



Education

June 8, 2004

## More empty rhetoric

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We have to assume that liberal legislators merely were indulging in election-year posturing last week when imploring the governor to impose "accountability" on Florida schools that receive vouchers.

Two of the Democrats are wealthy enough to send their own children to private schools. Do they really want to tell the parents of poor children in Florida that they cannot have an equal opportunity to get a decent education for their children?

More than 26,000 poor and disabled children are getting an education in the state they were denied in the public schools.

What's more, they are saving the taxpayers millions of dollars in the process, and creating space in the overcrowded public schools.

Democrats tried to heap restrictions on the schools this year during the legislative session. Thankfully, the majority rejected the transparent attempt to wreck the program.

However, Education Commissioner Jim Horne did implement a number of changes that will strengthen the program, some of which were in the legislation and all of which were welcomed by those involved in the voucher programs.

Democrats ran the usual litany, about rare mishaps in the program. They studiously ignored facts about public schools, such as huge cost overruns in school construction, the arrests of teachers for having sex with students, the lack of certification in substitute teachers and the fact that a third of the schools are not accredited.

Memory lapses, no doubt.

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