

## **FACT SHEET**

## Who We Are

Save Our Schools Arizona is a statewide, volunteer group of parents, teachers, entrepreneurs and business leaders. We are Democrats, Republicans, and independents who recognize that it takes better funding, strong schools, and a robust economy to have a strong state.

We are seeking to refer SB1431 – the ESA (voucher) expansion bill – to the voters of Arizona in 2018 so they can vote NO on this irresponsible expansion of vouchers and send a strong message to the legislators who undercut Arizona's education and our economy.

## What We Know

- **Strong Schools = Safe Neighborhoods**: Quality, well funded schools help protect property values and reduce crime. We need to invest in public education to protect our quality of life.
- **Strong Schools = Strong Workforce.** We need to support our schools' efforts to educate our children and develop a quality, competitive workforce to insure our state's long-term success. An "under-educated workforce" is consistently cited as the #1 reason businesses avoid Arizona.
- Strong Schools = Good jobs and Economic Opportunities. We need highly skilled and trained workers to attract jobs and economic opportunities to Arizona so that our state can compete in the industries of today and tomorrow. Businesses look for community support, quality of life, and education opportunities for their employees' families.
- Better Funding = Better Results. Vouchers take money out of our already-underfunded public school system. 90% of children are in public schools in Arizona, yet we rank 48<sup>th</sup> for how we fund public schools. Despite starving the schools and teachers that educate the vast majority of our students, Arizona has some of the best public schools in the nation. Arizona ranks dead last in the nation for teacher pay. We are in an unprecedented teacher shortage with more than 2,200 classrooms without a permanent teacher.
- **More Handouts = Less Accountability.** This expansion bill requires almost no reporting from voucher recipients, whether they're for-profit schools or individual families, on where the money goes, how it's spent, or what educational outcomes are.

## **What We Need**

**Signatures!** We need 76,000 valid signatures by July 31. We are relying on volunteers to circulate petitions and host "Stop by and Sign" events. To volunteer, visit www.SOSArizona.org.

**Funding!** We need help covering our costs and are relying on individual donations. To donate, visit www.SOSArizona.org.

