

Advocacy, School Choice and the Future of Funding Catholic Schools

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Topics for Today

- The What & Why of School and Parental Choice
- Why We Must be Advocates
- The What & How of School Choice
- The Arizona Experience
- What You Can Do

The What & Why of School Choice

Giving All Children a Chance at Success

- **Historical & Social Drivers**

- Parental School Choice: The Civil Rights Issue of this Century
- Zip Code should not dictate education and opportunity
- Location, Poverty and Lack of educational choices travel together

- **Legal Drivers**

- Open districting helps those who can afford to move
- Choice beyond public schools requires funding
- Historic legal bias for public schools

Why We Must be Advocates?

- The Deck is Stacked
 - Statutory basis for public education legally entrenched
 - Public funding of primary & secondary education through taxes and bonding
- The demographics of neighborhoods and education
- Constitutional Bias: *The Blaine Amendment*

Arizona Constitution:

The Blaine Amendments

- **“No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise, or instruction, or to the support of any religious establishment.”**
Arizona Const. Art. II, Section 12
- **“No tax shall be laid or appropriation of public money made in aid of any church, or private or sectarian school, or any public service corporation.”**
Arizona Const. Art IX, Section 10
- **Arizona Courts have not interpreted Blaine Amendments expansively.**

What & How:

Building Coalitions to Give All Children a Chance

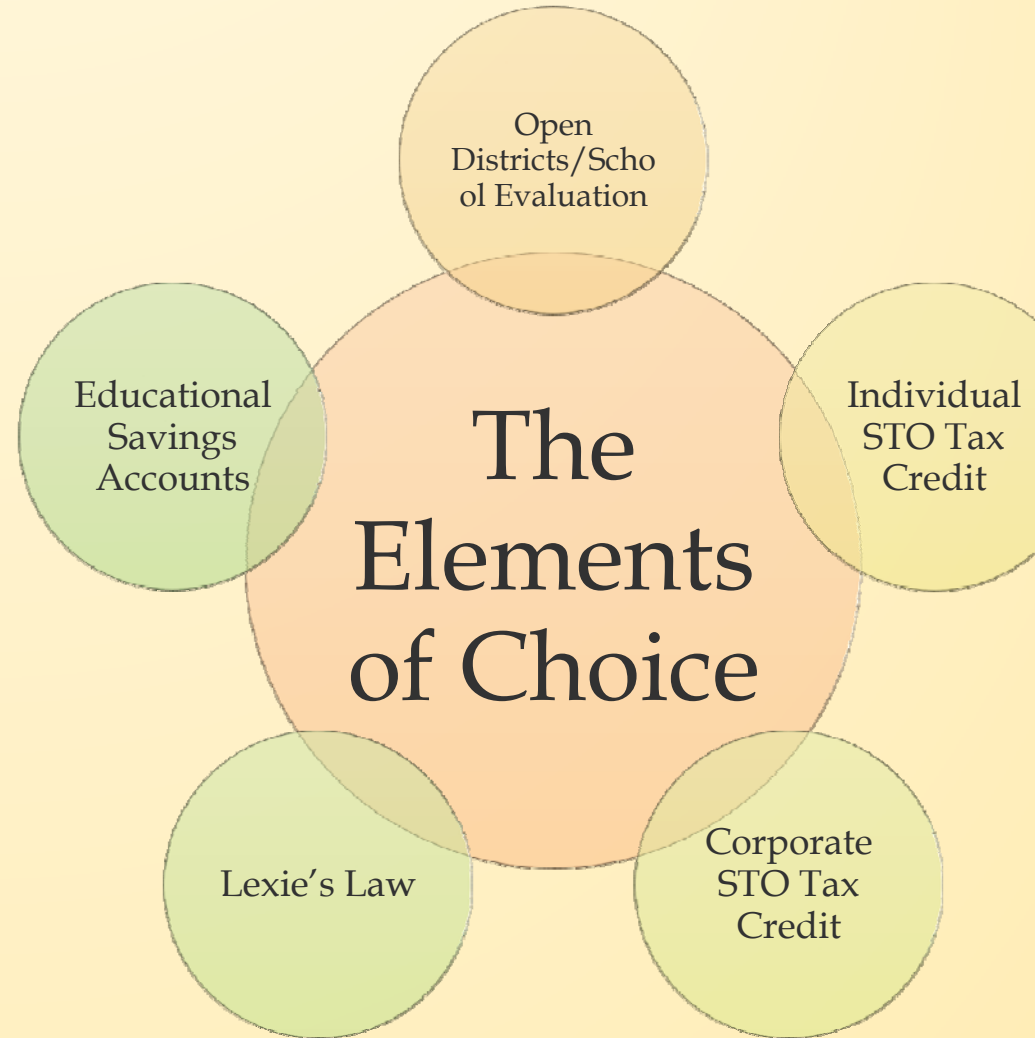
- **The Politics**

- Even people of different political persuasions can agree that all children should have an education that gives them a good chance at success
- The Devil lies in the details
 - The reality of opponents working together
 - The economics of scarcity vs. abundance
 - Protection of power and influence

- **Opportunity for Change Exists**

The Arizona Experience: *At the Cutting Edge*

- Legislative Framework gives choices
- Three major Parent options
 - Individual Tax Credit
 - Corporate Tax Credit
 - Educational Savings Accounts
- Catholic Education Arizona
 - \$100MM paid out, 72K Awarded
 - 99% Grad/97% College Rate
 - Paul Mulligan: 602-218-6542



Parental Advocacy Projects

- Parental Choice in Schools & Funding
- Religious Liberty Education
 - Research Guide
 - Developing Classroom Curriculum
 - Training students as advocates
- Legislative Advocacy
- Educating Local School Boards and Administration

Parent Advocacy & Choice

Building Coalitions that Work

Empowering Parents with Achievable Choices

Giving Kids “Transformational Education”

Thank You For Coming!

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