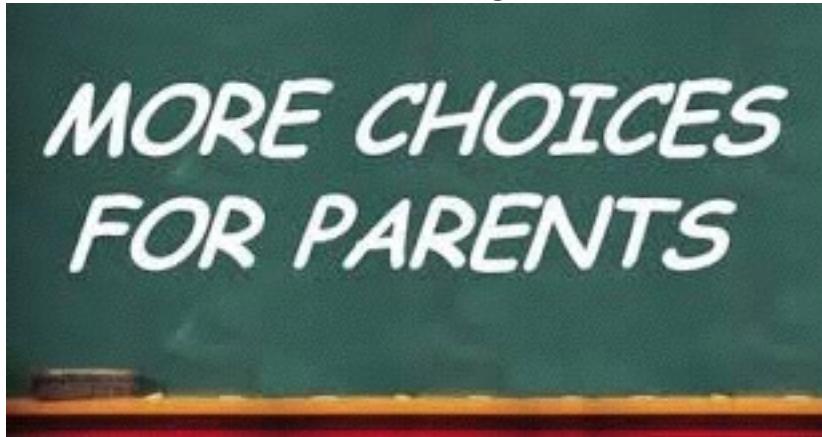


## School Choice in Oregon



Are you concerned about your child's education in a one size fits all environment? Do you find some of curriculum objectionable and the content that is being taught to your child to be contradictory to your values? Do you believe our public schools are meddling in areas that were historically defined as family issues? Are you troubled by the sexually explicit content of K-12 sexuality education material that is being taught to your child? Are you bothered by the government dispensing health care to your child while at school without your knowledge or consent?

If these questions represent concerns for you, take heart, there are organizations and individuals who are fighting for school choice, not only in Oregon, but across the nation. More than half the states offer educational choice, sadly, Oregon is not one of them. School choice as defined by the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice is: "School choice allows public education funds to follow students to the schools or services that best fit their needs - whether that's to a public school, private school, charter school, home school, or any other learning environment parents choose for their kids."

While your education dollar won't follow your child in Oregon, you still have options and resources available to you. As you are working through what is best for your child, keep in mind the following resources.

[Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice](#) - an excellent resource for questions you many have specific to Oregon.

[Homeschool Legal Defense Association](#)

[Oregon Home Education Network](#)

[The League of Oregon Charter Schools](#)

[Private School Review](#)

One of the biggest obstacles to school choice is the teachers' unions: Oregon Education Association (OEA), [National Education Association \(NEA\)](#) and the [American Federation of Teachers \(AFT\)](#). The unions use the money collected from the teachers' annual union dues (approximately \$1000 per teacher) to support such organizations as Planned Parenthood, GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network). These unions are against charter schools, anti-school-choice, while being major donors to political campaigns. This is clearly unfair to teachers who do not support those political stands. How fair is this?

Fairness and equity seem to be the buzzwords that are being thrown around in today's educational lexicon. As parents and guardians we want the best education environment and opportunities for our children.

We want ALL students to be successful and have choices in the school they attend. Where is the fairness and equity to doom children to a system that is failing them? Where is the fairness and equity to have the unions control the outcome of your child's education.