

How are corporations undermining K-12 public education through these ALEC bills?



Through ALEC, corporations, ideologues, and their politician allies voted to spend public tax dollars to subsidize private K-12 education and attack professional teachers and teachers' unions by:

- Promoting voucher programs that drain public schools of resources by using taxpayer dollars to subsidize private school profits, and specifying that those schools must remain unregulated. Voucher programs have been pushed in the following ways:
 - Offering private school vouchers with "[universal eligibility](#)" (using taxpayer dollars to subsidize private schools for the rich and others); "[means-tested eligibility.](#)" (using poverty as the first domino in an effort to privatize public schools); and "[universal eligibility with means-tested scholarship.](#)" (Here, "scholarship" means using taxpayer dollars to pay private school tuition and/or profits.)
 - Giving tax credits to parents who send their kids to private schools, (see [this bill](#), [this bill](#), and [this bill](#)) and to [corporations that donate to scholarships for private schools](#).
 - [Creating a scheme to deem public schools "educationally bankrupt"](#) to rationalize giving taxpayer dollars to almost completely unregulated private schools, rather than addressing any problems.
 - Back-dooring privatization by creating voucher programs to subsidize unregulated, for-profit schools or religious schools for specific subsets of students, such as [foster children](#), or [children of military families](#).
- Evading requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by preying on parents of children with special needs through subsidies for unproven and profit-driven private schools, which are not covered by the IDEA. (See [this bill](#), [this bill](#), and [this bill](#).) Nearly identical bills have been introduced in Wisconsin and other states.
- Segregating students with disabilities from non-disabled students by incentivizing the creation of largely unregulated private schools for students with disabilities, and then allowing private schools to refuse children's admission such that the private testing/evaluation scores can be higher than for public schools that must take all students.
- [Setting up low-income students for failure in college](#) by incentivizing early

graduation for the students in need of a complete high school education.

- [Taking charter school authorization away from local school boards](#) in favor of a statewide advisory committee, that a governor can pack with pro-voucher people.
- [Promoting climate change denial in education](#) (see also [this bill](#))
- [Certifying individuals with no education background as teachers](#), a move that would weaken the quality of education, that fails to recognize there is more to teaching than knowledge of a subject, and that would undermine the role and competitiveness of professional teachers (see also [this bill](#)).
- [Eliminating tenure](#) for teachers in favor of "performance," allowing districts to fire older teachers in favor of lower-cost young teachers.
- Undermining teacher's unions indirectly through the above bills, and directly through bills like [this one](#), [this one](#), and [this one](#). See also the [anti-union bills on the Worker Rights page](#).

To see a full list of these bills, click [here](#).

ALEC bills and resolutions also attempt to change college education by:

- Promoting right-wing ideology in public universities through the [Academic Bill of Rights](#), a document supported by extremist David Horowitz. See also [here](#).
- [Requiring universities to annually report to the legislature on "intellectual diversity"](#)-- a term that is code for right-wing ideology, an odd requirement considering ALEC's antipathy toward regulation. (See also [this bill](#)).
- [Giving tax advantages to wealthy families who fund their children's college education](#) by allowing exemptions from taxation for college savings accounts
- [Penalizing college students who study for more than four years](#)
- [Subsidizing private universities](#) by offering taxpayer-funded vouchers to for-profit and religious institutions of higher education, and
- [Treating universities like manufacturers](#) and setting aside significant portions of the legislature's higher education budget to reward institutions for students who complete courses and graduate in greater numbers at lower per-unit expense.

To see a full list of these bills, click [here](#).