

I choose to support private education because it performs better than the current public education system. That is both on a cost per student and on the students' outcome. I would hope the Oregon Senate Committee on Education would be focused on both these measurements with regard to PUBLIC education. The current per pupil cost of PUBLIC education is 50% higher than that of private education. As reported in a 2006 NAEP study the reading and math outcomes were 18.1 points higher and 12.3 points higher respectively for private vs. PUBLIC scores. Interestingly after adjusting for selected student characteristics the differences were negligible. The selected characteristics were not identified but deduction implies that they were detrimental within the PUBLIC arena, beneficial in private arena or a mixture of both. If there are detrimental characteristics in Oregon's PUBLIC education system it seems to be within this committee's purview to focus on advising corrective action. Like wise, if there are beneficial characteristics in the private education system then this committee should seek to have them incorporated into the PUBLIC education system. SB 223 does neither. SB 233 takes the first step to draw private education into the quagmire of our PUBLIC education system. I challenge this committee to do something positive for Oregon PUBLIC education. Controlling how Cinderella looks will not beautify her ugly sisters. Please stop SB 223.