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### **TSTA opposes vouchers, other schemes that steal from public schools**

The Texas State Teachers Association today reaffirmed its opposition to vouchers and similar schemes – including education savings accounts and tax credit scholarships -- for diverting tax dollars from neighborhood public schools to private schools.

“I don’t care what you call it or how you try to disguise it, a voucher is a voucher is a voucher. It would steal tax money from the vast majority of children who will continue to be educated in under-funded public schools so that a select few students can spend it on private school tuition,” said TSTA President Noel Candelaria.

“If ‘choice’ were really the issue, senators would be talking about supporting our public schools, because public schools offer more career choices and educational programs than private schools. For most parents, private schools are not a choice because even with a voucher, most private schools are simply not affordable,” Candelaria noted.

“Whatever name they come up with next, when private school operators try to get their hands on public tax dollars, they are looking to take billions of already inadequate education funds away from our neighborhood schools to serve their economic interests, not our students,” he added.

Candelaria said that legislators, instead of chasing unproven privatization schemes, need to invest more resources into public schools to give every student an opportunity to succeed. Texas spends about \$2,700 per student below the national average, ranking Texas in the bottom tier of states in its financial commitment to school children. As public school enrollment in Texas increases by about 80,000 students each year, many school districts are still struggling to recover from the \$5.4 billion the legislative majority slashed from public education in 2011.