NCPE National Coalition for PUBLIC EDUCATION

FINDINGS OF THE 2007 DEP'T OF EDUCATION D.C. VOUCHER EVALUATION

U.S. Dep't of Education, *Evaluation of the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program: Impacts After One Year* (June 2007).

Attending a Private Voucher School Did Not Improve Students' Academic Achievement.

- There was no positive impact "on student achievement in general after 1 year."
- "[T]here were no statistically significant impacts of the program on reading or math achievement in the first year."
- "No statistically significant achievement impacts were observed for the high-priority subgroup of students who had attended a SINI ["School in Need of Improvement"] public school under NCLB before applying to the program."

Source: *2007 U.S. Dep't of Ed. Report* at xviii, xx, 44, 46.

Participating in the Voucher School Did Not Have a Positive Impact on Student Safety or Satisfaction.

- Participating in the voucher program* had a substantial positive impact on parents' views of school safety but not on students' ***actual*** school experiences with dangerous activities.
- Students participating in the voucher program "are no more or less satisfied with their schools" than those not in the program.

Source: *2007 U.S. Dep't of Ed. Report* at xx, I-4.

The Voucher Program Decreased Student Access to Key Services.

Service	% of Students Offered or Using a Voucher With Access to the Service	% of Students Not Participating in the Voucher Program With Access to the Service
ESL Programs	19%	57%
Learning Support/ Special Needs	51%	89%
Counselors	75%	82%
Nurse's Office	29%	85%
Cafeteria	74%	88%

Source: *2007 U.S. Dep't of Ed. Report* at 21.

The Vast Majority of Voucher Students Attended Faith-Based Schools.

- In year one, nearly two-thirds of students in the program attended a Roman Catholic school, 17% attended a non-Catholic, faith-based school, and only 18% were enrolled in nonsectarian private schools.

Source: *2007 U.S. Dep't of Ed. Report* at 19.

* In accordance with the report, participation "in the program" includes all students *offered* a voucher, regardless of whether they used the voucher.

NCPE

The **National Coalition for Public Education** comprises more than 50 education, civic, civil rights, and religious organizations devoted to the support of public schools. Founded in 1978, NCPE opposes the funnelling of public money to private and religious schools through such mechanisms as tuition tax credits and vouchers.

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