



September 2024 Update

Summit on Reclaiming Education as a Public Good

On August 24, A4PEP worked in collaboration with 15 other organizations to hold the in-person summit, “Reclaiming Education as a Public Good.” The day was filled with presentations by national figures Diane Ravitch and Jack Schneider and local Colorado education experts from around the state. The goal was to develop strategies for combatting the “reform” movement that promotes privatization in education. The energy and enthusiasm in the room was electrifying.

If you missed it, you can view the [videos](#) of the keynote speakers and the panels; they are also on our website: www.a4pep.org/summit-on-reclaiming-education. Follow-up on all the amazing strategies brainstormed at the Summit have been sent to the attendees and representatives of the sponsoring groups.

We all know that it will be a hard-fought battle to keep corporate privatization out of our schools and to make changes that improve public education. We also know that public education for all is the right battle for our democracy, our education system, and our kids. A4PEP is committed to continue working with and building on the coalition to reclaim education as a public good.

Opposition to Amendment 80, Constitutional Right to School Choice

POSITION STATEMENT:

Advocates for Public Education Policy opposes Amendment 80. While this measure seems to simply expand options that parents may choose for their children’s education, school choice is already legally available in Colorado. Amendment 80 takes a permanent first step towards creating a voucher system. This measure is UNNECESSARY, MISLEADING, AND DANGEROUS!

It is unnecessary.

- Parents already have the right to choose any of the options listed in the amendment – neighborhood, charter, private, or home schools. **There is no need to put this in the state Constitution.**
- Although the word “voucher” does not appear in Amendment 80, it creates a pathway to allow tax dollars to be used for private and religious institutions, diverting already scarce funding from public schools. Colorado has one of the lowest-funded school systems in the nation.
- The potential reduction in state education funding would significantly harm rural schools.

It is misleading.

- Putting school choice in the state Constitution would override many education laws, policies, and protections and could have vast unintended consequences.
- Allowing parents to “direct the education” of their children is very vague. It could be misinterpreted, creating conflicts between different parents’ demands and violating the rights of other students.
- It would open the door to costly legal battles because every disagreement a parent had with a local policy or current law could end up in court.

It is dangerous.

- Diverting money from public schools to pay for expensive private school tuition would likely create a devastating budget deficit in Colorado, as similar measures did in other states.
- The amendment includes “any future innovations in education,” which is not defined and could allow for forms of schooling that are radical or discriminatory.

A high-quality, well-funded public school system for all students is critical for strong, prosperous communities and our state’s future.

SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS – VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 80!

Please spread the word!! More information about the No on 80 campaign can be found on our website under “2024 Actions” on the [2024 Actions & Advocacy page](#). Please read [Mike DeGuire’s op-ed](#) on the amendment.