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## Bush Reaffirms His Support of Vouchers

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Students show their support for political candidates who support school choice at the Step Up for Students rally Tuesday in Tallahassee. Parents and teachers also took part in the demonstration. Gov. Jeb Bush, speaking to the crowd of about 2,000, pledged to support voucher programs.

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Gov. Jeb Bush pledged his unwavering support of voucher programs Tuesday to an estimated crowd of at least 2,000 students, parents and educators rallying at the Capitol.

“As long as I’m governor we will have private school choice in this state,” Bush said.

State Education Commissioner Jim Horne echoed the governor’s sentiments after meeting with a group of about 25 from Zion Academy in Bradenton following the rally.

He emphasized that options should exist for parents regardless of their income, calling it “the morally right thing to do.”

Horne dismissed criticism that voucher programs lack accountability because private schools – which aren’t required to teach state curriculum – aren’t required to give exams like the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test to judge performance. The department wants legislation requiring some testing for private schools involved in voucher programs. •

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