatives in Austin!!!

Jill Smith
Tx State Teacher Association
Buda, TX

I believe it is a tragedy to not support our public schools as being an aunt and assisting taking care of my nieces and nephews I know the importance this has. I also remember how it impacted my life as a student.

JoAnne Owens
First Congregational Church
Houston, TX

There are many arguments against vouchers in any form:

While Texas's public schools must abide by certain curriculum and testing rules, private schools do not and will not be asked to do so when receiving public funds. In other words, there is no accountability and no control over what students are learning.

While Texas's public schools must accept every student in their district, regardless of income or learning disability or academic history, private schools do not. Vouchers will not provide choice for every student; they will provide choice for a certain subset of students.

And yes, vouchers WILL affect public school funding. Texas's school funding model is based on school attendance. If a school loses ten percent of its students, it loses 10 percent of its per pupil allocation. But its overhead expenses remain the same. It doesn't cost less to operate a building with 10 percent fewer students, and depending on the distribution of students, teacher costs will also stay the same.

There are no indicators from other states that school vouchers produce better academic results. And evidence shows that the chief beneficiaries are students from wealthy families who are already attending private schools.

The Texas Legislature has failed public schools and public-school students. School funding, when adjusted for inflation, has been flat since 2019. Texas, with the 8th largest economy in the world, falls in the bottom quartile of states when it comes to public school funding. The authority of professional educators is questioned at every turn. Teacher pay in Texas is ten percent lower than the national average, leading to teacher shortages and uncertified teachers in the classroom (in the 2023-24 school year, 38% of teachers were not certified). And there is no preparation for the almost certain loss of federal funding for Texas schools, which is 18 percent of school funding.

Yes, there are many arguments against vouchers. As I understand it, there is only one argument for – to give parents “choice.” But what is driving this need for choice? If it's underperforming public schools, then fund the schools and pay the teachers adequately.

Paige Wood
Self
Longview, TX

No Vouchers! Public schools will suffer. If private school students are worth \$10,000 then do the same for public schools. If kids can choose private schools and avoid STAAR, then do the same for public schools. There are so many things that are different for public schools that are controlled by the government, giving government money to private schools with no regulations cannot be ethical. Harmful on so many levels.

Melissa Carnero
Self
Amarillo, TX

I bet that you do not agree to this! This is terrible and would be hurtful to so many kids in so many ways!!

The public school system has supports student who have many different learning disabilities, who do well and who struggle.

Don't take this from them. The public system helps families not just the students. We become family. Don't go this route! I beg you.

Yomaris Masterton
Self
Austin, TX

Before we begin funding private schools we should fund our public schools. There is no reason that a private school should receive more per child than a public school. Public schools help the most kids they deserve the most money!

Adonis Schurmann, Mrs.

TSTA as self

San Antonio, TX

Public schools must be fully funded. It is clear that public schools are under attack by those who are interested in person gain. There are numerous examples of abuse of funding by charter schools in the San Antonio area. Until there is oversight and a process by which charter schools are held accountable for their spending of public education dollars they must be stopped. Public schools service all students charters do not. Please consider what is best for all students in San Antonio and Texas.

Emily Gogineni

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I've been a hard working teacher at a low income school in Conroe ISD for 23 years. Public education is a mission field for most teachers who sacrifice for each student and work endlessly bridging gaps in learning. Life isn't fair to many of my students and education is their only way out of poverty. This Bill 3 will not accomplish that for those students and parents wishing more for their children.

Larry Jefferson

Self Retired Accountant

Dallas, TX

Please vote NO to this bill. Our public schools need supporting and a guaranteed education for those who can not afford private schools.

Shanna Peebles, Dr.

Self

Amarillo, TX

As an educator and researcher focused on rural education in the Texas Panhandle, I urge you to consider the disproportionate impact this legislation would have on rural communities.

New data from the Legislative Budget Board reveals that approximately 175,000 students already enrolled in private schools would receive vouchers, compared to just 24,500 public school students who would transfer—a 7:1 ratio. This confirms that the primary beneficiaries of this \$1 billion program would be families who already have access to private education.

For rural Panhandle communities, the consequences are severe:

1. Financial Destabilization: Small districts with fewer than 1,000 students retain approximately 92% of fixed costs when students leave, resulting in losses of \$12,500-\$14,000 per departing student. For a rural district, losing just eight students could eliminate an entire science lab budget or force cuts to arts, sports, and AP programs.
2. Economic Ripple Effects: Schools employ up to 25% of some local workforces in rural counties. Studies confirm that rural business bankruptcies often follow school closures, creating cascading economic effects throughout communities already struggling with population decline.
3. Lack of Actual Choice: In many Panhandle counties, the nearest private school is over 100 miles away. Even when accessible, these schools often terminate at 6th grade, lack accreditation, and don't serve students with disabilities. The proposed "choice" is illusory when no accessible alternatives exist.
4. Special Education Gap: Only 6% of Texas private schools offer services for moderate to severe disabilities. In rural communities, school-based special education programs often provide therapies unavailable through local healthcare providers.
5. Virtual School Problems: Online options aren't viable for the 40% of rural households lacking reliable broadband access. Research shows virtual schools have a 30-point lower graduation rate than traditional schools.

If the Legislature proceeds with HB 3, I respectfully request these necessary amendments:

- Tighten eligibility requirements to prioritize truly economically disadvantaged students
- Require participating private schools to accept all students, including those with disabilities
- Establish protection mechanisms for small districts facing disproportionate financial impacts
- Create rural-specific education innovation grants that strengthen existing public schools

The issue transcends partisanship. It's about ensuring that state policy recognizes the unique needs of rural communities rather than imposing metropolitan solutions in contexts where they cannot function as intended.

Thank you for your consideration.

Parris Greer
Self/Psychotherapist
Dallas, TX

The purpose of this form is to aid Texas residents in electronically submitting public comments to House committees

Deseree Lopez
Self
Richardson, TX

Vouchers should NOT be in Texas. We should NOT take funding away from the already stretched Texas education system and funnel it into schools that barely educate 5% of Texas children. This would be hugely detrimental to more rural counties where private schools are unavailable but yet funding has been removed from their districts. Please vote against vouchers for Texas.

Anna Lindsey, Mrs.
Self, Professor
The Hills, TX

Vouchers will hurt our Texas schools. Texans already have a choice in how they school their children, but public funds should only be used for public schools. This is a universally disliked idea, with Texas across all political parties rejecting it.

Public school funding in other states has suffered when voucher or ESA programs have passed. Texas is already in the bottom 10 states in the country for per-pupil funding, and our 5.5 million students across Texas – learning in urban, suburban, and rural cities and towns in more than 1,250 school districts and charter schools – can't afford to see their schools' budgets shrunk any further.

Florida is an instructive example. While Florida increased its spending on three voucher programs by 313% from fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2019, the state decreased its per-pupil funding for public education over this time period by 12%.

Voucher program costs have also tended to outstrip their promised price tags. Arizona estimated its voucher program would cost \$65 million, but the program has ballooned to over \$700 million in taxpayer funds.

I urge you to fully fund our public schools rather than handing out coupons to parents already paying for private schools, which are largely unregulated and not required to provide services to all children.

Allison Hanschen
Self, speech-language pathologist
Austin, TX

I am an Austin resident and product of public schools in Leander ISD. My two children now attend Austin ISD schools as transfers within the district, as we already have school choice.

Please refuse the establishment of an education savings account program because it will remove public funds from public schools. We have a sizable budget deficit as it is, and this program would make it exponentially worse. Furthermore, children requiring specialized services (such as speech therapy) are not guaranteed those services in private schools. Students may be forced out of a private school for any reason and yet the voucher funds would remain in that private school despite the student returning back to attend the public school. Staffing is at a crisis level with teachers bearing the brunt of the shortage and minimal pay. We should be investing thousands more in public schools rather than removing allocated resources.

Public funds belong in public education.

Thank you for keeping public funding going to public education.

Theresa Reagan

Self

Harlingen, TX

I am against vouchers for private school. Funding should go to public schools. Vouchers will lead to hurting public schools and segregation will happen again. Separation of church and state.

Vanessa Alvarez

Self

Plano, TX

Pass school vouchers! Let me choose my child's education!

Melissa Glassman

Self, mother

Dallas, TX

I do not feel that this will support the majority of Texas students. In the end, it will hurt the majority of Texas students, including many rural families who have been clear about not wanting vouchers. I am also concerned about the effects this will have on special education students and family and will reduce their access to supports. This should not be a partisan issue, Texas needs strong public schools that are available to all. School choice already exists, families who wish to send their children to private school can do so. Thank you

Laura Coughlin

self - teacher

Houston, TX

I would like to know why public-school students are only worth approximately \$6,900.00 a year while private school students are worth \$10,000.00 a year. What justifies the difference in the value of each child?

Pamela Schwartz

Self

Abilene, TX

Vote definitely no on school vouchers, they are talking about taking from Teachers Retirement!!!! They have no right to take from teachers who have put in and are relying on that to live when we retire. Please vote no!!

Terri Childress, Mrs

Public schools

Plano, TX

Public and private schools must be held to same standards and governed in the same manner. That does not happen today. Teacher certifications are not the same, public paid on attendance as by, private I. Enrollment, testing and school trier cards not the same. Vouchers will not help people that cannot afford private school today. Public schools are hurting, teachers are hurting, kids don't get what they need because funding for public schools is poor and unfair.

Whitney Dunbar

Self

Prosper, TX

I have a child in private school (prestonwood Christian academy) and 3 in public schools (prosper ISD). Private school is a CHOICE! Public school is a necessity! Period! Shame on anyone who votes for this!

Torie Glover
Self
Prosper, TX
Strongly oppose

Ioana Radulescu
Pisd
Plano, TX
No

Kelsey Jensen
Self
Mckinney, TX

I am in opposition to HB 3 because this bill plan will divert taxpayer dollars away from public schools, which serve the vast majority of students, and funnel the funds instead into private institutions that are not held to the same accountability standards. Our schools are already under-funded. McKinney ISD just sent an email notifying parents of severe district cuts that had to be made due to lack of funding. My children attend MISD. What are you doing to ensure MORE funding for our children attending public schools? Why can't we invest in the children, the future of this country? Research has shown that investing in public education has massive benefits, including boosting the economy. Please do not take away more funding from our children.

jordan stephens
self RN
plano, TX

I am absolutely opposed to this bill. I am the product of public schooling, my mother daughter in Texas schools for over 40 years, and I send my children to public schools currently. This bill will steal from my children and not give them the same opportunities I was given. Please do not vote for the bill.

Christi Caulfield
Self
Friendswood, TX

I want to register my opposition to HB3. I do not support tax dollars going anywhere but public schools. Texans don't want vouchers. We want strong public schools!

June Reeder
Self
Chico, TX
Funds for public education

abby brody
Self
GEORGETOWN, TX

Vote NO! School vouchers will gut public school funding. Texan billionaires just want WHITE, CHRISTIAN PRIVATE schools! We do NOT agree and you need to demonstrate courage and commitment to hard-working Texans and say NO!

Monique Miller
Self/marketing professional
Grand Prairie, TX

Instead of diverting resources to private schools, we need to focus on strengthening our public schools. We need to invest in our teachers, provide them with the resources they need, and ensure that every student has access to a quality education. We must reject the siren song of vouchers and instead champion a system that truly serves all students. This bill only diverts money to the wealthiest of students and leaves the others behind. Please vote no on vouchers and instead fully fund public education.

Jacob Klett, Mr.
Self
Buda, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 in its current form. The Texas Legislature should be weary of creating a new government entitlement program, the full long-term cost of which is difficult to ascertain. The fiscal analysis of Senate Bill (SB) 2 reflects an initial cost of \$1 billion to implement an Education Savings Account (ESA) program expanding to \$4 billion by 2030, only five years later. The establishment of an ESA program as described in HB 3 and SB 2 also does not meaningfully expand choice for families given only a small portion of Texas students would be eligible for funds under an ESA program. Further, the proposed legislation places no parameters upon private school institutions related to enrollment practices for students participating in the ESA program. Presumably, it is possible for a student to be eligible for the ESA yet not accepted to a private school under their enrollment process. As a condition of accepting public funds through the ESA program, a participating institution should be required to accept an eligible student. Without requirements on enrollment practices, regardless of the funding levels provided under the current proposed bill for students with disabilities, private institutions would have no obligation to accept students with more unique educational needs or any student who is academically underperforming. This seems at odds with the premise of school choice whereas families are assumed to seek alternatives to traditional public education to obtain stronger outcomes for their child. The accountability of private schools to produce positive outcomes under HB 3 and SB 2 is not strong enough to justify the investment of tax payer dollars in the ESA program as currently envisioned by the legislation. Texas tax payers deserve transparency into how tax dollars are being spent and public dollars should be allocated toward programs that produce measurable benefit. Public schools have clear and transparent standards of accountability that ensure families can be informed about the quality of the educational program. The same would not be true of institutions receiving ESA funds. A norm-referenced test requirement is not an adequate enough standard of accountability or transparency as a condition of receipt of public tax dollars. Private institutions accepting public dollars should be held to an equivalent standard of accountability and transparency for producing positive student outcomes as public schools. The tax paying public should have clear data to ascertain the effectiveness of the ESA program with metrics that allow for a comparison of student outcomes across the full landscape of Texas education including publicly provided programs and private programs that receive public funds.

Sarah Powell
Self
Grapevine, TX

I am vehemently opposed to this bill—this “education savings account” will be using public funding for private institutions, including religious ones, in violation of our constitution. There is absolutely no oversight to how the institutions will use the money, nor any accountability, while our public schools maintain stringent standards and actually receive LESS per student. This is a violation of our rights. I have two young, elementary aged children. They love their public school, and the teachers and staff there are only going to grow more taxed by increased class sizes and stagnant pay rates if this bill is passed. Save public education from this massacre.

Pamela Willey
Self
LUBBOCK, TX

I am opposed to providing money for private schools under the guise of school choice. Many areas have no private schools, and even with an education savings account, most people will still be unable to afford a private school's tuition. These schools pick and choose who attends and do not offer programs for special students. There is no oversight on these schools and how the money is spent. Public education is overseen by the State of Texas Education department and has to follow many state mandates, such as state testing and being rated by these results. Private schools have none of these mandates and pick and choose who they will accept. Public education must take any student who lives in their attendance area and provide an appropriate education. Public school teachers' salaries have not kept up with inflation and are lagging, causing teachers to leave the profession and have to have second jobs to live. The students being educated in public are the future of Texas, and education should be a priority. How does it make sense to give more to a private school and less to a public school to educate a student? Please consider the inequity in this bill.

Becca Luedecke
Self
Austin, TX

As someone who values our public schools, I do not support school vouchers.

Alan Lobaugh
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly disagree with the School voucher program. I oppose the "Education Savings Account" program for the following reasons:

We need to be fully funding our public school systems and paying our teachers better

The ESA program will not pay the full price of tuition, thus it will benefit parents who already have their children in private schools and prohibit other families from using the private school

Many rural communities have no private school option

Most private schools do not have programs for special needs students, so you are in effect trying to defund the schools that help young people who need the most help.

This is a terrible PR situation. This would increase the education gap between the wealthy and the poor. We need to be building relationships among all our young people so that they learn to work together for the future. This program feels a lot like the "white flight" from cities a few decades ago.

I cannot speak to your committee next Tuesday, but would be honored to be invited any other time.

Ann Edwards
Ann Edwards
Plano, TX

Fund our PUBLIC schools. I do not agree with giving government support to private institutions. Our tax dollars should be designated for public education. Increase teacher salaries in public schools.

Rhonda Tiedt
Self
Fairview, TX

I just want to express my absolute opposition to this bill and school vouchers. I firmly believe the basic allotment for public schools should be increased to at least equal the rate of Inflation since 2019.

I also believe that public tax dollars should not be used to for private school funding. If you do provide vouchers of 10k, then the basic allotment from the state for public schools should be the same (10k/ENROLLED student, and not based on attendance). Mandates from the state, such as mandating security Marshals, should be fully funded by the state (I.e. our tax dollars).

Danita Sawyer

RENEWED AND RESTORED COUNSELING AND LIFE COACHING LLC

Houston, TX

I oppose this bill as it is taking funds away from public education in which their funds are in need of increasing to meet educational and mental health needs. Most public schools in Texas are understaffed with mental health professionals, counselors. Children are suffering, mentally and emotionally due to their backgrounds due to their home environments and the challenges of education. I am in favor of using the funds to support public education and adding additional counselors to every campus.

Hannah Cruz

Self, Teacher

AUSTIN, TX

My name is Hannah Cruz and I am a special education teacher here in Texas. I have worked as a special education teacher after graduating from UT Austin for eight years and across three different states. The conditions in Texas public schools are the worst I have seen for students with disabilities. We do not have adequate materials, qualified staff, sufficient numbers of teacher to support the high special education student ratios, we offer measly in school therapy services (occupational, speech, and physical), our infrastructure is dated, and our assessments and curriculum decades behind that of states that better fund their school systems and have higher qualifications required for teachers. Low teacher pay, budget cuts, a focus on test scores and not wholistic school measures, and worsening classroom conditions have contributed to high teacher turnover rates, low morale, and ultimately poorer outcome for students. HB3 will exacerbate all of these existing issues by pulling fund from public schools for Charters and Private schools. Having worked in BOTH of these settings, I have seen the financial abuse first hand - higher ups paying themselves inordinate salaries, the cherry picking of children to attend, de facto racial segregation, and cutting corners when it comes to IEP (individual education plan) implementation. Please here the voices of Texas Public School Teachers when we say STOP HB3. Thank you to whoever took the time to read my comments and hear my please. Respectfully, Hannah Cruz

Carolina Rittenhouse

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I urge the Texas House Committee to reject school voucher programs, which divert taxpayer dollars away from our already underfunded public schools. Vouchers primarily benefit private institutions that are not held to the same transparency, accountability, or non-discrimination standards as public schools. Instead of improving education for all Texas children, vouchers will deepen inequities, leaving rural and low-income students with fewer resources and opportunities.

One major consequence of this funding loss is the impact on public school athletics, particularly football and baseball—both of which are deeply rooted in Texas culture. With fewer resources, schools will struggle to maintain quality coaching, equipment, and facilities. Smaller schools, especially in rural areas, may be forced to cut programs altogether, depriving students of opportunities that teach discipline, teamwork, and leadership while also serving as a source of community pride. Losing these programs would be devastating for students hoping to earn athletic scholarships, as well as for communities that rally around their local teams.

Public funds should be used to strengthen our neighborhood schools—not subsidize private and religious education. I ask you to stand with Texas families and invest in the public education system that serves 90% of our students.

Nicole Wright

Self - events manager

Melissa, TX

PUBLIC EDUCATION DESERVES TO BE FULLY FUNDED.

Ali Bagheri

self

Austin, TX

I am a Texas native, a product of Texas public schools, and it is incumbent upon the representatives of this state to continue to use public funds only for public schools. Texas public schools were the springboard that got me into the University of Texas, and got me great jobs beyond that - all in Texas. Texas public schools keep the economy strong and offer an opportunity for everyone to be a productive member of our great state. Fund Texas public schools, not private schools. Vote no on HB 3.

Dana Palacios

Self - mother of 4 Texas public school students

Plano, TX

This bill is not based on what is best for Texas students. This is solely an attempt to appease wealthy donors. What is best for students is to increase funding to public schools. Of the 5 million public school students in Texas, over 3 million depend on the schools for more than an education, including meals. This is not a burden, but our responsibility. Offsetting the cost of private school for those families who CHOSE that path will make providing for the 60+% of economically disadvantaged students even more difficult.

Our family is not ED and we consider it our ministry to stand up for, work for, and protect the students whose parents are not even getting by at this juncture. Our very special elementary school is struggling as it is to make ends meet. This year our PE coaches had a budget of \$200 to replace equipment. Luckily our PTA spent \$2400 to get them the supplies they needed for a 40 year old school that serves 520 children in north Texas.

This bill is not widely supported by Texans. Only by the elected officials whose greed for power and money wants the financial backing from already wealthy donors who want to further line their pockets.

We see you. We know who is not listening to their constituents. The tide is turning and a few wealthy donors can't keep you in office forever when the rest of your district looks for someone who actually wants to make things better.

Brad Kirchhofer

self

HOUSTON, TX

I strongly support educational freedom for all Texas families. Please move this bill forward.

Eren Turner

Self, Licensed Professional Counselor

Corinth, TX

I am a parent of two high school students in public school, and I have spent 10 years of my career working as a counselor in public schools. Like the vast majority of constituents in Texas, I am vehemently opposed to vouchers of any kind. Our focus - YOUR focus, as our leaders - should be to serve ALL your constituents, to provide the best education possible for all the children in Texas, not to just gift the select few a discount on private school. Vouchers will take money away from so many of our students, especially the most vulnerable - those requiring accommodations due to physical or mental differences. Please listen to the people in your districts and vote no on this bill. Please put the focus on improving public schools so they are more equip to serve all students instead of pulling money away and causing them to struggle more. Texas will be better for it.

Fiona Neale-May

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is a complete sham to destabilize our already poor level of education in Texas, moving both power and money into the hands of the already wealthy and leaving our more vulnerable communities in worse state. How do we ever expect to become a smarter, stronger state and country if we don't invest in universal education that does not rely on this charter school / coupon garbage. Look at other states who have tried this and how poorly educated their youth are in these systems. Wake up.

Angie Nobles
Self
Georgetown, TX

I adamantly oppose vouchers!
Our Public Schools have been neglected for 5 years - DO NOT send Public dollars to Private Schools.

Karen McLachlan
none
Plano, TX

I am against school vouchers. I believe in supporting public education, and if people opt for private, pay themselves, not tax payer funded,

Joy Neale-May, Mrs.
Self
Austin, TX
NO - remove

Carol Chance, Dr.
Teachers
Georgetown, TX

As a public school educator/administrator of forty-two years, I am opposed to vouchers using public tax dollars to support private schools. On a personal note, my mother paid for my K- 12 Catholic school education. As a professional educator, I am severely aware of the under-funding of public schools. Budget cuts have been a routine procedure due to a lack of funds. State monitoring of public and private schools to guarantee equity and curriculum/testing compliance would be overwhelming. Vouchers would increase the great divide for quality education for all. Those that have resources would have more; those that don't have would lag further behind. School criteria for selection of students with their vouchers would open avenues to greater discrimination. PUBLIC TAX \$s for PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

Rebekah Porter
Self/greater homeschool community
Mckinney, TX

Texans already have the choice on where and what institution to send our children for education. The voucher system is a bad idea all the way around. Please work alongside homeschool families before drafting bills that will greatly affect us. Many families move to Texas and choose to homeschool in Texas because it is literally the best state to do so in the union! Spend time working with educators, parents and your constituents before passing bills we do not desire and voting for bills with detrimental affect!

Tanya Easley
Self - Professor of Mathematics
Porter, TX

As a 27 year veteran of teaching, mostly in 6-12 public schools and most recently in our local community college, I truly believe this bill is bad for our education system. This bill will only serve to hurt public schools more instead of fixing issues. We will continue to lose great educators because more and more is expected with less and less. Unfunded mandates, high stakes testing, having to teach content and social-emotional learning and life skills and keep up with lesson plans and paperwork and required pd which is often completely unrelated to their actual needs have all served to burn teachers out at a disturbingly fast rate. Adding school vouchers which will likely only remove more affluent students and possibly top performing students will only speed up the burn out. The fix is to lighten the load of educators and trust them to be the professionals they are trained to be.

Auntie Dilts

Self

Alpine, TX

I am a homeschool teacher of 5. I am also a homeschool graduate. My family is a single income, lower middle class family. If anyone would likely benefit from a bill like this, it would be mine. That said, my family already has school choice. Leeper confirmed what Texas parents already knew that our children are our responsibility and the choice for their education is ours alone. My family and 1000's of others have chosen to make the financial sacrifices necessary to teach our own children. The cost is a million times over worth it. We do not want or require financial assistance to provide for our children, especially not from government. No matter how well intentioned some of you may be, the scariest words from the government remain, "I'm here to help." This is because "help" always comes with strings. Some of you may think that what you've authored wouldn't be used against those you're trying to help. But have you thought about where this could lead 5, 10-20 years from now? That is the concern of freedom loving families in Texas. We are not just thinking about the here and now, but like we always do, about our children's future. HB3 should receive a Nay Vote from every freedom loving Texan. Please do the right thing and vote No on HB3!

Anne Thornton

Self/Director of Agriculture in higher ed

Greenville, TX

As a Republican and career educator, HB 3 will create increasing financial hardships for rural Texas ISDs. All of the states that currently have ESAs are seeing that the intended beneficiaries in students are not receiving the funds, but wealthy families are receiving the greatest benefit. Likewise, using public tax dollars for private, religious oriented schools, would violate the US Constitution. It is an infringement on the separation of church and state. I have been in education for 31 years and State mandated testing has created a massive problem by promoting our ly teaching content on the test. If ESAs are passed, this will end up in a court battle. We would be more productive with fully funded schools, and increasing teacher pay. I am fully tested in TRS and close to retirement. If ESAs are implemented, my TRS is in danger if mass numbers of teachers leave the system. Even 1% loss would impact my retirement. Please stop this bill!!!!

Elena Coates

self; actor/media producer

Houston, TX

This bill is a disastrous move that will take critical funding away from the public school system. Texans deserve a public school system that serves the needs of all students with qualified teachers and professional staff, and the proposed \$1 billion expenditure should support smaller class sizes, upgraded facilities, special education programs, and high calibre curriculum, including arts, physical education and libraries managed by librarians in our PUBLIC schools, and guarantee LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY through an ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD. We have worked for decades to hold our public schools accountable for student progress and there is no standard to evaluate schools outside the public system. This is a blatant move to weaken the public system and it should be rejected AGAIN. Clearly the people of Texas do not want this; stop wasting our time trying to shove this bill down our throats and instead do something meaningful that benefits our children. Improve PUBLIC schools, and put oversight back in the hands of LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Ava Bartek
Self-Retired Educator
Belton, TX

My name is Ava Bartek. I am a constituent of Texas House District 54. I am writing to ask my Representative and other voting Representatives to vote NO on HB 3. Our public schools need full funding. I am a retired public school educator with 38 years of experience. My profession was not just a "job"; it was a calling that I dearly loved. The days were not always easy; however, each was ALWAYS rewarding. Since my retirement in 2014, things have drastically changed. Each year, our public schools are being faced with more and more expectations and challenges put on them every day. They accept and take them on for the benefit of their students, our kids! There is only so much they can do. Now, you want to present the insurmountable challenge of even less funding of an amount that wasn't enough to start with. We are losing more and more of our valued, dedicated educators who are highly qualified professionals who make a difference in our children's lives every day. I'm afraid if this bill passes, we will lose exponentially more. The children of this great State of Texas deserve better than this. They deserve better from you.

I challenge you to:

1. Look deep within your heart and be brutally honest with yourself concerning what is best for Texas's children and public schools. Please take a stand for what is best for our children and for public schools, and do not allow yourself to be bullied.

Please vote NO.

2. I challenge you to take one day and spend it in the public schools of your District. Talk to your teachers in those schools. Take time to know their teacher's heart, their love for their students, and how they fear the passing of HB 3 will affect their students. Take time to discover the teachers' pride in their students and let yourself feel the dedication they have regarding their students' successes. Take a moment and get to know and see your public schools...don't just assume to know.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ava Bartek

Retired Educator/Belton ISD

Daniel Selvaggio
Oxfam/Indivisible/Self
Temple, TX

Hello!

Please keep public education a priority. There is sufficient evidence that vouchers do not benefit communities at large. There is already school choice, taxes stay for public schools. I'd like to think you all know that and will make the right choice for Texas. Thank you!

Courtney Garrett
self, Librarian/GT Teacher
Plainview, TX

Texans are tired of hearing that the “overwhelming majority” of us support school choice, based on the following YouGov survey by the University of Houston and the proposition from the November 2024 election that was poorly worded and again, misleading.

The YouGov survey only included 2,257 participants, which is far from a reliable sample size. There are numerous high schools that have more people than that. I would be willing to bet that your offices have received far more correspondence on this issue than what took the survey.

<https://uh.edu/hobby/txtrends/education.pdf>

<https://texasgop.org/republican-primary-ballot-proposition/>

11.) Texas parents and guardians should have the right to select schools, whether public or private, for their children, and the funding should follow the student.

I would encourage you to pose this question to the constituents in your respective districts and gauge the true stance regarding school choice:

“Texas parents and guardians should have the right to select schools, whether public, private, charter, homeschool, or online, for their children, and they should be responsible for the costs associated with each type of school.”

Prior to this proposition on the November 2024 ballot, members were already receiving a lot of correspondence regarding school choice. Below are The House of Representatives Compilation of Public Comments Submitted to the Committee on Public Education For Hearing Date: Monday, August 12, 2024 9:00 AM:

Comments on HB 1605 (HQIM): 85 pages, 339 comments

<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/publiccomments/Meetings/C4002024081209001/InputItems/75c98f31-6b17-4571-9f1e-13e244d1a3ea.pdf#navpanes=0>

Comments on Educational Opportunity: 198 pages, 606 comments

<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/publiccomments/Meetings/C4002024081209001/InputItems/361d8e32-e055-4dd8-ad92-535106f1e431.pdf#navpanes=0>

A total of 2,257 survey participants in July 2024. A total of 945 unsolicited comments in August 2024.

Texans were proactively expressing their concerns about vouchers and school choice long before the November election.

TEA Commissioner Mike Morath testified at the Public Education Committee meeting on February 25 where he presented the following handout:

<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/handouts/C4002025022510001/f8e1a795-659d-43d9-8290-86a303367463.PDF>

According to slide 3, Texas families have the “Current Learning Options” which is synonymous with “Existing School Choice”:

Public Charter Schools: 422,930

Virtual/Hybrid Schools: 51,904

Private Schools: 286,624

Homeschool: 494,251

1,255,709 students are in charter, private, homeschool, or online.

230,858 more students are transfers to another public school district.

In other words, they are “not trapped by their zip code.”

1,486,567 students are already taking advantage of school choice without the use of my taxpayer dollars.

Poll your districts. Represent their voice. **NO TO SCHOOL CHOICE!**

Madden Murphy

Self

Tomball, TX

I wish to voice my disdain on this proposed bill. As a public teacher for special needs children, we already lack the appropriate funding for our programs and students. It’s appalling that the state would consider throwing our much needed money towards a system of schools who don’t have to educate those with disabilities. Public schools have to educate everyone so we should be given the funding necessary in order to do that!

Joshua Isaacs

Self - Private Educator - Real Estate Agent

Damon, TX

As a conservative, I am ashamed of how the Republicans in office have been handling this bill. From the Senate, where anyone who so much as questioned SB 2 was insulted on Facebook by elected Republicans, to the Governor's excessive harping on the subject and "fact-checking" campaign, to the handling of communications via emails. I, and others, were called trolls and blocked on social media by the representative of District 23 for asking how many times her constituents had reached out in support compared to opposition. Over email, I have received zero specifics from any Republican that has actually replied, only stonewalling my question with a copy/pasted response about an intentionally absurd interpretation of government codes 552.001, as well as 306.003 and .004, and going so far as telling me that the speaker's office was responsible for the counsel to block the release of any information regarding public opinion, which is in itself quite concerning. Further, the Democrats, though I differ from them extensively on policy, have been totally transparent, open, and honest about it. Why would the party I am a registered voter of, the party I have supported and voted for in every Texas general election, be so unwilling to discuss their constituents' opinions of this bill? What is there to hide that the Democrats across the aisle are willing to disclose? Harris' Town Hall showed what the Republicans want to hide. Our Republican representative from District 44 even told me that, in effect, he is comfortable ignoring emails and calls he receives to his office because they're not an accurate reflection of voters--instead, in his words, "I was elected to use my best judgment." No sir, the dictionary's definition of a Republic in which the people's voices bear no weight is called a banana republic, and you're welcome to look that up. A real Republic is one where you vote according to your constituents--you are intended to be a mouthpiece, not to use your "best judgement."

Now about the polling: The polling this year has consisted of 2 separate polls of 1,200 voters, which equates to 0.0038% of the population of Texas in each poll. Further, the polls and the proposal we voted on in the primary have all specifically stated that the money was following the child, yet this bill is to create an entirely new fund. In order to be a scientifically accurate poll, it would first have to simply be an accurate one. Any truly conservative representative should be pointing out the stark difference between money that's already allocated and increasing the budget, and opposing this bill until it creates zero new spending. We used to be the party that generally opposed new spending when previously allocated funds could suffice... We used to be a party of a lot of things we are not any longer. Truth. Transparency. Honesty. Integrity. None of it means very much in the Texas Capitol anymore, does it? Vote. Pass it. Spend more of our tax dollars. Use your "best judgement."

Kathryn Gabbert

Self

Mckinney, TX

We demand that you fully fund public education!

David Kaminski

self

Hockley, TX

I am writing to you to voice my concerns about the planned support of a voucher program without equality and fairness with traditional public-school support. To be sure, I believe that with all things equal no private school can match the results of traditional public schools. Public schools have been under assault in this state for years and especially since the Gov and Lt Gov have launched their attack on public schools, including chocking off funding while increasing mandates. So, I'm saying if you want vouchers, bring it. But at the same time lets level the playing field. We both know once vouchers pass there will be a rush to prove private schools outperform traditional public schools. Without a level playing field this comparison will be skewed, at best. So, if vouchers are passed you MUST also remove all statutes and laws currently imposed on public schools which differentiate from private schools.

I have NEVER heard the Governor, Lt. Governor, or any legislator suggest putting together a task force to investigate what's wrong with public schools. Don't you think we should investigate what is wrong and how to fix it before we create another bureaucracy and pour millions into a sink hole the way other states have done? I would really appreciate a fair comparison and I fear this will not happen. I will forever fight for truth - as my parents taught me right is right and wrong is wrong.. I'm hoping you will at least be fair in your pursuit.

sincerely,

David Kaminski

Sarah Furman
Self
Friendswood, TX

We do not want ESAs in Texas. They are unfair for the majority of low income, rural, and special education students in Texas. There is already school choice and public money should not support private education.

Christina Gollis
Self
Plano, TX

I oppose this bill because it will take money from public schools and only benefit a small number of students in Texas.

Kurt Fischer
Self
PLANO, TX

As a long time Texas resident and conservative voter, I am against the proposed system of providing vouchers to individuals who wish to pursue their children's education outside of the public school arena. It will ultimately transfer funds from existing public schools to private schools and result in diminished resources available for public education. This will result in the closure of public schools and fewer teachers, resulting in fewer choices for those pursuing their education through public schools. It will harm both quality school districts and poor school districts. Register my strong disagreement with HB 3. And my pledge to hold responsible any legislators enacting it.

Katherine McIntyre, The Honorable
Self
Austin, TX

Please support public schools before funding private and charter schools.

Tom Cawthon
Self
Highland Village, TX

The school voucher program is one of the most out of touch bills that has ever been brought to the fore. It's quite simply a bad idea. Public schools are already terribly underfunded. Taking public school dollars and giving it to families to send their child(ren) to private school will further weaken the public education system as we know it.

Please reconsider your support of this bill.

Summer Konneker, Mrs.
Self, Public School Teacher
Plano, TX

This bill is not based on what is best for Texas students. This is solely an attempt to appease wealthy donors. What is best for students is to increase funding to public schools. Of the 5 million public school students in Texas, over 3 million depend on the schools for more than an education, including meals. This is not a burden, but our responsibility. Offsetting the cost of private school for those families who CHOSE that path will make providing for the 60+% of economically disadvantaged students even more difficult.

Our family is not ED and we consider it our ministry, our privilege to stand up for, work for, and protect the students whose parents are not even getting by at this juncture. Our very special elementary school is struggling as it is to make ends meet. This year our PE coaches had a budget of \$200 to replace equipment. Luckily our PTA spent \$2400 to get them the supplies they needed for a 40 year old school that serves 520 children in north Texas.

This bill is not widely supported by Texans. Only by the elected officials whose greed for power and money wants the financial backing from already wealthy donors who want to further line their pockets.

We see you. We know who is not listening to their constituents. The tide is turning and a few wealthy donors can't keep you in office forever when the rest of your district looks for someone who actually wants to make things better.

Buffy Kerkhoff
Self - currently unemployed but looking
Katy, TX

I am wholeheartedly against this bill. I believe that school vouchers will divert essential funds from public schools, and they currently operate with tight budgets. If students leave public schools for private institutions using vouchers, it will reduce the amount of money available to support the remaining students in public education. This will lead to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and diminished quality in public schools, which still serve the majority of students. Also, while school vouchers are intended to give families more choices, they don't create equal opportunities for all students. Families in low-income areas will find it difficult to access private schools, even with vouchers, due to transportation barriers, limited availability of private institutions nearby, or additional fees not covered by the voucher. This can exacerbate existing inequalities between wealthier and poorer communities and is being seen in Arizona currently because vouchers were passed in 2022. School vouchers will perpetuate or even exacerbate segregation along racial, economic, or religious lines. Private schools could have selective admissions policies or may cater to particular groups, which could lead to further division in society. We should all be concerned about vouchers because inherently, education is a public good and should be funded and controlled by the state to ensure fairness, equity, and accountability. I do not want an entire generation of children non-educated because funding for public schools is no longer a priority. In addition private schools are often not equipped to handle students with special needs, including those with disabilities, in the same way that public schools are. This leaves some of the most vulnerable students without appropriate educational support. I think that school vouchers will exacerbate issues of equity, fairness, quality, and the potential for negative consequences for public education systems and marginalized communities. As a society, we should focus on improving and investing in public education to ensure all students have access to high-quality schooling and have an educated populace. The best way to achieve this is to have educators making decisions about our public school system instead of lawmakers and school boards who do not understand that public schools are not businesses and shouldn't be run as such.

Cecily Riesenbergl
Self - parent
Amarillo, TX

Vouchers will destroy our schools and bankrupt the state. They are not choice bills. They are vendor bills to enrich others from our tax dollars. Vote no!

Philip Tucker
Self
McKinney, TX

Please fully fund Texas Public education, and say NO to vouchers.

Shannon Davis
Self
Anna, TX

Fully Fund Public Education

Tamara Lacy
Self
Amarillo, TX

Dear House Public Education Committee,

HB 3 will gut TX public education. It will funnel taxpayer dollars through education savings accounts to students for private school tuition and related expenses at an initial cost of \$1 billion in state funds for the first two years that should go to our public schools.

That amount will increase in subsequent years, at a growing loss to public education and other critical public services.

State tax dollars must not be diverted from public to private schools. I oppose vouchers and related schemes — including education savings accounts, tax-credit scholarships and for-profit virtual schools — that use tax dollars to pay private school tuition for selected students while undermining public schools where the vast majority of Texas students are educated.

Voucher schemes across the country have proven to be burdensome on state budgets, and a Texas voucher would eventually add billions of dollars to the state budget without an additional funding mechanism.

The universal voucher plan that Gov. Abbott supports has been used in other states to funnel tax-paid subsidies to wealthy parents who already were sending their children to private schools, while many low-income families, even with vouchers, can't afford private school tuition.

I urge you to vote NO to vouchers! Vote NO on SB 2 and HB 3!

Sincerely,

Tamara Lacy

Lauren Doherty
Self
Allen, TX

I do not want educational savings accounts, vouchers, school choice, or any other program that will redirect funds from public schools to be passed. Texas needs to spend public tax dollars at public schools and at public schools ONLY! Our Texas schools are already severely underfunded. Not only do I not want the one billion dollars redirected to private institutions, but I want the billions of dollars in the "rainy day fund" released to increase the allotment as well. Please don't do this. Texans don't want it.

Bridget Harper
McKinney
McKinney, TX

Vouchers will destroy public schools. My children attend McKinney ISD and I am an employee of the district. It is unconscionable what legislation has been proposed that will give breaks to families who do not need financial assistance and take funds from vulnerable children who rely on public education. Texans do not want vouchers, and children need their schools to be funded fully. Parents are always free to choose the school that is best for their child, but giving preference to private schools is not the answer.

Katie Jeffcoats
Self
Plano, TX

Please do not take more money from public schools. This voucher bill would cause the public schools to be even less able to keep and hire quality teachers. Many parents can't afford private school, even with the voucher system, so this bill would directly impair the education of less fortunate kids. I do not want my kids to suffer due to other parents who feel public schools are not "good enough" for their kids. This voucher program seems like it validates that public schools are not "as good."

Katherine Hinz
Self
Plano, TX

Vouchers give parents a choice and make public schools competitive.

Rainbow Di Benedetto, Ms.
self, Director
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose school vouchers. We should be investing in our public schools to effectively serve our children, not continuing to starve them of resources. Please oppose this bill.

Cynthia Walker
Self
Allen, TX

Stop stealing our tax dollars. You've been withholding our recapture funds since 2019, putting our district in the red year after year. We don't want school vouchers. We want you to fully fund our public institutions.

Stephani Kyler
Self
Cedar Park, TX

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I urge you to vote NO to vouchers! Vote NO on SB 2 and HB 3!

Sincerely,

Stephani

Bethany Hardwick
Self, educator
Mckinney, TX

I have been proud to be a public educator for 15 years. I have witnessed teachers create magic for their students on a shoestring budget. I've also been through multiple district budget cuts, but nothing as severe as what we are experiencing now. Texas has held on to public school funds while trying to push vouchers that most do not want. Vouchers should have been on a ballot for the whole state, not pushed through behind closed doors. Fully-funded public schools give every student a chance for a brighter future. Our representatives should be working for all Texans, not just the wealthy. Support public schools and say no to vouchers!

Andrea Johnson, Mrs
Self and. Retired Educator
Marathon, TX

83% of Texas is rural. There are 158 counties that do not have private schools. We have public schools that are the heart of our communities. Those schools provide a place for us to enjoy a meal together before Thanksgiving, come together for the fall festival, and celebrate our students' successors. COVID shook that foundation. We weren't able to gather. As an educator, I held a zoom meeting each morning at 8:15. Out of 165 students, I could only count on 30 parents to get their children up. Our students fell behind. Lack of funding during the last session didn't help. Governor Abbott's behavior has created a toxic atmosphere in our state. I feel that he is trying to create separate classes of people with this voucher program. There are only 10 counties in Texas that have more than 1 private school, and let's face it- the students in private school will be covered by a voucher program but no one else. So the numbers don't work-5.4 million students, vouchers for only 100,000. As Trump dismantles the Department of Education, what happens to our most vulnerable students- the ones covered by IDEA? Is Texas prepared to step up for them? Texans have voiced their opposition to a voucher program for years. We have watched other states try it and fail- the cost balloons and accountability fails. Don't fail our Texas students! Our spending should not be 41st. That is shameful. Do better- defeat this voucher scam so we can take pride in our education system for ALL Texas students.

Julie Lacy
Self
Cibolo, TX

Dear House Public Education Committee,

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I urge you to vote NO to vouchers! Vote NO on SB 2 and HB 3!

Sincerely,

Julie Lacy

Diana Cason
Taxpayer
Bedford, TX

Regarding HB 3 creating Education Savings Accounts/Vouchers, I oppose using taxpayer funds to provide for private education (religious or non-religious). While there is much discussion regarding financial eligibility of these accounts, PLEASE consider the issue of access to private school. Private schools typically do not provide transportation, they choose which students to accept (not parent choice), they don't accept students with disabilities or typically requiring accommodation. So while some may be given priority in applying, will they be accepted?? Likely not. Privatizing education is not the answer. How about fully funding public schools?

Mary Barton
Self
Austin, TX

I do not support this bill. This does not create educational choice for all students in Texas. In fact it will accomplish the opposite, further dividing the wealthy from the non-wealthy. I do not want my tax dollars paying for private education. My tax dollars should never be used to fund private education. My tax dollars should support public education.

Mary Welton, Ms
Self
Bedford, TX

I agree that all parents need the ability to select the best educational opportunities for their children, however, public funds should not be used to give them that ability.

Rikki Koetter

Self, community volunteer

Dallas, TX

I'm opposed to HB3 as a parent of children in public school. Even if I didn't have school aged children I would oppose it. Texas' continued growth depends on a strong, educated workforce and taking money out of public schools will lead us down the path of an uneducated populace. Holding funding hostage as a means to pass undesirable legislation is not serving your constituents, but serving a very small group of wealthy donors. Make no mistake, the tax dollars you are holding back are ours. We pay the taxes, not the billionaires. My family could afford public school if we wanted our children to attend. I don't need a tax break though. I want my kids to attend school with all walks of life. We choose to go to a title 1 school. We donate time and resources to lift up others that aren't as fortunate as us. Vouchers will not help poor students go to better schools. Their parents rely on bussing, free/reduced lunch, sports with no fees, and school provided tech. Private schools don't offer any of this. Nor do they desire diversity outside of athletes. Our public schools need to be fully funded now. Our school districts need to get out from under the burden of recapture (which is not properly distributed), our teachers need the freedom to teach TEKS, but not be forced to teach to the narrow skills on the STAAR , our teachers need to make \$80k+ because this job is hard as hell. You know that this bill will disproportionately harm those that are already in need. This bill is founded in greed, hate, racism, and is flatly anti-Christian. Taking from the poor to enrich the wealthy is just gross. Nobody wants this.

P. Cole

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please, please please vote again vouchers!! This will benefit Noone except the greedy people in charge. We need to maintain our freedom to homeschool with zero government interference.

Lauralee Cornuauud

Self

Plano, TX

I'm not in favor of school vouchers. They will have a negative impact on public schools and will divert resources away from direct classroom instruction. School vouchers will funnel money away from already-struggling public schools and children. They will reduce and reallocate public school funding to private schools. Vouchers will facilitate subsidies for well-off families at the taxpayers' expense.

Eileen Hays

Self

Sweeny, TX

Why do you keep ignoring the wishes of Texas voters. These vouchers will be going to schools with no oversight of student well-being. This is basically taxation without representation.

Lea Isgur

self, retired

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because it provides funding to a minority of people at the expense of those who cannot afford or do not have the opportunity to have their children in private schools. Public schools are already severely underfunded, and any additional K-12 education funds should go to public schools. Private schools are unregulated and are not subject to the same testing and standards required of public schools. Neighborhood public schools accept all students, but private schools can deny admission or educational services to any student, including students with disabilities, among others. Use of tax dollars should come with standards and not allow cherry picking of the easiest students to teach. Doing so would leave only the most challenging students in public schools, at a reduction of funding for the public schools (as the daily census would fall if students moved into private schools).

Karen Farrell

self

Houston, TX

I am a grandparent. I have received primarily a Texas education, a very good one. My children received & now grandchildren are receiving a Texas education. Please keep vouchers out of Texas. Let the schools keep that money. In fact, give them more! The public school system is good if it is funded adequately. If vouchers are allowed our children will suffer.

Hollis Ghobrial

Self

Dallas, TX

As a parent of 2 public school students, 3rd and 6th grade, I have seen firsthand the struggles our public schools have faced. Dwindling funding year after year continues to further squeeze parents, requiring us to pay more for educational services. This includes simple upgrades to the school, field trips, and in one case, saving our assistant principal from losing his position. In addition, my children encounter disruptions like teachers leaving mid school year (multiple times), making learning extremely difficult. Last summer, my 3rd grader lost two talented teachers. He was assigned to a new class with a teacher who scared him, and a class filled with more than the limit of 22 students. My 6th grader receives special education services, and the quality of these services continues to deteriorate due to lack of available staffing. Our public schools cannot suffer any more losses and focusing on a private school voucher program will only create more private schools who do not meet standards or private schools who will not admit students from the public school system. This further divides and separates economic groups but also reduces funding for our students. There has been no increase in per student funding since 2019, and this bill will only increase funding per student by \$220. This doesn't even match the runaway rate of inflation. The education savings account program will continue to siphon dollars from public school funding, making it difficult for those of us who will continue to use public schools as the subsidized education account will not help pay for a full private school tuition. As a result, I am against HB3.

Joni Pearson

Self

Mission, TX

Against Vouchers

Donna Ullrich

Individual educator comment

El Paso, TX

I oppose house bill three. I opposed vouchers because I've seen that attempted in areas of Texas and it doesn't work and it only puts money in the individuals who created this. I've talked for 35 years and vouchers will not work and I vote strongly on house bill three no.

Veronica Johnson
Self / Systems Administrator
Kyle, TX

All children should have the freedom to learn and pursue their dreams. So we must equip every public school with the resources they need to deliver quality education that prepares every child for the future, no matter their color, where they live, their religious faith, or how much money their parents make.

Vouchers drain tax dollars from public schools to fund private and religious schools that aren't accountable to taxpayers. Public dollars should stay with public schools that educate all children, not just a select few.

Vouchers benefit wealthy families who can already afford private tuition, leaving working-class and rural families behind. Private schools can discriminate based on disability, religion, or LGBTQIA+ identity—while still taking taxpayer money. Students with disabilities lose protections under federal and state law if they use a voucher to attend a private school.

Rural communities will suffer most. Many have no private schools, yet their tax dollars would be diverted away from public education.

Texas schools are already underfunded. Instead of defunding them further, lawmakers should fully fund our public schools. "Education savings accounts" and "parental empowerment programs" are just rebranded voucher schemes designed to weaken public education.

Texans oppose vouchers. We must demand that lawmakers reject any plan that takes money away from public schools. Other states have tried the school voucher route, with detrimental effects. It is proven to not help the majority of constituents.

Marilee Hayden
Myself
Frisco, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB3. As a fiscal conservative & a Texas-licensed CPA (retired), I believe in upholding the principles of fiscal responsibility & accountability. HB3, in its current form, raises several significant concerns that I believe warrant careful consideration.

Accountability is the cornerstone of fiscal responsibility. HB3 allocates public funds to private entities with fewer accountability requirements than public schools. Ensuring that public funds are used as intended is crucial, & policies that impose strict accountability on public but not private schools raise concerns about the fairness & equity of funding across educational institutions. It is essential that all institutions receiving public funds adhere to the same rigorous standards to maintain public trust & ensure effective use of taxpayer dollars.

The economic landscape is uncertain, particularly regarding potential tariffs that could impact our state. If the Trump administration imposes tariffs, or if tariffs are imposed on us in return, we do not have sufficient information to estimate the impact of these tariffs or a potential trade war. Passing HB3 under these uncertain conditions poses a risk to our state's financial stability. Should the state incur negative consequences, it is unclear which items on the budget will have to be terminated or decreased to balance the budget. This uncertainty underscores the need for caution & prudent fiscal planning.

School districts in North Texas have already faced significant financial challenges, leading to the closure of schools in an effort to balance their budgets. HB3 will exacerbate this issue by further reducing the funds available to our school districts, inevitably resulting in more school closures. The education of our children should be a top priority, and reducing the resources available to public schools undermines this fundamental objective.

A Quorum Report published today, March 10, 2025, shows that two-thirds of Texans oppose private school vouchers. According to Z to A Research, "They (Texans) demand legislators focus on fully funding public schools, & legislators who support vouchers will lose their support." It is clear that the majority of Texans do not support the diversion of public funds to private schools through voucher programs. We should not even be discussing vouchers unless we fully fund public education back to at least 2019 purchasing power levels.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to consider the long-term implications of HB3 on our state's educational system and fiscal health. Please vote no on HB3.

Laura Farnell
self--parent and musician
Arlington, TX

Please vote to support Texas students and teachers!!

Mary Landry
self/retired teacher
Houston, TX

Please oppose HB3 relating to school vouchers. Public dollars should be spent on public schools, not distributed to those who can afford the difference in the vouchers and the cost of private schools, which are not held to the same standards and accountability as public schools. A school voucher system will create a dual system where those with special needs and learning disabilities are left behind. It will also give a windfall to those who SAY they are homeschooling their students with no accountability to provide any level of education. It is a system that will be easily abused and detract from public education, the responsibility of the state.

Nicole Simmons, Mrs
Self
Mansfield, TX

I am a parent and a taxpayer in the State of Texas. I do NOT agree with vouchers or an education savings account program. I am an advocate for Public Education; in fact, my child is receiving an excellent Public Education that is robust and rigorous. It is inconceivable and irresponsible that the State of Texas has neglected its fiduciary duties and responsibilities to our children and educators since 2019. Since then, the cost of living has increased, and inflation is over 20%. Representative, you took a promised oath to the people of Texas.

I am advocating for the following:

- an increase of the Basic Allotment and
- Funding for Public Schools in Texas, including the inflated amount of over 20%.

Again, I want you and your colleagues to know that our children and the staff deserve to be treated with dignity and respect by Funding Public Schools in Texas.

Sincerely,

Nicole Simmons

Rachel Behnke
Self
Leander, TX

Vote no on ALL educational vouchers in HB3 and SB2. They will hurt Texas public schools. Instead, let's better fund all public schools to help all Texas students have the best educational opportunities. Thank you.

Christen George-McFerrin
Self
Houston, TX

Public education is critical to Texas' success. As a parent and community member, I value the hard work of our educators and administrators in SBISD. I urge everyone in the Texas legislation to support the public school systems by raising the student allotment by a minimum of \$1000 and, in the face of a pending reduction of funding from the Department of Education, to lead the charge on supporting public education at the state level and be an example to the nation at large.

Leigha Riddle
Self, Homemaker
Brock, TX

There is an overwhelming consensus among Texas teachers AND residents that we do NOT want a school voucher system. The public schools in Texas are currently being INTENTIONALLY underfunded by Greg Abbott in order for him to have a scapegoat and reason to push for these vouchers. That's despicable behavior considering how terribly our state schools are struggling without these funds that they are owed. I have personally witnessed an A+ school district go from the envy of all districts to a sad and frustrated bunch of educators who have no resources and dwindling salaries. Greg Abbott has serious conflicts of interest regarding private schools, as his wife sits on the board of one of the largest private school systems in this state. He also enjoys white privilege and financial privilege; things that do not apply to all Texas residents across the board. Taking funding away from our public schools creates gaps that have already taken years to fill. I would like for everyone to stand up to this tyrant and tell him NO VOUCHER SYSTEM, and give our public schools the monies that they are owed (and have been owed for YEARS)!!

Jenny Panther Dickerson
Self
Round Rock, TX

I urge you to vote in favor of all Texas families and not special interests. Public funds need to ALL stay in public schools!

Julie Allen, Counselor
Self
Arp, TX

We do not need vouchers! I work in a small rural school and my students need all the funding we have plus the money that Gov Abbott has held hostage. Vouchers will NOT help the majority of my students NO VOUCHERS!!!

Karla Denise Johnson
Self
Amarillo, TX

I am a concerned citizen of Texas. I feel that passing the school voucher bill would kill our public schools. The advantage I see to this bill is to help the rich and the private schools. Let's concentrate on public education and improving what we have there. Shame on you the government leadership of Texas for trying to make it easier on the wealthy rather than showing a true interest in the education of the majority.

Tasha Yarbrough
Self
Channing, TX

Vote No to school savings account and fully fund public schools. Rural Texas schools are the heartbeat of the community and will be negatively affected by ESA program. There is not an equal accountability for public funds between public schools and an ESA. Private schools are not expected to accept and educate all students; therefore, students with special learning needs will be at a Disadvantage. This will create bigger divides between the upper class and lower class. No state that has approved a voucher/ESA system has improved student education and it's only negatively affected the state funding.

Rachel Wall

Self

Athens, TX

This bill is bad news for Texas. Public government money should not go to private or homeschools and should stay in the public school sector. It has the potential to cause financial problems for Texas' budget and interfere with the freedoms we fight so hard to retain as Texans. It would be a potential government overstep and impede the freedom to choose in education. It has the potential to limit school choices as opposed to creating more options in education for students. If the goal is to provide opportunity and choices in education, this is not the way to go about it. It would be better to foster online tuition free public school options as well as work on making public schools better as opposed to interfering in private/homeschool sectors. By creating this bill, private and homeschools would become public and no longer separate or an alternative for those in which public school is not the best fit. This could create a monopoly in the school system. This bill appears to create more problems than it is claiming to solve and comes along with limitations of hard earned freedoms in the private and homeschool education sector. It seems an unnecessary and ill fated bill and I am opposed to its passing. Many public school, private school, and homeschool citizens agree that this bill no good. I think we need to keep the current laws, rules, and regulations in the private/homeschool sector as is and focus on making public schools better.

Erin Brandstatt

Self- parent of public school children and educator

Amarillo, TX

We the people of public education do NOT want this. Vote NO!!!

Randall Purcell

self

Amarillo, TX

Vouchers SHOULD be allowed. The PUBLIC education system is an epic failure. It's bloated down from the top. A very high % of new money coming into the school systems the last 10 years has gone to admins not teachers or students. In the last 20 years we've added 3 layers of "admins" into the system. Enough already. Funny how the more money we throw at public education the lower the test scores. A good educator would see the correlation and adjust. What do our public educators do? They want more money, more regulations, more rules, more procedures, all the while our kids are failing basic studies. We have all the internet, but take that away from a student today and they can't think for themselves. It's sad what the public educators have done to our youth. Why pay taxes for 60 years when you only had 1 kid in the public education system for 12 years. Think about that. Our taxing system on property you own is wrong. I paid taxes on earning my money. Paid taxes when I purchase anything with the money I already paid taxes on, and then pay taxes on private property that I've already been taxed on TWICE? So if I keep a car or a house I could be taxed 20-25 more times for just owning that private property.

Cody Snyder
Self / firefighter
Amarillo, TX

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the financial struggles of our public schools, particularly the impact of the Recapture Program and proposed voucher programs. Our district alone has over \$3,000,000 redistributed across the state, yet we are currently operating under a \$2,100,000 deficit due to a failed VATRE vote. The introduction of a voucher system will only further strain our public schools by diverting much-needed funding, making it increasingly difficult to hire qualified teachers and ensure proper security on our campuses.

While my children attend public school, I often consider homeschooling or private school as alternatives due to the lack of curriculum and state testing requirements in those settings. However, this is not a viable option for our family. Those who can afford private education already have access to these systems, and offering vouchers would either provide them with a discount or drive up tuition costs, ultimately keeping these options inaccessible to the majority of families.

As I have researched the issue, I have yet to find a state where a voucher program has yielded a positive outcome for public schools. Our districts should receive 100% of the funds allocated to them without being dependent on the passage of local votes. Furthermore, if private and home schools receiving voucher funds are not subject to state-mandated curriculums and testing, it raises the question of why public schools should continue to bear those burdens alone.

I urge you to prioritize the financial stability of our public schools and ensure that taxpayer dollars are used to support the institutions that serve the vast majority of students. Thank you for your time and for considering the concerns of your constituents.

Sincerely,
Cody Snyder

Meredith Lubbock, MBA
self- tech specialist
Amarillo, TX

VOuchers are a great idea! It will allow my tax dollars to follow my child/children to the school of their choosing even if that means just switching public school districts to a BETTER choice for them. Why not allow the school that accepts the child to benefit from the tax dollars raised by that child's property tax? Educating that child costs the school something financially, so they should benefit from the property tax I am paying.

Jami Cowart
Self
Canyon, TX

School vouchers have not been effecting in any state. Over 70% of Texans do not want this bill to pass. Put the money that will go for this program back into the hands of teacher by giving them a raise and also put it into a school system that is already ranked toward the bottom. If you want to be a top notch state for students, they need the funds in their public schools, not the money to go to private school. Please listen to the majority of Texans, that's why you're there.

Amy Farkas
Self, Public Procurement
Amarillo, TX

I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to this bill because school vouchers can lead to a decrease in funding for public schools by diverting public money to private institutions, potentially harming the quality of education for students who remain in the public system, while not always guaranteeing improved outcomes for voucher recipients, especially if the private schools selected are not high quality; critics also argue that vouchers can exacerbate inequities by allowing higher-income families to further subsidize their private education with public funds. NO VOUCHERS!! Our school district alone stands to lose over half a million dollars and we are already struggling! We love and value our public educators. Please do not pass this ridiculous, harmful bill.

Karla McCall
Self / accountant
Abilene, TX

We do NOT want vouchers. Most of this state is rural or semi rural, without a private school in sight. FUND our public schools properly and they will deliver! We love our public schools and are proud of them. Wilks, Dunn and Yates do not get to tell us what Texans' priorities are. Enough already. LISTEN to the people you claim to represent.

Leslye Roberts
Self/educator
Abilene, TX

I oppose this bill and the use of public funds for vouchers to private schools. Private schools lack the accountability and transparency that is necessary for the use of taxpayer money.

Caitlin Dickey
self
Flower Mound, TX

Hello, my name is Caitlin Dickey. I am writing regarding the Education Committee hearing for House Bill 3 on Tuesday. As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of "parental empowerment." I would like to ask our representatives and lawmakers to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing "school choice" legislation like HB 3. Thank you!

Cindy Skinner
Self
Lago Vista, TX

I want you to know that this Voucher Scam represents a fight between a bi-partisan, pro public education coalition vs. billionaire mega-donors who control Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick. Your constituents love their kids, believe in public school teachers, support our neighborhood schools and want them fully funded. We don't want a Voucher Scam that will eventually defund our local schools.

I would like to see these things:

- * the Basic allotment tied to inflation indexes so Gov Abbott cannot hold it hostage anymore
- * The basic allotment become enrollment-based vs. attendance based
- * Full funding to make up for 6 years of missing funding
- * Vote NO on the Voucher Scam.

Thank you.

Beth Stratton
self
Garland, TX

This bill is SO bad for the education of our kids. Please understand that no parent wants this-only the companies that will benefit from it. It is not set up to really help those who need it. If you look at other states who have implemented this program, majority of the families were making above \$75,000/year. Our public schools don't need money taken from them, they need money to raise the pay for SPED teachers and their aides (really, would you change a 7 year old's diaper for \$10/hour?). This bill is a slap in the face to our teachers.

I am AGAINST HB3, and ask you our representatives to do what is really best for Texas and vote against this bill.

Beverly Cheevers

Self / childcare worker and homeschool mom

Fort Worth, TX

As a homeschool parent, I value freedom from government strings and regulations in private education, and am against the expansion of government in the name of “parental empowerment.” I would like to ask Representative Romero to please join a large constituency of homeschoolers in opposing “school choice” legislation like HB 3. Thank you!

Cameron Stephen, Mr.

Self / Educator

Cypress, TX

HB 3 is a voucher and will funnel taxpayer dollars through education savings accounts to students for private school tuition and related expenses at an initial cost of \$1 billion in state funds for the first two years that should go to our public schools.

That amount will increase in subsequent years, at a growing loss to public education and other critical public services.

State tax dollars must not be diverted from public to private schools. I oppose vouchers and related schemes — including education savings accounts, tax-credit scholarships and for-profit virtual schools — that use tax dollars to pay private school tuition for selected students while undermining public schools where the vast majority of Texas students are educated.

Voucher schemes across the country have proven to be burdensome on state budgets, and a Texas voucher would eventually add billions of dollars to the state budget without an additional funding mechanism.

The universal voucher plan that Gov. Abbott supports has been used in other states to funnel tax-paid subsidies to wealthy parents who already were sending their children to private schools, while many low-income families, even with vouchers, can't afford private school tuition. States that have adopted voucher and voucher-like programs are now siphoning additional money away from public education to fund those programs. Schools are already underfunded. Educators like myself are losing their jobs to budget cuts. I exhort you to fund public education properly.

I urge you to vote NO to vouchers! Vote NO on HB 3!

Erica Porter, Mrs

self, retired BSN

Georgetown, TX

Vouchers support wealthy people who can already afford the private school of their choice. Racism is certainly involved, if only indirectly, lower income people cannot afford private schools, and \$6000 will not pay the tuition. Public schools need more money, not less. Texas ranks near the bottom of public education results for a reason. Renaming the bill, over and over doesn't change it.

Barbara Kolb

Self

Austin, TX

Using vouchers for school choice is only benefitting the rich. Not the children who really need to be benefited by it. A wolf in sheep's clothing.

Polly Ryan

Self, Paralegal and Parent

Austin, TX

I am opposed to the education savings account program/vouchers/school "choice" initiative. No matter what Greg Abbott says this robs our public schools of direly needed funds and gives tax breaks for the wealthy. It is ludicrous that the state would even consider taking money from public schools when so many of them are already in desperate need of an increase in their per student funding. As you know, the state has not given an increase since 2019. Time + inflation has made this an untenable situation. FULLY fund our public schools NOW. Our kids and our future deserve no less.

Alison Bennett

Self

Pearland, TX

I am writing to express my concerns about House Bill 3 (HB 3) and its negative impact on Texas public schools. Although it is intended to improve education, this bill, as it stands, may exacerbate inequities, reduce education quality, and fail to address systemic challenges that many schools face. HB 3's funding structure disproportionately benefits wealthier districts, leaving low-income schools underfunded. The Texas Public Policy Foundation (2018) reports that funding disparities contribute to achievement gaps between low-income and affluent students. Studies by the Center for American Progress (2018) show that equitable funding is vital for closing these gaps. HB 3 risks deepening the divide between wealthy and disadvantaged districts, leaving low-income schools unable to provide necessary resources such as textbooks, technology, and after-school programs. While HB 3 increases teacher salaries, it does not sufficiently address issues like teacher burnout, high turnover, and lack of professional development. Per the National Education Association (2020), pay raises alone do not solve these problems. Teachers are often overworked and under-supported, and the bill's focus on performance-based metrics could increase testing pressures, narrowing the curriculum and stifling creativity. The American Educational Research Association (2017) found that performance-based funding models typically increase stress and decrease teacher autonomy, negatively affecting both educators and students. HB 3 introduces strict performance targets that may be unrealistic, particularly for low-income students who face additional barriers like food insecurity and lack of access to healthcare. The Education Trust (2016) warns that setting overly ambitious standards for disadvantaged students can lead to increased dropout rates. Such targets may lead schools to prioritize test scores over student development. Texas experiences high teacher turnover, with nearly 50% of new teachers leaving within five years (Texas Center for Education Policy, 2021). A survey by the Texas State Teachers Association (2019) revealed that administrative support and insufficient preparation are primary factors behind teacher retention. While HB 3 includes salary increases, it does not address these root causes. Without sufficient support, teachers may continue leaving, undermining the stability and quality of education in many districts. The bill's focus on standardized testing and performance metrics may disproportionately harm special education students and ESL students. The National Center for Learning Disabilities (2020) highlights the difficulties these students face in high-stakes testing environments, which are not designed to accommodate their individual needs. A more comprehensive and equitable approach is needed to address the real challenges facing Texas education, including sufficient funding for all districts, improved teacher support, and a focus on the diverse needs of students.

Kathleen Bolton, Mrs.

Self, parent

Houston, TX

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kathleen Bolton, and I am writing to strongly oppose HB3. I had planned to testify in person today alongside my 5-year-old daughter, Ava, but unfortunately, I am unable to make the drive from Houston. However, I still feel it is important to share our story and the impact this bill could have on children like her.

Ava is a bright and creative child who dreams of becoming an artist. Since she was old enough to hold a crayon, she has been drawing. Art is not just a hobby for her—it is how she expresses herself, learns, and envisions her future. Public school arts programs play a crucial role in nurturing children's creativity, yet they are often the first to be cut when funding is reduced. If HB3 passes, it will jeopardize the very programs that help children like Ava develop their talents and find their voices.

Public schools should provide every child, regardless of their passion or talent, with the resources they need to succeed. Cutting funding could crush Ava's dream before she even has a chance to chase it. I urge you to vote against HB3 and stand up for the future of Texas children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bolton

Houston, TX

Kim Bullock

self - writer

Dallas, TX

HB 3 - This school voucher program is a scam. It will only help the wealthy since it won't cover the full cost of tuition to private schools. Also, in many areas there is no private school to choose, or the only choices are religious schools. NOT ALL FAMILIES WANT THEIR KIDS INDOCRINATED WITH RELIGION AT SCHOOL! Added to this, private schools get to choose who they let in, so forget about education for poor kids, gay kids, brown/black kids, or anyone with special needs. All this awful bill will do is take money away from public schools, making them worse, and giving taxpayer dollars to Christian schools. I am not okay with this.

Elise Dixon, Ms

Self- retired

Dallas, TX

I am adamantly opposed to vouchers/educational savings accounts. This is primarily just a giveaway to the wealthy who send their children to private schools. Private schools do not have to accept all students, do not have testing standards, instructional mandates nor do they have to provide transportation, assistance to disabled, armed security that public schools do. The vast majority of these schools are religiously affiliated. Let the parents provide religious instruction at home or in a school they pay for themselves. This bill will harm public education.

James Berbiglia, Chaplain(LTC), USA, Ret.

Ordained Minister, self

Helotes, TX

Establishing an education, savings account takes money directly from the school system, and gives it to people who cannot afford the additional tuition and who have no transportation to a private institution. The Texas school system is required to care for all children, disabled or poor and it provides transportation. Why not give the \$10,000 to each teacher and school and raise Texas public schools out of the basement! Please do not use my tax money to send children to religious or private schools!

Ann Thompson

self

Hurst, TX

I strongly oppose any version of ESAs for students in Texas. First, the plan proposed falsely claims it is to help students with learning disabilities, and low socio-economic status. However, standards for many private schools do not provide for these populations. Second, the cost for private school tuition is prohibitive for the aforementioned populations even with an ESA. Third, it is unconstitutional according to the Texas Constitution, "No money shall be appropriated, or drawn from the Treasury for the benefit of any sect, or religious society, theological or religious seminary; nor shall property belonging to the State be appropriated for any such purposes."

—Article 1, Sec. 7, Texas Constitution

Secherre Michaelis, Nurse

Self

Dallas, TX

Vote school vouchers DOWN. NO ONE WANTS THEM IN TEXAS. GTFO

Monika Marjason

Self

Longview, TX

Public monies belong in public schools. Period. If a school is not up to par, fix it! Don't send money to private schools. I repeat, public monies belong to public schools! Period.

Suzy Hagar, Ms
Retired Educator
Dallas, TX

I do not support my property taxes nor consumption taxes supporting ESAs. Private schools are intended to select students who fit the culture of the school and the academic requirements. The proposal for universal vouchers is a \$10,000.00 welfare giveaway to students who have never been to a public school.

Public Schools are heavily laden with state and federal mandates including accountability and questionable state assessment practices. Private schools are not required to go through the requirements setting an obnoxious dishonest system.

It is well known Texas doesn't adequately fund schools and it was no truer than last year when the Governor of the state literally held funding 5.5 million students funding hostage. It was negligent and cruel. It spoke volumes about the degree of how power hungry our governor has become. Texas should raise the basic school allotment to \$7,000.00. Get serious. Truly act like you care. Stop the WADA formula. Everything is done is punitive. Private schools are intended as named to be private.

Get serious and fund public education.

This should have been a direct vote issue.

Hannah Decker, Dr.
Self, Emerita Professor of History
Houston, TX

I am firmly against establishing a Texas education savings account program. Such a program would harm public school districts by siphoning money from them. Most ESA funds would go to parents who already have children in private or religious schools. They do not need the funds, so it is not true that HB 3 would increase school choice. And as a college history professor, I have learned that public education has been the lifeblood of our democracy.

Thomas Eckols
Self
Missouri City, TX

No to vouchers. Look at the States that have implemented these and what a costly failure to actually achieve the goals to equalize education for all students. The public schools are already inadequately funded from the State. School districts have no choice to fulfill the State mandates, perpetuating the already onerous property tax system on homeowners.

Karl Johnson, Mr.
Self; retired
Benbrook, TX

A strong public education system is of great importance to society and should be supported by public policy. A voucher system, especially one like this, skewed in favor of private schools and parents that have chosen to enroll their children in private schools, would weaken both public schools and the social fabric. It would also strip public schools of needed funding and unnecessarily transfer resources to those who have chosen other alternatives at their own option. This would reinforce unequal opportunities and would be terrible public policy. Texas does not need this. Texas should not enact this.

Linda Baker
self
Georgetown, TX

I oppose school vouchers! Taxpayer funding needs to go to Public NOT Private Schools! Our Public Schools have already been neglected for over 5 years with Texas now among the worst for public school funding and teacher pay. Billionaires have bought politicians - they should NOT have the right to dictate legislation & taxpayer dollars for private schools, especially at the higher family income levels suggested. This is double my income! That means our tax dollars will be going to fund private education for the upper income. You have a constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public schools. 5.5 million children are depending on it. Stand up for the citizens and not only for your finance funds and the rich!

Priscilla Fisher

Self - retired public school teacher

San Antonio, TX

I adamantly oppose school vouchers. Our public schools are already struggling with the lack of funding by our state. Citizens are not fooled that this is to provide school choice, but it just supports those already in private school. Public education is the best thing that ever happened to this country. Please don't put a nail in the coffin of our schools. Vote against private school vouchers.

Constance Mccammon, Ms

Retired

Alvarado, TX

Please vote No on HB 3 . Leave public tax dollars in our public schools. Respectfully, Steven and Constance McCammon ,

Kay Bergen

self

Houston, TX

School vouchers are not what Texas needs. A shoring up of funding for public education in most important. Please do the right thing and vote against vouchers.

Virginia Mohlere

Self - scientific editor

Spring, TX

School vouchers by design are injurious to public education. Unregulated charter and private schools have no business using state money. Public money should stay with public schools.

Kelsey Cardenas

Self, public school teacher

Nolanville, TX

School vouchers should not be brought to Texas because they divert funds from public schools, leave out lower-income families, undermine public education, and private schools lack accountability and are selective with their admissions. While I understand the goal is to prioritize lower-income families and students with special needs, and more funds are apparently being poured into public schools alongside this voucher system, the end goal should always be to keep public funds with public institutions. There are numerous issues in our public schools that need addressing long before the effort and resources needed to run and uphold a voucher system.

Christina Edwards

Self

AUSTIN, TX

We need more funding for AISD to simply catch up with inflation. The State of Texas has not increased our funding since 2019 despite inflation and a budget surplus. As a taxpayer and Austin citizen, I request you consider increasing the amount of funding per student to a minimum of \$1340 per student.

Jamie foster

Self

Plano, TX

I am against the voucher program and thing we should be funding our public school system with our public taxes.

Tracy Gilmore
Self
McKinney, TX

As a parent and grandparent in Texas strongly vehemently oppose HB3. Public Education should be FULLY funded with NO vouchers.

Erin Tucker
Self
Mckinney, TX

I strongly oppose this bill as a parent and a tax payer- and we pay A LOT in taxes here in Collin county. My tax money should be benefiting ALL children within the public education system and this is an attempt to defund public education. I have grown very weary of so many of my representatives and governor trying to spin this as if it benefits the children of Texas. It does not and should this pass, I will hope and advocate for the removal of anyone trying to negatively affect my community in this way. My school district has begun to announce the numerous cuts that are occurring due to you all holding money hostage from our public education system and it is very disturbing. If you all TRULY care about children as you say you do, you will release funds and fully fund PUBLIC education in Texas and let this terrible bill die. Our ranking in education is a direct result of you all not funding public education as you should. The fact that so many of our representatives then take to blaming hard working teachers and staff for the shortcomings is absolutely disturbing. Should you pass this bill we will lose even more wonderful teachers - the last of them who have been hanging on, trying to hold this system together for the children they already work so hard for. They care about Texas children, while our legislators have proven that they do not. Fund Texas public education NOW. Thank you.

LAURA Snyder
Self
Trophy Club, TX

The very reasonable, very necessary requests to highlight:

- Increase the basic allotment to match inflation. Right now, Texas gives NISD \$6160 when because of inflation, we should be at \$7500
- Allow for raises for all staff (not just 25% of teachers, which Abbott has suggested)
- Eliminate or reduce recapture (since 2019, NISD has sent \$52.8 million in local tax revenue to the state for recapture)
- Hold private schools to the same testing and accountability standards as public schools in order to qualify for voucher money

Magdalena Camarillo
Self- teacher
Buda, TX

This bill negatively impact public schools. If they would vote to fund public education. At the moment public education is understaffed, overworked, and underpaid! Public school teachers are committed to their students to provide the best education. Students are getting their services met. If the state passes this bill it will greatly affect students and educators in the public setting. These choice schools do not adhere to the law like public school. They don't have to provide special education, therefore in October public schools get an influx of students because these choice schools tell parents that this is not the "best choice" for their child and they have to take them back to their home school.

Please vote NO on this bill.

Your constituent,
Magdalena Camarillo

Sherri Dunchen

Self

Spring, TX

It looks like the vouchers bill has the votes to pass. Please be sure there are sufficient provisions in that bill to:

1. Limit number of vouchers so that the cost of them does not blow up and break the budget for public schools.
2. Require private schools who receive public monies through vouchers to be accountable to the same educational standards and regulations required of public schools. Hold the private schools accountable.
3. Raise the public school funding to account for inflation since 2019. Fully fund our neighborhood public schools.

Thank you for working diligently on this committee to protect our public schools.

Kim Hardy

Self - school counselor

Justin, TX

I am opposed to any education savings account or voucher program in Texas. The \$1 billion in funding for this program could instead be used to fund mental and behavioral health programs in public schools.

Anne LeNeave

None, private citizens

Magnolia, TX

This is an egregious insult to the majority of Texans whose children go to public school. Texans in rural schools will not even have the ability to use these vouchers due to travel distance. This benefits only high earners who can already afford to send their kids to private schools and to say anything contrary is willfully ignorant. I had previously enrolled my child in a charter school option and this year decided to move her to a public school where she is much happier. This bill will only benefit high earners by shunting money away from schools that already serve with meager staff and resources. I do not want this bill and if you vote for it, know that I will be taking this into account for my future voting choices.

Andrea Stout

Self

San Antonio, TX

No to vouchers! They will pinch the rural schools to close, take monies away from currently underfunded public schools. It's dramatically underfunding schools and teachers in need for well off schools and teachers to get a boost. All to promote what? What's the underling goal? The curriculum? We can't change or erase the past. It's the same cherry picking bible verse as they intend to cherry pick what children are taught in school. It's a bad direction to go. No to vouchers. Also protect and fund the 504 program for disabled students to get the education support they need in schools.

Mary Fried, Ms.

Self

Houston, TX

Vouchers are a handout to people who don't need it. We HAVE school choice, if you want to go to private school, you can go, just don't expect a subsidy. This voucher system is a thinly veiled attempt to segregate schools again and to subsidize wealthy people. It is simply wrong to take away funds from already struggling schools to subsidize private schools.

April Henderson
Self/ Licensed Professional Counselor (Mental Health)
Spring, TX

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of two elementary-aged children who attend public school and I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3. This bill will directly harm public schools by reducing funding that is already so desperately needed. My family loves the public school my children attend, but it is a Title 1 school. The discrepancy in funding between our school and one 10 minutes away is evident. I fear our school would only suffer more should this bill pass. This bill does not allow families a choice as the voucher does not cover the entire cost of private school tuition, the voucher is only an aid for families that can already afford to pay tuition fees. Private schools are not accessible to all Texas families especially those who live in rural communities or to families with special needs children that would be declined admittance to private schools.

This issue has been brought up many times before by Governor Abbott and he has been unable to get it through. This is because this bill is wildly unpopular with actual Texas families and those who support public education.

Our state is already ranked so poorly in education, please do not pass this bill which would only cause more harm to Texas students. Thank you for reading my comment.

Leslie Bolivar, Mrs
Self
Brownsville, TX

I am against the voucher bill it will simply not help public schools at all. There are not enough private schools to serve our counties and right now Cameron county. We will not have the funding to pay for full tuition even with voucher assistance. I oppose and my family is not in favor of this voucher bill.

Angela Groves
Self
Fort Worth, TX

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE 7. EDUCATION

Sec. 1. SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM OF PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS.

A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.

Janet Pozmantier
Self; Trainer and Consultant
Houston, TX

Both my husband and I are native Texans who were educated in public schools. Our daughters are also products of Texas public schools and I am very proud that all four of us have successful careers, in large part due to our excellent K-12 education.

I have a Texas granddaughter now and her parents also want to send her to public school. However, we are all concerned that the ability for the state to continue its primary responsibility, providing the funding for an excellent public education system, is gravely threatened by school vouchers. The evidence is very clear in other states that have adopted voucher systems that public schools become underfunded and the quality of education suffers greatly. The efficacy of private school education is uneven, and children with disabilities are not properly served. Fiscally, the cost quickly escalates and many states find their budgets are negatively impacted.

Texas cannot remain strong and successful if our children - the future workforce - are not educated properly. This is a dangerous path that Texas has wisely resisted - for good reason - for many legislative sessions.

There's a popular Netflix show called "Nobody Wants This." It's about a romance but it could also apply to Texas and school vouchers. Nobody really wants this. We just want our public schools to be fully funded and strong, so Texas can be strong.

Please vote NO on school vouchers.

Melissa Jones
Self, childcare provider
The Colony, TX

Not fully funding our schools is hurting our districts! Please vote no on hb3 and say no to vouchers. This is a vendor bill that hurts students and taxpayers plus it's a government overreach. It contributes to irresponsible spending and it's against the Texas constitution.

Audra Embry
Self-Public school teacher
San Angelo, TX

As a public school educator in Texas, I wholeheartedly oppose the proposed school voucher bill. Vouchers funnel taxpayer dollars out of public schools and into private schools. Our public schools are already underfunded and struggling. Private schools may raise rates at and time and reject students for any reason. I encourage you to keep public funds in public schools and vote NO on this bill.

John Pulley
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

Dear House Members

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 3 . I believe that public funds should stay within our public schools to guarantee quality education for all. Redirecting these funds to private school vouchers undermines this foundational principle.

Sincerely,
John P

Kevin Hubbard
Self / Retired
Georgetown, TX

Our Public Schools have been neglected for 5 years - DO NOT send Public dollars to Private Schools.
Our Founding Fathers established a freedom of religion AND a freedom from religion.
Please honor the Constitution and the Founding Fathers by ensuring that Public dollars only fund Public Schools.

LOUISE DUNN, MS
SELF
ARLINGTON, TX

VOUCHERS ARE GOING TO HURT THE GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM WE NOW HAVE IN TEXAS. VOUCHERS ARE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! TEACHERS ARE GOING TO BE HURT AS WELL.

Carole Howard
Public educators
City, TX

I am opposed to any House Bill that allows vouchers. Do not spend money on vouchers that should be used for public education!

Derrick Ratliff
Self
Fort Worth, TX

You can vote on this bill because big donors will give you lots of money. But please note that never in my memory have I been able to show the cost of blindly voting GOP to my republican friends. This is the issue that will turn Texas blue. You are taking money from schools and giving it to your rich friends and everyone knows it.

Seneca Fitch
Self
Mckinney, TX

This program is not in the best interest of the Texas public education system and should not be considered further.

Michelle Janes
Self
Plano, TX

Absolutely opposed to the bill. Vouchers should NOT be passed. Your constituents DO NOT want them. It will not benefit the children in this state. Fund our public schools with the rainy day funds that Abbott has been holding hostage.

Melissa Huckabay
self
Cypress, TX

As a former public-school teacher and current parent of a public-school student, I strongly oppose HB 3. This program would drain funding from an already underfunded school system, and I've seen first-hand how much our schools are struggling already with dated textbooks and severely limited resources. A program like this would hasten the collapse of our public schools and especially harm low-income, Title I schools. Please consider the harm this bill would cause in our state and do not pass it out of committee. Thank you.

Jennifer Fitzgerald
Self and my children
Dallas, TX

Please don't allow this to pass. This will be horrible for the state of Texas. Our children deserve better. We need to invest in them instead of giving our taxpayer funds to people who can afford private school. There are crumbling schools and underpaid teachers in our state. Please take care of them and think of all of these kids futures. This is an irresponsible use of taxpayer money.

Laura Gallier
Self
Houston, TX

Hello, I oppose HB3 and any use of taxpayer money for private education. I would like you to properly fund traditional public education so that Texans feel good about sending their kids to their neighborhood schools.

troy mannella
Rhett Ro LLC
Leander, TX

No

Ty Wilson
Self
College Station, TX

I do not support the school voucher program and I am in favor for more public school funding. Please vote NO on school vouchers.

Jinny Sutherland
Self Educator
Katy, TX

Vouchers will NOT make education better in our state - they will deprive children of learning opportunities they should have in our public schools! We need more money for public education, not a handout for the rich.

Corrina Garcia
Self/Business Owner
Mesquite, TX

Texans want all children to have access to the best education, not just the select few who can afford it.

John Campbell
self - Systems Analyst
Houston, TX

This is blatantly unconstitutional. Article VII, Sec. 1 of the Texas Constitution states that "it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools."

Robbing the public school system to pay for vouchers does not meet this criteria, it would not allow anyone from a failing school to have any kind of "choice", as they are unlikely to have the funds to fully be able to actually enroll in a private school, and it would be death to our property values, as good schools will have their property taxes plundered and will start failing because of underfunding.

The only people who stand to gain here are rich out-of-state financiers who will run these "accounts", wealthy Texans who already have the money to send their kids to unaccountable private schools (and we'll be funding their trips to Disney World instead, as money is fungible), and for-profit schools, which again and again have shown to be poor investments for everyone involved. Left behind will be poor Texans (whose "savings accounts" will not cover tuition and whose own schools will be pillaged by the richer families leaving), students with disabilities (private schools are not required to enroll them), rural Texas families who are too far from private institutions, and the general welfare of the state, when we will be spending public money for something that should be a private decision.

I know that the conservative idea of a private school is a parochial institution, run by Christians that you approve of, but keep in mind that even you cannot overturn religious freedom. There is nothing to stop this voucher money going to groups that you don't like such as Muslims, Hindus, Pagans, Atheists, and The Church of Satan as a few examples. All they have to do is start or expand a private school.

I want our public money in our public schools for my child's future and for the future of Texas.

Fund our public schools as is your constitutional duty instead of starving them. Vote NO on this bill.

Hillary Bennett -Baker
Self
Dallas, TX

Vouchers are bad for Texans.

Veda Kull
Self
Rowlett, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to comment remotely. My husband and I have lived in Texas about 50 years altogether. We want to comment on HB3 because it is a scam being perpetrated on the citizens of Texas and many do not realize it. My understanding is it allocates \$1BILLION for vouchers with no accountability. Altogether I have close to 30 years working in public schools and my husband about 15 plus a few substitute teaching years. I worked in one other state in education and am a proud product of another state where visitors were often seen because it was one of the most outstanding systems in the USA. With vouchers, that state is finding it cannot support schools and the entire system may fail. Yet another state where I began my teaching career has found itself in dire straights since implementing a voucher plan. We need to strengthen our public schools not spend \$8 million in administrative costs for an unaccountable system. Our rural schools and small districts would suffer the most under the voucher plan proposed in HB 3. Please reject this plan as it likely is unconstitutional and lacks support for the most vulnerable among us.

Jan Forney
Houston family
Houston, TX

The truth is that charter schools
WILL cost Texas & Texans both
short-term and long-term.

Shorter term charter schools represent a whole PARALLEL school system - essentially DOUBLING all the basic costs of having any school

Charter schools have been shown to be on average NO better than underfunded public schools, even by some who originally ADVOCATED for them.

And charter schools CHERRY PICK from our kids. They do NOT provide for ALL children to grow and learn or to become a strong part of our state's economy or of a good future for Texas

It's also sickening & wrong that the money for charter vouchers mostly goes to wealthier Texans who already are choosing to send their children to charter schools. It's NOT your job to subsidize private school costs or enrich those who decide to homeschool, especially at OUR expense

It IS your job to provide funds to all public school districts, along with TEA lesson plans, to support public school districts & teachers working to provide for ALL our students. The Texas Lege has not been a strong partner in this, their most basic obligation

Please refocus your efforts on the greater good of Texas and its future

By supporting of high quality public education FOR ALL. Dont hijack funding for separate charter system for some kids, some families, weakening the state

We mustn't pay the price.

Thank you. Your vote is important
Families are waiting to see who they can trust ????

Jennifer Williams

Public school teacher, mom, aunt, and attendee.
Uvalde, TX

Vouchers won't create competition and force public schools to be better. The state and federal regulations that put public schools in the mess they're in now won't change, so we'll be "competing" with unregulated private schools while still having to adhere to all of the harmful regulations the state forces on us.

Among the many disadvantages, public schools across the state are now working in deficit budgets due to 0 increases in funding since 2019, so districts across the state are being forced to make HUGE cuts, putting us even further behind.

Not to mention, it's hard for rural communities (like mine) to compete against private schools who will be getting more money per student than public schools. Abbott's \$15,000/per student is a state average and not representative of rural communities like ours. Vouchers will be given out in full with no stipulations, while when public schools receive a specific amount per student, that number is then DECREASED based on attendance. A completely uneven playing field.

Will rural counties with few or no private schools be given their share of the voucher money they won't be able to use?? (No) If rural communities can't benefit from vouchers (if there were even a benefit), why won't they receive their portion of that money back and into their public schools?

If we don't like what the government has done to public schools, why do we think the outcome will be any different for private schools now that they're finally able to get their hands on them?

Julia Hughes, Mrs.

Self , speech language pathologist

Dallas, TX

Both of our children will attend DISD schools in the fall and we hope until they go to college. Although the schools we have chosen for our children are wonderful, we have already seen negative impacts from the withholding of funds over the past 2 years. I imagine the withholding of funds from the public schools has been in preparation for this education savings account program. I know so many involved and highly educated parents in the public schools in Dallas. We are fighting for our children to receive the best education possible as we feel entitled to as tax payers. We have incredible teachers and administrators in DISD. None of this however is possible without proper funding. Allowing an education savings account program will significantly impact the future of our entire educational system and I am concerned it will collapse. We know that private schools do not have to provide accommodations for students with special needs or learning differences. We know they are very costly and often not affordable to families even with a stipend. Please do not vote in favor of this bill. I and my fellow DISD parents stand against it.

Gina yokley

Self, HR

Boerne, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3 and the establishment of an education savings account (ESA) program. Public funds should be used to strengthen our public school system, not diverted to private entities with little to no accountability.

ESAs undermine public education by reducing the resources available to schools that serve the vast majority of Texas students, particularly those in rural and underserved communities where private options are limited or nonexistent. Taxpayer dollars should be used to support and improve public education, ensuring every child has access to quality teachers, curriculum, and facilities—rather than subsidizing private institutions that are not held to the same standards.

Additionally, ESAs create inequities by disproportionately benefiting families who can already afford private education while doing little to support students with special needs, English language learners, or those in low-income areas who rely on public schools for a comprehensive education. Texas should focus on fully funding public education, increasing teacher pay, reducing classroom sizes, and providing necessary resources to students—rather than implementing a voucher-like program that weakens the system for all.

I urge legislators to prioritize investment in public education and vote against HB 3.

Baird Campbell, Dr.

Self

Houston, TX

This is a blatant money grab. Abbott has received millions from donors to push forward this policy that, when tried in other states, put more money into the pockets of private school kids and made everybody else's education worse. There is absolutely no reason to give public money to private schools. Just use the money to make our schools better! Raise teacher wages and supply budgets, hire more bilingual and special ed staff, and ensure that students receive the resources they need regardless of zip code. It's not rocket science.

Sima Jahani

Self

HIGHLAND VLG, TX

I beg that HB3 not be passed!! Keep our tax dollars for Public Education!! Texans don't need education savings accounts we need public education adequately funded!!

Julie Baldwin
Self - finance
San Antonio, TX

Do NOT approve this bill. This bill gut the public school system and punish the students, teachers and parents who have chosen to attend. I do not approve of vouchers and did not vote for this program.

Ashley Brown
Self
Dallas, TX

An educated general population is in the best interest of every American. It is shameful to hide behind school vouchers to essentially defund public schools and promote largely Christian based private schools. It is not secret that private schools will just raise prices so the voucher won't cover tuition for those they deem "not appropriate" for their school. Private schools are also not required to provide any special services, accommodations, physical/occupational/speech therapy. So again only accepting those student they deem appropriate for their school. This is nothing more than a money grab, funded and backed by those who do not actually care about all children's futures.

Barbara Collins
Self
Austin, TX

Do not defund my public schools! I am against vouchers.

Jenelle Reed, Mrs.
Self - Parent
San Antonio, TX

Please reconsider funding for public education and for helping all instead of a tax break for those who can afford private institutions. We owe it to our most vulnerable populations to advocate for them and say no to school vouchers! Please stand United with me on this matter and speak up on how important public education and funding for public education is!

Margaret Garry, Dr.
self, educator.
Austin, TX

Greetings,
I write to encourage you to vote against HB3, and against any legislation that would redistribute taxpayer funding from public schools to private entities. I write to you as an alumna of a rural Texas public school district, where I received a strong foundation for my long term academic and career success. I am highly concerned that this bill will have an adverse affect on students in communities similar to my community of origin. The district where I grew up was dependent on local property taxes from homeowners and farmers, most of whom were working and middle class. Those taxpayers were already stretched thin making sure that students like me had access to good teachers, a library, and facilities where students had space to learn. We did not have extra money sitting around to help wealthy families in town fund their private school tuition, nor did we have an abundance of nearby private schools for families to choose from. I worry that if this bill were to pass, students from places like my hometown will be left with no options for their primary and secondary education.

I like to believe that we all agree that we want future generations of Texans to have more opportunities than those who came before them. This bill, rather than expanding horizons for all students, would collapse horizons for many students, including those in places like my home community. Young people across Texas, including in rural communities, deserve access to more and better resources than those who came before them.

I encourage all House members to support robust, well-funded public education for all Texans, from those in the largest cities to the most rural spaces. All students deserve a chance to succeed, regardless of their proximity to wealth and private education.

Thank you for your support.

Margaret Garry

Catheryn Dellsperger

Self

Friendswood, TX

Vote no! If you care anything for what is actually good for our children

Francey Parnell

Self

Coppell, TX

No to vouchers!! our public school dollars should not go to private schools where there is no accountability and no certified teachers. No vouchers. It will lead to profiteering by individuals. It will not run good skills and just want the money. Please say no to vouchers.

Stephanie Carpenter

Self/Attorney and former Texas public school teacher-Ector County ISD and Breckenridge ISD

Dallas, TX

As a mother and former educator, I am worried about the outcome of the voucher system. As a former educator our public school needs every single cent that is currently allocated to their budgets. Frankly, it needs far more funds than is allocated to it. I worked in school districts where some children could not read and write in upper elementary. Where we did not have enough aids for disabled children who needed them. Our classroom did not function properly because of the lack of support. As teachers, we buy our own supplies for the children on the measly salaries we get. The teachers who retire like my grandmother, AP Government, taught for 30 years and has to rely on family help to survive as teacher's retirement can no longer get her through the month. Teachers cannot keep up. The students cannot pay for meals and many in our state are food insecure. You are focusing on the wrong issues here. The system has issues. It is the reason I am no longer an educator. It is the reason educators quit. We love the children and the calling but cannot afford to rest our livelihoods on the education system. Taking tax allocated money from a system that is already lacking funds is a travesty. Vouchers have long been the argument by the rich who want to get richer. I am worried for the fate of our teachers, our children, and education system as a whole. We need a revamp but not by taking a billion dollars out and funds private institutions. What is the point of all the laws and standard for education systems if not to hold students and institutions to them. This is an absurd, reverse robin hood situation.

Rose Marie DeHoyos

self

San Antonio, TX

Texas should do everything to EDUCATE ALL STUDENTS at the highest level and give public schools everything they need. OUR KIDS ARE OUR FUTURE. Children with disability don't have a choice, they can only go to public schools. Citizens have a choice, all kids do not. I pay taxes to fund public education. I sent my kids to private school; that was my choice. Give Texas Children the highest education they deserve. We are a disgrace in Texas, we rank #42 in public education in the country. Shouldn't we be #1. Why is our governor only thinking about money and not the people? We deserve better.

Colin Ferguson

Self

Bertram, TX

I am writing to represent myself to state i wish to not have school vouchers

Nicole Stone

Self / Controller

Houston, TX

As I watched the live testimony yesterday, it was overwhelming clear that there are many things missing from this bill to make sure it does what the supposed intent is to do. This cannot pass as it stands now. Every idea on how to ensure that the vouchers get to the people who they are supposedly intended for were completely shot down. Which just proves that this is not about helping children, it's about politics. Public education should NEVER be political.

Meagan Killilea
Kay Granger Elementary PTA
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3 and the push for school vouchers. Vouchers take taxpayer money away from public schools and funnel it into private institutions that lack the same accountability, transparency, and accessibility. This would be devastating for public education in Texas.

Public schools are meant to serve all children, but HB 3 would strip them of critical funding, leading to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and greater inequities—especially in rural communities where public schools are the only option. Private schools can pick and choose their students, leaving behind those with disabilities, lower incomes, or other challenges. This is not about choice—it's about weakening public education.

I do not support school vouchers. I want my tax dollars to go toward strengthening public schools, supporting teachers, and ensuring every child has access to a quality education. I refuse to let public education be defunded while private institutions benefit.

HB 3 is bad for Texas students, bad for families, and bad for our state's future. I urge lawmakers to reject HB 3 and any attempt to privatize public education. I will not stand by while public schools are dismantled.

No vouchers. No privatization. Fully fund public education now!

Sarah Jung
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Tim Hill
Self
Cypress, TX

While I support school choice and giving some level of tax break to people who choose private education, I do NOT agree with the inequality of funding. Public education funding should be significantly greater than any tax rebate for those who choose otherwise. Most families in Texas do not have a good school choice. Public schools need significantly more funding to attract excellent teachers, ensure full staffing like librarians at every school, and provide mandated services by state legislators - which private schools are not required to provide. Unless a better piece of legislation is written, the current bill should be overwhelmingly rejected.

Claire O'Berry
Self
Slidell, TX

The Slidell/Greenwood ISD is a rural school district which has no private school within travel distance. A voucher would not cover the cost if there was. The school IS the community. Lack of funding from the Dept of Education plus a school voucher program would destroy the hope of a good education for these children. I am an older home owner and am happy to pay my far share of property tax to keep a healthy, educated and happy community. Online learning is not an option because of intermittent online service. This is bad for my community and bad for Texas school children. Vote no or I will never vote yes for you.

Sheradon Waits

Self

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose vouchers! Many other states have chosen vouchers and the information already coming out from them is that they benefit mostly the wealthy! This is wrong- tax money for public services- like our PUBLIC schools. Governor Abbott only wants to pass these to help pit his rich friends and appease the billionaire donor who asked him to pass vouchers!

Heather Seymour

Self

Austin, TX

Please do not vote for this. It will take money away from our already suffering public schools.

Michelle Dunlap

Self

Colleyville, TX

Our public schools are already underfunded and burdened with excessive regulations. Redirecting taxpayer dollars to private institutions that lack accountability does not improve student outcomes.

Even a small shift in enrollment impacts every public school. Fixed costs remain, but funding shrinks—leading to school closures, larger class sizes, and the loss of essential programs. Despite ISD's making painful cuts this year, 70% of school districts are operating at a deficit while covering billions in unfunded costs for special education, transportation, and safety.

Research from multiple states shows that voucher programs do not lead to better academic outcomes—and in some cases, they make them worse. If we want real solutions for students, vouchers are not the answer.

Instead, Texas must invest in its public schools by increasing the basic allotment, adjusting for inflation, and funding schools based on enrollment rather than attendance. Our children's future depends on it. Vote no to HB 3.

Patricia Everett

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Dear House Members of the Education Committee,

While I was a teacher in the classroom at a public school here in TX I was dismayed at the lack of support from many of our state leaders. I will never forget how a TX representative called us WASPs — “whiny a\$\$ school people”, I was teaching over 145 students a year, I often had to buy supplies with my own money and the pay was dismal. Now I am a parent of a public school student, and it is more than obvious that the teachers and schools are stretched thin even more than when I was teaching. If you want to help public schools, vouchers are not the answer. Sadly I have serious doubts that many of you do want to help. Too many state leaders have spent years and years working to dismantle public education. But I know with the amazing educators in this state that our public schools could be top notch, if only you would ensure our educators were treated as professionals and that school districts got the funding they need.

Also, I am a tax payer. Our tax payer money would go to the wealthy if vouchers are allowed. Even with a voucher there is no way I could afford to pay for my child to attend a private school here in Fort Worth. Why should our hard earned money favor the wealthy? How is that going to benefit society when so many of our children are born into poverty?

Please listen to us, the citizens of TX — we do not want in on this voucher scam! And to those of you working to protect public education, a huge thank you!

Thank you for your time

K Browning

Self

Abilene, TX

This Bill is not supported by people in West Texas, and we indicated that by re-electing Stan Lambert despite the many dollars that were put into a campaign to have him primaryed. Two public schools are already closing in our city; we don't need that to happen to even more. Vouchers provide funding for private education but not in amounts that would allow our low-income population to actually afford private school. And what about transportation to a private school? What about the fact that private schools don't have the same regulations as public schools? There are so many issues. This bill gives my tax dollars to wealthy parents who already have children in private school. Why? Provide funding to our public schools; stop holding those funds hostage until you get your way over public opinion.

Erin Clayton

Self

Sherman, TX

Vote no to school vouchers. Texas already has school choice and if you vote yes you are stealing our public tax dollars to pay for private school. Many rural communities will be negatively affected and are already struggling because money is being held back instead of the student rate being increased to keep up with inflation. Next election will turn Texas blue if you approve vouchers.

Christopher Greene

self

Farmers Branch, TX

As a stepfather with two children, ages 9 and 12, who just moved to the Dallas area a little over a year ago I looked at the school options in our area. My partner and I both earn >\$100,000/year but the cost of the private schools in the area range from \$25,000-\$40,000 per student per year. That would be anywhere from 1/2 to 3/4 of one of our salaries, and that is excluding other cost of attending these schools. My kids were lucky enough to place into the Dallas ISD magnet program.

But to continue to take funds from the public school system to put into private institutions that most families could not hope to afford or do not live in areas that even have access to them is outrageous. Especially when these private schools are not held to the same ridiculous level of STAR testing that the public schools go through. But my disagreement with the increased level of standardized testing in schools is another matter. But if the state is going to allow funds to be diverted from the public education system to a private system then I believe they should have to test at the same requirements.

Lauren Schuler

Self

Austin, TX

No school vouchers!

Cathy Coleman

Self

Canyon, TX

I've been teaching for 34 years and it's getting harder. Let the kids with learning disabilities have the vouchers and leave the regular Ed kids in the classroom. Come see the difference.

Holly Burns

Self

Center, TX

No to vouchers! Support public schools and teachers!!!!!! Period!

Esteyasi Lopez

Self

Cypress, TX

I oppose HB3

Lisa Vanecek, Mrs.

Self

Comanche, TX

Vouchers are a HELL NO. Why don't you put it to a vote by the public? You'd find out very quickly that only a very small percentage of people want them.

Erin Ewing

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I oppose HB3!

Cindy Elrod

Self, accountant

Lewisville, TX

Please do not hurt our public schools and rural students education by passing this bill. The only people this will benefit is the rich who contribute to your campaigns! Stop holding the school districts hostage while sitting on billions of Texas taxpayer's money. Put it to a taxpayer vote!

Angela Beitelspacher

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3!

Karin Meredith

Club Hill STEM Elementary

garland, TX

I do not approve or stand by the voucher system. It would take funding from our Title 1 district schools, which we have several in Garland, Tx Dallas County. The title 1 programs benefit so many of our students.

Larry McLellan

Self

Godley, TX

Not one family will benefit from this bill in my school district. This only benefits a few families in the big 6 metros of Texas. Nothing for the rural counties even though the Governor said for all students. It's only 2 percent, but you want the rural isd's to help pay. Please drop this school choice and attack the big problems with public education and make it great again. Get the state of Texas out of the education business, and let the locals handle it.

Denise Moore, Ms.

Self- Teacher

Nacogdoches, TX

Texas students are behind in reading. We need ample resources and teachers to improve reading skills in order to close the gap ensuring that our students become strong readers. Please help support students in the lower socio-economic bracket become productive citizens in our society. We need to make our schools an environment conducive to learning. The right environment will influence students attitude towards learning as well as allowing teachers to become more effective in their practices.

Jennifer Haun

Self

Arlington, TX

It's clear HB 3 isn't about helping our students — it's about appeasing special interests. Claiming this is for the benefit of our kids is disingenuous when it's obvious the real goal is to funnel money away from public schools. Our students deserve better. They do NOT deserve policies driven by political agendas and special interest money. We see what's happening, and we won't stand for it. I urge you and your colleagues to vote NO on HB 3.

Thanks for nothing,?Jennifer Haun

Jennifer Vermillion

Self - teacher

WYLIE, TX

Please don't take money from public education. Many school districts are having to close campuses and slash budgets - we need funding!!

Priscilla Lumbreras, Mrs

Self

Granbury, TX

Vouchers will only benefit a select few of children, mainly wealthy families.

Nick Daines

Self

San Antonio, TX

NO to VOUCHERS! Public tax dollars are for PUBLIC schools. Constitution separates church and state. Private schools should only be private. If Texas will finally step up and FULLY FUND the public school system, we will have education we can be proud of again. Let's work harder to get our state out of the bottom 10 in education! No tax breaks, no hand outs to the rich. Help our kids! For the love of Pete!

Raquelia Rea

Lake Ridge Elementary PTA

Mansfield, TX

I am firmly against the creation of the ESA program. Instead of this voucher scam that will further create obstacles and disadvantages for our public school system. It has been beyond frustrating as a parent to know our state has had the money to fund our public schools, but it refuses to do so. Fully fund our schools!

I do not want our tax dollars spent to fund private schools. Those families can already afford to send their scholars to those schools. They have made their choice. Seeing as how the state of Texas has always been in control of the curriculum, so the argument that children are being indoctrinated by teachers is absolutely false. Critical race theory does not exist in our schools. The focus should be on providing quality education and teachers for all students, especially our most vulnerable.

Say no to vouchers! Fund our schools!!!

Kelley Lawrence

Self

Allen, TX

No on HB3. I do not support vouchers or ESAs. Fully fund public education first.

Ginger Collins

Self bus mgr

Fort Worth, TX

We do not support this bill. We have kids in public and private The public schools need money.

Micole Johnson

Self

Converse, TX

I oppose HB 3.

Amanda Brown

self (attorney)

Carrollton, TX

The arguments for vouchers are based on lies and misrepresentations. Vouchers have been a disaster in the states where they have been implemented and will do nothing except take already sorely-needed funds out of Texas public schools. It is absolutely shameful that districts full of wonderful teachers and staff are forced to shutter schools while the state sits on a multi-billion dollar budget surplus. We pay taxes and should get the funding back for our children's education, in the form of public schools, not useless vouchers for unaccountable private schools. Texas children are our future and deserve a quality, accountable, FREE education, as is their constitutional right.

David Konefal

self

Conroe, TX

No vouchers.

Russell Holden, Mr.

Self

Montalba, TX

No to the voucher scam. Public dollars for public school students. Let's get back to the 2019 level of funding before we even thinking about adding other programs. Most Texans do not want the Farris, Wilkes, and Yass funded voucher scam shoved down our throats calling it school choice. School choice is a joke, the only people that have a choice are the private schools in whether or not to accept these kids. **FULLY FUND PUBLIC EDUCATION!**

Laura Laubach Richardson

self

San Antonio, TX

Texans do not support the voucher system. It has failed in every location it has tried. It is clear this administration is after a money grab for the ultra wealthy and does not have the best interests of Texans at heart. We will remember what happens and will vote accordingly. All of you trying to ram this bill through against the wishes of your constituents should be ashamed of yourselves.

Heather Brown

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose vouchers as it diverts funds away from public schools that are already underfunded. It supports inequality as it does not serve those that cannot afford private schools (not even with vouchers). There is not consistent accountability between public and private institutions today

Carolyn Ckudre

self

New Braunfels, TX

I 100 percent oppose this bill. Public monies have no place being used for private use. If you want to help Texas school children and have improved results then fund correctly. Public schools having less money and many more un/underfunded mandates is not helpful. Taking money away from the public schools will just create a large divide in and result in lower educational gains for the very students who need it. School choice is already a part of the system. Parents can send their child to whatever school they choose. I do not choose to have my money sent to a school that has no accountability to the state and does not have to follow the mandates that the public schools have to follow. Public school districts do more with less every single day. Public school teachers spend endlessly out of their own pockets to help their students. Fund public schools and fund them at a 2025 rate and they will excel even more. Texas has historically not funded public schools correctly and yet we want to blame the state of education on public schools. The current state is the result of underfunding and the best teachers can't battle alone forever. I want my money going to the public school system. Just as I want my tax dollars going to other public issues. Tax money has no business being used for the gain of a private business.

Sarah Pequeno

Self, Instructor

San Antonio, TX

Our public education system is severely underfunded and the private school voucher program would take tax payers dollars away from public education. As a product of public education we need to invest in our public schools and provide all students in public school a high quality education. By taking our tax payer dollars and investing in private school you are continuing to discredit the importance and value of the public education system. This bill is discriminating against students with lower socioeconomic status, students with disabilities, and students in rural communities. This bill will not benefit students in public education. It is my belief that this bill should not move forward.

Samuel Prater, Dr.

Self

Missouri City, TX

I am a physician, Texas resident (since 1990 when I was in elementary school), , concerned citizen, and importantly, a product of the public education system in our state of Texas. I graduated from public school in the Rio Grande Valley and then went on to UTSA to complete my undergraduate degree. I am a practicing emergency physician and healthcare administrator in Houston. Public funds should be used to fund public institutions, not private ones. Redirecting taxpayers dollars away from public schools undermines their ability to serve all students equitably and transparently. Private institutions are not held to the same accountability standards and can exclude students based on income, religion, and other factors. Our priority should be to strengthen public education, not diverting resources to institutions that do not serve the entire community. I am confident that I would not be a successful physician if not for the excellent public education I received in Brownsville, Texas during the late 90s at one of magnet high schools.

Shuzhen Yang

Self

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Herlinda Rosales

Self

Cedar Hill, TX

It makes no sense to me as to why you would take from public schools to give to a lottery system who's kids will not get picked and then have to deal with barely getting by with less teachers and not fully funded schools

Katherine Woods

self

Fort Worth, TX

It is plain to anyone paying attention that this bill is not receiving support from legislators in order to help the low income who wish to change their schools. Greg Abbot and the Republican-led legislators are starving public education in the name of vouchers. Vouchers are programs that allow the rich to dip into taxpayer money under the guise of financial aid to low income families. Meanwhile, truly low income families are made to suffer from a starving school system

I was in the crowd when Mr. Buckley was booed from the room at the PTA caucus last month. I have watched him be booed from many rooms in streaming videos since. His tone-deaf ness and inability to read a room are being talked about by Republicans across the state.

To the Republicans in this session, know that the unpopularity of this bill has made it supremely toxic. This bill is being watched not just by parents across the state but by many of your constituents. People who have no children but can see the blatant thievery proposed in this bill. Do not support this bill if you wish for your voters to support you on your next election. Remember, you are not beholden to Greg Abbot. If you wish to continue to influence this great state, you need to vote down this bill. Even if you co-authored this bill, go on the record as having stood against it.

Abigale McFadin

Self

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

KARSEN KNIGHT

self

Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS' & "NO TO HB3

Emily Hahn

self, public school teacher

Port Lavaca, TX

Instead of taking much needed resources away from already desperately underfunded public schools, our state should be pumping more resources into them. Public dollars should stay in public education. This bill will not shrink the learning gap between the lowest & highest achieving students, but rather expand it, by making crucial resources needed by public schools to support all of their student populations (including gifted and talented and special education alike) even more unobtainable than they already are. All around, this bill would be detrimental to public schools (who service & educate the vast majority of our state's children) and solely benefit private schools (who already have multiple advantages over public schools as it is). Lastly, as a relatively new teacher (going on 4 years) who has already repeatedly given sizable chunks of my already thin paycheck back into my classroom to benefit my own students, it worries me to think what it will be like with even less funding for public schools on an even larger scale.

Jill Cox, Mrs.
Self - Retired Teacher
Wylie, TX

I strongly OPPOSE school vouchers/ESAs or anything of the like.

Khin Gerard
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Tax payer money needs to spend on public education. Fund are schools

Lillian Cothrin
Self-public educator
Arlington, TX

Vote against HB 3. Texans do not want vouchers/ESAs. Parents already have choice.

Meridith Manning
self / producer
Dallas, TX

I live in an area of Dallas surrounded by private schools. I chose to send my children to public school K-12. Watching our friends' children go through private school at the same time, the differences could be found in the bells and whistles: They had brand new instruments; our children's instruments were hand-me-downs. They had top-of-the-line art supplies; our children had supplies donated, or found. Their teachers had ample supplies of tissues, markers, paper and crayons; our children were given a list in the beginning of the year of everything they needed to bring, then updated lists as the year progressed to fill in needs.

This issue is not a matter of choice, but a matter of funding. Texas public schools have been sorely under funded when compared to schools around the country. The last thing we need is to do anything that would pull funds away from an already struggling system. If a child needs a special education program which the public school cannot offer, or if a child's family seeks to have their child in a religiously-centered school, that is their choice however, we should NOT be impacting public school funds to pay for it.

My children graduated from public schools here in Dallas and were both accepted into the University of Texas into their first choice majors. Many of other- privately schooled friends have NOT ended up at better schools, nor have they had the exposure to classmates from different backgrounds in terms of Socio economics and ethnicity. That has, without a doubt, given our children in advantage.

Texas ranks in the bottom 10 when it comes to state public school funding per child. The focus should be on providing adequate funding, not pulling it. Doing so would reshape the Texas public school system in the most negative way that would take an entire generation to repair.

Please vote against HP3 and protect public schools. Build them up, don't break them entirely.

Taylor Walterscheid
Self
Argyle, TX

I live in the Denton ISD school district and do not support HB 3. I support fully funding our public schools and focusing on making them a more prosperous place for our students, teachers, and community!

Louis Luckhardt
self/Union Officer Dallas AFL-CIO
Ennis, TX

I live in Ellis County Texas and it is my understanding that our county has multiple rural ISD's and no private schools. Students here would not be able to choose a private school to apply, since none exist. It is my understanding that Ennis ISD could lose \$2,648,177 in Funding if this voucher bill passed and our students need to be fully funded before we ever consider reimbursing parents for private school tuition payments. I have already shared this information with Representative Brian Harrison, and encouraged him to think about how much money will be lost by Ellis County ISD's if he votes for this voucher scam.

Haleigh Hite
self teacher
Gunter, TX

As an educator of 19 years, I strongly oppose HB 3. My mother was a teacher of 30 years. My father a Dean at our local community college. My upbringing is immersed in education and I strongly fight with the public education system of Texas. We are the center for most communities in Texas. We include all stakeholders in decision making, excel at academics, and care for the children of Texas. Listen to Texas citizens when we say we do not support giving public money to any sort of private school voucher system. It is not ethical.

Jessica Grove, Mrs.
Self/Teacher
San Antonio, TX

As a public education teacher I see every day how underfunding has hurt our children, HB 3 will only hurt public education more. Please properly fund our public schools and stop bringing vouchers and educational spending accounts up for a vote. Texans overwhelmingly do not support, nor will their children benefit from either.

Carolyn Croom, Ms.
self
Austin, TX

Please vote against this private school voucher program that takes tax dollars away from local public schools to subsidize a student's private school education. Thank you.

Kevan wood
Self
Livingston, TX

Please vote yes on HB 3

Rob Rennaker, Dr
self
wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Robbin Green, Mr.

Soon to be retired teacher.

Katy, TX

We Texans , do not want a voucher bill that will raise property taxes in this state. Please vote the Governor's plan down or create an amendment and let the citizens of Texas decide the fate of a voucher law. Rich people do not need a tax break for their 30,000 plus tuition for their expensive private schools. The lawsuits will be coming based on a voucher law. Private school kids should have to take STAAR exams in order to graduate from high school. Teachers paid with tax payer money should be a certified teacher and be required to pay into the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. Private schools who have high fail rates from STAAR testing should be shut down or have a state takeover by the TEA. Texas Representatives, should you vote for this bill, NO. Also be ready to be voted out in the 2026 Elections. Thanks, R. Green

Holly Thomas

Self / Self-employed

Plano, TX

Public funds need to stay with our public schools. There are so many children who benefit from public education and many teachers who are called to help these kids grow. We love our community school and it is the heart of our neighborhood, as are many other public schools.

Caitlyn Clark

Self

Cypress, TX

I believe in the power of public education to prepare Texans for the future, and encourage you to enthusiastically reject HB 3's voucher program.

The proposed education savings account program takes money that is desperately needed by the public education system away from the general public, who stand to see the most benefit from that money, and gives it to a very small percentage of the public who have physical and financial access to charter and private schools. This program proposes to take out more per student than the state provides as the basic allotment, meaning each child who leaves public education will do even more damage to this system they are leaving. Furthermore, this system won't benefit thousands of Texans in rural districts who do not have charter or private schools available in their areas. Private and charter schools also aren't held to the same standards as public schools in regards to transportation and special education services, which will put those schools even further out of reach for many students. On that note, the services offered by public schools compared to private/charter schools are incomparable. Public schools are open to everyone, regardless of disability, and are required to provide services in the least restrictive environment for all students; this means that Texans like my brother, who qualified for special education and Section 504 services, and the 100+ students I've taught like him were able to learn and grow in public schools. Charter/private schools are not required to accept students with special needs, and don't have the same requirements as far as providing services; indeed, school law tends to put acquiring those special services on the local school district to provide to special needs students in private/charter schools, students who would be contributing nothing to the public school under the voucher system. Private/charter schools aren't subject to the same accountability standards or testing programs that public schools must meet, which makes judging the effectiveness of education in those schools harder as well.

Finally, for most students who currently can't afford charter/private schools, the proposed \$10,000 won't be enough for them to be able to afford a different school option. Private school is incredibly expensive, and this year a friend of mine saw several new students who were priced out of their charter school when they raised tuition in anticipation of vouchers passing. These students are now back in the public school system.

I fear that HB 3 will encourage segregation based on income, as the vouchers offer discounts to those already wealthy enough to easily afford school choice and public education is all that's left for the poor, middle class, and those with special needs. I fear HB 3 will see public education breaking down into a starving system that can't maintain itself, can't hire and keep quality educators, and ultimately fails our State. Please vote no to school vouchers.

Anne Greenfield

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to express my concerns about the implementation of the school voucher program, which I believe could have significant negative consequences for our education system and the students it serves.

By diverting public funds to private institutions, these programs create inequities in access to quality education, leaving public schools with fewer resources to support the majority of students who remain in them. This can result in larger class sizes, reduced educational opportunities, and less support for students who need it most.

Furthermore, private schools that accept vouchers are not held to the same standards of accountability as public schools, which can lead to a lack of transparency and oversight. This raises serious concerns about the quality of education and the protection of students' rights within these institutions

Instead of diverting funds to private schools, I believe we should focus on strengthening and adequately funding our public education system, ensuring that all students have access to high-quality education and the support they need to succeed.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Michelle Lee

Reagan EM PTA

Cedar Park, TX

I'm not supporting HB3! This will disadvantage the public school students. Please do not pass this bill!

Laura McIlrath

Self

Hurst, TX

As a parent of a student in public schools, and a public school educator, please say no to vouchers. This will only hurt our students that are already struggling in the classroom and it will take away highly qualified teachers who have a passion for serving students and families. Vouchers are not going to be given to the families of students who struggle with academics or behavior, those that have been diagnosed with specific learning disabilities. Please do not hurt these children.

Julie Clemente

Self

Temple, TX

I oppose HB3. This bill i every texas child, put money kn the public schools and support our teachers

James Thomas

Self

Carrollton, TX

Vouchers would deprive our public education system of being adequately funded. Furthermore, you are giving money to people who already attend private school. They don't need the additional funds. And lastly, why would you give money to institutions that are not held to the same standards as public schools?

Jennifer Cashion, Mom and teacher

Teacher

Midlothian, TX

I oppose HB 3

Julia Draganski

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Senta Wilson, Mrs.

Dallas ISD Parent

DALLAS, TX

Why I Oppose HB 3 as a Proud DISD Parent

House Bill 3 (HB 3) imposes unfunded mandates on school districts like Dallas ISD while failing to address the real issues affecting students, teachers, and families. Instead of investing in education, this bill forces schools to redirect resources away from classrooms to comply with state-imposed security requirements.

Unfunded Mandates Strain School Budgets

HB 3 requires costly security upgrades without providing the necessary funding. While school safety is a priority, forcing districts to cut programs, raise taxes, or shift funds away from student learning is not the solution. The state should fully fund safety measures rather than leaving schools to bear the burden alone.

Takes Resources Away from Student Learning

Schools already face budget shortfalls, and HB 3 forces them to prioritize compliance over education. This means fewer resources for STEM programs, arts, mental health support, and teacher salaries—all essential to student success. Instead of improving learning conditions, the bill diverts funds from where they are needed most.

Fails to Address Teacher Shortages & Public School Funding

Texas faces a teacher shortage crisis, yet HB 3 does nothing to raise salaries, reduce class sizes, or support educators. Retaining quality teachers should be a top priority. Still, this bill ignores teacher attrition's root causes and adds new bureaucratic burdens on schools.

Lacks Community & Parental Input

As a DISD parent, I believe education policy should reflect local needs and not be dictated by state mandates. HB 3 was passed without meaningful input from parents, teachers, or administrators. Schools should be given the flexibility to determine the best safety measures rather than being forced into one-size-fits-all solutions.

A Better Approach

Instead of HB 3, the state should:

- ? Fully fund school safety without cutting student programs
- ? Raise teacher salaries and improve retention efforts
- ? Engage parents, teachers, and administrators in decision-making
- ? Support mental health resources as part of a holistic safety plan

Conclusion

HB 3 fails our students, teachers, and schools by prioritizing mandates over meaningful solutions. As a parent and community advocate, I strongly oppose this bill. I will continue fighting for policies that genuinely strengthen public education in Dallas and beyond.

Regina Booker

AFT

Beaumont, TX

It's unfair for students with accommodations. They will not have enough staff or experience to accommodate that type of student. The way everyone is approving marijuana and other drugs, students are coming to school with more medical issues than I've seen in my 23 years of teaching. During the right thing for all your constituents (NOT A SELECT FEW) is the right thing to do.

Jill Horton
Self - PTA Board Member
Richardson, TX

I am asking you to vote no to the school vouchers bill. Our tax dollars should stay in our public school systems that serve all Texas children, including the kids that need it the most. It ensures they have access to the kind of education that grows the Texans of the future. Neighborhood public schools are the glue that helps hold our communities together and funding them only serves all of us versus the select few.

Jennifer Rumsey
Self, educator
The Woodlands, TX

I believe that everyone knows that public schools educate the vast majority of students in the state, and that school choice already exists. Parents can choose to send their children to a private school, to a homeschool, or to a charter school. School vouchers are there only to funnel funds away from public schools and hand them into the hands of people that already can afford to send their kids to private schools the amount of funding that is proposed will not even be enough to cover a real private school. This bill is so bad and so dirty and it's purpose is to destroy public education and to foster a further divide between middle class poor and the wealthy. We the People of Texas should be allowed to vote on this because we are the ones who pay the taxes. I would like for governor Abbott, and whichever politicians support this bill to show us the facts and the successes from the states that have implemented something already like this. I believe that if they tried, they wouldn't find any successes except a further divide between the poor and the wealthy. Private schools do not have to educate all students but public schools do even if some people can get the money to from a voucher to go to a private school that doesn't mean that their children will be accepted in any private school. This bill is a sham and it's a shame and as a public school educator, I am so tired of being used as a political pawn and facing so much hatred for doing the work that I know that God called me to do.

Leah Barber
Self - Product Management
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3.
I want our tax dollars go to students who need free public education and not people who want to CHOOSE to take their kids to private school. We ALREADY have school choice. We. Already. Have. It. Let's infuse that money into making our schools better and paying teachers more. NO VOUCHERS. I do not want my tax dollars going to a private school that isn't under the same restrictions as public school. I do not want my tax dollars going to the rich who can already afford it. NO VOUCHERS.

Regan O'Steen-Tragon
self/attorney
Spicewood, TX

Vouchers are a scam and will raise property taxes. This bill is not backed by the people but is backed by a bunch of millionaires. Do not take our tax dollars to subsidize private schools. FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND VOTE NO TO VOUCHERS!!!

Andrea Hern
Draper PTA
Sachse, TX

No vouchers unless they have to follow the exact same standards as the public system and should be the same amount.

Kathy Hoes

Texas public school teachers and staff

Sherman, TX

Vote no on HB 3. As a career educator, I can attest that Texas schools are doing a superb job, especially when the fact that they are severely and chronically underfunded. The educators have done a magnificent job making up the shortage that the state politicians have consistently implemented. Please know that I will vote for only those who vote NO on this bill or any bill that blatantly undermines our public schools. States with vouchers have failed the students in their states. Don't let Texas become one of those states.

Carlos Gonzalez

Self, education

Houston, TX

I don't approve of this bill, it will hurt students by segregating them into rich and poor ones via the schools they will be able to attend, and the voucher ones will have no accountability. Also, I oppose the use of taxes towards the vouchers because these schools might be religious-based, and churches do not pay taxes.

Anita Casas

Self

Houston, TX

Reject reject reject! I urge you to reject this bill and focus on strengthening our public education system, ensuring that all students, regardless of their background or economic status, have access to a high-quality education.

Dominique Harvey

self

Houston, TX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dominique Harvey, and I am speaking as an advocate, volunteer, and community leader deeply invested in the future of Texas students, teachers, and families. I stand in strong opposition to House Bill 3 because, despite its intentions, it ultimately places undue burdens on our public schools without providing the necessary resources and support for student success.

1. HB3 Imposes Unfunded Mandates on Schools

While school safety is a priority for all of us, HB3 shifts that responsibility onto already overstretched districts without adequate funding to meet the requirements. The bill mandates that schools hire armed security personnel but does not provide realistic, sustainable financial support to make this possible without cutting critical programs, teacher salaries, or student services.

?? My concern: How can we demand increased security personnel while leaving districts to figure out how to pay for it? This is not a plan—it is a burden.

2. More Guns on Campus ? Safer Schools

Texas schools need comprehensive, evidence-based safety solutions, not just an increase in armed officers. Research shows that more guns on campus do not necessarily make students safer and, in some cases, escalate tensions. Instead of focusing solely on security personnel, we should be investing in:

- ? Mental health resources – More counselors, social workers, and intervention programs
- ? Prevention programs – Addressing threats before they escalate
- ? Safer infrastructure – Improving building security measures

?? My concern: HB3 is a reactive approach. We should be prioritizing proactive solutions that prevent violence before it starts.

3. Public Schools Deserve Support, Not Unfunded Directives

The educators and administrators I work with daily are not asking for more mandates—they are asking for more funding, better teacher retention, and student-centered resources. Instead of imposing requirements that force districts to cut from classroom instruction, let's listen to what schools actually need to keep students safe and successful.

?? My concern: If we are serious about protecting Texas students, we should be funding our schools properly, not forcing them to make impossible choices.

Call to Action

I urge this committee to reconsider the true impact of HB3 on our schools. We all want safer learning environments, but we must do it the right way—by listening to educators, funding comprehensive safety plans, and prioritizing student well-being over political quick fixes.

Let's work together to craft real solutions that give our schools the resources they need to keep students safe without sacrificing their education. I ask this committee to oppose HB3 in its current form and instead advocate for policies that prioritize funding, mental health support, and real safety strategies.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Texas students.

Veronica Rodriguez, Mrs.

Self.

Austin, TX

VOTE NO.

Hannah Norman

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am a public school teacher in San Antonio, where I have lived my entire life. I love my school deeply, and I have taught there for 15 years. My oldest son attends the same school, and my 2 younger boys will attend when they reach Kindergarten age. I am a Master Mentor in my district, a National Board candidate and in our first year of data collection in my district, I have been recommended for a TIA designation. I am a Kindergarten teacher, which is the best job in the entire world. My classroom is my happy place. I care deeply about public education not only for my students, but for my own children. I do not speak on behalf of my school, but I can tell you it's one of the best in the state. My principal is supportive, encouraging, and puts our community first. I feel incredibly blessed to be in the position I am in, and it fuels my fire for advocating for children in public education. Quite a bit has changed in public education since I began teaching, and we as educators have been forced to do more with less. Less money, less support from the state, less support from parents. My school is a magnet school. There are not enough students in our neighborhood to fill the campus, so the majority of our families choose to be with us. They already have choice. Our class numbers do not fluctuate throughout the year because our students typically do not leave. So much of the testimony I have heard is about how parents are unhappy with their neighborhood schools, so they're having to seek other options. What about the parents who are happy? What about the teachers who are happy? Private education is not automatically better because it costs money. Our public schools are doing incredible things, even with limited resources. Think of what they could do if they were fully funded. Please give public education a chance and vote no on this bill. Put this money into public schools. Put this money into special education in public schools. Put this money into retaining the best teachers in our the country.

Dorothy Scraggs

Retired teacher

Abilene, TX

Thus bill would only help the now private schoolers and be a detriment to rural schools and students with special needs and sparse funds. Consider the disadvantage to public schoolers and the Texas budget.

Debbi Van Etten

Self

Houston, TX

Please vote No on HB 3 in connection with the education voucher program. Our nation was build on an idea of free public education. The voucher program will primarily serve those who already utilize private education as their choice and can afford that luxury. This program will further the destruction of our poor Texas education system and its underpaid educators. That money should be used to improve our school buildings and school resources. It's an embarrassment that Texas already spends so little per student in comparison with most of the other states in our nation! This bill seems to serve only one man and his donor's objectives, not the people of Texas, not the children of Texas, not the future of Texans. Please vote No! Education of the children of Texas should not be sacrificed for a political favor!

Michele Smisek

self/teacher

San Antonio, TX

I would like to go on record that as a teacher who has taught in Texas at both private and public schools and who also sent my children to both private and public schools, I am OPPOSED to private school vouchers with public funds.

Rene Ybarra

Self

Georgetown, TX

I oppose HB3. Public schools should be fully funded and tax payer funds shouldn't go to private schools, especially without accountability

Louis Forrai
Self retired
San Antonio, TX

Any taxpayer-funded voucher initiative must require that participating schools:
Accept and retain all students.
Employ only certified teachers.
Use a Texas Education Agency(TEA)-approved curriculum aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills(TEKS).
Administer state testing (STAAR).
Provide transportation, breakfast and lunch.
Be subject to voter approval via ballot.

Ashley Johnson
Self
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Stop taking funds from public education! Why are we even having to deal with this? Public education should never be in question! It is so important and vital for our future that all kids are able and have auto a free education.

Keri Bennett
Self, teacher
Garland, TX

Here are the comments I posted:

I strongly oppose HB3 and its proposed education savings program, which would allocate \$10,000 per student toward private school tuition. While supporters claim this expands school choice, the truth is that Texas has always had school choice. Parents who want private education for their children—including myself—have always had the ability to make that decision. What this bill really does is shift public funds away from our public schools to subsidize private education, which has never been accountable to taxpayers.

HB3 will not help most Texas families. The reality is that this program primarily benefits those already sending their children to private schools. For many working- and middle-class families, \$10,000 does not cover full tuition, especially in urban areas where private school costs often exceed \$20,000 annually. Rural communities, where private school options are limited, gain nothing while their public schools lose funding.

A strong public education system is the foundation of our democracy—in Texas and across the country. Public schools serve all students, regardless of background, income, or ability. Instead of diverting resources to private institutions that can pick and choose their students, we should focus on strengthening our public schools. Texas should prioritize competitive teacher pay, classroom resources, and student support services to ensure the 5.4 million children in our public school system receive the education they deserve.

Public dollars should serve the public good. HB3 is a step in the wrong direction, and I urge lawmakers to reject it and invest in all Texas students.

Lakeisha Davis
David K Sellars PTA
Fort Worth, TX

As an educator and parent I'm disappointed of elected officials who have failed every single student in the state of Texas. The Bible says "Love thy neighbor as yourself." For a state and party to hold Christian values as a banner I question whether your beliefs are true and in alignment with the God you serve. Even Jesus considered and supported the poor and underserved. Why not you? Ask yourself? What we God say on Judgement Day about the way you treated your neighbor.

Patricia Lautenschlager

Self

San Antonio, TX

I do not support HB3 and vow that I will not vote for any representation that votes in favor of this bill! GOVERNMENT MONEY IS TAXPAYERS MONEY, and I do not support any taxpayer money funding private schools. I have not found a single person who does support this bill - even those who currently attend private school.

Nydia Cardenas

Self

Fort worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Having a vibrant economic future in our state is directly tied to the quality of our public schools and educated residents.

Alvin Jackson, retired

self

Clifton, TX

I do not believe the establishment of an education savings account program should be passed.

Ross Pruitt

Self -teacher

Plano, TX

I wish to go on record that I am fully against the provisions of HB3. I believe that public education should be fully funded and indexed to inflation before any private school voucher or esa program should be enacted.

Amy Rostvold

self

Austin, TX

I am writing to urge this body to raise the k-12 public school per student allotment to \$7400/student. I am the parent of a child in public school -- my 7th grade daughter attends Lamar Middle School in Austin, TX -- and I am already seeing the effects of inadequate funding at her school. Most of her teachers have an average of 30 students in each classroom, with a total student load of 200 or more kids. Teachers at her school must differentiate instruction to meet the needs of a very diverse population of kids, many of whom are performing below grade level in math and reading. I know this money would be a substantial investment in our schools, but our children are worth every penny. Here is why this is important:

1. 80% of our schools are in financial crisis. This includes schools in areas with a heavy Republican voting population.
2. Inflation has set our school budgets back. We need this extra money JUST to break even with inflation.
3. Schools provide more than just education -- they provide food, transportation, social work services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling, extra curriculums / clubs, special education services and technology for students with disabilities, and clean & safe facilities. This stuff is expensive.
4. The voucher program will not help our poorest students, our students with disabilities, or our students with special needs. Vouchers do not help with food, transportation, counseling, and special services. They do not cover the gap between the cost of private school and the cost of the voucher. Vouchers won't help a kid with special needs access a private school program that is not set up to service that kid. In Austin there are only 2 private schools that cater to special needs kids, and both are extremely expensive and very, very small.
5. Teachers are burned out and quitting. College students are not majoring in education. We are headed towards a major crisis, and raising teacher pay (substantially) will help attract the best and brightest minds to this profession (and it will help keep teachers in the classroom!)

I believe in the promise of education to help lift people out of poverty, to provide them hope for the future, and to ensure a robust economy for the future. Please, please, please consider the children who would be most affected by this bill when deciding on your vote.

Thank you,

Amy Rostvold

6.

Katie Bailey

Self

Round Rock, TX

My name is Katie Bailey and I am a mom to 3 current public school students. I am asking you to please vote NO to SB3. Private schools do not accept kids with special needs, do not have to honor IEPs/504s, do not accept children with behavioral challenges, and are not held to our testing standards. Charter schools "accept" some students with special needs, but it's few and far between and their support offered is far less. My friends daughter was let go from Valor because her absences due to hospitalization. Public schools are for ALL. Only public schools accept everyone, and provide free lunches and transportation for those that need it to learn. This benefits Texas' future as a whole. Public taxpayer money should be used exclusively for public institutions. Public schools need more support from our legislators, not less. My 3 children are all involved in programs such as sports, fine arts, and advanced classes that are at risk of being cut if funding decreases. Class sizes cannot increase further, per research, without devastating impact. Private schools don't have to honor their 504s, nor would they offer the invaluable experience of building community among their neighborhood families. Parents already have education choices. Vouchers will only serve to hurt our future workforce and our children's opportunities.

Please vote NO to SB3. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Brandy O'Quinn

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I do not want to fund wealthy people's private school tuition and you will be stripping money from our public school system. Texas needs a qualified workforce of all kinds of jobs, to attract good paying jobs and investment. I'm against HB 3. Focus on other important things.

Skip Fritze

Self

Wylie, TX

I absolutely oppose HB3

Connor Veltkamp

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Karen Pruitt

Self

Ben Wheeler, TX

Hell no to vouchers! Zero tax dollars towards any private school.

Dillon Burrus

Self

Higgins, TX

I am opposed to the voucher bill. Fully fund our public schools!

Nina Rao

Self

Austin, TX

Hello Representatives,

Please don't ruin our public school system. Please fund our public schools, not private schools. No to vouchers.

Thanks,

Nina Rao

Cassandra Whitsitt

Self

Hemphill, TX

Texas public schools are required to educate every child who shows up to their doors, regardless of income, disability, IQ, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, income, academic ability, or athletic ability. Many voucher programs, including Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), claim to serve students with special needs by allowing voucher funds to go toward private schools or special education services. But these private schools and vendors are under no obligation to accept or serve students with special needs. And even if a student with special needs attends a private school with a voucher, they will likely forfeit the protections they have under federal law. While public schools continue to strengthen and diversify services for students with special needs, the guarantees public schools offer are essential to these families. In public schools, students are guaranteed admission, transparency of funding and services, accountability for academic performance, and protections under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which private schools are not required to follow. Teacher certification is not required for private schools. Students attending a private or parochial school are exempt from compulsory attendance at a public school if the school includes in its course a study of good citizenship. Texas Education Code Ann. Private schools are not required to provide transportation. Private schools are not required to administer accountability testing such as the STAAR test. IF vouchers truly give parental choice, why not make the playing field equitable? Public schools no longer have to administer the STAAR test; drop accountability ratings; drop the requirement of compulsory attendance; drop teacher allotment; drop providing transportation requirements; drop meeting the needs of the most difficult students with severe acting out behaviors; medically fragile, etc.... heck, let's just drop special education all together... Sound ridiculous? Apparently not to the ones pushing vouchers. In an idea world, all students would be cognitively average to above average; mom and dad are happynot divorced/ in prison/jail/undocumented family/lives with grandparents/works to support their family after school/parent is an alcoholic/drug abuse/ care for a sick family member/ home alone at night; they come to school with a full stomach; they were read books since birth; hope their parents have the cognitive abilities and/or time to tutor and help their children at home and work two jobs to support their families; hope they never experience sexual and physical abuse. I could go on and on. Come teach in a rural classroom for three months and then and only then should you have a voice.

Melissa Colvard

Self

St Paul, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3

Cynthia Riddle

Self

Austin, TX

I am against this HB 3 as a tax payer in Travis county. I don't believe this Bill will benefit public education for my son.

Virginia Garcia

TRTA

Hondo, TX

As retired educators, my husband and myself, we are strongly opposed to vouchers. We believe our taxes should be invested in public schools. Public taxpayer money goes to public schools not private. Seems self explanatory, public for public. Texans have always had a choice. Vouchers are misguided and unnecessary. They are not going to make anything better. They will only go to show that Texas can't learn from other states mistakes and that 'some' politicians are for sale. Invest in Texas public schools.

Lois LooneyKochie

Retired teacher

Houston, TX

Please do the job you were elected to do.

Jeanne Rubin

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3. Please save our public schools.

Laura Hines

Self/Speech Language Pathologist

Frisco, TX

I am firmly against school vouchers. This does not help our Public School system. This should be an issue that Texans VOTE on! Governor Abbott trying to push this through when most people do not want this - has he checked his Facebook pages recently??? He doesn't get to decide what's best for MY kids. Let us vote - he doesn't have a convincing argument!

Dylan Gardner

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Our public education system should not be undermined by subsidizing private education. This is a horrendous attack on education and an obvious attempt at subsidizing the wealthier members of society.

This is not the Texas way and it is not beneficial to the vast majority of Texans.

Parents currently have educational choice and it should not mean further weakening of our public schools.

Kelsi Strong

Self

Lake Dallas, TX

Please vote NO for HB 3. We do not want an education savings account program or vouchers.

Leane Krause

Self-public school teacher

Tomball, TX

Vote no for HB3. Public education needs to be fully funded before any discussion of public funds going to public schools is even mentioned. Public schools accept and support all students. Why is a student in private school worth more than a student in public. That's crap. Give the 5.5 million students in public school a chance.

Shere Kossie-Driver

AFT Aldine

Shepherd, TX

Vote No to School Vouchers!

Kern Arrott

self

Christoval, TX

Say no to vouchers!

Nancy Cook
Self
Colleyville, TX

I agree with most Texans that our public education system needs massive improvements. Class sizes are too large, teacher salaries are too low, we are hemorrhaging teachers and support staff, our special education departments need more resources, property taxes are too high and wealthy districts continue to have to fundraise because too much of their budget is distributed to financially needy ones...but vouchers are not the answer. Budget mismanagement has put us in this situation. Vouchers will only ingratiate us to the whims of private organizations. It is a short term solution that will have to be undone again in less than a decade. Do not pass HB3 unless you want to destroy the future of Texas children and teachers.

Candace Morse
Self, finance
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Jasmine Cluck
Self
Keller, TX

I am a proud graduate of Texas public schools and both of my children currently attend public school. Please protect neighborhood schools and oppose House Bill 3 in Texas.

All Texas students deserve an education that prepares them to succeed, not just students at exclusive private schools. The Texas state constitution says our Legislature is responsible for funding our neighborhood public schools for students, not subsidizing tuition for wealthy families at exclusive private and religious schools that pick and choose who will enroll. If you've seen the tuition costs at our many of our local private schools, then you cannot deny. That vouchers/ESAs benefit families who can already afford private school tuition. And what about rural areas in Texas who don't have private schools? They need fully funded PUBLIC schools.

As a concerned Texan, I ask you to vote down House Bill 3, which diverts tax dollars from neighborhood public schools. Public dollars should stay in public schools.

Say NO to vouchers that use tax dollars to fund the tuition at exclusive private schools.

Cindy Curry
Self
Coppell, TX

We DO NOT want vouchers!!!!

Sarah Hutchison

Self / Finance

Mansfield, TX

As a parent of two children in Texas public schools, a 10-year-old and a 7-year-old, I am incredibly frustrated and disheartened by the lack of transparency from my legislators regarding HB 3. This bill is being framed as a win for parents, but in reality, it's a dangerous shift of public funds away from our public schools to private schools and vendors with no accountability. This will hurt families like mine and the countless others who rely on public education to give our kids a strong foundation.

My children have had incredible teachers who have supported them academically and emotionally. My oldest has faced challenges with dyslexia, and thanks to the resources available through his public school, he's been able to grow and succeed. But I know firsthand how stretched those resources are. There simply isn't enough funding to give every student the support they need. Taking money away from our public schools to fund private institutions that don't have to meet the same standards is not the answer.

It's frustrating to feel like my voice, and the voices of so many other Texas parents, are being ignored. The lack of transparency surrounding this bill feels like a betrayal of the trust we place in our elected officials to represent the best interests of our families. Our public schools are the heart of our communities, and they need more support, not less. Diverting taxpayer money to private schools with no oversight will widen the gap between those who can afford private education and those who cannot.

Public education should be about creating equal opportunities for all children, regardless of zip code or family income. HB 3 will undermine that foundation and leave countless students behind. I urge you to stand with Texas families, not special interests. Please vote NO on HB 3 and protect the future of our public schools. Our kids deserve better—AND YOU KNOW IT.

Edith Cook

Self

Lockney, TX

Please do not vote for school vouchers! Our public school need more funding not money taken from them . Thank you for listening to our concerns

Rheonda Long

Self

Arlington, TX

I am against Educational Savings Accounts or vouchers. Tax dollars need to be spent on public schools not private.

Mary Cherry

Self

San Antonio, TX

I have commented before that vouchers are bad for the entirety. Private schools give scholarships to many students in need. The truth is also not being told about the open boundaries that can be found across the state. Most districts have school choice and magnet programs that allow students from outside of the district to attend at no cost. Publicize that when you discuss this with lawmakers and the public. Please stop hiding the whole truth. That we already have school choice in so many of our public schools. This will foster inequities. Please think about all of the students across the state.

I worked in private schools, so I don't dislike them but I am very aware of the lack of accountability in many of them. They need equitable accountability if the state is giving them money. Period.

Elaine Kiang

Self

Austin, TX

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the use of public funds to support private school vouchers. While I understand the intention behind these programs, I strongly believe that public resources should not be directed toward funding private school tuition for families who do not need financial assistance.

If the goal is to truly help underserved children who need support, I think it would be much more effective to implement a salary cap for eligibility, similar to other federal programs. This would ensure that the funds are going to families who truly need the help, rather than those who can already afford private education.

It's important that public resources are used efficiently and equitably, especially when it comes to education, and I believe that such a measure would better address the needs of those who are most in need of assistance.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this issue.

Sarah Durrant

Self

Lewisville, TX

I am a long time consumer of our public school system and I AM AGAINST VOUCHERS of any kind. Public dollars need to stay in public schools. I have 3 boys in public school and they all have hearing loss. They have all needed special education services at one time or another so private school was never an option for us. Please don't take away money from public schools. Please support the 5.5 million public school students in Texas. Vote NO on this bill.

Amy Angel

self, educator

Plano, TX

Privatization of education through a voucher system will hurt our state and our kids. I urge you to reject vouchers and focus on fully funding our public schools. Our students deserve state representatives who have their best interests at heart and will not be obligated to special interests focused on profit who send excessive contributions to their campaigns. Thank you.

Rosalie Dennis

Self

Eules, TX

Please vote NO on HB 3. Thank you.

Brittany Parker
Self - Small Business Owner
Plano, TX

As a Texas constituent, I strongly oppose HB 3 and will be watching closely to see which legislators betray public education by supporting this disastrous bill. If you vote in favor of this, you can count on losing support in the next election. Texans will not stand by while lawmakers gut public education to funnel taxpayer money into private schools that lack oversight, accountability, and equal access.

HB 3 is a massive giveaway to wealthy families, with an income eligibility cap set at 500% of the federal poverty level (\$156,000 for a family of four). This is not about helping low-income students, it's about using public funds to subsidize private education for families who can already afford it. Meanwhile, public schools—where the vast majority of Texas students learn—continue to struggle with underfunding, teacher shortages, and safety concerns.

The data is clear: similar voucher programs in Arizona and Wisconsin have failed to improve student outcomes. Studies show that voucher students often perform worse than their public school peers, and in states like Indiana, Louisiana, and Ohio, voucher programs have exacerbated inequality while draining public school budgets. If HB 3 passes, the same will happen in Texas, leaving behind the students who need public education the most.

If lawmakers actually cared about improving education, they would be fighting to increase teacher pay, reduce class sizes, and expand mental health support—not lining the pockets of private school operators.

Make no mistake: Texans are paying attention. If you vote to dismantle public education, expect to be held accountable at the ballot box. We will remember your vote.

Oppose HB 3—or prepare to face the consequences in the next election.

Aubrey Shaw
Mothers of Texas and myself
Spicewood, TX

I oppose

Amianne Bailey
self--High School Librarian and parent of public educated students
Forney, TX

As a public educator for 27 years and parent to two publicly educated daughters, I firmly oppose vouchers because public tax dollars should not be used to fund private schools. In the age of eradicating "waste, fraud, and abuse," I do not understand how Republicans can cheer this on the federal level but then support public tax dollars being used in a private school system that does not have the same accountability standards as public schools. How is this right? I am also furious that this issue is WASTING time and money because it has been debated and voted down in numerous sessions. The people of Texas DO NOT support vouchers, and I wish that Greg Abbott would listen to us rather than push this agenda that he has been paid to push. It is infuriating to see how our lawmakers have such little regard for public education, which is a demanded right for all children under our state constitution. I am tired of the words and the games and the piles of money being wasted on this issue. Public education needs to be strengthened, and private school vouchers are NOT THE WAY. Please fully fund public education so that we can provide all Texas children with the education that they deserve.

Megan Matisi
Self
Austin, TX

I am an Austin resident who strongly opposes HB 3 by Buckley. I do not want a school voucher program in Texas or for any funds from the public school system to be re-allocated to anything other than public school funding.

Lynette Schnitzius
Self
Farmers Branch, TX

I strongly feel that all public tax money should be spent to fully fund public schools. EVERY student in the state of Texas deserves a good education!!! Citizens have a choice to send their child to a private school. I know for that the school affiliated with my church cannot even admit half of the students that submit applications. Please vote No to allowing public tax dollars go to paying for private school!

David Gibson
Self
Amarillo, TX

Every parent in Texas currently has total school choice. We have two systems of education in Texas, private and public. At no point should private funds be used for public education nor public funds be used for private education. They are completely different, one is a taxpayer funded system which takes in everyone that walks in the door, no one is rejected. The private schools have the right to reject students for various reasons - this does not mean that private school is not available, it simply means that parents may have to look around for a private school to take their child. Don't take our rainy day funds for Abbott's (emotional to him) position. Take your time and really think this through. Put more funds into public education for all of the special needs children and Career and Technical programs that very few private schools have.

This is certainly not a good time to make this decision. On the Federal level the Department of Education is on the chopping block, which is the greatest news to all teachers that truly want to educate their students. Wait until we see how this is going to play out before destroying public education in the name of Abbott.

Flora Reyes-Jimenez
Self - Parent
helotes, TX

Please do not pass this bill. Moving forward with HB3 will only hurt our Texas children and our public school education system. As a proud and successful graduate of Texas public schools, I implore you to preserve funding for public schools and NOT let these monies be siphoned away to private and charter schools. Success for the future of Texas and our Texas economy depends on an educated population and that comes from a strong public education system- not from pockets of unmonitored and unaactioned private and charter schools. Texas taxpayers should not have our money wasted on private and charter schools where there is little oversight and lots of failure. Please do NOT move forward with HB 3.

Madison Stripling
Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX

OPPOSE HB 3

Sherika Taylor, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
Self
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Hanna Patton-Elliott, Mrs.

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

I am a public school teacher and the mother of children who attend public school. The creation of a voucher systems for schooling in the state of Texas creates an environment of inequity bordering on resegregation based on socioeconomic status. It is harmful to students with any kind of disability, and lowers the quality of educator hired for thousands of students. Additionally, this bill would tragically limit rural campuses' ability to receive a fair education. I adamantly oppose this bill, as does every single educator I have spoken with about the issue. The citizens of Texas do not support this agenda, and affirm our right to an equal and fair education for ALL STUDENTS.

Rocio Zúñiga, Ms.

Self

Dallas, TX

I disagree with educational vouchers as this will affect the lower income students. This will make students have less access to education.

Kenneth Shier

Free public education

Corinth, TX

Please take care of the public schools. There is choice. You can send your children to alternative schools but since that is your choice, you should pay for it. No public funds for private schools or home schooling!

Kimberly White

Myself

Fort Worth, TX

Please listen to Texans. Our schools are suffering from lack of funding. Vouchers are not the answer. Texans and schools are overwhelmingly against this bill. Please stop pushing what isn't wanted. I am a republican and any official who is part of voting for this will lose my vote next election.

Lauren Sicarelli

self

AUSTIN, TX

Hello, my name is Lauren Sicarelli and I am a constituent in zip code 78735. I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 3. I am asking my Representative and this Committee to vote no and to instead fully fund public education, by substantially increasing the per student allotment AND making funding dependent on enrollment rather than attendance. We already have meaningful school choice in Texas - what we need are resources so that our public schools can deliver the education that each child in Texas deserves, and that which has already been mandated, with accountability and due process ensuring that delivery. We do not need resources for privatized schools to thrive with no or little accountability to the public. I don't believe proponents of this bill can point to any examples of similar laws in other states achieving any of the objectives that are the supposed motivation for this bill. To the contrary, voucher systems like this are a failed experiment, and if this bill moves forward, this will predictably harm more families than it helps. Thank you.

Elizabeth Reed

Self - Stay at Home Mom

Pearland, TX

While I lean conservative and am a mom of two (one a senior at Dawson HS in Pearland and one a freshman at A&M Engineering), I am against school vouchers for several reasons.

- 1) Whereas the TEA provides oversight and demands accountability over Texas public schools in the form of standardized testing, teacher certifications, and curriculum; little to no assurances would be given that students receiving school vouchers and attending home school or private school are being provided with the proper education. Many assume that because you are paying \$50K/year for a reputable private school, your child's education is much better than public school. In my children's case, I completely disagree especially as it relates to Dawson High School and the GT Academy (both Pearland ISD schools). They both have received an excellent education and my son is excelling in college due to his public school's high-quality educators, strong curriculum, and extracurricular activities. The premise of private school being better than public school is not always accurate.
 - 2) School vouchers would be limited to the upper socioeconomic population as they would be minuscule to the overall private school tuition. For example, few families now attending public school would be willing or could afford to pay \$40K to attend a private school if they weren't willing to pay \$50K without vouchers. Also, what would prevent private schools from simply raising tuition rates? Vouchers highly favor rich families and would help destroy Texas' hard-working middle class.
 - 3) How would sufficient funding be maintained for our public schools? As a CPA, I know that embedded in the "cost per student" is not just the educator cost, but overhead costs such as administration, insurance, utilities, and maintenance. If more students go to private school, the public schools would be hit with even more financial hardship than they currently endure as these overhead costs would not disappear.
 - 4) Families who thoughtfully moved near a quality public school would likely see their property values fall if this bill is passed.
 - 5) It is a violation of the separation of church and state and I do not want my tax dollars funding school programs which I am not aligned with fundamentally. What is to prevent funds going to a cult school on some compound?
- Please consider all of these ramifications mentioned above when you vote.

Linda O'Toole

Self

Boerne, TX

Please fully fund our public schools by raising the per student allotment by \$1500. Please say no to HB3 to help prevent (x) amount of funding loss to my district (using the don't defund number) because it will mean the loss of (x) jobs (again provided by the don't defund website). These job losses translate into lost opportunities for students because class sizes will balloon and there will be less programs to support our students which are the key to Texas's economic future.

Sheneka Rains

Self

Wylie, TX

The Texas school voucher program is a dangerous policy that drains public school funding, worsens segregation, and reduces accountability in education. While marketed as “school choice,” vouchers primarily benefit wealthier families while leaving low-income and special needs students behind in underfunded public schools.

Deepening Segregation and Inequality

Vouchers disproportionately serve affluent families who can afford to cover the remaining private school tuition and fees, leaving lower-income families with limited or no access. Private schools can reject students based on academic ability, religion, or special needs, fostering economic and racial segregation. Instead of expanding opportunities, vouchers create an unequal system where taxpayer dollars subsidize private education for families who already have access to better schools.

Defunding Public Schools

Public schools rely on state funding based on student enrollment. When students leave for private schools, funding follows them, but fixed costs—teacher salaries, facilities, and support services—remain. This results in budget cuts, larger class sizes, fewer programs, and fewer resources for students who remain in public schools, many of whom are already underserved.

Hurting Teachers and Undermining Accountability

Texas faces a teacher shortage due to low pay and poor working conditions. Vouchers worsen the crisis by taking money away from public schools, leading to salary stagnation and increased workload. Additionally, private schools receiving taxpayer dollars lack oversight—they are not required to follow standardized curriculum, report test scores, or disclose spending. This means public funds can go to schools that discriminate, provide inadequate education, or misuse funds without consequence.

A False Solution to a Manufactured Problem

Texas already offers extensive school choice through charter schools, magnet programs, and public school transfers. Voucher programs in other states, such as Indiana and Louisiana, have failed to improve student outcomes. In fact, many voucher recipients have seen academic declines, proving that privatization is not a solution for struggling students.

Conclusion: A Threat to Public Education

The Texas school voucher program is a direct attack on public education, transferring public funds to private schools with little oversight. It exacerbates inequality, defunds schools, harms teachers, and weakens academic standards. Instead of dismantling public education, Texas should invest in teacher salaries, classroom resources, and existing public school choice programs that serve all students—not just a privileged few.

Cecelia Wolsey

Self/ Operations Manager

Fort Worth, TX

Please say no to the education savings account programs aka the vouchers...for my child and for all the public school children in Texas! PLEASE say no and PLEASE properly fund the Texas public schools. Don't give up on the schools and these kids!!!

Claire Morel

Self - Educator (HS Math Teacher)

Austin, TX

NO to school vouchers: INVEST in public education.

charles Mott, Dr.

self

Pflugerville, TX

Against- My entire family of generations have attended Texas public schools which prepared them for respected successful careers. Keep public schools strong, safe, teaching core foundational subjects and real life skills. Schools ARE the center of our community, where we meet and interact with friends, neighbors in unity.

Matt Walker

Self

Austin, TX

I have two kids currently attending school in Dripping Springs ISD. I am a strong advocate for public schooling and a firm believer that public schools are fully funded and remain a viable option for every student. I strongly oppose HB 3 and any vouchers or ESA's as they will inevitably take funds away from our public schools. Families already have the choice to go to a private school, charter school or homeschool. This bill does not create more choices for parents. It simply funnels public money into non-public schools that lack the same oversight and accountability protections that public schools have. Please stop trying to force this legislation down the throats of Texans and start working on raising the basic allotment for our public schools!

Maria Cisneros, Mrs.

Self, High School GT Teacher

Helotes, TX

I am a republican teacher and AGAINST vouchers. While HB 3 is intended to address education challenges, it doesn't adequately address critical issues such as teacher shortages, increasing class sizes, & inequitable funding. Furthermore, proposed voucher programs would exacerbate these problems by diverting essential funds away from public schools, which rely on consistent state funding.

Texas is already experiencing a teacher shortage, with many educators leaving the profession due to low pay, poor working conditions, and burnout. We are leaving the profession at alarming rates, & HB 3 fails to address the root causes of teacher turnover. Instead of providing meaningful solutions to retain teachers, the bill places additional pressure on educators through performance-based measures, which could further contribute to teacher burnout & attrition.

Class sizes in Texas are already large, & HB 3 does nothing to address this issue. Despite additional funding, many districts are faced with tough decisions on how to allocate limited resources, often choosing infrastructure over hiring more teachers. As a result, teacher-student ratios remain high, making it harder for teachers to provide personalized instruction & support, especially for students with diverse needs.

Additionally, HB 3's funding structure disproportionately benefits wealthier districts, leaving low-income areas with fewer resources. Tying funding to standardized test performance only worsens these disparities, as districts serving high percentages of at-risk students are more likely to face funding cuts. This creates a system where schools in low-income communities struggle to provide the necessary resources, while wealthier districts continue to receive more funding.

The inclusion of voucher programs in HB 3 would severely impact public school budgets. Vouchers allow public funds to be used for private school tuition, diverting much-needed resources away from already underfunded public schools. With fewer funds, public schools will struggle to maintain services, reduce class sizes, or offer special education programs. This will further deepen the inequities between public & private education, leaving many students in underserved communities with fewer opportunities for success.

Special education services, which are already underfunded, would be particularly harmed by vouchers. Many districts are already struggling to provide adequate support for students with disabilities, & vouchers would divert funds that could be used to improve these services. In conclusion, HB 3 does not adequately address the root causes of teacher shortages, increasing class sizes, or funding inequities. The introduction of vouchers would further undermine the stability and effectiveness of public schools by diverting funds away from the very institutions that serve the majority of Texas students. I urge the committee to reconsider the provisions. Signed, a very tired teacher ready to leave the profession.

Rosi Laberis

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Celisha Drake

Self

Magnolia, TX

I am not ok with a voucher system for our public education.

Sabrina Ball

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools

Nancy Weston, Mrs.

Self/ retired teacher

Austin, TX

I do not support school vouchers at all! I support public education.

Karen Beeson

Self

Dallas, TX

Vouchers are not the answer for educating children in Texas! This huge push by Abbott is simply to appease his rich donors and has nothing to do with helping our children. Public education is - and has been very unfairly harmed by the lack of funding. That's what I pay taxes for - not to subsidize private, unregulated schools.

Neothies Lindley

Self

Lancaster, TX

I am a son of a Texas public school teacher and I am a graduate of a Texas public School. There is no reason for there to be less support for public schools in the state of Texas than there is support for school choice in giving people with the ability to pay for private school more of a break to be able to pay for it. That funding can go towards making our public schools safer, more technology driven and updated and for better pay for teachers, which will attract more teachers and more experienced teachers to this great state.

Amber Lasseigne

self

Carrollton, TX

Based on the hours of testimony regarding HB 3, it is clear Texans do not vouchers in this state.

Liliana Beacham

Self

Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHES

I OPPOSE HB3

Michelle BORLAND

Self

Magnolia, TX

I do not support private school vouchers for private school. This is a disadvantage to our education system. Also, using TRS to fund these vouchers is unfair. How about using some of the legislatures and govonors retirement to fund the vouchers.

Private schools don't accept all children and don't have to complie to the same regulations that public schools do. Most teachers are not certified. Rural families will not benefit from these vouchers. The governor is only looking out for the wealthy that fund his pockets. Think of all the children in the state of Texas they deserve the best too. Most families will not being able to afford private school with vouchers.

Allstudetns should receive the 10k public or private schools should receive that among per student. Don't hold school funding as a hostage to get your way. You were voted in office and can be voted out.

Ronda Reyna, Dr.

Self

Humble, TX

Now is the worst time to force the school choice bill onto the backs of Texas taxpayers. If this is done, all who support this bill will be remembered as dismantling public education that will lead to higher school dropout rates and increased crime in communities across Texas. Vote for this bill and prepare to be voted out!

Nichole Bentley
self, CEO
Coppell, TX

Good afternoon, congratulations on your appointment to the Public Education Committee and thank you for your service.

I am grateful that an increase to the basic allotment is being considered, and I want to share a brief story about Brady, the third of my four sons who attended Coppell ISD. He is charming, funny, athletic and makes friends easily. He is a solid B student who could do better, but academic accolades are not what drive Brady. (He is a typical general education student who does not receive GT, AP, honors, SPED, etc. services.)

Brady attends school to see friends and he kept his grades up to stay eligible for varsity choir, ultimate frisbee and wrestling. He was not sure if he wanted to be an EMT, go into the military or continue to college until the very last minute.

Students like Brady are why I encourage you to consider increasing the basic allotment. With the current proposed increase, \$132 is available for his classroom teachers, electricity, the wrestling coach and ultimate frisbee sponsor – his reasons for school. In a school district known for high academic achievement, more than half of our 13,000 students are like Brady. They will not qualify for any additional student funding and a \$132 increase will not even cover the increased cost of these basic things since the last increase in 2019...which is when Brady graduated.

Why does this matter? Brady – this regular kid – went on to be his fraternity's President, a key student leader at Oklahoma State University, a student leader in Phi Delta Theta's national fraternal organization, and a successful MBA graduate with an excellent corporate job.

Brady is most of our kids in Coppell ISD. Brady is most of our kids in Texas. Brady is our future workforce, and it is essential his educational opportunities and his reasons for attending school remain funded.

Please, consider increasing the basic allotment to a level that allows all students to be well-educated and workforce ready. To stay even with inflation, a \$1,340 increase is needed per student across Texas. I respectfully ask you to provide funding for kids like Brady.

With best regards,
Nichole Bentley
138 Windham Circle, Coppell, TX
214.850.5217
Coppell ISD Board of Trustees, Vice President
Coppell mother and grandmother

James Robles
Self, Educator
Austin, TX

As a taxpayer who does not have children, my taxes need to go to the public education system. As research suggests, an educated society is a prosperous society. Public schools are already underfunded and creating these education, savings accounts will take even more money away from a public school district. These tax dollars are used to build communities spaces create community camaraderie i.e. football, and host a range of extracurriculars that are needed for appropriate adolescent development. Private schools don't have to meet Texas education standards, don't have to take children with disabilities, and don't have to follow zoning codes, which ultimately creates a congestion of traffic wherever they are built. As a certified Texas teacher, I can tell you that a majority of the parents that I have worked with do not know anything about educating students. No daily reading, no homework support, no positive reinforcement, and no accountability for student participation. Please do not siphon public funds from public education.

Patricia McKaskle

Self

Sealy, TX

No vouchers! I live in a rural school district and the vouchers will affect our schools (all 4 of them) too much! We already have fundraisers and requests for basic classroom items for teachers constantly, please FUND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS and let the private schools do their thing with the money the parents give them. They don't need MY money, MY district does.

Irwin Lightstone

Self

Dallas, TX

It would undercut our fine neighborhood schools and lessen much needed funding. This is a horrible idea

Dennise Moreno

Self

San Antonio, TX

PLEASE keep tax dollars in public education. There are plenty of grants/programs available for those that choose private education and cannot afford it. I want my tax dollars staying with public education; I do not support education savings accounts.

Edwin Terry jr

Concerned taxpayers

Houston, TX

I say no to school vouchers it's economic segregation. Fund public schools with the public's money only!

Lonnie Link

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I strongly oppose all of this bill ??

Lauren Reyes

Northside ISD

San Antonio, TX

Please do not allow the passing of school vouchers. This is a huge mistake that will hurt our schools and teachers. Our teachers deserve a pay increase to be competitive with other districts and states across the country. Holding teachers pay ransom for the governor's want of these vouchers to be passed when he's being paid by billionaires outside of Texas is criminal. Our schools locally already offer school choice to families. The reasoning being shared by Govt. Abbot are lies, families that can not afford to send their children to these private schools now will still not be able to send their children to private school with these vouchers. It's only going to line the pockets of the rich that can afford it already and will not improve public schooling across Texas.

Sharon Austry, Mrs

Self

Fort Worth, TX

As a former public school teacher, I am totally opposed to forcing taxpayer money to go toward private schools. They're supposed to be a separation of church and state so if someone wants their child to get a private school education, they need to pay for it. Everyone else should be able to go to a school free of charge and there should not be requirement to learn the 10 Commandments or any other Bible verses in a public school. This is outrageous

Karla Brown

Myself

Houston, TX

Vouchers are racially and economically discriminatory. This is a sad time for Texas and our country. As a public school educator, I stand against the desegregation of the education system, that vouchers will undoubtedly send us back to. Underfunding public education will have a domino effect on the state of education that no one seems to care about. I wish you all cared as much as you tell the people that you do...

Mark Gray

Self

Argyle, TX

I am an anti-voucher/pro-public education that privatization will hurt our state and our kids.

Urging you to reject vouchers and focus on fully funding our public schools.

DR. Linda Johnson

self

Houston, TX

I am a proponent because I went to Public school and it provided me with the diversity and cultural environment necessary to live in a diverse multicultural country with dignity and integrity. To accept individuals not based on their " Means but their character".

Ronda Reyna, Dr.

Self

Humble, TX

The school choice program does nothing to support children with disabilities. Both private and charter schools force children with disabilities literally onto the street looking for a school that will accommodate their needs. It will also force school closures. Now that the Dept of Education is being dismantled is the worst time to push this issue onto the public taxpayers of Texas!

Karen Miner

Self / Substitute Teacher

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3! No vouchers!

Brooke Wedemeyer
Self/ public educator
Jefferson, TX

Parents have a choice when it comes to their children's education. If they choose homeschooling or private schools, they should fund it on their own. However, I'm not opposed to there being a limited funds account that parents can access as long as public school funds are equal or greater. Fund our public schools. Fully fund them. This nonsense you say that a public school student gets way more than \$10,000 a year is incorrect. Federal funds are being cut and now you are looking to cut what the state of Texas is willing to provide while talking about the states budget surplus. Are our children not as important as your donors? I have been a lifelong Republican but I am not likely to vote for you again.

A private school does not have to take a special needs student much less provide the appropriate education. A private school does not provide meals for free and reduced qualifying students. A private school does not have to provide transportation to and from school. In fact, a private school can luck out a kid at any time for whatever reason. There are no protections for children. A private school teacher does not require a degree to educate. A private school does not have to follow an age appropriate curriculum or take the state mandated tests.

If you will require anyone that uses the "savings account" to participate in state mandated curriculum and testing along with fully funding the public schools, that would make more sense.

If you had even tried to sell your proposal during a townhall meeting at a public school, that would have been more useful. Instead, you went to private schools. You didn't even reach out to homeschool groups who really do not want government meddling in their children's education.

You can do better for Texas children than what you are trying to shove down our throats. The majority of Texas do not want HB3.

Annette Bopp
Self
Conroe, TX

I am writing to you in regards to HB3. I am very much opposed to this bill due to the damage it causes to the public school systems state wide. There are too many rural areas that do not have access to private schools and yet they would be affected by this bill.

How is it right to give more money per voucher student than you give to the public schools. The public schools must provide free/reduced lunches, transportation to and from school along with the various special education and interventions that private schools are not required to.

This bill also allows for home schooled students. I feel there is an issue with both home school and private school students receiving this money when there are no minimum requirements in terms of their learning. These students need to be subjected to the same testing requirements as the public school students. Until they are required to meet the same standards they should not receive voucher money.

The loss of teachers in the public schools due to vouchers will further damage the public school systems by increasing class sizes. There are multiple studies that show the negative affects of larger class sizes.

You claim to want to improve education for students. This should be for all students and should be done by funding the schools with at least the minimum amount proposed for vouchers.

I plead for you to vote no HB3 and instead fund the public school system as is the duty of the state.

Jennifer Kitchens
Self - Compliance Manager
Corinth, TX

My tax money should not be used to fund private education. Public education is a right, if a person chooses to go to Private school or to send their children to private school then the financial burden of that is theirs not mine. Period. This is nothing but a stealing tax money. If this passes, I will never vote for a republican again period. It's the most egregious use of public money I have ever seen, what next, are we going to use tax dollars to pay for rich folk's medical bills if they want to be seen out of network work? Should that be all Texans responsibility too?

Leslie Adams
Self/ Teacher
Arlington, TX

As a 28 year veteran teacher, 20 years in public and 8 years in private education, I know firsthand that vouchers will not benefit the majority of students in Texas. Even with a \$10000 voucher I would not have been able to afford the private schools in our area and I knew private schools could not provide the experiences and opportunities that our public schools do. Both of my children have received a stellar education in Arlington ISD. I know that every school public and private, has good teachers and bad teachers, and that is why we kept our kids in public. As a teacher, this year I have taken a \$200 pay cut due to lack of funds and rising insurance costs and am anticipating an even lower paycheck next year. As my retirement date approaches I am also devastated to hear that passing of vouchers may deplete my retirement after giving selflessly to children all these years. It is not okay to take from me and help fund a private school for someone who can already afford it. Please end this bill and focus on funding public education.

Amy Verhulst
Self
Katy, TX

We ask that you NOT support HB3 which will divert tax dollars meant for public schools towards private school vouchers. This bill would pull funding from public schools at an immense cost to taxpayers, families and children.

Bonnie Millican
Self
Bend, TX

I am opposed to HB3 or any bill that supports vouchers for the state of Texas. I am a product of public schools and taught 33 years in public schools. Public schools serve the greater good. Taking money from public schools to give to private schools is antithetical to what education should be about. I question the motive behind this push. Dressing it up under the name of "education savings account" will not change the outcome of taking money from public schools. As the saying goes, "You can put lipstick on a pig, but it's still a pig." Please do not harm our public schools!

Michelle Iskra

self - public school teacher and professor

Cedar Park, TX

Vouchers sound like a good idea to people who have made the choice to send their children to private school, rejecting public education. This is a choice that is not available to most of the population who, because of limited financial resources, lack of access to private schools, or other issues, cannot take advantage of private schools. Public school, however, has long been available to everyone regardless of their financial situation or location in the country. An all-voucher system would degrade everything about our public schools because funding would be inconsistent. Public schools also hold communities together; relationships are formed between neighbors in support of children attending local public schools. Athletic, performing arts, and musical events are all available to communities as a result of public schools in neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, our governor has withheld funding to public schools because vouchers have not passed. He has a number of supporters of the plan who have not thought this plan through completely, as it appears to benefit only urban, well-off families. There are many consequences to the passing of vouchers or "educational savings accounts" as they are euphemized as now, among them public school staffing shortages, creating larger classes and more stress for teachers. Band and orchestra programs will likely disintegrate under the financial stress of not having a dependable source of support. Theater and choir programs, sports programs, ag programs, and other extracurricular activities would be lost (and these programs normally do not exist or exist only on a limited basis in private schools). Teacher training will suffer, relationships between students who are already stressed by life in our culture, and other community based effects will be felt. At my high school, excellent teachers have been furloughed, support staff has been cut, and other measures to limit spending are being implemented to cope with the funding shortage forced on us. Teachers are notoriously underpaid, as well; where do you think those talented potential educators are going but into the private sector to make a lot more money than they can now that there is a loud, continuous declaration that we and the students we teach are unimportant unless this person gets his way?

The efforts to pass vouchers are inappropriate and counterintuitive to a strong, future-oriented Texas. Politicians tout how great it is to have companies move their headquarters to Texas, but if the people who should be able to work for those companies are insufficiently prepared because of a lack of funding for their educations (that should be a right of every Texan), those companies will not come here. They see Texas's disregard for the incredible public good that is public education and they will go elsewhere. While their employees may come with them, where will those employees educate their own children?

Thank you for your kind attention to my remarks.

STEVE WICKWAR, Retired Educator

Self

San Antonio, TX

I could not imagine how anyone cannot clearly see that school vouchers are a bad idea. It is apparent to me that our states leadership is more interested in funding the pockets of the wealthy than looking out for what is best for children. I plan on doing my part at the ballot box to replace our current leadership, as I feel they no longer have the public best interest at heart. Do the right thing, or be replaced.

Ruby Robinson

self

Houston, TX

No on school vouchers. Money should go to funding public schools. Everyone deserves access to education not just the wealthy.

Emily Delgado

self - teacher, parent, and PTA member

San Antonio, TX

HB3 is the antithesis of the type of school funding bills we should be seeing come through the Texas Legislature. This bill focuses on putting public funds into private businesses, plain and simple. School choice already exists within public schools and charter schools in Texas. This bill does not increase opportunities for school choice, it merely makes it easier for money to be diverted away from the children who need it. This bill also removed public accountability for public funds, as private schools do not have to meet the same accountability standards as public and charter schools. They also do not have to serve students with disabilities and have the right to turn away any student for any reason. What's more, many counties in our state don't even have a private school. So who does this bill really help? Families with enough wealth to already attend private schools? Those who run private schools? Certainly not the majority of Texans, and absolutely not the children those who are supporting this bill pretend it will. Vote no on HB 3, and focus our state's resources on fully funding public schools.

Cindy Kost

Brinker Elementary School

Plano, Dallas, TX

need to keep funding for public schools in place considering our growing communities and increase in students coming in daily. It's important that every child gets the opportunity and support or education just as others

Angela Tarrant

Self

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Faye Cagle

TX PTA

ALLEN, TX

As a parent of three children enrolled in a Texas public school, I am NOT in favor of ESAs or Vouchers.

Kendall Perez

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Charles Nelson Needham

Republican voter

SAN ANTONIO, TX

As a voting, conservative republican, I do not want my hard earned tax dollars being spent to send student to private school, even if they are Christian based. Governor Abbott has bullied his way to get this bill moved forward. This will line his friend's pockets and lead to further murky corruption. Yes, the education system needs improvement, but giving money to more private causes is not the best answer.

Jennifer Siegel

Self

Dallas, TX

As a product of public schools and a parent of kids attending public school, I am strongly opposed to measure. The State of Texas should be investing in the education of its children through public education and not through school vouchers. This will benefit very few and harm the majority of our children. If passed, this measure will cause significant distress and harm to my children and every other child attending a public school.

Isaac Thomas
self/teacher
Wylie, TX

Please reject this bill. The implementation of a second educational system (which is what HB3 essentially is) does not make any effort to repair or improve public education. It does not address the governor refusal to fund public education as outlined in the Texas constitution. Removing funds from public education leads to increases in unsafe class sizes, increased teacher workload and unreasonable work conditions in the public classroom setting. HB3 segregates students as private schools are not required to provide services for children with disabilities as public schools are and can therefore reject any and all students with confirmed disabilities. As an educator I am asking you to reject HB3.

Amy Nguyen
Education
Sugar Land, TX
I oppose HB3.

William Wiggins
Self
Mansfield, TX

Absolutely opposed to this program .. fund our public schools .. give the students and the teachers the money they deserve .. vouchers will only put money in the pockets of the rich .. enough screwing with the education of our most valuable assets .. our children ! No no no ! Opposed to vouchers !

Rachel Gregory
Leander ISD
Leander, TX

Say no to school vouchers!!! You have a duty to listen and VOTE for what your constituents want!

Joseph Colvard
Self
St Paul, TX
I Oppose HB 3

Brooke Raburn
Self
Mansfield, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House,

I urge you to carefully consider the impact of the proposed voucher program on our public schools. These institutions are the backbone of our communities, providing every child, regardless of their background, with the opportunity to succeed. Diverting funds from public education to private schools will only widen disparities and hurt the students who need support the most.

Please stand with our teachers, students, and families by opposing this program. Our children's futures deserve investment in strong, equitable public education for all.

Sincerely,
Brooke Raburn

Lindsay Suhor
Parent
Flower Mound, TX

I am AGAINST ESAs. I have 2 daughters in public elementary school.

ESAs are a distraction from your mandate, article 7 of the Texas Constitution provide free, PUBLIC education. This school year there have been times when my children's campus doesn't have the funds for toner for the copiers. Other times, when the district reached the number of substitutes it could afford for the day, my child had 6 "teachers", another occasion used stools as tables so that they could be worked into another classroom when, again, the district couldn't afford more substitutes for the day. I've stepped in as a volunteer just so the my daughter wouldn't have to shuffle around classrooms - I am not a teacher. Lewisville ISD has done a phenomenal job looking for cost-saving measures and has been transparent, posting everything online, creating YouTube messages to make sure parents and community members are in the know.

Private institutions should not be receiving public taxpayer dollars without being held to the same standards as their public counterparts. Raise up our communities by investing our school districts.

Give us Texas citizens the same opportunity as the citizens in Colorado, Kentucky, and Nevada: PUT THIS MEASURE ON A BALLOT. Let us vote.

Thank you,

Lindsay Suhor
Flower Mound, TX Resident

Lindy McMahan
Self
Sachse, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Jose Rodriguez
Self
El Paso, TX

This bill will hurt students who are in public education.

Pamela Murfee, Retired Teacher
Self
Lubbock, TX

I oppose HB3.
Public schools need to be fully and adequately funded.

Shawna Mitchell
Self
SAN ANTONIO, TX

We do not need vouchers. San Antonio has a strong and important public school system supporting a massive amount of students. Support public schools.

Anna Bright, Mrs.

Self Teacher

Wimberley, TX

I oppose vouchers for private school paid for by public tax dollars. Public dollars belong in public schools. Fully fund public schools.

Maria Garibaldi

Self

Houston, TX

Please listen to your constituents. Fully fund public schools, and do not pass the vouchers! Put it up for public vote! Represent our kids and do the right thing.

Gary Spencer

self

Horseshoe Bay, TX

Public schools are required to follow the laws related to the services available to all students. Private schools are not bound to offer special services. Private schools are not required to accept special needs children which places public schools with additional burdens. How is this fair? HB3 will make public schools less effective and give private schools selective admission.

Sandra Waggoner

Self

Aledo, TX

Please do not vote for the voucher scam. I am a foster parent and a bio mother who heavily relies of public school.

Lacy Newkirk

Davis PTA

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3!

Beverly Moncla

Self

Montgomery, TX

I've taught in public school, private school, plus homeschooling my own children. All Texans should have the opportunity to choose the school option that fits their unique family. Thank you

Debra Witter

self

Fort Worth, TX

My grandchildren and great grandchildren attend public schools. I am also a long ago student who attended public school in Howard county and went on to be a Pediatrician. (1st person in my family to attend college). I want all Texas children to have the opportunities that I had. I believe HB 3 will hurt them and strongly urge you to oppose it.

Katie Lazarowicz, Dr.

Self

Arlington, TX

this hurts kids with additional educational needs and appears to favor the wealthy, leaving the majority of children at risk of insufficient funding for their education. No to vouchers.

Sammie Minchew, Retired Texas Public School Teacher

Myself

Liberty, TX

I am opposed to ESAs. The majority of Texas students will be better served by increasing the Basic Allotment and fully funding our public schools. ESAs will siphon taxpayer dollars away from public schools and the TRS without acceptable accountability and transparency. As you heard in recent testimony, parents already have choices which could be expanded within public education by increased funding. All student needs could be supported with increased and adequate funding. Few public school students will benefit from ESAs whereas the minority and the wealthy will benefit more. The Legislature is obligated to support ALL students and teachers not just the few. I know that you are aware that the majority of Texans including Republicans, Democrats, and Independents oppose ESAs. Please do not bring this bill out of committee. If you choose to proceed why not allow us the taxpayers to vote on this issue? Please do right by our public schools, teachers, and TRS retirees by fully funding public education and rejecting ESAs.

Virginia Fredricks

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill and feel it benefits higher income families

LaDaisha McBride, Mrs.

Self/Amazon

Cedar Hill, TX

Please keep ESA as part of public education bill. My child is part of ESA due to him being partially deaf and hard of hearing. He has been in the program since birth. Being part of ESA and his wonderful teachers full support has developed my now 5 year old child to now qualify to leave the SPED department and be with the first graders at the start of the new school year. This program is needed and needs to stay enforced.

Katherine Preuss

Self

Fort worth, TX

As a parent, a community member and former student of a Texas public school I whole heartedly believe that decreasing financial support for our public schools is the wrong decision. As someone in the middle class or lower an education savings account program will not enable me or anyone else to access private schools it is only going to increase the disparity between schools and limit our options for good public schools. Education for all with proper funding is the only way we make improvements as a society.

Adam Stiles

Self/ National Accts Coordinator

Austin, TX

I will be brief as I voiced most of where I stand regarding HB2 in previous communication. Please know that I am also strongly in favor of an education savings account program. Our future as a community/culture/society and GREAT state depend on it!
Thank you

Barbara Carlson

self

Austin, TX

I oppose vouchers! 155 Texas counties HAVE no private schools! There is NO OVERSIGHT to hold the schools accountable for providing reading, writing and arithmetic! Schools are already underfunded and with vouchers, the available amount can go down every year with NO "return on the State's investment of what our children are learning. Please drop the voucher idea and give every child a chance to get a basic education.

Mark Adams
Self, Software Engineer
Round Rock, TX

Good morning,

While I think all Texans share the goal of having our kids attend strong schools where they can get a great education, I do not support education savings accounts (ESA) or "school vouchers" like those described in this bill. This bill seems likely to significantly help wealthier Texans who are already able to afford sending their children to private school instead of supporting lower income Texans. In addition, I'm very concerned about the potential long-term impacts to our public school systems. Even though this bill does not directly appropriate money away from public schools, it does indirectly reduce their funding since a significant portion of state funding is tied to daily attendance.

I also am a big proponent of ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent appropriately. Any voucher plan should involve accountability for private schools to ensure they are meeting the same state standards that our public schools are required to meet. Without this sort of assessment, it will be impossible to know if the state is getting a good return on investment from an ESA program.

While I am against ESAs such as those proposed in HB 3, if we must pass ESAs, I think any plan must ensure that the amount going towards ESAs is tied to the state's public school funding (i.e. the basic allotment). There should never be increase in what the state is contributing to ESAs without a matching or greater increase in the basic allotment for public schools.

To summarize, I am against ESAs such as those proposed in HB 3 because I believe they do not achieve the desired outcome in an effective way. If the legislature does pass ESA legislation like HB 3, we must ensure that there is proper accountability in place to ensure private schools meet state standards and that the ESA subsidies by the state must be tied to the state's funding of the basic allotment such that they can never increase funding to ESAs without also increasing the basic allotment.

Thank you!

Teri Poon
self - spiritual director
Austin, TX

I am urging you not to move forward with school vouchers. I am the parent of two middle school children, one of whom has low-vision. Private schools are not required to exceed - or even meet - public school standards. There are no accountability standards to ensure taxpayer dollars are effectively spent and students receive an effective education.

Private schools are not required to provide special education services, which means if a student is diagnosed with any disability, including dyslexia, the private school is not required to provide reasonable accommodations.

This is not a good choice for Texans, and will especially harm rural communities that don't have access to private education, but will still be footing the bill for this. I grew up in a rural community in Texas, and we need the funds for public education to stay in public schools.

If you want to fund schools, consider releasing funds from the "rainy day" fund because our students are dangerously underfunded! My 6th grader is in an advanced math class that went the entire first semester without a permanent teacher, relying on substitutes. This was detrimental to her education, even though she has involved parents and other support structures.

Please prioritize funding for our public schools!

Carlotta Baird
Self - Artist
Sugar Land, TX

I am asking the committee to vote no on HB3. I want fully funded public education for Texas students! I have a son who graduated in 2022 and another son who will graduate in 2026. Both were educated in Ft. Bend ISD public school system and are in the top 25% of their class. One of my sons received special ed services starting in 2nd grade through senior year. We have an abundance of parental choice when it comes to educating our children. We have access to public schools, charter schools and academy schools. All of these use public education money, paid for by taxpayers within a system that currently provides regulation, standards and accountability. Parents are also free to homeschool or private school. Why would we take away money from Texas public schools who are currently underfunded and give it to a 'select' group of privileged students?

The ability to even apply to a private school at all indicates a level of privilege that the majority of Texas students cannot access.

I grew up in a low to middle income household. We rarely were able to buy brand new things. We took care of our cars, clothes and appliances and when something stopped working the way it should, the first plan of action was to repair it. If our public school system is failing in certain areas, let's fix it! The infrastructure is already in place! The public education system is accessible for all Texas students, not only for a small elite group.

Vouchers in other states have shown to be difficult to regulate systems that have caused fiscal harm in other states (Arizona) without significantly improving educational outcomes. Creating and maintaining vouchers would require an incredible amount of administrative work, the creation of new systems of accountability and taxpayer funds that would reduce the funding for public schools. Instead, let's invest it into making our public education system even better.

Our future as a state and as a country depends on how we educate our children. We need more than just a small group of children who were selected to attend private schools to make this happen. All Texas children deserve to be supported by a fully funded public education.

Thank you.

Charlotte Davis
SELF
Austin, TX

I am a parent of two children in Austin ISD and I vehemently oppose using MY tax dollars to fund vouchers. This proposal amounts to a transfer of wealth from the middle class to the rich. Vouchers divert funds away from public schools who have to educate every child and account for their outcomes, to private schools with no transparency requirements and indeed no requirements to even ACCEPT all children, let alone those with IEPs, special needs or disabilities. Vouchers are a big middle finger to the most vulnerable students and their families. Even if a public school family WANTS to send their child to private school, there is no guarantee that their child would be admitted, nor would the voucher cover 100% of the actual cost, and they would have to be able to arrange transportation (which skews to higher income families). Many of the private schools in my area already have wait lists filled with families who can afford the tuition now! It is disingenuous to market this proposal as "school choice" when in reality, the majority of those who will benefit will be privileged families who already send their kids to private schools. It's another tax cut for the wealthy by a different name. This awful voucher proposal is going to gut public schools in order to benefit fewer than TWO PERCENT of Texas students. Vote no on this disastrous proposal.

Michelle Rea
Self
Austin, TX

Public schools invest in our futures by ensuring we have an educated public. Siphoning money out of public schools and into the wallets of wealthy Texans is reprehensible. The wealthy don't need government handouts to make them wealthier. I could pay to provide my kid with private schools if I wanted, but I believe in my neighborhood and I want my tax dollars to impact the most vulnerable folks in my community. I am furious with Greg Abbot for pushing this scam for so long. Please vote NO on HB3

Cynthia Istook, Dr
Self/college professor
FORT WORTH, TX

AGAINST school vouchers!

Gina Vermuth
Self
Coppell, TX

To Whom It May Concern:

It's clear HB 3 isn't about helping our students — it's about appeasing special interests. Claiming this is for the benefit of our kids is disingenuous when it's obvious the real goal is to funnel money away from public schools. Our students deserve better. They do NOT deserve policies driven by political agendas and special interest money. We see what's happening, and we won't stand for it. I urge you and your colleagues to vote NO on HB 3.

Tara Sohlman
Self
Allen, TX

I oppose the establishment of education savings accounts. The funds are needed for public school. I do not want my tax dollars funding private school under the "school choice". Our public schools need that money.

Nina McClintock
Self
Flower mound, TX

I oppose HB3

Casey Reese
Self
Sachse, TX

I oppose HB3

Shane Webb
Self- superintendent, parent
Gatesville, TX

I am writing to say that I strongly oppose HB 3 and the establishment of education savings accounts funded with taxpayer money. This will drain our public school and rural communities. 70% of our TX public schools are currently operating in a deficit budget. Funneling close to 5 billion dollars of taxpayer money into private schools (that have none of the requirements, testing, or oversight of public schools) while our public schools are drowning, is not a conservative stance. I am asking that you stand with the children and educators of Texas and vote no to HB 3 and the use of taxpayer funds for private schooling.

Kimberly Hildreth
Self
Wylie, TX

Terrible idea! This would be the equivalent of segregating schools between the rich and the average household. Diverting funds to ESAs could reduce the resources available for public schools, potentially undermining their quality and stability. ?

2. Benefiting Wealthier Families: The program will disproportionately assist families already affording private education, rather than those in need.

Drew Harris

Self/PTA/Fort Worth ISD

Fort Worth, TX

I am writing on behalf of myself, my wife, my kids and all public school children in the state of Texas. I have 3 kids who have attended public schools in Fort Worth ISD, attending Ridglea Hills Elementary, Monnig Middle School and Arlington Heights High School. My wife and I have volunteered literally thousands of hours for our schools' PTAs and booster clubs. Our kids have enjoyed impactful teachers, quality educational programs and a diverse group of friends. Our public schools need more money, our teachers and staff need more money our facilities need more money. Private schools don't need any of that. Let those schools exist as they are. You get what you pay for. I can site dozens of kids who have transferred from their private school bubbles to our public schools and all of them had a better experience at our schools. This bill will hurt public schools across the state and only seeks to help the haves. Don't be fooled by the fake numbers that the voucher scam proponents use. Help public education and vote no on HB 3.

Angela Wallace

Self

Colleyville, TX

Vote NO to HB 3. Vote NO to any type of voucher or ESA program.
All for public schools getting the public funding they should receive.

Heather Lowe

Self - Development Director and Parent

Arlington, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Margaret Grill, Mrs

Self

Bulverde, TX

I am opposed to the establishment of an educational savings account program because I believe public monies belong in public schools and private schools are not subject to state requirements concerning teacher certification, state testing and they can refuse entry to any student they choose. Please don't give up on public education.

Sincerely,

Margaret B Grill

Vanna Oberholz

Self, SAHM

Allen, TX

Our public schools are already underfunded and burdened with excessive regulations. Redirecting taxpayer dollars to private institutions that lack accountability does not improve student outcomes.

Even a small shift in enrollment impacts every public school. Fixed costs remain, but funding shrinks—leading to school closures, larger class sizes, and the loss of essential programs. Despite ISD's making painful cuts this year, 70% of school districts are operating at a deficit while covering billions in unfunded costs for special education, transportation, and safety.

Research from multiple states shows that voucher programs do not lead to better academic outcomes—and in some cases, they make them worse. If we want real solutions for students, vouchers are not the answer.

Instead, Texas must invest in its public schools by increasing the basic allotment, adjusting for inflation, and funding schools based on enrollment rather than attendance. Our children's future depends on it. Vote no to HB 3.

Amanda Riley

Wylie isd

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Melissa McLean, Marketing Director

Self

Pearland, TX

My twins have gone to both private PreK and public schools. I believe in school choice, which is an existing right. However, I do not agree with moving public funds to support those who choose private school. Our public schools have been the backbone of our republic and what has and continues to make Texas and America great. This bill will only further create a divide between haves and have nots, make the wealthy, wealthier and the poor poorer. I'm lucky to be in the wealthier bucket, and wholeheartedly believe this is going to ruin public education and line the pockets of the politicians who seem to have no limits when it comes to being bought by special interests. This voter and constituent disagrees with HB3!

Jeanne Bharucha

Self

Richardson, TX

I am against HB 3. Our tax dollars should not go towards subsidizing private school tuition to families who can already afford it. We moved to Richardson for the schools, and they now need your help with funding to continue providing a strong education for Texas children. Do your constitutional duty and fully fund our public schools! I urge you to vote "No" on HB 3.

Ari Shehane

Self, teacher

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Erica Prater

Self

Missouri City, TX

Public funds should be used to fund public institutions, not private ones. Redirecting taxpayers dollars away from public schools undermines their ability to serve all students equitably and transparently. Private institutions are not held to the same accountability standards and can exclude students based on income, religion, and other factors. Our priority should be to strengthen public education, not diverting resources to institutions that do not serve the entire community.

Lisa Hanson
Myself
Fort Worth, TX

“Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) is a direct attack on education, disguised as “school choice.” It diverts taxpayer money from public schools to private institutions that lack public accountability, can discriminate, and do not meet the same standards as public schools. This violates the Texas Constitution’s mandate to provide a free, public education for all children.

Proponents claim Texas can afford HB 3 due to a budget surplus, but this is shortsighted. The state is also pushing teacher pay raises and property tax reductions, all of which rely on temporary funds. Economic downturns or declining oil revenues could erase the surplus, forcing cuts to public school funding, teacher pay, or tax hikes to sustain the voucher program. Once public money is committed, it is difficult to reverse without harming schools.

Other states show the risks. Arizona’s voucher expansion cost taxpayers hundreds of millions more than expected. Florida and Wisconsin saw ballooning expenses that benefited wealthier families while draining public school resources. If Texas follows suit, the result will be underfunded public schools, larger class sizes, and fewer resources for students who rely on them most. HB 3 will not help the majority of Texas students. Vouchers disproportionately benefit families already in private schools. In Ohio, 88% of voucher users never attended public school. In Florida, most were already enrolled in private education. Vouchers do not create opportunities for most students—they subsidize private tuition for families who can already afford it.

Texans have rejected vouchers before. Proposition 2 in 1997, which sought to use public funds for private tuition, was overwhelmingly voted down. More recent efforts have failed due to bipartisan opposition, particularly from rural Republicans who understand that taking money from public schools will devastate their communities.

Yet HB 3 is being pushed through, fueled by out-of-state billionaires like Jeff Yass and Texas billionaires Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks. These donors have spent millions to unseat GOP legislators who opposed vouchers, proving this is a scheme driven by big money, not public demand.

If HB 3 is such a great idea, why not let Texans vote on it? This bill effectively amends Article VII of the Texas Constitution, which guarantees public education. The fact that its supporters are avoiding a direct vote shows they know Texans would reject it again.

HB 3 is reckless, fiscally unsound, and deeply unpopular. It undermines public schools while benefiting a privileged few. Lawmakers must reject this bill and defend Texas students, teachers, and communities. Public funds should support public education—period.”

Sarah Perkins
Self
Katy, TX

I'm frustrated that this has never been put on a ballot so that the constituents affected can decide. When wealthy law makers could mostly benefit from this coupon for schools kids are already in, it seems like a conflict of interest. The rest of us will have to stay at public schools that are under-funded, as they continue to lose funds, and the education suffers. Please vote NO.

Jenny Johnson
Self
Houston, TX

For the love of God stop it the schools need funding. Urban schools, rural schools, suburban schools, all the schools. Schools are already burdened by unfunded mandates, such as the armed presence on campus. This will hurt the quality of education as well as safety.

Jose Loa
Self
Houston, TX

Please reject vouchers and focus on fully funding our public schools. Thank you.

Rhett Richardson

Self

Gatesville, TX

Opposed

Jason Thomason

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Maneck Bharucha

Self

Richardson, TX

I am against HB 3. Our tax dollars should not go towards subsidizing private school tuition to families who can already afford it. Do your constitutional duty and fully fund our public schools so my grandkids can continue receiving a quality PUBLIC education. I urges you to vote "No" on HB 3.

Tara Edwards, Mrs.

Self/School Counselor

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Dee Dee Lynch, Mrs.

Self/Educational Diagnostician

Seminole, TX

Please stop using children as pawns for bribery. Please stop saying children in special education will be a priority. We know the private schools will not be supporting services for the most vulnerable. We know those children, if even accepted, would be children with IEPs and minimal accommodations, which makes them "special education". It's a ploy to suck parents into believing you have the "best" interest of their child. You don't. You have no background knowledge in special education. Please stop the pretense when you use terminology or acronyms regarding the IDEA. It's a farce and those in the trenches know it. We see through it. If you want to be helpful to children with special needs, as you keep claiming, fund public schools. Change the accountability requirements for these children. Create funding to help with services, remediation, special transportation, related services, opportunities for life skills and job training, staff support, evaluation staff support, and real meaningful training for our general education teachers who have willingly and lovingly served our students. That is how you can help. That would be meaningful legislation. We love these students. We have no plan, as HB 3 does, to toss the children and their families aside. We will educate them. We take all children and serve them with the God given talents we have, even when you don't fund the adults showing up every single day. We are going to show up for these students and their families. We are going to help them navigate the worst news they could hear...that their child has a disability. Leave these kids alone. They are not yours to negotiate. We have fought hard for their rights. Of all the states in the union, I thought Texas would be the stand-out..the trail blazer who did education differently. Governor Abbott has done the opposite. He's bought into the same sad song and dance other educationally broken states bought into. Privatization has no role in the success of a society. It leaves children, who have the ability to be contributors to our world, behind. Society as a whole will lose. Texas will lose. We will join the laughing stock of other governors who played the same game and lost. That'll be his legacy and what a sad and pitiful one it'll be. Fund public education. Fix the base allotment. Leave private schools out of the conversation. Walk the halls of our schools instead of hiding behind the state capitol and your microphone. Do your own meaningful work. Thank you.

Emily Hadley
self
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote against this bill that does not benefit the majority of TX school children. Only 38% of TX counties even have a private school option. This is absolutely not in the best interest of the the majority of Texas school age children.

Luke Thomason, Student
Self
Wylie, TX
HB 3

Pharren Devonish
Self
Richmond, TX
Oppose

Christina Criswell, Mrs.
Self Local Government IT
Anna, TX

I oppose the establishment of the education savings account program. This program is not in the best interests of the majority of Texans and most Texans do not support this. If you want to do something like this you should put it to a vote and see what the people say. It wouldn't pass.

Laurel Starkweather
Self
Murphy, TX

Please do not create a voucher system. It will hurt our public schools and ultimately benefit most, those who can already afford private school. This would be a tragedy for our puic schools in Texas.

Carol Marchi
Self
Cypress, TX

Vouchers will funnel money away from public education. I've been a public school teacher for 23 years. We need more resources and each year it is more difficult to fund our classrooms. Teachers spend so much money on trying to made school fun that we never get reimbursed for. We shouldn't have to pour our hearts and souls into the job along with our wallets. Fully fund public education. Our students deserve it.

Marinda Williams
Self
Granbury, TX

The vouchers will significantly hurt our public schools and most vulnerable population(s). Please reconsider this program.

Sharon Middlebrooks
Dallas NAACP & *Self
Dallas, TX

I Dr. Sharon Middlebrooks, President of the Dallas NAACP and on behalf of the membership of said organization, strongly disagree with the passing of HB3 (ESA) for vouchers. In addition too, as a constituent in House District 110, I am totally against HB 3 and vouchers for choice education over public schools funding. I am however, in support of the Texas Constitution wherein in Article VII cause for a mandate of the Texas Legislature to maintain a system of FREE public schools. However, it is apparent that there is total disregard for the Constitution, first in the Robin Hood approach that did not alleviate disparities and now, funds for school districts are being and have been withheld resulting in ISD's throughout the state of Texas being forced to close schools.

Leslie Jones
Tax payer and retired teacher/librarian
Bryan, TX

Please vote against this bill. It has been voted down by the people of Texas but yet it has been pushed by Governor Abbot. It is wrong on many levels. Please vote NO to House Bill 3.

Leigh Cain
Self - Software Analyst
Grand Prairie, TX

This is an attempt to destroy the public school system that provides opportunities for all of the children of Texas. We should fund our public schools. We should not divert money out of them.

Lea Mishlan, Dr
MS Principal (self)
Houston, TX

This is a bad bill! Bad for ALL Texans! Most importantly, tacans voted it down when they had the chance and there is an overwhelming super majority of your constituents - those who put you in office and gave you the honor of representing Texans - who do not support this! It is Bad for public schools, private schools, and homeschoolers, students, parents, and the community! It will bring us farther away from a state of educated Texans by dumbing down education, bankrupting the school system and the state of education. We will all be harmed. These children will one day run the state - you will be old and relying on uneducated Texans, who are less educated because of you - to take care of you in your old age! How do you think they will treat those who destroyed their public schools?! VOTE AGAINST ESA!! They are bad for all and will bankrupt our state! Just because you weee once a student does not make you an expert in education - just the opposite - you don't know the first thing about what's best for students or teachers! I am a public school leader of 20 years, as an expert in educating children in public schools in Houston I can tell you this is NOT what's best! The research is clear on that point!

Larry Hanson
Self. Retired
San Marcos, TX

Hell no on vouchers

Rocio Garcia
EMSISD
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Megan Lilburn, Rev.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote no

Melinda Samberson

Self. I am a parent and also a volunteer in our schools and our community.

Frisco, TX

Hello, First, thank you for enduring 24 hrs of testimony! I appreciate your dedication. I want to log my comments as opposed to HB3 and ESA's. We need to fully fund our public schools before we start talking about anything else. I would love for the basic allotment to be increased, for our teachers to be paid more competitively, our schools funded on enrollment instead of attendance, and for the funding to be adjusted for inflation. I am a conservative and believe this is not a conservative move (as you heard from many conservatives yesterday). We need to protect the 5.5 million students and educated them well as they are the future of Texas. Please do not pass this legislation. Thank you!

Jennifer Mackey

n/a

Allen, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Voucher programs cost accelerates quickly. The current senate proposal shows more than \$11 billion will be spent on vouchers through 2030, with \$4.6B spent in 2030 alone. Additionally, the fiscal note on SB 2 shows an increase of 42 employees to manage the program. Properly fund public education.

Fernanda Trevino

Self

San Antonio, TX

Vote no! Please have integrity and vote in favor of an educated future. I have been a teacher for 18 years and a mother with 2 school age children. So not defund our public schools. Educating the future generations is the only way we can have a better tomorrow.

Fund all schools and give a chance to all students.

Monica Munoz

Parent-PTA

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3!!!!

Tracy Bailey, Mrs

Self/

Celina, TX

I do not want money from the state to send my child to private school. Parents already have school choice in Texas we don't need the money. This will take finding away from the public school system that is already struggling. Please do not pass this bill and save our public education system.

Mary Jara

Self

Carrollton, TX

School vouchers divert critical funds away from public schools, weakening the foundation of our education system. Research shows that vouchers do not improve student outcomes and often exacerbate inequities. Every student deserves a high-quality education, regardless of their background or where they live. Instead of funneling money to private institutions, we should be investing in and improving our public schools to ensure all students have access to the resources they need to succeed.

John Young, Mr
self
San Benito, TX

Born, raised, and still a Texan, I know a thing or two about education.

My mother attended a one-room school class taught by her mother in a rural part of the Texas Hill Country, who went on to attend Normal School to become a librarian. She eventually completed some master's level classes at UT Austing went on to work for the Austin TX main library.

My father was the first member of his small town East Texas family to attend college and went on to become a UT Austin Library Science instructor and student advisor. My mother's mother was a well-read one-room school teacher and her father was a graduate of Texas A&M College living in a small Texas Hill Country town.

I earned a master's degree in psychology at UT Austin and a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan (while retaining my residency & voting in Texas).

I've worked with abused children, welfare children, foster children, and school children with learning problems.

And I followed real-time how Texas moved from teaching children to "Teaching To The Tests" required for them to graduate up the school ladder towards work skills and college.

I saw live-time the problems arriving at the pre-school and day care levels and the routing of "problem students" into boot camps towards military service. I met juvenile gang members who moved up the ladder in their gangs by serving jail time and longer prison time, where they connected with members of larger & more 'professional' gangs.

I did volunteer work with a local Tough Love group. I worked with school counselors within their schools and supervised school counselors seeking to become Texas Licensed Counselors. I briefly did some contract work for children and their parents in a hospital program for "Underachieving Students" and their parents.

HB 3 seems designed to support more privileged children on their upward path. While lowering public school funding and teacher pay scales. In ways that will sink more of the faster into various under-class groups to fill private prisons, serve as cannon fodder in our Armed Services, feed payday lender operations, and to provide cheap labor for the more well-to-do families and corporations. And making it harder and more impossible for them to become qualified voters within the State of Texas.

Trish Penland Ashton
Self
Burleson, TX

House Bill 3 undermines public education. Public schools should be funded appropriately allowing access to an equal education for all. This bill lacks accountability as private schools has a seperate set of standards and are not held to the same testing mandates that public schools are. Segregation, discrimination, and inequity in access for all students are other reasons this bill should not pass. Protect education for ALL children. Properly fund public schools.

Lucas Leinberger
Self
Burke, TX

Hello, I am reaching out to express my support for HB3 and ask for your consideration in also supporting. As a parent of homeschool children, an ESA ,as provided by HB 3, would afford more opportunities and ensure funding for all homeschool families. Specifically, the ESA enables a homeschool curriculum aligned with how families want to educate and raise their children to become Texans who are successful and contribute to the future of the state and our great Nation.

Robbie Shepherd

Self

San Antonio, TX

Good afternoon. I would like to express my strong opposition of HB 3 as a lifelong Republican, proud Texan and parent of a school age child in Texas. This bill is morally questionable, not fiscally responsible, does not provide equal educational opportunities for all of the 5 million school age children here in Texas and is an extreme detriment to our future work force here in Texas. Investing adequately in public education is the only way to ensure that EVERY child in Texas is represented. This really the very least we can do for all Texas children. Please keep my PUBIC dollars in PUBLIC schools.

Cayla Halliday

Texas PTA

Fort Worth, TX

Against this!! Save our children's education!!

Karen Galley, Dr.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please do not pass these terrible school vouchers!! They are taking my tax dollars meant for public school and giving them to private schools! Despicable! It is NOT school choice! It is a coupon for rich families.

Ken McKee

Self

Pearland, TX

I oppose this bill. Tax payer dollars should be used to fund public school under local control. Private schools are just that, private and should be funded by those who choose to spend their children to private schools. Private universities are not funded by the state and neither should private schools.

Megan Fischer

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Jennifer Coppinger

Self / Stay at Home Mom

Allen, TX

I oppose HB3 vouchers and ESAs. Public school students have a right to a fully funded education and should not be leveraged as a bargaining tool for political gain. Vouchers in Texas will divert funding away from an already critically underfunded system and voucher program costs have been shown to accelerate quickly. As a public school parent, I already have a choice of where to send my children for schooling. Public funds need to stay in public schools. Please stand with Texas families, not special interests. Our public schools depend on it.

Tarey Tarleton, Retired Public School Diagnostician

Self

Crowley, TX

As a parent, special education teacher, and Educational Diagnostician I am adamantly opposed to any type of “school voucher” program no matter how you title it. I have seen the results of limited school funding in our schools for the past 46 years. I worked for many years in west Texas where there are little to no private schools for parents to “choose”. Private schools do not have to accept those students who I fought for (and still do in retirement) access to an appropriate education. Taking tax money to pay for private school tuition for a limited few is an insult to those of us who have spent their adult careers educating Texas students-ALL Texas students.

Monica Da Jose, Ms.

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose HB 3 as a public educator.

Brian Collins, Mr.

Self, Teacher

Midland, TX

ESA's are bad policy for Texas education. Private schools in my area are already full and this program will simply cause the cost of private schools to increase. Private schools do not have to accept any student that applies. Therefore, there is little chance that this funding will benefit the students that really need it. Our Texas representatives need to get to work on solving the school funding problems we have in our state. Our representatives need to solve the recapture payment catastrophe that is taking tens of millions of dollars out of our local district funding here in Midland every year. It is fact that public school funding has not been properly increased or addressed in many years. Public schools must be properly funded before any bills with ESA's should be considered. And, if ESA's ever do become state law, there should be provisions to only help the truly needy students of our state unlike the current bill. Many parts of the state do not have access to private school within driving distance. I pay a lot in property taxes and I am offended that the state has put off the need for public school funding for so long and has actually held this funding hostage in favor of attempting to ram through this voucher policy. Any truly accurate polling surely shows this is an unpopular proposition. More like an 80/20 proposition. The party that forces this through will surely reap the political whirlwind.

Summer Stark

Self-concerned parent

Mckinney, TX

As a parent of three children in public schools I am extremely concerned about the voucher bill proposed. We should be funding our public schools. After all aren't we in favor of everyone having the opportunity to get a fair education. Those with the means to pay for private school will continue to pay for it. Those with public educated children will be left to figure out how to make up the gaps.

Todd Evers

Self

Fort Worth, TX

As a public school teacher in Texas, and a parent of two public school students, I am very against this bill. It is not right for taxpayer money to go to help students attend a private school. Parents who wish to pay for private school have the choice to do so. That is parent choice. This bill will further deteriorate public school funding. Do not pass this bill!

Sidney Kammerdiener, Mrs.

Self

Colleyville, TX

As a mother of two daughter's thriving in public school, I implore you to not pass the voucher bill. Our schools have had to operate with less each year I have been a parent with a child in school and this is at a destination district. The passage of this bill will cripple public education. Shame on you for allowing it to go this far. Listen to the people, say NO to vouchers.

Andrea Park

Wylie ISD and self

Wylie, TX

I Oppose HB3.

Carrie Baker

self

Flower Mound, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 3. The more I've listened to the testimonies and the questions being asked in the hearing on this bill, the more my concern has grown — not just because of the bill itself, but because of the outright refusal to seriously consider the consequences, both intended and unintended, that this bill would create.

Many who oppose HB 3 have pointed out a critical issue: this bill would likely function as a discount for families who already have children enrolled in private schools, rather than truly empowering low-income families to choose a better school for their children. At the same time, students leaving public schools for private schools would leave those public schools in a worse financial position than ever before.

And yet, when these concerns were raised, the chairman's consistent response was that they don't anticipate a significant number of public school students leaving for private schools.

If that's the case, I have to ask — who is this money really intended for?

Is it for the public school students who, by your own assertion, will mostly choose to stay where they are? Or is it for families who have already chosen private school — families who don't need to make a choice, because they already have?

The answers to these questions matter. And right now, it's hard to see how this bill serves anyone other than those who have already opted out of the public education system — all while draining resources from the schools still responsible for educating the vast majority of Texas students. That's not school choice. That's school abandonment.

I urge you to reconsider the true impact of HB 3 and the damage it would inflict on our public schools and the students who rely on them.

Evan Elwood

Self

Arlington, TX

I reject HB 3 based on expert testimony that it will hurt public schools and is NOT fiscally responsible.

Alexa Cariffe

Self

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 and its proposed education savings program, which would allocate \$10,000 per student toward private school tuition. While supporters claim this expands school choice, the truth is that Texas has always had school choice. Parents who want private education for their children—including myself—have always had the ability to make that decision. What this bill really does is shift public funds away from our public schools to subsidize private education, which has never been accountable to taxpayers.

HB3 will not help most Texas families. The reality is that this program primarily benefits those already sending their children to private schools. For many working- and middle-class families, \$10,000 does not cover full tuition, especially in urban areas where private school costs often exceed \$20,000 annually. Rural communities, where private school options are limited, gain nothing while their public schools lose funding.

A strong public education system is the foundation of our democracy—in Texas and across the country. Public schools serve all students, regardless of background, income, or ability. Instead of diverting resources to private institutions that can pick and choose their students, we should focus on strengthening our public schools. Texas should prioritize competitive teacher pay, classroom resources, and student support services to ensure the 5.4 million children in our public school system receive the education they deserve.

Public dollars should serve the public good. HB3 is a step in the wrong direction, and I urge lawmakers to reject it and invest in all Texas students.

Sabrina Anderson

PTA

Arlington, TX

As President for Corey Academy of Fine Arts and Dual Language PTA, a public school in Arlington, I can speak first hand about how the districts in Texas already offer school choice for students. Our district provides top notch education while operating for the first time in a deficit budget. This deficit is caused by their unwavering commitment to not only meet standards but rise above them. We should do all we can to fully fund our schools to meet 2025 economic levels but to reach a level playing field with the national average. I believe that if students leave our district for private or homeschool education the students will suffer from decreased funding not because our schools are subpar but because the requirements and mandates by the State will not change because of changes to funding. Please vote no to this Bill. It has been and will continue to be an unpopular proposal.

Sarah Soule

Self, teacher

Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and will hurt Texas public schools.

Alexis Gutierrez, Dr.

Self

Seguin, TX

While Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) are often promoted as a way to give families more flexibility in choosing educational options for their children, ESAs pose a serious threat to public education. The implementation of ESAs harms public education by diverting critical funding, increasing inequities, and undermining the very foundation of the public schools system.

Public schools are funded primarily through state and local taxes, with allocations determined based on student enrollment.

When students leave public schools using ESAs, a significant portion of funding follows them, reducing the resources available for remaining students. Since public schools have fixed costs- such as teacher salaries, transportation, and facility maintenance-losing per-pupil funding with a corresponding decrease in expenses further exacerbates statewide budget shortfalls that force schools to cut essential programs, increase class sizes, and reduce staffing.

One of the core missions of public education is to provide equal opportunities for all students, regardless of socioeconomic backgrounds. ESAs, however, tend to benefit families who can already afford private education. Even with ESA funds, many private school tuition rates remain prohibitively high for low-income families, effectively making ESAs a subsidy for wealthier households rather than a tool for equitable education. Meanwhile, students in underfunded districts-who rely most on public education- are left with even fewer resources and diminished educational opportunities.

Public schools are subject to strict accountability measures, including standardized testing, teacher certification requirements, and curriculum regulations. In contrast, ESA programs allow taxpayer dollars to flow to private institutions and vendors with little to no oversight. Many ESA-approved providers are not required to follow state curriculum standards, meaning students may receive subpart or ideologically driven education without guarantees of academic rigor. Additionally, cases of fraud and misuse of ESA funds have been reported in other states, where parents spend money on unapproved items rather than legitimate educational expenses.

The long term impact of ESAs is the gradual weakening of public education. As more families opt out of the public system, schools in struggling communities face declining enrollment and reduced state funding, leading to school closures and program eliminations. This disproportionately harms rural and low-income communities, where public schools serve as community hubs and provide essential services beyond education, such as meals, counseling and special education.

Public schools are legally required to provide services for students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). When students with disabilities use ESAs for private schooling they often lose these protections as private institutions are not bound by the same laws.

Jennifer Brunson

Self

Fort worth, TX

Against!

Jessica Ralph

Self

San Antonio, TX

As a parent and military spouse, education is a top priority to me. Texas lags far behind other states and it makes it difficult for military children to assimilate due to being ahead of their peers academically when they arrive in this state. We're doing a disservice to Texas children as well by holding them back from a quality education like that of their peers in other states.

FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INVEST IN TEACHERS

INVEST IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NO SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Bring Texas schools up to the level they should be, on par with education in top ranking states.

Amy Louthan

Self

Pearland, TX

I am a current public school educator. I've worked in public schools for 28 years. I'm strongly against this bill. Public education needs to be fixed and fully funded. ESA's will negatively affect the majority of students in Texas. If public schools were fully funded and teachers were paid a wage that keeps up with inflation people might be more open to considering ESAs. If it's not working in other states why do we want it in Texas? We do not need to experiment with our children's education.

Courtney Lewis

Self

Katy, TX

I oppose HB 3. Fully fund public education in Texas

Joshua Thronburg

Self

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Kayla Lain

Self

Godley, TX

Please vote NO to this bill. It limits choice, and imposes government strings like data tracking, pre approved curriculum vendors, and mandatory state assessments. This is another lane of government schools and will ruin private and homeschool! Say no!
https://docs.google.com/file/d/13507z72nPM6wgDLIHrfJodipQPK_f5_W/edit?usp=docslist_api&filetype=msword

Kathleen Czekaj

Self

Plano, TX

I am in opposition to HB3 and educational savings accounts. I strongly feel that the logic behind this plan is flawed and will result in further detriment to public education for our children. I will be watching to see which of my representatives vote to support this bill, and they will not receive my vote in future elections.

Ayn Bowron

self

Lubbock, TX

: Let the Private Schools be their own entity. There is no reason to finance their operations...

Monica Amundson

Self/School nurse

Sachse, TX

No to vouchers and no to HB 3.

Ashley Kinard, Ms.

Self, Technical Writer

Tomball, TX

No one wants this voucher shit scam, keep public schools public.

Paul Dabbs, Dr.

Self, retired educational administrator

Frisco, TX

In an ideal world, whether students are poor or affluent, whether they live in a rural town or an urban center, or whatever their ethnicity, those varying characteristics would have no effect on how much they achieve academically. Another ideal is that in any school most students would achieve at a level that would sufficiently prepare them for the next grade level.

People who are not involved in education may think that the task of guiding students to achieve at the standards identified by grade level is a straightforward process. But the reality is we are talking about complex processes of human learning that are influenced by factors beyond the classroom. Education is not at all similar to many business processes where input specifications may be changed and suppliers have limited time to comply or be replaced by another supplier. In public education, teachers do not select the inputs to the learning process, they must take the students who come through the door whether they “meet specs” or not. The objective for all teachers, campuses and districts is to take the “inputs” they receive and “process” them so that students have the foundation for success in college, the workforce, job training programs or the military. Students are not inputs and teaching is not a simple process. It is a fallacy to make such simplistic comparisons.

The economic status of families is the most critical characteristic that impacts educational performance of students. It is true that some students from families with very limited financial resources do well in school, but in general, economically disadvantaged students do not perform as well as those from families with more financial resources. Across the state, there is a direct relationship between the percentage of economically disadvantaged students and school performance.

Focusing on elementary schools, which represent the full range of neighborhoods in all sections of the state, the median level of economic disadvantage in elementary schools in Texas is 74%. Plainly stated; when the 4,489 elementary schools are placed in order, 2,244 have greater than 74% disadvantage. The average disadvantage in elementary schools is 67%. The probability of schools performing at higher levels (A or B rated) is significantly correlated to lower levels of economic disadvantage.

Even with this challenge, schools with high economic disadvantage provide educational opportunity and support that enables many students to perform at the highest level.

Schools are not “failing” because of lack of teacher skill or dedication. They are performing at these levels because that is where their students are at these snapshot moments in the accountability system. These schools need more resources to meet the demands of education students who come from families who likely do not have the personal experience and financial resources that compare to higher income areas.

Leeta Batlle

self

Grapevine, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

julia wickett

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Rachel Harris

Self/PTA/FWISD/Arlington Heights High School/Monnig Middle School/Ridglea Hills Elementary School

Fort Worth, TX

I am a proud parent of three in Fort Worth ISD and public education advocate. This bill, the voucher plans and so-called “school choice” are terrible for our students, teachers and staff across our state. Please vote against this bill and vouchers. Education is a constitutional right. All students deserve it. Be courageous and fight for ALL our students in Texas.

Elizabeth Mullins

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Public schools educate our most vulnerable and it's often the only way to leave poverty. Vote against establishing a saving account program.

Alejandro Davila, Mister

Self

austin, TX

I stand for safe, well-funded schools and a strong future for Texas public education. No vouchers for private schools, follow the constitutions and separate church and state. Keep churches AWAY from THE PUBLIC. And make ALL CHURCHES PAY PROPERTY TAXES AND INCOME TAX.

Heather Thurgood

Self

Coppell, TX

I oppose vouchers. It will hurt our communities in Texas.

Silvia Fuentes

Self

CORP CHRISTI, TX

I completely oppose HB3

Andrea Krieger

Self

Mckinney, TX

I oppose HB 3 and this committee should as well.

Christian Brand-Allah

Self

Cypress, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Christian Brand-Allah

Samantha Hsieh
Self/HR Manager
Austin, TX

Do not allow vouchers for private schools! Texas public schools are already very underfunded, and we can afford to use scarce tax dollars on a private school voucher program.”

Carol Caron
Parent of elementary student with developmental disability
Willow Park, TX

Parents need vouchers! I want to have some choice for my child since my current school district does not believe she can learn and has placed her into a secluded classroom and wants to forget about her and her learning needs. The current school (Aledo) has even argued that my child can speak. She is very articulate and they still argue that they don't see her independence and conversational skills like I do at home. I know they are lying and I need choices to take her to a school who believes in her. Public schools are becoming a corrupt waste!! Vouchers Please!!

Cornelia Sutton
Self-PTA
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Melody Sullivan
Self
Cypress, TX

Implementing a voucher system will significantly reduce funding for public schools. An analysis by Every Texan indicates that even a 5% student participation rate in a voucher program could lead to a \$2.25 billion loss for public schools statewide. This reduction would strain resources, potentially diminishing the quality of education for the majority of students who remain in public schools. Texas serves approximately 780,000 special education students. Critics argue that voucher programs may lead private schools to favor less resource-intensive students, leaving high-need students in underfunded public schools. Moreover, Texas has only about 70 private schools specifically catering to special needs, primarily in urban areas, with steep tuition costs. HB 3 is NOT wanted or needed. This is TX republicans way of defunding public education and giving money to those who already have enough. It is shameful to vote in favor of HB3.

Maria Soto
Self
Houston, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to proposals that seek to divert funding from our public schools through private school voucher programs. As a concerned citizen, I urge you to stand firmly in support of public education and reject any measures that would defund or weaken our public schools. Texas' public education system has long been a cornerstone of opportunity, ensuring that all students, regardless of their background, have access to a quality education. Our public schools serve a diverse range of students, including those with special needs, English language learners, and children from low-income families. They are places where every child, no matter their circumstance, has the potential to succeed. Public schools offer a sense of community, foster inclusivity, and provide a range of services beyond education, such as meals, counseling, and extracurricular activities. Introducing vouchers that funnel taxpayer dollars into private schools would have a disastrous impact on our public schools. Vouchers would effectively siphon money away from the very institutions that serve the vast majority of our students. These funds are crucial for maintaining essential programs, improving educational outcomes, and supporting teachers. Public schools are already struggling with overcrowded classrooms, underpaid teachers, and limited resources. Redirecting money to private schools would only worsen these challenges and leave public schools with fewer resources to meet the needs of Texas children. Private schools that accept vouchers are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. They do not have to accept all students, particularly those with disabilities, special needs, or English language learners. They can select students based on academic performance, financial means, or other factors, which leaves the most vulnerable students behind. Public schools, on the other hand, are required to accept every student, ensuring that every child has a fair chance at success. By diverting funds to private institutions, we risk creating a two-tiered education system that exacerbates inequality and disadvantages those who need the most support. The focus should not be on dismantling public education but on strengthening it. Instead of providing vouchers for private schools, Texas must prioritize fully funding its public schools to ensure every student has access to a high-quality education. We must increase teacher salaries, improve school facilities, and ensure that every child has the resources they need to succeed. Our public schools can be the best they can be if they are given the support and funding they deserve.

Private school vouchers are not the solution to the challenges facing our education system. Public education has a proven track record of providing a quality education to millions of students, and it is essential that we continue to invest in and improve this system.

Daniel King, Rev.Dr.
TXUUMJ
Houston, TX

Strongly oppose public funds for private education

Amanda Payne
Slwd
Round rock, TX

Keep money in public schools! Our children and teachers need our support.

Cameka Crawford
Self
Bedford, TX

I do not support House Bill 3. This will take money from public schools to fund private education. This also does not hold private schools to the same level of accountability as public schools. Also, there is not evidence, even in Republican states, that this will not greatly raise expenses in Texas and take money from public schools.

Desiree Ford
self
Mansfield, TX

Concerned parent of a daughter in public schools (Middle School). In reading HB 3, trying to wrap my head around providing funds to families at 5x the poverty level. For a family of 3 this is combined household income of \$250,000. If this is meant to be a school of choice option for families that cannot afford private school, would like to see the threshold reduced to 2x the poverty level in the bill. This would still make private school affordable if families received a subsidy of \$10k toward a total cost of \$20k private school tuition. If they are out of pocket \$10k a year at 2x poverty level \$100k this is 10% of their household budget which is reasonable. Texas is in a great position with a current budget surplus. Texas Public Schools need an increase in the basic allotment which has not occurred since 2019. To get the 2019 allotment to 2025 inflation adjustment means an increase of \$1,340 is needed. If this increase is approved, public school funding will be more in line with the private school education savings account funding. Thank you for your time.

Kerry Dyer
Self/retired
GEORGETOWN, TX

Our household (two voters) does not support the establishment of the ESA program. Private schools are no longer private if they receive public money. How long before the state government starts regulating curriculum in these now-taxpayer-funded institutions? The ESA program will either create another layer of bureaucracy to ensure the funds are fairly rather than fraudulently distributed. If no oversight exists, what prevents fraud? Our public schools have not been fully and fairly funded for decades. Let's give them the money and a fighting chance. Well-paid teachers, no more unfunded mandates, and then the state can do as it sees fit with regard to curriculum and testing, preferably keeping in mind that the best places to teach religion are in the home and the church. What happens to the low-income families who either have no private school nearby, or for whom the planned allotment doesn't cover the expense? This program claims not to be, but seems designed to be, a subsidy for families who already have the wherewithal to afford tuition...now they'll get a tax break. It's only a "choice" if every family has access to the same options. We've seen in other states what happens to low-income families when private, poorly regulated pop-up academies start with the promise of high standards and good facilities, only to be mismanaged into the ground by a few unscrupulous administrators who then take the money and run. The education of our children is far too important to make it reliant upon the good intentions of a mostly unregulated small business. You know there's a small, well-financed group of people who want this legislation, but the rest of us, who have only our votes to lobby with, would rather see our public schools made the envy of the nation, as opposed the bottom-of-list embarrassment which has been the case for at least 20 years. Please vote no on the passage of this Bill. Thank you.

Rachel Duong
Self
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3

Leslie Campbell, Texas taxpayer
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB3 and believe public funds belong in public education.

Sara Whitney
Self
Mansfield, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Ryon Atwood
Self - Self Employed
Happy, TX

Rural Texas does NOT support this bill! Greg, stop trying to say that it does, with your skewed polls. As the husband of a public educator, we are adamantly against this bill. Do your job and keep our tax dollars out of private hands. Do your job and fund public schools, instead of holding them hostage. Do it, or we will be coming for you in the polls.

Tess Sherman
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Elida Olivarri, Dr.
Self
San Antonio, TX

As members of our community in the great State of Texas, we have a responsibility to ensure our children have access to quality, funded public education. Instead of moving to savings account programs (ie vouchers), we should be funding our public school system. Please take the time to reconsider this Bill, it would hurt our education structure, our children, future generations, and the State of Texas would suffer future repercussions. Vote against vouchers (education savings account programs) and vote FOR public school funding.

Perdetra Wilson Cunningham
Self
Cedar Hill, TX

This bill is not fair to all students. It is taking funds from public schools. Low and middle class income families still can not afford these private schools. If students get into these schools and get put out for some reason will the money follow the students? The money needs to follow the students. This cut will hurt public schools funding Public schools will suffer for this bill. The parents that can afford these schools do not need additional help

Veronica McKay
Self Librarian
Wylie, TX

"I oppose HB 3"

Mitchell Richard
Self/Chief Plant Operator
Arlington, TX

As a taxpayer in the State of Texas, I do NOT want an Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) Program. I pay my public tax dollars and, therefore, want my money to Fund Public Schools in Texas. Public school funding has been stagnant since 2019 while we have had inflation of over 20%. Our children and all the educators, and staff, deserve to have the funding. To be clear, I want to reiterate the following:

- I do NOT want vouchers/ESAs.
- I support an Increase of the Basic Allotment.
- I support Funding Public Schools in Texas, including the inflation of over 20%.

Again, I support Public Schools and want my tax dollars to Fund Public Schools (not private schools) in the State of Texas.

Caitlin Pfeifer

Self, teacher

Aledo, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and personal experience as a public school teacher. This will hurt Texas public schools.

Elizabeth Barber

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am against HB 3 by Buckley.

Courtney Brand Agbetola

Self

Fulshear, TX

Esteemed Committee Members,

We respectfully ask that you OPPOSE HB3 because:

1 Numerous studies show that vouchers do NOT equate to improved academic outcomes for kids. Texas can only continue economic growth and prosperity with a well-educated work force.

2 HB3 is NOT a school choice bill. Texas parents already have school choice. This bill funds private school selectivity — which means that PRIVATE SCHOOLS decide who to accept and who not to accept — NOT parents.

3 Public money should have the SAME accountability standards. Public money means public accountability — any school or entity receiving tax dollars must follow the same standards, mandates, testing and accountability requirements as public schools.

4 We support Texans having a voice on this issue. Vouchers would use public dollars for private education — Texans should have a say on the ballot. Some representatives believe that Texans had a say during the primary. However, the measure on the ballot during the primary does NOT give anyone a mandate for vouchers as it was vaguely worded and did not include specifics about how little oversight there would be for public dollars. Put vouchers on the ballot.

This entitlement bill does not benefit Texas but only a few Texans. Please reject this bill and look for a measure that holds all schools equally accountable for public dollars.

Thank you!

Peggy Jenkins

self

New Braunfels, TX

I urge you to vote NO to Vouchers (SB 2) that will effectively steal public school funds to pay for private religious schools. This is wrong in every way

Jesica Workman

Swlf

Rockwall, TX

I do not see any value in this. In fact I think it hurts public education long term.

Melissa Middleton

Self

San Antonio, TX

Do not approve this bill. An education savings acct will harm the majority of Texas children. Public funds need to be kept for public schools.

Charlotte Procter

self

Bellaire, TX

I do not support vouchers. This is not school choice. I have the freedom to choose the school my child attends, it is my personal responsibility to be able to pay for a private education or attempt to receive financial aid. Public money, my tax money, should not go to education that is religious or is not held to certain standards. No one else's tax dollars should go to my individual child to go to a non-public school. It is a waste of money. It is not an efficient use of tax dollars. It is also worse that more money will be given to an individual student with a voucher than that student would have had follow the student to a public school.

Vouchers will end up decreasing the quality of our public schools, and decreasing the quality of education all our Texas citizens receive. I am against the establishment of a savings account program that will only benefit a small percentage of our citizens. If there is money which can be put towards this program, then this money should instead be put towards making our public schools stronger and better, which will serve all our students and citizens and make Texas a stronger state.

Ashley Lacheney

Self

Wylie, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS and NO TO HB3.

Peggy Jenkins

self

New Braunfels, TX

I urge you to vote NO to Vouchers that will effectively steal public school funds to pay for private religious schools. This is wrong in every way

Mary Lovell

self, consultant, community volunteer

Coppell, TX

I am a fiscal conservative. Not one person I've asked has been able to explain how using public funds for private or home schools is conservative. Why has the fiscal note of HB3 and SB2 not been front and center by its advocates? Public education is a public good, our Texas Constitution explains this. It seems confiscatory to have 'frozen' the basic allotment our schools receive at the 2019 levels while the state has piled on unfunded mandates. Thank you for holding such extensive and important hearings.

Michelle Venegas-Matula

TXUUM

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill establishing ESA program, otherwise known as school vouchers. Gov. Abbott admitted it WILL absolutely take away money from our public schools. Let's keep our tax payer funds in public schools and FULLY fund them, so our Texas kids can have the best education they deserve! Do not subsidize PRIVATE COMPANIES at the expense of our children and teachers. VOTE NO on School Vouchers HB3

Susan Bohn, Dr.

Aledo Independent School District

Aledo, TX

My name is Susan Bohn, and I am honored to be a graduate of Texas public schools who grew up to be a public school educator. I have served Texas public school students, staff, and communities as a classroom teacher, administrator, attorney and superintendent, and I am currently the proud superintendent of Aledo Independent School District.

The message to our legislators from our Aledo ISD Board of Trustees and administration is simple: Fund Schools First.

Aledo ISD opposes any effort - whether it be called taxpayer-funded private and homeschool vouchers or an educational savings account - to divert taxpayer dollars for non-public education purposes.

I am blessed to witness how we are Growing Greatness each and every day in Aledo ISD. The public schools across our great state provide academic, fine arts, career and technical education, extracurricular, and athletic opportunities for ALL students as well as mental wellness support, college and career planning, transportation, meals, special education programs and so much more no matter the students' background, learning level, income or needs. We do all of this while being accountable to local taxpayers and the state government for the tax dollars that fund our schools.

No private or homeschool can provide or say that, especially not for ALL students.

We vehemently oppose transferring billions of our taxpayer dollars to private schools and private vendors without any accountability and while taking away from our public schools; a free public school system that the legislature is constitutionally obligated to support and maintain.

Please say NO TO VOUCHERS and YES to supporting - and funding - for the nearly 6 million students and more than 800,000 public school employees (and their retirement) in Texas.

Rebecca Glaze

Self theatre artist

Plano, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Stephen Kintner

Self

Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3.

Kim Moore, Teacher

Education

Nacogdoches, TX

I am a teacher of 27 years. This voucher bill is a scam and will not do anything to help education. The education system in Texas is so broken and fails our kids in so many ways. Shame on all of you. I would be interested to know how many teachers you've polled and how many are for it. I can't seem to find a single teacher in public, private or homeschool that wants it. Rest assured that I will not vote for anyone who is for this ridiculous bill.

Patricia Boudra

self

Friendswood, TX

HB3 will be detrimental to the education of Texas children and, therefore, to the state of Texas. Uneducated people are less motivated and less prepared to be a productive citizen of our society. Please vote against this bill.

Olga Cardoza

Precinct 146

Pharr, TX

Harmful Consequences for Special Education Students

Students receiving special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are particularly at risk when voucher programs are introduced. Public schools are legally required to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to students with disabilities, ensuring they receive individualized supports, specialized instruction, and related services necessary for their success.

Private and charter schools that receive voucher funding are not held to the same legal requirements as public schools, often failing to:

Provide specialized services, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, and behavioral supports.

Employ trained and certified special education professionals.

Develop and implement Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) that meet students' unique needs.

Accommodate all students, as many private institutions reserve the right to deny admission based on disability status.

By funneling public funds into private schools that are not obligated to support special education students adequately, voucher programs create an inequitable system where students with disabilities are left behind, ultimately weakening the promise of IDEA and the rights of every child to receive an appropriate education.

Public Schools: The Pillar of Educational Equity

Public schools are the backbone of our communities, fostering inclusion, diversity, and equal opportunity. Unlike private institutions, public schools accept all students, regardless of income level, disability status, or background. They provide critical wraparound services, including social work, counseling, and intervention programs that help address barriers to learning beyond the classroom.

School vouchers threaten this mission by shifting essential funding away from the schools that need it most, leaving public education systems weakened and less equipped to serve their students. At a time when educational equity should be a national priority, it is imperative that we strengthen our public schools rather than dismantle them in favor of privatization efforts that benefit a select few at the expense of many.

Call to Action

We urge policymakers, educators, parents, and community members to stand together against school voucher programs and advocate for fully funded public education. Our Title I students and those receiving special education services deserve every opportunity to succeed in an inclusive, well-resourced, and accountable educational environment. Redirecting funds to private and charter schools through vouchers undermines this goal, exacerbating educational disparities and harming the very students our public schools are designed to support.

Instead of dismantling public education through voucher programs, we must invest in strengthening our schools, ensuring every child receives the high-quality education they deserve. Let us prioritize equity, access, and opportunity for all students.

Anna Ramos, N/A

Self

San Antonio, TX

This will only serve 300,000 students vs more than 5 million students. If all Texans are paying taxes then all 5 million students should get a voucher. This should only be passed if and only all students with no eligibility requirements needed can receive a voucher. Texas has great pride in High School football. More money is needed to support public school in all of Texas. In addition, there are not enough desks nor services in private schools for every student in Texas. Governor Abbott needs to support all families and their children.

Dionna Deardorff, Ms.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

School vouchers will harm public education for millions of Texas children. Please vote against this bill. Please keep public funds in public schools. Vouchers will only increase the tuition for private schools and benefit only private schools. All Texas children deserve a quality education.

Julie Hoeltzel
Self
HOUSTON, TX

I do not know one single person, Republican or Democratic, that is in support of this tragic bill. Please reconsider taking action that could decimate what integrity is left in public education.

James Finley
self
San Antonio, TX

As an educator, and as a parent of a student in a Texas public school, I strongly oppose vouchers. This bill will hurt both my family and the students who I teach by taking money from their schools and diverting them to schools that are beyond what I can afford and that will likely not accept my child because of his disabilities. Public education belongs to the public and it is a bedrock of a free society. It deserves to be fully funded and this bill attacks that very foundation.

Jennifer Ferguson
Self / actuary and former teacher
Sachse, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill or any bill establishing an education savings program or voucher program.

Shelby Banning
Elgin ISD
MANOR, TX

This bill is a disgrace to the public school teachers, students, and families. As a proud teacher and recipient of a public school education, I'm appalled that our government rather invest in the rich and undercut the low-income, under-funded communities who would benefit the most from school funding. How miserable your lives must be, that you believe children of so many different backgrounds don't deserve the same quality education. Despicable. Disgusting. Downright inhumane and immoral.

Sharon Nichols
Self
Baytown, TX

Please vote no on school vouchers!

Carmen P
Self
Plano, TX

NO TO VOUCHERS; NO TO SB3

Kara Dennis, MS.
Self
Leader, TX

I have visited towns in other states who has offered similar programs and all you kind find are thriving huge private schools and pitiful sub-par public schools who depend on teachers from Teach for America. I've spoken to these teachers and have heard how hopeless and sad these schools are. Once we go this way there is no turning back and the public school system will suffer. Some of the most beneficial things to Texans are our strong public schools. My children fully attended public school and were well prepared for college. Our schools were award winning schools. Our schools also helped keep our property value high because the schools were so good. If we start breaking apart these options only the wealthiest of our citizens will benefit and our middle class will very much suffer. Don't be fooled by this. Go visit place like Memphis, TN and see what public schools are like there. It is not something we want to introduce into our state.

Kim Distin, Dr
self
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3 along with the majority of TEXANS because it will pull public taxpayer funding from public schools and move it to private schools. ESAs are NOT a priority with our tax dollars. Instead, increase the basic allotment for public schools by \$750-\$1000 to allow a positive impact on the 5+million students in Texas.
We will ALL remember how you vote on this. Will you listen to the majority of your constituents and oppose this Bill or will you be one who blindly falls in line with the billionaire agenda? Will your legacy be of service to children, teachers, community, and tax payers or will you be remembered as one of the “bought”? Will you stand for your people now or will you end your service as one afraid to stand against a tyrannical push of our governor? These words may seem harsh but they represent the thoughts and heart of your constituents, your voters, your people! VOTE NO TO ANY ESA/VOUCHER BILL! Our children, teachers, community, and future deserve your courage to push back against this scam that only represents the chosen few! Create a legacy of courage and ethics and stand for ALL children. We will remember next election how you vote on this bill.

Kimberly Hollan
Clear Creek ISD
League City, TX

Public funding needs to stay with public school and the public school children. It is our duty to educate the future generations!
Please vote NO to vouchers and education savings accounts.

Cynthia Hill
Wylie High PTSA
Wylie, TX

I OPPOSE HB3

Amanda Haldeman
Self, registered nurse
Plano, TX

Please keep our money in public schools. It is the right thing to do to serve your communities that you were elected to represent.
No to vouchers, no to “school choice”!

Charise Thomason, Teacher
Self
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Joann Smith, Ms.
Self - Manager
Wylie, TX

I oppose HB3. This will take resources away from my child’s education.
Thank you,
Joann Smith

Diane Bim
Myself as a citizen
Amarillo, TX

I am strongly opposed to school vouchers. Please vote against this proposal knowing that vouchers would never be used for the good of the majority in public schools. Vouchers would most certainly go to the loudest and richest families. Our public school system certainly has flaws but please remember they are trying to educate minorities and immigrants along with the general public.

Micheal Kennedy
Self
Pflugerville, TX

This bill would put strain on a public education system that is already underfunded, and would allow children with special needs and students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds to be left behind. It's bad for schools, it's bad for kids and it's bad for Texas.

Regan Burkett
Wylie ISD
Wylie, TX
I OPPOSE HB3

Jason Clemons
Self/ Creative Director
League City, TX

As a dad, I want the best education possible for my kids—and for all kids in Texas. That’s why I strongly oppose diverting public school funding to subsidize private school tuition. School vouchers/school choice/ESA - however you say it, is NOT supported by our community, and it feels as though this bill is being shoved down our throats. Our public schools are already stretched thin, and taking away resources will only make things worse for the vast majority of families who rely on them.

One of my biggest concerns is how this will impact our teachers. We already struggle to retain great educators due to low pay and underfunded classrooms. If we start pulling even more money from public schools, we risk losing more of the dedicated teachers who make a difference in our kids’ lives. When teachers leave, it’s our children who suffer.

The reality is that there aren’t enough private schools to serve every student, and a \$10,000 voucher won’t come close to covering tuition, uniforms, and transportation. This program won’t help most families—it will only weaken our public schools and hurt our communities.

Strong public schools are the foundation of a strong Texas. We should be investing more in them, not less. I urge you to oppose the ESA and keep public education fully funded for the sake of all Texas children.

Carrie Ebbesen
Self
North Richland Hills, TX

Please do not approve vouchers. I work at a public elementary school and we are already underfunded . Teachers are under paid and leaving a profession they love because they are not able to support their families

Stefanie Hummon

Self

Austin, TX

This is what I submitted. You're welcome to use it or tweak it how you'd like.

I am writing to express my concerns about the implementation of the school voucher program, which I believe could have significant negative consequences for our education system and the students it serves.

By diverting public funds to private institutions, these programs create inequities in access to quality education, leaving public schools with fewer resources to support the majority of students who remain in them. This can result in larger class sizes, reduced educational opportunities, and less support for students who need it most.

Furthermore, private schools that accept vouchers are not held to the same standards of accountability as public schools, which can lead to a lack of transparency and oversight. This raises serious concerns about the quality of education and the protection of students' rights within these institutions

Instead of diverting funds to private schools, I believe we should focus on strengthening and adequately funding our public education system, ensuring that all students have access to high-quality education and the support they need to succeed.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Stephen Newhart

Na

Fort worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

We could pay public educators more! Why have funds been held hostage for 5 years? No one in our district republican or Democrat alike want this! No No no

Scott Miller

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose HB 3

Kevin Padgett

Self

Royse City, TX

I oppose HB3. This bill will reduce the amount of funds our school districts receive. Our public schools deserve MORE funding.

Terry Maxson

Self Retired

Round Rock, TX

Please vote NO to HB3. I am retired and do not want to fund ANOTHER public school option. Please just take care of our public schools and consider the tax burden you are placing on retired Texans!

Susan Gebren, Mrs.

Self, retired music educator

Bedford, TX

I taught 6 years in a private school and 20 in a public Title One school. Over half the students were on free or reduced lunch. Students who needed extra help. Students whose parents couldn't afford a doctor visit. Or figure out how to fill out the form for Medicaid. A sick, hungry, tired child cannot focus to learn. These are the children this committee should be trying to help. The parent or parents of these children can't afford to take them across town to a private school. The voucher won't cover the extra expenses and tuition balance. The parents won't have time to volunteer for the Fall Festival or candy sales. If the child has a learning disability, the private school usually doesn't have special education teachers. When I taught in a public school, we had special classes for gifted students, emotionally disturbed, autistic, Downs Syndrome, brain damaged. We had specialists for speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy. The State has guidelines for disciplinary procedures. Private schools can expell problem students.

The State has procedures for evaluating teachers. Many school districts have excellent maintenance departments to keep the school environment "top notch". There are NO guidelines and oversight requirements for homeschooling and private school curriculum and student progress.

Please vote NO to HB 3 and give that money to public schools to hire tutors and support our schools.

Candace Mangelsdorf

Self

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose HB3 and its proposed education savings program, which would allocate \$10,000 per student toward private school tuition. While supporters claim this expands school choice, the truth is that Texas has always had school choice. Parents who want private education for their children—including myself—have always had the ability to make that decision. What this bill really does is shift public funds away from our public schools to subsidize private education, which has never been accountable to taxpayers.

HB3 will not help most Texas families. The reality is that this program primarily benefits those already sending their children to private schools. For many working- and middle-class families, \$10,000 does not cover full tuition, especially in urban areas where private school costs often exceed \$20,000 annually. Rural communities, where private school options are limited, gain nothing while their public schools lose funding.

A strong public education system is the foundation of our democracy—in Texas and across the country. Public schools serve all students, regardless of background, income, or ability. Instead of diverting resources to private institutions that can pick and choose their students, we should focus on strengthening our public schools. Texas should prioritize competitive teacher pay, classroom resources, and student support services to ensure the 5.4 million children in our public school system receive the education they deserve.

Public dollars should serve the public good. HB3 is a step in the wrong direction, and I urge lawmakers to reject it and invest in all Texas students.

Carrie Stewart

Self

Colleyville, TX

I urge you to vote against this bill. As the daughter of a school superintendent I was raised on the value of public education not only to create an informed citizenry prepared workers, but to build community in the classroom, on the ball field, in the auditorium and the lunch room. Schools are responsible for so much in the life of our children - not only the 3 R's. Public schools are struggling with the lack of funds and still recovering from lockdown effects. Public schools need all the support we can give. Draining our public schools through a tax rebate for the wealthy will ruin our schools and does nothing to provide low income families the same opportunities. Vote NO

Jennifer Scheel
Self- realtor
San Antonio, TX

I believe that this bill is NOT in the best interest of Texas school students. I also believe it is not appropriate use of public funds/tax dollars. Please DO NOT vote for this bill.

Warner Watkins
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I am against the proposed Education Savings Account program. This proposal will remove funding from public schools.

Susan Laforet, Ms
Retired teacher
Humble, TX

Vouchers are NOT what we need in Texas! Fund public schools as they should be. Allow them to hire the teachers and support staff needed to run effectively. Vouchers will take money away from the children who need it most. The amount of the voucher per child is NOWHERE near the cost of private school tuition, and will only help the people who already have children in private school. There are very few private schools in rural areas , and very FEW GOOD ones in the inner city. It's basically a tax break for the Wealthy and will hurt lower and middle class children by taking resources away. The governor is not telling the truth and I urge my legislators to stand up to him, if you have the courage! Our kids deserve a free PUBLIC education.

Dana Fitzpatrick
self
Royse City, TX

I oppose HB3.

Kaylee Konidis
Self - Teacher
Groves, TX

Parents already have a choice of where to send their students. They already have the option to send them to a private school or homeschool their child. They can also do an in-district or out of district transfer so that their child can attend another school. Before giving private schools more money, consider this: Private schools do not have to hire certified teachers, private school DO NOT have to accept every student you give this "voucher" to, private schools do not have to "teach to a test", private schools are not put under a state regulation and graded based on how their students preform on a standardized test! Fund the public schools and make them better, stop trying to make rich people richer. Vouchers are a scam, it's giving the wealthy a tax cut and hurting the middle/low class families that send their students to public schools. Public schools are not bad like people in the government are making them out to be, they provide a safe place for students, and they provide extra curricular activities for students who may not excel in their academics. Private school are religion and academic based schools. Public schools are the HEART of our communities, they host events that bring families together while growing the minds of each student. Vouchers deem to hurt public schools. Local communities that do not have the funding from the state, will lose even more money to the voucher scam.

Cyral Miller

Self, special ed teacher

Austin, TX

Vote no on vouchers and build up our neglected public schools! Save Texas communities. 73% of all Texas school districts are underfunded and 17% are severely underfunded. HB-3 further reduces funding for public schools, and it uses public taxpayer dollars to fund private school tuition.

The bill creates the illusion of choice but does nothing to guarantee that a parent's choice for their child will be fulfilled. It offers a chance, not a choice. Ultimately, the true decision-maker in this system is not the parent, but the private school.

155 Texas counties do not have private schools within them. So, those children would be left out.

The economics of this bill will hurt small, rural schools.

HB-3 is not fair to the children and parents of Texas, has little oversight of how the public funds are spent, creates Constitutional questions about separation of church and state, hurts public schools, leads to class segregation.

When a voucher student leaves a public school for a private or home school that state money is lost (every year), because the state will only pay for students who physically attend a public school. For example, if 150 voucher students leave a public school, that costs the District \$847,350 per year, further exacerbating the underfunding of our public schools.

Helen Ingram

self - retired

Austin, TX

If families want to send their children to a private school they should pay for the cost.

Helen Ingram

self - retired

Austin, TX

no

Kristen Hotopp, Ms.

Self, administrator

Austin, TX

As the parent of a middle school student, I urge you to increase public school funding support to \$1,300 per student. A \$1,300 per student increase will return Texas public schools to 2019 levels & lift our public schools out of the budget & inflation crises they're facing.

- Despite explosive population growth & available State funds, public schools are currently operating at 80% of the funding allotted in 2019.
- The State funding deficit is exacerbated by rampant inflation, which has increased costs across the board.

Children in Texas are the state's future: the workforce, innovators, & business owners of tomorrow that will lead our state in competitive national & global economies. Most Texas children attend public schools. To adequately prepare them for the future & maintain our state's leading role in established & emerging markets, we must INVEST more heavily in our public schools, which are the bedrock of civil society & workforce development in Texas.

School districts across the state currently suffer from huge deficits due to chronic underfunding by the State.

- In Austin we've had to pass bonds to supplement the insufficient State funding (exacerbated by recapture), to retain teachers, fix crumbling facilities, & maintain instructional quality.

State leadership claims that public schools have more money than ever are inaccurate; these statements are based on two-year old data that includes federal COVID funding that has already been spent. With calls to eliminate the Department of Education at the federal level, Texas can expect a decrease in federal dollars over the next several years.

- We must base all public-school funding decisions on current, accurate data.
- In real dollars, public schools are \$1,300 per student behind 2019 levels.

Texas has the money to fund \$1,300 per student, which will return public school funding to the sufficient 2019 levels. The Legislature has the money, the power, & the responsibility to adequately fund public schools!

- Adding \$1,300 per student to the basic allotment across school districts is the most equitable & efficient solution, versus micromanaging how districts utilize funding. Different districts have different needs, and they know their children and their schools' needs best.
- Utilize the Rainy Day Fund & unspent funds from previous years. If cuts are necessary, make them elsewhere. There is no more important investment than the future of the Great State of Texas, which is our children.

The current HB2 funding bill proposes an insufficient increase of \$220 per student. While some funding is better than no funding, this paltry amount is grossly inadequate to meet the needs of Texas public schools & our our children, particularly with high inflation.

Please ensure the future of our State & our children by fixing this broken funding system. Texas must prepare students for the world economy of tomorrow by adequately funding our public schools at the \$1300 per student level.

Irma Sandate

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am a former middle and elementary school principal. I know firsthand that HB 3 is not the best plan for Texas students. Already parents have had an option to remain in public schools or apply to attend a private, charter school. It's simple. Year after year, private schools take students who have zero to no barriers. Students with any barriers remain on the public campuses. This is inequity in a simple form. If Texas is ever going to prepare itself to compete on a national level, we must support public education. Investments in public education would mean students are provided the resources needed to build strong foundations in core content. It would mean students are in classrooms with technology. It would mean teachers are able to tackle reading issues at an early age. It would mean students have opportunities to study and explore new subjects. It would mean teachers have smaller classes that are manageable. The majority of us are public school graduates. We are proof that, when provided with the right resources and tools, public school education works. We are also savvy enough to know that creating a new system of educating students will create two systems that are not operating at 100%. This bill will set education back. We cannot afford to take Texas further back. Be part of a better solution to education. Do not be part of a bill that sets education standards for Texas students back.

Susan Wetmore

self--retired elementary school teacher

Austin, TX

I am opposed to establishing an "education savings account program", also known as a school voucher system. This system will take money away from public education, which is already underfunded and struggling to meet the needs of its students. It will not benefit those who do not currently have the income to send their children to private schools, but rather it is a bonus to those who already have the income to send their kids to private schools and would now be able to pay less. Public schools need to be adequately funded in terms of supplies, facilities, programs, and teacher salaries. Public schools --a backbone of democracy, civic awareness and civil discourse--deserve our support, not private schools. Vote NO on HB3.

Katherine Holbrook

Self

Austin, TX

I am a public school teacher and the mother of two public school children. I am opposed to private school vouchers. We should be investing in public schools, not subsidizing private schools. In state after state, vouchers have proven to be a waste of public funds and a harm to public education in the long run.

Lacey Lake

Self

Austin, TX

It is imperative that the TX legislature funds TX schools adequately. Voucher programs have been a massive failure in all of the states that have implemented them. They are often used not by disadvantaged students who are looking for a better school option, but by wealthy families who already have their children in private schools. Public tax dollars should stay in public schools. Things that you could do to appropriately fund TX schools would be to pay schools based on enrollment, not attendance. And with billions of dollars in our state rainy day fund, you should be increasing the state's portion of the per student allotment. Districts all over our state are having to take extreme measures that are having massive effects on campuses due to the deficits they are running in. The state hasn't increased their portion of the per student allotment in over a decade and definitely not enough to keep up with inflation. Please do better! The future of our state depends on a well educated population and when we are at the bottom of the country in per student spending, we are failing our students.

Scherry Johnson

self - retired

Dallas, TX

Vote NO on HB3! This bill is a fraud to give religious schools and wealthy families money that by the Texas Constitution is directed to a free and FAIR education to all Texas children. In small towns, the public school system is the glue that holds the community together. Shame of the very idea that this should be demolished!

Vicki johnson

Self

Converse, TX

I oppose HB 3

Jose Leon

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose bill HB3

Lisa Seger
Self
WALLER, TX

I'm writing to urge members to vote against HB3, which will step needed funds from already underfunded public schools to subsidize tuitions for families that can and are already paying for private school tuitions.

The state of Texas is obligated to provide a quality public education to all of it's children, and frankly we are already taking short of that constitutional mandate. Draining funds will only make it worse.

Additionally, I object to my tax money finding religious education, as I see it as a clear violation of the separation of church and state.

Please listen not only to citizens like me, but to the myriad experts who have testified against this bill who have told you this will inordinately harm lower income students who are already struggling to have their educational needs meet. Do not pass this bill.

Ashley Newhart
Self
Fort worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Gail Price
Self. Retired
Georgetown, TX

I oppose this plan to provide vouchers. Public money should be used for public schools. An educated population benefits society and underfunding public schools is damaging to society.

Kat Clemons
Self/ Development Director
League City, TX

I strongly oppose diverting public education funds to subsidize private school tuition for wealthier families. Public schools are the backbone of our communities, ensuring that all children—regardless of their background—have the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed. Instead of pulling resources away, we should be investing more in our public schools to strengthen our future workforce and make Texas a place where families want to live and thrive.

The reality is that there are not enough private schools to accommodate every student, and a \$10,000 voucher doesn't come close to covering the true cost of private education, especially when factoring in expenses like uniforms and transportation. This scheme will not provide meaningful choice for most families; instead, it will drain funding from the vast majority of students who rely on public education.

Any reduction in public school funding will have devastating consequences for our communities. I strongly oppose the ESA and urge you to keep taxpayer dollars where they belong—supporting all Texas children through a strong public school system.

Michael Wolfenbarger
Self
El Paso, TX

As a retired teacher and conservative, I encourage each and every legislator to vote no on the proposed school voucher bill. This bill will accomplish nothing but further erode the public school system, which is already in need of serious assistance, not abandonment. The tax dollars were designed to primarily fund PUBLIC education, not private schools. Actions such as this are nothing but a "double jeopardy" for property tax payers and should be voted down at the earliest opportunity. Improve the system that is in place and refrain from making matters even worse...which is what this voucher bill will do!

Maaike Gomes
Self
Wylie, TX
I OPPOSE HB3

Tracey Mauss
self
Houston, TX

Vote AGAINST HB 3 since its not FULLY FUNDING PUBLIC EDUCATION. Vochers, school choice, or education savings account programs aren't good for public education or Special Education students. VOTE against HB 3. Support Public Education

Nickie Antonitis
Self- Corporate Giving Manager
Fort Worth, TX

I reject HB3 based on expert testimony and the fiscal note presented on HB3. This is not sound fiscal policy and it will hurt Texas public schools.

Jenny Sartain
Self
Friendswood, TX

As a mother of three children (all in public school system) I am 100% against the proposed voucher bill. This proposed bill would destroy the public schools as we know them.

Meghan Clyde
Self
Grapevine, TX

Our public schools are already underfunded and burdened with excessive regulations. Redirecting taxpayer dollars to private institutions that lack accountability does not improve student outcomes.

Even a small shift in enrollment impacts every public school. Fixed costs remain, but funding shrinks—leading to school closures, larger class sizes, and the loss of essential programs. Despite ISD's making painful cuts this year, 70% of school districts are operating at a deficit while covering billions in unfunded costs for special education, transportation, and safety.

Research from multiple states shows that voucher programs do not lead to better academic outcomes—and in some cases, they make them worse. If we want real solutions for students, vouchers are not the answer.

Instead, Texas must invest in its public schools by increasing the basic allotment, adjusting for inflation, and funding schools based on enrollment rather than attendance. Our children's future depends on it. Vote no to HB 3.