



**Jewish Community
Relations Council**

MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

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Jewish Community Relations Council opposes expansion of school choice and vouchers

Milwaukee – The American Jewish Community has long supported public education based upon the conviction that public schools serve a necessary role in bringing together the diverse groups that make up the population. They remain the primary institutions for fostering principles of pluralism, equal opportunity and democratic participation in our society.

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation recognizes that public schools, especially those in our larger cities, face profound social and economic problems. Our public schools desperately need adequate funding. But tuition tax credits or vouchers that can be used to fund a religious education would drain scarce funding from public schools in an effort to support religious establishments. A system of school financing that gives tax credits or vouchers with no income limits or very high caps on a family's ability to pay runs counter to our core values that promote equal opportunity, pluralism, and a shared commitment to poor and vulnerable members of society. We believe that excellence in education for some children cannot be made available at the expense of other children.

The Milwaukee JCRC supports educational reforms that address the following principles:

- Enhancing school governance and decentralization
- Developing and maintaining standards
- Encouraging parental, family and community involvement
- Promoting equitable financial support from government
- Preparing students to learn

The JCRC believes that tuition tax credit and voucher proposals currently pending in the Wisconsin legislature do not advance these principles.