

Personally, in my community public school can be a place of refuge for some of our learners. The school is a place where there are people care about them, they get meals, they are loved, etc. Additional funding to our school could provide opportunity for our learners. We could have access to additional books, technology, a functional building. In my building we are the oldest in the district and JUST got cabinetry in the classrooms 2 years ago, our kindergarten classrooms JUST got sinks, our art room JUST got a sink and all of these things were put on a back burner due to lack of funding. My salary after deductions is \$37,000. I have 2 bachelors degrees and a minor in special education and I am by no means the "most qualified" in my building who is severely underpaid.

Tax dollars should NOT go to private schools simply because they are that PRIVATE. Private schools are often religiously affiliated as well and there is a separation of church and state for a reason. If I do not believe in the religion that is being taught at the schools, I should not be held responsible for funding that school. Public school is there for ALL and if people choose to send their learners to a private institution it is their right and responsibility to fund that decision.