Trump's School Voucher Program

Susan Spicka
Executive Director
Education Voters of PA

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of Pennsylvania

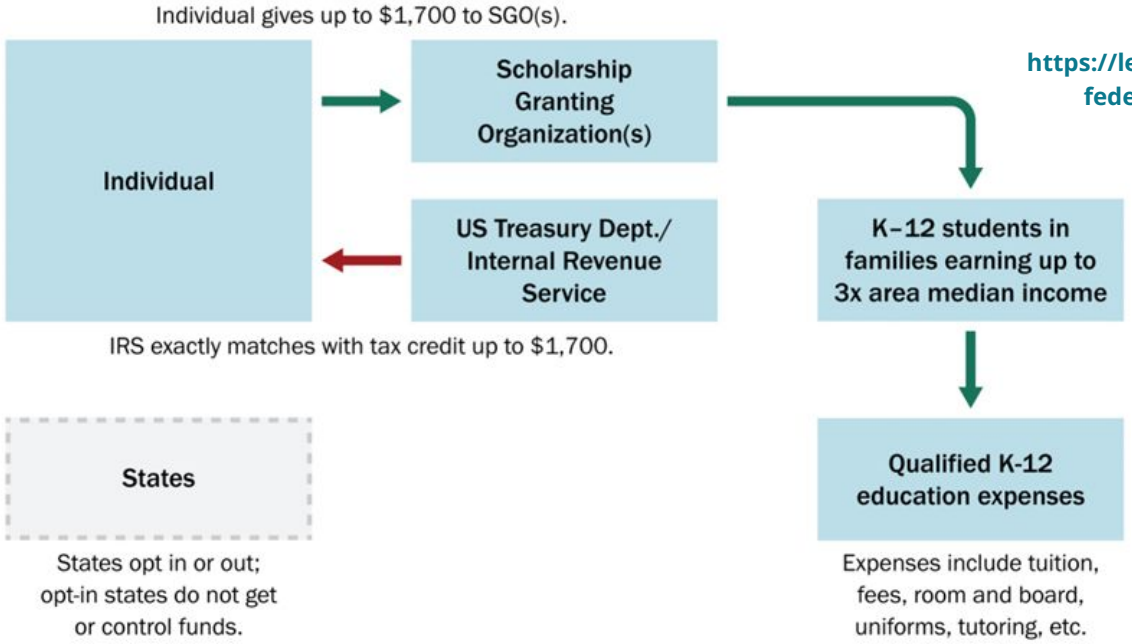
Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure elected officials adopt and implement a pro-public education agenda. To that end, we advocate for sound education policy and build and mobilize the public will to ensure that support for quality public education and an opportunity to learn for all children is a top priority for key decision makers.

The Trump Federal Tax Credit Scholarship Program is a voucher program funded with tax dollars diverted from the federal Treasury.

- This program provides a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit up to $1,700 for taxpayer contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) that distribute vouchers. **Governors must actively opt their states into the program annually to participate.**
- The Trump school voucher program will direct money out of the US Treasury and into vouchers for students for private and religious schools and the private intermediary organizations that funnel money to them. The dollars that will fund vouchers will be unavailable to fund public education.
- The program begins in January 2027, when SGOs may begin collecting contributions from individuals participating in the program. Contributors to the program will receive a tax credit on the taxes they file in 2028.

Funding Mechanism and Flow



Source: P.L. 119-21

LEARNING POLICY INSTITUTE

Source: https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/federal-scholarship-tax-credit-tool

Requirements for SGOs

- Must be a 501c3, nonprofit organization.
- Must be located in the state where the SGO operates, although Treasury may allow out-of-state/multi-state SGOs.
- SGOs must award 90% of the funds to 10 or more K-12 students. At least two of these students must attend different schools.
- SGOs determine how much money to allocate to each student. They could award $100 or $50,000 to an individual student.

Pennsylvania will NOT have any influence on how the program will be administered if Gov. Shapiro opts in.

Preview guidance from the US Treasury Department made on June 9, 2026, indicates that states will not be allowed to impose any restrictions or limitations on the program within their states that are not specifically detailed in the legislation.



“States may not impose substantive SGO specific requirements that are more restrictive than section [the federal statutory] requirements.”

- **Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy Kevin Salinger**

States will not be able to restrict federal voucher funds to students with the greatest financial need or align income eligibility with current state tax credit voucher programs.

The federal family income eligibility thresholds will be limited to households with incomes **not greater than 300% of the area's median gross income.**

An Ed Choice analysis finds that family income limits in Pennsylvania range from **a low of $204,000 in Forest County to $368,100 in Philadelphia and the collar counties.**

This income limit far outstrips the income limit used by Pennsylvania's current Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs, which **restrict scholarships to students whose household's annual income is no greater than $116,055 plus $20,428 for each dependent member of the household.**

FEDERAL TAX CREDITS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS (FTCS)
HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS BY COUNTY

IN EVERY PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY, ELIGIBILITY EXCEEDS $200,000.

COUNTY	HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMIT
Adams	$320,400
Allegheny	$331,200
Armstrong	$243,900
Beaver	$331,200
Bedford	$254,700
Berks	$306,300
Blair	$277,200
Bradford	$262,200
Bucks	$368,100
Butler	$331,200
Cambria	$253,500
Cameron	$209,700
Carbon	$313,200
Centre	$354,900
Chester	$368,100
Clarion	$256,200
Clearfield	$254,100
Clinton	$239,400
Columbia	$272,400
Crawford	$235,500
Cumberland	$327,900

COUNTY	HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMIT
Lancaster	$327,600
Lawrence	$260,700
Lebanon	$294,600
Lehigh	$313,200
Luzerne	$277,200
Lycoming	$255,600
McKean	$252,600
Mercer	$250,800
Mifflin	$244,200
Monroe	$284,700
Montgomery	$368,100
Montour	$294,600
Northampton	$313,200
Northumberland	$256,800
Perry	$327,900
Philadelphia	$368,100
Pike	$301,500
Potter	$242,400
Schuylkill	$256,800
Snyder	$252,300
Somerset	$250,500

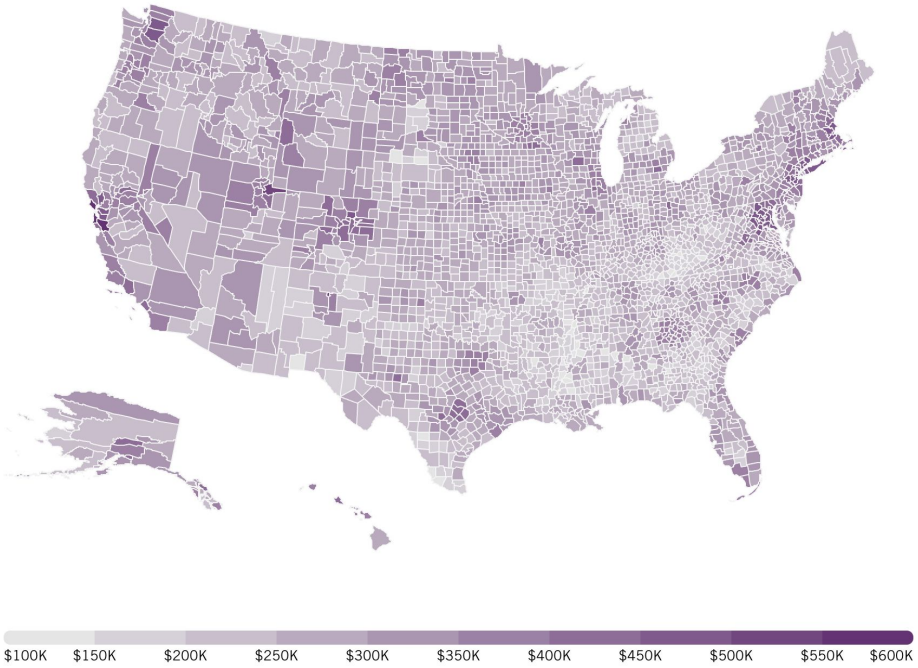
COUNTY	HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMIT
Dauphin	$327,900
Delaware	$368,100
Elk	$265,800
Erie	$265,800
Fayette	$331,200
Forest	$204,000
Franklin	$299,400
Fulton	$264,600
Greene	$272,100
Huntingdon	$265,800
Indiana	$251,400
Jefferson	$232,800
Juniata	$247,800
Lackawanna	$277,200

COUNTY	HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMIT
Sullivan	$273,000
Susquehanna	$264,900
Tioga	$244,200
Union	$309,300
Venango	$243,900
Warren	$240,000
Washington	$331,200
Wayne	$254,400
Westmoreland	$331,200
Wyoming	$277,200
York	$317,700
Westmoreland	$331,200
Wyoming	$277,200
York	$317,700

Source: Ed Choice, Scholarship Recipients for the New Federal Tax Credit for Scholarships
https://www.edchoice.org/2026-updated-eligibility-income-limits/

Federal Tax Credits for Scholarships (FTCS) Household Income Limits by County (FY26)

Hover over a county below to see that area's income limit for eligibility for scholarship recipients for the new FTCS.



This program is near-universal, meaning that voucher dollars would pay the private school tuition of all but the wealthiest families and will serve as a subsidy for the most privileged students in Pennsylvania.

Full interactive map: EdChoice

Public schools will receive NO direct funding from Trump's vouchers

School districts will receive NO direct funding from this program.

Individual public school students may receive funding that will pay for allowable expenses, but school districts will receive no funding from this program.

- **The Trump school voucher program will not function like the Educational Improvement Organization (EIO) program,** which is part of Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, where organizations are allowed to fund programming and services that benefit students in school districts as a whole.
- Funding will be designated as a voucher for a specific student to cover specific costs.
- To receive voucher funding through this program, each student's family income must be verified.

Trump's voucher funding can only be used to pay for fees that school districts charge famlies.

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The District Charges Students for a Service. Then the Voucher Runaround Begins.

1 THE DISTRICT CHARGES FAMILIES A FEE FOR A SERVICE.

Families want a voucher to pay the fee.

2 FAMILIES APPLY FOR A VOUCHER FROM AN SGO.

The SGO processes requests, verifies family incomes, and bases awards on available funding.

*SGO=scholarship granting orgaization

3 STUDENTS WAIT TO SEE IF THEY WIN THE VOUCHER LOTTERY.

There is no guarantee students will be awarded any money.

4 THE SGO SENDS ACCEPTANCE LETTERS,

ONLY to those who are lucky enough to be awarded a voucher.

5 SGO USES A VOUCHER TO PAY THE FEES OF LUCKY FAMILIES,

while unlucky families pay the bill themselves or do not receive the service.

THE FEDERAL VOUCHER LOOP SCAM

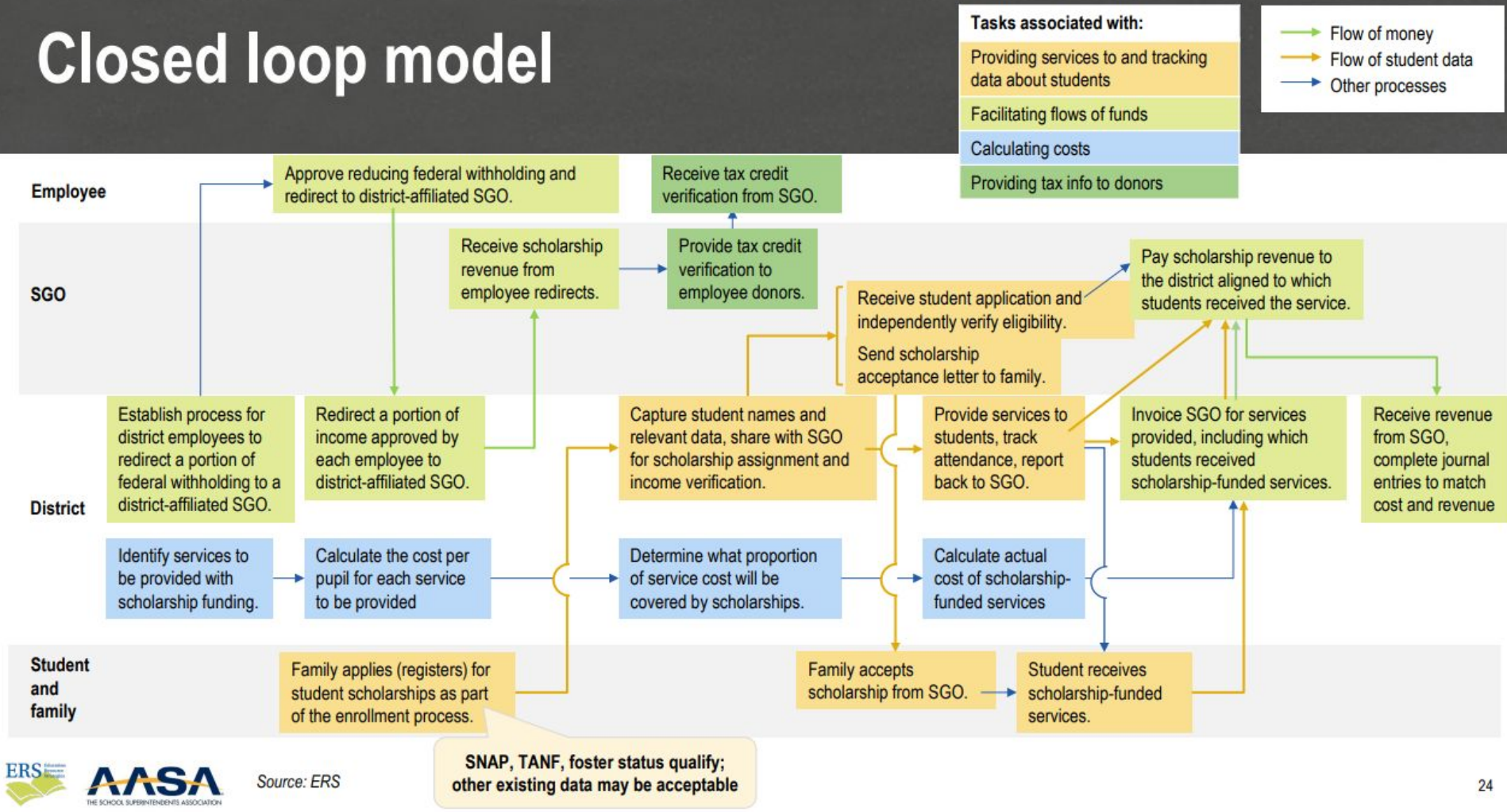


VOUCHER FUNDS ARE NEVER PAID DIRECTLY TO DISTRICTS TO SUPPORT THEIR BUDGETS.

FAMILIES THAT MAKE UP TO $368K ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE VOUCHERS.

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Closed loop model



Source: ERS

The language for what can be paid for with voucher dollars is specific to Coverdell expenses

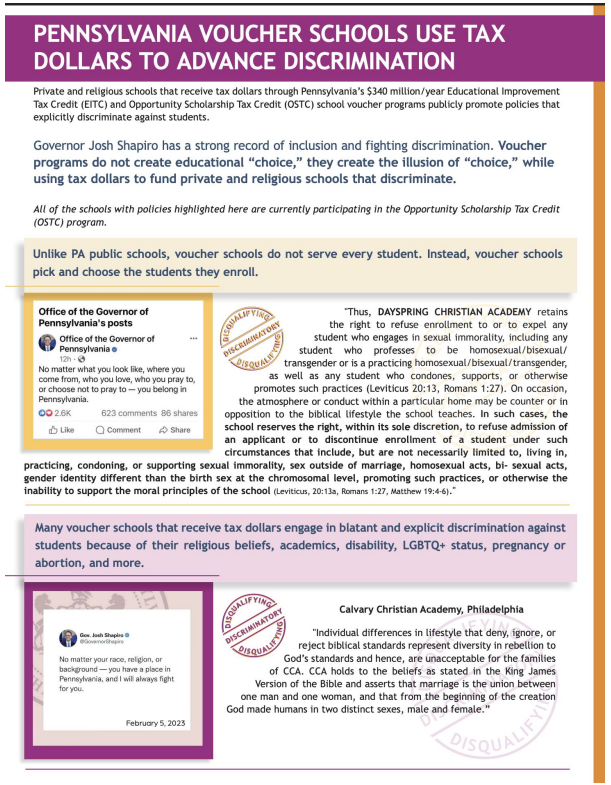
However, recent regulations omit what constitutes eligible expenses so it is not yet clear how or ***or even if*** voucher dollars could reach public schools.

****In Pennsylvania's public schools, most of these expenses are already included as part of public education. Families are not charged for these expenses and would not be eligible for a voucher if they have no out-of-pocket expenses.**

Federal voucher dollars will be used to fund private and religious schools that discriminate against students.

States will not be allowed to prohibit federal voucher dollars from funding private and religious schools that discriminate against their students or employees because of their disability, religion, academics, LGBTQ+ status, pregnancy or abortion, or a school's subjective determination of whether a student is the "right fit" for the school or not.

Only public schools educate all students who come through their doors. Private schools choose the students they educate.



PENNSYLVANIA VOUCHER SCHOOLS USE TAX DOLLARS TO ADVANCE DISCRIMINATION

Private and religious schools that receive tax dollars through Pennsylvania's $340 million/year Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) school voucher programs publicly promote policies that explicitly discriminate against students.

Governor Josh Shapiro has a strong record of inclusion and fighting discrimination. **Voucher programs do not create educational "choice," they create the illusion of "choice," while using tax dollars to fund private and religious schools that discriminate.**

All of the schools with policies highlighted here are currently participating in the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program.

Unlike PA public schools, voucher schools do not serve every student. Instead, voucher schools pick and choose the students they enroll.

Office of the Governor of Pennsylvania's posts

Office of the Governor of Pennsylvania · 12h

No matter what you look like, where you come from, who you love, who you pray to, or choose not to pray to — you belong in Pennsylvania.

2.6K 623 comments 86 shares

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QUALIFYING DISCRIMINATORY DISQUALIFYING

"Thus, **DAYSPRING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY** retains the right to refuse enrollment to or to expel any student who engages in sexual immorality, including any student who professes to be homosexual/bisexual/transgender or is a practicing homosexual/bisexual/transgender, as well as any student who condones, supports, or otherwise promotes such practices (Leviticus 20:13, Romans 1:27). On occasion, the atmosphere or conduct within a particular home may be counter or in opposition to the biblical lifestyle the school teaches. **In such cases, the school reserves the right, within its sole discretion, to refuse admission of an applicant or to discontinue enrollment of a student under such circumstances that include, but are not necessarily limited to, living in, practicing, condoning, or supporting sexual immorality, sex outside of marriage, homosexual acts, bi- sexual acts, gender identity different than the birth sex at the chromosomal level, promoting such practices, or otherwise the inability to support the moral principles of the school** (Leviticus, 20:13a, Romans 1:27, Matthew 19:4-6)."

Many voucher schools that receive tax dollars engage in blatant and explicit discrimination against students because of their religious beliefs, academics, disability, LGBTQ+ status, pregnancy or abortion, and more.

Gov. Josh Shapiro @GovernorShapiro

No matter your race, religion, or background — you have a place in Pennsylvania, and I will always fight for you.

February 5, 2023

QUALIFYING DISCRIMINATORY DISQUALIFYING

Calvary Christian Academy, Philadelphia

"Individual differences in lifestyle that deny, ignore, or reject biblical standards represent diversity in rebellion to God's standards and hence, are unacceptable for the families of CCA. CCA holds to the beliefs as stated in the King James Version of the Bible and asserts that marriage is the union between one man and one woman, and that from the beginning of the creation God made humans in two distinct sexes, male and female."

DISQUALIFYING

[Read our full report on discriminatory policies in PA's private schools HERE]

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The costs could be substantial for Pennsylvania taxpayers to set up and administer the Trump school voucher program.

While we don't know the exact costs we can compare the costs of other states who have already opted into this program.

For example, the Florida legislature has allocated $2 million to the Florida Department of Education to develop an administrative platform for the Trump school voucher program. This does not include funding for recurring costs that will be required to administer the program each year.

Florida Legislature Finalizes Education Budget Adjusting Voucher And Teacher Pay Funding

Danielle Shockey June 1, 2026 11:12 am



Bay Point Middle School, St. Petersburg (File)

Potential participation in Trump's voucher program.

Organizations best positioned to take advantage of the Trump school voucher program:

- Elite private schools that serve affluent families and already have their own scholarship organizations for Pennsylvania's EITC/OSTC programs where these families already make contributions.
- Existing special purpose entities that have lists of wealthy individuals that participate in Pennsylvania EITC/OSTC programs.
- Schools that are connected to churches and churches that start new schools.

Organizations least well positioned to take advantage of the Trump school voucher program:

Those seeking to support students in low-income communities where many potential donors and families of children who would benefit from the program have a federal tax liability that is less than $1700.

“Title I for Rich Kids”

The Brookings Institute commentary details

- Treasury’s proposed regulations give states an all-or-nothing choice on the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit (FSTC), with little control over what happens if they opt in.
- Projected to reach $26 billion by 2030, the FSTC could grow larger than Title I but benefit wealthy communities rather than poor communities.
- The FSTC leaves extraordinary room for waste, fraud, and abuse, setting up a rollout year likely to be marked by scandals.
- The politics of the tax credit remain unsettled, and a future Democratic administration could overhaul or repeal it, possibly redirecting the funds to an expanded child tax credit.

Conclusion

When **Governor Tina Kotek** opted Oregon out of the program, she stated, “At this point, I simply cannot trust that any education policy coming from Trump’s White House is in the best interest of Oregon’s kids and our public education system.”

The same can be said for Pennsylvania kids and our public education system.



Take Action!

Text Governor Shapiro and tell him to REJECT Trump's school voucher program!

717-788-8990

Thank you!

Questions?

SSpicka@educationvoterspa.org

www.EdVotersPA.org



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