

January 25, 2017

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear  Senator Collins.

Thank you for the opportunity to answer your question about my position on federal education mandates regarding private school vouchers.

As a strong proponent of local control, I believe the decision of whether to provide vouchers, scholarships, or other public support for students who choose to attend a nonpublic school should not be mandated by the federal government. Rather, this is a state and school district matter.

The Every Student Succeeds Act made great strides in returning control over education decisions to states and local communities, and I applaud your efforts in passing that important law. Decisions about whether to provide parental choice will vary from state to state and district to district, reflecting local needs.

As I stated during my confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on January 17, while I am a strong supporter of school choice, I am also respectful of state and local decisions on this issue. Therefore, if confirmed, I will not impose a school choice program on any state or school district.

Senator Collins, I look forward to working with you to support Maine's teachers, schools and districts as they work to provide a high quality education to every student.

Sincerely,



Betsy DeVos