



HB 1944 TALKING POINTS

HOW TAX CREDITS, PUBLIC DOLLARS, AND EDUCATION FUNDING ARE BEING DECIDED RIGHT NOW



The Children's Promise Act Is School Vouchers by Another Name

Social Media Captions

- "Mississippi's private schools get \$0 in accountability and millions in your tax dollars. That's what HB 1944 does. Call your senator. #MSLeg #ProtectPublicSchools"
- "The Senate Finance Committee stripped the worst parts of HB 1944 — but left the door open in conference. The fight isn't over. Stay engaged. #HB1944 #MSLeg"
- "\$20M to private schools = \$0 for teacher raises? Mississippi cannot afford the Children's Promise Act. #MSBlackWomensRoundtable #MWESI"
- "17 senators said NO to HB 1944. Thank them — and make sure the rest finish the job in conference. #MSLeg"

Overview

HB 1944, known as the Children's Promise Act, expands state tax credits to support private education and related programs. A reverse repealer keeps the bill moving to conference, where a small group of lawmakers will make final decisions about funding and priorities. Efforts like this have appeared in 2023, 2024, and 2025. The outcome will shape how state dollars are allocated and what priorities guide education funding in Mississippi.

The Bill is Not Final

The Senate removed key provisions, but a reverse repealer sends HB 1944 to conference.

This is where similar policies have returned in past sessions.

The issue is still active.

Tax Credits = Public Dollars

The Children's Promise Act provides dollar-for-dollar tax credits, making it equivalent to direct state spending. These funds are no longer available for public schools, teacher pay, or other services.

Unequal Accountability

Public schools face strict accountability standards. Private schools receiving these funds do not, raising transparency and equity concerns.

Impact on Child-Serving Programs

The structure of the bill continues to compete with funding for foster care and other child-serving organizations, even after earlier provisions were removed.

Take Action

Share what you know, especially with education advocates, teachers' organizations, faith communities, and parent networks

Amplify the voices of the 17 senators who voted NO on HB 1944 on the floor

Request meetings or calls with your senator before the conference committee convenes

Frame HB 1944 as both a fiscal equity issue and a racial equity issue — Mississippi's public school students are overwhelmingly Black and brown

