



Press Release

September 5, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children in Underperforming Schools Have Options

The Maryland Public Policy Institute releases school guide for parents

GERMANTOWN, MD, September 5, 2006—A good elementary and secondary education is the foundation of the American dream, according to a new handbook from The Maryland Public Policy Institute: *School Choice for Maryland: A Guide for Families and Voters*. The institute has published the handbook and launched its new web site schoolchoiceformaryland.org/ as resources for Maryland parents who are looking for ways to improve the quality of their children's education. As discussed in the handbook, taxpaying parents should have the power to choose where their children attend school, and can look to successful school choice models around the country for successful examples of education based on parental choice.

"Public schools are being held accountable to higher standards and families are expecting more from their tax dollars," said Christopher B. Summers, president of The Maryland Public Policy Institute. "In many districts, discontented parents believe the only choice for their children is the local public school, which may or may not meet the needs of their children. However, alternatives are possible. Around the country, school choice reforms are giving parents the power to shape their children's destinies by determining how and where they are educated."

School Choice for Maryland addresses the following:

- The need for improvement in public schools
- Charter schools, vouchers, tax credits, and scholarship programs
- Successful school choice programs around the nation
- Specific proposals for Maryland
- Frequently asked questions and misperceptions of school choice
- What parents can do

School Choice for Maryland: A Guide for Families and Voters is available free of charge at www.schoolchoiceformaryland.org/. For excerpts or a hard copy, contact Alison Lake at alake@mdpolicy.org. For interviews with MPPI education policy experts, call 240-686-3510.

The Maryland Public Policy Institute is a 501 (C) (3) nonpartisan public policy research and education organization that focuses on Maryland public policy issues.

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