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The Legislative Analyst's Office Reports on Success of District of Choice Program
Finds California Students fare better with Districts of Choice Program

SACRAMENTO: EdVoice applauds today's recommendation of the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) to extend the Districts of Choice Program and eliminate the cap that unfairly limits kids' access to great public schools. The comprehensive study finds the program provides students with additional educational options and that both the transfer students and the home districts show academic improvements. The LAO report recommends that the program be extended as it has helped students and schools improve.

Adopted in 1993 the District of Choice Program allows students to transfer to school districts that have deemed themselves Districts of Choice. The LAO report found that the main strength of the program is, "that it provides students with educational options, including International Baccalaureate programs, language immersion programs, and science academies, that are not necessarily available in their home districts."

"Parents, not zip codes, are best suited to pick the best public school for their children's needs. The Legislature should extend the program and eliminate the sunset," said Bill Lucia, President of EdVoice. The report finds the program helps empower families from all backgrounds to choose the best public school option for their child. Lucia continued, "It's a win-win; transfer students benefit from a better fit for their unique needs, and home districts respond positively by improving instructional offerings and student achievement—all in traditional public schools."

The report comes in the midst of National School Choice Week, a nationwide effort to raise awareness of great public school opportunities.

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