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### **The National Coalition for Public Education Statement on the President's Budget**

Today, NCPE issued the following statement opposing President Donald Trump's budget proposal:

We are greatly disappointed that the President's budget calls for \$1 billion of taxpayer money to fund the expansion and creation of new private school voucher programs. The administration should be focused on strengthening our public schools, which educate 90% of our students, rather than promoting private school vouchers.

Vouchers divert desperately needed resources away from the public school system to fund the education of a few voucher students in private, often religious schools. Voucher programs lack accountability and oversight and are an irresponsible way to spend taxpayer money. Furthermore, they harm our students. Multiple studies have shown that vouchers lead to declines in students' academic achievement. And, private school vouchers do not adequately serve students most in need, including low-income students who often cannot afford private schools even with a voucher and students with disabilities who are not provided all of resources they need or the rights and protections they would otherwise be guaranteed under IDEA.

Vouchers also send taxpayer money to private schools that do not follow the same civil rights laws as public schools and that turn away students for a variety of reasons including, disability, disciplinary history, ability to pay, or religious affiliation. And vouchers threaten the religious freedom of both taxpayers and religious schools. We believe that public funds should fund public schools and, therefore, we urge Congress to reject this budget's voucher proposal.

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Founded in 1978, the National Coalition for Public Education supports public schools and opposes the funneling of public money to private and religious schools through vouchers, tuition tax credits, education savings accounts, and portability. For more information, contact Maggie Garrett (garrett@au.org or 202-898-2140) or Sasha Pudelski (spudelski@aasa.org or 703-8773-6933).