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School Choice and Democratic Schooling

This paper will investigate the phenomenon of school choice in the context of understanding the broader issues of democracy and education. School choice radically challenges many of the ideas about public schooling that we have taken for granted. The social and cultural forces impelling choice are diverse and include ongoing racial issues, religious issues, as well as ongoing demands for parental control. The argument over choice is an argument over the meaning of democracy. Choice represents an argument with the current ‘democratic’ public system and an argument within democracy about what a truly democratic public education means. My paper seeks to interrogate school choice from the vantage point of democratic theory.