



Parental School Choice: Widespread — Unless You're Poor

In a new book, a prominent educator writes the following about school vouchers:

"As a practical matter, vouchers have their greatest appeal to inner city residents whose schools are often in deplorable condition. Middle-class families are more content with their schools and already have choice. They can afford to send their children to private school if need be."

The author? None other than Bob Chase, outgoing president of the nation's largest teachers union (*The New Public School Parent*, Penguin Original, August 2002).

Ironically, while Chase directed the National Education Association (NEA), no organization worked harder to keep low-income families from educational choices that most Americans take for

granted. During these same years, census data show that large numbers of NEA members used private schools to avoid the "deplorable condition" in many big city schools.

The Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) strongly supports the right of NEA parents — and all Americans — to decide where their children attend school. We are distressed and perplexed that teachers and their leaders apply one standard when it comes to their own children and a different one for less affluent families.

As the debate about educational options continues, BAEO will emphasize that there is nothing new or experimental about school choice. The simple truth remains: parental school choice is widespread — unless you're poor.



Black Alliance for Educational Options

For more information go to: www.schoolchoiceinfo.org or www.baeo.org