

schools are supposedly given, it is ultimately the state that writes the checks and calls the shots.

What we need to do is stop taxing people for education, stop providing "free" education, and then let parents choose when, where, and how to educate their kids just like the vast majority quite successfully choose when, where, and how to feed, clothe, and shelter their kids. Claiming that we must have all this tax-funded education (whether public or "private" with vouchers) for the majority of our population because parents won't educate their children without it is like claiming that without food stamps and government soup kitchens most parents wouldn't feed their kids. It's just nonsense.

CHOOSE LIBERTY

Government schools are more concerned with mass-production of "good citizens" rather than teaching children how to think. In a good and fair society, the government would be prohibited from having a monopoly, or even a large position, in *any* form of mind control, including religion, media, *and* education.

Separation of education and state would break the state monopoly on brains imposed since the dark ages. Separation of education and state would be the renaissance of the mind.

Libertarianism applies the *non-aggression (no force) principle* across all issues, including education, at all times. Being forced to pay for the education of someone else's children is an outrage every bit as much as if you were forced to buy their houses, too.

The Manhattan Libertarian Party stands up to the political establishment every day. We're running candidates, participating in forums, organizing protests and making our voices heard, even when what we have to say is unpopular.

We invite you to join us.

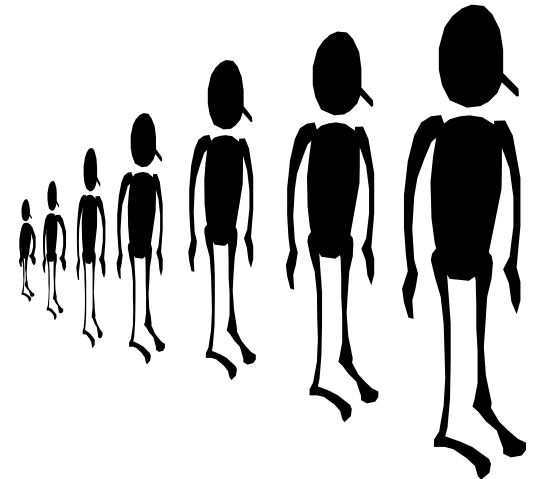


Manhattan Libertarian Party

www.manhattanlp.org
info@manhattanlp.org
212-252-3449

THE
MANHATTAN LIBERTARIAN PARTY
ASKS:

Why Not *Completely* Separate School and State?



We separate church and state for sound, obvious reasons - we don't want to grant government a monopoly on our spiritual development.

So why on earth are we so willing to grant government a monopoly on our children's minds?

AN EDUCATION MONOPOLY

There are essential differences between governmental (public) entities and non-governmental (private) entities. Private entities depend upon voluntary cooperation for their income. If their customers are not satisfied, they walk; a competitor gets the custom and the cash. But when the customers of a public entity are unhappy, they are sometimes permitted to complain to a school board or other functionary; they are sometimes permitted to seek another supplier; but they must leave their tax dollars behind. (And very few of us can afford to pay twice - thus, an effective monopoly.) A summer-school scam is exposed - like the one in Harlem where the director of middle schools doctored the records of 53 students to promote them, even though they failed? "Sorry". Teacher sick days reach an epidemic level - as a Daily News investigation recently uncovered - where as many as 16% of the system's 81,000 teachers are missing in action? "Too bad". Child molesters provided employment at city schools? "We'll look into it".

The Manhattan Libertarian Party recognizes that an education monopoly, like *any* monopoly forced upon consumers, will breed waste, corruption and ineffectiveness. And to force such a monopoly on private citizens is just plain wrong.

NO POLITICAL WRANGLING

The end of state involvement in education would finally bring an end to the tiresome, perpetual political wrangling over whether there should be prayer in public schools, school uniforms, whether sex ed or abstinence should be taught, which books should be in the school library, how much emphasis on the arts, the length of the school year, and the optimal class size. Each family would be free to choose the educational vehicles that best conform to its own beliefs and values.

The Manhattan Libertarian Party knows that educational freedom would remove decisions on education from the hands of state officials and restore sovereignty to the family, where it belongs.

FREE ENTERPRISE

Free enterprise in education would enable entrepreneurs to compete freely in the furnishing of an infinite diversity of educational vehicles for consumers. A process of free and open competition in the furnishing of education would produce what the free market always produces - the highest-quality product possible. Scholarships and charitable institutions - another volunteer mechanism - will provide for those who desire education but need financial assistance. And those children/ parents who don't value education, and who currently attend only because they're forced to (and who comprise an absurdly high percentage of public school students)? They would be free to learn a trade.

The Manhattan Libertarian Party believes that the people who stand to gain the most from a free market in education are those on the lowest rungs of the economic ladder, especially those families whose children are

trapped in government schools and who also have seen firsthand the destructive nature of government welfare programs. These are the people who should be leading the debate in favor of a free market in education.

VOUCHERS A FALSE HOPE

Vouchers are a false hope for educational improvement, and the voucher advocates just don't get it.

Vouchers are the educational equivalent of food stamps. Food stamps are not "free market" food just because the recipient can take the food stamps to any privately run grocery store. Our current public education system is like the government taxing everyone and then providing "community cafeterias" to meet our vital nutritional needs. That would, of course, be bad. The way out of such a situation would not be to give everyone food stamps, and the way out of our similar educational mess is not to give everyone vouchers.

Moreover, by transferring money from government to private schools, vouchers can lead to additional state regulations and controls on private schools. Private schools that refuse vouchers will lose students to schools that accept them. The schools will then have to choose between accepting the vouchers - and the government control that accompanies them - or going out of business. The net result of these flaws is that private and religious schools become more and more like the government schools.

Charter schools also offer less than meets the eye. They are designed to fail, especially under New York State's faulty legislation, which targets schools with the worst students. No matter how much "autonomy" the charter