



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

12 p.m. CT, Saturday, October 7, 2023

Texans of All Political Stripes Reject Private School Vouchers, Will Rally for the Future of Public Education

Texas public school advocates will call on the Texas Legislature to reject private school vouchers at the Capitol on Saturday in anticipation of a special session starting Monday.

Austin, Texas — After a regular legislative session that, despite a record state budget surplus, ended with no increase in per-student funding for Texas schools, and with a special session on taxpayer-funded vouchers called for October 9, public education advocates from across the state are gathering at the Texas Capitol this Saturday to send a clear and loud message: **Texans do not want taxpayer-funded vouchers. There is no deal we will accept.**

“The education of 5.4 million Texas school children must be our state’s priority,” said Troy Reynolds, an educator and founder of Texans for Public Education. “Private school vouchers take money away from our public schools, fail to hold private schools to the same standards as public schools, and distract from the legislature’s constitutional obligation to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools. **We are united in our opposition to private school vouchers!**”

What: Supporters of public education from across the state, including parents, grandparents, pastors, teachers, students, businesspeople, school board trustees, school superintendents and Texas taxpayers are joining together to say NO to private school VOUCHERS!

When: Noon - 1:30 p.m., Saturday, October 7, 2023

Where: South Steps of the Texas State Capitol, Austin, TX

Speaker List (partial)

- Troy Reynolds, Texans for Public Education
- Reverend Natalie Webb, University Baptist Church
- Jaime Puente, Every Texan
- Arati Singh, President Austin ISD Board of Trustees
- Bruce Gearing Leander ISD Superintendent
- Tammy Conrad, Teacher Round Rock ISD
- Zarqa Fatima, Valedictorian, Navarro ECHS Austin ISD
- Jeannie Lehman Lopez, Parent
- Emily Hersh, Librarian, Navarro ECHS
- Bishop John Ogletree, First Metropolitan Baptist Church, Houston
- Monty Exter, Coalition for Public Schools

Student Performances:

- Martin Middle School Marching Band
- Akins High School Mariachi Orquestra

Save Texas Schools - Boot Vouchers Texas Rally is sponsored by the following organizations:

A Voice for Public Schools, Access Education RRISD, ACLU, Association of Texas Professional Educators, Austin Council PTA, Austin Voices for Education and Youth, Coalition for Public Schools, Common Cause, Defense of Democracy, Every Texan,

Friends of Texas Public Schools, Grandparents for Public Schools, Ground Game Texas, Indian American Coalition of Central Texas, Intercultural Development Research Association, Interfaith Alliance, Just Fund It Texas, League of Independent Voters, League of Women Voters, Mothers for Democracy, Pastors for Texas Children, Stand Up for Klein ISD, Texans for Public Education, Texas American Federation of Teachers, Texas Classroom Teachers Association, Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education, Texas Grassroots Alliance, Texas Legislative Education Equity Coalition, Texas Parent PAC, Texas Rural Education Association, Texas State Teachers Association, United Educators Association

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