

Long Legacy of Struggles for
Quality, Equity and Citizen Control

REMEMBERING OUR HISTORY TO MAKE A BETTER FUTURE

Education has been Important and Inequitable for a long time

- In 1804 when the District had only a few thousand residents, a school board was established with Thomas Jefferson as President of the School Board. These schools were only for white children.
- The first black school was started in 1807 by freed slaves and was privately funded.

Desegregation: White families left, Black families arrived

Census year	Total population	White	Black	American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut	Asian and Pacific Islander	Other race	Hispanic origin (of any race)	White, not of Hispanic origin
1990	606,900	179,667	399,604	1,466	11,214	14,949	32,710	166,131
1980	638,333	171,768	448,906	1,031	6,636	9,992	17,679	164,244
1970	756,510	209,272	537,712	956	5,372	3,198	15,671	200,656
1960	763,956	345,263	411,737	587	4,690	1,679	(NA)	(NA)
1950	802,178	517,865	280,803	330	2,890	290	(NA)	(NA)
1940 ²	663,091	474,326	187,266	190	1,309	(X)	720	473,606
1930	486,869	353,981	132,068	40	780	(X)	(NA)	(NA)
1920	437,571	326,860	109,966	37	708	(X)	(NA)	(NA)
1910	331,069	236,128	94,446	68	427	(X)	(NA)	(NA)
1900	278,718	191,532	86,702	22	462	(X)	(NA)	(NA)
1890 ³	230,392	154,695	75,572	25	100	(X)	(NA)	(NA)
1880	177,624	118,006	59,596	5	17	Black		
1870	131,700	88,278	43,404	15	3	Total	Free	Slave
1860	75,080	60,763	14,316	1	-	14,316	11,131	3,185
1850	51,687	37,941	13,746	(NA)	(NA)	13,746	10,059	3,687
1840	33,745	23,926	9,819	(NA)	(NA)	9,819	6,499	3,320
1830	30,261	21,152	9,109	(NA)	(NA)	9,109	4,604	4,505
1820	23,336	16,058	7,278	(NA)	(NA)	7,278	2,758	4,520
1810	15,471	10,345	5,126	(NA)	(NA)	5,126	1,572	3,554
1800	8,144	5,672	2,472	(NA)	(NA)	2,472	400	2,072

Advocacy for Equity, Quality and Civic Control

- 1967: Court challenge of ability tracking –Hobson v. Hanson – ruled that ability grouping denies equal opportunity.
- ***1968: Congress establishes elected Board of Education; 53 candidates run (supported by the Washington Post)***
- 1971 Special Education: Mills v. Board – DC must provide appropriate education to special needs students; and due process for students being suspended or expelled.
- ***1976: Board of Education established Advisory Neighborhood School Councils to increase local control of public schools.***
- 1989: Parents United v. District of Columbia, challenging the city because of fire code violations in the public school buildings.

After Empowerment of 1960s and 1970s, Loss of Civic Power

- *1995 – Congress established DC Public Charter School Board*
- *1996 – Congressionally mandated Control Board tried to eliminate elected board of education with an Emergency Board of Trustees for DCPS, fired Superintendent and hired General Becton*
- *2003 – Council created hybrid elected/appointed Board of Education*
- *2007 – Council Abolished Elected Board of Education and Established Mayoral Control*

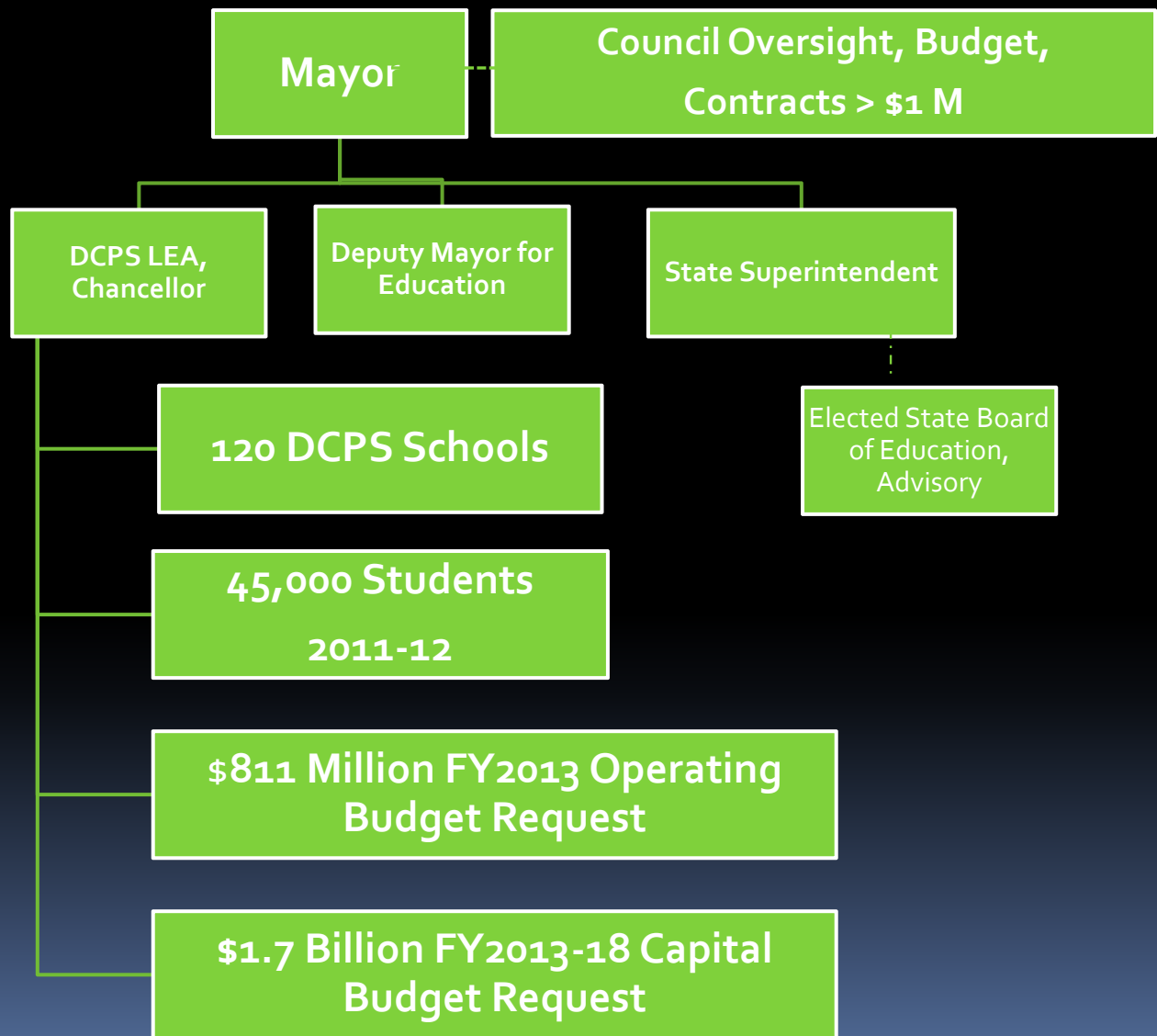


The District of Columbia: A Fork in the Road

WHERE WE ARE NOW?

Little Public Role or Accountability

- No Policy Board for DCPS
- No oversight board of DCPS administration
- No ombudsman for public school parents or citizens



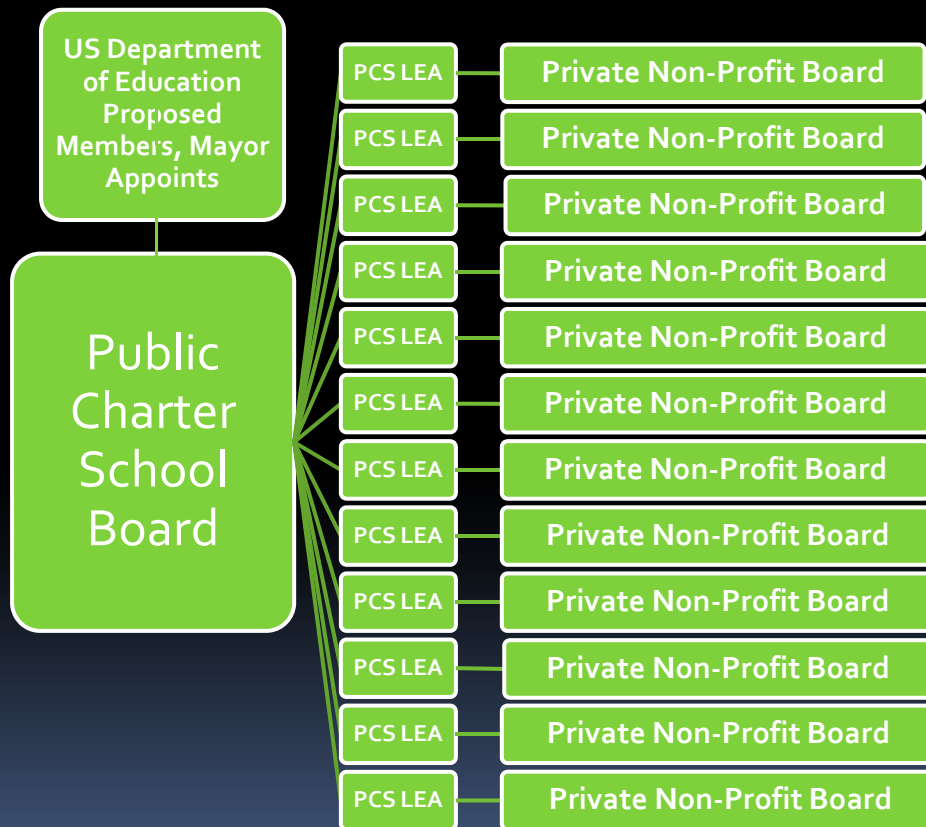
According to the Washington Post:

Public input on public schools should be limited to once every 4 years, on one question.

- “Mayor Vincent C. Gray (D) needs to push back against council interference before school officials lose the authority to make student needs, not political interests, their priority.”
- “Such meddling prompted the District to abolish its school board in 2007”
- “Authority for running the public school system was given to the mayor, who would also be held accountable for the results.”

- Washington Post Editorial, March 27, 2012

Even Less Public Role or Accountability in Public Charter Schools



- 57 Public Charter School Local Education Agencies (LEAs)—the same standing as a public school district/gets federal and local funds
- 31,000 students in DC public charter schools
- FY2013 budget \$542 million of public funds
- Governed by 57 Private Non-Profit Boards of Directors

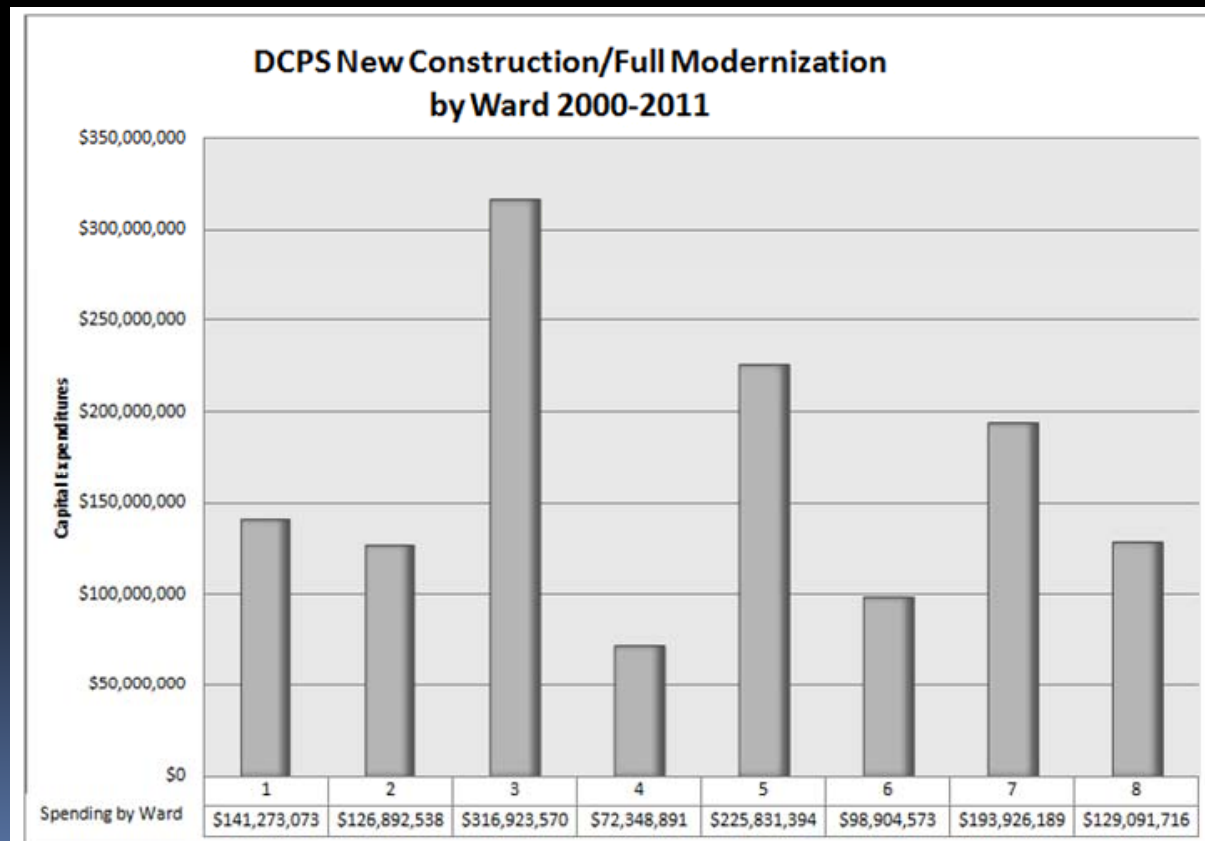
Lots of Change...

Schools	Since 2006, 29 DCPS schools have closed. About 16 new charter LEAs opened and about 16 public charter LEAs were closed since 2006.
Teachers	In DCPS, almost 50% of the teachers hired from 2002-2009 left DCPS after two years.
Principals	32% of DCPS schools had 3 or more principals from 2008-2012.
Students	The school year starting after the Mayoral takeover, DCPS lost nearly 7% of its enrollment (up from 4% the year before). The year after the Mayor closed 23 schools, enrollment declined by almost 8%.
Buildings	Since Oyster was replaced in 2001, DC has built or fully modernized 32 DCPS schools. 20 of the 57 public charter LEAs are leasing or own at least one former DCPS school building.

Sources: 21CSF, Mary Levy

Persistent Inequities

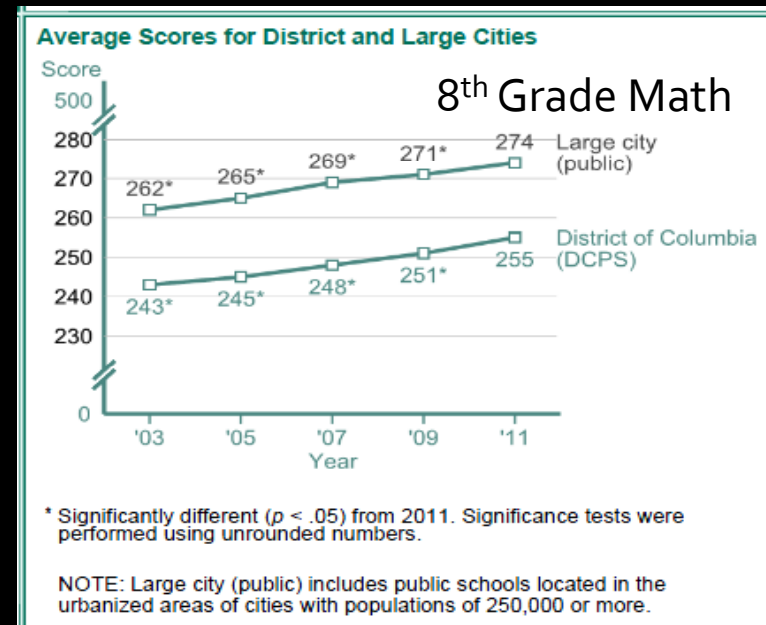
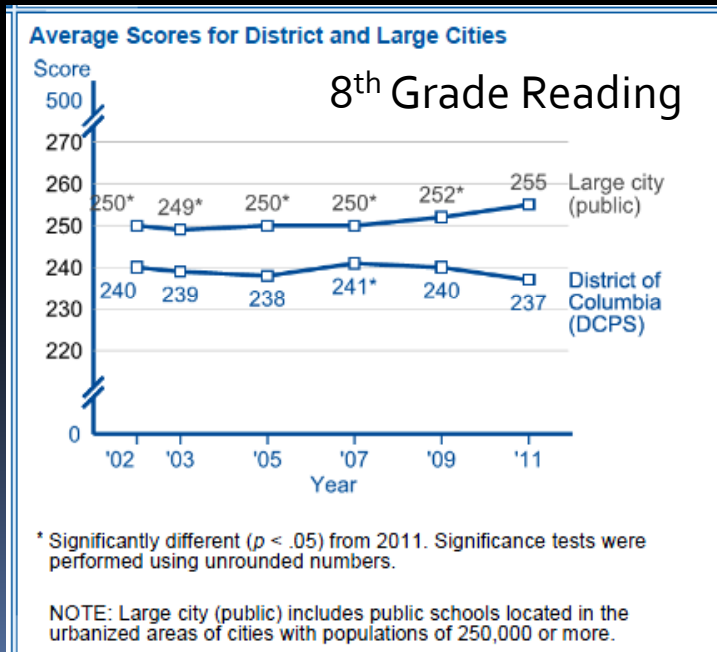
- School by school variation—Facilities and Programs
 - Within DCPS Schools
 - Among Charter Schools
 - Between Charter and DCPS Schools



Little to show for it..

In 2011 free/reduced-price school lunch students scored 33 points (on average) lower than full pay students .

This performance gap was wider than that in 2003 (18 points).



In 2011, free/reduced-price school lunch students scored 32 points lower , on average, than full paying students .

This performance gap was wider than that in 2002 (17 points).

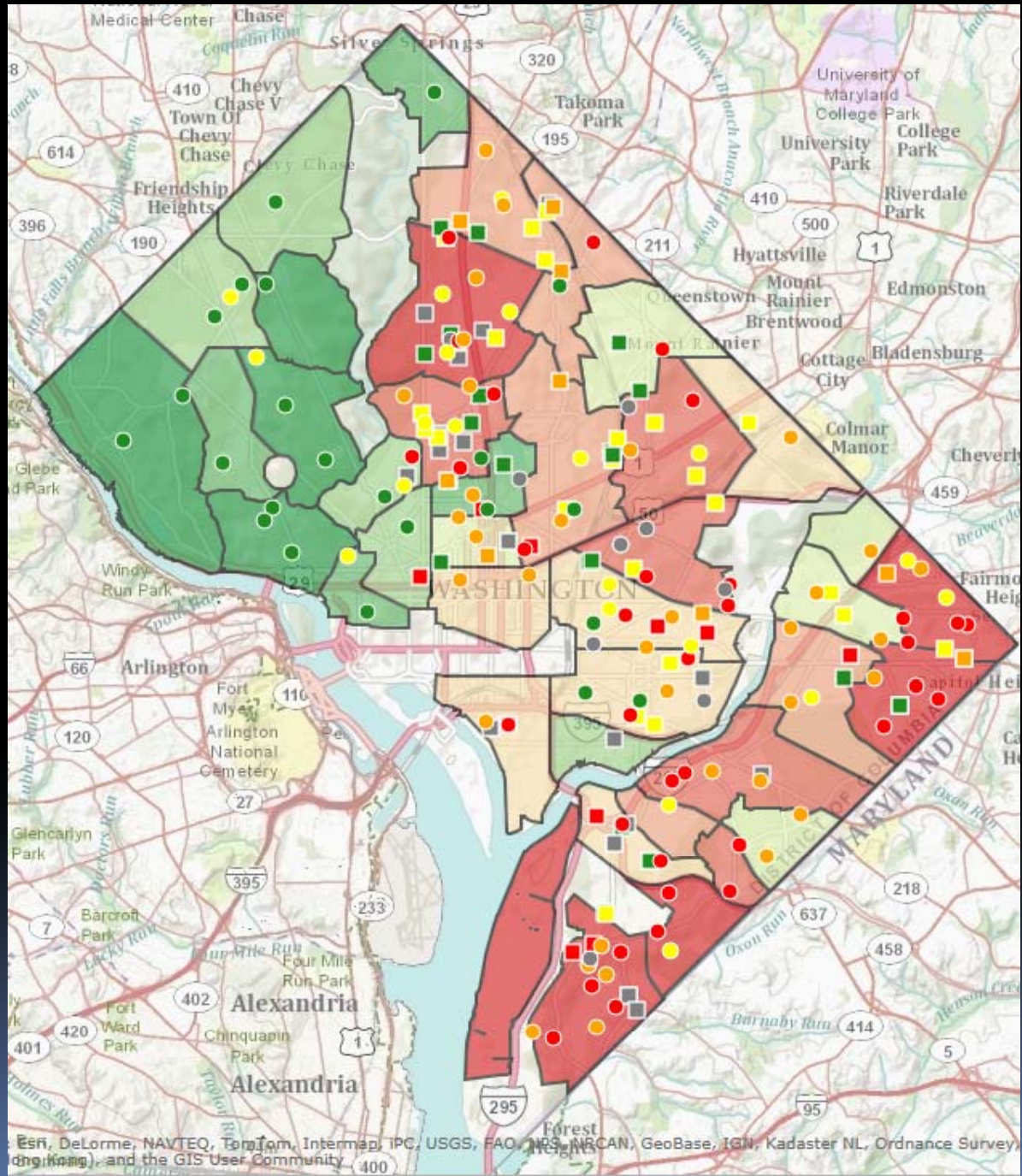
Current Challenges

- DC is targeting schools for closure because of single measure of standardized test scores.

IFF Study: "RED" Neighborhoods Targeted for Closures

- DCPS School
- DCPS School
- Performance Tier 1
- Performance Tier 2
- Performance Tier 3
- Performance Tier 4
- Non-Analysis School

- Charter School
- Charter School
- Performance Tier 1
- Performance Tier 2
- Performance Tier 3
- Performance Tier 4
- Non-Analysis School



Instability Threatens DCPS

- Instability—like closings and consolidations—accelerates enrollment loss (as it did with the Mayoral takeover and the year of closings and consolidations) which will mean less funding for DCPS.

Communities Mobilizing

- The persistence of schools with significant student performance challenges reflect the fact that:
 - There are no quick fixes or easy answers.
 - Just having high standards, even with dictatorial powers, doesn't deliver.

A National Movement Limit Democracy in Public Education

- Nationally—about 16,000 school districts governed by elected boards of education
- A handful of school districts do not elect their boards of education—but entirely urban districts
- Movement to take public education out of the public square
 - Pro business
 - Anti democratic
 - Anti government
 - Anti union