

Key Points of Information

GOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Public School Defenders Hub 2023

1

- Advocating for public education is advocacy for quality education and our democracy.
- Student outcomes are the most important measure of good public schools.
- If we want quality public schools, we must oppose funding cuts and predatory charter schools to ensure quality education for all students.

2

- Forces seek to dismantle public education by diverting taxpayers' money, demonizing public school educators, and banning public school curricula.
- Assaults on public schools in state after state are part of a nationally orchestrated and funded campaign.
- The goal is to destabilize public education and replace it with a universal, unregulated voucher system which would:
 - increase segregation and exacerbate already wide gaps between the rich and the rest of us.
 - use our tax dollars to support schools which violate the separation of church and state.
- Quality public education is essential to provide equal opportunities for all students, regardless of their background, and to prepare them for success in their future careers and in life.

3

- Advocates and allies for education equity seek
 - to make achievement data visible to reveal inequities were hidden in averages.
 - to ensure that all students have access to experienced and qualified teachers.
 - to provide a rigorous curriculum aligned with high-quality college- and career standards.
- The funding of schools that serve large populations of students of color and students from low-income backgrounds has been inequitable.
- Diverting public funds to charter and private schools can further exacerbate the unequal distribution of resources and harm the overall quality of public education.

4

- Schooling is a public good to the extent that it helps everyone (including people who don't have children in school).
- School is where childhood happens, a place where children from different places and races, backgrounds and genders, learn from the past, make sense of the present, and prepare for the future.
- Schools are critically important not only for children but for our country as it helps individuals learn and grow to support a successful and prosperous society. • Education enables all citizens to develop to their full potential and enables our democracy to flourish.

5

- Results of the 54th annual PDK Poll tell a tale of conflicted views of public schools:
 - - Local ratings are at nearly a five-decade high and a majority have trust and confidence in teachers.
 - - Yet, fewer than ever expressed interest in having their child work as a public schoolteacher.

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- To maintain a healthy democracy we need a healthy education system that
 - is equitable and inclusive, providing quality education for all students.
 - addresses student challenges and learning gaps with innovation and improvement.
- Public education is under attack by a vocal minority exploiting cultural grievances for political gain by demonizing curriculum and educators.
- Divisive misinformation creates unjust fear and confusion that are detrimental to quality education.
- Fear is used to drive resources from public schools to charter and private schools.
- Academic outcomes, student well-being, and our democracy itself are threatened by divisive forces who seek to end public education.

6

Source Citations

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