

# Why Parents United for Responsible Education OPPOSES SB 2494 (voucher bill) and SUPPORTS HB 174 or other fair funding for PUBLIC schools

*What if our state elected officials went to Springfield  
and all our children, parents, schools, and communities got was a handful of vouchers?*

**That would be shameful.**

**Here's why PURE opposes vouchers:**

- 1) VOUCHERS DON'T WORK!** The research is clear.
- 2) Parents prefer strong local neighborhood schools.** Vouchers do nothing for the vast majority of students. Who will champion them?
- 3) In a time of severe budget crisis,** vouchers redirect scarce funds to private and/or religious schools which are not accountable to the public and do not accept all students.
- 4) Vouchers distract us from the real work** of improving schools for all of our children.

What should you support instead? PURE advocates for the wholistic approach to school reform detailed in the studies by the Consortium on Chicago School Research, Strategic Learning Initiatives, and Designs for Change, which strengthen local neighborhood schools, support teachers, and involve parents. See our web site, <http://pureparents.org/data/files/PUREapproach.pdf>

**Here's why PURE supports HB 174**

- 1) The proposal is our best chance to end Illinois' long-time underfunding of its schools, which is a national embarrassment.
- 2) The proposal will modernize the state's tax structure and make the system fairer. This helps families and students.
- 3) The proposal will help avoid severe school resource and personnel cuts at a time when schools and teachers will be held to even higher national standards. Do we want Illinois to fail in that area as well?

Thanks for your help. Please feel free to call (312-491-9101) or e-mail me ([pure@pureparents.org](mailto:pure@pureparents.org)) if you have questions about PURE's position.

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