

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

Do you know a lot of teachers? There are 3,200,000 full-time teachers in the nation. They're spending their careers teaching more than 50 million students in 98,300 schools.



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A few of the main goals of public education are:

- Career and college readiness
- Thorough participation in the community/civic involvement
- Helping to create well-rounded students who will become productive adults

"Public schools educate 90 percent of our nation's students and are providing talented professionals for jobs in the corporate and public sectors as well as the military," said Nathan Monell,

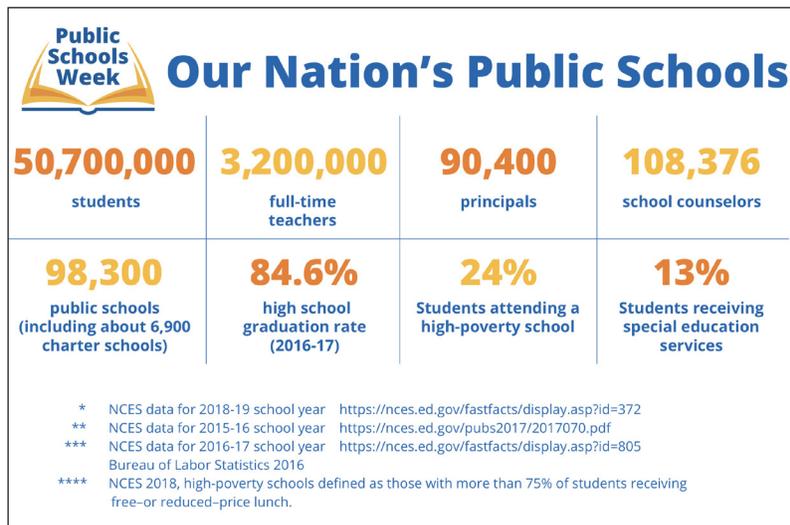
Those are big numbers but public education is a big force. On the eve of Public Schools Week, March 25-29, it's a good time to shine a light on all that public education does.

Public schools provide the diversity (people, cultures) and experiences that will be part of adult life.

Public schools feed young people's hunger for education, inspiration, support and, yes, breakfast and lunch.

It's important when talking about public schools to make the distinction between public schools and charter schools. Public schools are accountable for tracking and fulfilling on student outcomes that sometimes are not required of charter schools, even when they receive public dollars through vouchers.

Charter schools receive public dollars but are NOT accountable to the public. Charter schools have no public oversight by an elected board; no accountability to the community; and sometimes are not required to follow the same mandates legislated to public schools. Charter schools are called "public" only because legislation has been passed that grants that designation to them. Public should mean public.



the 2018-19 chairman of the Learning First Alliance, which started the observance last year.

"It's vitally important that we have a strong system of public schools across the United States."

The Learning First Alliance, a partnership of 12

national education organizations, recommends that educators observe the week by promoting its students and programs on social media and tag them with #PublicSchoolProud and #PSW19.

#PublicSchoolProud will be a national campaign that continues to showcase great things happening within public schools throughout the year.

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