

# THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS COALITION

## FACTS ON VOUCHERS

- **Undermine Public Education:**

Vouchers divert funding away from public schools as all proposed funding comes from the same state budget. Strong communities are rooted in strong public schools that serve all students.

- **Lack of Accountability:**

Private schools and/or students instructed through alternative instruction “home-school” receiving voucher funds have no public accountability compared to public schools. This accountability includes both fiscal and academic public reporting and accountability boards.

- **Segregation Concerns:**

Voucher programs (savings accounts) are not available to all students, potentially leaving behind students from disadvantaged backgrounds in underfunded public schools.

- **Ineffective for Student Achievement:**

Research shows mixed results on the impact of vouchers on student academic performance, with many studies finding no significant improvement or even a decline in achievement for voucher recipients. (Economic Policy Institute Research, Louisiana, Indiana, Ohio as an example)

- **Special Needs Concerns:**

Private schools may not be adequately equipped to support students with special needs, or refuse to accept them, leaving them with limited options if they choose to use a voucher.

- **Religious Concerns:**

Voucher programs such as the South Dakota Tax Credit program divert funds away from public schools while providing scholarship dollars to religious schools, raising concerns about separation of church and state. (Vouchers typically lead to increased tuition at private schools)