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Fairhust: Give students like me a choice of schools

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BY ANA FAIRHURST - TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION

The education you learn as a kid to young adult is something you will bring with you for the rest of your life; therefore making it a very serious matter. Our elected officials are currently debating bills to give students and parents more control in choosing a school to meet their needs. I have personally benefited from school choice, and I hope that other students will have the same opportunity.

Some say that every kid is a genius just waiting to show the world what they can do, and I personally agree with that completely! But everyone is different in one way or another. Not all kids learn the same way as others. So therefore, kids should be able to express themselves in the school of their choice, the school that suits them personally as an individual.

Since the education you learn now is something you will bring with you the rest of your life, don't you think it should be meaningful for you personally? That's exactly the point of kids' choice; to go to a school that will educate you in the way that works for you personally, not the way that works for 200 other people. Just because it works for others doesn't mean it has to work for you.

If you have the right education taught to you, then that's how you find your passion and where you excel. And once you do that, there's no telling what you could do with your gifts. And that's exactly what the world needs, entrepreneurs using their gifts to change the world one step at a time. And we're all capable of that if we have the tools to get there.

I'm on my hero's journey right now trying to find my gifts and passions. But I still don't know what I want to do yet; but I knew I had an interest in politics. So in my school, Acton Academy, we learned the skills to getting a job (or an internship, in this case.) That's when I took the tools I had learned to get an internship at the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

So far it has been a great experience, and I have learned so much. I never would have thought that I would have an internship in seventh grade! Before this year (when I found Acton Academy) I felt like I was just learning meaningless things that I would never even use in my life, things that would never come in handy in the real world. I felt like it was just a waste of my time.

After coming to the school of my choice, though, within this year so far I have started learning a new language; in math I have started learning statistics, exponents, radicals and scientific notation, done taxing word problems and so much more; and I learned how to get a job! But that's not even the half of it. I've also learned a lot about myself and what I like to do that may be my passions and gifts.



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Everything like math, science and history are all important, but learning about your passions and gifts is how you find who you are; and that's how I'm finding out about who I am. And that is exactly why I think that kids' choice is extremely important in life and learning who you are.

This whole experience, from public and charter school to being at Acton and having an internship, has really been life-changing for me. Now I know I'm doing something meaningful with my life. And I still have a lot of life in front of me. And I know one of my passions I've discovered so far is helping make a difference in the world. And I'm almost there.

So kids' choice is one of the most important things you can have in my opinion! And it's one step closer to giving kids like me the tools to change the world just one step at a time. And I'm glad that I'm getting this amazing experience to be in the school of my choice. I only wish that everyone could have that choice, too.

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