

School Choice is No Choice by Diane Connors & Atty. Deborah Stevenson

Consider the following:

Parents already have choice. They can choose from the ever expanding options such as enrolling their child in a public or private school, a magnet or charter school, homeschool, or join a private POD or private education association (PEA).

Single parents and working parents can homeschool, too. They often do not understand the inherent flexibility that comes with home education because it is not necessarily a 8AM-3PM, Monday through Friday undertaking. Further, parents who are not financially well-to-do can also homeschool because there are many quality, K-12 curricula options available online totally free with no strings attached. That is thanks to parents that have gone before us.

There is choice. Real choice is parental choice, not a government carrot that comes with strings attached to it.

What about the new, nationwide storm (with its political bias), claiming to GIVE parents "School Choice"? What choice? Are parents told that if they accept any money for their child's education that they will also be forced to comply with the accountability strings that come along with it? Yes, we know. It's "your" tax money. Well, no, it's not. The government gets to decide what hoops you will jump through to use any government funded monies for your child.

Public schools are public funded and publicly accountable. Do note, however, that the CT Statutes state clearly that the first obligation of the State Board of Education and Boards of Education is TO THE STATE. Did you read "parents" there? No. And, you won't. They are running the show and it is mostly, only public schools that have Boards of Ed anymore. Parents rights have been, and certainly are now, under attack from multiple angles. The time to wake up to what is going on was years ago.

Just like Common Core State Standards were a top-down initiative accepted by most school districts in the country, and fought against by some – School Choice is the new CCSS. Just say NO.

What about getting the money and sending your child to a private school if you are not okay with the state of public education? You need to know that almost all private schools accept state and/or federal funds in these times. They are really, questionably "private" anymore. They must follow the same requirements as the public schools – and – parents are paying for that! Why?

School Choice money is not enough to pay for a private school tuition, and few parents can pay the balance which is thousands of dollars. In public schools, parents will certainly choose the "best schools" for their child to attend – only to find out that there aren't enough seats for all of the kids in that school. So, they end up with no real choice as admission goes to lotteries. All of this is allegedly to help the underprivileged in society – but it's not working. That has already been observed in other states. It might work for some, but it's not equal by any stretch.

At the moment, legislative sessions are in session nationwide. Below are just some of the articles addressing this hot topic in our nation. CT is not excluded from this mistake. Inform yourself. You do not need any government, or any school, to tell you that you have a

CHOICE. You already have had it. Don't let them mandate it and control it so that public school will still be public funded and accountable, and so will private schools and any homeschools that fall into the trap. The only way out is privately funded and privately accountable.

Kansas education commissioner says 'school choice' will cost taxpayers with no accountability

<https://www.kcur.org/podcast/up-to-date/2023-03-17/kansas-education-commissioner-says-school-choice-will-cost-taxpayers-with-no-accountability>

Sponsors of 'backpack bill' for per pupil Ohio school vouchers push back on \$1 billion price tag

<https://highlandcountypress.com/Content/In-The-News/Education/Article/Sponsors-of-backpack-bill-for-per-pupil-Ohio-school-vouchers-push-back-on-1-billion-price-tag/2/75/88909>

Legislation expanding school choice heads to the Senate floor

The Senate version limits homeschool scholarships to those willing to submit to more oversight.

<https://floridapolitics.com/.../595892-legislation.../>

Rejected in Idaho: Idaho "School Choice" Bill Fails Over Lack of "Accountability"

<https://thenewamerican.com/idaho-school-choice-bill-fails-over-lack-of-accountability/>

Get your kids out of school if you are unhappy with your child's experience.

A newly published article on the superior education data of home education. You can do it.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/beyond-school-walls/202303/embracing-divergent-parenting>