



ALLIANCE FOR SCHOOL CHOICE

## The Public Supports Private School Choice

**Scientific polls conducted in 2007 demonstrate that the majority of Americans believe that children are not getting the quality education they deserve from public schools.**

- Sixty-four percent of Americans are dissatisfied with the quality of public education in America. And more than half think that American public schools are below average or among the worst when compared to schools in Europe (*The Economist/YouGov Poll*).
- When grading their local public schools, 56 percent of people give grades of C, D, or F. Notably, 73 percent of African-Americans and 61 percent of Hispanics give these low grades to their local public schools. And more than three-quarters of Americans give these low grades to public schools nationally (*Education Next-PEPG Survey*).
- Sixty-one percent of Americans think that private schools in their area are usually better than public schools nationally. Two out of three people believe that private schools give students an advantage in life (*The Economist/YouGov Poll*).

**More than half of Americans support vouchers or tax credit programs.**

- The majority of Americans—53 percent—support giving parents vouchers to pay for private school tuition for their children (*The Economist/YouGov Poll*).
- Also, the majority of Americans—53 percent—believe that low income families who send their children to private schools should be provided with tax credits (*Education Next-PEPG Survey*).
- By a margin of two to one, Americans support allowing students in failing schools to transfer to private schools. Even 51 percent of public school employees support giving these students private school choice, compared to 29 percent who oppose it (*Education Next-PEPG Survey*).

**Support for school choice is strongest among African-Americans and Hispanics.**

- The majority of African-Americans—68 percent—and Hispanics—61 percent—support vouchers for low-income children to attend private schools. And, African-American and Hispanics support allowing all students in failing schools to transfer to a private school by a margin of 3 to 1 (*Education Next-PEPG Survey*).
- African-Americans and Hispanics are also strong supporters of tax credits for low-income parents who send their children to private schools, with 67 percent and 60 percent, respectively, supporting such a measure (*Education Next-PEPG Survey*).
- When it comes to voting, 65 percent of Hispanics are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports school choice, compared to only 19 percent who say that they are less likely to vote for that candidate (*Alliance for School Choice/Hispanic CREO Poll*).

1. Alliance for School Choice/Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options (Hispanic CREO) Poll, May 2007, [AllianceForSchoolChoice.org](http://AllianceForSchoolChoice.org).

2. *The Economist/YouGov Poll* 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> November 2007, *Economist.com*.

3. William G. Howell, Martin R. West and Paul Peterson, "What Americans Think about Their Schools: The 2007 *Education Next-PEPG Survey*," *Education Next* (Fall 2007), p 12-26.