STATE REGULATIONS FOR K-12 EDUCATON ARE NECESSARY

Charter and private schools operate in a largely deregulated environment. Traditional public schools are highly regulated. Public school officials sometimes resent state regulations, but sometimes ask for state regulations to take the "heat" off of them locally.

For the most part, existing regulations required of school districts are necessary for the protection of district personnel, students, parents, and other taxpayers. Regulations have been enacted over time to correct actual and perceived abuses, to protect various types of students, such as those with disabilities, and to improve educational opportunities.

Ohio has a system of K-12 education required by the Constitution and at least four other educational arrangements: charter schools, chartered private schools, non-chartered, non-tax private schools, and homeschooling. No doubt there are thousands of students in Ohio that are in violation of compulsory school attendance just because there is no viable system of cross-checking.

There is a different set of rules, regulations, and standards for each of the arrangements for education. Homeschooling and non-charter, non-tax schooling are essentially unregulated. Charter schooling has a modicum of regulations, but the constitutional system of common schools is highly regulated. If regulations are efficacious for school district students, why not for all other students?

How can state officials justify the disparity in regulatory functions? They can't.

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