

Competition for students the key to better schools

Over the years, Pennsylvania taxpayers have contributed billions of dollars to the education system in this state. We have built large and expensive schools and stadiums, astro-turf athletic fields, significantly increased teachers' salaries, made teachers take a competency test for certification and reduced the class sizes.

With all this said and done, the Keystone state ranks 43rd out of 50 in the combined SAT scores. There is nothing left to do but have schools compete for their students, with the parents choosing the schools where the children will be attending.

There are winners when schools compete for their students and parents choose the schools for their children. The students are happy to attend a school in a safe environment where they can learn. The parents are happy with their children's learning and successes. The teachers are happy to have students who want to be in their classrooms. The outstanding schools have a waiting list of students who want to attend their school.

The self-serving teachers' union that uses tax dollars to exist does not support school choice because they fear the loss of power and control over the public school system and their lucrative position at the public trough.

The school districts, at taxpayer expense, collect several hundred dollars in union dues from each of the 191,000 union members, and then deposit millions of dollars in the PSEA bank account.

The money is then given to some of our lawmakers in exchange for their votes to prevent school choice and any other meaningful school reform.

Competition for students will bring out the very best of any school system. Only then will taxpayers receive a positive return on their tax dollars.

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