

Good Morning Committee-

I have previously written to express my thoughts on the EdChoice withholding and the future of the EdChoice Scholarship. I have been watching the hearings daily. I feel I must have missed something and would love some clarification on the following:

1.) Why was EdChoice moved from a state scholarship to the responsibility of the individual school districts? Obviously I understand budgeting but it seems extreme to change so dramatically. Couldn't a compromise of partial responsibility from both state and local help to keep the scholarship going for all those that are in need?

2.) Through all the hearings, I have not heard any school district complain about the charter schools "taking" money away from them as they do toward the private schools. It is my understanding that charter schools do get funding from the local school districts. It is also my understanding that charter schools were not graded nor is there any intention of grading them such as the public school districts. Is this correct? Previous arguments have stated that public school districts are upset that private schools are not held to the same standards but it seems that also charter schools are not held to the same standards. Please explain why public schools are not upset by the charter schools? Maybe the charter schools should not be getting funding from the local schools.

3.) It is also my understanding that on average approximately 1%-2% of funding is what the public schools' systems will be losing with EdChoice scholarships. This is less than the standard of living increase. I understand that school systems such as Richmond Heights is already struggling and losing more money may have a huge impact but really losing 2% of finances should not be to blame for the fall of the school system. It was struggling well before EdChoice. The Richmond Heights community should be upset with who they voted to be their school board and the decisions the school board has made. Please don't fault a whole state due to a school system struggling financially well before EdChoice laws were established.

4.) EdChoice Scholarships not only benefit low-income families but also middle-income families that live in failing school districts. Through much of the hearings, public school districts kept stating how this gives free education to students. Most private schools cost well over the \$6000 awarded from EdChoice. All citizens pay their property taxes and income taxes to benefit the school systems. All students deserve free adequate public education, when it is not adequate, another option needs to be made available.

I look forward to hearing from you in regards to my above questions.

Thank you-
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