

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
Convention 2018**

**Name of League:** LWV San Antonio Area

**Resolution:**

LWVTX write a letter to the Senate Public Education and House Education Committees recommending that a bill be passed prohibiting the use of state funding (whether as tax credits, education savings accounts, or any other form of vouchers), for private and religious schools.

**Name of position:**

Public School Finance

“The League of Women Voters of Texas opposes the voucher system.”

Quality Education

“The LWVUS is a member of the National Coalition for Public Education, which opposes vouchers.”

**Background information:**

During the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Special Session, SB 2 which related to school funding included significant *voucher* allotment for special education and 504 students was passed. This bill allocated approximately \$270 million (from *Health and Human Services*) for education spending of which *half was to be used for vouchers*.

HB 21 created a commission to recommend improvements to the school finance system.

**Evidence that the issue is a current legislative priority:** The Lt. Governor and Senate Public Education Chair have repeatedly championed using state funds to subsidize private schools. Their success with SB 2 provides the thin end of the wedge. We have every expectation that they will attempt to expand this program in the 86<sup>th</sup> legislative session. The school finance commission (SB 16) is also expected to support the use of public funds for private school education.

**Evidence that the issue is time sensitive and requires Texas state government action:** The Senate Public Education committee has been holding hearings throughout this spring on public education issues. The school finance commission is also meeting. We expect to learn that vouchers are being considered for expansion.

Not later than December 31, 2018, the commission shall prepare and deliver a report to the governor and the legislature that recommends statutory changes to improve the public school finance system, including any adjustments to funding to account for student demographics.

**Address the resolution to:** (Mark all that apply)

- The Governor
- The Lieutenant Governor
- The Speaker of the House
- **Other:** members of the Senate Public Education and House Education Committees

From TASB April 26, 2018

**Voucher proponents target military families, schools**

*[The "Learn more" link has been fixed.]*

Voucher proponents are pushing for inclusion of the Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act (HR 5199) in must-pass military funding legislation (National Defense Authorization Act), despite opposition from a coalition of more than 25 organizations representing more than 5.5 million active and former members of the US military. The legislation, backed by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, would allow military families to use public money for private-school vouchers. The Military Coalition sent a letter to US House leaders saying the bill would divert Impact Aid – funding to help districts offset property tax revenue lost because of nontaxable federal land, such as a military base – from public school districts that rely on it. The coalition also points out that Impact Aid is already funded at less than 60 percent of what it should be to cover district needs as set in the law. Texas ranks third in the nation among states that receive Impact Aid and third in the nation for the number of federally connected children.

**Texas Tribune to host school finance reform conversation**

The Texas Tribune is holding a conversation on school finance reform on May 4 from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. with four members of the Texas Commission on Public School Finance: State Reps. Dan Huberty and Diego Bernal; Todd Williams, education policy adviser; and Nicole Conley Johnson, CFO for Austin

Independent School District. This conversation will be moderated by Evan Smith, co-founder and CEO of The Texas Tribune. [Watch live.](#)

**TEXAS AFT LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018**

**In the Texas Senate, ideology collides with evidence**

For the pro-voucher, pro-charter majority in the Texas Senate, ideology often trumps evidence when it comes to school privatization schemes. But in the Senate Education Committee's hearing on Tuesday, billed as a review of successful educational programs worthy of replication, the majority's preference for privatization kept colliding with inconvenient facts. ... Under legally questionable rules promulgated by the commissioner of education, these contracted-out campuses would have to be exempt from safeguards of teacher contracts and other quality standards in the Education Code.