

## It's Not Too Hard For Parents To Choose

by Andrew Campanella

(NAPSA)—From the beginning, America has been a country of immigrants, who bring with them their own cultures. Culture means much more than food and clothing—it includes values, perspectives, priorities. That diversity is part of what makes America a truly great place to live.

By valuing diversity, we acknowledge the importance of individual people making decisions for their own lives and families. We recognize that while we might make different choices ourselves, the decisions that our neighbors make should be respected as long as they are legal and ethical.



**Students, parents, teachers and others are united in support of school choice.**

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Unfortunately, some who champion this self-determination in other aspects of life refuse to apply it to education. They say certain parents are incapable of choosing the best school for their kids.

But if a child's parents are not qualified to make the best decisions for their children, who is? Does it really take professional training and expert knowledge to tell if your child is thriving in his or her school?

If we really valued individuality, we would work to empower parents and give them real agency in making decisions for their families.

If we valued diversity, we would support diverse educational options—which means encouraging the growth of traditional public schools, public charter schools, public magnet schools, virtual schools, religious and nonreligious private schools, and homeschool groups.

During National School Choice Week, our goal is to raise awareness about education options, to empower parents to make a decision about their children's schools. Millions of students, parents, teachers, schools, organizations and community groups are hosting 40,594 events and activities to connect with parents and communities—celebrations such as school fairs, open houses, information sessions and student showcases.

This is what school choice supporters do. They work for parents and with parents to ensure that their perspectives are valued and their decisions are honored. After all, isn't that the American way?

*Andrew Campanella is president of National School Choice Week.*