

SCHOOL VOUCHER PROGRAMS FAIL TO IMPROVE STUDENT PERFORMANCE.

A look at private school voucher programs that are in place around the country shows that vouchers are anything but a path to student success. These programs are producing lackluster results for students. In fact, these vouchers that advocates claim will be a ticket out for students have led to stagnant or worse academic outcomes.

- Recent studies have found that in states where school vouchers have expanded, students utilizing the programs fared worse than their public-school peers on reading and math standardized tests.
- Louisiana's voucher program, the Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP), has failed to help disadvantaged students. [A recent study found](#) that LSP reduces academic achievement one year after program entry, lowering average test scores and increasing the likelihood of failure in math, reading, science, and social studies.
- Indiana is in the process of implementing a near-universal voucher system, but [a study of their current voucher program](#) revealed that participants post worse scores in math and see no meaningful improvements in any other subject areas, and the loss persisted regardless of the length of time in private school.
- In [Ohio](#), the students who used vouchers to attend private schools fared worse on state exams compared to their closely matched peers remaining in public schools, while a separate report on the District of Columbia's voucher program found that students entering elementary grades (K-5) experienced statistically significant negative impacts in both reading and mathematics relative to students who did not receive the offer two years after applying to the program.
- **Perhaps because of these failures, the proposed Pennsylvania voucher program does not require private and religious schools that receive voucher money to meet any performance standards.**

...and the expansion of school voucher programs isn't helping those who need it most.

- In [Arizona](#) and [Indiana](#), fully half or more of the students using the voucher programs had already been attending a private school.
- In the case of Arizona, only a quarter of the recipients came from the lowest-income communities, while more than half came from communities with median household incomes over \$100,000.
- A [study](#) of Indiana's voucher program concluded that it "increasingly benefits white, suburban, middle-class families more than the low-income students in underperforming schools whom the program was originally intended to serve."

The growing body of evidence makes it clear that vouchers simply do not support students who need them most. School voucher recipients aren't showing improvements in their academic performance and vouchers go predominantly to those who can already afford it.