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Apr 27, 2011

Indiana lawmakers OK nation's most sweeping school voucher plan

04:33 PM

By [Michael Winter](#), USA TODAY

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In a major victory for Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels, Indiana lawmakers today approved legislation that [creates the nation's most sweeping system of taxpayer funding for private schools](#).

The voucher plan, a cornerstone of Daniels' education overhaul, cleared the Republican-controlled House, 55-43. Lawmakers also approved a bill to ease and expand creation of charter schools.

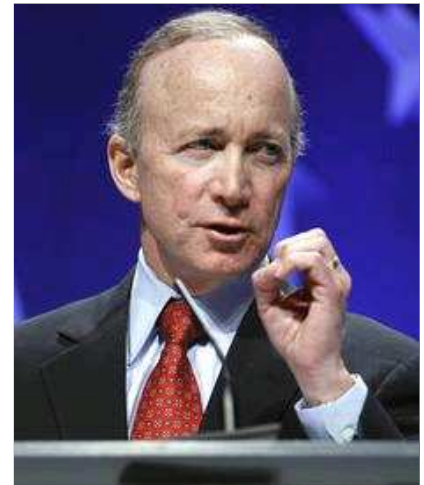
The Associated Press writes that the new voucher system "would allow even middle-class families to use taxpayer money to send their children to private schools." Voucher programs are normally limited to disadvantaged families.

The *Evansville Courier & Press* has [details of the plan](#).

The measure now heads to Daniels, who is pondering a run for the White House.

Education Week points to [an analysis by the libertarian Cato Institute](#) that contends the legislation would not prevent parents from "double dipping" into another state voucher program, thereby increasing the burden on the state's finances.

Tags:

[Mitch Daniels](#)

CAPTION

By Jose Luis Magana, AP

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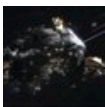
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Labontefan4318 (16 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 48m ago

This is strictly an attempt by mediocre performing states to not have to be embarrassed by their Mississippi style rankings in national education. Charter and private schools don't have to do state competency testing of the students. Notice it is red states going the voucher route. And red states consistently rank in bottom half of education. In truth, it doesn't matter what type of school and you send the kids to. When your kid is the product of cousin marrying cousin or brother marrying sister no amount of education will help that. To quote Ron White." you can't fix stupid".

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Deep Cover (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 46m ago

I like that the state is doing "something", however, I am pretty much against vouchers.

Vouchers DO NOT help low income students attend private schools. Here is what really happens.

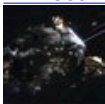
Let's say that an elite, private school costs \$15k per year to attend and the state grants a voucher worth \$10k for everyone to attend. What then happens the elite, private school raises its tuition to \$25k per year. That way they get the gov't \$10k plus the "market rate" of students willing to pay the original \$15k.

What we have here is WELFARE to elite, private schools (who didn't need the money anyway and are just using the money to increase their gross margins). Meanwhile, Tea Party members then complain about how high their property taxes are and do not increase funding for the educational budget. The private school LOBBY won't allow the state to cut the voucher program and will NOT EDUCATED poor, inner city school kids. So basically you have "starved" the public education system of funds and they are forced to do much more with less.

So the result is the weakening of the public education system. Then the governor is going to complain when public school teachers go on strike b/c they didn't receive a pay raise in 5 years and you cut their health insurance.

...oh what a tangled web we weave.

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Labontefan4318 (16 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 40m ago

eonyy (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 11h 29m ago

Can I use voucher and have the public pay to enroll my child in the Osama Bin Laden School of Muslim Studies?

=====

As long as it would be accredited in IN and meet whatever specific standards the state requires to be considered a "school" then I would think the answer would be "yes".

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liwop1 (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 36m ago

profbam (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 9h 30m ago

What requirements will be placed on private schools in order to take vouchers? How many special ed teachers for every 100 students? Will Christian evangelical schools have to teach science--as in "big bang theory", the fact of evolution, the age of the universe and the earth, etc.? Will teachers have to meet state requirements? Who will determine acceptance standards? Expulsion standards? Why do the Republicans want to take over and control private education? Any school principal who accepts vouchers should be fired for selling out!

+++++

Written like a true Teachers Union minion.

Competition in education will prove that the UNIONS have ruined our education system just as they did with the auto, steel, Clothing and numerous industries in this country.

The sooner this concept is applied across the country, the sooner we will have a citizenry that is better informed. Until then we will continue to see a decline in the way this country is run.

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STYLZE (13 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 15m ago

Hopefully this will be a good start in the downsizing of our public school system in Indiana and gear funds and taxes towards programs and institutions that care more about directional education versus political herding of our children through a senseless gauntlet of bureaucracy.

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Dennis C (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 35m ago

This is much better than charging a homeless mother with felony theft for getting her child into a good school in Connecticut by using her Babysitters address. Apparently, She should have gone back to the inner city where her kind belongs. Because that was the last address she had before being evicted. Indiana could sure use some of those standards of education. None of this nonsense where a child can be placed in a school that, in the opinion of the parent(s), will give a quality education to that child.

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Ima Federalist (14 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 1h 58m ago

We pay taxes to educate our children. Why can't we choose where and how they are educated?

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