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*It is not free, it is a theft of public education*



Sources: eldiario.es

The "master law" has opened a false debate about the "gratuitousness" of education. Total gratuity, it sounds good, but we are talking about financing the school of the children of the elites, when there are no resources for new public schools.

Education is more than a public service, it is a fundamental human right. And it must be the public administrations that ensure its universal and free character through public education. *Omnia sunt communia*. Everything is everyone's, but when education is a business, those who use it must pay. It is a basic democratic principle. It is absurd that everyone's taxes pay privileges.

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In the Madrid Assembly, in the heat of the budget debate and the so-called "master law", a false debate has been opened about the "gratuity" of education. It should be remembered that public education is free at compulsory levels. Private education supported by public funds should be, although 77% of schools charge illegal fees, to increase their profits. Vox's proposal aims for early childhood education in private schools to be paid for in full with public money.

Total gratuity, it sounds good, but it is a trap that hides an attack on public education. We are talking about financing the school of the children of the elites, while there are no resources for new schools or new groups in public centers. Asking to finance the private sector is a scandal, when Madrid will only spend 2.39% of its GDP on education in 2022, compared to 4.26% on average in Spain; or when it only spent 52 million on investments in educational infrastructure in 2020. With this model, families in popular areas would be financing private schools for wealthy families with the cuts in their public centers.

To improve equity and educational quality, it is necessary to double investment, a Program of Construction of Public Centers and an Action Plan of the Inspection to avoid illegal quotas. It is urgent to extend the network of public nursery schools from 0-3 years old and create 30,000 public vocational training places.

Order is critical in addressing political priorities. We need to know if the cuts in the public will be reversed, if the measly educational investment will be doubled, if the fiscal looting at the service of high incomes will end. Until these questions are answered, why are we going to give away school checks to those who do not need them?

Someone will think: isn't a rich man going to be able to buy the private education he wants with public money? It will have to be explained that it is not fair or redistributed, because it gives more to those who have more.

That is the essence of the "free" that some call for as a condition to support regressive budgets and a segregating education law. A "free" that has a high price: the increase in inequality at the expense of the worsening of public education.

It's not free. The price is equality.

Source: [https://www.eldiario.es/opinion/tribuna-abierta/no-gratuidad-robo-educacion-publica\\_129\\_8499724.html](https://www.eldiario.es/opinion/tribuna-abierta/no-gratuidad-robo-educacion-publica_129_8499724.html)

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