

MYTHS vs FACTS

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON SCHOOL CHOICE

MYTH: “Proponents of school choice want to privatize education.”

Fact: In truth, school choice proponents want to offer alternatives to children who are not a good fit in their assigned public schools.

MYTH: “School choice is hurting public education.”

Fact: The reverse is true. Florida public schools are performing at an all-time high.

MYTH: “Charter schools are not held to the same standards as traditional public schools.”

Fact: Charter schools are held to higher standards than traditional public schools.

MYTH: “Private schools of choice are not held to the same standards as traditional public schools.”

Fact: Private choice schools do operate under different rules, designed to protect their autonomy while providing accountability oversight by the state.

MYTH: “School choice further segregates students.”

Fact: An analysis by the Brookings Institute using years of federal data showed, “There is actually a slight positive (and statistically significant) relationship between choice and diversity...”

MYTH: “School choice takes money away from traditional public schools.”

Fact: Public school funds follow the child, because the child creates the demand for resources. The presence or lack of choice schools doesn't add or subtract funding from traditional public schools.

MYTH: “Being for school choice means you are against traditional public schools.”

Fact: School choice supporters embrace the success of children regardless of what school they attend.

MYTH: “Allowing children to attend religious schools through scholarships is a violation of the separation of church and state.”

Fact: The state does not choose or in any way favor religious schools. Florida makes scholarship money available to parents and they pick the schools. This practice has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

MYTH: “Charter school students do not perform as well as their traditional public school peers.”

Fact: This not only is wrong, the opposite is true.

MYTH: “There are for-profit charter schools.”

Fact: By Florida law, charter schools are public schools and must be formed and governed by a non-profit organization.

