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The National Coalition for Public Education's Statement on Creating an Educations Savings Program for Military-connected Students

The National Coalition for Public Education opposes any attempt to create a private school voucher program, including a voucher program for military-connected students. In particular, we oppose any legislation that would transform Impact Aid into an Education Savings Account because it would take away desperately needed resources from school districts serving military-connected students.

Military-connected students face unique challenges due to frequent relocations as well as the absence of parents who may be deployed overseas. These challenges are recognized by public school districts through coordinated academic transfer agreements in every state, as well as comprehensive systems of support for students, and professional development for school personnel to ensure they honor and address the obstacles that may impede academic success for military-connected students. A voucher program would drain the already limited funds available for public schools to provide these comprehensive supports and services that military-connected students need and require. A redirection of additional resources away from public schools will only make it more difficult—if not impossible—for public schools to appropriately meet the needs of military-connected students and their families.

Reducing Impact Aid funding for public schools will also place a great financial burden on the local community, which would be left to fund public schools with an already low level of local tax revenue.

Further, there are many other problems with directing federal funding to private schools. It is well-documented that private school voucher programs do not lead to improved academic achievement. In addition, private schools that accept vouchers do not provide students with the same civil rights protections or educational opportunities.

A [number of organizations](#) representing military families have already rejected proposals to divert Impact Aid from schools that educate military-connected students. We hope those in Congress who support military-connected students and who support public education reject this harmful proposal as well. Public dollars should fund public schools that serve all students, not private schools that serve a few select students.

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).