

Keep Public Funds in Public Education



Special
Education
Legislative
Summit  **2018**
Alexandria, VA | July 8-11, 2018



Council for
Exceptional
Children



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RECOMMENDATIONS:

CEC Urges Congress to:

- ❖ Support efforts that maintain and enhance the use of public funds for public education and services offered through public school districts.
- ❖ Oppose the use of public funds for parents to access private education through private school vouchers, tuition tax credits, direct tuition payments, taxpayer savings accounts, scholarships, and portability of public funds to private education entities for all students, including students with disabilities, as they are contrary to the best interests of students and their families, the public school system, local communities, and taxpayers.



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BACKGROUND:

CEC Opposes public subsidy of private education for the following reasons:

- ❖ No guarantee of equal access to private schools for students with disabilities.
- ❖ No guarantee of accountability.
- ❖ No guarantee of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and procedural safeguards.
- ❖ Subsidizing private schools with public funds does irreparable harm to students with disabilities.



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THE LOCAL IMPACT:

Consider the data in your state

- ❖ Are there vouchers in your state?
<http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/voucher-law-comparison.aspx>
<http://schottfoundation.org/report/grading-the-states>
- ❖ Bring a story with you about the impact of public money leaving public schools.
- ❖ Is impact aid an issue for your state?
- ❖ Awareness of recent tax credit attempts will be important as well.



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THE LOCAL IMPACT:

Important stories to share:

- ❖ Know the number of students with disabilities in voucher programs.
- ❖ Provide stories about students who have been expelled or asked to leave private schools and return to the public school without skills being built while they accessed the private school.
- ❖ Provide stories of students who have been denied access to private schools because of their disabilities.
- ❖ Provide stories that show the segregation taking place based on access to private schools because of socio economic status, ability status and/or race.

