



**\*\*\* NEWS ADVISORY \*\*\***

## **Rally to Support Nebraska Public Schools & Oppose Giving Public Tax Dollars to Private Schools**

**Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m.  
Nebraska State Capitol North Steps**

April 17, 2024, Lincoln – Nebraska public school supporters are encouraged to join teachers and other public education advocates for a rally this Saturday, April 20 at the State Capitol to support public schools and oppose legislation giving public tax dollars to private schools.

“Last summer, more than 117,000 Nebraskans signed a successful referendum petition allowing voters to decide whether they want to divert public tax dollars to pay for private schools,” said Jenni Benson, a Support Our Schools Nebraska member and the president of the NSEA. “As taxpayers and public school advocates, we are committed to continuing the fight to ensure voters’ wishes on this issue are heard and respected.

“It is deeply troubling that Sen. Lou Ann Linehan and her out-of-state billionaires have repeatedly sought to impose costly private school voucher schemes on Nebraska taxpayers. There is substantial evidence from other states showing the harm these voucher programs cause public schools. Vouchers undermine strong public education and student opportunity. They take scarce funding from public schools—which serve 90 percent of students—and give it to private schools—institutions that are not accountable to taxpayers.”

Last summer, it took fewer than 90 days for 117,415 Nebraskans to sign a referendum petition seeking the repeal of LB753, the tax voucher scheme Sen. Linehan pushed through the 2023 legislative session. Voters in every one of Nebraska’s 93 counties signed petitions, and the effort collected at least 5% of the registered voters in 64 of those counties.

State senators are poised to vote tomorrow on LB1402 – an even more draconian voucher scheme proposed by Sen. Linehan that she admitted is an “end-run” around voters that will deny Nebraskans their right to vote in November on whether they support giving public funds to private schools.

“Instead of sending public dollars to private schools, which are under no obligation to serve all children, state funds should be used to support the public schools that 9 out of 10 Nebraska students attend,” said Benson.

*For more information, contact: [Karen.Kilgarin@nsea.org](mailto:Karen.Kilgarin@nsea.org) 402-432-7776  
<https://supportourschoolsnebraska.org/>*