

# Privatization resources

Resource Guide • In the Public Interest • Updated June 2019

## How privatization increases inequality

A report examining the ways in which the insertion of private interests into the provision of public goods and services hurts poor individuals and families, and people of color.

## Ask the Right Questions Before Privatizing

Ten questions public officials, advocates, and the media should ask—and get answered—before any final privatization decision.

## Insourcing often leads to better service and cost-savings

A research brief compiling national research and the experiences of numerous local and state governments that have brought critical functions back under public, democratic control.

## Cutting Corners: How Government Contractors Harm the Public in Pursuit of Profit

A report detailing the negative impacts on the public of cost-cutting by contractors across public goods and services and at every level of government.

## Best Practices in Municipal Waste Contracting

A guide providing best practices for municipalities aiming to protect their interests when contracting with private companies that provide waste management services.

## How Outsourcing Public Services Rewards Corporations and Punishes the Middle Class

A report detailing how outsourcing public services sets off a downward spiral in which reduced worker wages and benefits can hurt the local economy and overall stability of middle and working class communities.

## Closing the Books: How Government Contractors Hide Public Records

Case studies that illustrate how private contractors hide three key types of information: the fees they charge the public, how they spend public funds, and details on the quality of public services.

## Standing Guard: How Unaccountable Contracting Fails Governments and Taxpayers

A report discussing common problems and the real world consequences of lax oversight in government contracting, with policy recommendations to help cities and states improve their oversight.

## Dismantling Democracy: The forty year attack on government and the long game for the common good

A 2018 book by In the Public interest Executive Director Donald Cohen that analyzes shifting fundamental attitudes toward government and describes ten strategies to build a movement and a nation rooted in protecting and advancing the common good.

**For more resources**, visit [inthepublicinterest.org](http://inthepublicinterest.org). For hard copies, contact Jeremy Mohler, In the Public Interest's Communications Director, at [jmohler@inthepublicinterest.org](mailto:jmohler@inthepublicinterest.org).

# Understanding the privatization of public education

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## How charter schools impact public school district budgets

A compilation of studies nationwide showing that public school students are hurt by policies that prioritize charter school growth over educational opportunities for all students.

## The Cost of Charter Schools for Public School Districts

A first-of-its-kind analysis revealing that public school students in three California districts are bearing the cost of the unchecked expansion of privately managed charter schools.

## How charter schools drain money from public school districts (video)

An animated video explaining how allowing too many charter schools can force cuts at traditional, neighborhood schools to things like counseling, libraries, and special education.

## Fraud and waste in California's charter schools

A report documenting that total alleged and confirmed fraud and waste in California's charter schools has reached over \$149 million, which is only the tip of the iceberg.

## The Failure of Policy Planning in California's Charter School Facility Funding

A report revealing that much of the more than \$2.5 billion in tax dollars or public financing spent on California charter school buildings in the past 15 years has been misspent.

## The Public School Accountability Agenda

An 11-point program to ensure that charter schools, which are publicly funded but privately operated, are fulfilling their role in public education as lawmakers intended.

## Making the Grade: Questions to Ask About School Services Privatization

Specific questions that decision makers should consider when faced with a proposed effort to privatize school services like bussing, food services, and grounds maintenance.

## Ask the Right Questions Before Privatizing

Ten questions public officials, advocates, and the media should ask—and get answered—before any final privatization decision.

## The bizarre law overcrowding California's public schools (video)

A video explaining the headaches for students, parents, and teachers caused by California's Prop 39, a law forcing neighborhood schools to give space to charter schools.

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# Understanding infrastructure privatization

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## **Understanding and Evaluating Infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)**

A guide to help advocates, policymakers, and other stakeholders better understand and analyze public-private partnership (P3) infrastructure proposals, contracts, and related legislation.

## **Availability payments in public-private partnerships: Issues and implications**

A research brief introducing “availability payments,” followed by issues important for policymakers and stakeholders when considering an availability payment public-private partnership.

## **An examination of private financing for correctional and immigration detention facilities**

A report documenting how private prison corporations are primed to provide additional jail, prison, and immigration detention space by privately financing new facility construction.

## **The Failure of Policy Planning in California’s Charter School Facility Funding**

A report revealing that much of the more than \$2.5 billion in tax dollars or public financing spent on California charter school buildings in the past 15 years has been misspent.

## **Building American While Building Our Middle Class: Best Practices for P3 Infrastructure Projects**

A report describing best practices to ensure that public-private partnership (P3) infrastructure projects help tackle inequality and create middle class pathways for disadvantaged communities.

## **Lessons learned from the Australian “asset recycling” program**

A research brief exposing the Australian “asset recycling” program as privatization rebranded with a new name—selling off existing public infrastructure to pay for new infrastructure.

## **Infrastructure Justice: Building Equity into Infrastructure Financing**

A report outlining goals and principles to ensure public-private partnerships (P3s) are structured to benefit the public, local economies, and double-bottom line investors.

## **Ask the Right Questions Before Privatizing**

Ten questions public officials, advocates, and the media should ask—and get answered—before any final privatization decision.

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# The corporations profiting from mass incarceration and immigration detention

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## Private Companies Profit from Almost Every Function of America’s Criminal Justice System

An infographic depicting the possible paths of people charged with different offenses, revealing the various privatized services provided by the private prison industry.

## How Lockup Quotas and “Low-Crime Taxes” Guarantee Profits for Private Prison Corporations

A report describing the use of occupancy guarantee clauses in private prison and exploring how such clauses undermine criminal justice policy and democratic, accountable government.

## CoreCivic’s Troubling Track Record

A brief providing basic information about CoreCivic (formerly Corrections Corporation of America, or “CCA”) and a glimpse of the critical problems in many CoreCivic-operated facilities.

## The Banks That Finance Private Prison Companies

A report revealing how financial institutions, including Wall Street banks, profit from providing financing in the form of credit, bonds, and loans to private prison companies.

## An examination of private financing for correctional and immigration detention facilities

A guide summarizing concerns about a recent push by private prison corporations to sign public-private partnerships with governments for correctional facility construction.

## How Private Prisons Companies Increase Recidivism

A research brief detailing how private prison companies and prison telephone and video call companies increase the chances of prisoners being rearrested.

## How Private Prisons Expand Their Control of America’s Criminal Justice System

A report outlining the ways private prison companies and corporations that provide corrections services spend millions of dollars each year influencing public officials.

## Private Prison Companies Encourage Mass Incarceration by Owning Facilities

A fact sheet showing how private prison companies embed themselves in America’s criminal justice system and further mass incarceration by marketing empty facilities that they own.

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Ten questions public officials, advocates, and the media should ask—and get answered—before any final privatization decision.

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