



Beyond the Deliberation: **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***Public Schools & Vouchers***

One of the key deliberative dispositions that the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) has identified is an “action orientation.” While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to shared agreement on key issues and an intentional commitment to take either individual or collective action on them.

Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve issuing a set of recommendations or deciding to support a particular policy. It might also manifest as developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, participating in continued discussions, or generating new approaches to engaging with the issue.

To support such an orientation, the DCI shares a series of “action pathways” for participants to consider after each event or activity it sponsors. Please see the pathways below related to the topic of ***Public Schools & Vouchers: When should parents be granted vouchers to pay for public schools, if ever?*** Engaging in these activities is voluntary -- participants are free to choose any of the pathways, or none. But we encourage you to at least consider them as options that can build on the conversation you just had with your fellow deliberative citizens.

Get Informed

- Explore the [National Education Association's](#) stance on vouchers and their impact on public education funding and equity.
- Discover [EdChoice's](#) research supporting the benefits of vouchers for school choice advocacy.
- Examine [The Century Foundation's](#) analysis on the racial implications of school vouchers.
- Review arguments for school choice and vouchers from a right-leaning perspective at [The Heritage Foundation](#).
- Learn about the American public's overall satisfaction with K-12 education from [Gallup](#).

Get Connected

- Participate in the [Public Education Foundation's](#) initiatives to support public schools and understand their challenges.

- Engage with the [National Coalition for Public School Options](#) to advocate for parents' rights in choosing educational environments.
- Join discussions with [Parents for Educational Freedom](#) in North Carolina or similar groups in your state to support school choice.
- Collaborate with the [Network for Public Education](#) to support public schools and oppose the privatization of education.

Get Involved

- Explore the [Learning Policy Institute's](#) efforts to promote equitable education policies, including action against vouchers.
- Advocate for school choice with the [American Federation for Children](#) and participate in their efforts to expand educational options.
- Engage in discussions and activities hosted by [National School Choice Week](#) focused on school choice options.
- Contribute to discussions in local community centers and libraries that host forums on education policy, [or find a community foundation](#) in your region that might be working on local education issues.

About This Guide

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The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for Davidson students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the wider community to productively engage with one another on difficult and contentious issues facing our community and society. The DCI regularly hosts facilitated deliberations on a wide range of topics and organizes training workshops for deliberation facilitators. To learn more about these opportunities, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org.

DCI Deliberation Guides

The DCI has launched this series of Deliberation Guides as a foundation for such conversations. They provide both important background information on the topics in question and a specific framework for engaging with these topics. The Guides are designed to be informative without being overwhelming and structured without being inflexible. They cover a range of topics and come in a variety of formats but share several common elements, including opportunities to commit to a shared set of Conversation Agreements, learn about diverse perspectives, and reflect together on the conversation and its yield. The DCI encourages conversations based on these guides to be moderated by a trained facilitator. After each conversation, the DCI also suggests that its associated Pathways Guide be distributed to the conversation's participants.

DCI Pathways Guides

For every Deliberation Guide, the DCI has also developed an associated Pathways Guide, which outlines opportunities for action that participants can consider that are related to the covered topic. These Pathways Guides reinforce the DCI's commitment to an action orientation, a key deliberative disposition. While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to individual or collective action on the key issues facing society. Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, generating new approaches to an issue, or deciding to support a particular policy.

If you make use of this guide in a deliberation, please provide attribution to the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative and email dc@deliberativecitizenship.org to tell us about your event. To access more of our growing library of Deliberation Guides, Pathways Guides and other resources, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org/readings-and-resources.