



Modeled on ideas championed by former Trump Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and failed, similar voucher laws in other states, [HB 60](#) proposes a third voucher program to divert \$448 million from public schools to give instead to private schools.

Since 2003, Georgia has slashed \$10.2 billion from public education. Meanwhile, Georgia spends far less per student on public education than the national average, and must reckon with \$383 million recently cut from the K-12 budget due to Covid-19.

At a time when public schools need it most, HB60 targets public schools that do not offer 100% in-person classroom instruction during COVID in order to subsidize private school vouchers.

**HB 60 is on a clear path toward passage ... unless we get the word out and contact our legislators about the damage this bill will do to public education.**

HB 60 creates a new category of eligibility that differs from the current voucher law: If a student attends a public school that does not offer 100% in-person classes during COVID, that student qualifies for a taxpayer-paid tuition voucher.

This disproportionately and unfairly hurts public schools who want to reopen the school building but cannot due to the high level of COVID transmission in the community. Of course, only 9 of Georgia's 159 counties are not categorized with high transmission indicators and cases of COVID among students is at an all-time high. Private schools, however, are not penalized if they did not offer full-time classroom learning. Further, the bill covers many expenses the existing voucher does not, including field trips, uniforms, private tutoring, computers and school supplies, etc.

There is already a lack of transparency and accountability in Georgia's voucher programs, according to the Georgia Department of Audits. HB 60 offers no new transparencies or safeguards. In fact, under HB 60, takes some transparency and accountability away as the names of private schools that benefit from the program are shielded from public view.

*See the full report by Georgia Budget and Policy Institute:*

<https://gbpi.org/hundreds-of-millions-of-dollars-at-stake-for-a-failed-policy-bill-analysis-house-bill-60-lc-49-0301/>

Vouchers have repeatedly been shown to be ineffective in promoting student scholastic achievement. No school accepting voucher dollars under this bill is required to provide special education services to qualified students.

HB60 takes money directly from public schools and gives it to private schools, especially those public schools that have been forced to closed due to high levels of COVID community spread. However, the bill does nothing to address the number of private schools that also did not or may not in future offer “full-time, in-person” classes during COVID.

The measure is more “false hope” for lower-income families, as the amount of a private school “scholarship” is often far, far short of actual tuition. Further, there are no income restrictions for eligibility.

**THIS IS AN URGENT MESSAGE ASKING YOU  
TO CONTACT MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE IMMEDIATELY.  
IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP THIS BILL.**

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