

# Tax Credits Scholarships & School Choice: Reviewing the Research

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# The Evolution of School Choice


- ▶ Early examples
- ▶ Milton Friedman
- ▶ White-flight academies
- ▶ Liberal/leftist appeal
- ▶ Modern models

# Forms of School Choice

- ▶ Mortgage
- ▶ Open-enrollment
- ▶ Magnets
- ▶ Charters
- ▶ Vouchers
- ▶ ESAs and Tax Credits
- ▶ Privatization?

“Charter schools and schools managed by private contractors are not steps in the direction of privatization, as their critics claim. In both cases, the schools are funded by public dollars, are authorized by legislation, and are accountable to public authorities. By contrast, privatization occurs when a public facility is transferred to private owners, who are accountable to their stockholders, not to public authorities. This is clearly not the case with either charter schools or schools managed by private contractors; both remain accountable for educational and fiscal performance to public agencies, which may cancel or withdraw their charter or contract.”

--???



# REIGN OF ERROR

The Hoax of the Privatization  
Movement and the Danger  
to America's Public Schools

Diane Ravitch

# Market Mechanisms in Education

- ▶ Consumer-style choice
- ▶ Provider competition
- ▶ Operational autonomy

“...an emerging new civil rights battle for the millennium.

...public education is not a civil right. What is a civil right is equal access to a quality education for all, which was affirmed by *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954.”

—Rev. Floyd Flake, 1998

“School choice for poor children  
is... today's principal civil rights  
fight....

[It is] poor parents trying to  
emancipate their children from  
the public education plantation.”

—George Will



# Policy Goals for Education (Quasi-)Markets

- ▶ More equitable opportunities (freedom)
- ▶ Innovations in schooling
- ▶ Greater efficiency
- ▶ Higher levels of effectiveness

# Research on Choice Outcomes

- ▶ Satisfaction
- ▶ Competition
- ▶ Achievement

# Research on Achievement

- ▶ Early studies
- ▶ Advocacy groups
- ▶ “Gold-standard” studies
- ▶ Recent RCT research
- ▶ “Attainment”
- ▶ Into the future

Thank you!

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