

For Immediate Release

March 16, 2017

Contacts:**Maggie Garrett**

garrett@au.org, 202-898-2140

Sasha Pudelski

spudelski@aasa.org, 703-774-6933

The National Coalition for Public Education Statement on the President's Budget

Today, NCPE issued the following statement opposing President Donald Trump's \$250 million school voucher and \$1 billion Title I portability proposals:

"We are greatly disappointed that President Trump's budget would spend \$250 million of taxpayer money to fund a private school voucher program, and would use an additional \$1 billion to encourage school districts to adopt Title I portability, which is a stepping stone to school vouchers.

It is incumbent upon our President to ensure that all students have access to quality public schools. Vouchers, however, divert desperately needed resources away from the public school system to fund the education of a few voucher students in private schools, including religious schools.

Voucher programs are an ineffective and damaging education policy: they do not improve—and can even lead to declines in—student achievement. And, vouchers underserve many students, including low-income students who often cannot afford private schools even with a voucher, students in rural areas who may have no other educational options nearby, and students with disabilities who often cannot find private schools to serve their needs. Among their many additional flaws, vouchers lack accountability to taxpayers, deprive students of rights provided to public school students, and threaten the religious freedom of both taxpayers and religious schools. We believe that public funds should fund public schools and, therefore, we urge Congress to reject this budget's voucher and Title I portability proposals."

Founded in 1978, the National Coalition for Public Education supports public schools and opposes the funneling of public money to private and religious schools through vouchers, tuition tax credits, education savings accounts, and portability. For more information, contact Maggie Garrett (garrett@au.org or 202-898-2140) or Sasha Pudelski (spudelski@aasa.org or 703-8773-6933).