



A CHILD'S SCHOOL IS THE CHILD'S CHOICE



This morning, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos joined a coalition of school choice groups in announcing a new campaign, “A Child’s School is the Child’s Choice,” to empower children throughout the U.S.

The campaign will take school choice decisions from parents and give those choices to children. “For too long,” said DeVos, “parents have stood between their children and the schools those children want to attend. A child’s school should not be dictated by adults.”

Coinciding with the launch, the school choice coalition released the results of a new survey of parents and their children. More than 58 percent of parent respondents voiced support for their kids “taking over the decision-making process” and agreed with the statement that “parents have better things to do with our time.”

Meanwhile, the child respondents were enthusiastic about having a greater say in their own education. While only 16 percent embraced the idea of “researching different school options,” an overwhelming 89 percent agreed that their parents were “totally clueless anyway.”

At the press conference, DeVos introduced nine-year-old Damian Scott, who told reporters, “Now I’ll be able to switch schools when the teachers aren’t being nice. Last year, I got a B in math. Secretary DeVos told me I was a victim of Governmental Tyranny! She is a nice lady, and she gave me cupcakes.”

“Adults,” DeVos explained, “are stuck in the past about what school could and should be, unwilling to try new and exciting approaches.”

That's not the case with children, she said:

Kids know what they want. It might be a challenging curriculum grounded in engaging content and teaching approaches with strong supports and necessary resources. Or it might be candy and video games. But make no mistake: absolutely nobody knows what a student needs to thrive better than that student—not the government and not the student's parents.

NEPC Resources on School Choice

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