

School choice puts parents in control

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The constant drumbeat of bad news about schools and school districts again demonstrates the need for school choice. It is clearly the only hope for failing students in troubled school districts. School choice allows students to attend better schools, and competition can result in considerable savings for taxpayers — sometimes as much as 50 percent.

The situation with the St. Louis Public Schools seems to get worse almost every day. If we have learned anything about the city schools, it is that they are not capable of reforming. With terrible test scores, low graduation rates and violence in many high schools, many students never will get the education they need to succeed.

"Riverview Gardens watches the clock" (April 27) had equally bad news about a north St. Louis County school district: "Those who care about the Riverview Gardens School District have watched test scores fall over the past decade, finances sink, a superintendent go to prison, and the state declare the district is no longer worthy of its endorsement." There is little reason to believe the situation will improve.

School choice allows parents to choose the school that's best for their child, whether it be public, private or religious. The power is in their hands — not the school district board, not school district administrators and not politicians. To improve schools and provide better educational opportunities, school choice is the best way to go.

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