TALKING POINTS

- No matter what we call them ("Education Savings Accounts," "Education Scholarship Trust Funds," etc.), private school voucher schemes send public money to private schools that can be held to lower standards, discriminate in admissions, hire non-certified teachers, and teach curricula that has little oversight.
- Arguing that "the money follows the child" is deceptive. This is an intentional misrepresentation of how school funding works, and the money cannot "follow" all children when private schools can pick, choose, & discriminate against students.
- Providing public funds to schools that use religious curricula is likely an unconstitutional overlap between government and religion.
- In 2019, the Justice Dept's Office of Legal Counsel concluded that *prohibiting* the use of public funds for religious activities was Constitutional.

VOUCHER LEGISLATION &

HOW VOUCHERS COST SC STUDENTS

FACTS & FIGURES

- Voucher program evaluations in LA, IN, WA, & DC showed students attending
 participating private schools perform significantly worse than peers in public school.¹
- In one study, students with disabilities in voucher programs experienced an average learning loss in English language arts each year when compared with students without special education identification.²
- In Florida, voucher schools took millions in public funds for kids not even attending those schools.³
- In some state voucher programs, such as WI, students with disabilities have been systematically excluded from admission by education service providers.⁴
- National data show private schools are more segregated than similarly situated public schools and enroll higher populations of white students compared to public schools.⁵



- 1. Jonathan N. Mills and Patrick J. Wolf, "How Has the Louisiana Scholarship Program Affected Students? A Comprehensive Summary of Effects after Three Years" (New Orleans: Education Research Alliance for New Orleans, 2017; Jonathan N. Mills and Patrick J. Wolf, "The Effects of the Louisiana Scholarship Program on Student Achievement After Two Years" (New Orleans: Education Research Alliance for New Orleans, 2016); R. Joseph Waddington and Mark Berends, "Impact of Indiana Choice Scholarship Program: Achievement Effects for Students in Upper Elementary and Middle School" (Notre Dame, IN: Center for Research on Educational Opportunity, under R&R Journal of Policy Analysis and Management); David Figlio and Krzysztof Karbownik, "Evaluation of Ohio's EdChoice Scholarship Program: Selection, Competition, and Performance Effects" (Washington: Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2016); Mark Dynarski and others, Evaluation of the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program: Impacts After One Year (U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences, 2017).
- 2. Mark Dynarski and Austin Nichols, "More findings about school vouchers and test scores, and they are still negative" (Washington: Brookings Institute, 2017). 3. Gus Garcia-Roberts, McKay Scholarship Program Sparks a Cottage Industry of Fraud and Chaos, Miami New Times (June 23, 2011).
- 4.E.g., Letter to Tony Evers, State Superintendent, Wisc. Dep't of Pub. Instruction, from U.S. Dep't of Justice, Civil Rights Div., Educ. Opportunities Section, Apr. 9, 2013 (intervention by the Department of Justice to require Wisconsin to implement policies and practices to eliminate discrimination against students with disabilities in its administration of the Milwaukee voucher program).
- 5. Nat'l Center for Educ. Statistics, School Choice in the United States: 2019, 22 (Sept. 2019).