



## (SB10) Georgia Special Education Vouchers – Talking Points

- **Vouchers hurt children with disabilities.**

To obtain a voucher, families forfeit all the rights and protections guaranteed by federal laws for children with disabilities who attend public schools.

- **There is no accountability for private schools accepting vouchers.**

Teachers at schools accepting vouchers are not required to be certified to teach children with disabilities or even have college degrees.

Private schools are not required to demonstrate the ability to properly teach children with disabilities.

Children receiving vouchers are not required to be tested to ensure progress is made on student achievement.

Schools receiving vouchers are not required to publicly report student achievement or how taxpayer money has been spent.

- **This is not a choice for parents and students. This is a choice for private schools.**

Students must be accepted by a private school before they can utilize a voucher. Private schools may discriminate against students and employees based on disability, gender, religion, economic status, family background, intelligence and behavior.

Private schools exclude applicants they do not choose to serve.

- **Vouchers tend to pay only a portion of the cost of private school tuition.**

Only the parents who can pay the extra money to fund the total tuition cost at a private school can use the voucher. Students whose families cannot afford the tuition will be left in the public school, where the special needs programs would have suffered because the money would be siphoned off to the private school.

Parents would have to pay the cost of transportation to and from the voucher school.

- **According to the federal National Council on Disabilities, large-scale voucher programs could lead to reinstitutionalization of children with disabilities at public expense.**

Private schools are not required to integrate children with disabilities into regular classrooms.

Private schools accepting vouchers are not required to teach children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment, may lead to the segregation of these students.

- **Voucher programs take funds from public schools and undermine the infrastructure that is in place for children with disabilities currently being served in public schools.**

Vouchers force taxpayers to pay for two school systems – one public, one private.

Vouchers take badly needed tax dollars from the public schools, leaving public school students with fewer resources.

*See Back for Co-Sponsoring Organizations...*

The following organizations have worked together to develop this information and to educate others about the possible effects of special education vouchers in Georgia (SB10).

American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia (ACLU)

Anti-Defamation League

Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instructional Supervisors (GACIS)

Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL)

Georgia Association of Educators (GAE)

Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals (GAESP)

Georgia Association of Middle School Principals (GAMSP)

Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals (GASSP)

Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (GCASE)

Georgia Parent Teacher Association (GPTA)

Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA)

Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA)

League of Women Voters of Georgia

Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE)

Savannah-Chatham Board of Education

A copy of the report by the federal government's National Council on Disabilities may be found at the following link:

[www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2003/vouchers.htm](http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2003/vouchers.htm)