



Talking Points

The DCSD voucher program, was illegal, inequitable, lacked accountability and was financially flawed.

The Douglas County School District (DCSD) voucher program was stopped on August 12, 2011 when the trial court ruled that the voucher program violated 6 separate provisions of the Colorado Constitution and the Public School Finance Act. DCSD appealed the trial court decision. The appellate court will hear the case on November 19, 2012.

The voucher program lacked equity:

- Out of 21 private school partners, only one was designed for special needs students. Tuition at the school was \$18,000.
- Private schools could refuse DC students.
- Private schools by definition can discriminate.

The voucher program lacked accountability for spending tax dollars:

- Once received by the private school, DCSD had no say on how the private school would spend tax dollars earmarked for public education.
- DCSD stated that the private schools academic quality and financial stability must meet or exceed the quality of DCSD schools, yet the rubric was never created to verify if the private school met these criteria.

The voucher program was financially flawed:

- The voucher program ignored economies of scale. If you remove one student from a classroom, revenue is lost, and there is zero savings, a teacher is still teaching and lights are still turned on.
- The voucher program with 500 students would have drained \$3 million from our public schools. The \$400,000 PPR remaining with DCSD was needed to cover administration of the voucher program, as well as bring voucher students back into DCSD to administer state mandated tests. Any money left over would not have been enough to mitigate the \$3 million lost.

We believe that the voucher program creates a two tier system of education and is one step in the process to privatize education. The privatization of education would segregate students on a socioeconomic basis, schools for the haves and schools for the have nots.

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