

# Omaha World-Herald

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## The Public Pulse

### **Fund public schools, not charters**

Charter schools and vouchers are not the answer to the metro's education woes. Public schools already compete, giving families a variety of strong choices.

International Baccalaureate schools such as Omaha Central, Lincoln and Millard North compete with magnet schools like Omaha North and academy programs like those at Papillion.

JROTC schools like Bellevue East stand next to early-college programs like those at Millard South.

Charters and vouchers would not save taxpayer dollars. Since vouchers don't cover the full cost of private school tuition, most students would still go to public schools.

They might save money for families already sending their students to private schools but would divert funds from public schools.

Charters and vouchers have not been shown to improve academic outcomes.

They are less democratic. Public schools have board members made up of local citizens. Charter schools are run by executives and committees, held accountable by dollars instead of votes and parents.

Instead of further crippling public schools to support an unreliable system of charters and vouchers, maybe we should actually support the institutions already dedicated to helping our kids and communities.

J.T. Grachek, Omaha