



Contact:

Clay Robison

512-476-5355, ext. 1233

512-535-8994

clayr@tsta.org

March 26, 2015

TSTA: Fund public schools; don't waste tax dollars on vouchers

The Texas State Teachers Association today reaffirmed its strong opposition to both voucher bills, SB4 and SB276, set for hearing before the Senate Education Committee.

“At a time when our neighborhood public schools have been shortchanged, the state of Texas cannot afford to fund a separate system of private schools that does nothing to improve low-performing schools,” said TSTA President Noel Candelaria. “The vast majority of Texas children will continue to be educated in public schools, and their schools will suffer should the Legislature vote to siphon tax dollars to help a few kids pay tuition at private schools.”

“Despite the grandiose, over-inflated promises of voucher advocates, vouchers would not improve education in Texas or improve educational opportunities for low-income children,” he added. “Even with vouchers, most low-income families still would be unable to afford the cost of sending their children to most private schools.”

Candelaria also cited a Jan. 9 Austin American-Statesman editorial debunking as “hogwash” a report by economist-for-hire Arthur Laffer claiming that vouchers would improve student performance, raise graduation rates and add billions of dollars to the state economy.

<http://www.statesman.com/news/news/opinion/vouchers-dont-equate-to-better-education-hurt-scho/njibX/>

