The Texas Association of Community Schools opposes the diversion of public funds for vouchers, tax credits, education saving accounts, or any other funding mechanism that funnels state funds to private schools, home-schooled students, or parents with no academic or financial accountability or transparency to the state, taxpayers, or communities.

HISTORY
The State of Texas has never provided public dollars for private education through legislation or appropriation. However, for the past twenty years, the State has had a variety of policy proposals which would have initiated such programs. Vouchers are taxpayer funded subsidies for private schools and vendors with little or no accountability.

TALKING POINTS
• Education Savings Accounts, virtual vouchers, and tax credit scholarships are all examples of vouchers. All of these programs convert public money and allow individuals to utilize the amounts for private schools.
• Public schools represent an opportunity to better ALL of society not just those who can afford it.
• Public schools are accountable to their communities and the state.
  ◦ Private education entities do not have to adhere to the state accountability system for academics or finances.
• Public schools accept ALL students.
  ◦ Many state programs simply subsidize education for children who would have likely chosen private education anyway and lack the amounts necessary to cover the tuition for the most prestigious and sought-after private schools.
• Research shows declines in academic achievement under voucher programs offered in other states.
  ◦ Public schools frequently outperform private vendors.
• Public schools must adhere to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and have a system of protections for special education students.
  ◦ Many special education students would have no private options under a voucher system.
• The system in Texas already allows school choice via inter- and intra- school transfers as well as charters and other options.