

## Some of this corporate agenda has already become law

### Undermining Protections for Students With Disabilities



The ALEC [Special Needs Scholarship Act](#) has been introduced in Wisconsin as [AB 110](#) by Rep. Michelle Litjens, and co-sponsored in the Senate by Leah Vukmir, who was an ALEC "Legislator of the Year" in 2009.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction said:

This bill strips special education students of due process rights and rights to services. It allows for the segregation of students based on disability. It will devastate funding for public education in select districts. It will result in the largest expansion of private school regulation ever seen in Wisconsin and, at the end of the day, no one will have any data to show if it resulted in a better education.

To read more about this story, click [here](#) or [here](#) or [here](#).

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### The "Voucher" Strategy and Requiring Tax Subsidies for Private For-Profit Schools



For almost 20 years, a top priority item for ALEC has been the privatization of public schools through school vouchers. Like many ALEC efforts, this one was first implemented in Wisconsin. ALEC has dozens of bills related to this topic, along with books and analysis. In 1993, ALEC gave its first "Adam Smith Free Enterprise

Award" to school privatization advocate and funder Richard DeVos. In the early 1990s, under the leadership of longtime ALEC member Tommy Thompson, Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to implement a voucher program using public funds to send children to private schools. This experiment was limited to low-income students in the Milwaukee School District. Although recent tests have revealed that voucher students performed worse in math and reading than public school students, ideological proponents of privatization are nonetheless pushing to expand the Milwaukee program to other areas of the state, as well as to higher-income families.

Tracking the ALEC school voucher agenda, Governor Walker's 2011 Wisconsin budget expanded voucher schools throughout Milwaukee County and to the Racine school district, lifted the cap on participation, and increased income eligibility to 300% of the federal poverty level. Other ALEC-originated school choice bills are also in the works for Wisconsin, including the Charter School Reform Bill (AB 51-SB 22) and the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (AB 94). **To learn more, click [here](#).**

***Have any of these bills been introduced or enacted in YOUR state?***

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For an updated look at ALEC's education agenda in Wisconsin, see the Center for Media and Democracy's in-depth report, "[ALEC Exposed in Wisconsin: The Hijacking of a State.](#)"