



A Union of Professionals

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Dear Member,

Tomorrow morning you will likely see a story in *The Denver Post* about the Douglas County School District and the Choice Task Force, a committee chartered by the DCSD Board of Education. This Task Force has worked for the last few months on several proposals, one of which includes a plan for the introduction of vouchers, or “option certificates,” in Douglas County.

At the onset, the Choice Task Force was comprised of three BoE members, charter and private school parents, and a very small number of district administrators. As the Task Force continued its work, the “group” grew in membership and included neighborhood parents, teachers, and more district administrators. There are seven “sub-groups” within the task force, each working on different proposals. The voucher, or “option certificate,” proposal has come from a lawyer hired by the BoE, Eric Hall, whose expertise includes vouchers. The exact content of the proposal around vouchers will not be presented to the BoE until their retreat on the 12th and 13th of this month, with public comment to be taken at the November 16th BoE Meeting.

Your representatives in the DCF Office, including myself, and our Executive Boards have been monitoring the progress of the Task Force and will address all major concerns around the introduction of vouchers to DCSD. These concerns include:

- Making sure funds are not diverted from our already financially struggling district
- Ensuring all students are valued and “serviced”
- Requiring high levels of accountability for schools who accept public dollars

In the coming days and weeks, you will have the opportunity to become more informed about this proposal by attending the BoE Meeting on November 16th, reading communications from our office, or contacting our office directly.

We have excellent schools in Douglas County because of the kids you serve, the quality of our employees, and the dedication you bring each and every day.

In Solidarity,

Brenda Smith, President
Douglas County Federation