

Vote No On

Initiative 138

Colorado must stay off the road to school vouchers.

1. What does the measure do?



Initiative 138 (**Constitutional Right to School Choice**) will add a right to school choice in the constitution and create a right for parents to direct the education of their children. This is the first move in a nationally coordinated playbook to redirect money from public schools to private institutions and wealthy families who have historically had nearly exclusive access to them.

2. The Vouchers Playbook

Colorado has been identified by proponents of vouchers as a state where they are a viable option. Though Colorado has constitutional provisions that could help block vouchers, the Colorado courts have historically stuck to very narrow interpretations of these laws.

Establishing a constitutional right to school choice clears the way for so-called “model legislation,” such as a Parental Choice Scholarship Program, or Family Education Tax Credit. Both of these types of legislation are adjacent to school vouchers.



3. Impact on Rural Communities and Kids with Disabilities

For most rural kids, voucher programs do not provide choice. Instead, they exacerbate underfunding by sending limited public dollars to private schools and decrease enrollment and funding in public ones.

Additionally, though private schools can't discriminate based on disability, they aren't required to comply with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements that provide certain benefits and services to children with disabilities in public schools.

4. Learn More

The Colorado Fiscal Institute is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that provides credible fiscal and economic information and advances policies that promote equity and widespread prosperity. Contact us at info@coloradofiscal.org.