

Public Schools for the Public Good

The privatization narrative

- ♦ **Educational Freedom:** Education Freedom Tax Credit - to empower families
- ♦ **Freedom to escape** from 'failing government schools'
- ♦ **Freedom of educational choice:** families, rather than government, choose schools "best suited to their children's needs" that "align with their values and aspirations for their own children" (USDOE/Treasury Fact Sheet)
 - Funded by an established network of foundations and think tanks

Our public education narrative:

- ♦ **Public funds for public schools for the public good**
 - When an educational system accepts public funding, it should be accountable to the public. To be transparently accountable to the public, fairness requires that all education systems receiving public funds be held to uniform accountability measures that measure success and support improvement.
 - Publicly funded and publicly governed K-12 schools are directly accountable to the general public and to their local communities. They are overseen and governed by locally elected school boards member who live and work in the communities their schools serve. Public schools are *our* schools - the people's schools.
- ♦ **Public schools strive to ensure that *all* children have equitable opportunities to reach their full potential and find success**
 - Public funds should serve all of the public, and not just a preferred subset of the public. In the education context, K-12 schools that accept public funds should serve *all* children in their communities who wish to attend those schools, not just students they prefer to educate.
 - Our publicly governed public schools accept, value, and care for *every child* who walks through their doors. They strive to nurture the success of *every* student, regardless of race, ethnicity, identity, or disability. Public schools strive to make themselves accountable by listening and working with parents, offering appropriate choices, and doing everything within their means and power to provide optimal educational opportunity to all their students.
 - Public school students on average achieve at levels that are at least equal to similarly situated peers in private schools.
- ♦ **Public schools are a cornerstone of our communities and of our democracy**
 - In publicly governed public schools, the community's children gather together to learn, play, argue, and problem-solve together.
In doing so, public schools prepare their diverse groups of students to work constructively and productively with others who may be different from them, thereby preparing their students to take their place as productive and contributing members of their communities, and informed and participating members of our pluralistic democracy.