

# Stand up for public education!

Public schools are central to strengthening our democracy and protecting the common good



## Action steps you can take to bolster public schools and stop privatization efforts in IL

- 1. Follow charter school proposals at your local school district and make your voice heard.** Charter schools drain funds from district schools and have less oversight and accountability. Illinois applied for and got a grant in 2016 for 48 new charter schools, and charter operators are looking to set up shop around the state—though this grant comes with no operational dollars for new schools. Let your Board of Ed know that you oppose taking resources from district-run schools to open charters.
- 2. Help keep public dollars out of private and religious schools.** Last summer our state legislature passed a tax credit scholarship, aka neovoucher, program. This was slipped into the school funding formula bill and diverts \$75 million from public coffers to private schools. This program is supposed to sunset in five years but similar programs around the country have *not* gone away once they're introduced and have often grown. Let your state legislators know that this program needs to end and to oppose any possible expansions.
- 3. Organize with public school supporters to increase revenue for public education.** The state passed a new funding formula bill this summer but it only comes with \$350M of the \$6B needed to fund education adequately in our state. Changing the formula without adding revenue won't fix the problem of chronic underfunding of Illinois public schools. We need sustainable, progressive forms of revenue, like a graduated income tax, to ensure high-quality public ed for all Illinois children.

Find your state senator and rep's info here: <http://bit.ly/yourILGA>

### More resources

**The Tip of The Iceberg: Charter School Vulnerability to Waste, Fraud and Abuse.** (The Center for Popular Democracy and Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools) <http://bit.ly/2xETFmG>

**Are Tax Credit Scholarships Vouchers By Another Name?** (Network for Public Education) <http://bit.ly/2x1JHft>

**Do Education Tax Credits Scholarships Provide Opportunity?** (Network for Public Education) <http://bit.ly/2xMqAoo>

**Our Children Deserve Better: A Call to Resist Washington's Dangerous Vision for U.S. Education.** (Education Deans for Justice and Equity, National Education Policy Center) <http://bit.ly/2wqrPqa>

**Closed by Choice: The Spatial Relationship between Charter School Expansion, School Closures, and Fiscal Stress in Chicago Public Schools.** (Farmer, Baber and Poulos) <http://bit.ly/2yy03ZE>