

## SB 193: The voucher bill that will:

- raise our property taxes.
- bankrupt our neighborhood schools.
- hurt our children's education for years to come.

*Let's be honest. SB 193 is just another scheme for taking money from our neighborhood schools and out of the pockets of local property taxpayers and diverting this necessary funding to home-schoolers, private schools and others. It's the same old voucher system that's failed in so many states already, under the new name "Education Freedom Savings Accounts." These "accounts" are public, taxpayer dollars provided to parents to pay for private school tuition or other education expenses—just like vouchers, but with even fewer limits and no income thresholds determining eligibility. In fact, SB 193 looks suspiciously like voucher bills pushed in other states by out-of-state special interests—including the corporate-funded group ALEC.<sup>1</sup> We don't need these new laws in New Hampshire! Here's what will happen if the SB 193 voucher bill is passed:*

### ▶ **SB 193 will drain funding from our neighborhood public schools, where most of our children go to school.**

Under this voucher scheme, the state would take \$3,205 of the current \$3,561 in funding each student in our public schools gets, and give it to parents of "eligible children" to be used for home schooling expenses, a private school, an "online school," or any private school. If SB 193 becomes law, our public schools would immediately lose \$25 million.<sup>2</sup> With each year, more and more money will be drained from our schools, since the law allows parents of any child now going to public-school kindergarten to take this money when the child reaches first grade. The result: NH public schools will go into an underfunding spiral, worsening an already dismal funding level from the state. That's exactly what is happening in Detroit and Philadelphia. Key services and programs for the kids who stay in public schools then get downsized or cut altogether.

### ▶ **SB 193 will raise our property taxes.**

Since 1999, total property taxes paid in New Hampshire have more than doubled as the legislature shifts education costs to property owners: \$43 million for school building aid...\$80 million for retirement costs ...and \$98 million due to the unfunded gap between court-ordered adequate school funding and inflation over the past 17 years.<sup>3</sup> Who will foot the bill as SB 193 cuts tens of millions each year from our schools?

## What's at risk with SB 193?



Millions in funding for our neighborhood schools.



Key programs and services.



Services for children with special needs.

Legislators:

Our kids are counting on you.

Say NO to voucher bill SB 193.

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▶ **SB 193 won't help children with special needs.**

The \$3,205 per child amount doesn't come close to covering quality special education services. In fact, it's been well-documented that charter schools and other voucher programs are less likely to provide special education services at the same level as public schools.<sup>4</sup> A U.S. Department of Education report on the Washington, D.C., voucher program showed that a main reason why students didn't use a voucher offered to them was that they were unable to find a participating school with services for their learning or physical disability or other special needs.<sup>5</sup>

▶ **SB 193 give your tax dollars to schools that don't answer to taxpayers—including online schools, home schooling, and private schools.**

Education savings account programs in other states exempt private schools and programs from many state standards, including teacher and staff certification or requiring private schools to accept and serve all children. There is no direct accountability to local taxpayers, despite our cherished tradition of local control. SB 193 doesn't even provide any controls over practices, policy or curriculum in order for private schools and programs to be eligible for public money. Granite Staters want accountability and local control when it comes to our tax money going to schools like this.

## **SB 193: Pushing the same voucher scheme that's failed across the country**

Voucher programs like SB 193 have already failed in other states. Let's not repeat their mistakes. One study found that "one-third of Louisiana's voucher students are enrolled at private schools doing such a poor job of educating them that the schools have been barred from taking new voucher students."<sup>6</sup> In Ohio, students who use vouchers to attend private schools have fared worse academically compared with those in public schools.<sup>7</sup> Voucher schools in Florida took taxpayer money for kids not even attending those schools—one reporter noted that the state's voucher program had sparked "a cottage industry of fraud and chaos."<sup>8</sup>

SB 193 will:

- Bankrupt our neighborhood schools.
- Raise our property taxes.
- Waste our money on schools and programs with no accountability to taxpayers—including private schools, online schools, and home schooling.
- Be a subsidy for a select few—while hurting educational quality and opportunity for the rest of us.
- Throw away millions in state funding on vouchers—an idea that's a proven failure.

Sources:

<sup>1</sup><https://www.alec.org/model-policy/the-education-savings-account-act/>

<sup>2</sup>Mark Fernald, "My Turn: School vouchers – another plan to raise your property taxes," Concord Monitor (March 27, 2017). Available at <http://www.concordmonitor.com/School-vouchers-for-the-rich-8801504>

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Michael Conlin and Meg Jalilevand, "Equity and Unrestricted Funds in Special Education." (April 2016). Available at <https://msu.edu/~conlinmi/aef-presubmissionApril2016final.pdf>

<sup>5</sup>Patrick Wolf, Babette Gutmann, Michael Puma, Brian Kisida, Lou Rizzo, Nada Eissa, and Matthew Carr, Evaluation of the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program: Final Report (NCEE 2010-4018), National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education (June 2010).

<sup>6</sup>Jonathan N. Mills, et al., "How Has the Louisiana Scholarship Program Affected Students?" Education Research Alliance for New Orleans (February 22, 2016). Available at <http://educationresearchalliancenaola.org/files/publications/ERA-Policy-Brief-Public-Private-School-Choice-160218.pdf>

<sup>7</sup>David Figlio and Krzysztof Karbownik, Evaluation of Ohio's EdChoice Scholarship Program: Selection, Competition, and Performance Effects, Fordham Institute (July 2016).

<sup>8</sup>Gus Garcia-Roberts, "McKay Scholarship Program Sparks a Cottage Industry of Fraud and Chaos," Miami New Times (June 23, 2011).

**NO on SB 193:  
Bad for our schools. Bad for our kids.  
Certain to raise local property taxes.**



**A message from AFT-New Hampshire**  
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